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CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Swimming Pool Hours

Open Swim Daily: 1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Fun Night is every Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Monday through Thursday: 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Friday-Sunday: 4:50 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Swimming Lessons: First Session: June 17-27

Sunday, July 7

2:00 p.m.: Legion at Redfield, (DH)

2:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets vs. Backous & Pierre at Manor Park

Monday, July 8

5:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Sisseton, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Webster, (DH)s (R,B)

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Northville, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage (both)

Softball at Mellette (U8 at 5 p.m. (1 game), U10 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U14 at 7 p.m. (2 games)

Tuesday, July 9

5:30 p.m.: Legion hosts Aberdeen, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Borge at Manor Park (R)

6:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets vs. Borge at Manor Park
Softball U14 hosts Frankfort, (DH), 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Warner, (DH) (R)

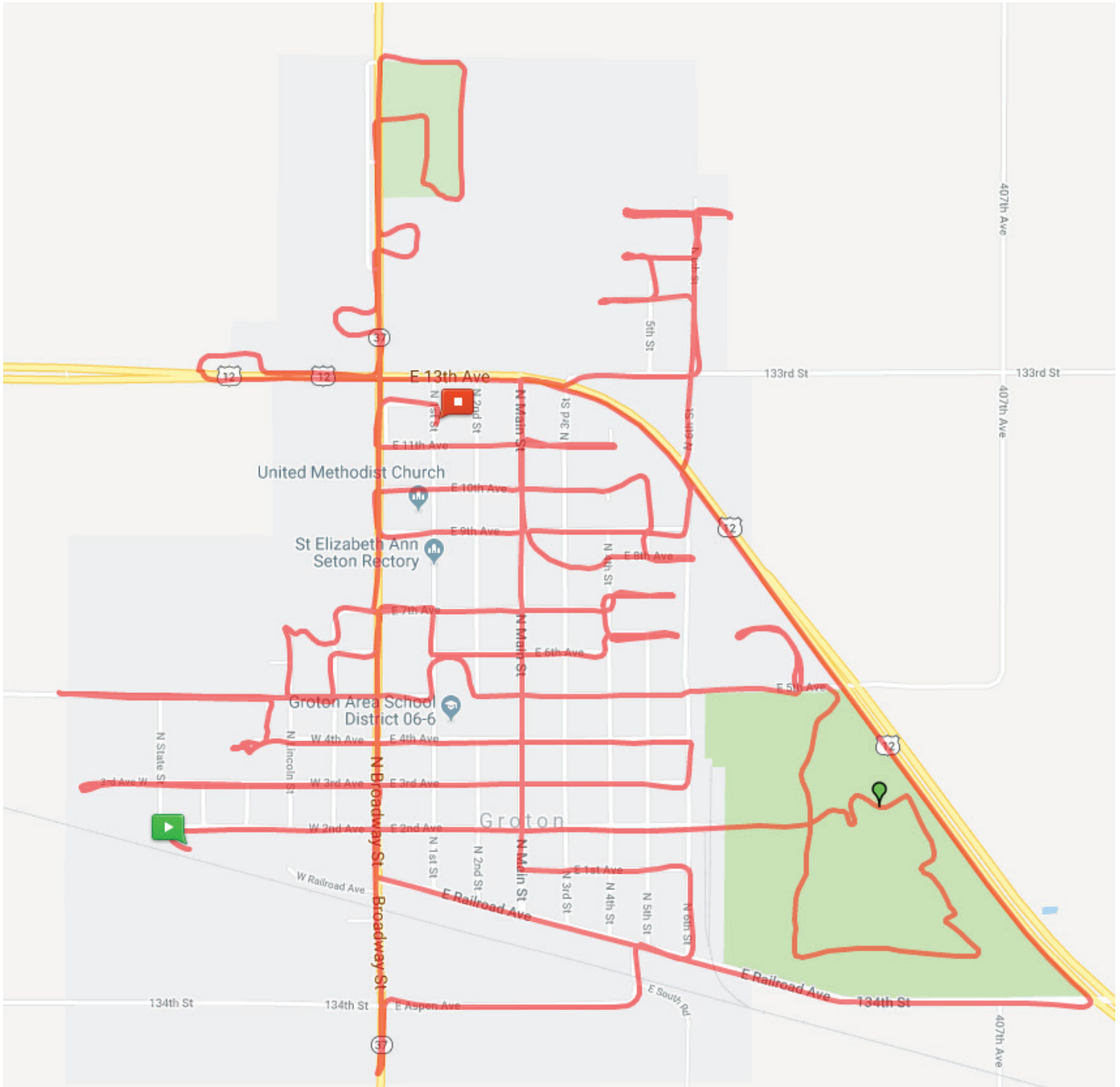
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Jacobson, (DH) (B)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball at Columbia (Gold)

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Mosquito Control Last Night



The City of Groton did mosquito control last night. Wind was N-NE less than 3mph. Temperature was 70 degrees. Five gallons of Evolver 4x4 was used. Distance traveled was 21 miles.

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From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What are so-called regional climate models and why do we need them given that we already have pretty decent global climate models? -- Rich

W., Seattle, WA

Scientists (and economists and business people) love to create models to help predict future outcomes as a way to direct planning and preparedness efforts. Climatologists specifically love to create models of how the planet and its various natural systems and cycles will react with the input of way too many greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. Climate science has come a long way since its early days a few decades back, but most of what we think will happen regarding global warming comes from global climate models—that is, predictions based on lots of empirical data about how much global average temperature is expected to rise and by when.

“Global climate models (GCMs) simulate the interactions between the atmosphere, ocean and land to project future climate, based on assumptions about future emissions of greenhouse gases,” reports the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington (UW).

According to ClimatePrediction.net, a volunteer computing and climate modeling project out of the UK’s University of Oxford, global climate models (GCMs) are designed to calculate what the climate is doing (in terms of wind, temperature, humidity, etc.) at a number of discrete points on the Earth’s surface as well as in the atmosphere and out at sea. The points are then laid out in a grid covering the planet’s surface. The more points at play, the finer the resolution (and accuracy) of the model.

Nowadays climate researchers are applying what they have learned thus far to look in more detail on a regional basis, especially given that climate change has not only large-scale but also local consequences. These so-called regional climate models (RCMs) work by magnifying the resolution of GCMs in a small, limited area of interest, typically within a 3,000 square mile radius. Only by creating and analyzing RCMs can we assess the influence of myriad fixed geographic conditions and other local factors such as land height, land use, lakes, sea breeze, mountain ranges and localized weather patterns on climate impacts for a particular metropolitan area, state or country.

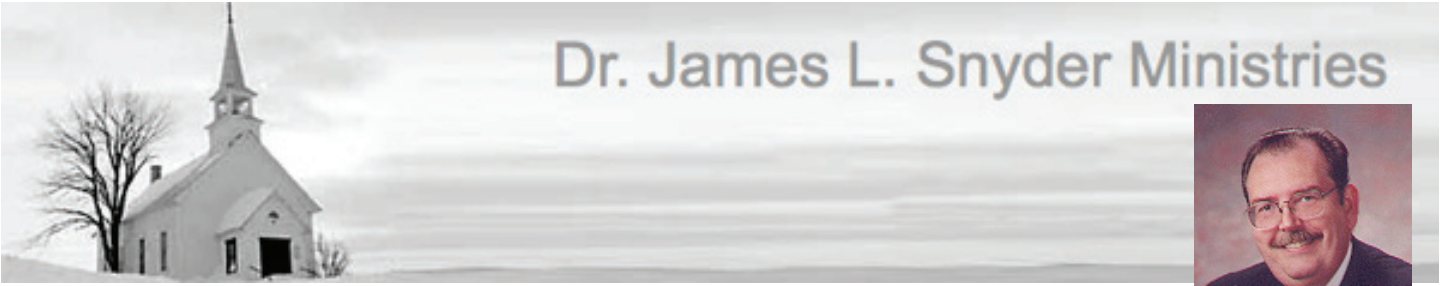
“For the practical planning of local issues such as water resources or flood defenses, countries require information on a much more local scale than GCMs are able to provide,” adds ClimatePrediction.net. “Regional models provide one solution to this problem.”

UW’s Climate Impacts Group has been able to leverage its expertise in global and now regional climate modeling to do groundbreaking research into the likelihood of things like floods in the Pacific Northwest, expected moisture flux convergence and ensuing drought in the Southwest, and, even further afield, projected climate change and impacts in Southeast Asia. The analytical techniques being pioneered at UW are being shared with researchers around the world with the hope that more and more scientists will start to run RCMs in their own regions to help planners plan and improve people’s lives despite the warming climate.

GCMs and RCMs are both important tools in figuring out how to cope with the effects of climate change, whether a worst case scenario is borne out or something not quite so cataclysmic.

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My Favorite Day of the Week Is Tomorrow

It was one of those weeks when the more I completed, the more I had to do. These are not my favorite kind of weeks. So frustrating.

During these weeks, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage finagles her infamous "Honey-Do-List" in my direction. Because I am busy doing other things and distracted, I do not actually see what she is doing.

She can slip one of her "To-Do" jobs on to my schedule without my knowing it. I see it on my schedule and assume it is one more job to do. When I see it, I say to myself, "I'll do that tomorrow." Then I can move on to my next project.

My favorite saying has been, "Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow?"

It has become a habit with me. The wife will ask me if I have time to do something and I always say, "Not now, but I can do it tomorrow." Of course, I am hoping that by the time tomorrow comes she will have forgotten that little job.

It seems that the older I get, the more I am pushing everything off until tomorrow. Then, when tomorrow comes, I push it off until the next tomorrow and soon, it is too late to do it. Do not let this get out, but that has been my plan all the time.

I seem to have gotten away with it until recently. I love it when a plan comes together, but when it falls apart, it certainly is no laughing matter.

Pushing things off until tomorrow does have a good side to it. Many things I am supposed to do are not that significant and if they are not done, there is no consequence. My life sometimes gets all caught up in doing things I do not have to do, and I know who I have to blame for that. Just saying.

This started when I was in grade school. When I had homework to do and for some reason I did not do it, I always promised the teacher that I will do it tomorrow. I got away with it for a while.

When I was going to grade school, the teachers were so very smart. I do not know what they are like today, but then they could catch up with somebody like me with very little effort. My teacher finally caught up with me.

"So," my teacher said as I told her that I would have to do my homework tomorrow, "this is the tomorrow you talked about yesterday. Tomorrow is here and so now you must do the work."

All I could do was just stare at her. Never for one moment did I think tomorrow would ever come. My teacher was a good teacher so she taught me that when I put things off until tomorrow, tomorrow finally shows up. According to her, my tomorrow had caught up with me.

I had to forfeit many recesses to catch up with all the home work I pushed off until "tomorrow."

Of course, it was not long until my wife caught up to my "tomorrow strategy" like my teacher did.

One morning she got up a little bit before me and got the coffee going. I got up and stumbled into the kitchen. There she stood with a huge sign that read, "Today is your Tomorrow you talked about Yesterday. Welcome to Tomorrow."

To see this before having my morning coffee was rather alarming. At first, I had no idea what she was talking about. Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, what was she trying to say. I just was not on the same page as she was. In fact, I was not in the same book.

"What are you talking about?" I said about as confused as I have ever been in my life.

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"Remember," she said rather seriously, "all the things you told me that you would do tomorrow? Well, it's tomorrow."

Then she handed me a list with "Tomorrow's To-Do List" written on the top. There were about a dozen things she jotted down that I said I would do tomorrow.

As I was reading through this list, she said to me, "I have you figured out. Your favorite day of the week is tomorrow."

She has me figured out, alright. It is not that I do not like doing things; I am a procrastinator when it comes to certain things. My whole idea is, if I put something off long enough my wife will forget that she asked me to do it.

I looked at her and said, "You do know that it will take me at least three tomorrows to finish this list!"

She laughed one of her hysterical laughter's and said, "Let the tomorrows be with you."

This was the first time my tomorrows ever caught up with me.

As I began working on my "tomorrow tasks," I happen to think of what David said in one of his Psalms. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

I need to learn how to appreciate each day and not push things off until tomorrow. Tomorrow is another day, but I certainly have no guarantee that I will see it. I need to learn how to "rejoice and be glad" in the day that is before me.



Position available for full-time Police Officer

"Position available for full-time Police Officer. Experience and SD Certification preferred. Salary negotiable DOE. Please send application and resume to the City of Groton, PO Box 587 Groton, SD 57445. This position is open until filled. Applications may be found at <https://city.grotonsd.gov/forms/ApplicationForCityEmployee.pdf> For more information, please call 605-397-8422 Equal opportunity employer."



2 bedroom apt
\$750/month plus utilities
attached garage
major appliances furnished

480-980-8513
or
605-397-7118

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Today



Partly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

High: 81 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance
T-storms

Low: 69 °F

Monday



Slight Chance
T-storms then
Partly Sunny
and Breezy

High: 86 °F

Monday
Night



T-storms
Likely

Low: 68 °F

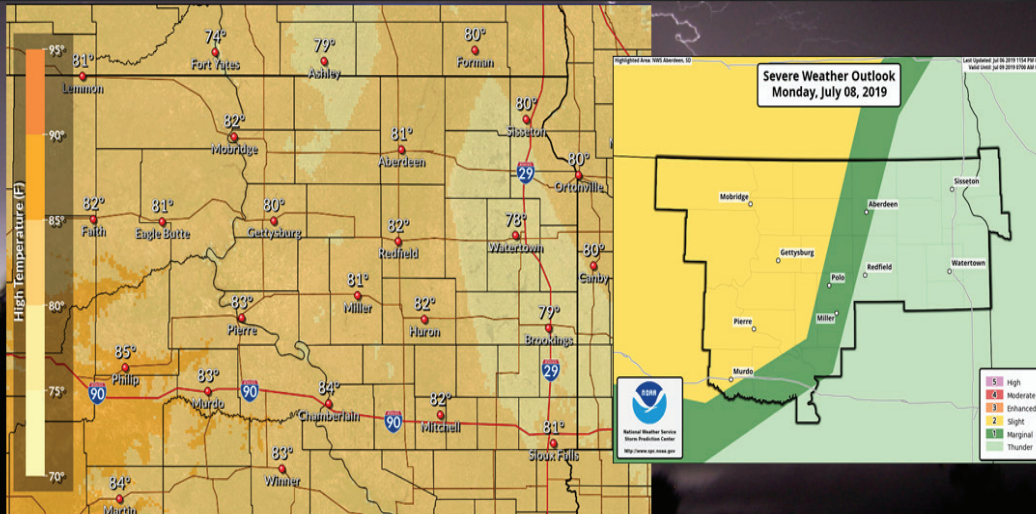
Tuesday



Chance
T-storms

High: 84 °F

*-Isolated A.M. Shower/Thunderstorm
Otherwise, Sunny And Dry Today
-Severe Weather Threat By Monday Evening
Throughout The Missouri River Valley*



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 7/7/2019 5:07 AM Central

Published on: 07/07/2019 at 1:15AM

Other than perhaps a stray shower or thunderstorm this morning, today should include plenty of sunshine and seasonal temperatures. Breezy southeast winds will develop across the Missouri River valley today, too. Most of Monday looks dry, with windy southerly winds. Late in the day and Monday night, there is a chance for thunderstorm development into the Missouri River valley region. Some storms could produce severe weather in the form of large hail and damaging winds.

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Today in Weather History

July 6, 1963: A farmer died near Waubay, in Day County, when the barn was destroyed while he was inside. Winds of 110 mph were recorded at FAA in Watertown before the roof and wind instruments were blown away.

July 6, 1982: A severe thunderstorm produced a series of five microbursts over Sioux Falls. The microbursts caused extensive damage. Winds were estimated to have reached 125 mph, and the Airport recorded a peak gust of 82 mph. Damage, which was heaviest in the south-central and northeast sections of the city, included thousands of trees uprooted or damaged. Several semi-trailers were blown over, critically injuring one man and slightly injuring two others. Several other minor injuries occurred mainly from flying glass. Five cars were rolled over by the high winds, and several others damaged flying debris. Damage at the airport included a portion of a hangar roof blown off and three light aircraft flipped over.

July 6, 1994: Widespread rainfall of over 6 inches fell in Dewey, Potter, and Faulk Counties, causing damage to roads and flooded basements and fields. A teenage girl escaped injury when her car was washed away by the waters of a swollen creek about 5 miles east of Gettysburg. Some total storm amounts include; 6.80 inches in Orient; 6.70 at Faulkton; 5.80 in Milbank; 5.48 in Big Stone City; 5.02 in Ipswich; 4.50 in Gettysburg; 4.17 in Webster; 4.12 near Onaka; 4.02 in Leola; and 3.97 in Britton.

1893: A violent tornado killed 71 persons on its forty-mile track across northwestern Iowa. Forty-nine persons were killed around Pomeroy, where eighty percent of the buildings were destroyed, with most leveled to the ground.

1928: A seven-inch hailstone weighing 1.5 pounds fell in Potter Nebraska. With a circumference of 17 inches, this appeared to be the largest hailstone in the world at that time.

1985 - Lightning struck a large transformer in Salt Lake County sending a 200 foot fireball into the air and blacking out almost the entire state for up to five hours. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorm rains during the mid morning hours, and again during the evening, produced major flash-flooding at Leavenworth, KS. The official rainfall total was 10.37 inches, but unofficial totals exceeded twelve inches. At nearby Kansas City, the rainfall total of 5.08 inches was a daily record for July. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in twenty-one states east of the Rockies, with severe weather reported in Kentucky and Indiana for the second day in a row. A thunderstorm produced more than five inches of rain in one hour near Reynolds, IL. Rochester, NY, was soaked with 3.25 inches, a record 24 hour total for the month of July. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-six cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 98 degrees at International Falls, MN, and 101 degrees at Flint, MI, equalled all-time records. Highs of 96 degrees at Muskegon, MI, and 97 degrees at Buffalo, NY, were records for July. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Ten cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Las Vegas, NV, with a reading of 115 degrees. Hanksville, UT, reached 112 degrees, Bullhead City, AZ, hit 120 degrees, and Death Valley, CA, soared to 126 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

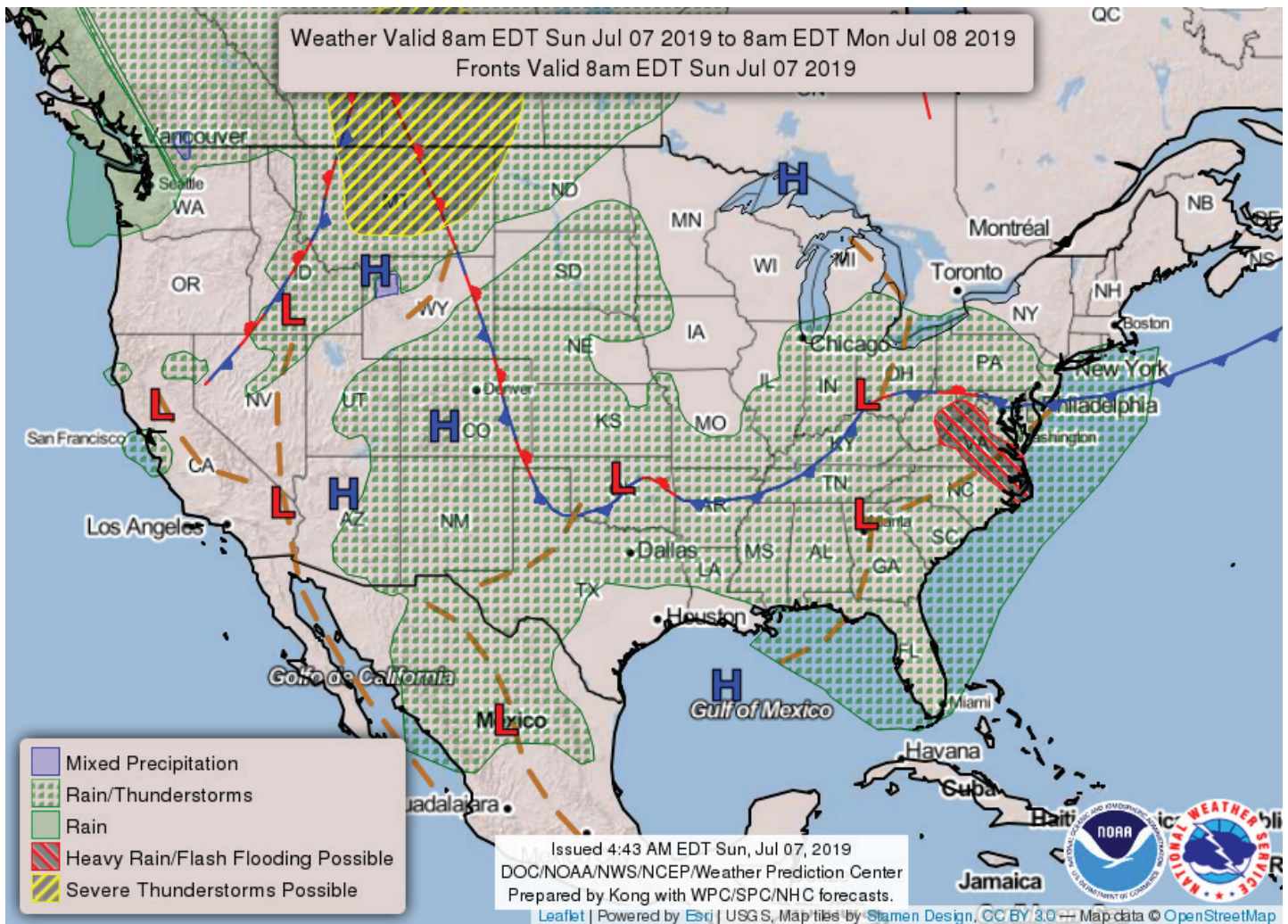
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 79 °F at 2:25 PM
Low Temp: 61 °F at 12:36 AM
Wind: 13 mph at 1:38 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 106° in 1936
Record Low: 43° in 1922, 1904
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July.: 0.64
Precip to date in July.: 0.90
Average Precip to date: 11.48
Precip Year to Date: 13.62
Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:54 a.m.





THE DANGER OF BEING A NONCONFORMIST

Its only natural to want to be my own person or follow the little drummer in my heart and find my path and follow it. Who does not want to be an individual, a one-of-a-kind, no-one-else like me? Is that not what God really created me for? To be me and do my thing?

All of that me stuff is good - if not great - as long as it is done while staying obedient and true to Gods instructions. Otherwise, following ones own ways leads to death. Do we find any advice from God about this me and me alone? So, if we want to guard our life and live well and not become involved in behaviors that lead to premature death, what do we do?

According to Solomon, He who obeys instructions guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of His ways will die. The word instruction is not open to our personal interpretation. It is instruction that comes from God through His Spirit. This is a life or death proposition that demands our unquestionable obedience if we want the best, longest lasting life possible.

Keeping Gods instructions is one of the best things we can do. In fact, a non-believer once said to me, I cannot accept Jesus virgin birth or the miracles or the resurrection. But I do know that if I live according to the instructions of God and the teachings of Jesus, I will live a long, productive and rewarding life. However, he was talking about principles - not power that comes from God through Christ. And herein lies the difference.

The contemptuous person is one who does not value living their life under Gods instructions. They look at His way as being a matter of choice rather than an obligation to be blessed with a long and full life. Will die is the exact opposite of well-being and a long life. It refers to a premature death that is the result of forsaking and abandoning Gods instructions.

Prayer: Give us, Lord, a willingness to be obedient to Your Word and Your ways. You have given us the power of choice: may we chose You, Your Word, and a blest life. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 19:16 He who obeys instructions guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of His ways will die.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-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
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 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
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 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 (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

10-15-17-30-33

(ten, fifteen, seventeen, thirty, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

20-22-43-47-52, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2

(twenty, twenty-two, forty-three, forty-seven, fifty-two; Star Ball: three; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$21.38 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$107 million

Powerball

04-08-23-46-65, Powerball: 1, Power Play: 2

(four, eight, twenty-three, forty-six, sixty-five; Powerball: one; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$165 million

Sanford executives call lawsuit against neurosurgeon 'bogus'

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three of Sanford Health's top executives sent an email to employees earlier this week and blasted the federal government and two Sanford doctors who filed a federal lawsuit against one of their colleagues.

Dustin Bechtold and Bryan Wellman filed the suit in 2016 against the company and one of its neurosurgeons, accusing them of defrauding the federal government and harming patients by performing unnecessary surgeries. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of South Dakota filed a motion to intervene in the case Wednesday and a federal judge unsealed it Thursday.

Sanford CEO Kelby Krabbenhoft, Chief Operating Officer Matthew Hocks and Chief Medical Officer Alison Suttle used the email to call the allegations against Dr. Wilson Asfora "bogus," according to the Argus Leader, which obtained the email.

The email says Asfora is regarded as a premier neurosurgeon in the Upper Midwest. It says that Krabbenhoft and Hocks both had surgeries performed by Asfora. It adds that Asfora saved the life of Krabbenhoft's grandson, who had cranial surgery.

The three leaders also told employees that they are confident the allegations are without merit because of reviews conducted both internally and by the South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners. The reviews weren't described in the email.

The complaint by Bechtold and Wellman says Sanford Health has been buying medical devices from Medical Designs, a company owned by Asfora. The suit said Asfora used those devices in spine surgeries at the hospital in violation of anti-kickback laws. The suit describes accounts of Asfora installing unnecessary screws and medical devices into his patients.

The suit said Sanford's leadership ignored complaints from doctors and intentionally covered up Asfora's surgical errors.

The email from the three Sanford executives predicts that the case will "drag on for years."

"You will undoubtedly hear more rumors or sensational allegations in the future," the email says. "We commit to keeping you informed with objective and accurate information on a regular basis."

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

Wisconsin high school that dropped nickname has new moniker

HURLEY, Wis. (AP) — Six months after dropping its controversial nickname, a northern Wisconsin high school has a new moniker.

The Hurley School Board decided to drop the Midgets nickname in January, after scrapping the idea of having a community vote on whether to dump the mascot. After a months-long community engagement effort and dozens of nominations, the team will now be known as the Hurley Northstars, Wisconsin Public Radio reported.

A committee of 36 people, including students, teachers and parents, received 76 nominations for new mascots. Some paid tribute to the area's history as a center for mining, with names such as the Iron Rangers, the Headframers and even the Hurley Hematites, after iron oxide. Others, like the Blizzards and Storm, sought to showcase the region's famous winter weather. And wildlife choices were popular, from Bucks to Foxes to Harriers.

Dayne Stuhr, who served on the committee as a high school senior and has since graduated, said the group took its job seriously.

"A mascot isn't just a name," Stuhr said. "At least for us, it means something more."

Hurley Superintendent Kevin Genisot, himself a Hurley graduate, said that while some community members opposed renaming the school, in general the ones he and the students encountered felt like it was time to change a nickname that many consider offensive. A recent graduate who served on the committee, Ally Rye, agreed with the move and said the new name resonates with her.

"Like a North Star up in the sky, you can always find your way back home to it," she said.

Some schools in the region are nicknamed Midgets, including Butternut, Wisconsin, Freeburg, Illinois, Estherville, Iowa, and Dickinson, North Dakota. McLaughlin, South Dakota, changed its moniker from Midgets to Mustangs in 2016.

Information from: Wisconsin Public Radio, <http://www.wpr.org>

Mount Rushmore Memorial to begin major construction projects

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — One of the country's most popular tourist attractions is getting to the core of a multi-million dollar upgrade.

The Rapid City Journal reports that major construction projects at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota are scheduled to begin next week. The National Park Service says work will continue through much of 2020.

Mount Rushmore spokeswoman Maureen McGee-Ballinger says the upgrades are designed to make it easier to traverse the park and provide clearer views of Gutzon Borglum's sculpture, which features the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

Many parts of the park will be closed during construction, including a visi-



FILE - This March 22, 2019 file photo shows Mount Rushmore in Keystone, S.D. Major construction projects at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota are scheduled to begin next week of July 7, 2019. The National Park Service says work will continue through much of 2020.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)

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tor's center and amphitheater. McGee-Ballinger says visitors will still have good views of the sculpture and the finished product is "going to be beautiful."

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

North Dakota wildlife chief: Time to drop pheasant benchmark

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Hunters killed more pheasants in North Dakota last fall than they did the previous year, although the numbers are tempered by the fact that drought and declining habitat continue to impact the odds of a successful outing.

Wildlife officials say that about 58,200 hunters killed 327,000 roosters in 2018. That was up just 6% from the dismal 2017 hunt, when the harvest was the smallest in 16 years at just 309,400 pheasants, the Bismarck Tribune reported .

Neither year approached the state Game and Fish Department's benchmark for success, which is 500,000 pheasants. Recent numbers have also been lower than normal in South Dakota and Minnesota.

The problem is twofold, state Wildlife Chief Jeb Williams said. There is less grassland in the state due to farmers putting millions of acres of idled land once enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program back into crop production. In addition, drought has impacted many parts of the state the past couple of years.

"What abundant habitat gives you is the ability to rebound (from drought) quickly," Williams said. "With less habitat, you're going to see swings in the (pheasant) population. We're going to be more dependent on what the weather conditions give us."

The Game and Fish Department's crowing count survey last spring indicated a 6% increase in roosters statewide from the 2018 count. The agency later this summer will conduct its annual pheasant population survey, which will provide a better indication of the bird's status.

Either way, it's likely time to lower the benchmark for a good pheasant hunting season in North Dakota, according to Williams.

"A harvest approaching 400,000, I think, would be a good year," he said. "It's going to have to be a perfect storm (of conditions) to have everything kind of come together to where we could get up and above that."

The 2019 regular pheasant season begins Oct. 12. Pheasant hunting is big business in North Dakota, with the typical resident hunter spending about \$100 per day, according to Tourism Division statistics.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

Top UK diplomat in USA criticizes Trump in leaked memos

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Leaked diplomatic cables reveal that Britain's ambassador to the United States regards President Donald Trump's administration as inept, hobbled by infighting, and unlikely to improve.

The memos published in the Mail on Sunday newspaper contain highly critical comments from Ambassador Kim Darroch about the current state of Trump's government, providing a rare look at how a senior British diplomat views the government of Britain's closest ally.

"We don't really believe this administration is going to become substantially more normal; less dysfunctional; less unpredictable; less faction riven; less diplomatically clumsy and inept," Darroch wrote in one of a series of leaked documents covering the period from 2017 to the present.

Britain's Foreign Office did not challenge the authenticity of the leaked documents. It called the leak "mischievous behavior" and said the public expects diplomats to provide honest assessments of the politics in the countries where they are posted.

Justice Secretary David Gauke called the leak "disgraceful" but said Britain "should expect our ambassadors to tell the truth, as they see it."

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The memos also characterized Trump's policy on Iran as "incoherent, chaotic." Trump has frustrated European allies by withdrawing the United States from a complex deal designed to prevent Tehran from obtaining nuclear weapons and has seemed in recent weeks to be on the verge of armed conflict with Iran.

The ambassador said he did not believe Trump's public explanation for calling off a planned military strike against Iran last month.

Darroch said there are doubts about whether the White House "will ever look competent" and that the only way to communicate with the president is by being simple and blunt.

He said that while Trump had been "dazzled" by British pageantry on a state visit hosted by Queen Elizabeth II in June, the successful visit would not lead to a fundamental shift in Trump's priorities.

"This is still the land of America First," he wrote.

Darroch's views may lead to some awkwardness, especially since Trump said shortly after his election in 2016 that Brexiteer Nigel Farage would make an excellent British ambassador to the United States.

Trump has not hesitated to inject himself into Britain's political fray, repeatedly criticizing Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit negotiating strategy and praising both Farage and former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, a strong contender to become the next prime minister.

Poll: 1 in 4 don't plan to retire despite realities of aging

By ANDREW SOERGEL For The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Nearly one-quarter of Americans say they never plan to retire, according to a poll that suggests a disconnection between individuals' retirement plans and the realities of aging in the workforce.

Experts say illness, injury, layoffs and caregiving responsibilities often force older workers to leave their jobs sooner than they'd like.

According to the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 23% of workers, including nearly 2 in 10 of those over 50, don't expect to stop working. Roughly another quarter of Americans say they will continue working beyond their 65th birthday.

According to government data, about 1 in 5 people 65 and older was working or actively looking for a job in June.

For many, money has a lot to do with the decision to keep working.

"The average retirement age that we see in the data has gone up a little bit, but it hasn't gone up that much," says Anqi Chen, assistant director of savings research at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. "So people have to live in retirement much longer, and they may not have enough assets to support themselves in retirement."

When asked how financially comfortable they feel about retirement, 14% of Americans under the age of 50 and 29% over 50 say they feel extremely or very prepared, according to the poll. About another 4 in 10 older adults say they do feel somewhat prepared, while just about one-third feel unprepared. By comparison, 56% of younger adults say they don't feel prepared for retirement.

Among those who are fully retired, 38% said they felt very or extremely prepared when they retired, while 25% said they felt not very or not at all prepared.

"One of the things about thinking about never retiring is that you didn't save a whole lot of money," says Ronni Bennett, 78, who was pushed out of her job as a New York City-based website editor at 63.

She searched for work in the immediate aftermath of her layoff, a process she describes as akin to "banging my head against a wall." Finding Manhattan too expensive without a steady stream of income, she eventually moved to Portland, Maine. A few years later, she moved again, this time to Lake Oswego, Oregon.

"Sometimes I fantasize that if I win the lottery, I'd go back to New York," says Bennett, who has a blog called Time Goes By that chronicles her experiences aging, relocating and, during the past two years, living with a pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

Meanwhile, Americans have mixed assessments of how the aging workforce affects workers: 39% think people staying in the workforce longer is mostly a good thing for American workers, while 29% think it's

more a bad thing and 30% say it makes no difference.

A somewhat higher share, 45%, thinks it has a positive effect on the U.S. economy.

Working Americans who are 50 and older think the trend is more positive than negative for their own careers — 42% to 15%. Those younger than 50 are about as likely to say it's good for their careers as to say it's bad.

Just 6% of fully retired AP-NORC poll respondents said they left the labor market before turning 50.

But remaining in the workforce may be unrealistic for people dealing with unexpected illness or injuries. For them, high medical bills and a lack of savings loom large over day-to-day expenditures.

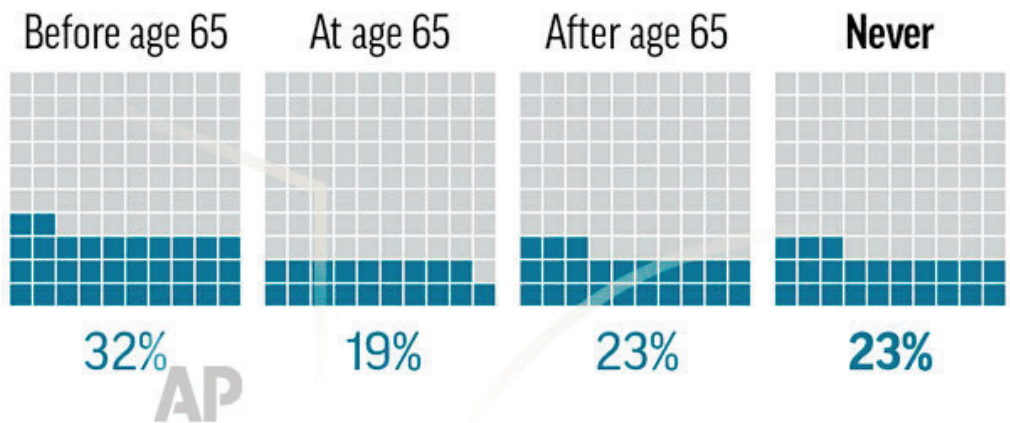
"People like me, who are average, everyday working people, can have something catastrophic happen, and we lose everything because of medical bills," says Larry Zarzecki, a former Maryland police officer who stopped working in his 40s after developing a resting tremor in his right hand and a series of cognitive and physical symptoms he at times found difficult to articulate.

At 47, he was diag-

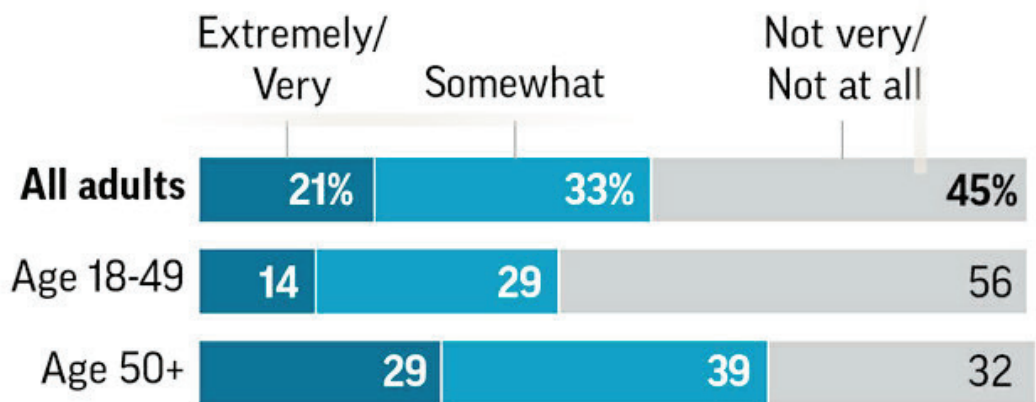
Retirement elusive for many in US

Nearly half of U.S. adults say they are not financially prepared for retirement, and nearly a quarter say they don't ever expect to retire, according to an AP-NORC Center poll.

Percentage who say they retired, or expect to retire ...



How prepared Americans think they will be in retirement:



Results based on interviews with 1,423 U.S. adults conducted Feb. 14-18. The margin of error is ±3.7 percentage points for the full sample, higher for subgroups.

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nosed with Parkinson's disease. Now 57 and living in Baltimore, Zarzecki says he has learned "to take from Peter and give to Paul, per se, to help make ends meet."

Zarzecki has since helped found Movement Disorder Education and Exercise, a nonprofit organization that offers support and treatment programs to those with similar diseases and certain traumatic brain injuries. He has also helped lobby state and national lawmakers to address rising prescription drug prices.

He receives a pension and health insurance through the state, but he spends more than \$3,000 each year out of pocket on medications.

"I can't afford, nor will my insurance cover, the most modern medication there is for Parkinson's," he says. "Eat, heat or treat. These are decisions that people in my position have to make. When it's cold out, or if it's real hot out, do you eat, heat (your home) or treat (your ailment)?"

EDITOR'S NOTE — Andrew Soergel is studying aging and workforce issues as part of a 10-month fellowship at The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, which joins NORC's independent research and AP journalism. The fellowship is funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

The AP-NORC Center survey of 1,423 adults was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research with funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. It was conducted Feb. 14 to 18 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods and later were interviewed online or by phone.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org>

California governor says earthquakes are a 'wake-up call'

By JOHN ANTCAK, DAISY NGUYEN and MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ Associated Press

RIDGECREST, Calif. (AP) — The two major earthquakes that hit Southern California should alert people across the nation of the need to be prepared for natural disasters, the state's governor said as officials expressed relief that the damages weren't worse.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said Saturday that governments must strengthen alert systems and building codes, and residents should make sure they know how to protect themselves during an earthquake.

"It is a wake-up call for the rest of the state and other parts of the nation, frankly," Newsom said at a news conference to update the public on the state's efforts to help the region hit by earthquakes on Thursday and Friday.

Friday's earthquake was the largest one in Southern California in nearly 20 years. Officials voiced concerns about the possibility of major aftershocks in the days and even months to come.

No fatalities or major injuries were reported after the 7.1-magnitude quake, which jolted an area from Sacramento to Mexico and prompted the evacuation of the Navy's largest single landholding, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake in the Mojave Desert.

The quake struck at 8:19 p.m. Friday and was centered 11 miles (18 kilometers) from Ridgecrest, the same area of the desert where a 6.4-magnitude temblor hit on Thursday. It left behind cracked and burning buildings, broken roads, obstructed railroad tracks and leaking water and gas lines.

The light damage was largely due to the remoteness of the area where the earthquake occurred, but Newsom cautioned after touring Ridgecrest that "it's deceiving, earthquake damage. You don't notice it at first."

Newsom estimated more than \$100 million in economic damage and said President Donald Trump called him to offer federal support in the rebuilding effort.

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"He's committed in the long haul, the long run, to help support the rebuilding efforts," Newsom said of Trump.

Only 28,000 people live in the Ridgecrest area, which is sandwiched between more populated areas of Southern California and Las Vegas' Clark County. Seismologists warned that the area could see up to 30,000 aftershocks over the next six months, though many of those will be too small for people to notice.

April Hamlin said she was "already on edge" when the second quake rattled her Ridgecrest home. She and her three kids initially thought it was another aftershock.

"But it just kept on intensifying," Hamlin said. "The TV went over, hanging by the cord. We heard it break. We heard glass breakage in the other rooms, but all we could do was stay where we were until it stopped."

With the possibility of aftershocks and temperatures forecast to reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) over the next several days, officials were taking precautions.

The California National Guard was sending 200 troops, logistical support and aircraft, Maj. Gen. David Baldwin said. The Pentagon had been notified, and the entire California Military Department was put on alert, he said.

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake said in a Facebook post that nonessential workers were evacuated and operations halted. The epicenters of both quakes were on the base, and officials said they are continuing to assess damage. Officials said most employees live off the base and in Ridgecrest, but they authorized the evacuation so those who live on base can be eligible for reimbursements.

The California Office of Emergency Services brought in cots, water and meals and set up cooling centers in the region, Director Mark Ghilarducci said.

State highway officials shut down a 30-mile (48-kilometer) section of State Route 178 between Ridgecrest and the town of Trona southwest of Death Valley because of a rockslide and severe cracking. The move left Trona temporarily cut off. California Department of Transportation spokeswoman Christine Knadler said crews worked through the night to patch the roadway, but it remained rough and uneven.

Ron Mikulaco, 51, and his nephew, 23-year-old Brad Fernandez, stood on 178 on Saturday looking at the cracks. The pair drove from Huntington Beach, about 170 miles (274 kilometers) southwest of Ridgecrest. Mikulaco, an amateur geologist, wanted to show his nephew "the power of Mother Nature," and they had the epicenter's latitude and longitude coordinates ready.

"We put that in the GPS, and we'll get as close as we can," Fernandez said.

In Ridgecrest, local fire and police officials said they were initially swamped by calls for medical and ambulance service. But police Chief Jed McLaughlin said there was "nothing but minor injuries such as cuts and bruises, by the grace of God."



Ron Mikulaco, right, and his nephew, Brad Fernandez, examine a crack caused by an earthquake on Highway 178, Saturday, July 6, 2019, outside of Ridgecrest, Calif. Crews in Southern California assessed damage to cracked and burned buildings, broken roads, leaking water and gas lines and other infrastructure Saturday after the largest earthquake the region has seen in nearly 20 years jolted an area from Sacramento to Las Vegas to Mexico. (AP Photo/

Marcio Jose Sanchez)

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Two building fires — one involving a mobile home — were quickly doused, McLaughlin said, and natural gas lines where leaks were reported were shut off.

When asked to describe what he has been going through in the past two days, the chief said: "Grief, shock and then, for me, pride in what I've seen from here, my people. It's been a vast range of emotions, and I think the whole community's going through that."

In Trona, a town of about 2,000 people considered the gateway to Death Valley, fire officials said up to 50 structures were damaged. San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood said FEMA delivered a tractor-trailer full of bottled water because of damage to water lines. Newsom declared a state of emergency for the county.

Julia Doss, who maintains the Trona Neighborhood Watch page on Facebook, said the only food store in town is a Family Dollar store that was shuttered Saturday.

"The only way to get food is to drive to Ridgecrest, and with only three gas stations in town I'm worried we may soon run out of fuel," Doss said.

Antoun Abdullatif, 59, owns liquor stores and other businesses in Ridgecrest and Trona.

"I would say 70% of my inventory is on the floor, broken," he said. "Every time you sweep and you put stuff in the dust bin, you're putting \$200 in the trash."

But he has stopped cleaning up, believing another earthquake is on the way.

Lucy Jones, a seismologist at the California Institute of Technology and a former science adviser at the U.S. Geological Survey, said the new quake probably ruptured along about 25 miles (40 kilometers) of fault line and was part of a continuing sequence. The seismic activity is unlikely to affect fault lines outside of the area, Jones said, noting that the gigantic San Andreas Fault is far away.

Egill Hauksson, another Caltech seismologist, said later in the day that scientists believe the continuing sequence could produce more than 30,000 quakes of magnitude 1 or greater over six months. He said the probability of a magnitude 7 over the next week is about 3%, but one or two magnitude 6 quakes are expected.

Antczak reported from Los Angeles. Nguyen reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio, Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City, Juliet Williams in San Francisco, Adam Beam in Sacramento, Stefanie Dazio and Robert Jablon in Los Angeles, Tarek Hamada in Phoenix, and freelancer Jolene Latimer in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Afghan officials say car bomb kills 12, wounds scores

By AMIR SHAH Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban carried out a devastating suicide car bombing in central Afghanistan Sunday that killed 12 people and wounded over 150 others, said Afghan officials.

The attack came as an all-Afghan peace conference, which includes the Taliban, was underway Sunday in Doha in an effort to end the country's relentless wars.

A provincial council member, Hasan Raza Yousafi, said the car bomb exploded nearby an intelligence department compound in Ghazni, the capital of the province of the same name. The dead included eight security personnel, he said.

Many of the wounded were students of a nearby high school, said the provincial health department chief, Zahir Shah Nekmal. He said most of the injured suffered cuts and abrasions from broken glass.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed claimed responsibility for the suicide attack saying the target was the intelligence service's compound in Ghazni. He said the bombing killed tens of intelligence employees. The Taliban often exaggerate such claims.

Meanwhile, U.S. Peace Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad hailed the intra-Afghan talks underway in Doha as a good first step toward substantive negotiations between Afghans on a framework for the country's future.

He said Washington's "aspiration" is to have that framework in place by Sept. 1 and ahead of the Afghan presidential election.

Khalilzad, who has been holding direct talks with the Taliban for the past six days also in Doha, told a press briefing on Saturday that included The Associated Press that the discussions were the most productive ever.

He will resume talks with the Taliban on Tuesday, he said.

Talks have covered a timeframe for the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan, verifiable anti-terror guarantees from the Taliban, intra-Afghan negotiations and an eventual cease-fire.

Meanwhile in western Ghor province, a roadside mine killed Saturday seven children — the youngest was just 5 years old.

Abdul Hai Khateby, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said the Taliban planted the mine apparently to thwart a planned Afghan military offensive to retake nearby areas under the militants' control. The children were local shepherds who happened to be moving their herd along the road when the mine exploded, he said.



Injured boys receive treatment in a hospital after a car bomb attack in Ghazni province, central Afghanistan, Sunday, July 7, 2019. Afghan officials say a car bomb in central Afghanistan has killed a few people and wounded dozens of people, many of them students attending a nearby school.

(AP Photo/Rahmatullah Nikzad)

Associated Press writer Kathy Gannon in Kabul, Afghanistan, contributed to this report.

Congress has ambitious agenda tackling health care costs

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers are trying to set aside their irreconcilable differences over the Obama-era Affordable Care Act and work to reach bipartisan agreement on a more immediate health care issue, lowering costs for people who already have coverage.

Returning from their Fourth of July recess, the Senate and House are pushing to end surprise medical bills, curb high prices for medicines, and limit prescription copays for people with Medicare.

Partisan disagreements could derail the effort, but lawmakers fear the voters' verdict in 2020 if politicians have nothing to show for all their hand-wringing about drug prices. President Donald Trump has political exposure himself because the big price cuts he promised haven't materialized. On Friday, he promised an executive order that he said would be intended to enable the U.S. government to pay lower prices for prescription drugs. The U.S. would pay no more than the lowest amount paid by other nations or companies, he said.

"Frankly, the issue is so urgent for Americans who are facing increasing drug costs that to us it's really not about who gets the credit," said Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo. "It's about what kind of relief we can give to consumers." She serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has a role in shaping the legislation.

In the Senate, Republican Lamar Alexander has shepherded bipartisan legislation on surprise medical bills

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through the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee that he leads. That bill also would raise the legal age for buying tobacco products to 21.

"Obviously we will continue to have significant disagreements on ... Obamacare," said Alexander. "What we've done is shift our focus to the larger topic — or the different topic — of reducing health care costs." He would like his bill to be on the Senate floor by the end of this month.

Different pieces of legislation are at various stages in a half-dozen committees in the Senate and the House. The Senate seems to hold the keys to what can pass because Republicans and Democrats have to work together to avoid gridlock on the Senate floor that could sidetrack legislation. In the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is keeping an open line to the Trump administration on drug costs.

"The public demand for action is high on both sides of the aisle and I'm sure these guys are feeling it," said John Rother of the National Coalition on Health Care, an umbrella group that represents a cross section of business and consumer organizations. "They have to do something, and the question is, is that something is going to be meaningful, or is it going to be window-dressing?"

A look at some of the major pieces:

—Medicare Drug Negotiations

House Democrats are pushing for a floor vote on authorizing Medicare to directly negotiate prescription drug prices. Legislation from Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, would empower the government to license generic competition if the manufacturer of a brand-name drug refuses to deal.

Think of it as an opening bid.

Medicare negotiations are a nonstarter for Senate Republicans, and the administration has been opposed although candidate Trump once advocated the idea. Liberals in the House say they're not backing off.

"The first step is we pass a progressive bill in the House and then we see what the Senate takes," said Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif. "We've got to do that as a first step, and then we've got to negotiate for as much as we can get, but we have to pass the bill we ran on."

—Medicare "Inflation Rebate"

Senators of both parties and key lawmakers in the House are looking at requiring drugmakers to pay rebates to the government if the prices of medications covered by Medicare escalate beyond a yet-to-be-determined measure of inflation.

That wouldn't solve the problem of high initial "launch" prices for brand-name drugs, but it could restrain cost increases for long-available medications such as insulin. Democrats say it could be a fallback if they're not able to get Medicare negotiation authority.

A signal of whether inflation rebates have political traction could come in a couple of weeks when senators are expected to offer a bipartisan compromise. The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and the committee's top Democrat, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, are trying to get



In this June 20, 2019 photo, the Capitol is seen from the roof of the Canadian Embassy in Washington. Health care is on the agenda for Congress when lawmakers return, and it's not another battle over the Obama-era Affordable Care Act. Instead of dealing with the uninsured, lawmakers are trying to bring down costs for people who already have coverage. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

the deal. A senior GOP aide said rebates are under consideration. The aide spoke condition of anonymity because there's no final agreement.

Separately, Labor Department data show some signs that prescription drug inflation has eased in recent months.

—Limit on Medicare Drug Copays

Medicare's "Part D" prescription drug benefit currently has no limit on out-of-pocket costs paid by patients, which means beneficiaries taking very expensive medications may wind up with copays rivaling a mortgage payment.

Senate and House lawmakers of both parties want to limit those copays, as does the administration. But lawmakers want to pair that with meaningful limits on prescription drug prices.

—Medicaid Gene Therapy

Senate Finance Committee members are considering a Republican idea that would allow the federal-state Medicaid program for low-income people to make installment payments for gene therapy treatments, which can cost \$1 million or more.

—Surprise Medical Bills

Alexander's committee has approved legislation that would hold patients harmless from "surprise" out-of-network bills that can run to tens of thousands of dollars. The House Energy and Commerce Committee is working on a similar bill.

Alexander said the legislation won't solve every health care problem, but added, "You don't have to preach the whole Bible in one sermon — you can do one important thing at a time."

21 hurt in shopping plaza blast: Gas lines found ruptured

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

PLANTATION, Fla. (AP) — A vacant pizza restaurant exploded Saturday in a thundering roar at a South Florida shopping plaza, injuring more than 20 people as large chunks of concrete flew through the air.

The blast flung debris widely along a busy road in Plantation, west of Fort Lauderdale. The restaurant was destroyed, and nearby businesses and cars were damaged. Though firefighters found ruptured gas lines afterward, authorities said it was too early to determine a cause.

"We thought it was thunder at first, and then we felt the building shake and things started falling. I looked outside and it was almost like the world was ending," said Alex Carver, a worker at a deli across the street from the explosion. "It was nuts, man. It was crazy."

The explosion hurled large pieces of concrete up to 50 yards (45 meters) away and sent pieces of metal scattering as far as 100 yards (90 meters)



A police officer guards the area after an explosion on Saturday, July 6, 2019, in Plantation, Fla. Several people were injured after a vacant pizza restaurant exploded in the South Florida shopping plaza Saturday, according to police. The restaurant was destroyed, and nearby businesses were damaged. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

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across the street. Carver said two of his co-workers' cars were destroyed.

At least 21 people were injured though none of the injuries was life-threatening, Police Sgt. Jessica Ryan said.

The explosion demolished the building, leaving behind only part of its metal frame. The restaurant, called PizzaFire, had been out of business for several months. The blast also blew out the windows of a popular fitness club next door at the shopping plaza in Broward County.

Jesse Walaschek had just left the fitness club with his wife and three children, ages 4, 6 and 8. They were parked near the restaurant and had just driven about 50 yards (45 meters) away when they heard the blast.

"It was a massive explosion like I have never experienced," he said.

Walaschek said dust and debris filled the air.

"Everything just stopped. You didn't see anybody. I just wanted to get these guys safe," he said, pointing to his children. "If this had happened a minute before when we were getting the kids in the car, it would have been really bad."

Dozens of firefighters responded and could be seen picking through the rubble with dogs sniffing through the debris to make sure people weren't trapped underneath. There were no known fatalities immediately after the explosion.

Fire department Battalion Chief Joel Gordon said there were ruptured gas lines when firefighters arrived, but he couldn't say for certain that it was a gas explosion.

"At this point, nobody was killed. Thank goodness for that. As bad as it is, it could have been a lot worse," Gordon said.

AP Sources: Jeffrey Epstein arrested in NY on sex charges

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Wealthy financier and registered sex offender Jeffrey Epstein was arrested Saturday in New York on new sex-trafficking charges involving allegations that date to the early 2000s, according to law enforcement officials.

Epstein, a wealthy hedge fund manager who once counted as friends former President Bill Clinton, Great Britain's Prince Andrew, and President Donald Trump, was taken into federal custody and is expected to appear Monday in Manhattan federal court, three law enforcement officials told The Associated Press.

One of the officials said Epstein is accused of paying underage girls for massages and molesting them at his homes in Florida and New York.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the pending case.

A message was sent to Epstein's defense attorney seeking comment. Epstein is being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons website.

Epstein's arrest, first reported by The Daily Beast, comes amid renewed scrutiny of a once-secret plea deal that ended a federal investigation against him.

That deal, which is being challenged in Florida federal court, allowed Epstein, who is now 66, to plead guilty to lesser state charges of soliciting and procuring a person under age 18 for prostitution.

Averting a possible life sentence, Epstein was instead sentenced to 13 months in jail. The deal also required he reach financial settlements with dozens of his once-teenage victims and register as a sex offender.

Epstein's deal was overseen by former Miami U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta, who is now Trump's labor secretary. Acosta has defended the plea deal as appropriate under the circumstances, though the White House said in February that it was "looking into" his handling of the deal.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth Marra of Florida ruled earlier this year that Epstein's victims should have been consulted under federal law about the deal, and he is now weighing whether to invalidate the non-prosecution agreement, or NPA, that protected Epstein from federal charges.

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It was not immediately clear whether the cases involved the same victims since nearly all have remained anonymous.

Federal prosecutors recently filed court papers in Florida case contending Epstein's deal must stand.

"The past cannot be undone; the government committed itself to the NPA, and the parties have not disputed that Epstein complied with its provisions," prosecutors wrote in the filing.

They acknowledged, however, that the failure to consult victims "fell short of the government's dedication to serve victims to the best of its ability" and that prosecutors "should have communicated with the victims in a straightforward and transparent way."

The victims in the Florida case have until Monday to respond to the Justice Department's filing.

According to court records in Florida, authorities say at least 40 underage girls were brought into Epstein's Palm Beach mansion for what turned into sexual encounters after female fixers looked for suitable girls locally and in Eastern Europe and other parts of the world.

Some girls were also allegedly brought to Epstein's homes in New York City, New Mexico and a private Caribbean island, according to court documents.

Saturday's arrest also came just days after a federal appeals court in New York ordered the unsealing of nearly 2,000 pages of records in a since-settled defamation case involving Epstein.

U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse released a statement Saturday calling for Epstein to be held without bail pending trial. "This monster received a pathetically soft sentence last time and his victims deserve nothing less than justice," Sasse, R-Nebraska, said in the statement. "Justice doesn't depend on the size of your bank account."

Sisak reported from Port St. Lucie, Florida. Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Curt Anderson and Tom Hays contributed to this report.



FILE - In this July 30, 2008 file photo, Jeffrey Epstein, center, is shown in custody in West Palm Beach, Fla. The wealthy financier and convicted sex offender has been arrested in New York on sex trafficking charges. Two law enforcement officials said Epstein was taken into federal custody Saturday, July 6, 2019, on charges involving sex-trafficking allegations that date to the 2000s. (Uma Sanghvi/Palm Beach Post via AP, File)

South Carolina is Sunday focus for sparring Biden, Harris

By MEG KINNARD and JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press

SUMTER, S.C. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has apologized for comments about working with segregationist lawmakers in his early days in the U.S. Senate and says he now understands that his remarks could have offended some people.

"Was I wrong a few weeks ago?" the former vice president and Delaware senator asked a mostly black audience of several hundred people Saturday in Sumter during the first day of a weekend visit to South Carolina. "Yes, I was. I regret it, and I'm sorry for any of the pain of misconception that caused anybody."

Biden and one of his rivals for the 2020 nomination, California Sen. Kamala Harris, scheduled campaign

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stops Sunday in the first Southern state to vote in next year's primary and a crucial proving ground for candidates seeking support of black Democrats.

In last month's presidential debate, Harris was unrelenting in her criticism of Biden, both his views on federally mandated busing and his comments about working with segregationist senators long ago. Harris is one of two black candidates in the contest.

Though the issue is not at the forefront of the 2020 primary, it could resonate in a state with a complicated history with race and segregation.

Biden defended his record on racial issues and reminded voters of his ties to former President Barack Obama, whose popularity in South Carolina remains high.

Without naming Harris, Biden on Saturday referenced what he characterized as expected attacks from other campaigns that are eager to take him on.

"I'm going to let my record stand for itself and not be distorted or smeared," Biden said. He recalled his support of Obama's criminal justice overhaul and pointed out areas in which he disagreed, such as the three strikes policy that led to longer sentences for repeat offenders.

"I'm flawed and imperfect like everyone else. I've made the best decisions that I could at the moment they had to be made," Biden said. "If the choice is between doing nothing and acting, I've chosen to act."

Several Harris supporters in the state said her pointed and personal critique of Biden, who opposed busing mandates in the 1970s, struck a chord in South Carolina. Marguerite Willis, a recent Democratic candidate for governor, said that when Harris spoke in last month's debate about her own experiences being bused as a child, the entire room where Willis was watching the debate grew quiet.

"Growing up here in South Carolina, that's meaningful to us," said Willis. Schools were segregated when she was a child, and she recalled not meeting a black girl her age until leaving the state for college. "So when she talked about being bused, it was powerful for me and I'm sure it's powerful for a lot of people here who have experiences of their own."

On the subject of busing, Biden told voters: "I don't believe a child should have to get on a bus to attend a good school. There should be first-rate schools of quality in every neighborhood of this nation, especially in 2019 America."

Biden told Orangeburg voters that President Donald Trump is overtly racist and a divisive leader who governs as though "any problem that we have is because of those drug-dealing Mexicans."

The campaign dynamics have shifted and become more personal since the last time Biden and Harris were in South Carolina.

Harris muddied the debate over busing during a recent campaign swing in Iowa, appearing to tell reporters she now opposes federally mandated busing to address school segregation. Her campaign disputed the notion that she was backtracking from the position she took during the debate, arguing that she supported busing in the 1970s — when Biden opposed it — but believes conditions now make it an issue to be decided by local school districts.

During an appearance Saturday at Essence Fest in New Orleans, an annual music and cultural confer-



Former Vice President Joe Biden takes selfie photos with supporters after a speech on Saturday, July 6, 2019, in Orangeburg, S.C. (AP Photo/Meg Kinnard)

ence that is the largest gathering of black women in the country, Harris pledged to fight the segregation that she said lingers today.

"There's still mandatory busing that exists today," Harris said. "Because we had so much flight. ... Segregation persists now not necessarily as a function of legislator. ... But just because there has been a drawing out of the resources in public schools. That is one of my highest priorities, and we have got to deal with that."

Summers reported from Baltimore. AP National Writer Errin Haines Whack in New Orleans contributed to this report.

3 runners gored racing with bulls at Pamplona's festival

ÁLVARO BARRIENTOS and

ARITZ PARRA Associated Press

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP) — Five people were hospitalized after the opening bull run of this year's San Fermin festival in Pamplona, including two Americans and a Spaniard who were gored by bulls, officials in the northern Spanish city said Sunday.

A 46-year old man from San Francisco, California, was gored in the neck in the city's bullring, at the end of the 850-meter (930-yard) course. He was undergoing surgery, the regional government reported.

A 23-year old man from Florence, Kentucky and a 40-year-old Spanish man were both gored in their thighs. Two young Spanish men sustained head injuries.

The nine-day San Fermin fiesta, where six bulls are run every morning in the city's narrow streets before being killed in afternoon bullfights, draws around one million visitors annually,

including many citizens from the United States. Every year hundreds of "runners" race ahead of or next to the bulls, while the more risk-averse watch from balconies.

Some arrive following in the steps of American novelist and Nobel literature laureate Ernest Hemingway, who became fascinated by bullfighting and immortalized the festival in his 1926 book "The Sun Also Rises."

Sunday morning's inaugural run featured bulls from the Puerto de San Lorenzo cattle breeder, which also caused one goring last year.

The pack dashed together along the cobble-stoned, barricaded street course. Toward the end, one of the bulls stumbled briefly, causing panic and at least one goring when it resumed the race and charged at some of the racers.

The local Red Cross said its emergency personnel had attended to an additional 48 people for minor injuries, including two who had been trampled by the racing bulls.

The run, which lasted 2 minutes and 41 seconds, came after the festival's official opening — or "Chupinazo" — on Friday, when tens of thousands of party-goers shower each other with wine and champagne



Revellers run next to fighting bulls during the running of the bulls at the San Fermin Festival, in Pamplona, northern Spain, Sunday, July 7, 2019. Revellers from around the world flock to Pamplona every year to take part in the eight days of the running of the bulls. (AP Photo/Alvaro Barrientos)

in a packed square.

The annual festival also includes music performances, traditional sports and dance displays, a religious procession on Sunday to honor the local patron, a firework competition and endless partying.

Parra reported from Madrid.

Iran to raise uranium enrichment beyond nuclear deal limits

By JON GAMBRELL and NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran announced Sunday it will increase its uranium enrichment to an unspecified level beyond the terms of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, breaking another limit set under the accord and furthering heightening tensions between Tehran and the U.S.

Setting another unspecified 60-day deadline for the deal, Iran took further steps toward pressuring Europe while urging further diplomacy to save an agreement that President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. from a year ago.

Hopes for saving the faltering deal appear increasingly dim, however, as the Europeans have been unable to offer Iran any effective way around U.S. sanctions that block Tehran's oil sales abroad and target its top officials. But Iran's recent measures, while of concern to nuclear non-proliferation experts, could be easily reversible if Europeans offer Iran the sanctions relief it seeks.

Tensions began rising in May when the U.S. rushed thousands of additional troops, an aircraft carrier, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers and advanced fighter jets to the Mideast.

Mysterious oil tanker blasts near the Strait of Hormuz, attacks by Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen on Saudi Arabia and Iran shooting down a U.S. military drone have raised fears of a wider conflict engulfing a region crucial to global energy supplies.

In Sunday's news conference, Iranian officials said the new level of uranium enrichment would be reached later in the day, but did not provide a percentage. Under the nuclear deal, the cap for enrichment was set at 3.67%, a percentage closely monitored by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog.

"Within hours, the technical tasks will be done and enrichment above 3.67% will begin," Iran nuclear agency spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said. "We predict that the IAEA measurements early tomorrow morning will show that we have gone beyond 3.67%."

The IAEA said it was aware of Iran's comments and "inspectors in Iran will report to our headquarters as soon as they verify the announced development."



From left to right, spokesman for Iran's atomic agency Behrouz Kamalvandi, Iran's government spokesman Ali Rabiei and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, attend a press briefing in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, July 7, 2019. The deputy foreign minister says that his nation considers the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers to be a "valid document" and seeks its continuation. (AP Photo/Ebrahim

Noroozi)

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Ali Akbar Velayati, an aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, made remarks in a video Saturday about Iran's need for 5% enrichment. Bushehr, Iran's only nuclear power plant, is now running on imported fuel from Russia that's enriched around 5%.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sent a letter to EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini outlining the steps it had taken, said Abbas Araghchi, a deputy foreign minister. Discussions with European powers are continuing and ministerial-level talks are planned later this month, he said.

"We will give another 60-day period, and then we will resume the reduction of our commitments," Araghchi said, without elaborating.

On Saturday, French President Emmanuel Macron told his Iranian counterpart, Hassan Rouhani, in a phone call that he is trying to find a way by July 15 to resume the dialogue between Iran and Western partners.

Kamalvandi also stressed that Iran will continue to use only slower, first-generation IR-1 centrifuges to increase enrichment, as well as keep the number of centrifuges in use under the 5,060-limit set by the nuclear deal. Iran has the technical ability to build and operate advanced centrifuges that work faster, but is barred from doing so under the deal.

"For the enrichment we are using the same machines with some more pressure and some special technical work," he said. "So we don't have an increase in the number of centrifuges for this purpose."

But Kamalvandi stressed that Iran is able to continue enrichment "at any speed, any amount and any level."

"For the enrichment we are using the same machines with some more pressure and some special technical work," he said. "So we don't have an increase in the number of centrifuges for this purpose."

Sunday's announcement about uranium enrichment came a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the deal. Iran has repeatedly warned Europe in recent weeks that it would begin walking away from an accord neutered by a maximalist American campaign of sanctions.

The decision to ramp up uranium enrichment came less than a week after Iran acknowledged breaking the deal's 300-kilogram (661-pound) limit on its low-enriched uranium stockpile.

Experts warn higher enrichment and a growing stockpile narrow the one-year window Iran would need to have enough material for an atomic bomb, something Iran denies it wants but the deal prevented.

Enriched uranium at the 3.67% level is enough for peaceful pursuits but is far below weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Iran denies it seeks nuclear weapons, but the nuclear deal sought to prevent that as a possibility by limiting enrichment and Iran's stockpile of uranium.

International reaction came swiftly, including from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who long has described Iran and its nuclear program as a threat to his country. He called on world powers to impose "snapback sanctions" on Iran.

"It is a very, very dangerous step," Netanyahu said. "I'm asking you, not to provoke but out of joint knowledge of history and what happens when aggressive totalitarian regimes can cross the threshold toward things that are very dangerous to us all. Take the steps that you promised. Enact the sanctions."

Associated Press writers Kiyoko Metzler in Vienna and Aron Heller in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

A matter of faith: Democrats embrace religion in campaign

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When 10 Democratic presidential candidates were pressed on immigration policy during their recent debate, Pete Buttigieg took his answer in an unexpected direction: He turned the question into a matter of faith.

Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, accused Republicans who claim to support Christian values of hypocrisy for backing policies separating children from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border. The GOP, he declared, "has lost all claim to ever use religious language again."

It was a striking moment that highlighted an evolution in the way Democrats are talking about faith in

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the 2020 campaign. While Republicans have been more inclined to weave faith into their rhetoric, particularly since the rise of the evangelical right in the 1980s, several current Democratic White House hopefuls are explicitly linking their views on policy to religious values. The shift signals a belief that their party's eventual nominee has a chance to win over some religious voters who may be turned off by President Donald Trump's abrasive rhetoric and questions about his character.

"The bar for Democrats on reaching broad swaths of the American faith community is lower than ever because of Donald Trump," said Michael Wear, who led White House faith outreach during President Barack Obama's first term and re-election. Wear said Democrats have an opportunity to show faith voters they don't just "have a seat at the table, the values table is our table."

Buttigieg, an Episcopalian who married his husband in his home church, often invokes his faith on the campaign trail and has tangled over values with Vice President Mike Pence, an evangelical Christian. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a practicing Methodist and former Sunday school teacher, recently declared that all of her expansive policy proposals "start with a premise that is about faith" as she cited a favorite biblical verse about Jesus urging care for "the least of these." New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker has called Jesus "the center of my life" and excoriates Trump for what he calls "moral vandalism."

John Carr, founder of Georgetown University's Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, urged Democrats to focus more on their personal faith and avoid wielding religion as a political weapon.

"When you use faith as a way to go after your adversaries, it sounds more like a tactic and less an expression of who you are," said Carr, who spent more than two decades as an adviser to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Regardless of Democrats' changing tactics, Trump and Republicans are all but certain to maintain their grip on one of the most influential religious voting blocs, white evangelicals; 8 in 10 who self-identified with that group voted Republican in the 2018 midterm elections, according to AP's VoteCast survey. Though Trump rarely discusses his own religious identity and isn't seen as particularly devout, he's won the loyalty of many evangelicals through his administration's successful push for conservative judicial nominees and focus on anti-abortion policies.

Democrats have more appeal, and opportunity, with other religious voters. VoteCast showed Democrats captured half of self-described Catholics and 42% of Protestants in last year's midterms.

Democrats have long had to walk a tightrope with religious voters, given that their support for abortion and LGBTQ rights is at odds with leaders of several prominent denominations.

The 2020 candidates aren't shying away from those differences. Warren, for example, opposes the



In this June 23, 2019 photo, Democratic presidential candidate and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, right, and South Bend Police Chief Scott Ruskowski, left, bow their heads in prayer during a town hall community meeting at Washington High School in South Bend, Ind. Several Democratic White House hopefuls are explicitly connecting their faith to their agendas, making a values-based appeal to religious swing voters who will be critical in next year's election after white evangelicals broke heavily for President Donald Trump. (Robert Franklin/South Bend Tribune via AP)

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United Methodist Church's prohibition on same-sex marriages and LGBTQ pastors, which has prompted more progressive congregations to weigh a split .

"Elizabeth believes equal means equal, and that's true in marriage, in the workplace, and in every place," spokeswoman Saloni Sharma said.

Instead, they see an opening to talk about religion as a driver of their basic values, not a litmus test. Immigration offers one such opportunity, given that Trump's detention policies have drawn criticism from leaders of multiple faiths, including some evangelicals.

Jim Wallis, founder of the Christian social justice group Sojourners, described the drowning of a father and his toddler daughter who attempted to cross the border as a test of faith for policymakers. Many devout Latino voters who are being courted to vote Republican next year "believe that's a religious question," Wallis said.

The Democratic candidates come from a variety of religious backgrounds and differ in how they speak about faith on the campaign trail.

New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand identifies as Catholic but regularly attends evangelical services as well as Mass, her campaign said. Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke said in a statement to The Associated Press that he was raised attending Catholic Mass, but, "As an adult, I have found a stronger connection with God outside of the church."

California Sen. Kamala Harris and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders speak about their faith less frequently than some of the others. But Sanders — who would be the first Jewish president — recently joined liberal Jewish activists for a picture that identified them as Jews against Israel's policies toward Palestinians.

Former Vice President Joe Biden has openly struggled to reconcile his Catholic faith with his party's more liberal position on abortion. In the 1970s, he said the Supreme Court went "too far" in legalizing abortion nationwide and later said abortion should be legal but not government-funded. He reversed that position only last month under intense pressure from his Democratic opponents, drawing a public reprimand from the archbishop of Philadelphia.

But Biden flouts his church's hard-line positions against homosexuality and same-sex marriage. "We are all God's children," he explained last month at a Human Rights Campaign gala in Ohio.

Booker speaks often about his faith as he campaigns. His home church is Metropolitan Baptist in Newark, New Jersey, and his campaign said he attends services whenever he isn't traveling to early voting states.

The New Jersey senator generally avoids direct use of religion to criticize the GOP, but he told a South Carolina pastor during a CNN town hall in March that "the Bible talks more about poverty, about greeting the stranger, about being there for the convicted ... than it talks about the kind of toxic stuff you often hear the president spewing."

Associated Press writers Will Weissert, Emily Swanson and Hannah Fingerhut in Washington, Bill Barrow in Atlanta, Nick Riccardi in Denver, and Sara Burnett in Chicago contributed.

Experts warn of 'dead zone' in Chesapeake Bay from pollution

By DAVID McFADDEN Associated Press

CONOWINGO, Md. (AP) — When the Conowingo Dam opened to fanfare nearly a century ago, the massive wall of concrete and steel began its job of harnessing water power in northern Maryland. It also quietly provided a side benefit: trapping sediment and silt before it could flow miles downstream and pollute the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary.

The old hydroelectric dam spanning the lower Susquehanna River is still producing power, but its days of effectively trapping sediment in a 14-mile (22.5-kilometer) long reservoir behind its walls are over. Behind the 94-foot (29-meter) high barrier lies a massive inventory of coal-black muck — some 200 million tons (181 million metric tons) of pollutants picked up over decades from farmlands, industrial zones and towns.

How big a threat this sediment stockpile poses to the Chesapeake Bay or whether anything can even be done about it depends on who one talks to. With Maryland pushing to curb pollution in dam discharges, the

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issue has become a political football as Conowingo's operator seeks to renew its federal license to operate the dam for 46 more years after its old license expired.

And as negotiations drag on, the lack of agreement about curbing runoff pollutants following the wettest year on record imperils hard-won gains in restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

The iconic estuary famed for its blue crabs and oysters has been gradually rebounding under a federal cleanup program launched in 1983 that put an end to unbridled pollution. But the 200-mile (325-kilometer) long bay is increasingly being ravaged by runoff-triggering downpours, including record-setting rainfall in 2018 and this year's soggy spring.

Intense cycles of downpours are washing pollutants into the Chesapeake from municipal sewer overflows, subdivisions and farms where manure often isn't effectively handled and nitrogen and phosphorous-rich fertilizers are used. Experts say climate change is accelerating the environmental decline, potentially leading to more damaging algae blooms and dead zones in the Chesapeake and coastal waters.

Maryland politicians and watermen who make their living off the bay's fragile bounty portray the sediment stored behind the Conowingo as an existential threat, asserting the massive deposit of reservoir muck would devastate the bay if ever released downstream in a major storm. They note that sediment freely flows over the dam during downpours, turning the upper bay's waters a murky brown.

"The situation behind the dam is a ticking time bomb," said Genevieve Croker, spokeswoman for the Clean Chesapeake Coalition, a grouping of rural Maryland counties that have Republican Gov. Larry Hogan's ear.

Qian Zhang, an assistant research scientist at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, confirms that the sediment does flow freely.

"The reservoir is no longer capable of trapping sediment and sediment-associated nutrients. It will release sediment during storm events, creating room for sediment to deposit in subsequent days. However, from a long-term mass-balance perspective, the reservoir is essentially at a stage where sediments entering the reservoir equal sediments leaving," Zhang said.

But he and numerous other bay-area scientists say nutrient pollution, not sediment, is the major threat, noting that most of the pollutants flowing into the Chesapeake come from upstream, particularly in Pennsylvania. Most of the nitrogen pollutants reaching the bay, for instance, travel there as dissolved nitrate and are not affected at all by the Conowingo's sediment storage. They say mitigating the impacts from the huge infill behind the Maryland dam is part of the puzzle but hardly the keystone piece in the restoration strategy.

"The most effective approach has always been to better manage upstream sources," said William Ball, a scientist who directs the Chesapeake Research Consortium.



Water flows through Conowingo Dam, a hydroelectric dam spanning the lower Susquehanna River near Conowingo, Md., on Thursday, May 16, 2019. Officials once counted on the dam to block large amounts of sediment in the Susquehanna from reaching Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, but the reservoir behind the dam has filled with sediment far sooner than expected. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

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Chicago-based Exelon Corp., the dam's operator, stresses that the Conowingo itself is not a source of pollution and agrees the problem lies upstream. It suggests that more sediment could wash through the dam in coming years, since sustained downpours lead to high river flows and require more crest gate openings. In 2018, there were 157 days when at least one crest gate was open, compared to 25 days in 2017 and 17 days in 2016, according to company data.

"The possibility that climate change could result in wetter conditions in the region make it all the more important that the upstream sources of river pollution in the Susquehanna be addressed," Exelon said in a statement.

Pennsylvania routinely pushes back against the criticism, noting that it has a whopping 33,000 farms and more than 350 municipalities in the watershed. The state says it's committed to meeting pollutant reduction targets.

"The momentum in Pennsylvania has never been stronger," said Deborah Klenotic, a spokeswoman for Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection.

But the warning signs are clear. Environmental scientists are predicting a 2-mile (3-kilometer) swath of low-to-no oxygen in the bay this summer, making it one of the biggest "dead zones" in nearly 20 years. This year's particularly damaging dead zone is believed to be caused by nitrogen-laden runoff into rivers and tributaries, mostly from the Susquehanna, which supplies the most freshwater to the bay while also being its biggest source of sediment and nutrient loads.

In recent days, the Environmental Protection Agency released its evaluations of bay states' roadmaps to reduce pollution under the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint by 2025. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, an influential watchdog group, says that while Maryland and Virginia's draft plans are on track, Pennsylvania's fell "drastically short." It said the EPA's assessment failed to press for more pollution reductions or spell out if there would be consequences for failure.

Fearing a cascade of ecological decline, foundation president Will Baker argues the stakes couldn't be higher for the decades-old environmental effort.

"If EPA doesn't fully exercise its oversight responsibility, efforts to save the Bay will be lost," Baker warns.

Pete Buttigieg has money, but can he turn it into 2020 win?

By SARA BURNETT Associated Press

CARROLL, Iowa (AP) — Pete Buttigieg stunned the Democratic presidential field with a nearly \$25 million second-quarter fundraising haul. Now he needs to figure out how to use that money to build a campaign that can go the distance against nearly two dozen rivals — many of them better known — and ensure that enthusiasm from donors is matched by support from voters.

That poses big challenges for the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who lags several of his top opponents in the number of staff on the ground in early states. He also has significant work to do to earn support of African American voters, a crucial constituency in the Democratic presidential primary.

Buttigieg said much of his emphasis will be on retail politics — more days like Thursday, when he blitzed across Iowa for a parade and picnics and one-on-one interactions with voters. The campaign also says it plans in coming months to add 100 people to a staff that started with six employees and now has about 200, as well as enlist a larger number of volunteers.

"The whole point of all that fundraising was to make sure that we have the organization we need to win," Buttigieg told reporters after a town hall meeting in a sweltering Sioux City, Iowa high school gymnasium. "Obviously we got great news on that front, now we've got to put it to work."

Buttigieg has been a source of both fascination and skepticism in the opening months of the Democratic primary. He was virtually unknown when he launched his campaign, but garnered attention with high-profile media appearances and a call for generational change in politics.

His fundraising prowess suggests he will be more than Democrats' flavor-of-the-month candidate — he topped former Vice President Joe Biden's haul and more than doubled the money raised in the second quarter by Sen. Kamala Harris, whose home state of California is the center of the Democratic fundraising

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universe. He's attracted high-dollar donors, including "West Wing" actor Bradley Whitford and "Glee" producer Ryan Murphy, and his grassroots events, with tickets as low as \$25, have drawn as many as 1,500 people.

Yet Buttigieg still faces questions about his experience and whether his appeal extends beyond wealthier donors and white voters.

"Ultimately you can raise all the money in the world but you need to figure out your pathway to win that nomination," said Doug Thornell, a Democratic strategist.

Buttigieg's biggest investment has so far been in Iowa, the overwhelmingly white state that kicks off the Democratic primary with a caucus on Feb. 3. The campaign has about 40 staffers on the ground there, more than it has in any other state, though Buttigieg's team acknowledges that the caucus structure — in which voters are asked to attend local meetings to support their candidate — requires more boots on the ground to organize.

Buttigieg spent the July 4 holiday barnstorming the state and plans three more visits there this month, according to his campaign.

At a parade in Storm Lake, Iowa, Buttigieg's reception was mixed. Dana Evans, who runs the local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter, greeted Buttigieg — who served in the Navy Reserve in Afghanistan — with an offer to ride in his group's truck if he got tired of walking the parade route. He said he was glad to see Buttigieg out meeting with the "little people" and hoped he'd return to the area to talk more about veterans' issues and national security.

But as Buttigieg walked the route with a group of mostly young volunteers, he remained unfamiliar to some in the crowd. One woman took a sticker from a volunteer then used it to type his name into her phone to find out who he was.

Carroll County Democratic Party Chairman Peter Leo said that's why it's important for Buttigieg to use his money to spend as much time in the state as he can. Leo introduced Buttigieg to the crowd gathered at a local park, where the candidate also took a turn at the grill and joined in a yard game tossing beanbags, often referred to as "bags."

"Iowans love their retail politics. They want to have a chance to ask a question directly, meet you in person, shake your hand and really get a chance to, you know, just size you up one-on-one," Leo said. "You know what I know about this area? They reward people who show their face."

Buttigieg's challengers get tougher as the primary calendar swings into the South, where black voters make up a significant share of the Democratic electorate. Buttigieg's support from black voters has been marginal, according to early polls, and may have been further damaged by the fatal shooting of a black man by a white South Bend police officer last month.

Antjuan Seawright, a South Carolina-based strategist, said Buttigieg must invest more in research and



In this July 4, 2019 photo, Democratic presidential candidate South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg speaks at the Carroll County Democrats Fourth of July Barbecue in Carroll, Iowa. Buttigieg has money _ far more than the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, expected to have at this stage of the Democratic presidential primary. Now he needs to turn that money into a formidable campaign to ensure his support from donors is matched by backing from voters.

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

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getting to know communities of color, whether it's face-to-face meetings or focus groups or polling, if he has any chance of winning the nomination or a general election.

"People don't know him. He doesn't have any connection to the African-American community here," Seawright said. "He's got to find out what's on their minds. The worst thing he can do, particularly in the African-American community, is assume he knows."

Buttigieg said he believes he can compete and beat expectations in South Carolina, and that his team there — which has been made up of just a handful of staffers — will grow, just as it will in other early states like New Hampshire, Nevada and California, which holds its primary in March but begins early voting weeks before that.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 7, the 188th day of 2019. There are 177 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 7, 1981, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating Arizona Judge Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1846, U.S. annexation of California was proclaimed at Monterey (mahn-tuh-RAY') after the surrender of a Mexican garrison.

In 1865, four people were hanged in Washington, D.C. for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln: Lewis Powell (aka Lewis Payne), David Herold, George Atzerodt and Mary Surratt, the first woman to be executed by the federal government.

In 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii.

In 1937, the Second Sino-Japanese War erupted into full-scale conflict as Imperial Japanese forces attacked the Marco Polo Bridge in Beijing.

In 1948, six female U.S. Navy reservists became the first women to be sworn in to the regular Navy.

In 1954, Elvis Presley made his radio debut as Memphis, Tennessee, station WHBQ played his first recording for Sun Records, "That's All Right."

In 1963, a Navy jet fighter from Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Pennsylvania crashed into a picnic area, killing seven people; the pilot, who ejected, survived.

In 1969, Canada's House of Commons gave final approval to the Official Languages Act, making French equal to English throughout the national government.

In 1975, the daytime drama "Ryan's Hope" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford and the first lady hosted a White House dinner for Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. The United States Military Academy at West Point included female cadets for the first time as 119 women joined the Class of 1980.

In 1990, the first "Three Tenors" concert took place as opera stars Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras performed amid the brick ruins of Rome's Baths of Caracalla on the eve of the World Cup championship.

In 2004, former Enron chairman Kenneth Lay was indicted on criminal charges related to the energy company's collapse. (Lay was later convicted of fraud and conspiracy, but died in July 2006 before he could be sentenced.)

Ten years ago: Some 20,000 people gathered inside Staples Center in Los Angeles for a memorial service honoring the late Michael Jackson, who was tearfully described by his 11-year-old daughter, Paris-Michael, as "the best father you could ever imagine." Britain unveiled a Hyde Park memorial to mark the fourth anniversary of the London transit system bombings that claimed 52 victims. Pope Benedict XVI called for a new world financial order guided by ethics, dignity and the search for the common good in the third encyclical of his pontificate.

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Five years ago: Washington state issued its first retail marijuana licenses. Pope Francis begged forgiveness in his first meeting with Catholics sexually abused by members of the clergy and vowed to hold bishops responsible for their handling of pedophile priests. Eduard Shevardnadze, 86, the Soviet Union's foreign minister who helped end the Cold War but then as Georgia's president was forced into retirement by parliament, died in Tbilisi.

One year ago: After two days of talks in North Korea's capital, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he had commitments for new discussions on denuclearization, but North Korea said Pompeo's visit had been "regrettable" and that the United States was making "gangster-like" demands.

Today's Birthdays: Musician-conductor Doc Severinsen is 92. Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough is 86. Rock star Ringo Starr is 79. Comedian Bill Oddie is 78. Singer-musician Warren Entner (The Grass Roots) is 76. Actor Joe Spano is 73. Pop singer David Hodo (The Village People) is 72. Country singer Linda Williams is 72. Actress Shelley Duvall is 70. Actress Roz Ryan is 68. Actor Billy Campbell is 60. Actor Robert Taylor is 59. Rock musician Mark White (Spin Doctors) is 57. Singer-songwriter Vonda Shepard is 56. Actor-comedian Jim Gaffigan is 53. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ricky Kinchen (Mint Condition) is 53. Actress Amy Carlson is 51. Actress Jorja Fox is 51. Actress Cree Summer is 50. Actress Robin Weigert is 50. Actress Kirsten Vangsness is 47. Actor Troy Garity is 46. Actress Berenice Bejo (BEH'-ruh-nees BAY'-hoh) is 43. Actor Hamish Linklater is 43. Olympic silver and bronze medal figure skater Michelle Kwan is 39. Rapper Cassidy is 37. Country singer Gabbie Nolen is 37. Actor Ross Malinger is 35. Actor-comedian Luke Null (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 29. Pop singer Ally Hernandez (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 26. Pop musician Ashton Irwin (5 Seconds to Summer) is 25. Country singer Maddie Marlow (Maddie and Tae) is 24.

Thought for Today: "Memory depends very much on the perspicuity, regularity, and order of our thoughts. Many complain of the want of memory, when the defect is in their judgment; and others, by grasping at all, retain nothing." — Margaret Fuller, American critic and social reformer (1810-1850).

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