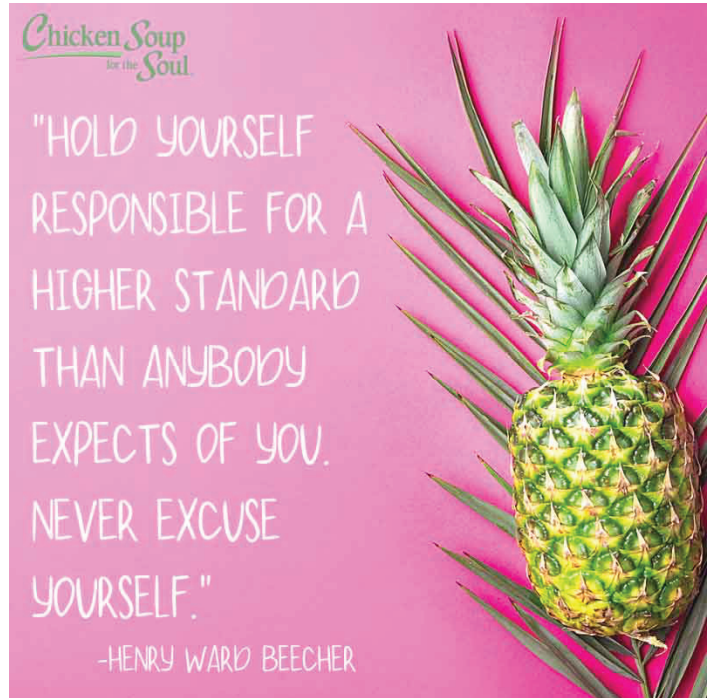


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It's Finally Back!

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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

August 5-18

State "B" Amateur Tournament at Mitchell

August 9-11

State Junior Legion Tourney in Groton

- Aug. 5..... First allowable day for soccer practice
- Aug. 12 First allowable day for FB/Golf practice
- Aug. 15 First allowable day for C-C/VB practice
- Aug. 20 Faculty Inservice
- Aug. 20 Open House / Picnic (5-7:30)
- Aug. 21 Faculty Inservice
- Aug. 22 1st Day of School

We need our farmers.

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

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

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

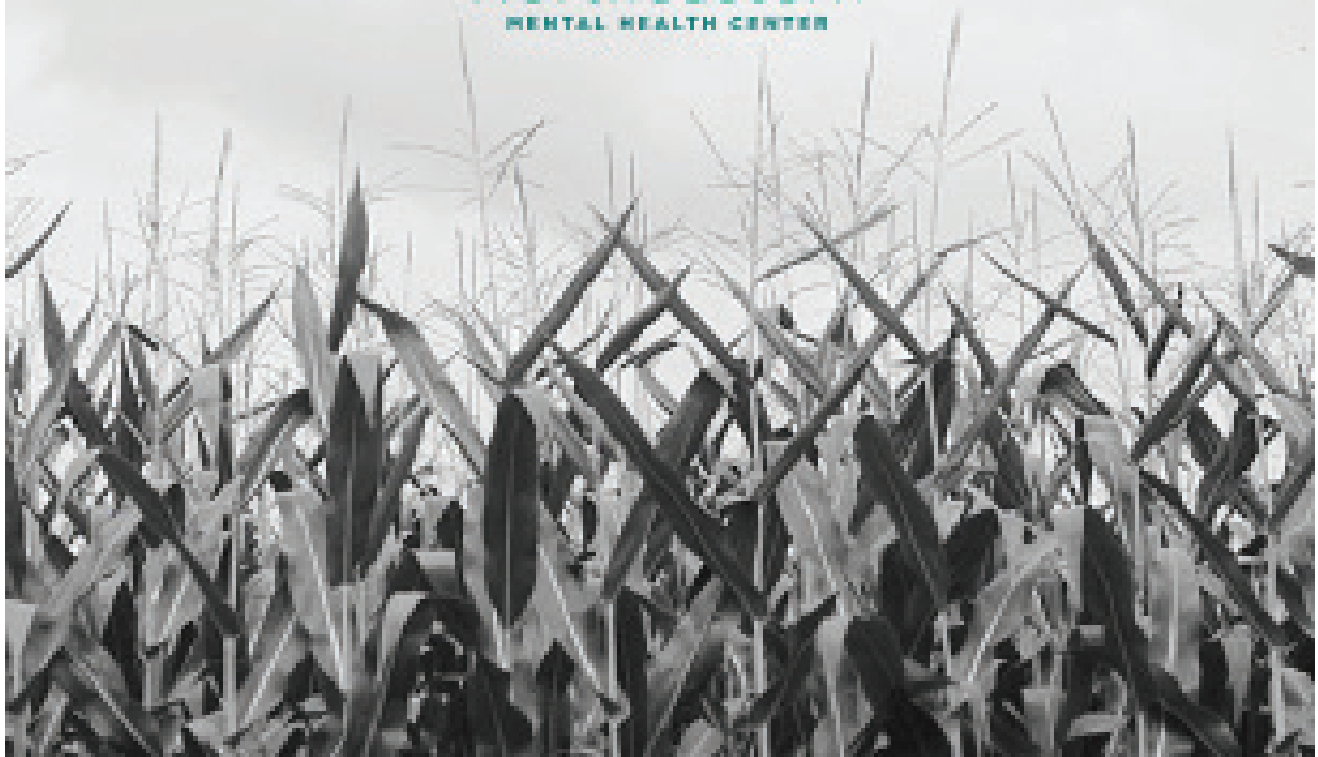
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

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



Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER





Virginia and Jerry Meadows (second and third people from the left) are pictured with some of the members of Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont. The Meadows attended church in Pierpont last night. On the left is Dan Riedl, and the three on the right are Jeff Snaza and Ole and Lorna Olson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Walking for \$10,000 for Wounded Warriors Project

Jerry Meadows is on a mission. His goal is to raise \$3,000 for the Wounded Warriors. So far, he has raised a little over \$1,000.

He started the last leg of this journey July 31 from Sisseton and will eventually end up in Aberdeen. His first walk raised over \$7,000. His goal is to ultimately reach \$10,000.

He is not alone on this journey. His wife of 27 years, Virginia, drives the Jeep with a USA Flag and Wounded Warriors flag mounted on the back. It has become a team effort. Jerry, at age 61, has to have an oxygen tank. "I really couldn't do this without her," Jerry said. "She makes sure my air tanks are properly full and that I drink tons of water."

Virginia used to be Jerry's home care nurse and that's where they met.

He known as the "Road Walker" for Wounded Warriors. When he first started walking earlier this year, he was known as the "Walking Dead" before that got changed to "Road Warrior" and now "Road Walker."

When he reaches Aberdeen, it will end the 310 mile trek, unless he does not meet his \$3,000 goal.

The Wounded Warrior walk was something that Jerry had been thinking about earlier this year. He said that his wife wanted to go on a vacation. So he pondered the idea. "She always wanted to go to Minnesota and she wanted to see Paul Bunyan and the Blue Ox." So they started driving to Bemidji. "I had to carefully plan this out," he said. He wanted to do a walk for Wounded Warriors. He cast the idea to his wife. When Virginia was asked what she thought about it, she said, "Do you really want me to tell you the truth?! I told him he was crazy!" When she was asked why she is along for the journey, she said, "I had

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to make sure he got back. And besides, it is for a good cause. We love our Vets."

On Jerry's birthday, March 14, the walk began at Bemidji. He said that reporters have told him that people 2/3 his age would never make the journey. But Jerry said that the journey was not about him. "It's about the Wounded Warriors." While the Veteran's Administration is funded with tax payer's dollars, Wounded Warriors is privately funded.

Jerry and Virginia recalled at one point in the trip where several Eagles were flying overhead for many miles. "An Indian legion says that when Eagles follow you, it's good luck," Virginia said. "They would fly overhead and go ahead of us by a couple of football field lengths," Jerry said. "When we would catch up with them, they fly above us again and ahead of us. It was awesome."

The money is used to help wounded warriors adjust to life and provide support for the families. "It helps them adjust to life after their injury," Jerry said. "It changes them. It's because of people like that where you have the freedom to preach behind the podium."

Jerry and Virginia attended church Saturday evening at Heaven Bound Ministries in Pierpont.

He got a couple of hours of walking in after church, heading south of Pierpont, then will head west on 12A and continue on US12 until he reaches Aberdeen.

When he reaches Groton, the Groton American Legion Post #39 is planning a small event where Jerry and Virginia will meet with some of the local vets. Jerry said he figured it would be sometime on Monday when he reaches Groton.

Jerry has established a motto during the trip. "Stop looking at your feet and start looking at the horizon." He said when you look at your feet, all you see is garble. When you look at the horizon, you see the beauty of God's creation."

Jerry said, "If you love America, relearn to love it again. There is so much see."

As Jerry reiterated several times. "It's not about me. It's about the Wounded Warriors. All of the money we raise goes to the Wounded Warriors program. That's what makes this a success."

You can donate by going to his website at: <https://bit.ly/2XK9SBf>

Or you can mail a check to: Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 758541, Topeka, Kansas 66675 - put "Road Walker" in the memo box on your check.

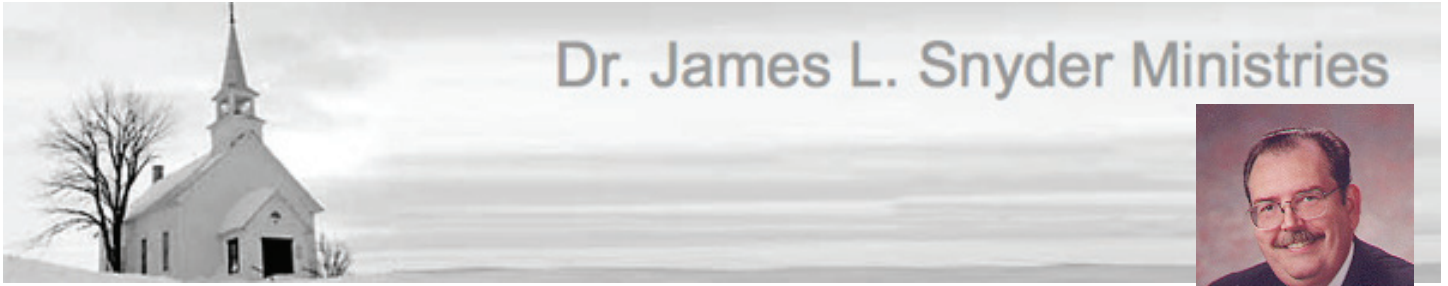
- Paul Kosel



Paul Kosel, pastor at Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont, is pictured with Virginia and Jerry Meadows. (Photo by Dan Riedl)

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And Then, There It Was

It is not that I do not like to travel; I just don't like to leave home. I am quite comfortable at home where I have everything I need within easy reach.

Sometimes I have to travel to a conference or something, which is rather inconvenient for me. However, as my friend used to say, "That's life."

According to my calculations, I would have to travel 13 hours to get to my destination. I pondered for a long time whether it was worth it or not. Then the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Go ahead. You need a break."

What she meant by "a break," was far from my comprehension at the time. I guess she needed a break from me, which is my personal opinion.

However, taking her advice I packed my bags and prepared for my trip on the road.

Early the next morning I loaded my vehicle and set out on my trip. I must say that driving by yourself and being alone does have its advantages. After the first hour or so, I lost track of what those advantages really were. Talking to myself is the most boring conversation I could ever have.

I got to my conference on schedule and moved into my hotel room. I had a few hours before the conference started so I was able to stretch out on the bed and relax.

Then I got up and went to the conference. For the next few days, I spent going to the conference and coming back to my hotel room. I will confess, if you promise not to tell anyone, I did have a good time and some wonderful fellowship.

The time came for me to pack up, get on the road again and go home. After packing my vehicle, I stood for a moment and sighed very deeply. Being as weary as I was, I was not looking forward to the long travel home.

In one of the towns I passed through, they had several signs. Normally I do not pay much attention to signs, but in this case, I was a little curious. After all, I was bored.

In the middle of this little town was a big sign that said "Watch the Children." I pulled over, parked my vehicle, rolled down the window and for the next 30 minutes I looked for the children. No children were around so how could I actually watch the children if there was no children? After all, there was a sign instructing me to watch the children.

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Finally, after finding no children to watch, I decided to get back in the saddle again and continue home. A few blocks later, I saw another sign, "Thrift Store in Rear." I did not even look! Nobody is going to trick me with that! I do fall for many things, but I do have my limit.

Hour past after hour and I was getting weary, I stopped at a few places to get something to eat. Nothing really appealed to my sagging appetite. Eating on the road can be a boring kind of activity. Of course, I went to the cheapest restaurants I could find, which may explain that.

After a while, one sandwich tastes like another sandwich and my tongue falls asleep.

Driving through one town, I realized I was in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. Therefore, with that in mind, I decided to stop at a good old time country restaurant. No better place for good food.

I sat down, looked at the menu and for once in my trip, I saw some things that attracted my appetite. Ordering a very nice lunch encouraged me a little bit, although I was still a little down and had a long way to go. I was weary in body and soul.

Finishing my meal the waitress came by and ask, "Sir, would you like some dessert?" Then she handed me the dessert menu. At the time, I was not hungry.

I took the menu opened it up, and then, there it was. All the hardships and boredom of my trip had come to a complete end. I could not believe what I was seeing on that dessert menu.

I could not remember how long it was since I had one of those desserts. But there it was! A slice of old-fashioned Amish shoofly pie. That got my heart thumping! There is no dessert quite like Amish shoofly pie.

Whoever invented the shoofly pie should get the Nobel Peace Prize. I know of no peace quite like a piece of shoofly pie.

"Have you decided on your dessert?"

I looked at the waitress and smiled like I had not smiled all week.

"I will have," I said as dignified as I could, "a piece of your shoofly pie."

"Good choice, Sir."

And boy, was it a good choice! I savored every bite of that shoofly pie. It made the rest of the trip a delicious delight.

Thinking of that pie was the great delight for the rest of my travel. I understood David when he wrote, "Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4).

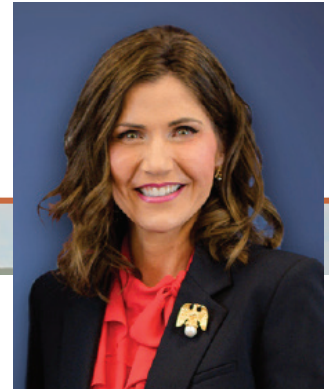
Oftentimes I get so busy that all I can think about is the task before me. I am learning that in the midst of the busiest of tasks I can experience a wonderful delight in the Lord.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Slowing the Spread of Zebra Mussels

It doesn't get much better than spending a summer day on a lake or river in South Dakota. Recreating on the water always seems to be the perfect backdrop for family memories and laughter. It's one of the great things about our state.

But when we launch our boats into the water, it's important to remember that we all have a role to play in keeping our waters safe and free from invasive species that wreak havoc on these favorite places.

A few weeks ago, my department of Game, Fish and Parks confirmed zebra mussels in Lake Sharpe near Fort Thompson. Zebra mussels are a small freshwater mollusk that attach to hard objects to live. The mussels reproduce rapidly and move quickly. They can clog irrigation lines and damage boat motors and docks. Their sharp shells can wash up on shorelines in large numbers making recreation difficult or even dangerous when taking your family to the beach for the day.

Right now, surface water infrastructure like water intakes or irrigation systems are more impacted than fisheries, and zebra mussels can be especially hard on water systems. In some areas of the country, they have been found in densities of over 700,000 individuals per square meter.

The mussels also have the potential to harm aquatic ecosystems. The species is a filter feeder that consumes plankton in water. Each individual is capable of filtering up to one liter of water per day, removing food for native mussels and fish.

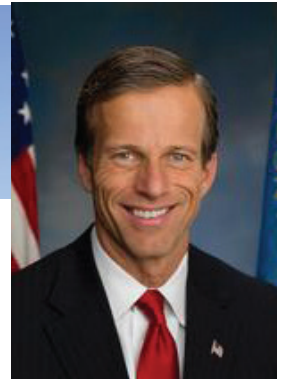
To minimize the spread of these creatures, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission has taken immediate action by adopting emergency rules to name Lake Sharpe and Lake Francis Case as containment waters to help mitigate the spread of the mussels. We're taking this issue very seriously, and as we work to determine the extent of the infestation, it is important for us all to recognize the role we play in combating the spread of these mussels.

The only way for mussels to move from lake to lake is if people accidentally carry them in or on their boats. Before too long, South Dakota waters will be at their peak water temperatures for young mussels, called veligers, to spread. If you're spending time on Lake Sharpe or Lake Francis Case, or any other body of water in South Dakota, make sure you pull your boat plug before launching and upon exiting the lake or river. It only takes one boater or angler who has forgotten to pull their plug or check their boat before and after launching to spread any type of aquatic invasive species. It's up to each of us to work together to protect our natural resource treasures.

If you are new to fishing or just bought a new or used boat, know the rules and ask questions if you are unsure of what you should be doing. Game, Fish and Parks staff are always there to help and are just a phone call away. If you don't think this impacts you, you're wrong. If you use South Dakota's lakes and rivers to boat, fish, hunt or for any other form of recreation, you need to care about the devastating impacts of aquatic invasive species. I don't want the next generation of anglers and boaters to have to solve this issue when we can do something about it today.

South Dakota's water bodies are here for all of us to enjoy – for today and for the next generation. We must all take care of them together.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Summer Road Trip

"Great faces. Great places." If you live in South Dakota or have traveled to the state, you've seen it on license plates and billboards, and some of you might have even had the catchy South Dakota Department of Tourism jingle ("Great faaaces. Great plaaaces. South Dakota!") stuck in your head at one point or another, too. If not, maybe you do now ...

It's a great slogan for a state that's home to the faces of Mount Rushmore and some of the best scenery in the United States, but it means more than just the obvious. South Dakotans – the faces that visitors encounter in communities large and small across the state – are some of the friendliest people in the world, and they play an integral role in showing off so many of the state's must-see tourist destinations like the Corn Palace in Mitchell, the Missouri River, the Badlands, Wall Drug, the Black Hills, the Crazy Horse Memorial, or Mount Rushmore, just to name a few. In my completely unbiased opinion, they all make South Dakota the best place to take your family on vacation or for a road trip.

I know how great South Dakota is – and so do you – but I thought it was important to share everything our state has to offer with my colleagues and the rest of the American people directly from the Senate floor. While I can't say this with 100 percent certainty, I would venture to guess that my recent reference to Tubby Burgers on the Senate floor – I'm looking at you, Brown County – was the first in Senate history. Anyone who's had a Tubby Burger, though, knows they deserve the Senate's undivided attention.

I commute to and from South Dakota nearly every week, but with the Senate having just begun its traditional August state work period, lawmakers like me get an extended stay back home, so bragging about South Dakota from the floor was a fitting end to this most recent Senate session. Having more time at home means more opportunities to travel to some corners of the state that are a little more difficult to get to between back-to-back weeks of voting in Washington.

Many of those opportunities revolve around fair season, and that means two things. First, some of the state's best events are right around the corner: The Sioux Empire Fair. The Turner County Fair. The Brown County Fair. The Central States Fair. Yankton Riverboat Days. And pow wows in tribal communities around the state. It also means food. Lots and lots of food. Ice cream at the fair in Parker. Pork sandwiches with the pork producers. Milkshakes at Dakotafest. And cheese curds at the state fair. Now that I'm thinking of it, I pretty much just eat my way across South Dakota in August.

Summer travel brings back a lot of memories for me. I distinctly remember traveling to the Black Hills with my family when I was a kid. We used to go out there for Labor Day, stay in this little non-air-conditioned cabin, and just glory in the outdoors. And as a parent myself, I have just as many memories traveling around the state with my girls, and now their kids, too.

How many miles is it from Wall Drug to Washington, D.C.? Way too many. So I'm looking forward to closing the gap this month and seeing all of the great faces and enjoying the great places that make South Dakota the best place to be, no matter the season.

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Bipartisan Budget Agreement Strengthens the Military and Supports Veterans

The Senate recently passed the Bipartisan Budget Agreement that was negotiated by President Trump and Congressional Leadership. I supported this legislation because it prioritizes spending for the military and for our veterans while simultaneously avoiding a default on our debt, taking steps to avoid an unnecessary and costly shutdown and ending the threat of sequestration for two years. The negotiators agreed that no “poison-pill” policy riders—partisan amendments offered by legislators that could kill the bill—could be attached to this agreement. Additionally, the agreement protects the Hyde Amendment which makes sure no taxpayer dollars go toward paying for abortions. At a time of divided government, no side gets everything it wants. While it’s not perfect, I believe both sides of the negotiating table recognized it is the best deal we could get.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I’ve repeatedly said that our budget must prioritize defense. When our founders drafted the Constitution, they made it clear that the only mandatory function of the federal government is national defense. The Constitution gives Congress certain authorities to take care of other matters, but Article Four, Section Four says the “United States shall guarantee to every State a republican form of government and shall protect each of them against invasion.”

If we can’t afford to defend ourselves, nothing else matters. The Budget Control Act of 2011 codified into law dramatic, arbitrary budget caps to our discretionary spending, which includes defense and federal agencies such as the Departments of Transportation, Veterans Affairs and Agriculture. The budget caps and threat of sequestration primarily impacted spending on our national defense. Since then, years of underfunding and budgetary uncertainty have resulted in our military falling behind our competitors in readiness and key capabilities. Former Defense Secretary James Mattis called sequestration more harmful to our readiness capabilities than what any enemy could do to us.

When we put our young men and women in harm’s way, we must make certain it is never a fair fight. We must make certain they have the best technology, tools and resources available to defeat our enemies and return home safely. The Bipartisan Budget Agreement helps accomplish that important goal.

I fully support measures to reduce our spending, such as a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, reducing unnecessary regulations, repealing costly legislation like Obamacare which took \$700 billion out of Medicare and eliminating duplicative or unnecessary federal programs like the Department of Education. But until we begin actively managing the biggest drivers of our debt—Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and interest on our debt—we will never be able to successfully drive spending down. These mandatory payments account for 70 percent of all federal spending in Fiscal Year 2019.

The Bipartisan Budget Agreement is the best possible deal we could get in a divided government and while working within our broken budget system. I’ll stand by my vote to support our military and veterans. I’ll also continue working on ways to limit federal spending that don’t prevent our armed forces from being able to do their job—defending our country.

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



America's Fight Against Addiction

Across America, opioids are ripping apart communities and families. After coming to Congress, my bipartisan freshman class made the decision to make addiction a primary focus, because combating the opioid crisis is one issue that all lawmakers can agree on. Addiction impacts families from all walks of life and I believe it is our government's responsibility to start finding solutions. Over the past two years, the Administration has secured more than \$6 billion to fight opioid abuse in our communities – but more must be done.

We also need to cut off opioid abuse at the source. In 2018, the Department of Homeland Security seized nearly 5,000 pounds of fentanyl. That's enough to kill every American four times over. When I traveled to the southern border it was obvious many of our drug-related issues begin at that crossing. In fact, seizures of fentanyl are up 265 percent over the last two years. It's not just coming from Mexico either – it's coming from China as well. China has failed to live up to their end of the bargain to stop the trafficking of fentanyl to the United States. Because of abuses by foreign actors, I signed onto the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, which imposes sanctions on foreign traffickers of illicit opioids, such as meth.

According to the Center for Disease Control, more than 48,000 people died from an opioid overdose from August 2017 to August 2018. Our providers have made great strides to prescribe alternative types of treatment for pain management, but there is more work to be done. That is why I cosponsored the Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act, which gives treatment providers the necessary access to substance abuse patients' medical records in order to assess risks and provide adequate and evidence-based care for patients.

This week, I visited Piya Mani Otipi, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Drug Treatment Center, to learn about their adult and youth addiction treatment programs. The death rate of Native Americans from opioid and meth overdoses is the highest of any racial demographic, highlighting the specific challenges Native American communities face to combat opioid and meth addiction. These statistics are deeply troubling, and we need to continue to partner with treatment centers, like the one in Rosebud, to find solutions. I'm encouraged the Administration is working with state and tribal leadership across the country to address the opioid crisis by providing \$1.5 billion in State Opioid Response grants.

As I travel throughout our state, there is not one day that goes by where I don't learn of another tragic, heartbreaking story of a family victimized by addiction. Often, these stories are about children – children not yet old enough to go to college, or even drive a car – whose parents are left with the unimaginable pain an overdose leaves behind. I feel an obligation to ensure our nation's future leaders aren't left behind in our fight against the opioid epidemic, so I worked with my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Rep. David Trone of Maryland, to introduce the Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act. This bill would allow colleges and universities to implement evidence-based programs to prevent alcohol and substance misuse on campus and support those with substance use disorders. Our colleges should have the tools necessary to stop drug abuse before it starts.

Opioid abuse and addiction isn't just a South Dakota issue – it's an American issue. I hope you'll join me in this fight.

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Today



Patchy Fog
then Mostly
Sunny

High: 87 °F

Tonight



Severe
Thunderstorms

Low: 66 °F

Monday



Chance
T-storms

High: 84 °F

Monday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 63 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny
then Chance
T-storms

High: 86 °F

SLIGHT RISK OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

WHAT

Severe thunderstorms could produce damaging hail in excess of 1 inch in diameter and damaging winds of 60 mph or higher.

WHERE

Mainly western and central SD, but severe weather is possible across the area.

WHEN

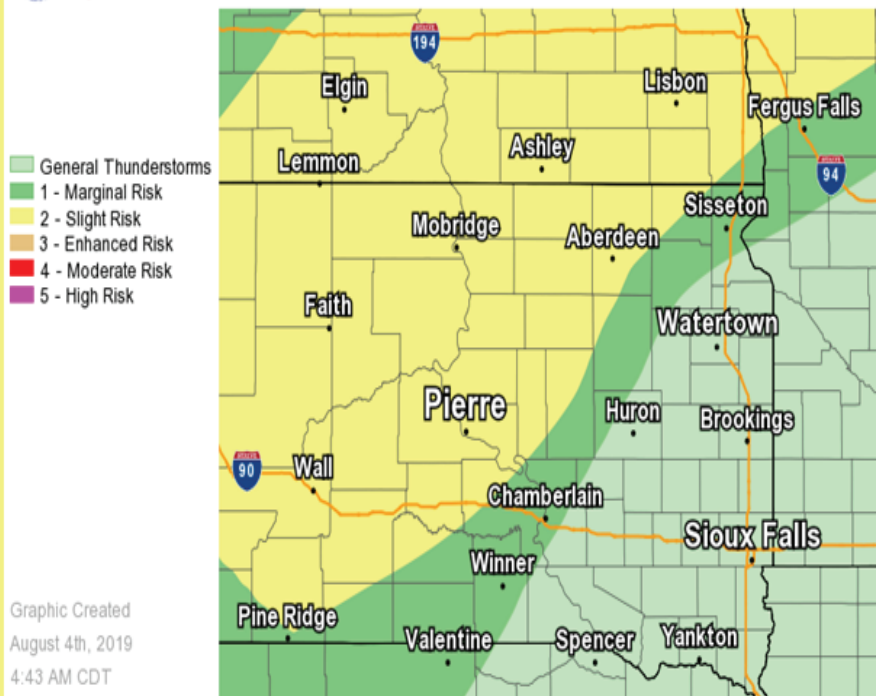
After 2 pm and into the early overnight hours.

ACTION

Pay close attention to the weather and be prepared to seek shelter if necessary.

ISSUED: 5:03 AM - Sunday, August 04, 2019

Today's (Sunday) Severe Weather Outlook



Published on: 08/04/2019 at 1:05AM

A frontal boundary will drop over the area later today and tonight, and will be the focus for shower and thunderstorm development. Some of the storms may be strong to severe, with large hail and gusty winds being the main threats.

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Today in Weather History

August 4, 1960: At Draper in Jones County, three-inch hail caused substantial damage to roofs, building windows and automobiles. Losses estimated at 100,000 dollars. About 1,000 chickens and turkeys killed on nearby farms.

August 4, 2000: Tennis ball size hail along with high winds caused a lot of damage throughout Selby. Many east and north windows were broken along with many vehicle's windshields. Also, many cars were dented, house siding was damaged, gardens were destroyed, and many acres of crops around Selby were destroyed. Softball hail broke windows and caused extensive damage to a few vehicles and homes west of Faulkton. Baseball size hail and high winds had broken out about every window on all of the buildings at the Brentwood Colony in Edmunds County. The large hail and strong winds also damaged many of the buildings.

1882 - A vivid aurora was visible from Oregon to Maine, down the east coast as far as Mayport FL, and inland as far as Wellington KS. Observers at Louisville KY noted merry dancers across the sky, and observers at Saint Vincent, MN, noted it was probably the most brilliant ever seen at that location. (The Weather Channel)

1930 - The temperature at Moorefield, WV, soared to 112 degrees to establish a state record, having reached 110 degrees the previous day. Widespread drought after April of that year caused some towns to haul water for domestic use, and many manufacturing plants were barely operational. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Spokane, WA, reached an all-time record high of 108 degrees. Kalispell, MT, set an all-time record with a reading of 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - A record forty-two consecutive days of 100 degree heat finally came to an end at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. July 1980 proved to be the hottest month of record with a mean temperature of 92 degrees. There was just one day of rain in July, and there was no measurable rain in August. There were 18 more days of 100 degree heat in August, and four in September. Hot weather that summer contributed to the deaths of 1200 people nationally, and losses from the heat across the country were estimated at twenty billion dollars. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought relief from the heat to a large part of the Midwest, while hot weather continued in the south central and eastern U.S. Morning thunderstorms in Nebraska deluged the town of Dalton with 8.71 inches of rain, along with hail three inches in diameter, which accumulated up to four feet deep near the town of Dix. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern Iowa to Lower Michigan during the afternoon and evening hours, producing golf ball size hail and spawning several tornadoes. A thunderstorm at Maquoketa, IA, produced wind gusts to 75 mph. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern Nebraska and northeastern Kansas to the Great Lakes Region, with 150 reports of large hail or damaging winds during the afternoon, evening, and nighttime hours. Thunderstorms produced tennis ball size hail at Claremont, MN, and wind gusts to 75 mph at Milwaukee, WI. Thunderstorms representing what once was Hurricane Chantal produced five inches of rain at Grant, MI, and deluged Chicago, IL, with more than three inches of rain in three hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2008: Severe storms moved across northern Illinois and Indiana with tornadoes and stiff winds reported. With tornado sirens blaring, the game at Wrigley Field between Cubs and Astros was stopped as fans were told to evacuate to the lower concourse. Passengers at O'Hare International Airport were evacuated to lower levels of buildings as well. An estimated 350 flights were canceled.

2009: The strongest tornado to hit Quebec since the same date in 1994 ripped through Mont-Laurier. The F2 tornado tore through the small western Quebec town severely damaging about 40 homes. Two men were taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 82 °F at 6:33 PM

Low Temp: 66 °F at 6:50 AM

Wind: 16 mph at 3:20 PM

Day Rain: 0.15

Record High: 107° in 1934

Record Low: 42° in 2017, 1978

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.23

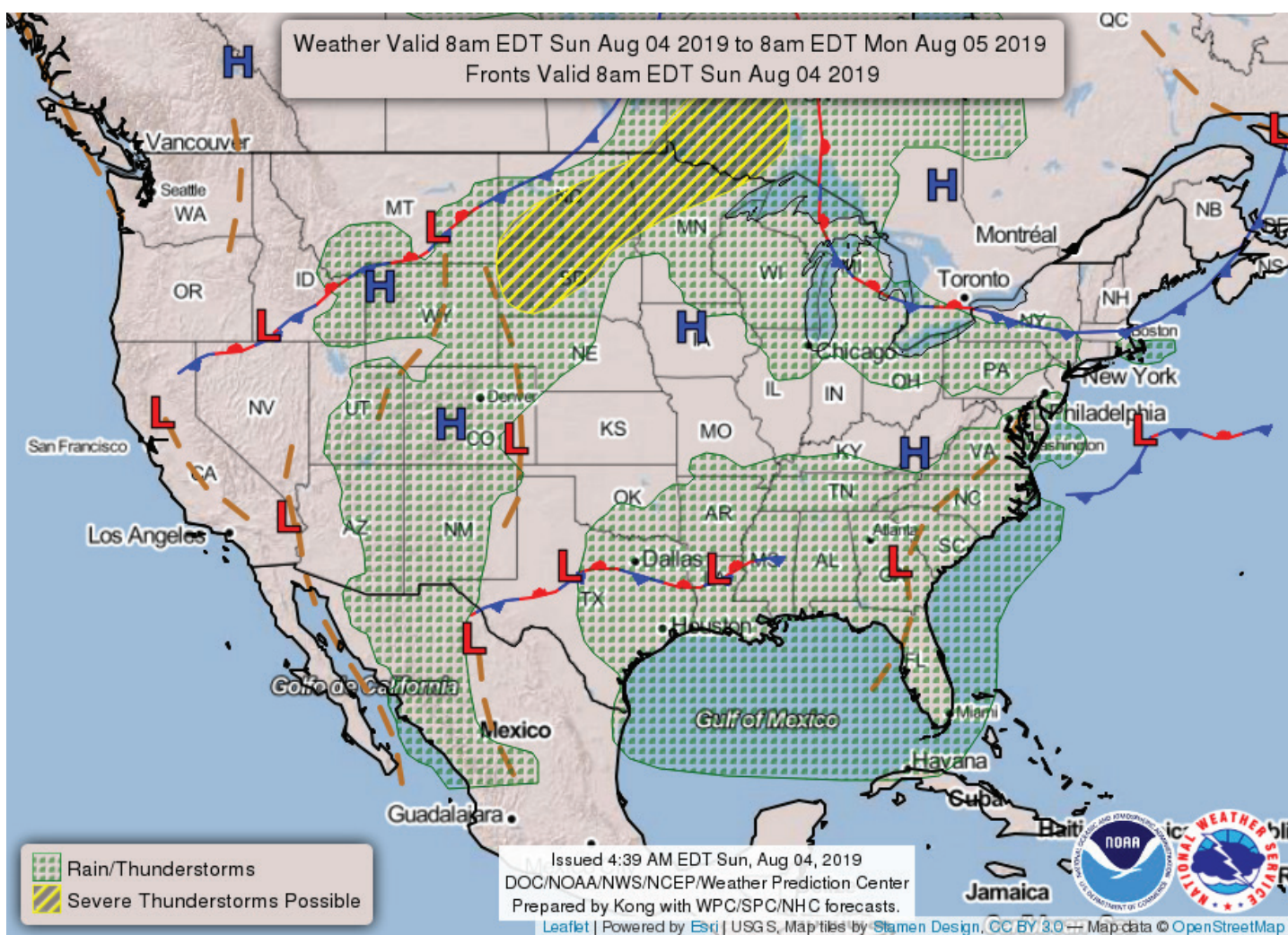
Precip to date in Aug.: 0.74

Average Precip to date: 14.09

Precip Year to Date: 17.33

Sunset Tonight: 8:58 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:22 a.m.



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HIDE AND SEEK

One of my favorite pastimes, when I was a child, was playing hide and seek with my neighborhood friends. It was always more fun to play at dusk when shadows from trees and buildings would provide secret places. The first one found from the previous round was always given the task to count while others hid from his sight. Then, the search began for those who were quietly hiding in places they thought were impossible to find. On occasion, someone would find a place that no one had thought of before and the one searching would have to give up and the game would start again.

God conceals His glory in much the same way. He does not do it in a malicious manner or play a game with us. Rather, it is His way of revealing His majesty and might, power and presence. He is always there doing something in some way. But it is not always obvious.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings, said Solomon. In fact, on a previous occasion, he said, The Lord has said that He would dwell in a dark cloud.

So, where does all of this leave us? Why would He not be obvious all of the time? Why does He hide from us at all? It is because He is above and beyond us though beside and within us anxious for us to seek and trust Him.

God is worthy of worship and wonder even when He cannot be seen, when dark clouds gather over us, and darkness surrounds us. Though we may walk through a valley filled with shadows, His light is always waiting for us when we walk by faith and trust in Him.

Prayer: Give us courage, Lord, to walk in faith when days are dark, nights long and lonely, and the journey difficult. Increase our trust when our hope turns to doubt. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 08/07/2019 Storybook Land Theatre Performace at Granary Rural Cultural Center
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/19/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbygerian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest

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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

03-10-12-18-28

(three, ten, twelve, eighteen, twenty-eight)

Estimated jackpot: \$51,000

Lotto America

08-18-27-41-43, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 2

(eight, eighteen, twenty-seven, forty-one, forty-three; Star Ball: ten; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.3 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$55 million

Powerball

03-06-45-66-68, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 2

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

Estimated jackpot: \$102 million

Sioux Falls man sentenced to prison for tax fraud

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former Sioux Falls business owner has been sentenced to two years in prison for tax fraud.

The Argus Leader reports 50-year-old Isaiah Rangel pleaded guilty to preparing false tax returns for more than a dozen customers.

He was sentenced Friday in federal court. Rangel also must pay more than \$46,000 in restitution to the IRS.

Rangel will spend his sentence at a medical facility because of health problems.

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

Woman accused of stealing money from safe reaches plea deal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A woman accused of stealing more than \$30,000 in cash from the Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety has reached a plea deal with prosecutors.

The Rapid City Journal reports Lorraine Yellow Boy is charged with larceny for allegedly stealing the money between October 2018 and March 2019.

Authorities say Yellow Boy was a former evidence technician for the tribe and allegedly stole the cash from the safe she was supposed to protect. They say she spent most of the money at a casino.

The crime carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison, but prosecutors say they will ask for a lighter sentence.

They say Yellow Boy has agreed to pay the money back.

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

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Law enforcement beefed up for Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is underway in the Black Hills of western South Dakota and local communities have beefed up law enforcement.

The Rapid City Journal reports law enforcement agencies in Meade and Pennington counties are hiring more officers, temporarily opening a second jail and keeping a courthouse open seven days a week.

The rally started Friday and runs through Aug. 11.

Sturgis Police Chief Geody VanDewater says officers are “already busy.”

VanDewater wouldn't say how many temporary officers he hires but said they come from South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, Minnesota and other states.

VanDewater says the most common issues officers deal with are illegal parking, followed by drunken driving and drug use.

Nearly half a million people attended last year's rally.

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

9 killed in Ohio in second US mass shooting within 24 hours

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Nine people in Ohio have been killed in the second mass shooting in the U.S. in less than 24 hours, and the suspected shooter is also deceased, police said.

Dayton police tweeted that an active shooter situation began in the Oregon District at 1 a.m., but that officers nearby were able to “put an end to it quickly.” At least 16 others were taken to local hospitals with injuries, police said.

The suspected shooter's identity has not been released.

Miami Valley Hospital spokeswoman Terrea Little said 16 victims have been received at the hospital, but she couldn't confirm their conditions. Kettering Health Network spokeswoman Elizabeth Long said multiple victims from a shooting had been brought to system hospitals, but didn't have details on how many.

With a population of around 140,000 Dayton is in western Ohio, around 55 miles (90 kilometers) north-east of Cincinnati, 75 miles (120 kilometers) west of Columbus and 120 miles (195 kilometers) east of Indianapolis. The Oregon District is a historic neighborhood near downtown Dayton that's home to entertainment options, including bars, restaurants and theaters. Police have not said where in the district the shooting took place.

The FBI is assisting with the investigation. A family assistance center will be set up at the Dayton Convention Center.

The Ohio shooting came hours after a young man opened fire in a crowded El Paso, Texas, shopping area, leaving 20 dead and more than two dozen injured. Just days before, on July 28, a 19-year-old shot and killed three people, including two children, at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in Northern California.

The El Paso shooting was the 21st mass killing in the United States in 2019, according to the AP/USATO-DAY/Northeastern University mass murder database that tracks all U.S. homicides since 2006 involving four or more people killed — not including the offender — over a short period of time regardless of weapon, location, victim-offender relationship or motive. That makes Sunday's shooting in Dayton the 22nd mass killed in the U.S. this year.

The first 20 mass killings in the U.S. in 2019 claimed 96 lives.

This story has been corrected to say the shooting took place around 1 a.m., not 1:22 a.m., per an update from Dayton police.

2020 Dems back gun limits after El Paso mass shooting

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and KATHLEEN RONANYE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Democratic presidential candidates expressed outrage Saturday that mass shootings have become chillingly common nationwide and blamed the National Rifle Association and its congressional allies after a gunman opened fire at a shopping area near the Texas-Mexico border.

"It's not just today, it has happened several times this week. It's happened here in Las Vegas where some lunatic killed 50 some odd people," Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders said as he and 18 other White House hopefuls were in Nevada to address the nation's largest public employees union. "All over the world, people are looking at the United States and wondering what is going on? What is the mental health situation in America, where time after time, after time, after time, we're seeing indescribable horror."

Sanders blasted Republican Senate leadership for being "more concerned about pleasing the NRA than listening to the vast majority of the American people" and said that President Donald Trump has a responsibility to support commonsense gun safety legislation.

At least 20 people were killed amid back-to-school shopping in El Paso. A 21-year-old man was taken into custody, law enforcement officials said.

Shortly after the shooting and before its death toll was widely reported, White House officials said Trump had been briefed while spending the weekend at his New Jersey golf club. He conveyed his initial reaction on Twitter, writing that the shooting was "terrible" and that he was in close consultation with state officials. He turned to other topics, tweeting a note of encouragement to UFC fighter Colby Covington, a Trump supporter, and retweeting two messages that furthered his argument that African Americans had flourished under his administration.

Later Saturday night, Trump tweeted condolences. "Today's shooting in El Paso, Texas was not only tragic, it was an act of cowardice. I know that I stand with everyone in this Country to condemn today's hateful act. There are no reasons or excuses that will ever justify killing innocent people. Melania and I send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the great people of Texas."

The shooting was personal for former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, an El Paso native who represented the city in Congress for six years. He suspended campaigning to fly home and "be with my family and be with my hometown."

Earlier, O'Rourke appeared shaken as he told the union forum he'd heard early reports that the shooter might have had a military-style weapon, saying the country needs to "keep that (expletive) on the battlefield. Do not bring it into our communities."

O'Rourke said the U.S. may require direct action, urgency and in some cases nonviolent civil disobedience, to make real change.

"I believe in this country. I believe, at the end of the day, we're going to be able to get this done," he



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks during an American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Public Service Forum in Las Vegas Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019. (Steve Marcus/Las Vegas Sun via AP)

said, "but it's going to be because of those people who force it to get done."

Former Vice President Joe Biden said he tried to call O'Rourke and told reporters, "Enough is enough."

"This is a sickness," Biden said. "This is beyond anything that we should be tolerating." He added: "We can beat the NRA. We can beat the gun manufacturers."

A visibly frustrated Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar said: "I believe that the NRA have long dominated American politics to the point where they have stopped sensible legislation that would have prevented deaths and prevented killings. They have done it time and time again."

Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, noted: "We are the only country in the world with more guns than people."

"It has not made us safer," he said. "We can respect the Second Amendment and not allow it to be a death sentence for thousands of Americans."

California Sen. Kamala Harris promised to use an executive action within her first 100 days of taking office to impose gun control. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker said, "This has got to be a movement, politics or not, we've got to make ending this nightmare a movement before it happens to yet another community or another person dies."

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren tweeted: "Far too many communities have suffered through tragedies like this already. We must act now to end our country's gun violence epidemic."

Associated Press writers Will Weissert in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in Bridgewater, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

20 dead, more wounded after gunman attacks Texas shoppers

By CEDAR ATTANASIO, MICHAEL BALSAMO and DIANA HEIDGERD Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A gunman armed with a rifle opened fire in an El Paso shopping area packed with as many as 3,000 people during the busy back-to-school season, leaving 20 dead and more than two dozen injured, police said.

Authorities are investigating the possibility the Saturday shooting was a hate crime, working to confirm whether a racist, anti-immigrant screed posted online shortly beforehand was written by the man arrested in the attack on the 680,000-resident border city.

Despite initial reports of possible multiple gunmen, the man in custody is believed to be the only shooter, police said. Two law enforcement officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity identified him as 21-year-old Patrick Crusius. Authorities didn't release his name at a news conference but said the gunman was arrested without police firing any shots and is from Allen,



From left, Melody Stout, Hannah Payan, Aaliyah Alba, Sherie Gramlich and Laura Barrios comfort each other during a vigil for victims of the shooting Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019, in El Paso, Texas. A young gunman opened fire in an El Paso, Texas, shopping area during the busy back-to-school season, leaving multiple people dead and more than two dozen injured. (AP Photo/John Locher)

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which is a nearly 10-hour drive from El Paso.

Many of the victims were shot at a Walmart, according to police, who provided updates about the shooting in English and Spanish in the largely Latino city. The shopping area is about 5 miles (8 kilometers) from the main border checkpoint with Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

"The scene was a horrific one," said El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen, adding that many of the 26 people who were hurt had life-threatening injuries.

The shooting came less than a week after a 19-year-old gunman killed three people and injured 13 others at the popular Gilroy Garlic Festival in California before dying of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Adriana Quezada said she was in the women's clothing section of the Walmart in El Paso with her two children when she heard gunfire.

"But I thought they were hits, like roof construction," Quezada, 39, said of the shots.

Her 19-year-old daughter and 16-year-old son threw themselves to the ground, then ran out of the store through an emergency exit. They were not hurt, Quezada said.

Relatives said a 25-year-old woman who was shot while apparently trying to shield her 2-month-old son was among those killed, while Mexican officials said three Mexican nationals were among the dead and six more were wounded.

Ryan Mielke, a spokesman for University Medical Center of El Paso, said 13 of the injured were brought to the hospital with injuries, including one who died. Two of the injured were children who were transferred to El Paso Children's Hospital, he said.

Eleven other victims ages 35 to 82 were being treated at Del Sol Medical Center, hospital spokesman Victor Guerrero said.

Residents quickly volunteered to give blood to the injured. President Donald Trump tweeted: "God be with you all!"

Democratic presidential candidate and former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke, who is from El Paso and was at a candidate forum Saturday in Las Vegas, appeared shaken after receiving news of the shooting in his hometown.

He said he heard early reports that the shooter might have had a military-style weapon, saying we need to "keep that (expletive) on the battlefield. Do not bring it into our communities."

El Paso Mayor Dee Margo said police were investigating whether a document posted online shortly before the shooting was written by Crusius. In it, the writer expresses concern that an influx of Hispanics into the United States will replace aging white voters, potentially turning Texas blue in upcoming elections and swinging the White House to the Democrats.

The writer also is critical of Republicans for what he described as close ties to corporations and degradation of the environment. Though a Twitter account that appears to belong to Crusius included pro-Trump posts praising the plan to build more border wall, the writer of the online document says his views on race predated Trump's campaign and that any attempt to blame the president for his actions was "fake news."

Though the writer denied he was a white supremacist, the document says "race mixing" is destroying the nation and recommends dividing the United States into territorial enclaves determined by race. The first sentence of the four-page document expresses support for the man accused of killing 51 people at two New Zealand mosques in March after posting his own screed with a conspiracy theory about nonwhite migrants replacing whites.

Margo said he knew the El Paso shooter was not from the city.

"It's not what we're about," the mayor said at the news conference with Gov. Greg Abbott and the police chief.

In the hours after the shooting, authorities blocked streets near a home in Allen associated with the suspect. Officers appeared to speak briefly with a woman who answered the door of the gray stone house and later entered the residence.

El Paso County is more than 80% Latino, according to the latest census data, and the city, where the mayor said tens of thousands of Mexicans legally cross the border each day to work and shop, has become

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a focal point of the immigration debate. Trump visited in February to argue that walling off the southern border would make the U.S. safer, while city residents and O'Rourke led thousands on a protest march past the barrier of barbed wire-topped fencing and towering metal slats.

O'Rourke stressed that border walls haven't made his hometown safer. The city's murder rate was less than half the national average in 2005, the year before the start of its border fence. Before the wall project started, El Paso had been rated one of the three safest major U.S. cities going back to 1997.

Heidi Beirich, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project, said the El Paso shooting suspect wasn't on her group's radar before the shooting. "We had nothing in our files on him," Beirich wrote in an email.

The shooting was the 21st mass killing in the United States in 2019, and the fifth public mass shooting. Before Saturday, 96 people had died in mass killings in 2019 — 26 of them in public mass shootings.

The AP/USATODAY/Northeastern University mass murder database tracks all U.S. homicides since 2006 involving four or more people killed, not including the offender, over a short period of time regardless of weapon, location, victim-offender relationship or motive. The database shows that the median age of a public mass shooter is 28, significantly lower than the median age of a person who commits a mass shooting of his family.

Since 2006, 11 mass shootings — not including Saturday's — have been committed by men who are 21 or younger.

___ Balsamo reported from Orlando, Florida, and Heidgerd from Dallas. Associated Press writers Martha Irvine in Chicago; Eric Tucker and Michael Biesecker in Washington, D.C.; Michael Kunzelman in Silver Spring, Maryland; Michelle L. Price in Las Vegas; Jeff Karoub in Detroit; and Jake Bleiberg in Allen, Texas, contributed. AP data editor Meghan Hoyer also reported from Washington, D.C.

First of 2 Hong Kong rallies underway after clashes, arrests

By YANAN WANG
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — The first of two planned protests in Hong Kong on Sunday kicked off from a public park just hours after police said they arrested more than 20 people for unlawful assembly and other offenses during the previous night's violent demonstrations.

Light rain fell on the demonstrators who had parasols at the ready. Since Occupy Central protests in 2014, umbrellas have been a prime symbol of the city's pro-democracy movements.

Hong Kong police said they arrested more than 20 people suspected of crimes including unlawful assembly and assault after confrontations between protesters and authorities continued deep into Saturday night.

Police said some violent protesters hurled petrol bombs, bricks, glass bottles and other objects at officers and refused to disperse at the pre-



A man carries an umbrella as protesters take part in the anti-extradition bill protests march in Hong Kong, Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019. Hong Kong police said Sunday that they arrested more than 20 people for unlawful assembly, assault and other offenses after confrontations between protesters and authorities continued deep into the night.

(AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

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approved location on Saturday.

A peaceful pro-democracy rally devolved after protesters ignored police appeals to stick to the designated route, instead splintering off to various locations across Hong Kong's northern Kowloon area. Some blocked streets and a major tunnel while others surrounded two different police stations, damaging vehicles parked inside one lot.

The demonstrators committed arson at various locations, at one point pushing a burning trash bin toward officers, police said in a Sunday statement. In a different neighborhood, according to police, protesters hurled fireworks and broke windows on residential buildings, threatening residents' safety.

Residents in one neighborhood, however, banded together with protesters and surrounded a police station, yelling at riot police to leave.

Hong Kong has been rocked by nearly two months of mass demonstrations. They began as protests against a now-suspended extradition bill, but have since ballooned into broader calls for greater democratic rights and government accountability. A central demand of the largely leaderless movement is an independent investigation into alleged police abuse, including tactics used against protesters and the authorities' response to a mob attack in a commuter rail station that left 44 people injured.

A second rally also was expected later Sunday ahead of a general strike on Monday.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China under the framework of "one country, two systems," which promises the city certain democratic freedoms not afforded to the mainland. In recent years, Hong Kong residents have accused the Communist Party-ruled central government in Beijing of increasingly encroaching on their liberties. The arrests of Hong Kong booksellers and activists have fed these fears.

During the rally Saturday, some protesters scaled a flag pole, removed the Chinese flag and flung it into the iconic Victoria Harbour.

Former Hong Kong Chief Executive C.Y. Leung offered 1 million Hong Kong dollars (\$127,720) to members of the public who can provide information about the person who threw the flag into the water.

The act will provoke "enormous resentment from the entire nation," said Leung, who was plagued by the same calls to resign that current leader Carrie Lam is now confronting.

Sister: El Paso shooting victim, 25, 'gave her life' for son

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A 25-year-old woman who was shot while apparently shielding her 2-month-old son was among the 20 people killed when a gunman opened fire in a crowded El Paso shopping area, her sister said.

Leta Jamrowski, 19, of El Paso, learned Saturday afternoon that her sister Jordan Anchondo had been shot to death at Walmart while shopping for back-to-school supplies earlier in the day. Jamrowski spoke to The Associated Press as she paced a waiting room at the University Medical Center of El Paso, where her 2-month-old nephew was being treated for broken bones — the result of his mother's fall.

"From the baby's injuries, they said that more than likely my sister was trying to shield him," she said. "So when she got shot she was holding him and she fell on him, so that's why he broke some of his bones. So he pretty much lived because she gave her life."

Anchondo was the mother of three children.

Jamrowski spent the night desperately awaiting word of whether her brother-in-law, Andre Anchondo, had survived the attack that also wounded more than two dozen.

"They said that if he were alive, more than likely he would have gotten in contact by now," Jamrowski said.

In the hospital lobby, Mexican consular officials tracked the wounded and missing. El Paso, which has about 680,000 residents, is in West Texas and sits across the border from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, in the state of Chihuahua.

Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said three Mexicans were killed in the shooting. He tweeted Saturday that he sends "condolences to the families of the victims, both American and Mexican."

Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said six Mexicans also were wounded in the shooting, including 45-year-old Mario de Alba Montes, 44-year-old Olivia Mariscal Rodríguez and 10-year-old Erika de Alba Mariscal. Ebrard says the man and woman are from Chihuahua. He said the other three wounded Mexicans, whose names weren't given, were two men and a woman from Torreón, in Coahuila state, and Ciudad Juárez.

Beto O'Rourke, a Democratic presidential candidate and an El Paso native, held a news conference on a street corner opposite the hospital as the sun set, recounting his visit with wounded victims, including a woman who had a bullet pass through her lungs.

"I told them that I am so amazed at how strong they are," the former U.S. congressman said.

Ryan Mielke, a spokesman for University Medical Center of El Paso, said 13 people were brought to the hospital with injuries, including one who died. Two of the injured were children who were being transferred to El Paso Children's Hospital, he said. Eleven other victims were being treated at Del Sol Medical Center, hospital spokesman Victor Guerrero said. Those victims' ages ranged from 35 to 82, he said.



A woman sits next to a sign with a message that reads: "No More Guns! Make Love", in Juárez, Mexico, Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019, where people are gathering for a vigil for the 3 Mexican nationals who were killed in an El Paso shopping-complex shooting. Twenty people were killed and more than two dozen injured in a shooting Saturday in a busy shopping area in the Texas border town of El Paso, the state's governor said. (AP Photo/Christian Chavez)

Cummings urges Trump to 'come to Baltimore'

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

BALTIMORE (AP) — Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings took the high road Saturday, inviting President Donald Trump and other Americans to visit Baltimore but declining to respond in kind to the barrage of presidential tweets and comments disparaging him and the majority-black city he has long represented.

"We are a great community," Cummings, the chairman of the powerful House Oversight committee investigating the administration, said in his first public remarks about the controversy as he participated in the midday opening of a small neighborhood park near his home.

Community leaders and residents gathered to cut the ribbon on a pocket of greenery and flowers, built from what had been a vacant lot often used as a dumping ground for trash.

"Come to Baltimore. Do not just criticize us, but come to Baltimore and I promise you, you will be welcomed," he said.

Cummings said he doesn't have time for those who criticize the city where he grew up but wants to hear from people willing to help make the community better. He noted the outpouring of support he has received, thousands of emails, and the presence at the event of leaders from the University of Maryland's medical center, foundations and businesses. He wore a hat and polo shirt of Under Armour, the popular apparel maker headquartered in Baltimore.

Asked directly by reporters afterward if there would be a meeting with Trump, the congressman said

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he'd love to see Trump in the city.

"The president is welcome to our district," he said.

In a weeklong series of attacks, Trump called the Baltimore district a "rat and rodent infested mess" and complained about Cummings, whose district includes key parts of the city.

The president widened his attack on other cities he did not name but complained are run by Democrats. His comments were widely seen as a race-centered attack on big cities with minority populations.

Cummings' comments Saturday came at another pivotal juncture for the administration, as half of House Democrats now say they favor launching an impeachment inquiry against Trump. It's a threshold that pushes renewed focus on the issue, even though House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has declined to move ahead with proceedings unless there is a greater groundswell, including in public opinion.

Cummings, whose committee is one of the six House committees investigating the Trump administration, said Saturday he was not yet ready to support impeachment.

"There may well come a time when impeachment is appropriate," he told reporters. But for now, he said, he agrees with Pelosi's approach and said that his committee would continue its investigations. "I'm trying to be fair to him," he said. "That's why we need to do our research."

Under sunny skies, with a light breeze, the neighborhood situated in a historic part of West Baltimore offered another view of a city that struggled long before Trump's disparaging tweets, a once-gilded American seaport now confronted with other problems.

Leaders from the community spoke of the region's historic segregation in housing and how that legacy impacted neighborhoods.

Cummings recounted the city's famous residents, including the late Thurgood Marshall, a justice of the Supreme Court, and Ta-Nehisi Coates, a noted black scholar who testified recently in Congress on reparations for slavery. The congressman also gave a nod to his own family's history, his parents arriving from a Southern state, to build a better life for their children, and his ascent from the community to law school and the halls of Congress for two decades.

To residents, especially young people, he said, "Let no one define you."

Residents said they were heartened by the attention being paid to Baltimore, and they too urged the White House to consider the way the president's comments may land in a community.

Jackie Cornish, a founder of the Druid Heights community development corporation more than 40 years ago, said she hoped Trump and Cummings could put their collective power together and work for the good of the city. While she feels the president has "disrespected our congressman as well as disrespected our city," she also said: "We still respect our president. As long as he's president, we're trying to lift him up."



Congressman Elijah Cummings walks to his car after speaking about Baltimore at the grand opening of the McCullough Street Nature Play Space in West Baltimore on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019. Cummings on Saturday invited President Donald Trump and other Americans to Baltimore, taking the high road after a barrage of presidential tweets disparaging the black-majority city and its long-serving Democratic congressman. (Kim Hairston /The Baltimore Sun via AP)

Amos Gaskins, who lives across the street from the park and stepped out to greet Cummings, said the congressman has been through "a lot" and added, "He's doing a great job, a beautiful job."

"We're not what you call a dirty city and a dirty people," Gaskins said. "Donald Trump shouldn't have said that. That's uncalled for."

Impeachment summer? August town halls may decide next steps

By LISA MASCARO, MIKE CATALINI, DENISE LAVOIE and
DAVID EGGERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Freshman Democratic Rep. Andy Kim came face to face with impeachment fervor at a town hall in New Jersey. "Do your job!" shouted one voter.

Several states away, a woman held up a copy of special counsel Robert Mueller's report and told freshman Rep. Elissa Slotkin at a Michigan town hall she hoped she would "be the person that puts us over the top to start an impeachment inquiry."

And in Virginia, newcomer Rep. Abigail Spanberger encountered voters with questions, if not resolve, about impeaching President Donald Trump.

"I don't have blood dripping from my fangs for or against impeachment," said David Sussan, 70, a retired postal inspector from Chesterfield, who favors starting an inquiry. "I just want the truth to come out."

It's these freshman lawmakers, and others like them, who will likely decide when, if ever, House Democrats start formal efforts to impeach the president.

Neither Kim, nor Slotkin, nor Spanberger supports impeachment. But with half the House Democrats now in favor of beginning an inquiry, the pressure will only mount on the holdouts to reach a tipping point. And with lawmakers returning home to voters during the August recess, what happens next may prove pivotal.

The pro-impeachment group Need to Impeach is running television ads. Along with activists from other groups, it's also fanning out to congressional districts to push lawmakers, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to move more swiftly toward impeachment proceedings.

The organization's lead strategist, Kevin Mack, says his counsel to lawmakers, especially those new freshmen who took over formerly Republican-held seats, is to ignore the campaign consultants and party strategists, and "do what you think is right" about Trump.

"You can't really make the argument he's the most corrupt president in American history and not hold him accountable," he said. "Either you think what he's doing is OK or you hold him accountable."

For lawmakers, though, the calculus is not so simple. Voters in many of these districts helped elect Trump in 2016, but flipped to give Democrats control of the House in last year's election. Many of the first-term Democrats already face challengers for 2020 and are trying to balance the divergent views in their districts.



Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., talks with a constituent after a veterans event on Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, at the Ingham County Fair in Mason, Mich. Slotkin, who flipped the 8th Congressional District by defeating a Republican incumbent in 2018, has not backed an impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump. (AP Photo/David Eggert)

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While some voters want impeachment, others have different priorities.

New Jersey lawmaker Kim, a former national security official, told some 80 voters at a town hall in Riverside to remain even-keeled and to trust in the investigative process that House Democrats are pursuing.

"I don't think getting caught up in the knife fighting and name calling is going help us get out of this pit," Kim said.

That caused some from the crowd to retort that pursuing impeachment wasn't "knife fighting" but part of the Constitution.

"Just do the investigation into impeachment," said Marianne Clemente, of Barnegat. "Just so that we're doing something" to show Trump he'll be held accountable, she said. "If we let him get away with this, we can kiss our democracy goodbye."

Some of the loudest applause from the audience came when one constituent stood up and said Trump was "destroying our country."

Another voter said the congressman's focus on other issues, like health care, was like "cutting the grass while the house is on fire."

In Spanberger's Virginia district over the past week, she, too, fielded several questions about her stand on the impeachment inquiry as she crisscrossed the region for town halls.

When she was asked about it in Culpeper, Spanberger told voters that she helped block an impeachment bill based on Trump's racism because she did not believe that qualifies as "high crimes and misdemeanors" set out by the Constitution.

"My opinion and stance has long been that I believe in facts and evidence," she said. "As long as the investigations are continuing, and we see my colleagues are continuing to gather information, I am watching very closely."

Democrat Ron Artis, a retiree, seemed satisfied with the new congresswoman's approach.

"If she was to come out without having enough people behind her, that stuff is suicidal," he said.

And when Michigan lawmaker Slotkin faced the questioner armed with Mueller's report, she told those gathered at the store in Mason about two recent moves by House Democrats that she sees as important — the special counsel's testimony and House subpoenas of the Trump administration.

"I'm open to where this goes," Slotkin said. "But I think that it is important that we do it in a way that communicates clearly what we are intending. And we do it in a way that doesn't forget about the other part of our job, which is to legislate."

One of those attending the event, Army veteran Joshua Johnson, 41, of Webberville, expressed some skepticism about impeachment and said Congress should keep investigating.

"I don't know that impeaching the president is going to be a good thing," he said. He worries the 2020 election is right around the corner, and any impeachment proceeding won't get done "in time to make a difference."

He added, "I think it might hurt more than it helps. ... It probably splits people worse."

Pelosi has made it clear she has no plans to press toward impeachment without a groundswell of support on and off Capitol Hill.

The speaker, who was herself a newer congresswoman during Bill Clinton's impeachment and rejected calls to impeach George W. Bush during her first speakership, is not eager for Democrats to take on such a politically, emotionally fraught issue alone.

So far, Pelosi's effort to cater to the frontline freshmen appears to be holding House Democrats in line. Even though she gave lawmakers a greenlight after Mueller's testimony to speak their minds on impeachment, and dozens of lawmakers announced their support for starting an inquiry, it's still nowhere near the 218 votes Pelosi would need to pass legislation in the House.

The holdouts will likely determine what Pelosi does next.

___ Catalini reported from Riverside, N.J.; Lavoie from Chesterfield, Va.; Eggert from Mason, Mich. Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman in Culpeper, Va., and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington contributed to this report.

Sanchez, Astros throw combined no-hitter against Mariners

By KRISTIE RIEKEN AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — After losing 13 decisions in a row with Toronto, Aaron Sanchez was looking for a fresh start and a way to turn things around in his move to the Houston Astros.

But even with their history of improving the performance of pitchers, it would have been hard to imagine his Houston debut would go this well Saturday night.

Sanchez looked like a reinvented pitcher, throwing six stellar innings to start the Astros on a combined no-hitter in their 9-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

"It's hard to come to a team and feel like you can contribute right away when they're already so good," Sanchez said. "So for tonight to end the way it did, these guys coming in behind me and doing their part, too ... I'm so happy."

Sanchez was an All-Star in 2016 and led the American League in ERA, but he'd struggled badly this season and was leading the majors with 14 losses. However, three days after he was acquired from the Blue Jays at the trade deadline, the 27-year-old right-hander teamed with Will Harris, Joe Biagini and Chris Devenski to shut down Seattle.

"Just trying to have a good first impression," said Sanchez, pulled by manager AJ Hinch after 92 pitches.

It was the second time in less than a month the last-place Mariners were no-hit by multiple pitchers. The Los Angeles Angels used two in a combined no-hitter July 12 against Seattle on a night when they honored late left-hander Tyler Skaggs by all wearing his No. 45 in their first home game since his death.

Sanchez (4-14) kept the Mariners off balance with a steady stream of fastballs in the low-to-mid 90s (mph) coupled with slow curves that often froze batters for strikes as he worked with veteran catcher Martin Maldonado, picked up by Houston in a trade with the Chicago Cubs earlier in the week.

"He certainly wasn't dominating anybody coming into the game, so we expected to do a lot more against him and just weren't able to get it done," Seattle manager Scott Servais said.

Hinch was glad the baggage of Sanchez's struggles in Toronto didn't follow him to Houston.

"I don't carry the burden of the early-season losses for him because he wasn't with us," Hinch said. "I am proud of him for containing his energy and containing his excitement. ... I feel so good for him because he was able to channel that inner energy that he has and deliver a huge start. He really did step onto this team and provide a great first impression."

After six sparkling innings, Sanchez was replaced by Harris to start the seventh in a move Hinch called a "no-brainer."

"I get the dilemma and obviously it kind of hits you in the stomach a little bit, but my responsibility is to take care of him, take care of our team, take care of our pursuit to win the division," Hinch explained.

Harris and Biagini, also obtained from the Blue Jays in the same deal that netted Sanchez, each worked one inning before Devenski tossed a perfect ninth. He retired All-Star slugger Daniel Vogelbach on a routine fly for the final out, setting off an Astros celebration on the field after the club's 12th no-hitter.



Houston Astros starting pitcher Aaron Sanchez stretches on the mound during the sixth inning of the team's baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019, in Houston. (AP Photo/Eric Christian Smith)

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Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan, who threw one of his record seven no-hitters for Houston, was at Minute Maid Park to see this one.

"This is awesome," Sanchez said, adding: "You can't write it up any better than this."

Sanchez struck out six, walked two and hit a batter with a pitch in his first victory since April 27 for Toronto. He had been winless in 17 consecutive starts.

Hinch patted Sanchez on the chest after he finished the sixth, and pitching coach Brent Strom offered a hearty handshake.

With the Astros' impressive history of improving the performance of pitchers they acquire, Hinch was asked recently what they would do to help Sanchez get back on track.

"We don't have magic dust," Hinch said. "There's a lot of people in the organization that go to work to try to find the one thing that can unlock people's potential."

Sanchez was a first-round draft pick of the Blue Jays in 2010 and went 15-2 with a 3.00 ERA over 30 starts in 2016. He was excited for his fresh start in Houston but also grateful for his time and opportunity with the Blue Jays. The pitcher took out a full-page ad in the Toronto Sun on Saturday to thank the team and city for their support throughout his career.

Sanchez plunked Omar Narváez with two outs in the first inning and retired the next nine batters before walking Vogelbach with two outs in the fourth. Ryan Court hit a soft grounder with two outs in the fifth but first baseman Yuli Gurriel fielded it and tossed to Sanchez, who dashed to first base just in front of Court for the third out.

Sanchez walked Mallex Smith with one out in the sixth, then retired the next two batters.

Harris walked Domingo Santana with one out in the seventh, but J.P. Crawford grounded into a double play.

Mike Fiers pitched the previous no-hitter for Houston against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Aug. 21, 2015. That gem came in his third start with the Astros, just 23 days after they obtained him in a trade, and it was his first career complete game.

Houston used six pitchers in a combined no-hitter at Yankee Stadium in 2003.

Besides the Angels' combined effort, Fiers has the only other no-hitter in the majors this season, for Oakland on May 7 against Cincinnati.

Michael Brantley had three hits and four RBIs. Jose Altuve homered for the Astros.

Marco Gonzales (12-9) allowed eight hits and four runs in five innings as the Mariners fell to 1-11 against the AL West leaders this season.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mariners: RHP Felix Hernandez, out since May 12 with a strained right shoulder, pitched two perfect innings for Class A Everett on Friday, and Servais said Hernandez will likely throw about 45 pitches in his next rehab game.

Astros: C Robinson Chirinos was out of the lineup for a third straight game with soreness in his right shoulder.

HEY, WHERE YA GOING?

Houston pitcher Gerrit Cole was irked that some fans got up to leave in the ninth inning and yelled at a few of them who were near Houston's dugout as they headed toward the exits.

"A couple of people were kind of surprised or whatever, but I just don't think everybody was aware of what was going on," he said. "I certainly wouldn't leave. But if you want to leave, you can leave. I'm not telling you to stay or leave, I just hope that you know that it was a no-hitter."

UP NEXT

Mariners: Seattle will use an opener Sunday but Servais hadn't yet said who it will be. After that, LHP Tommy Milone (1-5, 4.39 ERA) will make his 14th appearance of the season.

Astros: RHP Justin Verlander (14-4, 2.73 ERA) allowed two hits and struck out 13 in seven innings of a 2-0 victory over Cleveland last time out to win his fourth straight decision.

___ More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Law, Reed, Mawae, Bowlen, Brandt, Robinson, Bailey in hall

By BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — What a defensive backfield in gold jackets: Ed Reed, Ty Law and Champ Bailey.

And what a challenge they had throughout their careers, trying to cover fellow inductee Tony Gonzalez.

All four entered the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday night.

"Fitting to be in here with Mr. Johnny Robinson and Champ and Ty," Reed said. "My DBs know it was always about us."

Sort of. But Gonzalez, like Bailey elected in his first eligible year, showed how pro football could be all about the tight end.

A six-time All-Pro, Gonzalez helped revolutionize the position, lining up in traditional tight end spots as well as flanked out or in the backfield — pretty much everywhere on the field. Then he beat many of those defensive backs everywhere on the field in 12 seasons with Kansas City and five with Atlanta. He stands second in receptions with 1,325 only to Jerry Rice.

His final totals included 15,127 yards receiving and 111 touchdowns in the regular season. He made 14 Pro Bowls and the NFL All-Decade Team of the 2000s.

He particularly thanked his 101-year-old grandmother, his wife, who he said doesn't like football, and the fans in KC. Gonzalez was one of the most popular players in the entire league for those 17 seasons.

"After I was traded, I went back to play a game in Kansas City," he recalled. "During pregame they introduced me, which I thought was very special. Then something happened, one of the greatest moments of my career: The fans began yelling for me."

While Gonzalez, now a broadcaster, delivered a smooth speech until his eyes welled up when addressing his mother, Bailey, Reed and Law's voices frequently broke during theirs.

Law spoke of his family's support, and his hometown, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, which also produced his uncle, Tony Dorsett, and Mike Ditka — both Hall of Famers.

"I know there ain't no crying in football," Law joked.

"We are a community built on love, strength, struggle, and that Quiptown pride," he said. "We did it, Aliquippa. We are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame."

Law became the first inductee from New England's standout defense that won three Super Bowls in the early 2000s. One of the most versatile and physical cornerbacks the NFL has seen, Law was selected for five Pro Bowl teams and was a two-time All-Pro. He finished with 53 career interceptions, twice leading the NFL in that category, had more than 800 tackles, 169 passes defensed, five sacks, and scored seven times.

Perhaps Law's most noteworthy game came in the 2002 Super Bowl, when his hard-hitting style upset Rams receivers and threw off the "Greatest Show on Turf." That was emblematic of his attacking style — and soon after led to rules changes limiting how physical defenders could be against receivers.

Reed was just as big a playmaker for Baltimore, a safety who fellow enshrinee Ray Lewis called "a gift" to the Ravens and himself. He was elected in his first year of eligibility, just as Lewis was last year, and called



Former NFL player Champ Bailey touches a bust of himself during the induction ceremony at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019, in Canton, Ohio. (AP Photo/Ron Schwane)

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for unity in America, setting a standard like a team's — each pushing one another toward an achievement. "Help each other, encourage each other, lift each other up," Reed said. "Encourage those around you. Encourage yourself."

Reed, a five-time All-Pro safety and member of the NFL 2000s All-Decade Team, was the 2004 Defensive Player of the Year and made nine Pro Bowls. He had 64 career interceptions, seventh overall; led the NFL in picks three times; and his 1,590 yards on interception returns is a league mark. His 13 non-offense TDs rank fifth all time.

In 2013, in his hometown of New Orleans, the Ravens won the Super Bowl.

Bailey played for Washington and Denver in his 15-year career, and was a force in each of those seasons. He intercepted 54 passes, including one against New England he returned for 100 yards in the 2005 divisional playoffs.

A 12-time Pro Bowler, a record for the position, and three-time All-Pro who made the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 2000s, Bailey was the seventh overall draft pick by the Redskins in 1999. He was dealt to Denver in 2004 for running back Clinton Portis in a steal for the Broncos.

Bailey credited Hall of Fame cornerbacks Darrell Green and Deion Sanders, mentors with the Redskins, for setting his foundation in the pros. Yet he noted he was "consumed by the game" that "gives a person discipline and perseverance," but it doesn't prepare you for "real life."

Referring to his fellow African Americans, Bailey asked that everyone listen "when we tell you about our fears. ... When we tell you there are many challenges we face because of the color our skin, please listen. And please do not get caught up in how the message is delivered.

"If we start listening, there is no limit to the progress we can make."

Inducted earlier were Kevin Mawae, Pat Bowlen, Johnny Robinson and Gil Brandt.

Mawae never betrayed the lessons he learned when he first began playing football — flag football, no less.

"I learned to love the preparation, the plays and the puzzle," Mawae said. "I loved putting on my uniform and cleats. I learned to never step on the field without being ready to work."

Mawae was an outstanding center for three NFL teams, and a key union force during the 2011 lockout of players. His leadership, along with his talent and determination, made him a three-time All-Pro and eight-time Pro Bowler with the Seahawks, Jets and Titans, and the center on the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 2000s.

Offensive lineman rarely should be judged by statistics, but consider that Mawae blocked for a 1,000-yard rusher in 13 of his 16 seasons — by five different running backs, capped by the NFL's sixth 2,000-yard rushing performance, by Tennessee's Chris Johnson in 2009, Mawae's final season.

Mawae, who was presented by his wife, Tracy, is the first player of Hawaiian descent and the second Polynesian member of the hall, following the late Junior Seau. His speech paid warm tribute to his family and the inspiration and love they provided him.

"I knock on this door and I tell all of you," he concluded in his speech, "I am home."

Bowlen's Denver Broncos made more Super Bowls (seven, winning three) than they had losing seasons. Under Bowlen's leadership, Denver went 354-240-1 from 1984 through last season. He was the first owner in NFL history to oversee a team that won 300 games — including playoffs — in a span of three decades.

On the league level, the highly respected Bowlen, who died in June, worked on several influential committees, including co-chairing the NFL Management Council and working on network TV contracts such as the league's ground-breaking \$18 billion deal in 1998.

Bowlen once said the Hall of Fame is where legends go. He's now there, with his children huddling around the bust on the stage, several of them patting it on the head.

Brandt has been in the NFL so long he scouted Robinson. Brandt was procuring talent for the Dallas Cowboys in their initial season of 1960 when Robinson came out of LSU as a running back and eventually became a star safety.

Finally, in 2019, they are wearing gold jackets.

"After all this time, I thought I had been forgotten," Robinson said. "To receive that knock on the door

... was surreal to me.”

Brandt paid tribute to his true calling: talent evaluation.

“What you do in securing talent is the lifeblood of football,” he said. “Seeing that player that was something special ... or going to a D-3 campus and finding a diamond in the rough. I want all of you to look at my election into the Hall of Fame as a tip of the cap to you.”

For six decades, Brandt has been involved in the sport at a high level, from personnel director with the Cowboys to league consultant to draft guru to broadcaster.

Brandt, who was enshrined as a contributor, developed the Dallas scouting system that emphasized computers far before most other teams; scouted the historically black colleges and small colleges for talent; made signing undrafted free agents a science; and worked with Hall of Famers Tex Schramm, the team president, and coach Tom Landry, to build a dynasty.

Robinson’s induction makes for a half-dozen members of the great Kansas City Chiefs’ defense of the 1960s who have been enshrined. Robinson joins Willie Lanier, Bobby Bell, Buck Buchanan, Emmitt Thomas and Curley Culp.

Robinson was passed over six times during the 1980s, but got in as a seniors committee nominee. He’s one of 20 players to play all 10 seasons of the AFL, made 57 interceptions, went to seven Pro Bowls, received all-league recognition five times and was chosen to the AFL’s all-time team.

He mentioned what his father told him before he headed to his first training camp after being the third overall draft choice in the AFL.

“Be a gentleman when you win, be a man when you lose,” Robinson said, “if you lose, be sure that you work harder so it won’t happen again.”

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

Democrats tussle over health care at Nevada labor forum

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Democratic presidential candidates’ tussle over health care reform continued Saturday as they pitched themselves to Nevada union members, with former Vice President Joe Biden declaring he’s “against any Democrat who wants to get rid of Obamacare” and Sen. Kamala Harris saying no Democrat should be on the debate stage without a plan to cover everybody.

They were among 19 candidates speaking at a forum held by the nation’s largest public employees union in the state that will cast the first votes in the West in next year’s primary. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents 1.6 million workers nationwide, and the candidates made their cases for why their plans would be the best for union workers in addition to discussing other key union



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaks during a candidate forum on labor issues Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

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issues such as raising wages and expanding collective bargaining rights.

Harris, who has introduced a version of "Medicare for All" that would allow closely regulated private plans, said she developed it in part by consulting with organized labor.

"I've been listening to a lot of folks in labor who have said to me, 'look, we negotiated contracts where we've given up wages for these health care benefits and under the Medicare for All plan we would lose them or we would be certainly in fear of losing them,'" she said. She added she chose to phase her plan in over 10 years because "that will allow for at least two cycles of organizing and negotiating contracts."

Her remarks about Democrats without a plan to cover everybody were surely aimed at Biden, whose campaign says his plan would cover 97 percent of people. Earlier in the day Biden raised his voice as he defended former President Barack Obama's health care overhaul law, saying supporting it helped Democrats win key seats in the 2018 election.

Meanwhile Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who authored a Medicare for All bill, said guaranteed government health care will allow unions to be free to "sit down and negotiate decent wage increases." Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who also backs Medicare for All, tried to redirect attention to the Trump administration's efforts to have federal courts declare the entire Affordable Care Act law unconstitutional.

"When we talk about the great debate right now in health care, it's not Democrats versus Democrats. It's Democrats versus Republicans. Republicans want to take away health care from tens of millions of people in this country and they're actively still trying to do it," Warren said.

The day's remarks were yet another indication that health care has emerged as one of the clearest dividing lines for the massive Democratic field, and one of several where Biden has tried to paint his rivals as criticizing Obama's legacy.

Former Obama Cabinet secretary Julian Castro, who recently sparred with Biden on immigration, said it's not an attack on Obama to acknowledge Democrats can do better. He said the Obama administration improved over time by decreasing the number of deportations, but also said Democrats should have made immigration reform a priority when they controlled Congress early in Obama's presidency.

"There are lessons that we can learn," Castro said. "This is not about criticizing President Obama, this is about 'OK, what does the next administration have to do?'"

Beyond health care, most candidates pledged labor would play a strong role in their administration and said they'd work to allow government employees to collectively bargain following Nevada's recent law giving that power to state workers. Many candidates pledged to boost taxes on the wealthy to pay for things like expanded child care and decreasing college debt.

Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey said he'd give people who work at home taking care of disabled family members a tax credit, while Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said union workers should be helping build clean cars and other new technology to fight climate change.

The union has not decided if it will endorse in the Democratic primary but will take its time considering because they've "got a lot of friends in the race," President Lee Saunders said.

The candidates packed in events around the Las Vegas area over the weekend in a nod to Nevada's status as the third state where Democrats will vote in the primary, just after Iowa and New Hampshire and before South Carolina. Despite Democrats largely sweeping the state in 2018, it remains a battleground where President Donald Trump sees a chance of winning next year. He lost the state in 2016 to Democrat Hillary Clinton by 2 percentage points.

Other candidates who spoke Saturday included: Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, billionaire activist Tom Steyer, author Marianne Williamson, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, Rep. Tim Ryan of Ohio, Sen. Michael Bennett of Colorado, Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Ind., and former Reps. John Delaney of Maryland and Beto O'Rourke of Texas.

Trump administration pushes to speed up migrant family cases

By AMY TAXIN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rosita Lopez said armed gang members demanded money from her and her partner at their small grocery store on the Guatemalan coast and threatened to kill them when they couldn't pay. When her partner was shot soon afterward, they sold everything and fled north.

Lopez was eight months pregnant when the couple arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border last year with their 1-year-old daughter. Just over a year later, an immigration judge in Los Angeles heard her case, denied her asylum and ordered her deported.

"I'm afraid of going back there," she told the judge.

The decision for 20-year-old Lopez — who now has an American-born baby — was swift in an immigration court system so backlogged with cases that asylum seekers often wait years for a hearing, let alone a ruling on whether they can stay in the country.

But her case is one of 56,000 in a Trump administration pilot program in 10 cities from Baltimore to Los Angeles aimed at fast-tracking court hearings to discourage migrants from making the journey to seek refuge in the United States. The administration selected family cases in those cities from the past 10 months.

Immigration lawyers who often complain that it takes too long to get a court date said the new timetable is too fast to prepare their clients to testify and get documents from foreign countries to bolster their claims.

"The families that are all ready to go and desperate, ready with counsel, have survived multiple atrocities can't seem to get before the judge, and others who seem to need time to get their cases together, they're pushing through without due process," said Judy London, directing attorney of the immigrant rights' project at Public Counsel, a pro bono law firm in Los Angeles.

The program is one way the Trump administration is seeking to curtail the arrival of tens of thousands of Central American families each month on the U.S.-Mexico border, many seeking asylum. Federal courts have blocked several efforts to limit asylum for the families, including rules that would prevent most migrants from seeking asylum in the U.S. if they passed through another country first.

Speeding up court hearings aims to prevent migrant families from setting down roots while they wait to find out whether they qualify for asylum.

Immigrants can get permits to work legally in the United States once their asylum applications are pending before a judge for six months, which many with fast-tracked cases won't get to do, lawyers said.

The goal is to "disincentivize families — where an overwhelming majority of cases don't qualify for relief, but instead end with removal orders — from making the treacherous journey to the United States," Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a statement.



In this Wednesday, June 12, 2019 photo, Ammala Mingsouan embraces family outside the building that houses Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Atlanta Immigration Court after being released from ICE custody, in Atlanta. Mingsouan's mother Littun Saenbouttaith, right, said she had not seen him for 24 years. (AP Photo/Andrea

Smith)

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Immigration courts aim to complete the fast-tracked cases within a year, James McHenry III, director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, wrote in a November memo.

From September to June, the Department of Homeland Security tracked 56,000 cases it wants heard more quickly, according to data from the office, which runs immigration courts. Most cases are pending, but about one in five of those immigrants failed to show up for a hearing and was ordered deported, the data shows.

That was more common in some places. Only 4% of immigrants on the so-called family unit docket in San Francisco didn't show up for court and got deportation orders, compared with a third of immigrants on that docket in Atlanta, the data shows.

A recent immigration enforcement operation announced by President Donald Trump aimed to track down and arrest families facing such deportation orders. While agents targeted about 2,100 people, they arrested about three dozen.

The families' cases are moving much quicker than usual through immigration courts, which have nearly 900,000 cases that have been pending for an average of two years, according to data from the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University.

Immigrant advocates have long complained the backlog prevents asylum seekers from starting their lives in the U.S. and bringing family to join them.

It wasn't immediately clear how the immigration courts could hear the fast-tracked cases so quickly. But the U.S. has hired more immigration judges in recent years to try to reduce the backlog.

In Los Angeles, some immigration judges who used to hear cases of immigrants held in now-shuttered detention facilities are assigned to family cases.

At a recent hearing, Judge Tara Naselow-Nahas gave families filing asylum claims three months until their final court dates.

At another, Judge Frank Travieso urged immigrants appearing for the first time to find an attorney for their next court date in a month. He went over the parents' names and addresses and those of their children squirming beside them — a smiling 7-year-old boy, a 9-year-old girl with a red hair bow, and half a dozen others.

He then reviewed the rest of his 46-case calendar. A few families who didn't receive a hearing notice were sent another. Fourteen people who didn't attend court — half of them children — were ordered deported.

Bernal Ojeda, an immigration attorney who represented Lopez, said he doesn't know if more time would have helped her case. Lopez presented photos of her partner's gunshot wounds, and the judge questioned why he didn't tell Guatemalan authorities about the gang.

Ojeda said Lopez won't appeal and will return to Guatemala, where her partner was already deported, and resettle far from the town where they were threatened.

Asylum seekers who appeal wind up staying much longer while their cases are reviewed. But the timeline means little to those seeking protection in the U.S., said Joshua Greer, an immigration attorney in Los Angeles.

"They're not looking at how long was it between the first hearing and the pleadings and the individual hearing," Greer said. "Their question is detained, or not detained, and sent back or not sent back — and that's it."

3 family members killed in California sea cliff collapse

ENCINITAS, Calif. (AP) — Three women killed when a Southern California sea cliff collapsed were members of a family gathered on a beach to celebrate one of them having survived breast cancer, authorities and relatives said Saturday.

Anne Clave, 35, and her mother, Julie Davis, 65, died at hospitals after tons of sandstone were unleashed Friday at Grandview Beach, the San Diego County Medical Examiner said. A family email obtained Saturday by KNSD-TV identified the third victim as Elizabeth Cox, Clave's aunt.

The victims were part of a family gathering celebrating Cox surviving breast cancer, the email said.

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Cox died instantly at the scene, the email said. Her age wasn't given.

Clave "enriched the lives of all those around her with the joy and fun she brought to all," the email said, and Davis was an "incredible grandmother."

The three women leave behind spouses, children, and many members of their extended families, the news station reported.

"The nature of the accident and the loss is incomprehensible to all of us, our children and those around us," the email said.

Officials on Saturday reopened much of the popular surf beach that was closed following the tragedy.

Encinitas Lifeguard Capt. Larry Giles said a lifeguard was posted near the collapse zone, which is still marked by yellow caution tape. Someone left a bouquet of flowers on a nearby rock.

A 30-foot-long slab of the cliff plunged onto the sand Friday afternoon north of downtown San Diego.

Geologists were on scene Saturday assessing the area around the collapse zone. Homes on top of the cliff were in no immediate danger, Giles said.

A lifeguard reported feeling and hearing the thud as the dense dirt landed on the beach.

"It just happened to take place outside his peripheral (vision)," Giles said, noting that the lifeguard had his eyes trained on the water.

Lifeguards and beachgoers scrambled to the towering pile of debris — estimated to weigh tens of thousands of pounds — to help search for victims.

"I saw first responders, and I saw lifeguards frantically digging people out of the debris," Jim Pepperdine, who lives nearby, told the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Pepperdine said he saw people trying to resuscitate a woman before her body was covered.

The woman died at the scene, and two more people later died at hospitals. Another person was taken to a hospital, and a person who had minor injuries was treated at the scene, officials said.

Authorities said they were all adults.

Search dogs were brought in to hunt for other possible victims, and a skip loader was used to move the dense, heavy debris. No other victims were found.

Suburbs north of San Diego have long contended with rising water levels in the Pacific Ocean that pressure bluffs along the coast. Some are fortified with concrete walls to prevent multimillion-dollar homes from falling into the sea.

Long stretches of beach in Encinitas are narrow strips of sand between stiff waves and towering rock walls. People lounging on beach chairs or blankets are sometimes surprised as waves roll past them and within a few feet of the walls.

Grandview Beach can be reached by wooden stairs from a parking lot above. It is fairly narrow, with tides high this week. Surfers often lay their boards upright against the bluff.

Cliffside collapses are not unusual as the ocean chews away at the base of the sandstone, authorities



Search and rescue personnel work at the site of a cliff collapse at a popular beach Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, in Encinitas, Calif. At least one person was reportedly killed, and multiple people were injured, when an oceanfront bluff collapsed Friday at Grandview Beach in the Leucadia area of Encinitas, authorities said.(AP Photo/Denis Poroy)

said. Some beach areas have been marked with signs warning of slide dangers.

Several people have died or been injured over the years in bluff collapses.

Bluffs give way four to eight times a year in Southern California, but "nothing of this magnitude," said Brian Ketterer, southern field division chief of California State Parks.

"This is a naturally eroding coastline," Giles said. "There's really no rhyme or reason, but that's what it does naturally."

Moscow police detain more than 800 at protest, monitor says

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Police in Moscow cracked down hard on an unsanctioned election protest for the second weekend in a row Saturday, detaining more than 800 people at a rally against the exclusion from city council contests of some independent and opposition candidates, an arrest monitoring group said.

Election officials rejected signatures several candidates needed to qualify for next month's local ballot. The decision tapped dissatisfaction with a political environment dominated by the Kremlin-aligned United Russia party, in which dissenting voices are marginalized, ignored or repressed.

The OVD-Info organization, which tracks arrests in Russia, said 828 people were detained Saturday.

The Russian Interior Ministry said the number was about 600 in a crowd of about 1,500 protesters, although police are widely believed to understate crowd estimates for opposition events.

The detentions came a week after authorities arrested nearly 1,400 people at a similar protest.

Lyubov Sobol, one of the excluded candidates and a driving figure of the current wave of protests, was among those detained. She was grabbed by police in central Moscow and hustled into a police van, loudly demanding to know why she was being held.

Demonstrators were aiming to hold a march along the Boulevard Ring, which skirts central Moscow and is a popular locale for people to walk around, despite repeated warnings that police would take active measures against a protest.

Helmeted riot police lined the route and started seizing demonstrators from a scattered cluster on Pushkin Square and pushing them back from another square further along the route.

Some of the detentions were harsh, including one young bicyclist who was beaten with truncheons as he lay on the pavement still straddling his bike. Some other detainees appeared nonchalant, smirking or checking their phones as police led them to buses.

The demonstrations dissipated after about four hours as a steady, cold rain began falling.



Police officers try to detain protestors during an unsanctioned rally in the center of Moscow, Russia, Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019. Moscow police detained more than 300 people Saturday who are protesting the exclusion of some independent and opposition candidates from the city council ballot, a monitoring group said. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

Once a local, low-key affair, the September vote for Moscow's city council is now emblematic of the division within Russian politics and the Kremlin's ongoing struggles with how to deal with strongly opposing views in its sprawling capital of 12.6 million people.

In the past month, the issue has provoked a surprisingly large outcry for a local election. On July 20, about 20,000 people turned out for a demonstration that was the largest in the city in several years.

On Saturday, about 2,000 people attended another rally in St. Petersburg supporting the Moscow protests, the local news site Fontanka.ru reported.

The Moscow city council, which has 45 seats, is responsible for a large municipal budget and is now controlled by the pro-Kremlin United Russia party. All of its seats, which have a five-year-term, are up for grabs in the Sept. 8 vote.

Also Saturday, Russia's Investigative Committee announced it was opening a criminal case against the Foundation for Fighting Corruption, headed by the Kremlin's most prominent foe Alexei Navalny. The committee said the organization was suspected of receiving funding that had been criminally acquired.

Navalny is serving 30 days in jail for calling last week's protest. The head of the foundation also is jail in connection with that protest.

This story has been corrected to show there were 2,000 protesters at the St. Petersburg crowd, not 3,000.

ID theft stings, but it's hard to pin on specific data hacks

By ANICK JESDANUN AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Equifax 2017. Marriott 2018. Capital One 2019.

Data breaches through hacking attacks are distressingly common these days, and personal details about you can lead to identity theft, such as credit cards and loans in your name. But it's hard to pin the blame on any specific hack, as the most sophisticated criminals combine data from multiple attacks to better impersonate you.

"That's why fraud can be emotionally challenging," said Kyle Marchini, a specialist in fraud management at the financial research group Javelin. "It just comes out of the blue, and there's no way to identify where it came from or what I could have done to prevent that."

While the number of reported breaches decreased slightly last year to 1,244, according to the nonprofit Identity Theft Resource Center, the total number of records exposed more than doubled to 447 million. That suggests hackers are focusing on larger organizations with bigger payoffs. Last year's figures include data on about 383 million . Marriott guests in a breach that investigators suspect was tied to the Chinese government.

Criminal rings often buy datasets from multiple hacks to commit fraud. The idea is to collect enough information to get past ID verification and authentication checks that banks and other institutions employ. One database with your Social Security number might have your old address, but hackers can simply sub in your current one from a more recent database.

"We're in this vicious cycle," said Eva Velasquez, the ID theft center's CEO. "We create and capture and use more and more data points about a specific individual in order to fight fraud and authenticate people. That, in turns, makes data more valuable to the thieves, so they are going to increase the efforts to get that data."

Fraudulent card charges are relatively easy to reverse, and U.S. law limits credit card liability for consumers. But fraud involving new accounts is tougher to deal with.

Javelin estimates that the average victim spends 18 hours dealing with the fallout, including convincing collection agencies and credit-ratings agencies that the accounts weren't really theirs. And victims wind up spending hundreds of dollars out of pocket. Javelin estimated that more than 3 million U.S. adults were victims of new account fraud last year, nearly triple the number in 2013.

Much of the increase can be attributed to the cumulative effect of data breaches and the types of information stolen.

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While credit card numbers and passwords can be changed, birth dates and Social Security numbers typically stay with you for life. And U.S. passport numbers stick around for 10 years. Hackers in the 2017 breach of credit monitoring firm Equifax got some or all of that from 147 million people. Equifax agreed last week to pay at least \$700 million to settle lawsuits.

Just a few days later, the bank Capital One disclosed a breach of personal information of 106 million Capital One credit card holders or applicants in the U.S. and Canada. The data included self-reported income, credit scores and account balances. Although Capital One said it doesn't believe the information was used for fraud, the breach further increases worries about leaked data — in this case, the very types of information needed to submit credit card applications.

"Every breach increases the risk because different pieces of information come out," said Deepak Patel, a vice president at the security firm PerimeterX.

Beyond financial applications, personal data can be useful for telemarketing and email phishing scams, as fraudsters try to trick you by claiming they already know you. And criminals armed with such data can impersonate you on calls with financial institutions to get money transferred or a mailing address changed.

You can take such precautions as freezing your credit, which stops thieves from opening new credit cards or loans in your name. Doing so is now free, though you'll have to temporarily unfreeze your credit if you apply for a new credit card or loan.

You can also sign up for a credit monitoring service, which alerts you when someone is pinging your credit report, a precursor to opening a new account. There are also ID protection services that will scan the internet underground for signs your personal data is for sale. Some of these services are available for free to customers hit with data breaches, including the one at Equifax.

But Jason Wang, who founded TrueVault to help companies protect data, said there's not a lot consumers can do once their data is in the wild. A better approach, he said, is to minimize what data is sitting on servers — something a California privacy law may do if it takes effect as planned on Jan. 1. Among other things, customers can seek information on what data companies have on them and request its deletion — although companies wouldn't have to do anything unless they get such requests.



FILE - In this Tuesday, July 30, 2019, file photo, the logo for Capital One Financial appears above a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Data breaches through hacking attacks are common these days, and personal details about you can lead to identity theft, such as credit cards and loans in your name. Yet few victims can ever pin the blame on any specific breach, whether that's Equifax from 2017 or the recently disclosed breach at Capital One. (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Aug. 4, the 216th day of 2019. There are 149 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 4, 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed a measure establishing the Department of Energy.

On this date:

In 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard had its beginnings as President George Washington signed a measure authorizing a group of revenue cutters to enforce tariff and trade laws and prevent smuggling.

In 1792, English romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was born at Field Place near Horsham, England.

In 1830, plans for the city of Chicago were laid out.

In 1914, Britain declared war on Germany for invading Belgium; the United States proclaimed its neutrality in the mushrooming world conflict.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the second of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he prevailed in the long jump over German Luz Long, who was the first to congratulate him.

In 1944, 15-year-old diarist Anne Frank was arrested with her sister, parents and four others by the Gestapo after hiding for two years inside a building in Amsterdam. (Anne and her sister, Margot, died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

In 1964, the bodies of missing civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi.

In 1972, Arthur Bremer was convicted and sentenced in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, to 63 years in prison for his attempt on the life of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace (the sentence was later reduced to 53 years; Bremer was released from prison in 2007).

In 1975, the Swedish pop group ABBA began recording their hit single "Dancing Queen" at Glen Studio outside Stockholm (it was released a year later).

In 1987, the Federal Communications Commission voted 4-0 to abolish the Fairness Doctrine, which required radio and television stations to present balanced coverage of controversial issues.

In 1993, a federal judge sentenced Los Angeles police officers Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell to 2 1/2 years in prison for violating Rodney King's civil rights.

In 1997, Teamsters went on a 15-day strike against United Parcel Service after talks broke down with the nation's largest package delivery service. Jeanne Calment (zhahn kal-MAWN'), at age 122 the world's oldest person, died at a retirement home in Arles, France.

In 2004, former teacher Mary Kay Letourneau, convicted of having sex with a sixth-grade pupil, was released from a Washington state prison after 7 1/2 years behind bars.

Ten years ago: North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee for entering the country illegally and ordered their release during a surprise visit by former U.S. President Bill Clinton. Taliban militants unleashed a wave of rockets at Kabul's international airport and government buildings less than three weeks before Afghanistan's presidential election. A gunman opened fire in a health club in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, killing three women before killing himself.

Five years ago: On the first day of a U.S.-Africa summit in Washington, President Barack Obama announced \$33 billion in commitments aimed at shifting U.S. ties with Africa beyond humanitarian aid and toward more equal economic partnerships. Israel and Hamas accepted an Egyptian cease-fire proposal meant to halt a bruising monthlong war that had claimed nearly 2,000 lives. James Brady, 73, the affable, witty press secretary who had survived a devastating head wound in the 1981 assassination attempt against President Ronald Reagan and undertook a personal campaign for gun control, died in Alexandria, Virginia.

One year ago: A utility worker was killed in a vehicle-related accident near a Northern California wildfire, becoming the seventh person to die amid the immense blaze that had been burning for two weeks near Redding. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro dodged what officials described as an assassination attempt when drones armed with explosives detonated as he delivered a speech to hundreds of soldiers.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Tina Cole is 76. Actor-comedian Richard Belzer is 75. Football Hall of

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Famer John Riggins is 70. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is 64. Actor-screenwriter Billy Bob Thornton is 64. Actress Kym Karath (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 61. Hall of Fame track star Mary Decker Slaney is 61. Actress Lauren Tom is 60. Former President Barack Obama is 58. Producer Michael Gelman (TV: "Live with Kelly & Ryan") is 58. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Roger Clemens is 57. Actress Crystal Chappell is 54. Author Dennis Lehane is 54. Rock musician Rob Cieka (Boo Radleys) is 51. Actor Daniel Dae Kim is 51. Actor Michael DeLuise is 50. Former race car driver Jeff Gordon is 48. Rapper-actress Yo-Yo is 48. Country singer Jon Nicholson is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer-actor Marques (MAR'-kus) Houston is 38. Britain's Duchess of Sussex, the former actress Meghan Markle, is 38. Actress Abigail Spencer is 38. Actress Greta Gerwig is 36. Country singer Crystal Bowersox (TV: "American Idol") is 34. Rock singer Tom Parker (The Wanted) is 31. Actors Dylan and Cole Sprouse are 27. Singer Jessica Sanchez (TV: "American Idol") is 24.

Thought for Today: "A man does not know what he is saying until he knows what he is not saying." — G.K. Chesterton, English poet-essayist (1874-1936).