

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 250 ~ 1 of 55

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Tuesday, March 19

City Council meeting at the Groton Community Center, 7 p.m.

Help Wanted

Looking for a fun, part-time job? Groton Dairy Queen is now hiring. Stop in for an application. (0216.0316)

Bates Township Equalization Notice

Bates Township Equalization Meeting Notice:

The Bates Township Board of Equalization will meet at the Clerk's home on Tuesday, March 19th, 2019 at 7 pm.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk prior to the meeting.

Betty Geist
Bates Township Clerk
14523 409th Ave
Conde, SD 57434
(0313.0320)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$19.21. 17306

Bates Township ROW Maintenance

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

Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors

Betty Geist
Township Clerk
(0313.0320)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$20.11. 17307

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Death Notice: Donald Protas

Donald Protas, 74, of Groton passed away March 16, 2019 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center, Groton. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garress Funeral Chapel, Groton.

CLOSED! Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



Show Choir takes 2nd at Mitchell

Groton Prismatic Sensations show choir took second place at the Mitchell Show Choir Competition held Saturday. It was the final competition for the season.

(Screenshot photo of Robin Jensen's video posted on Facebook)

NOW HIRING!

Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts &
Class A CDL Drivers

New Starting Competitive Wages
Overtime Available

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- STD
- LTD
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit www.uslbm.com/careers or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



New Rules for A New and Evolving Economy

Today's workforce, economy, and consumer needs are constantly changing. They're far different than they were a generation ago, and, in some respects, they're already different than they were just a few years ago. So, as technology evolves, and as the world around us modernizes and becomes more interconnected, it's important for the United States to maintain a competitive edge by ensuring our laws keep up with these changes. We risk being left behind if we don't.

Elected leaders can't sit on the sidelines and expect workers and businesses to stop growing and innovating and pushing the boundaries of outdated laws. We should always challenge ourselves to be forward-looking and avoid the temptation of complacency, and I'm proud to have a record that reflects a desire to keep the United States heading toward the future.

I serve on both the Senate Finance Committee, which is tasked with writing our nation's tax laws, and the Senate Commerce Committee, which oversees issues related to technology and communication. It's a unique intersection, and together they put me in a strong position to advocate for the kind of pro-growth policies the economy needs.

In February, I reintroduced bipartisan legislation that would simplify the tax code to help today's increasingly mobile workforce. Under current law, an individual who lives in a state like South Dakota, with no state income tax, might be required to file income taxes in multiple states for simply having temporarily worked in other states – in some cases, for as little as 24 hours. My bill, the Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act, creates a common-sense standard to relieve this burden from employees and employers.

My New Economy Works to Guarantee Independence and Growth (NEW GIG) Act, which I reintroduced in March, would create some much-needed clarity for how the IRS treats workers like computer consultants, freelance writers, ride-share drivers, on-demand food delivery services, or others who participate in today's gig economy. The NEW GIG Act would modify the tax code to more clearly define who is an independent contractor and who is a traditional employee, an important and potentially costly distinction for a lot of gig companies.

The products and services themselves that are offered through these new digital platforms and apps aren't immune from the evolving economy either. Today's online marketplace can be an extremely convenient way for consumers to purchase and receive these products, but it can also be challenging for those people who provide these goods and services, particularly as it relates to how they are taxed by state and local governments.

For example, let's say you live in South Dakota, and while you visit Minnesota, you buy a song that's stored on a server in New York. Under current law, all three of those tax jurisdictions could, under the right circumstances, tax your purchase. My bill, the Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act, would provide some much-needed clarity that would prevent consumers from being hit by duplicative taxes.

Aside from these legislative efforts, I've been focused like a laser on expanding broadband connectivity, particularly in rural areas, and helping to lay the groundwork for 5G mobile broadband technology, which would help everyone in the United States, especially those who are participating in today's economy. As chairman of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, I recently convened a hearing on rural broadband and invited two South Dakota telecommunications companies to share their perspective on this issue, which will continue to be a priority for me.

When it comes to future economic growth and opportunities, we need to keep our foot on the gas and our eyes on the road, because we won't remain competitive if we don't make modernization and innovation a priority. I'm committed to it, though, and, fortunately, I know many of my colleagues are, too.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Addressing the Nursing Home Crisis

Mobridge. Madison. Tripp. Rapid City. Bryant. Rosholt. Huron. Watertown. The common thread between these communities? Nursing home closures. In all, 19 nursing home facilities around our state have closed their doors in recent years.

As I've traveled throughout our state, this is a crisis I have heard about time and time again. Nursing home closures impact real people: our parents, our grandparents. We all want our loved ones to be happy and comfortable as they age, and shuttered nursing homes mean disconnection from community, separation from family, and a disruption of comfort.

After many conversations with folks in grocery stores, at basketball games, and in my office with health care leaders, I knew something needed to be done. It was one of my top priorities that I laid out in my first budget address earlier this year. So I was thrilled to see the legislature affirm this and pass a bill to give nursing homes a 10 percent funding increase. This is a significant investment that will certainly provide a shot in the arm to keep nursing home services open.

And while increased funding is a good start, we must also be proactive in confronting the root of the problem: an outdated system of care for our seniors. At the beginning of the year, I proposed a five-million-dollar, one-time investment toward seeking big-picture solutions to our challenges in this arena. I was grateful to work closely with the legislature over the past few months to see this through. This money will help us explore alternative, cost-effective options that can be developed for patients and their families like expanding the continuum of care, developing community living homes, and exploring other approaches that address the problems leading to closures.

What's more, this innovation funding will work to expand respite care services to family caregivers, either through brief, residential stays, or by staffing respite care programs in the home. Families are so often the best caregivers for our parents and for our grandparents, but everyone needs a little break once in a while. These services would provide that break. We also want the private sector to propose new approaches that address the pressures, including the workforce challenges and shortages, that are facing many of our community nursing facilities. This money will promote new thinking and new ideas with the goal being better senior care.

While we work to make South Dakota a better place for our kids, we must also commit ourselves to the generations who have paved the way for us. I'm grateful for the partnership of the legislature, the input of South Dakotans, and the teamwork that carried this funding across the finish line. Our parents and grandparents deserve good care and innovative ideas in how we can best deliver it. I'm hopeful we're headed in that direction.

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CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at Large



First-Hand Experience

As a self-described policy guy, I've spent a lot of time researching topics like agriculture and telecommunications. It's no secret that when elected I was laser focused on gaining a spot on the Agriculture Committee for South Dakotans. Now as a member of two very different committees, I've appreciated how many topics Members of Congress have the opportunity to study and debate. I enjoy immersing myself in the intricacies of ag policy, but my time as a freshman member of the House Education and Labor Committee has allowed me to explore plenty of new avenues.

The policy aspect of my job is fantastic, but after having participated in nearly a dozen full committee hearings and markups on Ed & Labor, it's the compelling personal narratives from witnesses that leave me feeling motivated and inspired. Most committees are focused on bringing in experts and eggheads, but there is a uniquely important lesson to learn from those who have faced these challenges directly.

Typically, at the beginning of a new Congress, it takes time to get everything up and running on committees. Ed & Labor however, has hit the ground at a steady sprint. I've had the opportunity to hear from dozens of individuals on a range of topics from raising the minimum wage to the cost of higher education.

One of the first hearings in Ed & Labor was related to preexisting conditions. Health care is essential – we all know that – and I truly believe that protecting individuals with preexisting conditions is of utmost importance. Chad Riedy is a prime example of the necessity of protecting individuals with chronic conditions. Chad is a husband, father, and a tough and determined son of a gun. He was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF) at three years old. Despite years of research and development, there is no cure for CF and it's not uncommon to receive a lung transplant if you want to survive.

Chad was told he wouldn't make it past his twelfth birthday, today he is a 37-year-old father of two. During the hearing, pride was beaming off his boys faces as their father spoke.

This week, during a hearing on the affordability of college, I was struck by the testimony of Ms. Parker, a single parent and college student. Ms. Parker is the definition of hard work and ambition. Despite the obstacles she has faced, she never gives up and has held multiple jobs at a time to make ends meet. She expressed the importance of being one's own advocate and staying persistent in a system that is complicated to navigate. Ms. Parker exemplifies the famous Calvin Coolidge quote, "Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence."

First-hand experience is just as valuable as objective, nuanced data-driven opinions, and these individuals who bravely take a seat at the witness table are proof of that. These witnesses got to where they are today, testifying before Congress because of a can-do, determined spirit to succeed. I'm honored that they shared their story of persistence and grit with Congress.

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Northern State releases 2019 Wolves football schedule

Aberdeen, S.D. – The 2019 Northern State University football schedule is set, with the Wolves slated for six home games from Swisher Field and five games on the road.

The Wolves will open the season at home versus Bemidji State on Thursday, September 5 in their only mid-week game of the year. Northern will then travel to Minot State on Saturday, September 14 before returning home the following weekend. The Wolves will kick-off with MSU Moorhead at 6 p.m. on September 21 from Swisher Field in their final game under the lights.

NSU closes out the month of September on the road at St. Cloud State on the 28. They will open cross-divisional play at Upper Iowa on October 5 with four straight games versus the NSIC South.

Minnesota State travels to Aberdeen on October 12 for the annual Gypsy Days game, set to kick at 2:30 p.m. following the parade and morning homecoming festivities. Next up for the Wolves is a quick trip down to Wayne State on October 19, before returning to Aberdeen for back-to-back weekends. NSU will face Sioux Falls on October 26 and UMary on November 2 from Swisher Field.

Northern closes out their road slate at Minnesota Crookston on November 9, before capping off the 2019 regular season versus Minnesota Duluth on November 16 from Swisher Field.

Full schedule and time information can be found below.

Sept. 5	vs. Bemidji State	6 p.m.
Sept. 14	@ Minot State	1 p.m.
Sept. 21	vs. MSU Moorhead	6 p.m.
Sept. 28	@ St. Cloud State	2 p.m.
Oct. 5	@ Upper Iowa	3 p.m.
Oct. 12	vs. Minnesota State [Gypsy Days]	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	@ Wayne State	1 p.m.
Oct. 26	vs. Sioux Falls	1 p.m.
Nov. 2	vs. UMary	1 p.m.
Nov. 9	@ Minnesota Crookston	12 p.m.
Nov. 16	vs. Minnesota Duluth [Senior Game]	1 p.m.



 **HARR**
Motors

**4255 6th Ave
SE, Aberdeen**

Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!

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National Emergency Declaration: A Primer

Congress and the administration have been in a months-long debate over border barrier funding. In fact, it was this debate that led to the longest partial government shutdown in our history. The shutdown ended in February after Congress passed a funding bill that allotted \$1.4 billion to fund physical barriers along our southern border. This will pay for approximately 55 miles of new barriers.

That amount was far short of President Trump's \$5.7 billion request, so he declared a national emergency in order to reallocate funds to strengthen security at our southern border. Many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have refused to accept there is a growing crisis at our southern border that requires us to act.

The Department of Homeland Security has seen a 136 percent increase in the number of family units and unaccompanied children attempting to cross the border each month in Fiscal Year 2019. Over the past two years, ICE officers have arrested 266,000 aliens with criminal records, including those convicted of assaults, sex crimes and homicides. With a record number of individuals attempting to cross – 76,000 in February alone –resources for the hardworking men and women who protect the southern border are being squeezed. This makes it more difficult for them to stop dangerous drugs and criminals from entering the United States.

Recognizing this, the administration declared a national emergency so it could use additional tools to strengthen border security. The ability to declare a national emergency was granted to the executive branch via the National Emergencies Act in 1976. Since then, 59 national emergencies have been declared, 30 of which remain in effect. Under the National Emergency Act, the president is given wide latitude to determine which situations are emergencies, and I believe the president is on sound legal footing with regard to the current emergency declaration.

The president's emergency declaration would allow the administration to take \$3.6 billion from military construction projects which would not be contracted by October 31, 2019, to help pay for construction of physical barriers. The president has also identified \$2.5 billion from the Department of Defense's efforts to fight illegal drugs and \$600 million from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund to help bolster border security. The administration has the ability to access these latter funds without a national emergency declaration.

Since coming to the Senate, I have said that Congress has ceded too much power to the executive branch over the years, including when it passed the National Emergencies Act in 1976. There are also concerns that a future president may declare a national emergency to invoke a sweeping policy change on an issue such as climate change. Because of these concerns, I am interested in reviewing proposals to rein-in executive powers moving forward, including the future use of a national emergency declaration.

The House and Senate passed a 'resolution of disapproval' on the president's use of a national emergency declaration, which I voted against. Even before the Senate vote, President Trump announced he would veto the resolution. There are likely not enough votes to override a veto, therefore his emergency declaration will stand. I am committed to working with my colleagues on either side of the aisle to finish our appropriations work on time so we can avoid the chaos of the past several months.

EARTHTALK ™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Electric Engines

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I saw a news item about overhauling classic old cars with electric engines, and wondering if this can be done with any old car, such as my 1999 Subaru Outback? If this is feasible, maybe I should reconsider my plan of trading up for a new Prius. -- Tim St. Germain, Boise, ID

It's true that there's never been a better time to convert an old gas guzzling car into an emissions-free electric vehicle (EV), but some makes and models are better suited for a so-called "EV swap" than others.

Michael Bream of San Marcos, California's EV West, which made news recently with its conversions of old VWs and Porsches into EVs, says you could convert a '99 Subaru—but EV Swaps are typically reserved for classic cars. "A newer Subaru has a ULEV certified (low emission) engine, so it's not as bad a polluter as a classic car, and doesn't suffer from reliability and power issues that classic cars typically suffer from," he says. "A typical conversion of a Subaru would cost about the same with parts and labor as a brand-new all-wheel drive Tesla Model 3, so unless your vehicle is extremely well loved, or you can't stand the thought of selling it, then it might be a better solution to buy or lease a new EV."

EV West is one of a handful of garages across North America now specializing in EV conversions. Some others include: Zelectric Motors (San Diego, CA), ElectricGT (Chatsworth, CA), Make Mine Electric (Sebastopol, CA), Electric Vehicles of Washington (Bellingham, WA), Shockwave Motors (Russellville, TN), Epic Car Conversions (Toronto, ON) and Green Shed Conversions (Crystal River, FL).

If you don't want to wait to get your car converted by one of these shops, you'll just have to do it yourself (or find a local mechanic looking for an interesting project). Luckily lots of companies now sell EV conversion kits (Canadian Electric Vehicles, Electro Automotive, Wilderness Electric Vehicles, DIY EV, EV Source, Metric Mind Corporation, EV Drive) that include new engines, batteries and components. Expect to spend at least \$8,000 on all the parts needed for the job (and tack on an additional ~50 percent more if you opt for longer-range lithium ion batteries). The labor will be up to you. DIYers should check out EVRater.com's "How to Build Your own Electric Vehicle in 5 Easy Steps" or Mechanic Doctor's "How to Convert Your Car to an Electric Vehicle" for step-by-step instructions. Meanwhile, California-based EV4U runs "3-Day Hands-On Conversion Workshops" near Sacramento for \$495.

With a new base model Prius starting at \$23k, you may well be better off doing the EV Swap on your old car. According to EVW, the operating costs of driving a Prius hybrid (\$0.14/mile) are about four times what it costs to get around in an EV (whether native or a conversion). "In addition to the fuel savings, electric



Caption: China, Australia, Pakistan, Brazil and other countries have undertaken massive reforestation campaigns, but the United States? Not so much. Credit: Garrat, FlickrCC.

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cars do not need oil changes, spark plugs, distributors, timing belts, etc.," EVW adds.

What you won't get is that new car smell or the nervous feeling of driving a brand-new car off the dealer's lot. But you will get the satisfaction of knowing that you saved two tons of metal from the junk heap—and saved the world the trouble of sourcing materials for and building another brand-new Prius.

CONTACTS: EV West, www.evwest.com; Zelectric Motors, zelectricmotors.com; Make Mine Electric, makemineelectric.com; Electric Vehicles of Washington, www.electricvehicleswa.com; Epic Car Conversions, epiccarconversions.com; Green Shed Conversions, greenshedconversions.com; EVRater, evrater.com/build-your-own-ev; Mechanic Doctor, www.themechanicdoctor.com/convert-car-electric-vehicle; EV4U Workshops, ev4unow.com/EVWorkshops.html; Canadian Electric Vehicles, canev.com; Electro Automotive, electroauto.com; Wilderness Electric Vehicles, e-volks.com; EV Source, evsource.com; Metric Mind Corporation, metricmind.com; EV Drive, evdrive.com.

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1 John 3:16
KJV

Have a Blessed Day!

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No. 19 Wolves fall in overtime in NCAA Central Region Tournament

Maryville, Mo. – The No. 19 Northern State University men's basketball team ended their season in the first round of the NCAA Central Region Tournament. The Wolves fell to Southeastern Oklahoma State 115-103 in overtime, finishing the year with a 26-7 record overall.

Northern led for a majority of the contest, however things began to slip away late in the second half. Three straight turnovers by the Wolves resulted in eight Savage Storm points, which cut the NSU lead to just three. Southeastern tied things up at 89-all with just under a second in regulation and the two teams headed to overtime. The Savage Storm out-scored the Wolves 26-14 in the overtime period and sealed the tournament advancing victory.

Both teams were efficient from the field shooting over 50.0 percent. Northern shot 52.1 percent from the floor and 55.9 percent from the 3-point line. They struggled from the free throw line, shooting just 44.4 percent, and ultimately gave up 13 turnovers, which resulted in 23 points for their opponents. Northern tallied 30 points in the paint, 36 points off the bench, nine points off turnovers, and eight second chance points. They out-rebounded SOSU 39-36, and knocked down a season high 19 from beyond the arc.

Cole Dahl led the team, matching his career high of 27 points. The junior hit 9-of-12 from the 20points line and added five rebounds and one assist. Justin Decker and Ian Smith followed with 18 and 16 points respectively in the final game of their Northern State careers. Decker shot 53.8 percent from the floor and recorded a team second best five rebounds. Smith notched a double-double, adding a team leading ten assists, as well as four rebounds and one steal.

Bo Fries and Gabe King were the final Wolves in double figures with 13 and 11 points respectively. Fries pulled down a team leading six rebounds in his final game as a Wolf, and shot 71.4 percent from the floor and 60.0 percent from the arc.

Andrew Kallman rounded out the Northern starters with nine points of his own, shooting 50.0 percent from the floor. Mason Stark and Parker Fox tallied the final seven and two team points in the game. Stark shot 75.0 percent from the floor and was second on the team with five assists, while Fox recorded a team leading two blocks.

The 2018-19 Northern State University men's basketball team concludes the season with a No. 19 NABC Top-25 ranking and 26-7 record overall. The Wolves won the NSIC Overall, North Division, and Tournament Championships. Ian Smith, Justin Decker, and Gabe King were named to the NSIC All-Conference teams, while Paul Sather was tabbed as the NSIC Coach of the Year. In addition, Smith earned the NSIC Tournament MVP award, while King and Mason Stark were named to the NSIC All-Tournament Team.

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Consolation Championship
Saturday, March 16

Consolation Semifinals
Friday, March 15

1st Round - Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 14

Championship Semifinals
Friday, March 15

Championship Round
Saturday, March 16

Records/Seed Point Average:

White River	20-2	46.316
Timber Lake	18-2	46.235
Clark/Willow Lake	20-2	46.211
Jones County	19-2	45.722
De Smet	21-2	45.500
Sully Buttes	19-3	45.211
Bridgewater-Emery	19-	45.150
4		
Viborg-Hurley	21-2	44.150

Session 1

2:00 PM CT

#1 White River	61
#8 Viborg-Hurley	68
3:45 PM CT	
#4 Jones County	55
#5 De Smet	60

Session 4

6:00 PM CT

#8 Viborg-Hurley	48
#5 De Smet	70

Session 3

12:00 Noon CT

#1 White River	78
#4 Jones County	56

Session 5

1:45 PM CT

#1 White River	74
#6 Sully Buttes	68

5th/6th Place Game



2019 Class B State Boys Basketball Tournament

Aberdeen, SD



Session 6

8:00 PM CT

#5 De Smet	41
#3 Clark/Willow Lake	49

Championship Game

Session 2

6:00 PM CT

#2 Timber Lake	54
#7 Bridgewater-Emery	55
7:45 PM CT	
#3 Clark/Willow Lake	58
#6 Sully Buttes	26

Session 4

7:45 PM CT

#7 Bridgewater-Emery	55
#3 Clark/Willow Lake	56

Session 3

1:45 PM CT

#2 Timber Lake	50
#6 Sully Buttes	54

Session 5

12:00 Noon CT

#4 Jones County	60
#2 Timber Lake	49

7th/8th Place Game

Session 6

6:00 PM CT

#8 Viborg-Hurley	54
#7 Bridgewater-Emery	65

3rd/4th Place Game

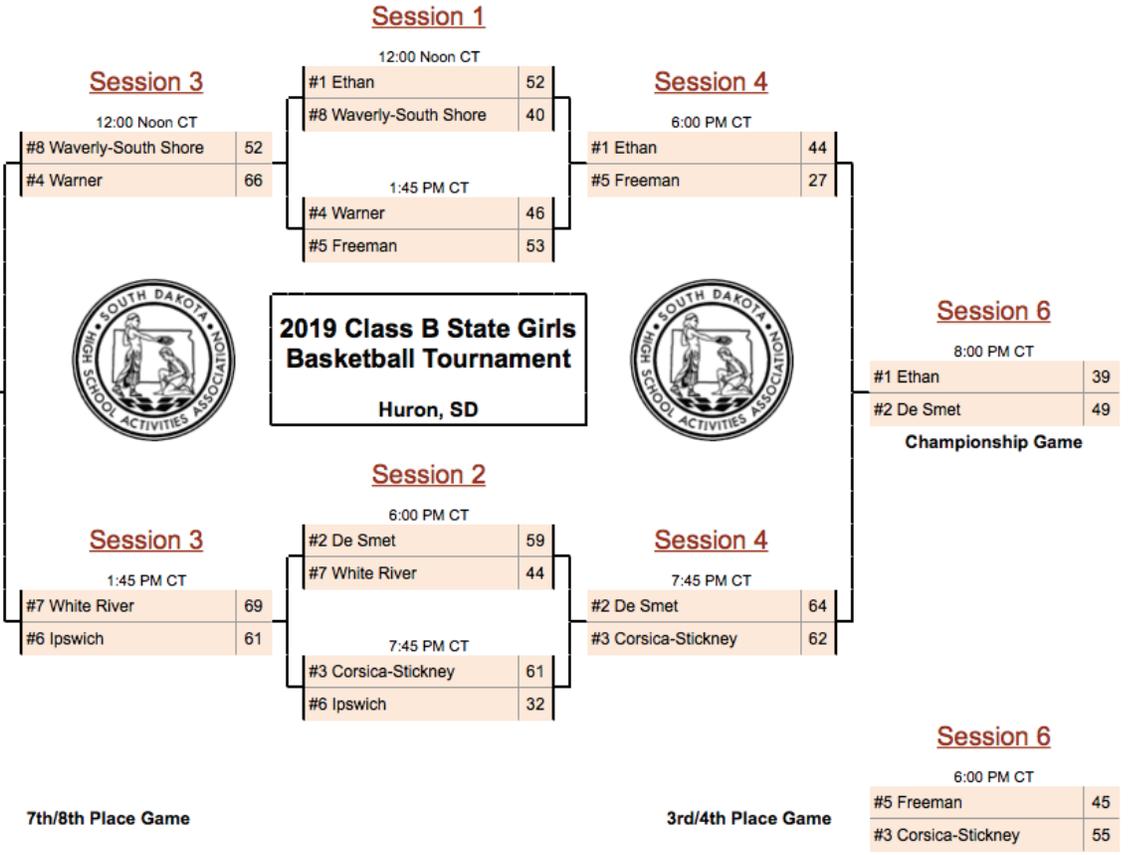
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Consolation Championship Saturday, March 9	Consolation Semifinals Friday, March 8	1st Round - Quarterfinals Thursday, March 7	Championship Semifinals Friday, March 8	Championship Round Saturday, March 9
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Records/Seed Point Averages

Ethan	22-0	46.895
De Smet	21-1	46.158
Corsica-Stickney	21-2	45.300
Warner	21-2	44.900
Freeman	19-4	44.200
Ipswich	18-3	44.167
White River	18-4	43.684
Waverly-South Shore	15-7	41.444



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Consolation Championship
Saturday, March 16

Consolation Semifinals
Friday, March 15

1st Round - Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 14

Championship Semifinals
Friday, March 15

Championship Round
Saturday, March 16

Records/Seed Point Average:

Tea Area	21-1	46.600
SF Christian	19-2	46.000
St. Thomas More	18-4	45.050
Pine Ridge	18-3	44.789
Hot Springs	20-3	43.850
Lennox	18-5	43.600
Madison	15-7	42.600
Dell Rapids	14-7	42.000

Session 1

3:00 PM CT (PREMIER Center)

#1 Tea Area	81
#8 Dell Rapids	38

Session 4

6:30 PM CT (PREMIER Center)

#1 Tea Area	57
#4 Pine Ridge	51

Session 3

12:45 PM CT (SF Arena)

#8 Dell Rapids	47
#5 Hot Springs	37

7:00 PM CT (PREMIER Center)

#4 Pine Ridge	75
#5 Hot Springs	51

Session 5

11:45 PM CT (PREMIER Center)

#8 Dell Rapids	69
#3 St. Thomas More	71

5th/6th Place Game



2019 Class A State Boys Basketball Tournament

Sioux Falls, SD



Session 6

7:30 PM CT (PREMIER Center)

#1 Tea Area	68
#2 SF Christian	57

Championship Game

Session 2

3:00 PM CT (SF Arena)

#2 SF Christian	63
#7 Madison	46

Session 4

8:15 PM CT (PREMIER Center)

#2 SF Christian	53
#6 Lennox	46

Session 3

12:45 PM CT (PREMIER Center)

#7 Madison	43
#3 St. Thomas More	58

7:00 PM CT (SF Arena)

#3 St. Thomas More	40
#6 Lennox	48

Session 5

11:45 AM CT (SF Arena)

#5 Hot Springs	60
#7 Madison	70

7th/8th Place Game

3rd/4th Place Game

Session 6

3:15 PM CT (PREMIER Center)

#4 Pine Ridge	61
#6 Lennox	47

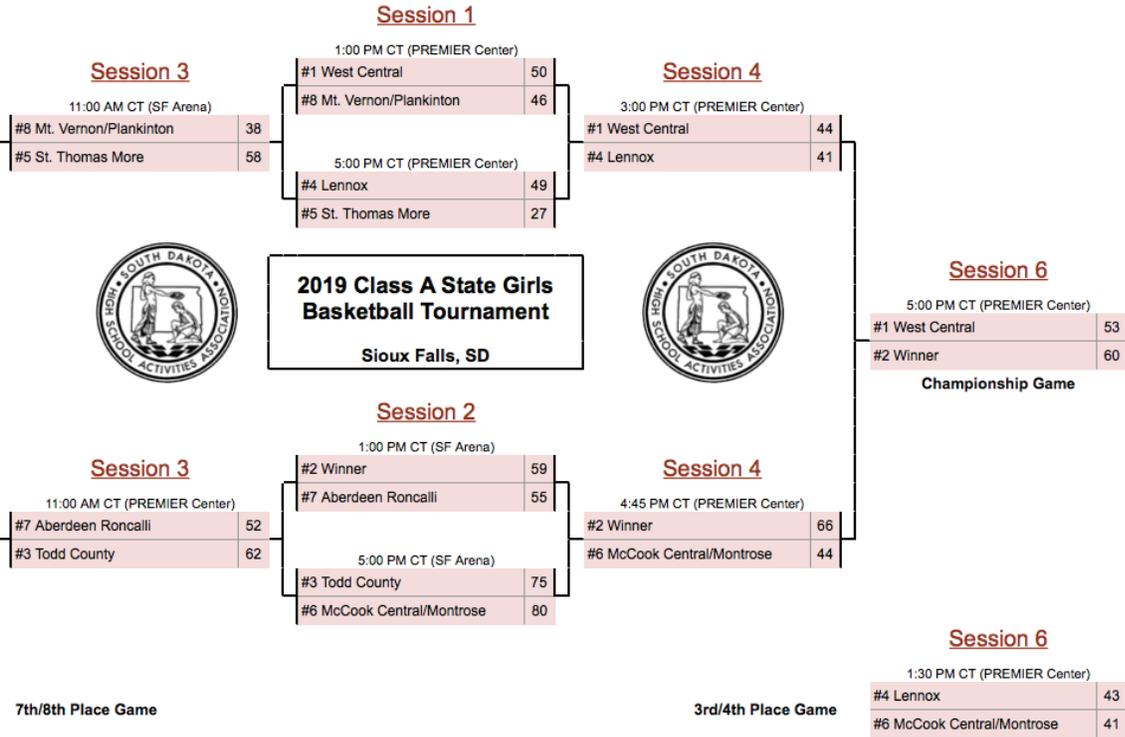
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Consolation Championship Saturday, March 16	Consolation Semifinals Friday, March 15	1st Round - Quarterfinals Thursday, March 14	Championship Semifinals Friday, March 15	Championship Round Saturday, March 16
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Records/Seed Point Averages

West Central	22-0	46.400
Winner	21-0	45.737
Todd County	21-2	44.700
Lennox	19-5	44.200
St. Thomas More	18-5	44.150
McCook Central/Montrose	18-4	43.900
Aberdeen Roncalli	17-4	42.895
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton	17-6	42.650



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Consolation Championship
Saturday, March 16

Consolation Semifinals
Friday, March 15

1st Round - Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 14

Championship Semifinals
Friday, March 15

Championship Round
Saturday, March 16

Records/Seed Point Average:

SF Lincoln	18-2	45.579
Yankton	17-4	43.550
SF O'Gorman	16-5	43.250
Brandon Valley	16-5	43.100
RC Stevens	15-6	42.500
SF Roosevelt	13-8	42.300
Huron	12-9	40.700
Harrisburg	12-9	41.150

Session 1

3:00 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#1 SF Lincoln	39
#8 Harrisburg	41
7:00 PM MT (Barnett Arena)	
#4 Brandon Valley	58
#5 RC Stevens	47

Session 2

12:45 PM MT (Ice Arena)

#1 SF Lincoln	74
#5 RC Stevens	67

Session 2

6:30 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#8 Harrisburg	40
#4 Brandon Valley	53

Session 3

11:45 AM MT (Barnett Arena)

#1 SF Lincoln	
#6 SF Roosevelt	

5th/6th Place Game



**2019 Class AA State
Boys Basketball
Tournament
Rapid City, SD**



Session 3

7:30 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#4 Brandon Valley	54
#3 SF O'Gorman	47

Championship Game

Session 1

3:00 PM MT (Ice Arena)

#2 Yankton	62
#10 Huron	42
7:00 PM MT (Ice Arena)	
#3 SF O'Gorman	65
#6 SF Roosevelt	46

Session 2

12:45 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#10 Huron	52
#6 SF Roosevelt	68

Session 2

8:15 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#2 Yankton	42
#3 SF O'Gorman	43

Session 3

11:45 AM MT (Ice Arena)

#5 RC Stevens	
#10 Huron	

7th/8th Place Game

Session 3

3:15 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#8 Harrisburg	70
#2 Yankton	64

3rd/4th Place Game

OT

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Consolation Championship
Saturday, March 16

Consolation Semifinals
Friday, March 15

1st Round - Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 14

Championship Semifinals
Friday, March 15

Championship Round
Saturday, March 16

Records/Seed Point Average:

SF O'Gorman	18-3	44.000
Harrisburg	17-4	43.400
SF Lincoln	14-6	43.368
Brandon Valley	17-4	43.250
Brookings	15-4	43.056
SF Washington	13-7	42.211
RC Stevens	15-6	41.750
Mitchell	13-8	41.250

Session 1

1:00 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#1 SF O'Gorman	54
#8 Mitchell	63
5:00 PM MT (Barnett Arena)	
#4 Brandon Valley	68
#5 Brookings	37

Session 2

3:00 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#8 Mitchell	38
#4 Brandon Valley	52

Session 2

11:00 AM MT (Ice Arena)

#1 SF O'Gorman	61
#5 Brookings	41

Session 3

10:00 AM MT (Barnett Arena)

#1 SF O'Gorman	41
#7 RC Stevens	44

5th/6th Place Game



**2019 Class AA State
Girls Basketball
Tournament
Rapid City, SD**



Session 3

5:00 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#4 Brandon Valley	60
#3 SF Lincoln	40

Championship Game

Session 1

1:00 PM MT (Ice Arena)

#2 Harrisburg	55
#7 RC Stevens	45
5:00 PM MT (Ice Arena)	
#3 SF Lincoln	36
#6 SF Washington	31

Session 2

4:45 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#2 Harrisburg	39
#3 SF Lincoln	42

Session 2

11:00 AM MT (Barnett Arena)

#7 RC Stevens	62
#6 SF Washington	38

Session 3

10:00 AM MT (Ice Arena)

#5 Brookings	43
#6 SF Washington	45

7th/8th Place Game

Session 3

1:30 PM MT (Barnett Arena)

#8 Mitchell	44
#2 Harrisburg	49

3rd/4th Place Game

The Friendship Between Lydia Norbeck and Grace Coolidge

SOUTH DAKOTA



HISTORY & HERITAGE



Photo of Lydia Norbeck is from the State Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives.



Photo of Grace Coolidge is from the Internet

On March 4, 1929, Sen. Peter Norbeck and his wife Lydia were in Washington, D.C., to watch as Herbert Hoover was sworn in as president of the United States and his predecessor left the nation's capital.

"Immediately after the ceremonies, President and Mrs. Coolidge left for Northampton (Mass.). I was sorry to see Mrs. Coolidge leave, as I truly loved her," Lydia wrote in her memoirs. Volume 39 of "South Dakota Historical Collections" contains Lydia Norbeck's "Recollections of the Years," edited by Nancy Tystad Koupal. The memoir, written in 1953 when Lydia was 80, contains numerous mentions of a friendship that has benefitted all South Dakotans.

Lydia Norbeck and Grace Coolidge first met in 1920 at a meeting for governors in Harrisburg, Penn. Peter Norbeck was governor of South Dakota and Calvin Coolidge was governor of Massachusetts.

"From my first meeting with Mrs. Coolidge I was impressed by her obvious sincerity and serenity," Lydia wrote.

Grace was noted for her charm and her love of people, outdoor activity and animals. Lydia was known as a gracious hostess with a magnetic personality.

When the two women met again in Washington, D.C., Peter Norbeck was a senator and Calvin Coolidge was vice president. As wife of the vice president, who presided over the Senate, Grace presided over meetings of the Senate Ladies Club.

"On St. Valentine's Day, 1922, I acted on an impulse and wrote her a letter expressing my love and admiration (which was proper as a valentine). I told her how much she meant to the Senate Ladies by just being her own sweet, natural self. Imagine my surprise the next day on receiving the President's and Mrs. Coolidge's card together with the dearest letter from her, sent by a messenger!" Lydia wrote.

The friendship between Lydia and Grace might possibly have been a factor in the Coolidges spending the summer of 1927 in the Black Hills, according to various sources, including "Calving Coolidge in the Black Hills" by Seth Tupper. The Coolidges lived at the State Game Lodge, while the Norbecks stayed in a log cabin about a mile away.

The Norbecks accompanied the Coolidges to Belle Fourche for the Tri-State Roundup – the first rodeo the Coolidges had seen. The Norbecks also accompanied the Coolidges to other events and were the Coolidges' dinner guests at the State Game Lodge one evening.

"Before the summer was over, I got up enough courage to ask the President's secretary if I could entertain the Coolidges at dinner at our cabin ... Imagine the President and his wife having dinner at our little cabin! ... She was bubbling over with pleasure. She has a keen mind and a quick sense of humor, which she needed, as the President was often taciturn and could be rude at times. I respected Mr. Coolidge because he was always his natural self, never pretending nor presuming," Lydia wrote.

While in the Black Hills, the president dedicated Mount Rushmore and handed drills to sculptor Gutzon

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Borglum so that official carving could begin. Coolidge's actions helped bring national interest and federal money for the project.

The 90 days the first couple spent in the Black Hills also attracted national attention to the region.

"Truly, South Dakota was like a magnet that year for thousands of people from all over the country, and the envy of all the surrounding states, with the double attraction of a President vacationing in our midst and the prospect of the largest monument sculpture in the world," Lydia wrote.

Calvin Coolidge never returned to the Black Hills, but he didn't forget South Dakota, either, as president. He signed legislation one week before he left office that provided \$250,000 of federal money to be matched by private donations for Mount Rushmore. And on his last day in office, March 4, 1929, Coolidge signed a law authorizing Badlands National Monument.

The friendship between Lydia and Grace continued throughout their lifetimes.

"When, years later, she wrote me of the arrival of a new granddaughter who was to be named 'Lydia,' I was very pleased," Lydia wrote. Lydia Coolidge was born Aug. 14, 1939, the second daughter of John and Florence Coolidge.

Grace Coolidge died at the age of 78, on July 8, 1957, at Northampton, Mass. Lydia Norbeck was 88 years old when she died on Dec. 26, 1961, in Pierre.

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

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Today in Weather History

March 17, 1997: High winds of 30 to 50 mph, gusting to over 60 mph, occurred over much of northeast South Dakota through the morning and into the early afternoon hours. Several homes and businesses sustained some roof damage. In Aberdeen, the high winds tore a large piece of the roof off the bowling alley and also ripped a part of a roof off an appliance store. The wind damaged some power lines and connections in Aberdeen, including some traffic lights. In Aberdeen, the power was out for 2500 customers for a few hours in the morning. The wind also damaged two old farm buildings west of Aberdeen. One barn lost 75 percent of its roof. The second barn was pushed six inches off of its foundation suffering minor structural damage. The Edmunds County Highway Department Shop, under construction east of Ipswich, suffered much of damage as many rafters came down and the sidewall frame shifted. Finally, much small to medium-sized branches were brought down by the high winds. Some peak wind gusts across the area included 58 mph in Aberdeen and 63 mph in Watertown.

1892: A winter storm in southwestern and central Tennessee produced 26.3 inches of snow at Riddleton and 18.5 inches at Memphis. It was the deepest snow on record for those areas.

1906: The temperature at Snake River Wyoming dipped to 50 degrees below zero, a record for the U.S. for March.

1906: A magnitude 7.1 earthquake caused significant damage in Taiwan. According to the Central Weather Bureau in China, this earthquake caused 1,258 deaths, 2,385 injuries, and destroyed over 6,000 homes.

1952: The ban on using the word "tornado" issued in 1886 ended on this date. In the 1880s, John P. Finley of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, then handling weather forecasting for the U.S., developed generalized forecasts on days tornadoes were most likely. But in 1886, the Army ended Finley's program and banned the word "tornado" from forecasts because the harm done by a tornado prediction would eventually be greater than that which results from the tornado itself?. The thinking was that people would be trampled in the panic if they heard a tornado was possible. The ban stayed in place after the Weather Bureau; now the National Weather Service took over forecasting from the Army. A tornado that wrecked 52 large aircraft at Tinker Air Force Base, OK, on 3/20/1948, spurred Air Force meteorologists to begin working on ways to forecast tornadoes. The Weather Bureau also began looking for ways to improve tornado forecasting and established the Severe Local Storm Warning Center, which is now the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK. The ban on the word "tornado" fell on this date when the new center issued its first Tornado Watch.

1987 - A powerful spring storm produced severe thunderstorms over the Central Gulf Coast States, and heavy snow in the High Plains Region. A tornado caused three million dollars damage at Natchez MS, and six inches of rain in five hours caused five million dollars damage at Vicksburg MS. Cactus TX received 10 inches of snow. Western Kansas reported blizzard conditions. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A winter storm produced heavy snow from the northeast Texas panhandle to the Ozark area of Missouri and Arkansas. Up to fifteen inches of snow was reported in Oklahoma and Texas. Snowfall totals in the Ozark area ranged up to 14 inches, with unofficial reports as high as 22 inches around Harrison AR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong northerly winds ushered snow and arctic cold into the north central U.S. Winds gusted to 58 mph at Sydney NE and Scottsbluff NE, Cadillac MI received 12 inches of snow, and International Falls MN reported a record low of 22 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990: Showers and thunderstorms associated with a slow moving cold front produced torrential rains across parts of the southeastern U.S. over a two-day period. Flooding claimed the lives of at least 22 persons including thirteen in Alabama. Up to 16 inches of rain deluged southern Alabama with 10.63 inches reported at Mobile AL in 24 hours. The town of Elba AL was flooded with 6 to 12 feet of water causing more than 25 million dollars damage, and total flood damage across Alabama exceeded 100 million dollars. Twenty-six counties in the state were declared disaster areas.

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Today



Chance Snow
then Sunny

High: 34 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 12 °F

Monday



Partly Sunny

High: 35 °F

Monday
Night



Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance Snow

Low: 22 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Cloudy

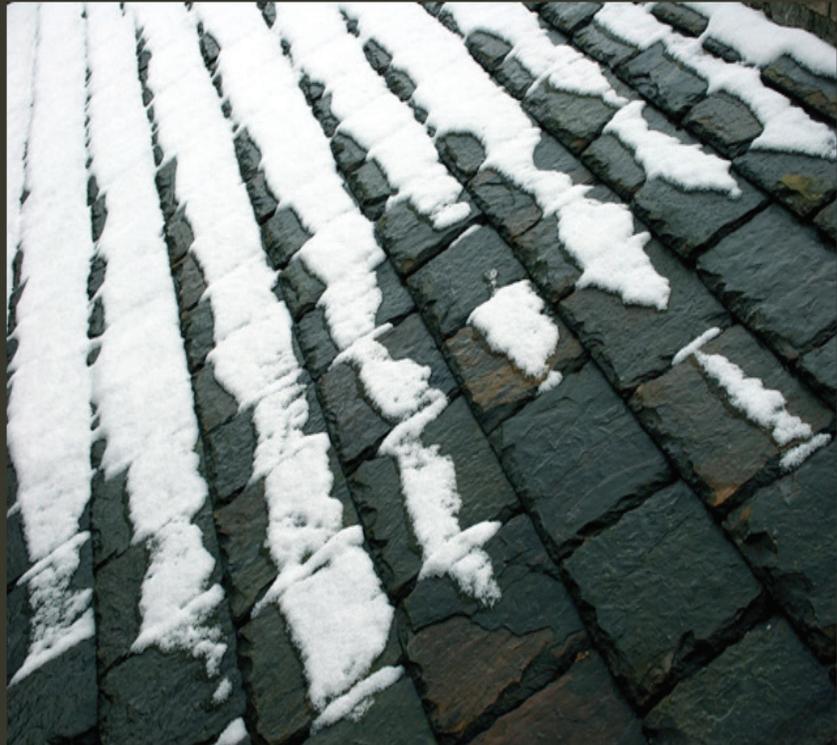
High: 36 °F



Slow Snow Melt
Continues

Highs Today:
30-40°

Highs on
Monday
30-40°



Published on: 03/17/2019 at 6:37AM

Slow snow melt will continue across the area today and Monday with highs in the 30s and low 40s. Very light snow will be possible this morning for northeastern South Dakota.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 31 °F at 4:58 PM

Low Outside Temp: 14 °F at 2:26 AM

High Gust: 11 mph at 9:24 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 77° in 2012

Record Low: -10° in 1906

Average High: 40°F

Average Low: 20°F

Average Precip in Mar.: 0.51

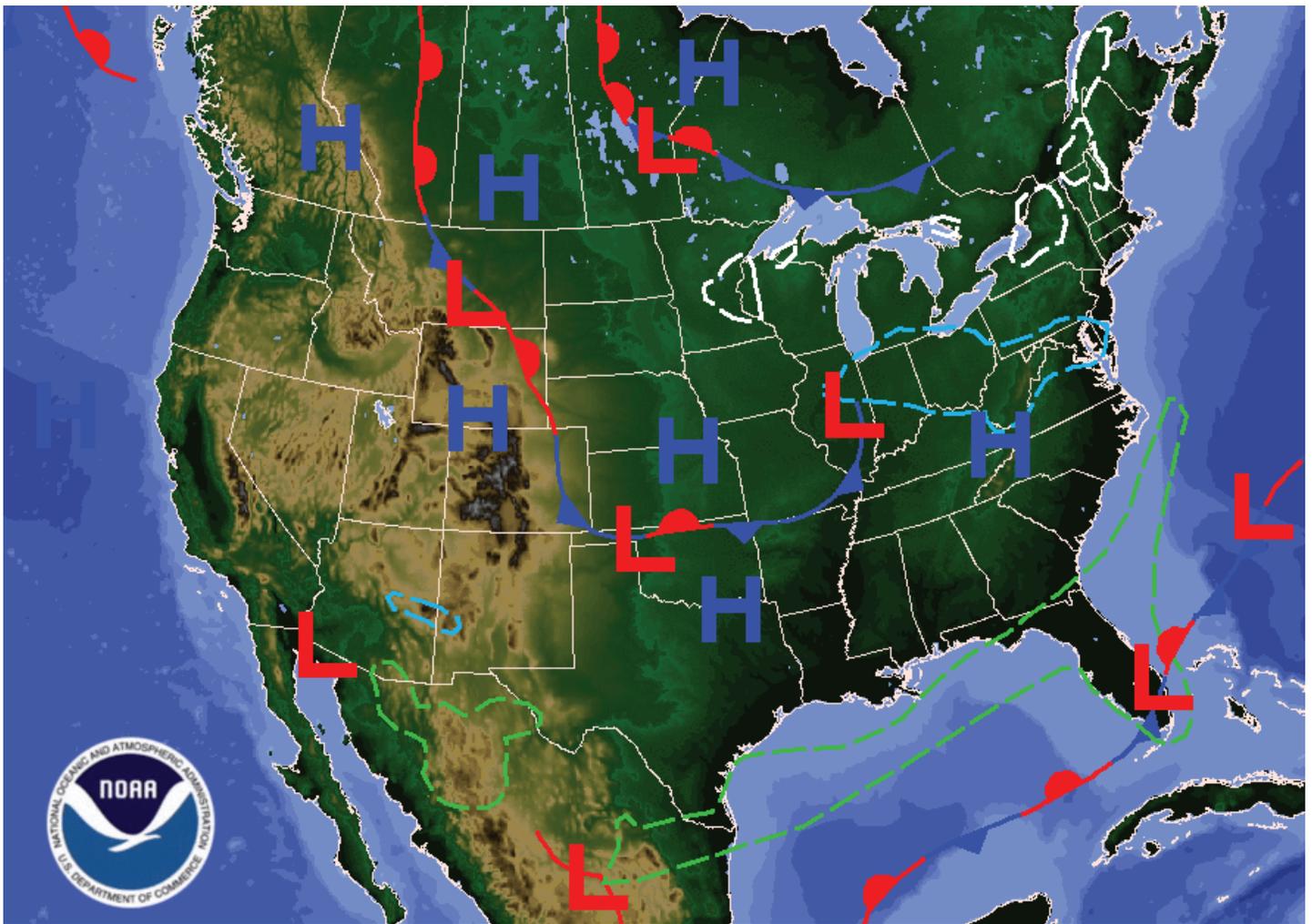
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.53

Precip Year to Date: 2.19

Sunset Tonight: 7:42 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:41 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Mar 17, 2019, issued 4:20 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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LEARNING FROM OTHERS

If you're smart, he said convincingly, you can learn from the mistakes of others. You'll never live long enough to make all of them yourself and learn the consequences of looking dumb and being foolish. And, he continued, you won't have to pay the high price some of us have had to pay for our mistakes.

Perhaps that was the intent of Solomon when he wrote, My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight. This is a very stern warning from an experienced, and perhaps, worldly-wise father to his son. Pay attention and listen well are very similar in their intent. Son, listen up, or else you'll be sorry! Not sorry today for the mistakes of today - for we rarely experience immediate consequences for our wrongful behavior. But there will be a payday - someday! We can be certain of being rewarded, or punished for everything we do.

Sexual indiscretion has serious, and very often, life-long consequences. Consequences that impact more than those involved in sex outside of marriage. God very clearly and carefully defined the boundaries: a rich sexual relationship is to be confined to and experienced within the bonds of the marriage covenant. No exceptions!

Society ridicules such a narrow view of sex. However, when we look at the tragic consequences of casual sex, it is heartbreaking: unwanted children, rampant abortions, broken hearts and homes, disease, children growing up without their mom or dad. Choose God's way!

Prayer: How costly, Father, is the price we pay when we disobey Your laws. Give us Your strength to obey Your teachings and commands we pray. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight.

2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main
- 11/09/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Rescues, evacuations as floodwaters breach levees in Midwest

By MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities were using boats and large vehicles on Saturday to rescue and evacuate residents in parts of the Midwest where a recent deluge of rainwater and snowmelt was sent pouring over frozen ground, overwhelming creeks and rivers, and killing at least one person.

The scramble to move people out of harm's way was expected to subside going into the new week, as rivers and creeks in flooded eastern Nebraska and western Iowa were expected to crest Saturday and Sunday. That left officials downstream looking to prepare for likely flooding.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson had already met with emergency management team members Friday to review and update flood-response plans, and the Missouri Highway Patrol was preparing additional equipment and putting swift water rescue personnel on standby. The Missouri National Guard also temporarily relocated the 139th Airlift Wing's C-130s from Rosecrans Air National Guard Base in St. Joseph as a precaution.

The National Weather Service said the Missouri River at St. Joseph reached nearly 26 feet on Saturday, about a foot below what's considered major flooding at the northwest Missouri city. But it's expected to crest Wednesday or Thursday at 29.3 feet — more than two feet above major flooding level.

Evacuation efforts in eastern Nebraska and some spots in western Iowa on Saturday were hampered by reports of levee breaches and washouts of bridges and roads, including part of Nebraska Highway 92, leading in and out of southwest Omaha. Authorities confirmed that a bridge on that highway that crosses the Elkhorn River had been washed out Saturday. In Fremont, west of Omaha, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office issued a mandatory evacuation for some residents after floodwaters broke through a levee along the Platte River. And in Mills County, Iowa, authorities ordered people in some rural areas to evacuate after the Missouri River overtopped levees.

The flooding followed days of snow and rain — record-setting, in some places — that swept through the West and Midwest. The deluge pushed some waterways, including the Missouri River, to record levels in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota. The flooding was the worst in nearly a decade in places.

The family of farmer James Wilke, 50, of Columbus, Nebraska, said he was killed Thursday when a bridge collapsed as he was using his tractor to try to reach stranded motorists on Thursday. His body was found downstream, his cousin Paul Wilke told the Columbus Telegram. Gass Haney Funeral Home confirmed James Wilke's death.



Water seeps into the west side of town with sandbags lining the intersection of Ridge Road and Military Avenue in Fremont, Neb., on Saturday, March 16, 2019. The flooding followed days of snow and rain — record-setting, in some places — that swept through the West and Midwest. (Kent

Sievers/Omaha World-Herald via AP)

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At least two other people were missing in floodwaters in Nebraska. Officials said a Norfolk man was seen on top of his flooded car late Thursday before being swept away in the water and another man was swept away by waters when a dam collapsed on the Niobrara River.

Officials in Sarpy County, south of Omaha, said Saturday that power may be shut off to communities along the Missouri, Platte and Elkhorn rivers for safety reasons. They warned those who choose to ignore calls to evacuate that rescues would be attempted only during daylight hours. Some cities and towns, such as North Bend on the banks of the Platte River, were submerged. Others, such as Waterloo and Fremont, were surrounded by floodwaters, stranding residents in virtual islands with no access in or out.

"There is no way out of here unless you've got a helicopter — or a boat," the Rev. Mike Bitter, pastor of Christian Church of Waterloo, told the Omaha World-Herald.

Officials in western Iowa and eastern Nebraska were urging people not to drive unless necessary. In Iowa, a section of northbound Interstate 29 that runs parallel to the Missouri River was closed due to flooding. Authorities were rerouting motorists at Kansas City, Missouri, using a detour that took people almost 140 miles (225 kilometers) out of the way.

Farther east, the Mississippi River saw moderate flooding in Illinois from Rock Island south to Gladstone. Meteorologist Brian Pierce with the National Weather Service's Quad Cities office in Davenport, Iowa, said flooding on the Mississippi could get worse a few weeks as more snow melts in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"What we're having now is the dress rehearsal for the main event that's going to happen in early April," he said of the flooding on the Mississippi.

Rising waters along the Pecatonica and Rock rivers flooded some homes in the northern Illinois cities of Freeport, Rockford and Machesney Park. The National Weather Service said record crests were possible along the rivers, with water levels forecast to continue to rise over the next several days and remain above flood stage through most of the weekend.

Freeport resident Mary Martin told the (Freeport) Journal-Standard that she went to the store to get milk and bread when she saw floodwaters were rising Friday.

"Within an hour of going to the store, I could not get back in. That's how fast the water was coming up," Martin said.

Associated Press reporter Caryn Rousseau contributed from Chicago.

This story has been corrected to change the spelling to Fremont, Nebraska, not 'Freemont.'

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

04-07-13-14-18

(four, seven, thirteen, fourteen, eighteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$173,000

Lotto America

29-30-32-47-49, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 5

(twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-two, forty-seven, forty-nine; Star Ball: five; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$16.85 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

30-34-39-53-67, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 2

(thirty, thirty-four, thirty-nine, fifty-three, sixty-seven; Powerball: eleven; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$495 million

Noem, Thune view flood damage in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and Sen. John Thune have surveyed flood damage in Sioux Falls.

Mayor Paul TenHaken and other city leaders took Noem and Thune on a tour of Sioux Falls on Saturday. The city was drenched in heavy rains earlier in the week as a powerful storm battered the central U.S.

Thune praised neighbors for helping others "get back up on their feet" and said that "speaks volumes to the caliber of people we have in South Dakota."

TenHaken says cleanup continues and a few roads remain closed. The Argus Leader reports the mayor expects Sioux Falls' bike trail to be "closed for a while."

On Friday, Noem signed an emergency declaration, allowing counties access to state funds to recover from the winter storms and flooding.

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



South Dakota Sen. John Thune, from left, Gov. Kristi Noem and Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken address concerns and clean up efforts around the city and state after a devastating storm hit South Dakota at Sioux Falls City Hall on Saturday, March 16, 2019. On Friday, Noem signed an emergency declaration, allowing counties access to state funds to recover from the winter storms and flooding. (Danielle Ferguson/The Argus Leader via AP)

Project says provides 'hope' for 16K abused, neglected kids

ROGERS, N.D. (AP) — Project Ignite Light, which provides backpacks filled with basic but useful items to abused or neglected children entering the social services system, has helped more than 16,000 children North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota since its launch in 2008, group representatives say.

Pebbles Thompson, Project Ignite Light founder, said it was more than 10 years ago that she recognized the need to provide support for children in abuse and neglect situations.

"What we do is serve children of extreme child abuse when they're brought into their local child advocacy center, which is strategically placed in the largest cities of every state," Thompson said. "When a child is brought in for a forensic exam or an interview to determine the extent of abuse that they've suffered, we provide that child with a backpack on the off-chance this child isn't going to be returning home. We wanted to make sure they had everything they needed."

Thompson said these backpacks, called "Bags of Hope", include fleece tie blankets, pajamas, toothbrushes, books, flashlights, shampoo and other items, KOVC-AM reported.

The nonprofit swiftly grew after word of the program spread around North Dakota, where there were 3,982 reports of child abuse and neglect in 2017.

Amanda Geisler, Vice President of Growth and Development, said the group has been able to serve more than 16,000 children so far because other organizations and communities have backed them up.

"We couldn't do this without the support of the communities, of churches, local businesses and individual donors," Geisler said. "We just turned 11, and so our nonprofits started in the Fargo area. We're just grown over the year. Currently, we're serving a few hundred children each month."

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Costs are always rising, so it's important that organizations continue to help, Thompson noted. First Community Credit Union in Rogers is currently holding a pajama fundraiser for Project Ignite Light. People are encouraged to contribute new, two-piece pajamas in sizes newborn through 18 years of age. "We have found that when people come together that, really, it's affordable. It's possible and it's doable. So often we say we don't know what to do when we see somebody hurting, but doing nothing is not an option," Thompson said. "When we come together, we are able to do something that's profound. It's almost like a first responder situation."

Information from: KOVC-AM, <http://www.newsdakota.com>

Casino gets approval from Sioux Falls planning commission

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Planning Commission this month approved a conditional-use permit for a casino and strip mall to be built next to a growing residential area on the southern edge of the city, despite the City Council's earlier rejection of a similar request.

The commission approved the project even though the City Council's urban planning staff recommended rejecting the project because it was not an appropriate place to sell alcohol, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported. The planning staff, which manages the orderly development of Sioux Falls and supervises the protection of property, also noted the City Council denied a similar permit request in 2015 at the same location.

The planning commission serves as an advisory board to the City Council and offers recommendations on land use and zoning matters.

"Does this spot of land make sense as an on-sale alcohol beverage establishment?" said Nicholas Ser-shen, planning commissioner. "Yes, it does."

The developers behind the Sioux Falls network of Deuces and Crown casinos presented plans for the casino and attached strip mall project at a recent meeting. The developers are represented by Bryant Soberg who, along with business partner Kirby Muilenburg, has investments in a number of different businesses, including Commonwealth Gaming and Holdings and Crown Gaming Inc.

Commonwealth is licensed to operate video lotteries in 10 Sioux Falls casinos, according to 2018 state data. Crown Gaming owns five more, and Soberg and Muilenburg are connected to other casinos in the city.

Soberg said a neighborhood meeting with nearby homeowners allowed them to address some of their concerns.

"We're going to do everything we can to operate a good location," Soberg said. "We don't want to run a bad establishment."

Charlotte Miller, who lives in the area, opposed Soberg's proposal in 2015 but offered lukewarm support for his latest plan — as long as it is across the intersection and far away from family homes.

"We were not really in favor of a casino. This was just simply what can we do here that is the least obtrusive," Miller said.

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

Where eagles flirt: A DC tale of love, loss and raccoons

BY ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a tale with everything you'd need for a soap opera: star-crossed lovers, a stable relationship threatened by younger suitors, pregnancy and loss, and a hungry raccoon.

Washingtonians, along with a global community of eagle-watchers, have been transfixed this winter by Liberty and Justice, bald eagles who've nested and raised eaglets together for 14 years on the grounds of the city's police academy.

Their annual mating ritual, egg-laying and hatching process normally draws thousands of viewers to a

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special eagle cam. But this year has been unusually dramatic, with twists and turns that became headline news outside the eagle-watcher community.

"It's been a roller-coaster ride," said Tommy Lawrence, managing director of the Earth Conservation Corps, which runs the eagle cam and has been instrumental in repopulating the local bald eagle community. "People kind of take ownership of the eagles and really become invested in their well-being."

The saga of Justice and Liberty isn't the capital's only eagle drama. Last Wednesday, the Blue Line of Washington's Metro was delayed to rescue an injured bald eagle from the tracks. The bird later had to be euthanized.

Another eagle cam, at the National Arboretum, also has chronicled relationship tensions this year. Two eagles, known as Mr. President and The First Lady, experienced a comparatively mild relationship drama when another female showed up and tried to woo Mr. President. The interloper was chased off by The First Lady.

But the bigger drama involved Liberty, the female, and Justice.

Their mating season started normally. Together they prepared the nest they've shared for 14 years. They mated on Feb. 9. Normally at that point, Liberty would lay eggs — usually two — and spend most of her time sitting on them while they incubated and the male sought food for the family.

But this year, Justice disappeared almost immediately after mating, leaving Liberty with no way to gather food while keeping the eggs warm. During his absence a younger male eagle began appearing at the nest and courting Liberty. Researchers named him "Aaron Burrd" and speculated that he had fought Justice and driven him from the territory. A second young male rival also made some appearances.

After about 10 days, Liberty began making short flights away from the nest, meaning the temperature of the eggs dropped too low to hatch. On Feb. 23, Liberty flew away with one of her new suitors for two days, essentially abandoning her nonviable eggs. The next day, Justice reappeared after a more than two-week absence to reclaim his place. When Liberty returned, she didn't accept him back at first but gradually they reconciled.

Then came a final Darwinian twist. While the reunited pair was away from the nest, a raccoon climbed up and ate both eggs live on camera. Nothing was actually lost. The eggs were never going to hatch. But Lawrence said some newer eagle-cam devotees didn't fully understand what had happened.

"The reaction was intense," Lawrence said. "People would start freaking out on Facebook and asking why we didn't rescue the eggs and then some older members of the community would calm them down."

When interviewed Friday by The Associated Press, Lawrence announced breaking news: Justice and



This March 4, 2019, image from video provided by Earth Conservation Corps Eagle Cam, shows Bald Eagles Liberty and Justice on their nest in Washington. It's a tale containing seemingly everything you'd need for a proper soap opera: star-crossed lovers, a stable relationship threatened by younger suitors, pregnancy and loss, and a hungry raccoon. Washingtonians, along with a global community of eagle-watchers, have been transfixed this winter by the tale of Liberty and Justice, a pair of bald eagles who have nested and raised eaglets together for 14 years on the grounds of Washington's police academy (Earth Conservation Corps via AP)

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Liberty, after slowly rekindling their relationship, had mated the day before. Now the watch is on to see if Liberty is still fertile this late in the mating season and will lay more eggs. Justice, by the way, has continued his mysterious disappearances. On March 7, he vanished for five days before returning.

"We don't know where he keeps going," Lawrence said. "Our minds go to 'Does he have a second nest somewhere?'"

The twists and turns have been covered by multiple local media outlets with Kardashian-level of detail. Now speculation is running hot as to whether Justice and Liberty have a long-term future together or whether the younger suitors are a glimpse of the future.

"It does seem like there's all these young bucks out there looking for some action," Lawrence said.

If the aging Justice is going to face regular challenges from younger males going forward, Lawrence said he might discover that his mate is fiercely loyal — to the nest.

"The female will give up her mate before she gives up her nest," he said. "Liberty basically has the keys to the house and she decides who she lets in."

The cult-like following for the eagles is a testament to the wildly successful mid-1990s campaign to bring them back after they had died out locally in the late 1940s. Starting in 1994, the Earth Conservation Corps brought 16 new eagle hatchlings — four per year — from Wisconsin and raised them locally so they would develop an affinity for the area. Mature eagles leave the nest after four months to six months, and leave their home territory for several years, then frequently return to their home area to mate — "like going to college," Lawrence said.

Eagles generally live about 30 years, so that first batch of eaglets would be a middle-aged 25 now, but much of the now-healthy local bald eagle population is presumed to be the children and grandchildren of those first few hatchling batches.

Dan Rauch, a wildlife biologist who is responsible for Mr. President and The First Lady, praised the following that has developed around both local eagle cams.

"The community is great! Some people are very involved and are watching all day. They really have an emotional investment in these birds," he said.

Rauch attributes the popularity to the comeback story, the eagle's status as America's national symbol, and the natural fierce magnetism of the winged predators.

"The bald eagle itself is a very charismatic animal," he said.

Lawrence said he has learned not to underestimate the power and devotion of the eagle-watcher community. He recalls last year when a special cable malfunctioned and knocked out the eagle cam. Lawrence put out an appeal on Facebook asking if any IT professionals could donate their time and take a look.

"Literally a few hours later I get a call from the people who lobby for Verizon saying, 'We've received a bunch of phone calls, including from two congresswomen, asking us to fix this,'" he said.

Follow Khalil on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/Ashrafkhalil

Is Jane Sanders the most powerful woman not running in 2020?

By **STEPHEN BRAUN, WILSON RING and STEVE PEOPLES** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Before Bernie Sanders took the stage to formally launch his 2020 presidential campaign this month, the candidate's most influential adviser took the mic. To cheers, Jane Sanders introduced herself to the Brooklyn crowd as "Bernie's wife," then conceded that wasn't the most politically correct label.

To be sure, identifying Jane Sanders as "the wife" hardly captures the scope of her influence on her husband's political career. Across 30 years and a dozen campaigns for federal office, she has served variously as her husband's media consultant, surrogate, fundraiser, chief of staff, campaign spokeswoman and top strategist.

His political revolution has become her career. And her political and business activities have, at times, become his headache. As the Vermont senator undertakes his second presidential run and scrambles

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his inner circle, Jane Sanders remains his closest adviser, making her perhaps the most influential woman in the 2020 campaign who isn't a candidate.

"Bernie's top adviser always has been and will continue to be Jane," said Jeff Weaver, a Sanders adviser. She has a voice in almost every major political decision her husband makes, travels with him for major events and is deeply involved in formulating policies, issues and campaign infrastructure. "At every level," Weaver said, "Jane is intimately involved."

That involvement has drawn questions sometimes about her political judgment, family opportunism and flawed ethics — from political foes, good government advocates and longtime Sanders-watchers in Vermont and in the progressive movement. Most recently, critics questioned the role played by the Sanders Institute, a nonprofit co-founded by Jane Sanders and her son, for blending elements of fundraising, family and campaign policy development.

Her dual roles at the institute and in her husband's campaign carried echoes of the Clinton Foundation, which Bernie Sanders criticized in 2016 as a possible ethics conflict and back door for foreign donors seeking to influence his then-rival Hillary Clinton.

"Bernie Sanders ran against Hillary Clinton in 2016 criticizing her for the vast sums of money she raised and he seems to be following in some of her footsteps," said Lawrence R. Jacobs, director of the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. "Now he's raising vast sums of money and it's being controlled and shaped by his family."

Jane Sanders acted this past week to remove the think tank as a possible campaign ethics target, telling The Associated Press that the institute's operations and fundraising would be suspended for the balance of her husband's 2020 presidential campaign. Since its creation in 2017, the group raised more than \$700,000, but has not disclosed most of its donors. She said the decision to put the Sanders Institute on hiatus was "a forward-looking way to deal with potential concerns."

Sanders may prove an important surrogate for her husband, particularly in a race crowded with female candidates and potentially hinging on how women vote. She publicly defended her husband when he faced criticism for the way his 2016 campaign handled accusations of sexual harassment.

She's become an essential liaison to the progressive activists at the heart of the Sanders' base, using the institute to host meetings of policymakers and activists. An affable, if low-key public speaker, she was the star of the December "Gathering" in Burlington, Vermont, a three-day policy gathering that featured progressive speakers including environmentalist Bill McKibben, actor Danny Glover and her husband.

Steeped in years of involvement in progressive causes, Sanders comfortably slipped into the role as the event's emcee. Before a crowd of more than 250 progressive activists, she stoked applause lines for



FILE - In this March 3, 2019, file photo, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., left, and his wife, Jane Sanders, greet supporters as they leave after his 2020 presidential campaign stop at Navy Pier in Chicago. Bernie Sanders' revolution is Jane Sanders' career. And her political and business activities have at times been his headache. His closest adviser, she is perhaps the most influential woman in the 2020 campaign who isn't a candidate. (AP

Photo/Nam Y. Huh, File)

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favored organizations and lavished compliments on institute fellows.

Similarly, in videos posted on the institute's website, she has led numerous policy conversations with experts in a Brooklyn accent fainter than her husband's.

Jane Sanders is not compensated for her role at the institute. Her son, David Driscoll, has been paid \$100,000 a year as a co-founder and executive director, she confirmed. Driscoll previously worked for a Vermont snowboarding company and had no previous nonprofit experience, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Like her husband, Jane Sanders "has learned not to trust a lot of people. Family is a lot more dependable than outsiders," said University of Vermont political science professor Garrison Nelson, an acquaintance and veteran Sanders-watcher.

Jane Sanders expressed frustration about concerns that she and some of her children have at times benefited from their activities affiliated with Sanders' expanding political apparatus.

"How can we say nepotism here? It just doesn't fit," she said. She added that the Sanders Institute has "developed policy and the content that we get completely separate" from her husband's campaign.

Politics has long been a family project for the couple.

Jane Sanders first worked with her future husband as director of the mayor's youth Office in Burlington. They were both displaced New Yorker, Jane noted at the launch rally, stamped by childhood days on Brooklyn's city streets. "We had very similar experiences," she said. "We spent a lot of time playing stickball, running races and just hanging out on the streets with the kids in our neighborhoods."

They wed in 1988 — a second marriage for both — two years before Sanders won his first election to Congress. Jane Sanders went to Capitol Hill as his volunteer deputy — gaining experience in policy, legislation and as chief of staff.

In the early 2000s, she took on a new role along with her daughter, Carina. Two women set up a consulting firm, paid more than \$90,000 in consulting fees by Bernie Sanders' House campaigns.

In 2004, the year before Bernie Sanders' launched his winning Senate campaign, his wife was named president of Burlington College, a local small liberal arts college. In 2010, she worked out a \$10 million deal for the college to buy 32 acres of waterfront land on Lake Champlain and a 77,000-square-foot former orphanage and administrative offices of Vermont's Roman Catholic Church, which needed the money to settle a series of priest sex abuse cases.

She promised at the time the deal would be paid for with increases in enrollment and about \$2.7 million in donations. But her plans never took wing and under fire, she resigned from the college in 2011. The school closed in 2016, citing debt from the land deal as a major reason for its failure. Prompted by complaints filed by a Republican lawyer about her involvement in the land deal, federal investigators looked into Jane Sanders' stewardship but informed her last November that she would not be charged.

"We've learned we're going to be attacked," she said during an interview, adding "that's the fact of today's politics."

But she said she was confident that the decision to put the think tank on hiatus was "best for the institute to not have the possibility of misinterpretation."

The move, she said, will allow her to expand her campaign work freely for the Sanders campaign, including more solo stops on her husband's behalf.

"I will be more active throughout," she said.

Ring reported from Montpelier, Vermont, and Peoples from New York.

New Zealand prepares to bury mosque victims as toll hits 50

By NICK PERRY and JULIET WILLIAMS Associated Press

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) — Anguished relatives anxiously waited Sunday for authorities to release the remains of those who were killed in massacres at two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch, while police announced the death toll from the racist attacks had risen to 50.

Islamic law calls for bodies to be cleansed and buried as soon as possible after death, usually within 24

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hours. But two days after the worst terrorist attack in the country's modern history, relatives remained unsure when they would be able to bury their loved ones.

Police Commissioner Mike Bush said police were working with pathologists and coroners to release the bodies as soon as they could.

"We have to be absolutely clear on the cause of death and confirm their identity before that can happen," he said. "But we are so aware of the cultural and religious needs. So we are doing that as quickly and as sensitively as possible."

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said a small number of bodies would start being released to families Sunday evening, and authorities hoped to release all the bodies by Wednesday. But by the end of Sunday night, it was not clear whether any bodies had been released.

Police said they had released a preliminary list of the victims to families, which has helped give closure to some relatives who were waiting for any news.

The scale of the tragedy and the task still ahead became clear as supporters arrived from across the country to help with the burial rituals in Christchurch and authorities sent in backhoes to dig new graves in a Muslim burial area that was newly fenced off and blocked from view with white netting.

The suspect in the shootings, 28-year-old white supremacist Brenton Harrison Tarrant, appeared in court Saturday amid strict security, shackled and wearing all-white prison garb, and showed no emotion when the judge read him one murder charge and said more would likely follow.

Tarrant had posted a jumbled 74-page anti-immigrant manifesto online before the attacks and apparently used a helmet-mounted camera to broadcast live video of the slaughter.

Ardern said the gunman had sent the manifesto to her office email about nine minutes before the attacks, although she hadn't gotten the email directly herself. She said her office was one of about 30 recipients and had forwarded the email to parliamentary security within a couple of minutes of receiving it.

Bush said at a news conference Sunday that they found another body at Al Noor mosque as they finished removing the victims, bringing the number of people killed there to 42. Another seven people were killed at Linwood mosque and one more person died later at Christchurch Hospital.

Thirty-four injured victims remained at Christchurch Hospital, where officials said 12 were in critical condition. And a 4-year-old girl at a children's hospital in Auckland was also listed as critical.

Dozens of Muslim supporters gathered at a center set up for victims, families and friends across the road from the hospital, where many had flown in from around New Zealand to offer support. About two dozen men received instructions on their duties Sunday morning, which included Muslim burial customs.

Abdul Hakim, 56, of Auckland, was among many who had flown in to help.



A girl walk to lay flowers on a wall at the Botanical Gardens in Christchurch, New Zealand, Sunday, March 17, 2019. New Zealand's stricken residents reached out to Muslims in their neighborhoods and around the country on Saturday, in a fierce determination to show kindness to a community in pain as a 28-year-old white supremacist stood silently before a judge, accused in mass shootings at two mosques that left dozens of people dead. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

Vincent Thian)

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"As soon as people die we must bury them as soon as possible," Hakim said. "We are all here to help them in washing the body, putting them in the grave."

Javed Dadabhai, who flew from Auckland after learning about the death of his 35-year-old cousin, Junaid Mortara, said the Muslim community was being patient.

"The family understands that it's a crime scene. It's going to be a criminal charge against the guy who's done this, so they need to be pretty thorough," he said.

Still, it was hard, he said, because the grieving process wouldn't really begin until he could bury his cousin.

People across New Zealand were still trying to come to terms with the massacre that Ardern described as "one of New Zealand's darkest days."

A steady stream of mourners arrived at a makeshift memorial outside the Al Noor mosque, where hundreds of flowers lay piled amid candles, balloons and notes of grief and love. As a light rain fell, people clutched each other and wept quietly.

Under a nearby tree, someone had left a potted plant adorned with cut-out red paper hearts: "We wish we knew your name to write upon your heart. We wish we knew your favorite song, what makes you smile, what makes you cry. We made a heart for you. 50 hearts for 50 lives."

The gunman livestreamed 17 minutes of the rampage at the Al Noor mosque, where he sprayed worshippers with bullets. Facebook, Twitter and Google scrambled to take down the video, which was widely available on social media for hours after the bloodbath.

The second attack took place at the Linwood mosque about 5 kilometers (3 miles) away.

Ardern has said Tarrant was a licensed gun owner who bought the five guns used in the crimes legally.

At a news conference Sunday, the prime minister reiterated her promise that there will be changes to the country's gun laws. She said her Cabinet will discuss the policy details on Monday.

Arden used some of her strongest language yet about gun control, saying that laws need to change and "they will change."

Neighboring Australia has virtually banned semi-automatic rifles from private ownership since a lone gunman killed 35 people with assault rifles in 1996.

Before Friday's attack, New Zealand's deadliest shooting in modern history took place in 1990 in the small town of Aramoana, where a gunman killed 13 people following a dispute with a neighbor.

Associated Press writers Kristen Gelineau and Stephen Wright in Christchurch, and Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia, contributed to this report.

France cleans up Champs-Elysees after yellow vest rioting

By MILOS KRIVOKAPIC and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Paris cleaned up one of the world's most glamorous avenues Saturday after resurgent rioting by yellow vest protesters angry at President Emmanuel Macron stunned the nation.

Luxury stores, restaurants and banks on the Champs-Elysees assessed damage Sunday after they were ransacked or blackened by life-threatening fires. Tourists took pictures as shop owners tried to repair broken windows and city workers scrubbed away graffiti, much of it targeting Macron.

The renewed violence by a movement that had been fizzling in recent weeks was a wakeup call to a president seen as favoring the elite.

Macron promised a crackdown on troublemakers he said "want to destroy the republic, at the risk of killing people." But he also tweeted that the rioting showed that his government needs to do more to address protesters' concerns.

Macron cut short a weekend ski trip to meet Saturday night with security officials at the crisis center overseeing the police response.

On the Champs-Elysees, an eerie calm replaced the hours-long chaos of the day before on the street that Parisians call "the most beautiful avenue in the world."

No police were visible Sunday, and traffic rolled down cobblestones that had been the scene of battles

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between rioters and police struggling to contain them.

In the midst of Saturday's violence, firefighters said that a mother and her child were barely saved from a building set ablaze because it housed a bank on the ground floor. Smoke from fires set by protesters mingled with clouds of tear gas sprayed by police.

The protesters sought to revive their movement Saturday by marking the end of a two-month-long national debate called by Macron that protesters say failed to answer their demands for economic justice.

Police had braced for an uptick of violence, but appeared caught off guard by the speed and severity of Saturday's unrest.

Authorities and some protesters blamed black bloc extremists who come to demonstrations with the express goal of attacking police and damaging property. They dress in black, including masks and hoods to make it harder for police to identify them, and often target symbols of capitalism or globalization.

Overall, the Interior Ministry said that around 32,000 yellow vest protesters demonstrated nationwide Saturday, including about 10,000 in Paris. That was up from last week, when about 26,000 people marched around France including 3,000 in Paris.

However, it was far from the 250,000 yellow vest demonstrators who protested in December — and a fraction of the 145,000 people who took part in peaceful climate marches Saturday around France, according to the ministry's figures.

The four-month-old movement tapped into widespread discontent with high taxes and diminishing living standards in working class provinces — and anger at Macron, seen as too friendly with the rich and powerful and out of touch with French concerns.

But the yellow vest movement has lost support because of protest violence, internal divisions and concessions by Macron's government. The remaining protesters appear increasingly extreme.

Thomas Adamson and Elaine Ganley in Paris contributed to this report.



A worker sets up protection on the smashed windows of a store the day after it was vandalized during the 18th straight weekend of demonstrations by the yellow vests, in Paris, France, Sunday, March 17, 2019. Paris cleaned up one of the world's most glamorous avenues Saturday after resurgent rioting by yellow vest protesters angry at President Emmanuel Macron stunned the nation. (AP Photo/

Rafael Yaghobzadeh)

Born into al-Qaida: Hamza bin Laden's rise to prominence

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The boy is only 12 years old and looks even younger and smaller kneeling next to the wreckage of a helicopter, flanked by masked jihadis carrying Kalashnikov assault rifles with bandoliers strapped across their chests.

Hamza bin Laden, with a traditional Arab coffee pot to his right and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher to his left leaning against the debris, made his worldwide television debut reciting a poem in a propaganda

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video just weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks planned by his father Osama.

Years after the death of his father at the hands of a U.S. Navy SEAL raid in Pakistan, it is now Hamza bin Laden who finds himself squarely in the crosshairs of world powers. In rapid succession in recent weeks, the U.S. put a bounty of up to a \$1 million for him; the U.N. Security Council named him to a global sanctions list, sparking a new Interpol notice for his arrest; and his home country of Saudi Arabia revealed it had revoked his citizenship.

Those measures suggest that international officials believe the now 30-year-old militant is an increasingly serious threat. He is not the head of al-Qaida but he has risen in prominence within the terror network his father founded, and the group may be grooming him to stand as a leader for a young generation of militants.

"Hamza was destined to be in his father's footsteps," said Ali Soufan, a former FBI agent focused on counter-terrorism who investigated al-Qaida's attack on the USS Cole. "He is poised to have a senior leadership role in al-Qaida."

Much remains unknown about him — particularly, the key question of where he is — but his life has mirrored al-Qaida's path, moving quietly and steadily forward, outlasting its offshoot and rival, the Islamic State group.

"LIVING, BREATHING" AL-QAIDA

Hamza bin Laden's exact date of birth remains disputed, but most put it in 1989. That was a year of transition for his father, who had gained attention for his role in supplying money and arms to the mujahedeen fighting the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. Osama bin Laden himself was one of over 50 children of a wealthy, royally connected construction magnate in the kingdom.

As the war wound down, bin Laden emerged as the leader of a new group that sought to leverage that global network brought together in Afghanistan for a new jihad. They named it al-Qaida, or "the base" in Arabic.

Already, bin Laden had met and married Khairiah Saber, a child psychologist from Saudi Arabia's port city of Jiddah who reportedly had treated bin Laden's son by another wife, Saad, for autism. She gave birth to Hamza, their only child together, as al-Qaida itself took its first, tentative steps toward the Sept. 11 attacks.

"This boy has been living, breathing and experiencing the al-Qaida life since age zero," said Elisabeth Kendall, a senior research fellow at Pembroke College at Oxford University who studies Hamza bin Laden.



FILE - In this Nov. 5, 2001 image made from video broadcast by the Qatari-based television station Al-Jazeera, a young boy, center, identified as Hamza bin Laden, reads a poem about Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar in Ghazni, Afghanistan. Years after the death of his father at the hands of a U.S. Navy SEAL raid in Pakistan, it is now Hamza bin Laden who finds himself squarely in the crosshairs of world powers. In rapid succession in recent weeks, the U.S. put a bounty of up to a \$1 million for him; the U.N. Security Council named him to a global sanctions list, sparking a new Interpol notice for his arrest; and his home country of Saudi Arabia revealed it had revoked his citizenship. (AP Photo/Al-Jazeera via APTN, File)

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Hamza, whose name means "lion" or "strength" in Arabic, was a toddler when the bin Ladens' life in exile began. They moved to Sudan after bin Laden's criticism of the kingdom hosting American forces during the 1991 Gulf War alienated the Al Saud royal family.

Under growing international pressure after bin Laden declared holy war on the U.S., Sudan pushed him out and the family moved again to Afghanistan in 1996. Hamza bin Laden was 7.

Al-Qaida's attacks against the U.S. began in earnest in 1998 with the dual bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 224 people. Its 2000 suicide attack against the USS Cole off Yemen killed at least 17 sailors.

Hamza bin Laden appeared in photographs alongside his father or in propaganda videos in this time, hanging from monkey bars in military-style training or reciting a poem in classical Arabic, garbed in a camouflage vest.

Then came Sept. 11, 2001. The coordinated al-Qaida hijacking sent two U.S. commercial airliners slamming into the World Trade Center in New York, one striking the Pentagon and another crashing in rural Pennsylvania, all together killing nearly 3,000 people.

So at age 12, Hamza bin Laden appeared in the video above the wreckage of a helicopter, likely a remnant of the Soviet occupation, not a U.S. warplane as al-Qaida claimed at the time.

He recited a poem praising his father's ally, Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, as the "lion of Kabul," ran in a field with other boys and held a pistol above his head as if fearless of American airstrikes. It marked the last moments before the U.S.-led invasion would topple the Taliban and send Osama bin Laden fleeing into the mountains of Tora Bora and, from there, Pakistan.

Hamza later remembered receiving prayer beads from his father with his brother Khalid before leaving him.

"It was as if we pulled out our livers and left them there," he wrote.

And then, like his father, Hamza bin Laden disappeared.

THE IRAN YEARS

Hamza bin Laden and his mother followed other al-Qaida members into Pakistan amid the U.S.-led coalition bombing campaign on Afghanistan. From there, they crossed into Iran, where other al-Qaida leaders hid them in a series of safe houses, according to experts and analysis of documents seized after the U.S. Navy SEAL team raid that killed the elder bin Laden in the Pakistani town of Abbottabad.

The connection between al-Qaida and Iran has been a murky one, firmly disputed by Tehran. Iran, the Mideast's predominant Shiite power, on its face seems a strange home for the Sunni Arab militants. Sunni extremists views Shiites as heretics and target them for violence.

But al-Qaida under Osama bin Laden made inroads with Iran during his days in Sudan, according to the U.S. government's 9/11 Commission. The commission said al-Qaida militants later received training in Lebanon from the Shiite militant group Hezbollah, which Iran backs to this day.

Before the Sept. 11 attacks, Iran allowed al-Qaida militants to pass through its borders without receiving stamps in their passports or with visas obtained at its consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, according to a 19-page, unsigned report found among Osama bin Laden's personnel effects in the Abbottabad raid. That helped the organization's Saudi members avoid suspicion. They also had contact with Iranian intelligence agents, according to the report.

Iran offered al-Qaida fighters "money and arms and everything they need, and offered them training in Hezbollah camps in Lebanon, in return for striking American interests in Saudi Arabia," the report said.

This matches up with the 9/11 Commission's report, which found that eight of the Sept. 11 hijackers passed through Iran before arriving in the United States. However, the commission "found no evidence that Iran or Hezbollah was aware of the planning for what later became the 9/11 attack."

It's unclear why Iran allowed the al-Qaida members, including bin Laden's children and wives, to enter the country immediately after the 9/11 attacks. Iran's president at the time, the reformist politician Mohamed Khatami, and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei condemned the attack, and Iran helped

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the ensuing U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. However, by January 2002, U.S. President George W. Bush declared Iran as part of an "Axis of Evil" alongside Iraq and North Korea.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment.

By April 2003, just weeks into the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein, Iranian intelligence officials had had enough of al-Qaida being beyond their control. It rounded up all the al-Qaida members it could find and detained them, apparently at a series of military bases or other closed-off compounds, according to contemporaneous accounts by several al-Qaida militants.

CAPITIVITY

In Iran, Hamza's mother Khairiah Saber urged the al-Qaida lieutenants there to take her son — now a teenager — under their wing. Hamza wrote to his father recounting the Islamic theology books he studied in detention, while expressing frustration that he was not among the jihadis in battle.

"The mujahedeen have impressed greatly in the field of long victories, and I am still standing in my place, prohibited by the steel shackles," Hamza wrote in one of his letters found at Abbottabad. "I dread spending the rest of my young adulthood behind iron bars."

But those shackles ended up keeping him and the other al-Qaida members safe as the U.S. under Bush and later President Barack Obama targeted militants across the Mideast in a campaign of drone strikes. Hamza's half brother Saad escaped Iranian custody and made it to Pakistan, only to be immediately killed by an American strike in 2009.

"That probably saved (Hamza) that he was in Iran during that period where everyone else was being knocked off, detained," said Tricia Bacon, an assistant professor at American University who focuses on al-Qaida and once worked in counterterrorism at the State Department. "It probably was one of the better places to be able to re-emerge at a later time."

Hamza during this time even married into al-Qaida, picking a daughter of Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, an Egyptian who the U.S. says helped plan the November 1998 embassy attacks. The two had two children, Osama and Khairiah, named after his parents.

"I ask God to place their image in your eye," Hamza wrote his father. "He created them to serve you."

By this time, rumors of al-Qaida members being in Iran had reached a fever pitch. A teenage daughter of Osama bin Laden, Eman, somehow escaped imprisonment in late 2009 and made her way to the Saudi Embassy in Tehran. Iran's then-Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said at the time: "We don't know how this person went to the embassy or how she entered the country."

Khalid bin Laden, another son of the wanted terrorist, later would write a letter that was posted online and addressed to Iran's supreme leader saying his siblings were "beaten and repressed."

After years of imprisonment, an opportunity emerged for the al-Qaida members held in Iran. Gunmen in late 2008 kidnapped an Iranian diplomat in northwestern Pakistan. He would be freed in March 2010 as Hamza and others also left custody.

Osama bin Laden thought of sending Hamza to Qatar for religious scholarship, but his son instead went to Pakistan's Waziristan province, where he asked for weapons training, according to a letter to the elder bin Laden. His mother left for Abbottabad immediately, where her husband was in hiding, with Hamza hoping to come as well.

But on May 2, 2011, the Navy SEAL team raided Abbottabad, killing Osama bin Laden and Khalid, as well as others. Saber and other wives living in the house were imprisoned. Hamza again disappeared.

REEMERGENCE

In August 2015, a video emerged on jihadi websites of Ayman al-Zawahri, the current leader of al-Qaida, introducing "a lion from the den of al-Qaida" — Hamza bin Laden. The younger bin Laden was not shown in the video, speaking only in an audio recording. With a voice deepened from the tinny recitals he offered as a child, he praised al-Qaida's franchises and other militants.

"What America and its allies fear the most is that we take the battlefield from Kabul, Baghdad, and Gaza to Washington, London, Paris, and Tel Aviv, and to take it to all the American, Jewish, and Western

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interests in the world," he said.

Since then, he has been featured in around a dozen al-Qaida messages, delivering speeches on everything from the war in Syria to Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia on his first foreign trip as U.S. president. His style resembles his father's, with references to religious studies and snippets of poetry, a contrast to the gory beheading videos of the Islamic State group, which had risen up from al-Qaida in Iraq to seize territory across Iraq and Syria.

"He's not blood and guts," said Kendall, the senior research fellow at Pembroke College at Oxford University. "His speeches are more literary and educated."

While al-Zawahri still controls al-Qaida, the multiple messages have raised speculation that the terror group may be trying to plan for the future by putting forward a fresh face — albeit one they have so far only showed in old photographs of Hamza bin Laden as a child.

Meanwhile, the Islamic State group has seen its territory slip away as it was pounded by a U.S.-led coalition, Russian airstrikes and Iranian-backed forces.

That has left al-Qaida as the prominent jihadi group standing.

"I think as ISIS' strength continues to deteriorate, the international community has perhaps realized that there are other terrorist groups — including the ones that never went away, such as al-Qaida," said Sajjan Gohel, the international security director of the United Kingdom-based Asia-Pacific Foundation, using another acronym for the Islamic State group.

"In fact, al-Qaida has been quietly growing, regaining strength, letting ISIS take all the hits while they quietly reconstitute themselves," he added.

The State Department named Hamza bin Laden as a "global terrorist" in 2017, then followed up in February with the bounty on his head as the U.N. blacklisted him.

The designations show officials consider him a threat.

"There is probably other intelligence that indicates something's happening and that's what put this thing on the front burner," said Soufan, the former FBI agent.

But what's happening within al-Qaida remains a mystery. Hamza bin Laden hasn't been heard from since a message in March 2018, in which he threatened the rulers of Saudi Arabia. Why remains in question. Rumors have circulated he himself was targeted in an attack. The CIA also published video of him in November 2017 at his wedding in Iranian detention, showing the first publicly known photographs of him since childhood.

An image from that video now graces his U.S. wanted poster.

"Will he be successful? We don't know. Will he live long to do what his father was able to do? We have no idea. We might drone him tomorrow," Soufan said. "But this is the plan. This is what they wanted to do. This is what he is destined, I believe, to do from the beginning."

Associated Press writer Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellap.

Despite its peace, Christchurch painfully used to trauma

By STEVE McMORRAN and NICK PERRY Associated Press

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) — Ahmed Tani settled in Christchurch as a refugee in 1999. After his escape from civil war in Somalia, the New Zealand city seemed a place of peace, a haven.

Christchurch was more than just physically distant from the bitter strife he had previously known. With its leafy streets, vibrant gardens and green public parks, the Garden City, as it is known, was even visually a world away from the desolation of Tani's war-scorched past.

A teacher in Somalia, in Christchurch he first became a taxi driver, a choice made by many refugees whose qualifications are often not accepted in their new homeland. He struggled at first to settle in to a place so different from any he had known. But bit by bit he accepted Christchurch and it accepted him.

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It became home.

That feeling of peace was shaken for the first time at lunchtime Feb. 22, 2011, when a magnitude 6.3 earthquake caused many of the buildings in Christchurch's city center to come crumbling down. People were trapped under the rubble and rescuers raced to save them in time. In the end, 185 people would die.

For years after the quake, Christchurch was a city without a heart. Many of the buildings that formed its center had been destroyed or had to be demolished, and even its iconic central Anglican cathedral was partly collapsed. Schoolchildren who lived through the quake manifested higher levels of stress and anxiety than peers elsewhere in New Zealand.

Gradually though, Christchurch rebuilt, dragging itself up again both physically and spiritually. New buildings sprang from old and the community formed stronger bonds that allowed a human resurgence, a rebirth.

But the idyll of Christchurch was shattered again on Friday.

Tani was walking toward the Al Noor mosque for afternoon prayers. He was only a few hundred yards away when he heard the sound of gunfire for the first time since he left Somalia two decades before.

A racist gunman, steeped in hatred of Muslims and immigrants, had opened fire on the house of prayer, the first of two shooting rampages that would leave 50 dead in New Zealand's worst terrorist attack.

"I was really frightened," Tani said. "We were living in Christchurch in peace and harmony. This is the first time we have had this. We have to realize this can happen anywhere."

For the second time in a decade, Christchurch faces the task of restoring a shaken sense of faith, of community, of security.

Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel said everyone would again pull together.

"That's what got us through the earthquakes," she said. "We will come back from this and we will continue our path of welcoming people from all nations, all religions, from all cultures to our city."

She said the previous experience with the earthquake would help the city get through this.

"The strength of the ties among the people that live in the communities, that is going to be the measure of the recovery," she said.

Coming together to support others and to remember was a key part of the recovery then. In the days and weeks after the quake struck, strangers would stop each other in the street, often embrace and ask, "Are you OK."

At the time of the earthquake, Tani was working at the group he founded — the Christchurch Refugee Resettlement and Resource Centre — to help other refugees settle and to build new lives.

In the days after, Tani walked a city in which roads had been rendered impassable and knocked on the



Ahmed Tani poses a portrait in front of Hagley College in Christchurch, New Zealand, Sunday, March 17, 2019. Tani settled in Christchurch after fleeing civil war in Somalia. The New Zealand city seemed a place of peace. It was more than just physically distant from the strife he had known. With its leafy streets, vibrant gardens and green public parks, the Garden City was even visually a world away from his war-scorched past. But that peace hasn't always lasted and now the city will need to use its experience rebuilding from a 2011 earthquake to recover from the nation's worst terrorist attack. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

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doors of hundreds of refugee families to ensure they were safe. For months and even years after, Tani's center provided a rallying point for refugees, many of whom had escaped wars only to be confronted with the lasting trauma of living through a natural disaster.

On Saturday, Tani hosted New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern at a healing meeting of Muslim leaders and delivered a message that hatred would have no place in the city that had adopted him.

"Christchurch is a peaceful city. The people of Christchurch, they are very friendly and they are very helpful people," he said. "I've been in Christchurch for the last 20 years and I've never met anyone who even talked in a wrong way."

He said people in Christchurch have always been willing to lend a hand to refugees, for example by responding to requests for donations of furniture in less than an hour.

"That is Christchurch," Tani said. "Christchurch is not what we were seeing yesterday."

McMorran reported from Wellington, New Zealand.

Grieving families given earth from Ethiopian crash site

By ELIAS MESERET and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Grieving family members of victims of the Ethiopian air disaster are being given sacks of earth to bury in place of the remains of their loved ones.

Officials have begun delivering bags of earth to family members of the 157 victims of the crash instead of the remains of their loved ones because the identification process is going to take such a long time.

Families are being given a 1-kilogram (2.2-pound) sack of scorched earth taken from the crash sites, members of two different families told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid any possible government reprisal. An Ethiopian government official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters also confirmed the deliveries of soil.

"The soil came as it became impossible to identify bodies and hand over remains to family members," one family member said. "We will not rest until we are given the real body or body parts of our loved ones."

Forensic DNA work has begun on identifying the remains but it may take six months to identify the victims, because the body parts are in small pieces. However, authorities say they will issue death certificates within two weeks. The victims of the crash came from 35 countries.

A mass memorial service for the dead is planned in Addis Ababa to take place Sunday, one week after the crash. Muslim families have already held prayers for the dead and are anxious to have something to bury as soon as possible.

Interpol and Blake Emergency Services, hired by Ethiopian Airlines, will work with Ethiopian police and health officials to identify the bodies, Dagmawit Moges, Ethiopia's Minister of Transport said on Saturday.

"Preparation for the identification process has already started and we will make sure that the post-mortem investigation will start as soon as possible," she said.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board has sent about 16 members to assist the investigation, she said.

In Paris, investigators started studying the cockpit voice recorder of the crashed Ethiopian Airlines jet Saturday, grieving family members were given sacks of dirt to bury in place of the remains of their loved ones.

The French air accident investigation agency BEA tweeted Saturday that technical work on the recorder began. The BEA also said work resumed on the flight's data recorders.

The recorders, also known as black boxes, were sent to France because the BEA has extensive expertise in analyzing such devices. Experts from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the plane's manufacturer Boeing are among those involved in the investigation.

The Ethiopian disaster and a crash last year in Indonesia were both of the Boeing 737 Max 8 planes. The United States and many other countries have grounded the Max 8s as the U.S.-based company faces the challenge of proving the jets are safe to fly amid suspicions that faulty sensors and software contributed to

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the two crashes that killed 346 people in less than six months.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration said regulators had new data from satellite-based tracking that showed the movements of Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 were similar to those of Lion Air Flight 610, which crashed off Indonesia in October, killing 189 people.

Both planes flew with erratic altitude changes that could indicate the pilots struggled to control the aircraft. Shortly after their takeoffs, both crews tried to return to the airports but crashed.

Boeing said it supports the grounding of its planes as a precautionary step, while reiterating "full confidence" in their safety. Engineers are making changes to the system designed to prevent an aerodynamic stall if sensors detect that the jet's nose is pointed too high and its speed is too slow.

Investigators looking into the Indonesian crash are examining whether the software automatically pushed the plane's nose down repeatedly, and whether the Lion Air pilots knew how to solve that problem. Ethiopian Airlines says its pilots received special training on the software.

Charlton reported from Paris. Associated Press writers Dave Koenig in Houston and Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed.

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This aerial image made from video shows recovery work continuing at the scene where the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max 8 crashed shortly after takeoff on Sunday killing all 157 on board, near Bishoftu, south-east of Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia Friday, March 15, 2019. Analysis of the flight recorders has begun in France, the airline said Friday, while in Ethiopia officials started taking DNA samples from victims' family members to assist in identifying remains.

(AP Photo/Yidnek Kirubel)

Irish pride, and dash of politics, at St Patrick's Parade

By **SABRINA CASERTA** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A new, troublesome topic hovered over the St. Patrick's Day parade in New York this year: Britain's failed Brexit deal with the European Union that could squeeze Ireland's economy.

But nothing could put a damper on the largest American celebration of Irish heritage on Saturday, with tens of thousands of marchers following a painted green line up Fifth Avenue for the six-hour procession.

Kevin Coughlan, a 27-year-old spectator wearing pants with four-leaf clovers, captured both the New York celebration and the political near-catastrophe overseas, where he still has plenty of family — in Ireland.

"I've always been so proud to be an Irish-American, and that's what today is about; it's more than just one big party, it's about celebrating our freedom," said the Hoboken, New Jersey, resident.

His mood darkened when he turned to Brexit, which "is definitely something we're all worried about, especially my family," he said. "I mean, we're all sort of just waiting for the shoe to drop to see what this means for the Irish economy."

But, he added, "We can get through anything; we survived a potato famine."

This year's official parade theme was immigration, with Brian O'Dwyer, an immigration attorney and

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activist as the grand marshal. He's a co-founder of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center in Queens that helps clients including a group of Latino immigrants that joined O'Dwyer on Saturday.

Through its history, dating back more than 250 years, the New York parade has often had a political element. In the 1970s and 1980s, as sectarian violence flared in Northern Ireland, there were controversies over the inclusion of groups supporting the militant wing of the Irish Republican Army. A banner reading "England get out of Ireland" has flown in the parade since the 1940s.

And for more than two decades, LGBTQ groups were officially banned from marching, until 2015, when marchers under a banner linked to NBC were first allowed in, opening the doors to other LGBTQ participants since then.

This year's march is taking place amid a new set of questions about relations between the United Kingdom and Ireland.

"When the Irish take to the streets this Saturday for the 258th St. Patrick's Day Parade, our thoughts will take us far beyond the festivities on Fifth Ave. to Washington, D.C., and to the British Parliament in London," O'Dwyer wrote in an editorial in the Daily News.

British lawmakers are struggling to find a way to exit the European Union without disrupting the two-decade old peace accords that created an open border between the Republic of Ireland, which is in the E.U., and Northern Ireland, which is in the U.K.

This week, with a March 29 deadline looming, British lawmakers voted to seek to delay Brexit for at least three months. But the possibility exists that the line between the two parts of Ireland, which has been unguarded for 20 years, will once again become hardened with vehicle checkpoints, with trade rules and tariffs in force.

"It is pretty ironic that we're celebrating Irish freedom and unity over here, while they're debating the Irish border over there," said parade-goer Chris Mahan, 56. "All of my cousins are still back in the old country, as we call it. They still don't know what Brexit will mean for them, for their economy and yea, even their unity as a nation."

But for most at Saturday's parade, the political debate over the future in Ireland took a back seat to the pageantry.

"For me, today is so important because after all the suffering and all the tragedy, we came through. We're here and we're healthy," Carol McNiff said, a third generation Irish-American.

"St. Patrick's Day is about memories, for me. A proud heritage," said Cathy Dwyer, 61. The Queens resident has been coming to the parade since she was a young girl. "I'd say my fondest memory was watching my husband march in this parade. And then watching my kids march. One of the proudest moments of my life."

Popular marching groups include the pipes and drums corps for the Emerald Societies at the New York police and fire departments and the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, of the New York Army National



Sharon Keely, left, of Dublin, watches as participants march up Fifth Avenue during the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 16, 2019, in New York. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

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Guard, which has led off the parade since 1851.

Elsewhere in the U.S., the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the South was held in Savannah, Georgia. Started by Irish immigrants to Georgia's oldest city 195 years ago, the March parade has ballooned into a sprawling street party that's the No. 1 tourist draw for Savannah.

"Savannah's like a bad drug," said Bruce Souers, a Savannah native who's been attending parades for five decades, as he sipped Jameson Irish whiskey from a plastic cup. "Once it's in your blood, you can't get rid of it."

Over in Chicago, the river there was dyed green, a tradition that dates back decades. Thousands line up to watch members of Chicago Plumbers Local 130 dump and spray the dye into the river from boats.

Scandal lays bare stress of elite college admissions process

By JOCELYN GECKER and CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — With dreams of UCLA for her daughter, single mother Donna Balancia chose a high-rent apartment to get her into Beverly Hills High School, which she hoped would give her the best shot at the college of her choice.

Once there, she'd bring her daughter to the UCLA tennis court to practice, hoping she would be noticed by the coach. Her daughter excelled as a varsity athlete in tennis and lacrosse and earned a 3.9 GPA. But in the end, the teen's SAT scores were too low for UCLA or the University of Southern California.

"I did some crazy things, but nothing illegal," Balancia said.

The national college admissions bribery scandal that broke this week laid bare the stress, and sometimes, desperation that many families experience when their children are going through the ultra-competitive process of seeking admission to the nation's top colleges.

The man at the center of the bribery scandal, disgraced college consultant William "Rick" Singer, is accused of taking millions of dollars in bribes to pay off corrupt athletic coaches and standardized test administrators to help get clients' children into elite colleges.

He is accused of enriching himself, taking advantage of the anxieties that have turned tutoring and college admissions counseling into a \$1 billion industry. From hiring \$1,000-an-hour tutors to multiple admissions and writing coaches, to pushing sports and community service, parents have given in to any number of pressures.

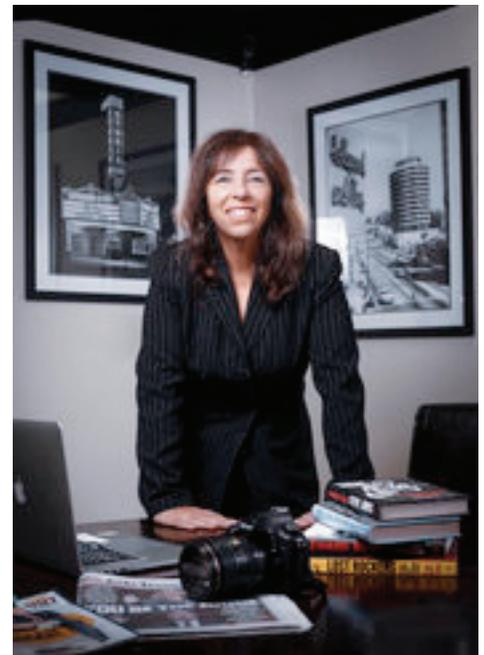
Writing coach Cathy Altman guides college hopefuls through their admissions essays, but she's been asked by parents — more than once — how much she'd charge to write the essay herself. Sometimes parents fret more than the students over what college they'll get in, she said.

"I had a mom two years ago who'd email X's version along with the one (the mom) wrote. Yikes," Altman said via email.

Andrew Belasco, the chief executive officer of College Transitions, an Atlanta-based admissions consulting company, said it receives inquiries from families with children who are as young as fourth- and fifth-graders.

"We tell those parents to call back," he said.

Manhattan Beach, California, parent Gail Winthrop has been



In this October 24, 2018, photo provided by David Fearn, is Donna Balancia in her office in Los Angeles. The college bribery scandal has laid bare the stress and even desperation that many families experience when their children are going through the ultra-competitive process of applying to top colleges. "I did some crazy things, but nothing illegal," says Donna Balancia, who moved into a top school district so her daughter could attend a high school she thought would give her a better shot at UCLA. (David Fearn via AP)

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through the process three times and is bracing for the fourth now that her youngest child is 16.

"It's an awful year. I'm not going to lie. It's a really stress-filled, awful, awful year," Winthrop said.

"It's a lot of pressure but it's pressure that you feel for them," she said. "Because you want your kids dreams to come true."

She hired a consultant, Collegewise, to spare herself from having to pester her children about their essays and applications but said she can't imagine a parent's resorting to the measures outlined in the federal case unsealed in Boston this week.

Prosecutors said parents paid Singer from 2011 through last month to bribe coaches and administrators to falsely make their children look like star athletes to boost their chances of getting into college. The consultant also hired ringers to take college entrance exams for students and paid off insiders at testing centers to alter students' scores. Parents spent anywhere from \$200,000 to \$6.5 million to guarantee their children's admission, officials said.

In affluent New Canaan, Connecticut, many parents who attended Ivy League schools and are determined to have their children follow in their footsteps are surprised to learn how much more competitive it is for this generation to win admission, according to Cynthia Rivera, the leader of the high school's counseling department.

"It's something that we do have to talk often about and really work with them to understand that there are many, many fine schools. And we often talk about where the leaders of the country attended university and how to think of this in a broader range," Rivera said.

The high school occasionally hosts career nights, when town residents talk about how they got where they are. Students are fascinated to learn about hugely successful people who did not attend one of the most elite schools, said Susan Carroll, coordinator of the school's college and career center.

Balancia's daughter, now 20, is at Santa Monica College, studying to be a graphic designer. At one point, she had thought of transferring to UCLA, Balancia said, but she is happy at the community college.

Balancia said her approach to child-rearing as an older mom was more laid back than some of the young "helicopter" moms she observed in Beverly Hills or the high-achieving parents caught up in the college scandal who "fell into the trap" of wanting their kid to stand out in their elite world.

"The problem is we want the best for our children and sometimes the parents' ego takes over."

Thompson reported from Buffalo. Associated Press writer Michael Melia contributed to this report from Hartford, Connecticut.

Apple Watch may spot heart problem but more research needed

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A huge study suggests the Apple Watch can detect a worrisome irregular heart-beat at least sometimes — but experts say more work is needed to tell if using wearable technology to screen for heart problems really helps.

More than 419,000 Apple Watch users signed up for the unusual study, making it the largest ever to explore screening seemingly healthy people for atrial fibrillation, a condition that if untreated eventually can trigger strokes.

Stanford University researchers reported Saturday that the watch didn't panic flocks of people, warning just half a percent of participants — about 2,100 — that they might have a problem.

But even among those flagged, "it's not perfect," cautioned Dr. Richard Kovacs of the American College of Cardiology, who wasn't involved with the study.

People who received an alert were supposed to consult a study doctor via telemedicine and then wear an EKG patch measuring cardiac activity for the next week to determine the watch's accuracy. Some skipped the virtual check-up to consult their own doctors; overall, about 57 percent sought medical attention.

Among those who got EKG monitoring through the study, a third had atrial fibrillation, according to

preliminary results being presented at an American College of Cardiology conference in New Orleans.

A-fib tends to come and go, and a week of monitoring might have missed some cases, said Stanford lead researcher Dr. Mintu Turakhia. But if the watch detected another irregular heartbeat while someone was wearing the EKG patch, 84 percent of the time it really was a-fib, he said.

"This study we believe provides very encouraging evidence that a device, the Apple Watch, can be used to detect a-fib and to point out to people when additional monitoring or testing may be needed," said Dr. Lloyd Minor, Stanford's dean of medicine.

Other cardiac experts said the study, which was funded by Apple, suggests screening with wearable technology might be technically feasible eventually, but needs lots more research.

"I would not advise this to the overall general population," said Dr. Valentin Fuster, director of Mount Sinai Heart in New York and a former American Heart Association president, who wasn't involved with the study. Instead, he'd like to see it tested in seniors with risk factors like high blood pressure.

WHAT IS ATRIAL FIBRILLATION?

A-fib occurs when the heart's top chambers, called the atria, get out of sync with the bottom chambers' pumping action. Sometimes patients feel a flutter or a racing heart but many times they're not aware of an episode.

Sometimes the heart gets back into rhythm on its own. Other patients get an electric shock to get back into rhythm, or are prescribed blood thinners to counter the stroke-causing blood clots that untreated a-fib can spur. A-fib causes 130,000 deaths and 750,000 hospitalizations a year in the U.S.

HOW DO DOCTORS CHECK FOR IT?

A-fib is most common in older adults, and other risks include high blood pressure or a family history of arrhythmias. But routine screening isn't recommended for people without symptoms. Studies haven't yet proved that early detection from screening would prevent enough strokes to outweigh risks from unnecessary testing or overtreatment.

HOW DOES THE APPLE WATCH CHECK FOR IT?

A mobile app uses the optical sensor on certain versions of the watch to analyze pulse rate data. If it detects enough variation from beat to beat over a 48-hour period, the user receives a warning of an irregular heart rhythm.

The latest version of the Apple Watch also allows wearers to push a button to take an EKG and share the reading with doctors. Saturday's study didn't include watches with that capability.

DOES THE NEW STUDY SHOW MASS SCREENING IS A GOOD IDEA?

No. The study was designed to tell how the watch compared to a week of standard EKG monitoring — not if the wearer's health improved because the screening uncovered the arrhythmia. To prove if detecting a-fib early lowers risk of stroke would require years of study.



FILE- In this Sept. 21, 2018 file photo customers look at Apple Watches at an Apple store in New York. A huge study suggests the Apple Watch sometimes can detect a worrisome irregular heartbeat. But experts say more work is needed to tell if using wearable technology to screen for heart problems really helps. (AP Photo/Patrick Sison, File)

And since the study didn't have a comparison group getting routine EKGs, there's no way to know if the watch missed heartbeat problems, giving a false sense of security, Kovacs said.

The puzzling low numbers of alarms might be because most participants were young or middle-aged, not the seniors who are most at risk for a-fib, he said.

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

Left or center? Democrats mull best options to beat Trump

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI** and **ALEXANDRA JAFFE** Associated Press

DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP) — As she waited to meet former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper at a recent house party in Dubuque, attorney Connie O'Connor was anxious about the liberal direction of the Democratic presidential primary.

"I know a lot of people who don't want to vote for Donald Trump but don't necessarily want to vote for the presidential version of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez," she said, referring to the recently elected progressive congresswoman from New York. "I think we forget those people are out there."

But about 80 miles away, union organizer Eli Shepherd pointed to the thousands of people flocking to a Bernie Sanders rally at the University of Iowa as proof that the self-described democratic socialist is best positioned to beat the Republican now in the White House.

"People get brought in (to the campaign) because it's something they deeply care about," Shepherd said. "When there's a campaign that's actually focused on that, that's what's exciting, that's what's transformative, that's how you win."

Democrats have a long fight ahead over this question of who's right.

The early days of the Democratic contest are dominated by a debate over whether candidates such as Sanders are moving the party too far left or whether the embrace of liberal priorities will fire up the base and help defeat Trump.

That debate is sure to deepen if former Vice President Joe Biden enters the race and tries to establish himself as a prominent centrist counterweight to Sanders, a Vermont senator. In the opening days of his 2020 campaign, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke has also sought to appeal to both parties.

"There's a tension, and that's what presidential campaigns are about," said Simon Rosenberg of the New Democratic Network.

So far, the candidates are racing to prove their progressive bona fides on issues such as "Medicare for All" and the Green New Deal.

Yet surveys suggest Democratic voters are less eager to tack left. A Monmouth Poll last month found 56 percent of registered Democrats said their top priority was a candidate who could beat Trump even if they disagreed with that person on most issues. A Pew Research Center poll in January found that 53 percent of Democrats wanted the party to become more moderate, while 40 percent wanted it to become more liberal.

Though a few insurgents won Democratic congressional primaries last year, most notably Ocasio-Cortez, most of those contests were captured by candidates backed by the party establishment.

Recent campaign swings through Iowa, the nation's leadoff caucus state, by Sanders and by Hickenlooper, a self-described "extreme moderate," illustrated the contradiction in the Democratic field.

For the Sanders appearance in Iowa City, the soundtrack at the University of Iowa student union featured Tracy Chapman's "Talking About A Revolution" and Muse's "Uprising." Well over 1,000 people wore Sanders T-shirts, hats and buttons, some with 2016-era gear and others sporting the newer 2020 models on sale outside the hall.

Cheri Pichone, a disability representative, brought a Sanders action figure to the rally. Pichone voted for Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein in 2016 because she said she believed the Democrats "cheated" to deny Sanders the nomination and she's worried it could happen again.

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"I don't honestly see how anybody could beat him fairly," Pichone said.

The crowd broke into a deafening roar as Sanders walked to the podium. "This," he said, "is where the political revolution began."

Sanders was referring to the 2016 caucuses, when he came within a few votes of defeating front-runner Hillary Clinton in Iowa. Now Sanders is an early leader, raising at least \$10 million, almost all in small-dollar donations, since launching his campaign Feb. 19.

The initial sound of Hickenlooper's first Iowa swing as a presidential candidate was a beer glass shattering.

Someone inside the packed meeting room at Confluence Brewery in Des Moines dropped a mug just as Hickenlooper walked in. Hickenlooper began scooping up shards of glass. "There's nobody in this room who's cleaned up more broken beer glasses than me," Hickenlooper said.

Hickenlooper started a brewpub in a then-desolate stretch of downtown Denver after being laid off from his job as a geologist in the 1980s. The business took off, made Hickenlooper wealthy and helped propel him into the Denver mayor's office.

In Des Moines, he stood in front of a wall of beer cans strategically arranged to create the number "2020," and talked about persuading Republican mayors of suburbs to join Denver in pushing a tax increase to pay for light rail. He recounted, after being elected governor in 2010, how he was able to get the energy industry and environmentalists to agree on limits on methane gas emissions. He bemoaned "a national crisis of division."

"People in Washington, they spend their lives talking about stuff and debating and pointing fingers and blaming the other side," Hickenlooper said, in an apparent dig at the various senators running. "It's about time to bring people together and get stuff done."

In contrast to Sanders, Hickenlooper starts with no base outside of Colorado and little name recognition. He acknowledged he's "a dark horse." One of the most common questions Hickenlooper was asked in Iowa was whether he was related to an Iowa governor and senator with the same last name who served from the 1930s to the 1960s. (The Iowa politician was indeed a distant relative.)

The day after his Des Moines appearance, Hickenlooper stopped at five separate locations across the state.

Joel Greenwald, 64, a retired banker, shook Hickenlooper's hand at an event in Cedar Falls. "They're pushing 'free, free, free,'" Greenwald said about supporters of Sanders and other liberals. "You're going to turn off a lot of Republicans and independents if you say 'free free free.'"

But Greenwald isn't a Hickenlooper supporter. He's waiting for Biden, who is teasing Democrats with the possibility of a third White House run.



FILE - In this Feb. 13, 2019, file photo, former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, left, applauds at a campaign house party in Manchester, N.H. While the Democratic primary field has shifted left, polls show registered Democratic voters just want someone who can beat Donald Trump. That's led to a potential contradiction being worked over by primary voters. Is the best route to victory to build a liberal movement to win converts or choose a more moderate candidate who can appeal to swing voters? (AP Photo/Elise Amendola, File)

Elise Amendola, File)

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Hickenlooper received enthusiastic cheers when he spoke and wound up his trip in another crowded brewpub in Cedar Rapids. After Hickenlooper gave his speech, the crowd gathered around him. Karla Goettel, 69, made a beeline for the candidate and complained about his refusal on the television show "Morning Joe" to call himself a capitalist.

"There are a bunch of Democrats who are pissed off at capitalism," Hickenlooper told her.

Goettel said Hickenlooper knew he messed up the question. "They're all trying to be careful not to be too far right or too far left," she said. "I just want to find someone electable."

French protesters riot in Paris, accuse Macron of "hot air"

By THOMAS ADAMSON and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French yellow vest protesters set life-threatening fires, smashed up luxury stores in Paris and clashed with police Saturday in the 18th straight weekend of demonstrations against President Emmanuel Macron. Large plumes of smoke rose above the rioting on Paris' landmark Champs-Elysees avenue, and a mother and her child were just barely saved from a building blaze.

Cobblestones flew in the air and smoke from fires set by protesters mingled with clouds of tear gas sprayed by police, as tensions continued for hours along the Champs-Elysees. By dusk, as the demonstrators had dispersed, the famed avenue was a blackened expanse.

The resurgent violence comes at a watershed moment for a movement, which had been fizzling in recent weeks, and at the end of a two-month-long national debate called by Macron that protesters say failed to answer their demands for economic justice.

Police appeared to be caught off guard by the speed and severity of Saturday's unrest. French riot police tried to contain the demonstrators with repeated volleys of tear gas and water cannon, with limited success.

One arson fire targeted a bank near the Champs-Elysees on the ground floor of a seven-story residential building. A mother and her child had to be rescued just as the fire threatened to engulf their floor, Paris' fire service told The Associated Press. Eleven people in the building, including two firefighters, sustained light injuries.

A 43-year-old German factory worker who identified himself only as Peter had traveled to Paris to show solidarity with yellow vest protesters. Standing Saturday outside the burned-out bank, he said he agreed with the destruction, calling banks "the biggest problem in the world."

Protest organizers had hoped to make a splash Saturday, which marks the 4-month anniversary of the yellow vest movement, which started Nov. 17, and the end of the "Great Debate" that the French president organized to respond to protesters' concerns about sinking living standards, stagnant wages and high unemployment.

They claimed Macron failed in that aim.

"It was hot air. It was useless and it didn't achieve anything. We're here to show Macron that empty words are not enough," said yellow vest demonstrator Frank Leblanc, 62, from Nantes.

"We're marking the end of the great debate ... Macron has given us no great solutions," said protester Francine Sevigny from Lyon.

Others praised the violence that tore through Paris.

"I'm glad there are the thugs, because without them our movement wouldn't get any attention. We need the violence so we can be heard," said Marie, a mother of two from Seine-et-Marne who wouldn't give her surname.

The violence started minutes after the protesters gathered Saturday, when they threw smoke bombs and other objects at officers along the Champs-Elysees — the scene of repeated past rioting — and started pounding on the windows of a police van.

Simultaneous fires were also put out from two burning newspaper kiosks, which sent black smoke high into the sky. Several protesters posed for a photo in front of one charred kiosk.

Demonstrators also targeted symbols of the luxury industry, smashing and pillaging shops including brands Hugo Boss and Lacoste, and tossing mannequins out of broken windows. A posh eatery called

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Fouquet's, which is associated with politicians and celebrities, was vandalized and set on fire. A vehicle burned outside the luxury boutique Kenzo, one of many blazes on and around the Champs-Elysees.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner, who inspected the damage Saturday evening on the Champs-Elysees, said an estimated 10,000 yellow vest protesters were in Paris and another 4,500 had demonstrated around France. He also said the Paris crowd included 1,500 "ultraviolent ones who are there to smash things up."

Still, the numbers paled beside the 30,000 people who took part in a separate peaceful climate march in Paris at the same time, according to Castaner.

And the number of yellow vest protesters remains smaller than early in the movement, when it drew masses to the streets nationwide and polled showed a majority of French people supporting their cause. Since then, repeated rioting by the protesters and economic concessions by Macron have diminished public support for the yellow vests.

Paris police told the AP that 192 people were arrested in Paris on Saturday and 60 others were injured, 18 of them police and firefighters.

The yellow vest groups represented teachers, unemployed people and labor unions. While the rioters drew most attention Saturday, most of the protesters in Paris remain peaceful.

Chris den Hond, Milos Krivokapic, Catherine Gaschka and Elaine Ganley in Paris contributed.



Yellow vests protesters set a barricade afire on the Champs Elysees avenue Saturday, March 16, 2019 in Paris. French yellow vest protesters clashed Saturday with riot police near the Arc de Triomphe as they kicked off their 18th straight weekend of demonstrations against President Emmanuel Macron. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

Climate protests: First the students, now adults in France

By ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — While some yellow vest protesters rioted along a famed Paris avenue, elsewhere in the French capital an entirely different scene unfolded Saturday: tens of thousands of people marching peacefully to urge faster government action against global warming.

Families, movie stars, activists and politicians were among 30,000 people who demonstrated from the city's famed Opera Garnier to the Republic Plaza. Some carried signs reading "There is no Planet B" and "Dinosaurs also thought they had time."

It was among dozens of climate rallies around France on Saturday, the day after student climate protests took place in hundreds of cities in more than 100 nations.

Singing songs and holding hands, the French climate protesters were a sharp contrast with the violence on the Champs-Elysees avenue, where yellow vest protesters and troublemakers set fires, ransacked luxury boutiques and clashed with French riot police who were firing tear gas and water cannon to disperse them.

French President Emmanuel Macron made a passionate call this week to speed up the global fight against climate change. He sees himself as a guarantor of the 2015 Paris climate accord, and has stood up firmly

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to skepticism from U.S. President Donald Trump.

But activists say Macron's government isn't ambitious enough in cutting emissions. Scientists have warned for decades that current levels of greenhouse gas emissions are unsustainable, so far with little effect.

Saturday's protest was part of what Greenpeace, Oxfam and two French environmental groups call "The Affair of the Century," an activist effort they launched in December.

An online climate petition garnered more than 2 million signatures and backing from stars like Juliette Binoche and Marion Cotillard. The groups then filed legal action Thursday to try to take the state to court to speed up action against global warming.

Those moves can have political consequences, however.

The yellow vest protest movement is an example of the challenges of aggressive climate policy. It started out of anger over rises in fuel taxes that Macron said were necessary to wean France off using fossil fuels. Protesters said they disproportionately hit working classes in the provinces who rely on their cars to get to work, school, doctor's offices and stores.

Macron later delayed the fuel tax hike because of the fierce protests.

Saturday's marches came the day after angry students in more than 100 countries walked out of classes to protest what they see as the failures by their governments to cut emissions of heat-trapping gases.

Read more AP climate news here: <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, March 17, the 76th day of 2019. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 17, 1762, New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade.

On this date:

In 1776, the Revolutionary War Siege of Boston ended as British forces evacuated the city.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt first likened crusading journalists to a man with "the muckrake in his hand" in a speech to the Gridiron Club in Washington.

In 1912, the Camp Fire Girls organization was incorporated in Washington D.C., two years to the day after it was founded in Thetford, Vermont. (The group is now known as Camp Fire.)

In 1936, Pittsburgh's Great St. Patrick's Day Flood began as the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers and their tributaries, swollen by rain and melted snow, started exceeding flood stage; the high water was blamed for more than 60 deaths.

In 1958, the U.S. Navy launched the Vanguard 1 satellite.

In 1959, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet for India in the wake of a failed uprising by Tibetans against Chinese rule.

In 1968, a peaceful anti-Vietnam War protest in London was followed by a riot outside the U.S. Embassy; more than 200 people were arrested and over 80 people were reported injured.

In 1970, the United States cast its first veto in the U.N. Security Council, killing a resolution that would have condemned Britain for failing to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhodesia.

In 1973, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Robert L. Stirm, a freed prisoner of the Vietnam War, was joyously



A demonstrator holds a placard reading "Respect your earth as your sea" during an action for the climate in Marseille, southern France, Saturday, March 16, 2019. Marches in many French cities, called "March of the Century", come the day after students in more than 100 countries demanded tougher climate action.(AP Photo/Claude Paris)

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greeted by his family at Travis Air Force Base in California in a scene captured in a Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photograph.

In 1988, Avianca Flight 410, a Boeing 727, crashed after takeoff into a mountain in Colombia, killing all 143 people on board.

In 2006, Federal regulators reported the deaths of two women in addition to four others who had taken the abortion pill RU-486; Planned Parenthood said it would immediately stop disregarding the approved instructions for the drug's use. Fashion designer Oleg Cassini died on Long Island, New York, at age 92.

In 2013, two members of Steubenville, Ohio's celebrated high school football team were found guilty of raping a drunken 16-year-old girl and sentenced to at least a year in juvenile prison in a case that rocked the Rust Belt city of 18,000.

Ten years ago: U.S. journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee were detained by North Korea while reporting on North Korean refugees living across the border in China. (Both were convicted of entering North Korea illegally and were sentenced to 12 years of hard labor; both were freed in August 2009 after former President Bill Clinton met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.) The Seattle Post-Intelligencer published its final print edition.

Five years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula as an "independent and sovereign country," ignoring sanctions imposed by the United States and European countries. Fashion designer L'Wren Scott, 49, was found dead in New York, a suicide. British cinematographer Oswald Morris, who'd won an Oscar for "Fiddler on the Roof," died in Dorset, England, at age 98.

One year ago: Superstore company Fred Meyer announced that it would stop selling guns and ammunition; in the aftermath of the Florida high school shooting, the company had earlier said it would stop selling firearms to anyone under 21. Russia said it was expelling 23 British diplomats in a growing diplomatic dispute over a nerve agent attack on a former spy in Britain.

Today's Birthdays: The former national chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 86. Former astronaut Ken Mattingly is 83. Singer-songwriter Jim Weatherly is 76. Singer-songwriter John Sebastian (The Lovin' Spoonful) is 75. Former NSA Director and former CIA Director Michael Hayden is 74. Rock musician Harold Brown (War; Lowrider Band) is 73. Actor Patrick Duffy is 70. Actor Kurt Russell is 68. Country singer Susie Allanson is 67. Actress Lesley-Anne Down is 65. Actor Mark Boone Jr. is 64. Country singer Paul Overstreet is 64. Actor Gary Sinise is 64. Actor Christian Clemenson is 61. Former basketball and baseball player Danny Ainge is 60. Actor Arye Gross is 59. Actress Vicki Lewis is 59. Actor Casey Siemaszko (sheh-MA'-zshko) is 58. Writer-director Rob Sitch is 57. Actor Rob Lowe is 55. Rock singer Billy Corgan is 52. Rock musician Van Conner (Screaming Trees) is 52. Actor Mathew St. Patrick is 51. Actor Yanic (YAH'-neek) Truesdale is 50. Rock musician Melissa Auf der Maur is 47. Olympic gold medal soccer player Mia Hamm is 47. Rock musician Caroline Corr (The Corrs) is 46. Actress Amelia Heinle is 46. Country singer Keifer Thompson (Thompson Square) is 46. Actress Marisa Coughlan is 45. Rapper Swifty (D12) is 44. Actress Natalie Zea (zee) is 44. Actress Brittany Daniel is 43. Singer and TV personality Tamar Braxton is 42. Country musician Geoff Sprung (Old Dominion) is 41. Reggaeton singer Nicky Jam is 38. TV personality Rob Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) (TV: "Keeping Up With the Kardashians") is 32. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Hozier is 29. Actress Eliza Hope Bennett is 27. Actor John Boyega is 27. Olympic gold medal swimmer Katie Ledecky is 22. Actor Flynn Morrison is 14.

Thought for Today: "Beagan agus a ra go maith." (Say little, but say it well.) — Irish saying.

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The Bombogenesis

By Paul Irvin Kosel. Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden/Heaven Bound Ministries, Pierpont. March 16-17, 2019

Bombogenesis is a term that you do not hear a lot about, especially here in the upper midwest. What is a Bombogenesis? It's when a low pressure system had a drop in barometric pressure over a short period of time. The dramatic drop can cause what we just experienced this past week with high wind, snow and floods. As with all major weather systems, there is a time when we are notified to get prepared.

Preparation:

During the recent Bombogenesis blizzard, everyone was told to get ready for the storm. Make sure you have groceries in case you can't get out for a few days. Have stand-by generators or some type of auxiliary heat source in case the electricity went out. And don't plan to travel once the storm hits.

The problem that we have sometimes is that we get these warnings, but we ignore them. Oh, the weatherman is wrong again and it won't hit. Or, it won't be as bad as they say it's going to get. So then, we are lazy and we don't fully prepare. And then boom, it hits with a fury.

In life, you must always be ready for anything. Everybody must be ready for Jesus because He will come like a thief in the night. If everyone knew what time He was coming everybody would accept Him. Stop putting Him off. Stop procrastinating!

1. Matthew 24:42-44 So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

Every time we gather as a church, God will speak to us as his word is preached, sung, read, and studied. Hearing from God is a weighty and glorious thing. To see God for who he is, to be overwhelmed by his greatness and holiness, to experience his presence, to see his boundless love and mercy, to encounter what should make our hearts tremble. Prepare by asking God to help you receive his revelation with gratefulness and humility.

So we have two options - to be prepared for the storm or just sit back and see what happens. OR - to be prepared for Jesus or just sit back and enjoy everything in this world, and put Jesus in the back seat.

Beautiful day. Calm. Before the storm

Meanwhile the the day before the storm, it's a beautiful day. The wind is calm. The sun is shining. The snow is melting. How is it possible that we are going to see such a dreadful storm. We are sometimes led into a false sense of security.

There are studies that show following social media can make you sad. In Psychology Today, the question is asked, "Why is everyone's life so much better than mine?!?!?"

People post photos of their trip to Florida. Perhaps they went to Brazil and seen some great sites. Social media makes me feel like I can't--and will never be able to--keep up. Or it puts us in the "I wish . . ." moment when I wish I could go to Florida or even the "How Lucky they are that they can . . ." People love posting their images on social media. For those who are less fortunate, it can be a drag to see your friends, classmates or relatives doing things that you wish you could do. All it takes is one quick scroll through a social media feed and the comparisons begin leaving people vulnerable to lies such as "you're

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not good enough," "you're not popular enough," "you aren't skinny enough," "you're not reach enough," "you don't measure up," among others. The longer we scroll and compare, the more these lies becomes the truth and God's truth is forgotten. Don't allow the beauty of the social media to zap the beauty that is inside of you. The Lord said to Samuel, "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Samuel 16:7

Paul issues a warning about trying to follow the ways of the world. In Romans 12:2 he says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

One thing that I have rarely seen on social media is images of people who love going to church. Or who talk about church, or God. It's always about the fun stuff. Hebrews 10 says, "24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Taking trips to Florida is fun, but it will not get us into heaven. Taking trips to Israel is fun, but it will not get us into heaven. Taking a trip or meeting together to follow God, that will get you into heaven.

Proverbs 6:6-8 Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter.

The warning

Then the warning is issued. A blizzard warning is in effect. Do not travel. Stay home. It's too late to go out and get your groceries. It's too late to travel.

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

So the warning is issued that the enemy is ready to pounce.

2. Matthew 24:26-27 "So if someone tells you, 'Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,' don't bother to go and look. Or, 'Look, he is hiding here,' don't believe it! For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes."

Paul even warns us about terrible times ahead. In 2 Timothy chapter 3 we read, "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people."

While today, many people have a tough time with the fire and brimstone of a message about God, it was not much different in Jesus' day. In John, chapter 6, Jesus was telling his disciples that whoever eats this bread will live forever. In verse 51, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." And then in verse 60, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" At that point, many of Jesus' followers left him because they could not grasp the True meaning of the Gospel. When Jesus asked the 12 if they were going to leave as well, Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." But as we well know, even though Jesus picked his 12, he said in verse 71, "Yet,

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one of you is a devil!"

And I think that's what is going to happen towards the end of time. Jesus' warning will go unheeded and people will flock to something amazing and what would seem wonderful. Paul says in 2 Timothy 4, "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

Then comes the devastation

You look out your window and the full fury of the blizzard is at work. The wind is howling. Freezing rain is falling and sticking to everything it hits. The electrical poles begin to snap from the added weight. The trees start to come down. The roads are icy. Soon you can't even see out your window from all of the frozen rain. Suddenly the power goes out and you're in the dark.

It will be lights out for humanity, unless, of course, you believe fully in God. John 12:46 "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." For many people, though, it will be lights out. They live in the darkness. And we don't know when we will meet our Maker.

Psalm 39:4 "Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is."

The enemy will be stalking you. Jesus was not exempt from being stalked by the enemy for when he was fasting for 40 days, the devil tempted Jesus in many ways; yet, Jesus did not give in. We must also be alert for the enemy will come with cleverness and deceit.

1 Peter 5:8 "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are."

Oh yes, we will need to put on salvation as our helmet and take the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, and the battle begins. The devastation will be horrible because the devil knows his time is about up. Revelation 12:12 "Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time."

The cleanup

While the chaos will happen, there will also be the clean up. The Sun comes out and there is the promise of a better tomorrow!

The day after the blizzard, the wind went down and the sun began to shine. If you look above, it was like nothing every happened. But if you look around you, its was chaos. The big cleanup begins.

Farmers brought their equipment to downtown Pierre to remove the huge snow drifts created by the wind. Many roads throughout the region were blown shut. People in the southeastern part of the state and in Nebraska were cleaning up after flooding. One time in Colorado recorded a 97 mph wind gust. A lot of cleaning up needs to get done.

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So it will be at the end of time, except in our situation, where we are trying to restore the old order of things. Isaiah 65 prophesies and says, "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more."

While we had the bombogenesis, a bomb was laid in Genesis. In Genesis chapter 6, God had threatened to destroy man, only to find favor in Noah and our species was saved from extermination. Now, thanks to Jesus Christ, we are saved from everlasting death and have the promise of that glorious home in the next kingdom that God will create. So let's clean up our lives. We've been warned that the end will come at an unexpected time so let's prepare ourselves to meet our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I would like to close with Psalm 90, written by Moses

Psalm 90

A prayer of Moses the man of God.

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
- 2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- 3 You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."
- 4 A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.
- 5 Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning:
- 6 In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.
- 7 We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.
- 8 You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- 9 All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.
- 10 Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
- 11 If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.
- 12 Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
- 13 Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.
- 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
- 15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.
- 16 May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.
- 17 May the favor[a] of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

Colossians 3:16-17 New International Version (NIV)

- 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
- 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.