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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. 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

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Garcia hired as police officer

Groton has hired a new police officer after an executive session held Tuesday evening. Tony Garcia was hired to replace Damian Bahr who has gone to work for the Brown County Highway Department. Garcia was hired at \$52,416 annual wage. The temporary police officer wage, who has been David Hunter, was moved to \$24 an hour as of today, Aug. 7.

The asphalt work for the west side street project is expected to be done the week of August 19. About 900 ton of gravel was used for the project.

A change order for an increase of \$14,310.96 was approved for the west side street project and a payment request of \$153,668.75 was approved.

CHEESEBURGER LOVERS



At participating locations.



US 12, Groton
605-397-8627

Allied Climate Professionals

Heating & Cooling Installations & Services



Call Service Professional
Kevin Nehls at
605/626-6522

Fire Safety

First, LLC

Fire Extinguisher Service and Sales

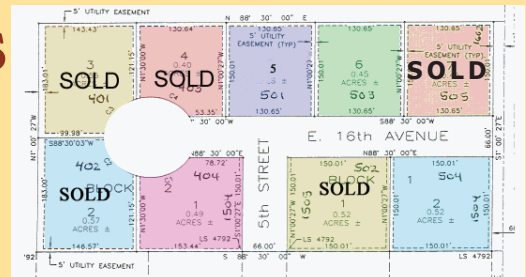
413 N Congress St.
Aberdeen

(605) 229-2270



OLSON Development

Lots for sale



Contact Deb at 605/216-4008

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.

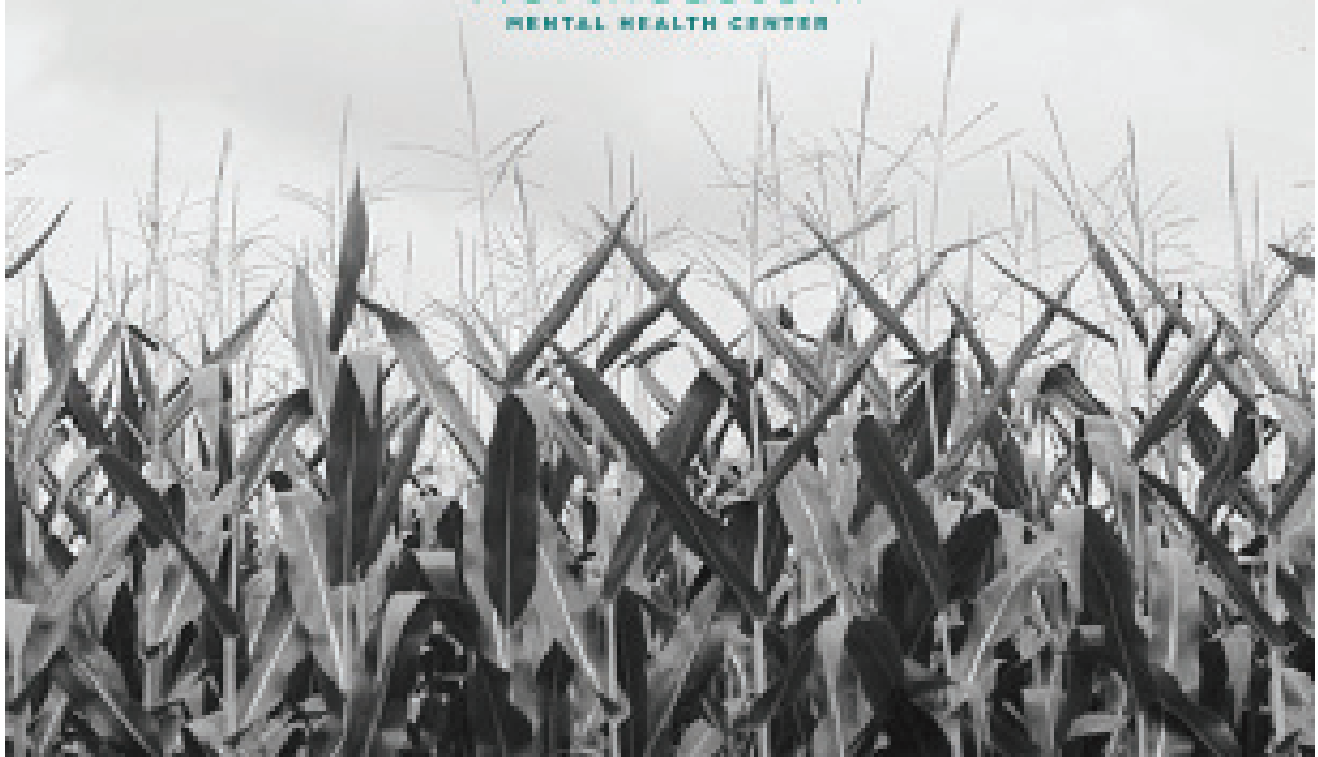
We're here to help.

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



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**State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament
Aug. 9-11 at Locke-Karst Field in Groton**

Wagner Post #11



Back Row: Coach Sam Metzger, Riley Rucktaeschel, Dustin Honomichl, Lincoln Thury, Preston Nedved, Malcolm Janis, Coach Josh Janis, Coach Tony Bruguier Sr.

Front Row: Nolan Dvorak, Jayden Aungie, Tony Bruguier Jr., Simon Freier, Aydan Bruguier, Matt Link.

Not Pictured: Jordan Iron, Brady Bierma, and Coach Brad Roth.

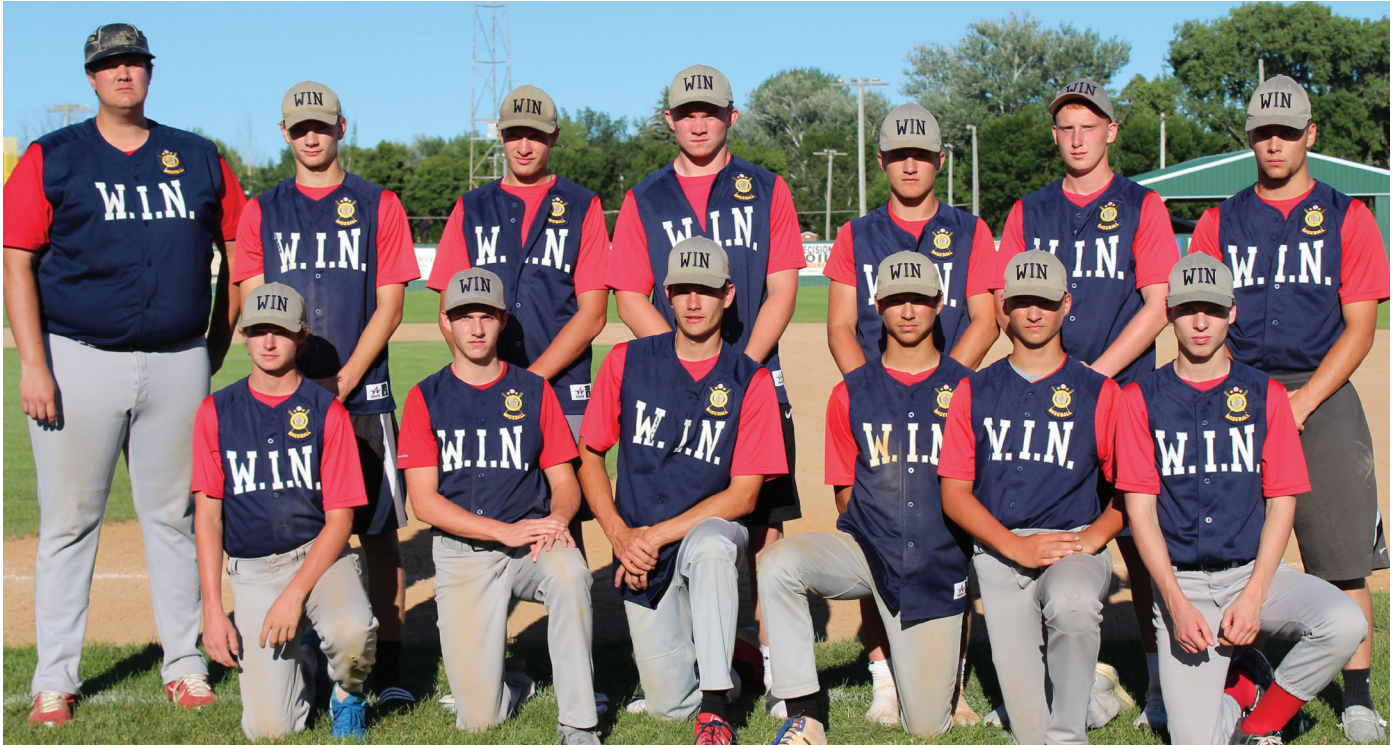
Jersey#	Name	Yr. Graduate	Position	Bat/Throw
2	Preston Nedved	2020	CF/C	R/R
3	Tony Bruguier	2020	2B/C	L/R
7	Simon Freier	2021	LF/RF	R/R
47	Malcolm Janis	2021	1B/P	R/R
40	Jordan Iron	2021	RF/LF	R/R
31	Jayden Aungie	2021	3B/P	R/R
19	Aydan Bruguier	2021	C/2B	R/R
17	Nolan Dvorak	2022	SS/P	R/R
42	Lincoln Thury	2022	1B/2B	R/R
5	Riley Rucktaeschel	2022	RF/P	R/R
22	Dustin Honomichl	2022	P/SS	R/R
25	Brady Bierma	2023	2B/RF	L/L
8	Matt Link	2023	SS/C	R/R

Josh Janis, Tony Bruguier, Sam Metzger, Brad Roth

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Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern Post #137



Back: Coach Austin Fischbach, Josh McQuarie, Will Nilsson, Eric Severson, Ben Fischbach, Ethan Gilbert, Kaden Hix

Front: Austin Faw, Trevor Beyers, Sawyer Stroschein, Kyle Stahl, Kade, Stahl, Cameron Richardt. **Not Pictured:** Jacob Olson

Coach: Chad Richardt.

Record- 15-10

Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern Post #137

5	Ben Fischbach	INF/P	2020	R/R
8	Austin Faw	OF	2021	R/R
9	Trevor Beyers	OF	2022	R/R
13	Kyle Stahl	C/OF	2020	R/R
15	Will Nilsson	P/OF	2020	R/R
16	Kade Stahl	INF	2022	R/R
17	Cameron Richardt	OF	2021	R/R
18	Sawyer Stroschein	C/P	2020	R/R
22	Ethan Gilbert	INF	2020	R/R
23	Kaden Hix	OF	2021	R/R
24	Josh McQuarie	P/INF	2021	R/R
26	Eric Severson	P/INF	2021	R/R
31	Jacob Olson	OF	2021	R/R

Coach: Austin Fischbach Coach: Chad Richardt

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Elk Point/Jefferson Post #134



Front Row, left to right: Luke Swatek, Ben Swatek, Ty Trometer, Cade Fennel, Jake Gale, Andrew Nearman, Will Suiing, Ben Hanson, Levi Hanson

Back Row, left to right: Coach Dan Swatek, Skyler Swatek, Noah Larson, Ethan Kelly, Chris Nelson, Tyler Goehring, Luke McInerney, Drake Peed, Coach Scott Hanson

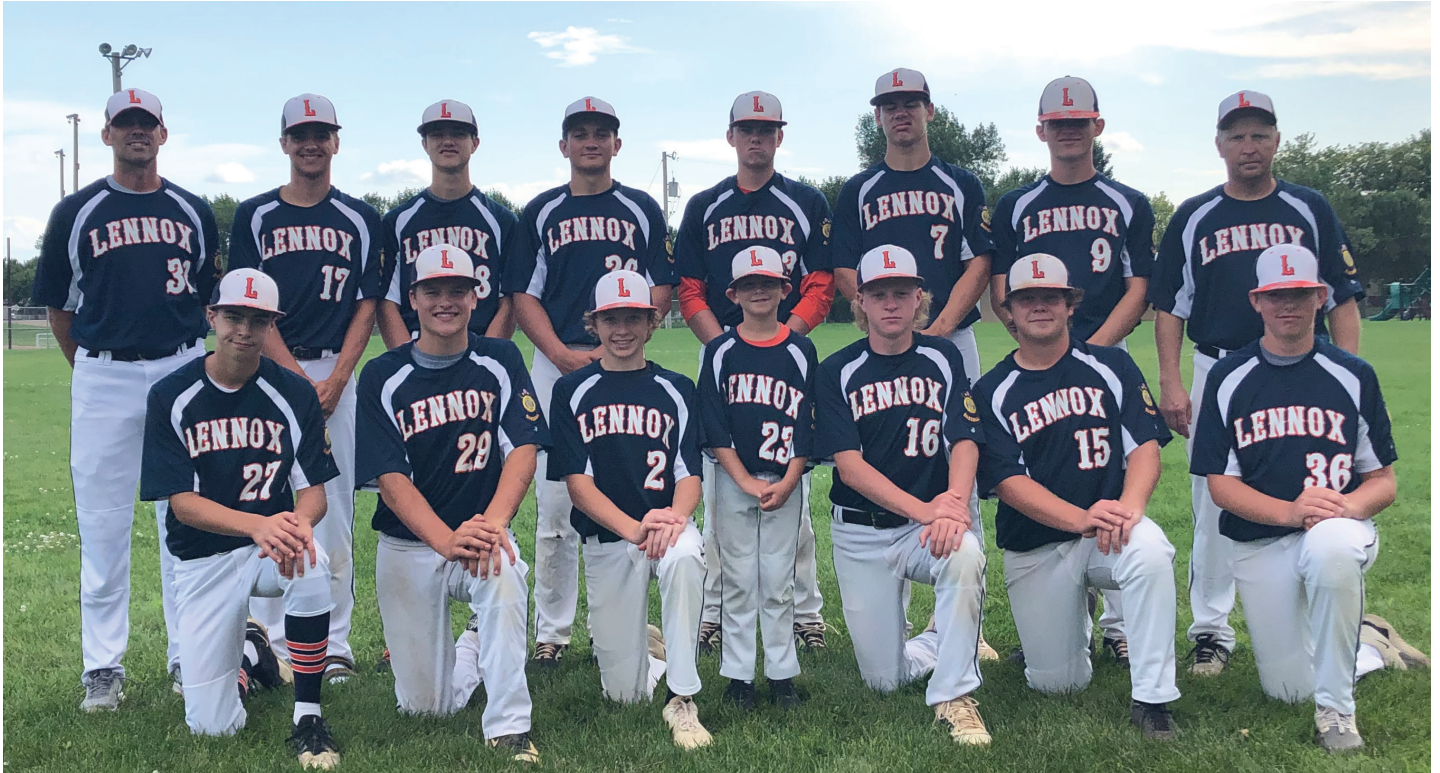
Elk Point/Jefferson Post #134

Jersey #	Name	Yr. Graduate	Position	Bats/Throws
0	Ben Hanson	2021	Left	L/L
3	Jake Gale	2024	Catcher/SS	R/R
3	Cade Fennel	2022	OF	R/R
5	Ty Trometer	2023	2nd/SS	R/R
5	Andrew Nearman	2021	Catcher/Pitcher	R/R
8	Drake Peed	2021	3rd	R/R
13	Skyler Swatek	2021	SS/Pitcher	R/R
14	Tyler Goehring	2021	1st/Pitcher	R/L
17	Noah Larson	2022	3rd/Pitcher	R/R
27	Ben Swatek	2023	2nd/Pitcher	R/R
34	Chris Nelson	2020	OF	R/R
36	Will Suiing	2020	2nd	R/R
44	Luke McInerney	2021	OF	R/R
45	Ethan Kelly	2022	1st	R/R

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Lennox Post #174



Back Row (L to R): Coach Darin Eich, Zach Zirpel, Carter Van Houten, Ty Spieler, Peyton Eich, Brandon Fodness, Gavin Sanculi, Coach Merris Miller

Front Row (L to R): Brett Duncan, Cole Benning, Tanner Miller, Bat Boy Griffin Eich, Brandon Otte, Max Bambas, Conner Eich

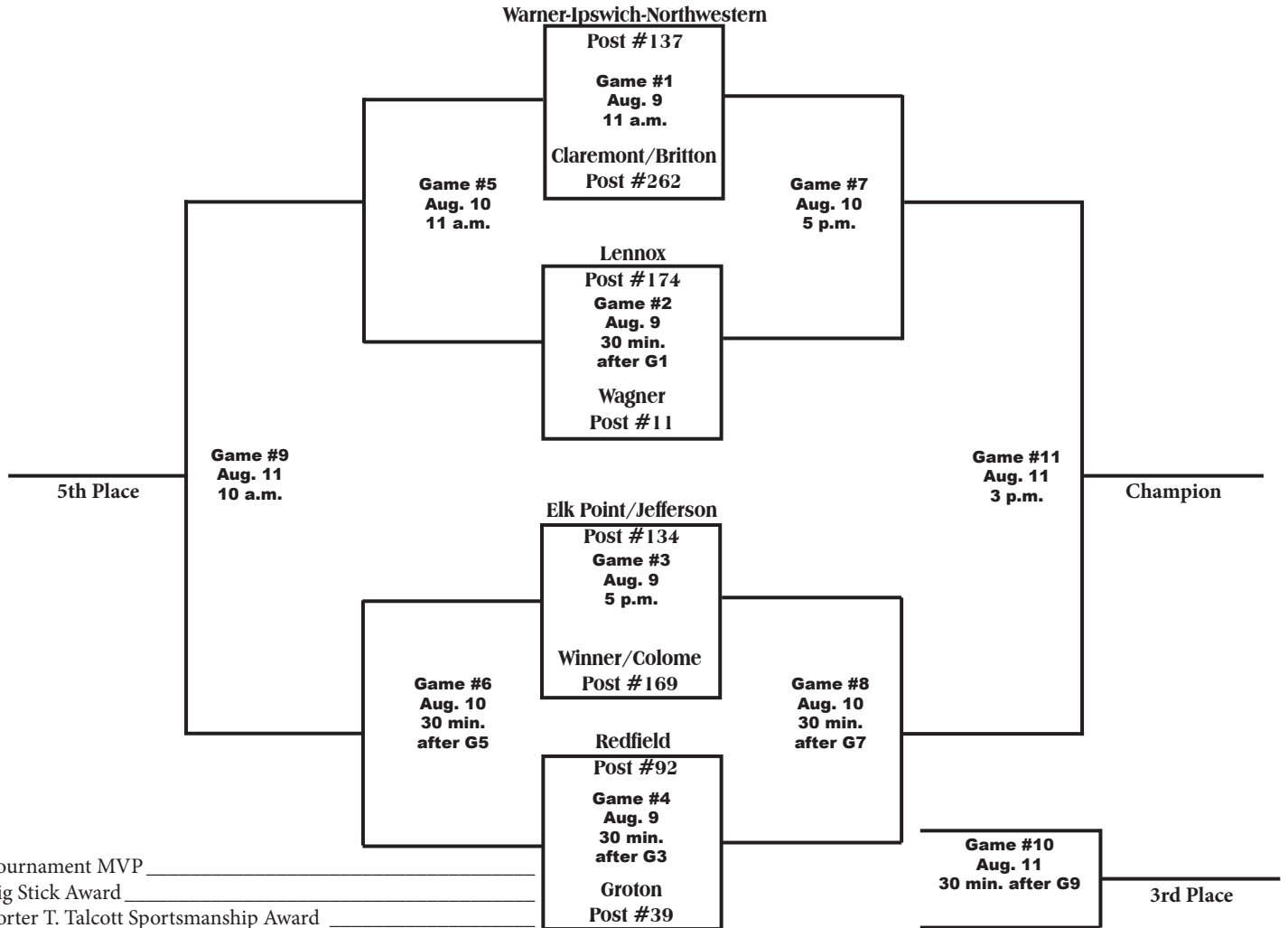
Not Pictured: Carter Nielson and Aiden Zimmer

Jersey #	Name	Yr. Graduate	Position	Bats/Throws
2	Tanner Miller	2022	P/2B	L/R
7	Brandon Fodness	2021	P/C	R/R
9	Gavin Sanculi	2021	P/3B	R/R
13	Peyton Eich	2021	P/SS	R/R
15	Max Bambas	2022	P/3B	R/R
16	Brandon Otte	2021	P/OF	R/R
17	Zach Zirpel	2021	P/OF	R/R
24	Aiden Zimmer	2020	OF	R/L
26	Ty Spieler	2021	P/C	R/R
27	Brett Duncan	2022	P/OF	L/L
28	Carter Van Houten	2022	P/OF	R/L
29	Cole Benning	2021	1B/OF	R/R
33	Carter Neilsen	2021	OF/2B	R/R
36	Conner Eich	2023	P/1B	R/R

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2019 South Dakota American Legion State Class "B" Jr. Baseball Tournament



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Today



Sunny

High: 78 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 55 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 79 °F

Thursday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Friday



Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

High: 82 °F



Next Shot At Moisture: Friday/Saturday

Pleasant
Today & Thursday

Today  75-85°

Tonight  50-60°

Thurs  70-80°



Aberdeen, SD
National Weather Service

Updated: 8/7/2019 4:39 AM Central

Published on: 08/07/2019 at 12:43AM

Looks like dry conditions and mild temperatures with lower humidity for today and Thursday. Humidity and moisture chances return for the end of the work week into the start of the weekend.

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Today in Weather History

August 7, 1968: From 9 miles north of Isabel, hail up to golf ball size was observed with a severe thunderstorm. This storm continued moving in a southeast direction, causing extensive damage to crops, trees, utility lines, and structures. A radio tower was blown over near Huron, and a wind gust of 115 mph was reported at Huron. A woman was swept from a roof in Huron and was critically injured.

August 7, 2009: A supercell thunderstorm developed across the northern Black Hills and moved eastward across the Sturgis area, southern Meade County, northeastern Pennington County, Haakon County, and northeastern Jackson County. The storm produced baseball sized hail near Sturgis, then high winds and hail larger than baseball sized developed as the storm moved across the plains. The storm hit Sturgis during the annual motorcycle rally and caused extensive damage to motorcycles, vehicles, and property. Minor injuries from the hail were also reported.

August 7, 2010: An EF4 tornado touched down south of Tyler in Richland County North Dakota and tracked to the northeast for roughly 2.5 miles before crossing the Bois de Sioux River into Wilkin County, Minnesota. In Wilkin County, the tornado continued for another 2.5 miles and lifted about 650 pm CDT. The total track length was about 5 miles, and peak winds were estimated at 175 mph.

1924: A tornado caused estimated F4 damage moved southeast from south of Osseo, WI to Black River Falls, WI. One person was killed as a home was leveled and a boy was killed running to the storm cellar near the start of the path. Two people died as farm homes were swept away near the northeast edge of Black River Falls. Damage totaled \$200,000 as 50 farms were hit and buildings were unroofed in the town of Northfield. The tornado followed the present route of Interstate 94.

1980: Hurricane Allen bottomed out at 899 millibars (26.55 inches of mercury) while moving through the Yucatan Channel in the southeastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. Allen was the second lowest pressure ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere up to that time. Allen's winds at the time were sustained at 190 mph.

1904 - A flash flood near Pueblo, CO, washed a train from the tracks killing 89 passengers. A bridge, weakened by the floodwaters sweeping through the valley below, gave way under the weight of the train dashing all but the sleeping cars into the torrent drowning the occupants. Rail service was frequently interrupted in the Rocky Mountain Region and southwestern U.S. that summer due to numerous heavy downpours which washed out the railroad beds delaying trains as much as five days. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1918 - Philadelphia, PA, established an all-time record with a high of 106 degrees. New York City experienced its warmest day and night with a low of 82 degrees and a high of 102 degrees. Afternoon highs of 108 degrees at Flemington NJ and Somerville NJ established state records for the month of August. (The Weather Channel) (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1984 - El Paso, TX, normally receives 1.21 inches of rain in August. They got it in forty-five minutes, with four more inches to boot, during a storm which left Downtown El Paso under five feet of water. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A rare outbreak of seven tornadoes occurred in New England. One tornado carved its way through Cranston RI and Providence RI causing twenty injuries. Rhode Island had not reported a tornado in twelve years, and three touched down in 24 hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - Morning thunderstorms drenched Goldsboro, NC, with 3.37 inches of rain. Late morning thunderstorms in Arizona produced dime size hail, wind gusts to 50 mph, and two inches of rain, at Sierra Vista. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A dozen cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Waco, TX, with a reading of 107 degrees. The record high of 88 degrees at Marquette, MI, was their twenty-third of the year. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin, with wind gusts to 81 mph reported at McCool, NE. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 86 °F at 4:37 PM

Low Temp: 60 °F at 6:11 AM

Wind: 22 mph at 8:57 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 102° in 1949

Record Low: 42° in 1921

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.47

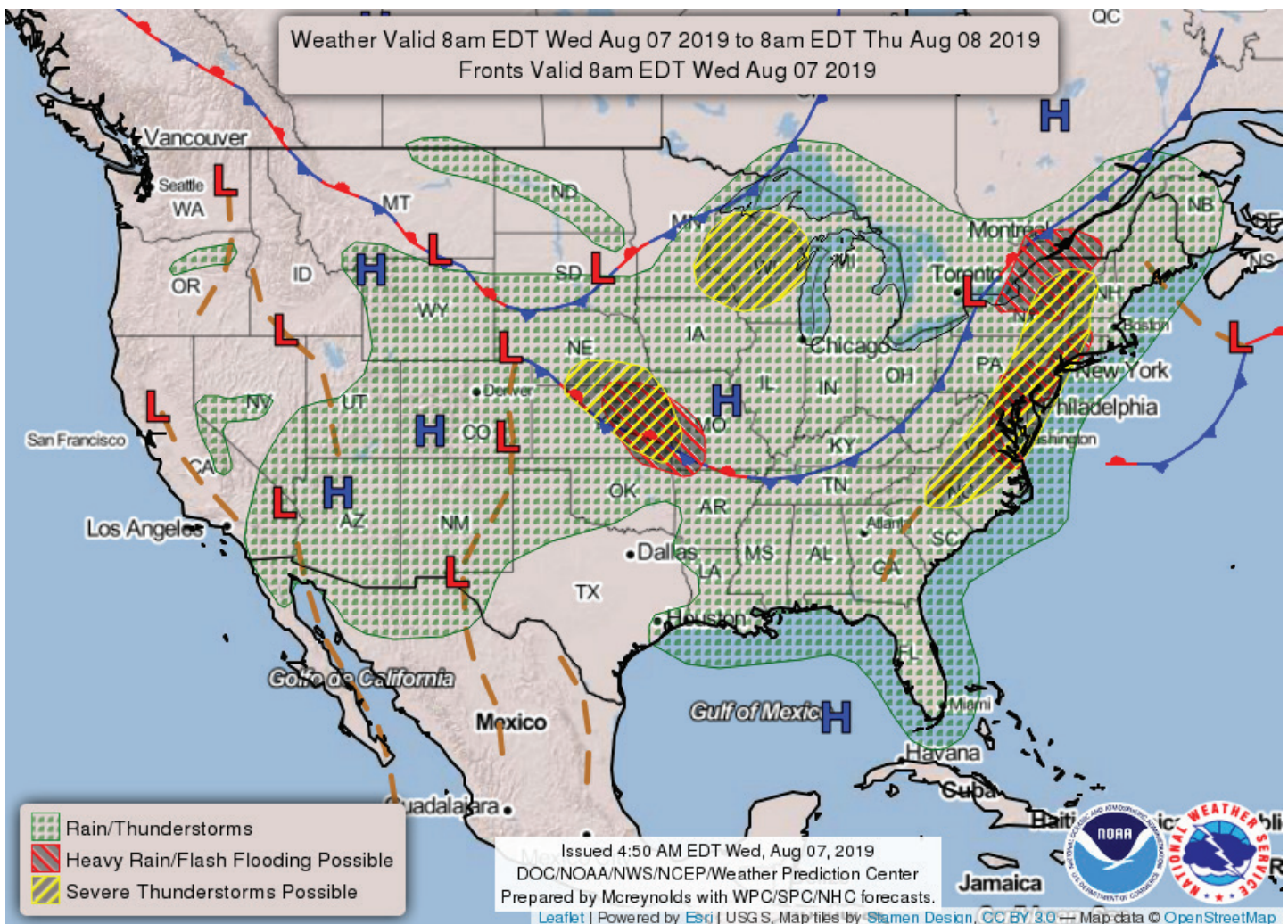
Precip to date in Aug.: 0.74

Average Precip to date: 14.33

Precip Year to Date: 17.33

Sunset Tonight: 8:54 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:26 a.m.



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THE BEST LAID PLANS

The only certainty in life is that life is uncertain. We never know, from one moment to the next, what God may have in store for us. Our God is eternal and in control of everything, everywhere, all of the time. Although we may have the utmost confidence in the plans He has for our lives, we must always be alert to His gentle guidance and compassionate care, and at times His stern discipline and chastening. We know that He has a plan for each of us and that it is a good and perfect plan.

But we must never become complacent and feel that we have more knowledge about our lives than He does. It is foolish to chart a course for ourselves, close our eyes to His will, stop our ears to His voice, and try to take control of things and plan our future without Him.

Solomon wisely said, Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. Plans for any future date can never be certain because we do not know what God may have in store for us. Now, does that mean we are not to plan for tomorrow?

The ability to plan is a gift from God. We see it throughout His carefully crafted creation. Since we are created in His image, we are endowed with the ability to plan. However, the warning contained in this proverb is the folly of presumptuous boasting about our plans - doing what we want to do without taking Gods Word, ways, and will into our plans. God is in control of His universe and that includes each of us. We must take the gifts He has given us, look for the opportunities He sets before us, seek His guidance and follow Him closely.

Prayer: Father, may we look to You each moment of every day asking You to reveal Your plans for us. May we look to You to guide us, guard us, and give us Your help. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

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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
- 09/12/2019 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

News from the Associated Press

Sioux Falls man given suspended sentence for killing friend

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has been given a suspended sentence for accidentally shooting and killing his friend last September.

Nineteen-year-old Stasek Stefanyuk earlier pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the death of 21-year-old Darias Tiger and drug possession. Stefanyuk says he was showing Tiger his new shotgun when he tripped, bumped a wall and accidentally fired the gun, striking Tiger.

Second Judicial Circuit Court Jon Sogn sentenced Stefanyuk to 12½ years in prison, but suspended the entire sentence Tuesday.

Stefanyuk apologized to Tiger's mother in court and recalled Tiger's last words were to tell his mother that he loved her. The Argus Leader says the courtroom was full of family members of both Tiger and Stefanyuk.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

11-17-31-43-55, Mega Ball: 16, Megaplier: 2

(eleven, seventeen, thirty-one, forty-three, fifty-five; Mega Ball: sixteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$55 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$112 million

DUI, drug arrests tick upward at Sturgis rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — DUI and drug arrests are up at this year's Sturgis motorcycle rally.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol's daily tally shows 72 drunken-driving arrests, up from 56 a year ago on the same date. The patrol says 158 felony or misdemeanor drug arrests have been made, up from 115 last year.

The rally also saw its first fatality Monday afternoon when a 29-year-old man missed a curve south of Lead and was thrown from his cycle. He wasn't wearing a helmet.

Eighteen people have been injured in accidents so far, down a fraction from last year.

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

Corps to keep water releases into Missouri River high

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — As predicted, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it plans to keep water releases into the lower Missouri River elevated, as runoff continues to keep upstream reservoirs full.

The Corps said in a news release Tuesday that water releases from Gavins Point Dam on the Nebraska-South Dakota border will remain at current levels, which — at 70,000 cubic feet per second — are more than double the average amount for this time of year.

The Corps says areas of Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska received two to three times the normal amount of rain in July.

July runoff in the upper basin was 7 million acre feet, more than twice the average. The Corps says this

year's upper basin total runoff is forecast at nearly 53 million acre feet, which would be the second highest total runoff in 121 years of record-keeping. Only the 61 million acre feet seen in 2011 would be more.

Signs for missing, murdered native women go up in Wyoming

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — Billboards drawing attention to the thousands of murdered and missing American Indian women are being placed in Wyoming.

The Casper Star-Tribune reports one billboard is off Interstate 25 in Casper and a second will go up in Riverton next week.

The billboards are part of a campaign launched by the Global Indigenous Council and other groups.

The signs say "5,712 Native women were reported murdered or missing in 2016," and they picture a woman with a red handprint across her face.

Council Senior Vice President Lynnette Grey Bull says the red handprint is a symbol for war and outcry among plains tribes that has come "to signify that we're not going to be silent about this issue anymore."

Five billboards have been placed in Arizona, Montana, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Information from: Casper (Wyo.) Star-Tribune, <http://www.trib.com>

Advanced BioEnergy selling ethanol plants in Aberdeen, Huron

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Advanced BioEnergy is selling its Aberdeen and Huron ethanol plants to Glacial Lakes Energy for \$47.5 million.

Advanced BioEnergy, based in Bloomington, Minnesota, said the transfer is expected to take place in the third quarter of this year, if shareholders approve. Advanced BioEnergy would be liquidated and the proceeds distributed to shareholders after outstanding debt and liquidation expenses are paid. The sale also includes the company's inventory at the time of closing.

Glacial Lakes Energy, with approximately 120 employees, is an ethanol production company formed in May 2001 as a wholly owned subsidiary of its parent company, Glacial Lakes Corn Processors, a cooperative of over 4,000 shareholders located primarily in South Dakota.

Glacial Lakes Energy and its sister subsidiary own and operate two ethanol plants located in Watertown and Mina, South Dakota. The plants together produce 255 million gallons (965.25 million liters) per year processed from more than 92 million bushels of corn purchased from northeastern and central South Dakota producers.

The Advanced BioEnergy plants in Aberdeen and Huron have a combined ethanol production capacity of 86 million gallons (325.54 million liters) a year. Together they employ about 50 people.

Advanced BioEnergy announced last February that it had started exploring alternatives for its business operations, including the possibility of selling one of two of its ethanol plants.

Scout Obtains Construction Permit for 200MW Sweetland Wind Farm

PIERRE, S.D. and BOULDER, Colo., Aug. 6, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Scout Clean Energy (Scout), a Colorado based renewable energy developer-owner-operator, is pleased to announce the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission granted approval for a construction permit for the 200-megawatt (MW) Sweetland Wind Farm (Sweetland) in Miller, South Dakota. The Sweetland Wind Farm project will span 20,000-acres in southeastern Hand County and include up to 71 GE 2.82 MW series wind turbines.

"We are excited to have received the PUC's unanimous approval for the state construction permits for the Sweetland wind farm," said Michael Rucker, CEO and founder of Scout Clean Energy. "The approval means Scout now can take the power to market and begin planning for construction as early as 2020."

Sweetland Wind Farm filed its application with the PUC in March and a public input meeting was held in Miller in April. Prior to receiving PUC Commission approval, the project worked extensively with PUC Staff, the local community and stakeholders to ensure all concerns were addressed. The Permit that was granted reflects all parties working together to reach a favorable outcome for the project, stakeholders

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and South Dakotans. Scout now turns their attention to marketing the power.

"We are very fortunate to have a 200 MW project fully permitted in South Dakota. The project's top tier wind resource and strategic location in the Southwest Power Pool make it attractive for potential investors looking to expand their renewable energy footprint in the region," explained Rucker. "We have already had significant interest in the project and are working toward completing a power purchase agreement."

The project will result in 200 temporary construction jobs and 10 permanent full-time positions once the facility begins operation. The community economic benefits are estimated to generate \$35 million dollars in tax revenue over the life of the project, generating a little over one million dollars a year in new tax revenues.

"The planned \$240-million-dollar facility represents a significant investment in South Dakota and several communities in Hand County. Sweetland is an important catalyst for Scout and paves the way for several additional Scout wind projects that are nearing financial close and which are scheduled to commence construction over the coming months," explained Michael Rucker.

Scout is a portfolio company of Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners (Quinbrook), a global investment manager specializing in lower carbon and renewable energy infrastructure assets. The construction will be managed by Scout Clean Energy and anticipated to be completed as early as the end of 2020.

"We are delighted to see Sweetland wind farm received its principal permit. Sweetland is an outstanding wind project located in a very robust wind regime," said David Scaysbrook of Quinbrook and Chairman of Scout's Board of Directors. "This is another important milestone for Scout, which continues building its diverse and growing wind power portfolio which has expanded to over 2.3GW in 10 states."

About Scout Clean Energy

Scout Clean Energy is a renewable energy development company headquartered in Boulder, Colorado. Scout is developing a 2,400 MW portfolio of wind energy projects across 10 US states. Scout is an owner-operator with expertise in all aspects of wind development, permitting, power marketing, finance, construction and asset management. Scout is a portfolio company of Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners.

www.scoutcleanenergy.com

About Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners

Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners is a specialist investment manager focused exclusively on lower carbon and renewable energy infrastructure investment and operational asset management in the US, UK and Australia. Quinbrook is led and managed by a senior team of power industry professionals who have collectively invested over US\$ 17 billion in energy infrastructure assets since the early 1990's, representing over 30GW of power supply capacity. Quinbrook's investment and asset management team has offices in Houston, London, Jersey, and the Gold Coast of Australia. Quinbrook has completed multiple investments in both utility and distributed scale wind power, gas fired power reserve and 'smart grid' projects in the US, UK and Australia and currently manages Cape Byron Power (www.capebyronpower.com), one of Australia's largest base-load 100% renewable power generators.

<https://www.quinbrook.com/>

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission--Sweetland Wind Farm Information

The Sweetland Wind Farm docket can be viewed on the PUC's website at www.puc.sd.gov, Commission Actions, Electric Dockets, 2019 Electric Dockets, EL19-012 - In the Matter of the Application by Sweetland Wind Farm, LLC for Facility Permits for a Wind Energy Facility and a 230-kV Transmission Facility in Hand County, South Dakota for the Sweetland Wind Farm Project.

CONTACT: Chad Thompson

chad@scoutcleanenergy.com

901.331.0779

View original content: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/scout-obtains-construction-permit-for-200mw-sweetland-wind-farm-300896897.html>

SOURCE Scout Clean Energy

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Nearly 6 years in prison for gun theft in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — One of the two men involved in the theft of two dozen guns in Rapid City a year ago is heading to federal prison.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken sentenced 31-year-old Matthew Keifer of Rapid City to 5 years, 11 months in prison on Monday.

Keifer earlier pleaded guilty to stealing the guns from The Rooster Bait and Tackle last August. He'll also serve three years of supervised release.

Prosecutors say Keifer used a crowbar to force the back door of The Rooster open and take the 24 handguns. Keifer and Zephaniah Thompson then ground the serial numbers off several of them and traded at least two of them for meth.

Thompson has already been sentenced to 4 years, 8 months in prison.

Some skeptical as Trump prepares to visit sites of shootings

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is bringing a message aimed at national unity and healing to the sites of the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton. But the words he offers for a divided America will be complicated by his own incendiary, anti-immigrant rhetoric that mirrors language linked to one of the shooters.

It is a highly unusual predicament for an American president to at once try to console a community and a nation at the same time he is being criticized as contributing to a combustible climate that can spawn violence.

White House officials said Trump's visits Wednesday to Texas and Ohio, where 31 people were killed and dozens were wounded, would be similar to those he's paid to grieving communities including Parkland, Florida, and Las Vegas, with the Republican president and the first lady saluting first responders and spending time with mourning families and survivors.

"What he wants to do is go to these communities and grieve with them, pray with them, offer condolences," White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said Tuesday. He said Trump also wants "to have a conversation" about ways to head off future deadly episodes.

"We can do something impactful to prevent this from ever happening again, if we come together," the spokesman said.

That's a tough assignment for a president who thrives on division and whose aides say he views discord and unease about cultural, economic and demographic changes as key to his reelection.

At the same time, prominent Democrats have been casting blame on Trump more often than calling for national unity in the aftermath of the shootings, a measure of the profound polarization in the country.

Trump, who often seems most comfortable on rally stages with deeply partisan crowds, has not excelled at projecting empathy, mixing what can sound like perfunctory expressions of grief with awkward offhand remarks. While he has offered hugs to tornado victims and spent time at the bedsides of shooting victims, he has yet to project the kind of emotion and vulnerability of his recent predecessors.

Barack Obama grew visibly shaken as he addressed the nation in the wake of the Sandy Hook elementary school massacre and teared up while delivering a 2016 speech on new gun control efforts. George W. Bush helped bring the country together following the Sept. 11 attacks, notably standing atop the smoking rubble of the World Trade Center, his arm draped over the shoulder of a firefighter, as he shouted through a bullhorn. Bill Clinton helped reassure the nation after the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City and the mass school shooting at Columbine High School.

Trump, too, has been able to summon soothing words. But then he often quickly lapses into divisive tweets and statements — just recently painting immigrants as "invaders," suggesting four Democratic congresswoman of color should "go back" to their home countries even though they're U.S. citizens and deriding majority-black Baltimore as a rat-infested hell-hole.

In the Texas border city of El Paso, some residents and local Democratic lawmakers said Trump was not

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welcome and urged him to stay away.

"This president, who helped create the hatred that made Saturday's tragedy possible, should not come to El Paso," tweeted Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, who served the area for three terms as a congressman. "We do not need more division. We need to heal. He has no place here."

Trump, on the eve of his El Paso trip, snapped back on Twitter that O'Rourke "should respect the victims & law enforcement - & be quiet!"

In Dayton, Mayor Nan Whaley said she would be meeting with Trump on Wednesday, but she told reporters she was disappointed with his scripted remarks Monday responding to the shootings. His speech included a denunciation of "racism, bigotry and white supremacy" and a declaration that "hate has no place in America." But he made no mention of new efforts to limit sales of certain guns or the anti-immigration rhetoric found in an online screed posted just before the El Paso attack.

The hateful manifesto's author — police believe it was the shooter but investigation continues — insisted the opinions "predate Trump and his campaign for president." But the words echoed some of the views Trump has expressed on immigration, including claiming that Democrats "intend to use open borders, free HealthCare for illegals, citizenship and more to enact a political coup by importing and then legalizing millions of new voters."

Dayton Mayor Whaley said simply, "Everyone has it in their power to be a force to bring people together, and everybody has it in their power to be a force to bring people apart — that's up to the president of the United States."

Democrats vying to challenge Trump in the 2020 election have been nearly unanimous in excoriating him for rhetoric they warned has nurtured the racist attitudes of the El Paso shooter as they sought to project leadership during a fraught moment for a bruised nation.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the front-runner in the 2020 Democratic primary, is slated to speak on white nationalism on Wednesday in Iowa and, according to excerpts from his campaign, will declare Trump "lacks the moral authority to lead" because he has "aligned himself with the darkest forces in our nation" and "in both clear language and in code ... has fanned the flames of white supremacy."

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker was delivering a speech on gun violence and white nationalism Wednesday at the Charleston, South Carolina, church where nine black parishioners were killed in 2015. Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, released a detailed plan for gun control and deterrence.

Gidley and other White House officials denounced suggestions that Trump's rhetoric was in any way responsible for the shooting. They called it "dangerous," "pathetic," "disgusting."

"It's not the politician's fault when somebody acts out their evil intention," he said, pointing to other shooters who have expressed political preferences for Democratic politicians including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Vermont's Bernie Sanders.

"It is shameful that Democrats are unable to prevent themselves from politicizing a moment of national grief," added Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh.

Trump, quoting one of the hosts of his favorite "Fox & Friends" show, tweeted: "Did George Bush ever condemn President Obama after Sandy Hook. President Obama had 32 mass shootings during his reign. Not many people said Obama is out of control. Mass shootings were happening before the president even thought about running for Pres."

Warren spokeswoman Kristen Orthman said leaders have an obligation to speak out.

"Let's be clear," she said in a statement. "There is a direct line between the president's rhetoric and the stated motivations of the El Paso shooter."

Recent Pew Research Center polling found 85% of U.S. adults believe the tone and nature of political debate in the country has become more negative, with a majority saying Trump has changed things for the worse. And more than three quarters, 78%, say that elected officials who use heated or aggressive language to talk about certain people or groups make violence against those people more likely.

Associated Press writers Elana Schor, Deb Riechmann and Darlene Superville and AP polling editor Emily

Swanson contributed to this report.

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El Paso, with deep Mexican American past, rallies amid pain

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS and JOHN L. MONE Associated Press

The massacre that killed 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso struck a city that has long been the cradle of Mexican American culture and immigration and suffered through bloody episodes of racial violence in the past.

The white gunman apparently wrote an anti-Hispanic rant before opening fire with an AK-47-style rifle on Walmart shoppers — many of them Latino — rattling a city that has helped shape Mexican American life across the U.S. for generations.

Many Mexican Americans in Los Angeles, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado and beyond can trace their families' roots to El Paso, sometimes called the "Ellis Island" of the border. The city served as a port of entry where immigrants from the interior of Mexico had to come to gain entry into the United States before World War II.

Mexican Revolutionary leader Pancho Villa visited the city. Country artist Marty Robbins famously sang in 1959 about falling "in love with a Mexican girl" here. It is the birthplace of civil rights lawyer Oscar Zeta Acosta, journalist Ruben Salazar and poet Pat Mora. The city is also a geographic center of sorts for Mexican Americans, sitting about the same distance to Los Angeles as it is to Houston.

"El Paso has a deeper history than what you see on the news," said Sergio Troncoso, an El Paso-born novelist who now lives in New York City. "That manifesto shows that white nationalists continue to reduce El Paso to immigration and a place of foreigners. It's so much more than that."

In the last year, El Paso has garnered attention because of the rapid rise of migrants from Central America coming to seek asylum. The city also has been a testing ground for immigration enforcement, with the government spending millions of dollars on agents, barriers and border security technology and equipment.

President Donald Trump, who is visiting the city Wednesday, has cited El Paso's crime rate as proof for why his border wall is needed, despite FBI statistics that show the city routinely has a violent crime rate below the national average. Crime statistics also show the city to be safer than other municipalities the same size in population.

Why the alleged shooter chose El Paso as his target remains a mystery. But the online rant investigators have attributed to him speaks of a "Hispanic invasion of Texas" and theories of non-white immigrants replacing whites.

Anthony Medrano, an El Paso resident, said he wished the shooter would have paused and thought just a moment before hurting people shopping in the predominantly Mexican American city of 700,000.

"We would have shown him what a great place this is . where you can walk out at night and not get mugged," Medrano said.

The El Paso area was settled in the late 1500s after the arrival of Spanish conquistador Juan de Oñate during an expedition through current-day New Mexico to establish a colony as part of New Spain.

It became an important northern hub of the Spanish empire and later a key spot in the American Southwest as the railroads expanded into what was disputed territory during the U.S. Civil War.

A century ago, El Paso was also the site of notorious racial violence — a history that resonated with residents after last weekend's massacre.

In 1916, white mobs and drunken U.S. soldiers attacked innocent Mexican Americans in the city after Villa's soldiers in Mexico killed 19 white engineers and staff from an American mining company. El Paso white police also are believed to have sought revenge and set fire to Mexican American inmates in the El Paso jail, killing 27.

U.S. officials at a border bridge in El Paso in the early 1900s routinely deloused and sprayed the clothes of Mexicans crossing into the U.S. with Zyklon B — a poisonous pesticide invented in Germany in the 1920s.

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"There were many cases of racial violence in El Paso targeting Mexican Americans," said Monica Muñoz Martinez, the author of "The Injustice Never Leaves You: Anti-Mexican Violence in Texas" and an American studies professor at Brown University. "The memories of those acts live on."

After World War II, however, returning Mexican American veterans helped elect in 1957 Raymond L. Telles, Jr. — the first Mexican American mayor of a major U.S. city. He sought to include Mexican Americans in key positions like police chief and outlined a blueprint for civil rights leaders to follow in other cities with sizable Latino populations.

The city is credited with shaping modern Mexican American political activism and with giving birth to the "pachuco" — a word that describes a Mexican American youth subculture associated with zoot suits and gang life. (The city's nickname is "El Chuco.")

Daniel Chacon, a novelist who was raised in Fresno, California, but whose father was from El Paso, said the climate since the Telles years gave birth to a booming Mexican American literary and artist scene.

"It became a bedrock of (American) Southwest culture. It's an American city," said Chacon, who now chairs the Creative Writing Department at the University of Texas at El Paso. "The only invasion that has happened here in the last 100 years at the one at Walmart this Saturday."

Associated Press video journalists John Mone reported from El Paso. Follow him on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/JohnMone> .

Russell Contreras is a member of The Associated Press' race and ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras> .

Dayton, site of latest mass shooting, warily awaits Trump

By JOHN SEEWER and KANTELE FRANKO *undefined*

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley's stricken community will have a visitor Wednesday in President Donald Trump, who in the wake of two mass shootings over the weekend has made calls for unity on the heels of his divisive political talk.

White House officials said Trump's visits to Texas and Ohio, where a combined 31 people were killed and dozens wounded in less than 24 hours, would be similar to those he's paid to grieving communities in the past. But Whaley, a Democrat, made remarks Tuesday questioning whether the visit will help, and expressed disappointment in the president's aftermath remarks that included an erroneous reference to Toledo instead of Dayton.

"I can only hope that as president of the United States that he's coming here because he wants to add value to our community and he recognizes that that's what our community needs," she said, noting that she expected to meet with Trump. "Everyone has it in their power to be a force to bring people together, and everybody has it in their power to be a force to bring people apart — that's up to the president of the United States."

Connor Betts, 24, opened fire in Dayton's Oregon entertainment district early Sunday morning, killing nine people including his 22-year-old sister, before officers fatally shot him within 30 seconds of the start of his rampage. The FBI announced Tuesday it's opened an investigation into Betts' desire to commit a mass shooting and his interest in violent ideology.

GOP Gov. Mike DeWine said it's clear Betts exhibited anti-social behaviors in high school that should have alerted those around him to a problem. Two former classmates told The Associated Press that Betts was suspended from Bellbrook High School after a hit list was found scrawled in a school bathroom. That followed an earlier suspension after Betts came to school with a list of female students he wanted to sexually assault, according to the two classmates, a man and a woman who spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern they might face harassment.

But Betts had no apparent criminal record as an adult, and police said there was nothing that would have prevented him from buying a gun.

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DeWine on Tuesday called on the Republican-led Legislature to pass laws requiring background checks for nearly all gun sales, allowing courts to restrict firearms access for people perceived as threats, and improving access to in-patient psychiatric care for those who need it most.

"If we, after a tragedy, only confine ourselves to doing those things that would have prevented this tragedy, we are missing a real opportunity," DeWine said. "So we need to look at these tragedies together."

Trump himself said Monday he might call for more stringent background checks if such a measure could be paired with immigration reform, although he did not offer specifics.

Special Agent Todd Wickerham, who announced the FBI investigation, didn't say if agents are looking at whether the Dayton shooting should be treated as domestic terrorism, as the agency has done in the recent El Paso, Texas, and Gilroy, California, shootings. He said Betts hadn't been on the FBI's radar.

Meanwhile, a woman who said she briefly dated Betts spoke to reporters Tuesday and wrote an online essay, saying the two bonded over struggles with mental illness.

Adelia Johnson, 24, said they met in a college psychology class. Johnson said she was in treatment but that Betts "didn't want to seek help because of the stigma." He told her he thought he had mental illnesses including bipolar disorder, she said.

"When he started joking about his dark thoughts, I understood," she wrote. "Dark thoughts for someone with a mental illness are just a symptom that we have to learn how to manage."

Johnson said on their first date, Betts showed her a video of last October's Pittsburgh synagogue shooting in which a man shouting anti-Semitic slurs opened fire and killed 11 people.

The family of Betts and his sister, Megan Betts, released a statement through police Tuesday night, saying they are devastated and cooperating with law enforcement's investigation.

It's unknown whether any of the Dayton victims were targeted. Besides Megan Betts, 22, the others who died were Monica Brickhouse, 39; Nicholas Cumer, 25; Derrick Fudge, 57; Thomas McNichols, 25; Lois Oglesby, 27; Saeed Saleh, 38; Logan Turner, 30; and Beatrice N. Warren-Curtis, 36.

Betts was white and six of the nine killed were black, but police said the speed of the rampage made any discrimination in the shooting seem unlikely.

Hospital officials said 37 people have been treated for injuries, including 14 with gunshot wounds.

Franko reported from Columbus. Associated Press writers Dan Sewell in Cincinnati, Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Amanda Seitz in Chicago and Robert Bumsted in Dayton contributed.

Find complete AP coverage of recent mass shootings here: <https://apnews.com/Shootings>

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. THE PRESIDENT'S RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE

Donald Trump is bringing a message aimed at national unity and healing to the sites of the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton. But the words he offers for a divided America will be complicated by his own incendiary, anti-immigrant rhetoric that mirrors language linked to one of the shooters.

2. GRIEVING TOWN GUARDED ABOUT TRUMP'S VISIT

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, whose stricken Ohio community will host Donald Trump today, is questioning whether the visit will help.

3. TRYING TO HEAL THEIR PAIN IN TEXAS

El Paso has opened a grief center to help people cope with last weekend's mass shooting at a Walmart, in which 22 people, nearly all with Latino last names, were killed and many others were wounded.

4. WHAT BEIJING'S NEXT MOVE MIGHT BE

A Chinese official says the central government is considering what measures to take next as weeks of demonstrations have led to the "most severe situation" faced by Hong Kong since its handover from Brit-

ish rule in 1997

5. WHOSE ROCKET LAUNCHES WERE MEANT TO CAUTION

North Korea says leader Kim Jong Un supervised a live-fire demonstration of newly developed, short-range ballistic missiles intended to send a warning to the United States and South Korea over their joint military exercises.

6. NO EASY SOLUTIONS IN VENEZUELA

U.S. sanctions against the government of President Nicolás Maduro may be complicating talks with his would-be successor, opposition leader Juan Guaidó, as they seek a common path out of the country's prolonged political standoff.

7. ANOTHER SOURCE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Louisiana has become the first state in the Deep South to dispense therapeutic cannabis, four years after state lawmakers agreed to give patients access to it.

8. ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST TREASURES UNDER THREAT

Decades of uprisings, war and political turmoil have inflicted a heavy toll on Gaza's rich archaeological heritage, exposing it to looting and destruction.

9. A NOBEL WINNER'S INFLUENCE ON HER PEERS

There are countless writers for whom Toni Morrison's characters were like close acquaintances and her stories like parables to guide them through their own lives.

10. ALL BETS ARE ON

The Washington Redskins will become the first NFL team to have a gambling-focused telecast of their games, offering cash prizes to viewers who correctly predict in-game outcomes during the preseason.

Kim says North Korean launches were warning to US, South

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said Wednesday leader Kim Jong Un supervised a live-fire demonstration of newly developed, short-range ballistic missiles intended to send a warning to the United States and South Korea over their joint military exercises.

The official Korean Central News Agency said two missiles launched from a western airfield flew across the country and over the area surrounding the capital, Pyongyang, before accurately hitting an island target off its eastern coast.

Its four rounds of weapons demonstrations in two weeks come during a stalemate in nuclear negotiations and after President Donald Trump repeatedly dismissed the significance of the tests, even though the weapons show North Korea's ability to strike at U.S. allies South Korea and Japan and its military bases there.

Experts say Trump's downplaying of the North's weapons displays allowed the country more room to advance its capabilities and build leverage ahead of negotiations, which could possibly resume sometime after the end of the allies' drills later this month.

Lee Sang-min, spokesman from South Korea's Unification Ministry, said North Korea's recent testing activity doesn't help efforts to stabilize peace and called for Pyongyang to uphold an inter-Korean agreement reached last year to form a joint military committee to discuss reducing military tensions. He did not provide a specific answer when asked whether Seoul believes the North's weapons display will intensify.

The KCNA said the launches early Tuesday verified the reliability and combat ability of "new-type tactical guided missiles." Kim expressed satisfaction and said the launches would send an appropriate level of warning to the military exercises between the United States and South Korea that began on Monday, the report said.

Pyongyang's official Rodong Sinmun also published photos showing what appeared to be a missile soaring from a launcher installed on a vehicle and Kim smiling and celebrating with military officials.

KCNA's report came a day after South Korea's military said it detected two early morning launches that

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were likely ballistic missiles.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the projectiles traveled about 450 kilometers (279 miles) on an apogee of 37 kilometers (23 miles) before landing in waters off the country's eastern coast. It said the projectiles showed similar flight characteristics to short-range missiles North Korea fired on July 25.

South Korea's military had described those missiles as similar to the Russian-made Iskander, a solid-fuel, nuclear-capable missile that is highly maneuverable and travels on low trajectories, improving its chances of evading missile defense systems. Last week, North Korea conducted two test firings of what it described as a new rocket artillery system.

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said North Korea's decision to fly the missiles over its capital indicated it was confident about the reliability of the system. Kim, a former South Korean military official who had participated in inter-Korean military talks, said Kim Jong Un is making a measured effort to advance the North's military capabilities without allowing nuclear negotiations with Washington collapse.

North Korea has denounced Washington and Seoul over their joint military exercises. South Korea confirmed they started Monday but hasn't given details about the drills, which were expected to involve computer simulations and not troops or equipment.

The North's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday the drills "compelled (North Korea) to develop, test and deploy the powerful physical means essential for national defense."

Redrawn map may set off more change in Indian-ruled Kashmir

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India is redrawing its political map again.

Parliament has approved a proposal by the Hindu nationalist-led government that strips statehood from Jammu and Kashmir, its only Muslim-majority state, splitting the region into two union territories after revoking its special rights under India's Constitution.

Although India has redrawn its map many times since gaining independence from the British in 1947, the decision is likely to raise tensions in the already-volatile Himalayan region. India and Pakistan both claim the territory in full and administer portions of it. India's action will further entrench the idea of Hindu-majority rule espoused by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party.

The legislation was introduced alongside a presidential order that takes from the region and its people some political autonomy and hereditary rights by revoking Article 370 of India's Constitution.

The changes will also lift a ban on property purchases by nonresidents of Kashmir, opening the way for Indians outside the territory to invest and settle there. The local Muslim population has long feared such measures would change Kashmir's demography, culture and way of life.

An indefinite security lockdown has kept most of the region's 7 million people in their homes and in the dark about the changes.

Erasing the autonomy of the region will inflame the sentiments of most Kashmiris who demand that the territory be united either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country. Two of the three wars India and Pakistan have found since independence were over Kashmir.

More than half a million Indian soldiers are stationed in Kashmir to counter a rebellion that seeks to secede from India, and there are near-daily demonstrations against Indian control. About 70,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the ensuing crackdown since 1989.

The legislation introduced by Home Minister Amit Shah downgrades Jammu and Kashmir from a state to a union territory with an elected legislature. It also carves out the region of Ladakh as a separate union territory, ruled directly by the central government without a legislature of its own.

The bill has been applauded by India's Hindu nationalist parties, which have been seeking to fully integrate Kashmir since the country's partition into India and Pakistan in 1947. The Modi government's ideological mentor, the right-wing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh organization, praised the decision, describing it as "brave" and "necessary" for the national interest.

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Critics have already likened Kashmir's proposed new arrangement to the West Bank or Tibet, with settlers — armed or civilian — living in guarded compounds among disenfranchised locals.

"The decision (to split the region) will reduce Kashmir to a colony," said A.G. Noorani, a constitutional expert who has written extensively about Kashmir, including the 2011 book "Article 370: A Constitutional History of Jammu and Kashmir."

Noorani said splitting the region into federal territories will "divide Kashmir from the rest of the country and Kashmiris will oppose the Hindu feeling in the region."

Dibyesh Anand, a social scientist at the University of Westminster, said "the fear of settler colonialism is not a specter but a reality, given the approach of both the government and a large number of Indians."

Anand said there will be a major transformation of the socio-economic landscape in Kashmir, where Hindu Indian settlers will be "presented as patriotic pioneers braving Kashmiri Muslim resentment."

Human rights activists and residents of the troubled state have long feared such a move could destabilize the region and plunge it into chaos by redrawing sectarian lines.

Still, the main worry for many is that the central government's actions will set in motion a plan to crush the identity of the people of Kashmir.

Indian census data puts the total population of the Indian-controlled part of Jammu and Kashmir at 12.5 million, about 68% Muslim, 28% Hindu and just under 1% Buddhist. Within the state, Kashmir is about 94% Muslim while Jammu is about 63% Hindu and 33% Muslim.

The remote mountainous Ladakh region has a population of just 274,289 people, with 46% Muslim and about 40% Buddhist.

The immediate implications are that Kashmir will lose its flag, criminal code and constitution.

Before the region's special rights were revoked, New Delhi needed the regional government's approval to apply all other laws — except in defense, foreign affairs, finance and communications.

Turning Kashmir into a union territory means the central government will gain much more control over the area's affairs, including its courts. Electoral constituencies will be reorganized using 2011 census figures. This could further inflame the region if more power is shifted to Jammu, where Modi and his Hindu-nationalist party enjoy strong support.

Some experts questioned whether India's actions were legal.

"This move is a violation of the procedure in any case and can be challenged by the Supreme Court. Article 370 can only be managed by the government of Jammu and Kashmir. So, this Parliament cannot abrogate it. This is what the law says," Noorani said.

Many constitutional experts say the provision that allows Article 370 to be altered by presidential order requires the consent of the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir and is therefore void because the assembly was dissolved in 1956.

"This clearly means that it (Article 370) cannot be revoked, because the only body which could have recommended it has ceased to exist," said Yogendra Yadav, a political analyst.

Meanwhile, India's main opposition party, the Indian National Congress, voiced strong opposition to the way the government went about repealing the region's special status.

Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, defeated by Modi in May elections, criticized the "abuse of executive power" by the ruling party and said the move would have grave implications for national security.

"National integration isn't furthered by unilaterally tearing apart J&K, imprisoning elected representatives and violating our Constitution. This nation is made by its people, not plots of land," Gandhi tweeted.

Nobel laureate Toni Morrison dead at 88

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, a pioneer and reigning giant of modern literature whose imaginative power in "Beloved," "Sula" and other works transformed American letters by dramatizing the pursuit of freedom within the boundaries of race, has died at age 88.

Publisher Alfred A. Knopf announced that Morrison died Monday night at Montefiore Medical Center in

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New York after a brief illness.

"Toni Morrison passed away peacefully last night surrounded by family and friends," Morrison's family said in a statement through the publisher. "She was an extremely devoted mother, grandmother, and aunt who reveled in being with her family and friends. The consummate writer who treasured the written word, whether her own, her students or others, she read voraciously and was most at home when writing."

Few authors rose in such rapid, spectacular style. She was nearly 40 when her first novel, "The Bluest Eye," was published. By her early 60s, after just six novels, she had become the first black woman to receive the Nobel literature prize, praised in 1993 by the Swedish academy for her "visionary force" and for delving into "language itself, a language she wants to liberate" from categories of black and white.

Morrison helped educate her country and the world about the private lives of the unknown and unwanted. In her novels, history — black history — was a hidden trove of poetry, tragedy and good old gossip, whether in small-town Ohio in "Sula" or big-city Harlem in "Jazz." She regarded race as a social construct, and through language founded the better world her characters suffered to attain, weaving in everything from African literature and slave folklore to the Bible and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

"Narrative has never been merely entertainment for me," she said in her Nobel lecture. "It is, I believe, one of the principal ways in which we absorb knowledge."

Winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for "Beloved," she was one of the book world's most regal presences, with her expanse of graying braids; her dark, discerning eyes; and her warm, theatrical voice, which could lower to a mysterious growl or rise to a humorous falsetto. "That handsome and perceptive lady," James Baldwin called her.

Her admirers ranged from college students and housewives to Barack Obama, who awarded her a Presidential Medal of Honor; Bill Clinton, whom the author called "our first black president"; and Oprah Winfrey, who helped expand Morrison's readership. Morrison shared those high opinions, repeatedly labeling one of her novels, "Love," as "perfect" and rejecting the idea that artistic achievement called for quiet modesty.

"Maya Angelou helped me without her knowing it," Morrison told The Associated Press during a 1998 interview. "When she was writing her first book, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,' I was an editor at Random House. She was having such a good time, and she never said, 'Who me? My little book?'"

"I decided that ... winning the (Nobel) prize was fabulous," Morrison added. "Nobody was going to take that and make it into something else. I felt representational. I felt American. I felt Ohioan. I felt blacker than ever. I felt more woman than ever. I felt all of that, and put all of that together and went out and had a good time."

Morrison was born Chloe Anthony Wofford in Lorain, Ohio, a steel town outside of Cleveland. She attended Howard University, where she spent much of her free time in the theater, and met and married a Jamaican architect, Harold Morrison, whom she divorced in 1964. They had two children, Harold and Slade.

Even when she was growing up, she believed she was smarter than the white kids and took it for granted she was wiser. She was an honors student and attended Howard because she dreamed of life spent among black intellectuals.

But although she went on to teach there, Howard disappointed her. Campus life seemed closer to a finishing school than to an institution of learning.

Protesters, among them her former student Stokely Carmichael, were demanding equality. Morrison wanted that, too, but wondered what kind.

"I thought they wanted to integrate for nefarious purposes," she said. "I thought they should demand money in those black schools. That was the problem — the resources, the better equipment, the better teachers, the buildings that were falling apart — not being in some high school next to some white kids."

In 1964, she became an editor at Random House and one of the few black women in publishing. Over the next 20 years, she would work with emerging fiction authors such as Gayl Jones and Toni Cade Bambara, on a memoir by Muhammad Ali and books by such activists as Angela Davis and Black Panther Huey Newton. A special project was editing "The Black Book," a collection of everything from newspaper advertisements to song lyrics that anticipated her immersion in the everyday lives of the past.

By the late '60s, she was a single mother and determined writer who had been pushed by her future editor, Robert Gottlieb, into deciding whether she'd write or edit. Seated at her kitchen table, she fleshed out a story based on a childhood memory of a black girl in Lorain who desired blue eyes. She called the novel "The Bluest Eye." She had no agent and was rejected by several publishers before reaching a deal with Holt, which released the novel in 1969. Sales were modest, but critics liked it and Morrison soon signed up with Gottlieb and Knopf, which became her longtime publisher.

Gun reform urged in Ohio as Texas Democrats shun Trump visit

By **JOHN SEEWER** and **CEDAR ATTANASIO** Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Ohio's Republican governor bucked his party to call for expanded gun laws Tuesday and some Democrats in Texas told President Donald Trump to stay away as both states reeled from a pair of shootings that killed 31 people.

A racist screed remained the focus of police investigating the massacre at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, while the FBI opened an investigation into the mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio, citing the gunman's interest in violent ideology.

PUSH FOR LEGISLATION IN OHIO

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine urged the GOP-led state Legislature to pass laws requiring background checks for nearly all gun sales and allowing courts to restrict firearms access for people perceived as threats.

Persuading the Legislature to pass such proposals could be an uphill battle. It has given little consideration this session to those and other gun-safety measures already introduced by Democrats and DeWine's Republican predecessor, John Kasich, also unsuccessfully pushed for a so-called red flag law on restricting firearms for people considered threats.

"We can come together to do these things to save lives," DeWine said.

FBI INVESTIGATING DAYTON SHOOTING

On Tuesday, the FBI opened an investigation into the mass shooting at a popular Dayton nightlife district to try to determine what ideologies influenced 24-year-old gunman Connor Betts.

Special Agent Todd Wickerham, head of the FBI's Cincinnati field office, said the agency is looking into who might have helped Betts and why he chose his specific target.

Wickerham didn't say whether the FBI is looking at treating the case as domestic terrorism, as it did in the Texas mass shooting earlier in the weekend.

EL PASO DEMOCRATS BALK AT TRUMP VISIT

President Donald Trump was planning visits to both cities Wednesday, an announcement that stirred some resistance in El Paso.

Democratic Rep. Veronica Escobar of El Paso made clear that the president was not welcome in her hometown as it mourned. Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, who was an El Paso congressman for six years, also said Trump should stay away.

Escobar tweeted that the White House had invited her to join Trump during his visit but she'll instead attend a rally that organizers say will confront the president and white supremacy while calling for gun control.

Escobar said Tuesday that victims' families were already using the city's newly opened resource center where various government and mental health services have set up booths.

"There's going to be a lot of trauma in our community; a lot of children saw things that no human being should see," Escobar said.

EX: OHIO SHOOTER SHARED DARK THOUGHTS

A woman who briefly dated the Ohio gunman said he suffered from bipolar disorder, joked about his dark thoughts and exhibited a fascination with mass shootings.

Adelia Johnson wrote in an online essay that Betts showed her a video of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting on their first date.

She said Betts expressed "uncontrollable urges" that she called "red flags," which eventually led her to

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call things off in May.

GUN CONTROL AND IMMIGRATION

On Monday, Trump made a vague expression of openness to new gun laws, suggesting a bill to expand gun background checks could be combined with his long-sought effort to toughen the nation's immigration system but gave no rationale for the pairing.

Studies have repeatedly shown that immigrants have a lower level of criminality than those born in the U.S., both shooting suspects were citizens, and federal officials are investigating anti-immigrant bias as a potential motive in the Texas massacre.

In both El Paso and Dayton, a young white male was identified as the lone suspect. The suspect in the Texas shooting, 21-year-old Patrick Crusius, was booked on murder charges. Betts was killed as police quickly swooped in to end his ambush.

Attanasio reported from El Paso. Contributing to this report were Julie Carr Smyth and Kantele Franko in Columbus, Ohio; Astrid Galvan and Morgan Lee in El Paso; Paul J. Weber in Austin, Texas; and Zeke Miller and Jonathan Lemire in Washington.

Venezuela talks in the balance as US ups pressure on Maduro

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — For weeks, representatives of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his would-be successor, opposition leader Juan Guaidó, have been shuttling back and forth to Barbados trying to agree on a common path out of the country's prolonged political standoff.

The meetings have been slow-going and shrouded in mystery, with neither side disclosing details. But now Maduro's supporters are accusing the U.S. of trying to blow up the fragile process.

The purported explosive: sweeping new sanctions that freeze all of the Maduro government's assets in the U.S. and even threaten to punish companies from third countries that keep doing business with his socialist administration.

"They're trying to dynamite the dialogue," Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said Tuesday at a news conference to denounce comments by U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton defending the asset freeze. "But nobody, not even 1,000 Trumps or 500 Boltons ... will make us abandon the negotiating table."

Building on its role as a facilitator of Colombia's peace process, Norway in May managed to overcome deep distrust arising from past failed attempts at dialogue and bring the two sides together in Oslo. Talks have since moved to the Caribbean island of Barbados, where the fifth round wrapped up last week.

Neither side has said much about what is being discussed although speculation has swirled in political and diplomatic circles that Maduro's envoys have expressed a willingness to call an early presidential election under a revamped electoral board and foreign observation. The U.S. has insisted Maduro must give up power before any elections can be deemed credible.

Three people involved in the talks from different sides have described the environment as serious-minded and cordial, with each delegation dining and traveling back and forth to the island from Caracas separately. All three insist progress has been made, even if the thorny topic of elections is being left for last and an all-encompassing deal based on a six-point agenda is some way off. The people agreed to speak to The Associated Press only on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to divulge details of the talks.

Such insider accounts differ sharply from the assessment of Bolton and other hardliners inside the Trump administration who have accused Maduro of using the talks to buy time.

"We will not fall for these old tricks of a tired dictator," Bolton declared Tuesday at a meeting in Peru of more than 50 governments aligned against Maduro. "No more time for tap, tap, tapping. Now is the time for action."

To be sure, nobody in the Trump administration has disavowed the talks, and some analysts believe Bolton's "bad cop" persona and his threats of more punitive actions to come may even provide a boost

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to the mediation effort.

David Smilde, a sociology professor at Tulane University who has studied Venezuela for over 25 years, said similar strong-armed tactics by the U.S. failed to prevent a negotiated end to the civil wars in Central America in the 1980s. Then, as the Cold War was still raging, U.S. funding of the contra army in Nicaragua in direct defiance of a regional peace plan actually increased international support for it.

"Ironically, obnoxious, bald actions by Bolton to sabotage the talks could end up favoring negotiations," said Smilde.

Like Maduro, Guaidó, who heads the opposition-controlled congress, has shown no willingness to ditch the talks despite pressure to do so from hawks inside his coalition who accuse him of turning a blind eye to Maduro's alleged torturing of opponents.

"We are doing everything possible to continue the Norwegian mechanism," Guaidó said Tuesday when asked whether talks would continue.

But while neither side wants to bear the blame for a collapse, an eventual deal still faces huge obstacles.

Maduro, although severely weakened by the U.S. sanctions and increasingly isolated internationally, still enjoys the support of powerful allies like Russia and China. He also has the backing of the military, the traditional arbiter of disputes in Venezuela. Neither the military nor the U.S. is a party to the talks, even though Maduro's main goal is the removal of U.S. sanctions.

Meanwhile, Guaidó's momentum has stalled since he declared himself interim president in January over what the U.S. and some 50 other nations saw as Maduro's fraudulent re-election last year. Demonstrations that at the start of the year filled the streets of Caracas have thinned to a trickle and a military uprising called for by Guaidó in April ended with several opposition lawmakers on the run or in exile.

While Guaidó's negotiators have become more flexible, some in the opposition will be emboldened by the latest U.S. sanctions, said Phil Gunson, a Caracas-based analyst for the International Crisis Group.

But he said he sees no evidence Maduro is seriously considering giving up power.

"As long as each side pursues a winner-take-all approach, they are less willing to make concessions and a deal will remain elusive," Gunson said.

Joshua Goodman on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APjoshgoodman>

Changing the channel on the bad rerun of shooting coverage

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Revulsion over the weekend's twin mass shootings and the nagging sense that it's all an inconclusive rerun has frustrated the news media and those who rely upon it — and triggered the stirrings of a new debate over how such tragedies should be covered.

"It's time for journalists to take sides," tweeted prominent Columbia University professor Bill Grueskin, and he's not just a voice in the wilderness.

News outlets have been dominated by coverage of the shootings that killed 31 people in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. Editors at The New York Times discovered the extent to which nerves are frayed when they put together the newspaper's Tuesday edition.

The first edition's lead headline, "TRUMP URGES UNITY VS. RACISM," provoked a social media backlash. Some tweeters said they canceled subscriptions in disgust.

"Let this front page serve as a reminder of how white supremacy is aided by — and often relies upon — the cowardice of mainstream institutions," New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez wrote in a tweet.

The newspaper called the headline flawed and changed it to, "ASSAILING HATE BUT NOT GUNS" in later editions and online.

Similarly, The Associated Press got online criticism for using the phrase "mass shootings" to refer to the carnage, with some readers suggesting "murder" was more appropriate. The news service's rules forbid using the word murder unless an assailant was convicted of a crime.

Fox News' Shepard Smith wearily captured the impotence of the by-now-rote response to each mass

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shooting.

"We hear you," he told viewers in an essay that opened his show Monday. "We heard you the last time. And the time before that and we will likely do it all soon, yet again in America."

The ritual makes journalism seem futile, said John Temple, a professor at the University of California at Berkeley who was a newspaper editor in Colorado at the time of the Columbine shootings.

Journalists feel the need to bear witness, Temple wrote in Atlantic magazine, but to the same horror, again and again?

"I can't say any more that I believe we learn from terrible things," Temple said. "I can say that I've seen the limits of journalism — and of hope. And I'm struggling with what to do about it."

The futility led Columbia's Grueskin, a veteran of the Miami Herald and Wall Street Journal, to suggest taking sides. He said the issue reminds him of the civil rights movement, where the moral importance led many reporters to cast aside doubt as to who was right and wrong.

Gun violence and climate change are issues that deserve the same treatment today, he said.

"Politicians who are too craven or mealy-mouthed to acknowledge the depth and breadth of these problems, and the need to enact serious reforms, will someday be looked upon the way we now think of Strom Thurmond or James Eastland," Grueskin said, referring to the segregationist senators from South Carolina and Mississippi. "Journalists have every right, and every obligation, to point that out."

How to put this idea into practice is the hard part.

Former CBS News anchor Dan Rather suggests journalists refrain from quoting President Donald Trump's speeches and tweets without better context. The Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin said every story on the issue should mention that Trump never condemned white nationalism until Monday's speech, and consistently abetted it.

Presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke went even further, urging reporters to "connect the dots" and say Trump is inciting racism and violence.

"O'Rourke's words were a moment of moral clarity that America so desperately needs," wrote Will Bunch, a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. "We just need a lot more. This cannot be business as usual."

Not everyone agrees, as O'Rourke's primary opponent, Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan, found out when he pointed to Trump's words in an appearance on Fox News Channel. Host Neal Cavuto argued that his guest was taking things too far to suggest Trump inspired the El Paso shooter.

They went back and forth, before Cavuto cut off the interview with Ryan in mid-sentence.

Cable news advocacy has damaged the reputation of journalism in general, said Will Norton, dean of the School of Journalism and New Media at the University of Mississippi.

Many people already expect news served up with a point of view. So if journalists more actively take sides, Norton said it will make things even worse with people who already believe the media is biased.

"You just wonder why an incident like this happens and the media covers it like crazy and then it doesn't come up again until the next killing," Norton said. "The way that you cover these things is you keep it before the public and let them know how important it is."

For Lucy Dalglish, dean of the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism, it was working with surviving journalists from the Capital Gazette after the 2018 attack that killed five staff members at the Annapolis, Maryland, newspaper that led her to question her old assumptions.

For generations, journalism students have been told to check their feelings at the door when it's time to work, she said.

"It's becoming tougher and tougher to do that," Dalglish said, "because the way we're covering this doesn't seem to matter anymore."

Trump's divisive words collide with his call for unity

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Wednesday will bring a message aimed at national unity and healing to the sites of the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton. But the words he offers for a divided America will be complicated by his own incendiary, anti-immigrant rhetoric that mirrors language linked to one of the shooters.

It is a highly unusual predicament for an American president to at once try to console a community and a nation at the same time he is being criticized as contributing to a combustible climate that can spawn violence.

White House officials said Trump's visits to Texas and Ohio, where 31 people were killed and dozens wounded, would be similar to those he's paid to grieving communities including Parkland, Florida, and Las Vegas, with the president and first lady saluting first responders and spending time with mourning families and survivors.

"What he wants to do is go to these communities and grieve with them, pray with them, offer condolences," said White House spokesman Hogan Gidley. He said Trump also wants "to have a conversation" about ways to head off future deadly episodes.

"We can do something impactful to prevent this from ever happening again, if we come together," the spokesman said.

That's a tough assignment for a president who thrives on division and who, his aides say, views discord and unease about cultural, economic and demographic changes as key to his reelection.

At the same time, prominent Democrats have been casting blame on Trump more often than calling for national unity in the aftermath of the shootings, a measure of the profound polarization in the country.

Trump, who often seems most comfortable on rally stages with deeply partisan crowds, has not excelled at projecting empathy, mixing what can sound like perfunctory expressions of grief with awkward offhand remarks. While he has offered hugs to tornado victims and spent time at the bedsides of shooting victims, he has yet to project the kind of emotion and vulnerability of his recent predecessors.

Barack Obama grew visibly shaken as he addressed the nation in the wake of the Sandy Hook elementary school massacre and teared up while delivering a 2016 speech on new gun control efforts. George W. Bush helped bring the country together following the Sept. 11 attacks, notably standing atop the smoking rubble of the World Trade Center, his arm draped over the shoulder of a firefighter, as he shouted through a bullhorn. Bill Clinton helped reassure the nation after the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City and the mass school shooting at Columbine High School.

Trump, too, has been able to summon soothing words. But then he often quickly lapses into divisive tweets and statements — just recently painting immigrants as "invaders," suggesting four Democratic congresswoman of color should go back to their home countries, though all are citizens, and describing majority-black Baltimore as a rat-infested hell-hole.

In the Texas border city of El Paso, some residents and local Democratic lawmakers said Trump was not welcome and urged him to stay away.

"This president, who helped create the hatred that made Saturday's tragedy possible, should not come to El Paso," tweeted Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, who served the area for three terms as a congressman. "We do not need more division. We need to heal. He has no place here."

In Dayton, Mayor Nan Whaley said she would be meeting with Trump Wednesday, but she told reporters she was disappointed with his scripted remarks Monday responding to the shootings. His speech included a denunciation of "racism, bigotry and white supremacy" and a declaration that "hate has no place in America." But he made no mention of new efforts to limit sales of certain guns or the anti-immigration rhetoric found in an online screed posted just before the El Paso attack.

The hateful manifesto's author — police believe it was the shooter but investigation continues — insisted the opinions "predate Trump and his campaign for president." But the words echoed some of the views Trump has expressed on immigration, including claiming that Democrats "intend to use open borders,

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free HealthCare for illegals, citizenship and more to enact a political coup by importing and then legalizing millions of new voters.”

Dayton Mayor Whaley said simply, “Everyone has it in their power to be a force to bring people together, and everybody has it in their power to be a force to bring people apart — that’s up to the president of the United States.”

Democrats vying to challenge Trump in the 2020 election have been nearly unanimous in excoriating him for rhetoric they warned has nurtured the racist attitudes of the El Paso shooter as they sought to project leadership during a fraught moment for a bruised nation.

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker was delivering a speech on gun violence and white nationalism Wednesday at the Charleston, South Carolina, church where nine black parishioners were killed in 2015. Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, released a detailed plan for gun control and deterrence.

Gidley and other White House officials denounced suggestions that Trump’s rhetoric was in any way responsible for the shooting. They called it “dangerous,” “pathetic” and “disgusting.”

“It’s not the politician’s fault when somebody acts out their evil intention,” Gidley said, pointing to other shooters who have expressed political preferences for Democratic politicians such as Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

“It is shameful that Democrats are unable to prevent themselves from politicizing a moment of national grief,” added Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh.

Trump himself, quoting one of the hosts of “Fox & Friends”: “Did George Bush ever condemn President Obama after Sandy Hook. President Obama had 32 mass shootings during his reign. Not many people said Obama is out of control. Mass shootings were happening before the president even thought about running for Pres.”

Warren spokeswoman Kristen Orthman said leaders have an obligation to speak out.

“Let’s be clear,” she said in a statement. “There is a direct line between the president’s rhetoric and the stated motivations of the El Paso shooter.”

Sanders spokesman Jeff Weaver said: “We asked Donald Trump to condemn white nationalism and anti-immigrant demonization. We are not holding our breath.”

Recent Pew Research Center polling found 85% of U.S. adults believe the tone and nature of political debate in the country has become more negative, with a majority saying Trump has changed things for the worse. And more than three quarters — 78% — say elected officials who use heated or aggressive language to talk about certain people or groups make violence against those people more likely.

Associated Press writers Elana Schor, Deb Riechmann and Darlene Superville and AP polling editor Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

FBI reviewing Ohio shooter’s interest in violent ideology

By JOHN SEEWER and KANTELE FRANKO Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — The gunman who killed nine people in Dayton, Ohio, had expressed a desire to commit a mass shooting and showed an interest in violent ideology, investigators said Tuesday as the FBI announced it is opening an investigation.

Federal investigators will try to determine what ideologies influenced 24-year-old Connor Betts, who might have helped him or knew in advance of his plan, and why he chose the specific target of Dayton’s Oregon entertainment district for the shooting early Sunday, said Special Agent Todd Wickerham, the head of the FBI’s Cincinnati field office.

Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl said Betts had “violent ideations that include mass shootings and had expressed a desire to commit a mass shooting.”

Wickerham didn’t say whether the FBI is looking at if the case could be treated as domestic terrorism,

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as the agency has done in the El Paso, Texas, mass shooting earlier in the weekend. He said Betts hadn't been on the FBI's radar. He declined to discuss what specific ideologies might be linked to Betts' actions but said there was no evidence so far that they were racially motivated.

Meanwhile, public conversation around the shooting shifted Tuesday toward how to address people with mental health issues who might pose a threat of violence, as a woman who briefly dated the gunman recounted their bonding over struggles with mental illness and the governor called for more mental health support along with gun safety measures.

Investigators haven't publicly offered a motive for why Betts, wearing a mask and body armor, opened fire with an AR-15 style gun outside a strip of nightclubs in Dayton early Sunday, killing his sister and eight others before officers fatally shot him less than 30 seconds into his rampage.

A woman who said she briefly dated him earlier this year wrote in an online essay that Betts had "dark thoughts," including about wanting to hurt people. Adelia Johnson, 24, said they met in a college psychology class and bonded over dealing with mental illness, which she said allowed Betts to open up to her.

Johnson said she was in treatment but that Betts "didn't want to seek help because of the stigma." He told her he thought he had mental illnesses including bipolar disorder, she said.

"When he started joking about his dark thoughts, I understood," she wrote. "Dark thoughts for someone with a mental illness are just a symptom that we have to learn how to manage."

Johnson said on their first date, Betts showed her a video of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. She said Betts had "uncontrollable urges" that she called "red flags," which eventually led her to call things off in May. When she broke up with him, she said she reached out to his mother to express her concern, but she didn't elaborate on what they discussed.

The family of Betts and his sister, Megan Betts, released a statement through police Tuesday night, saying they are devastated and cooperating with law enforcement's investigation.

"The Betts family would like to express their enormous gratitude and love for everyone that has reached out and given their support during this awful time," the statement reads. "They ask that everyone respect the family's privacy in order to mourn the loss of their son and daughter and to process the horror of Sunday's events."

It's unknown whether any of the Dayton victims were targeted. Besides Megan Betts, 22, the others who died were Monica Brickhouse, 39; Nicholas Cumer, 25; Derrick Fudge, 57; Thomas McNichols, 25; Lois Oglesby, 27; Saeed Saleh, 38; Logan Turner, 30; and Beatrice N. Warren-Curtis, 36.

Betts was white and six of the nine killed were black, but police said the speed of the rampage made any discrimination in the shooting seem unlikely.

Hospital officials said 37 people have been treated for injuries, including 14 with gunshot wounds.

The shooting and another mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, over the weekend left 31 people dead and more than 50 injured in less than 24 hours.

Johnson's comments add to a conflicting picture emerging of Betts, with some people defending him as a nice guy and friendly neighbor while former schoolmates recall a troubled teenager.

Two former classmates told The Associated Press that Betts was suspended from Bellbrook High School after a hit list was found scrawled in a school bathroom. That followed an earlier suspension after Betts came to school with a list of female students he wanted to sexually assault, according to the two classmates, a man and a woman who spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern they might face harassment.

Others remembered how he tried to intimidate classmates.

"It's baffling and horrible that somebody who's been talking for 10 years about wanting to shoot people could easily, so easily, get access to a military grade weapon and that much ammo," said Hannah Shows, a former high schoolmate who remembered seeing Betts look at people and imitate shooting at them.

"He was someone who enjoyed making people afraid," she said.

Brad Howard said he also long attended school with Betts but recalled him differently.

"The Connor Betts that I knew was a nice kid," Howard said.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools wouldn't comment and refused to release information about his student

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records.

Sugarcreek Township police said the only records they have on Betts are from a 2015 traffic citation. They noted without further explanation that Ohio law allows sealed juvenile court records to be expunged after five years or when the person involved turns 23.

Bellbrook police say they weren't aware of any history of violence.

GOP Gov. Mike DeWine said it's clear Betts exhibited anti-social behaviors in high school that should have alerted those around him to a problem. But Betts had no apparent criminal record as an adult, and police said there was nothing that would have prevented him from buying a gun.

DeWine on Tuesday called on the Republican-led Legislature to pass laws requiring background checks for nearly all gun sales, allowing courts to restrict firearms access for people perceived as threats, and improving access to in-patient psychiatric care for those who need it most.

"If we, after a tragedy, only confine ourselves to doing those things that would have prevented this tragedy, we are missing a real opportunity," DeWine said. "So we need to look at these tragedies together."

President Donald Trump, who is expected to visit Dayton on Wednesday, has said he wants Washington to "come together" on legislation providing "strong background checks" for gun users, but he gave no details.

The Democrat-led House has passed a gun control bill that includes fixes to the nation's firearm background check system, but it has languished in the Republican-controlled Senate.

The El Paso and Dayton killings have contributed to 2019 being an especially deadly year for mass killings in the U.S.

A database by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University shows that there have been 23 mass killings so far this year, claiming the lives of 131 people. By comparison, 140 people died in mass killings in all of 2018. The database tracks every mass killing in the country dating back to 2006.

Franko reported from Columbus. Associated Press writers Dan Sewell in Cincinnati, Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Amanda Seitz in Chicago and Robert Bumsted in Dayton contributed.

Find complete AP coverage of recent mass shootings here: <https://apnews.com/Shootings>

Troops lock down Kashmir as India votes to strip its status

By EMILY SCHMALL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian lawmakers passed a bill Tuesday that strips statehood from the Indian-administered portion of Muslim-majority Kashmir, which remains under an indefinite security lockdown, actions that archrival Pakistan warned could lead to war.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist-led government submitted the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill for a vote by the lower house of Parliament a day after the surprise measure was introduced alongside a presidential order. That order dissolved a constitutional provision, known as Article 370, which gave Kashmiris exclusive hereditary rights and a separate constitution.

"After five years, seeing development in J&K (Jammu and Kashmir) under the leadership of PM Modi, people of the valley will understand drawbacks of Article 370," Indian Home Minister Amit Shah said just before the bill was passed.

Kashmir is claimed by both India and Pakistan and divided between them. Two of the three wars the nuclear-armed neighbors have fought since their independence from British rule were over Kashmir.

How the 7 million people in the Kashmir Valley were reacting was unclear, because the Indian government shut off most communication with it, including internet, cellphone and landline networks. Thousands of additional troops were deployed to the already heavily militarized region out of fear the government's steps could spark unrest. Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state and most people there oppose Indian rule.

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Indian TV news channels in Srinagar, the main city in India's portion of Kashmir, showed security personnel including armed soldiers in camouflage standing near barbed wire barricades in the otherwise empty streets.

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh said Srinagar was "totally peaceful," the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Hundreds of people around Pakistan and the portion of Kashmir it controls rallied against Modi, burning him in effigy and torching Indian flags to condemn India's moves.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said in an address to Parliament on Tuesday night that he feared the Kashmiri people could attack Indian security forces out of anger and New Delhi could blame Pakistan for it. "If India attacks us, we will respond," Khan said. "We will fight until the last drop of blood."

In February, a bombing in Indian-controlled Kashmir killed 40 Indian troops. India responded with an airstrike inside Pakistan, blaming a Pakistani group for the attack.

The Pakistani military was on high alert Tuesday following reports that New Delhi was continuing to send additional troops to its portion of Kashmir. Pakistan's top military commanders met in the garrison city of Rawalpindi to discuss the changes in Kashmir.

China, which also lays claim to a portion of Kashmir, is "seriously concerned" about the situation, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said.

"The relevant sides need to exercise restraint and act prudently. In particular, they should refrain from taking actions that will unilaterally change the status quo and escalate tensions," she said.

The bill passed in India's Parliament changes Jammu and Kashmir from a state to a union territory with a legislature, and carves out Buddhist-majority Ladakh, a pristine, sparsely populated area that stretches from the Siachen Glacier to the Himalayas, as a separate union territory without a legislature.

The lower house approved the bill Tuesday, a day after upper house approved it by a two-thirds majority, with many opposition lawmakers voting with the ruling Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

It was unclear when the security measures would be eased in Kashmir, but an outpouring of condemnation by Kashmiris living outside the region or who were able to access the internet despite the government blocks suggest the population will resist the New Delhi government's actions.

Ordinary Kashmiris have feared the measures would be a prelude to intensifying an ongoing crackdown against anti-India dissenters. Rebels have been fighting Indian control for decades, and most Kashmiris support the rebels' demand that all of Kashmir be united under Pakistani rule or become independent.

Security lockdowns, general strikes and civilian street demonstrations against Indian control are routine. About 70,000 people have been killed in the rebel uprising and the ensuing Indian crackdown.

Associated Press writer Munir Ahmed in Islamabad contributed to this report.

Ohio Republicans again faced with calls to enact gun reforms

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Prompted to act by the bloodshed in Dayton, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine proposed a package of measures Tuesday that he says will address mass shootings, declaring, "We can come together to do these things to save lives."

Yet members of DeWine's own party have repeatedly blocked gun-control measures in the Legislature, leaving the fate of his proposals uncertain. Even the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history and the school massacre in Parkland, Florida, could not move Ohio Republicans to act on most elements of a gun-control package proposed last year by then-Gov. John Kasich, also a Republican.

Republican lawmakers sought to expand gun-owner protections in a bill Kasich ultimately vetoed.

DeWine's proposals include requiring background checks for nearly all gun sales in Ohio, allowing courts to restrict firearms access for people perceived as threats, increasing community support to identify mental health risks, expanding use of the state's school safety tip line and beefing up social media monitoring.

"We know there's going to be some violence; it's the world we live in," the governor said. "But I can tell

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you this: If we do these things, it will matter. If we do these things, it will make us safer.”

DeWine invited some Ohio gun-rights advocates to his news conference, while gun-control advocates stood outside in the hall. That led some to wonder how tough any of the proposals ultimately will be.

“He takes money from the NRA, and he’s in there talking about gun control when he knows darn well it’s never going to pass,” said Kelly Weber, 40, an elementary school teacher from Gahanna, a Columbus suburb. “So he’s doing it to appease people. He doesn’t care about gun safety.”

While serving in Congress, DeWine often sided with gun-control groups on such issues as background checks and certain gun ownership restrictions. But the National Rifle Association endorsed and contributed to him in last year’s governor’s race.

It’s unclear whether any of DeWine’s proposed changes would have done anything to prevent the Dayton shooting, which left nine dead and 37 injured. Betts had no apparent criminal record as an adult, and police said there was nothing in his background that would have prevented him from buying a gun.

For the reforms to work, mental health concerns would have to be reported by parents, classmates, educators or law enforcement, then authorities would need to do something with that information, DeWine said.

His package also does not address some of the more restrictive laws adopted in other states, such as banning assault-style weapons or limiting the size of ammunition magazines. Police say the shooter in Dayton was equipped with an AR-15 style gun and a 100-round magazine.

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper urged the governor and Republican lawmakers to work with Democrats so any gun control package has bipartisan support. Democrats also noted that a red flag bill already had been introduced this year in the Legislature — by a Democrat. The bill’s author, state Sen. Sandra Williams, wrote to the chamber’s Republican leader after the Dayton shooting asking for action on her legislation.

“Ohio Democrats have been pushing gun violence prevention laws for years, while Republican politicians in Columbus have worked overtime not just to stop them all, but to move in the opposite direction, including allowing guns everywhere from bars to day cares,” Pepper said in a statement Tuesday.

In the year following the February 2018 high school shooting in Parkland, Florida, so-called “red flag” laws have grown as a tool being used by states to reduce suicides and homicides. In general, they make it easier to take guns away from people who may be suicidal or bent on violence against others. At least nine states have passed such laws and others, including Pennsylvania, are debating them.

Reached by phone Tuesday, Kasich said DeWine’s legislative package closely mirrors his own and that his failure to get his passed does not make DeWine’s attempt a hollow promise.

“This is more than lip service,” he said.

The former congressman and two-time presidential candidate says navigating contentious policy issues can take time as the public becomes increasingly versed in a topic and pressure rises.

“We plowed a lot of ground on it, so if Mike DeWine can get it done I’d be happy,” Kasich said. “Now with Dayton, this really puts the heat on the Legislature, and I’m really optimistic and hopeful that this can happen.”

Senate President Larry Obhof slipped quietly into DeWine’s news conference Tuesday and, later in the day, his spokesman said the Republican leader would start “thorough and deliberative consideration” right away.

In Dayton, police have said 24-year-old Connor Betts was wearing a mask and body armor when he opened fire just after 1 a.m. Sunday in a popular entertainment district. The attack and another mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, this past weekend left a combined 31 people dead and more than 50 injured in less than 24 hours.

Despite the fact Betts carried an assault-style rifle and may have had as many as 250 rounds of ammunition on him, DeWine said proposing an assault weapons ban would be politically futile in Ohio.

Jim Irvine, president of the Buckeye Firearms Association, said gun-owner groups don’t believe such laws work.

“You want to know how many people somebody’s going to kill? Time is what matters,” Irvine said. “You tell me how long you’re going to let somebody stand in a room with innocent people and killing them

before we stop them, and we'll tell you about how many he's going to kill."

Dayton police estimate they shot and killed Betts within 30 seconds.

Irvine, who was among those invited to DeWine's news conference, said the governor's proposals are welcome, including one that would add mental health records to the state's background check system.

"We're all on the same page. Nobody likes what happened. Nobody likes the violence in our inner cities," he told reporters after the news conference. "What can we do about it, respecting the rights of the citizens, and make it work? And I believe the governor has shown not just today but through his life, that's what he wants to do. He wants to help."

An Associated Press review of all firearms-related legislation passed last year, encompassing the first full state legislative sessions since Parkland and the nation's deadliest mass shooting, in Las Vegas, showed a decidedly mixed record.

Gun control bills passed in a number of states, but 2018 was not the national game-changer gun-control advocates had hoped it could be, falling back to largely predictable and partisan patterns.

DeWine said he hoped involving 2nd Amendment supporters in the negotiations would help move his proposal through the Legislature.

Associated Press writer Kantele Franko contributed to this report.

FBI: California gunman had list of possible targets

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The FBI has opened a domestic terrorism investigation into the mass shooting at a California food festival after it discovered a "target list" compiled by the gunman whose relatives apologized Tuesday and said they were "horrified" by his actions.

The FBI disclosure came during a funeral mass for Keyla Salazar, a 13-year-old middle schooler who was one of three people killed on July 28 by gunman Santino William Legan during the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Thirteen others were injured.

It was the first of three mass shootings within a week that killed a total of 34 people in Gilroy, Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas. The attacks have prompted widespread calls for gun reform and heightened mental health care.

The FBI has opened domestic terrorism cases in two of the attacks.

In Gilroy, the FBI cited the 19-year-old Legan's list of targets that included religious institutions, courthouses, federal buildings and both major political parties in the U.S.

Authorities say the gunman in Texas posted a racist, anti-Hispanic screed online. The FBI has not said if it is considering the Ohio case to be domestic terrorism, even though the shooter expressed a desire to commit a mass shooting.

In California, federal investigators and Legan's family said they have not been able to come up with a motive for the festival attack.

However, John Bennett, FBI agent in charge in San Francisco, said the agency cannot rule out white nationalism as a factor.

On the day of the attack, Legan urged his Instagram followers to read a 19th century book popular with white supremacists who follow extremist websites. He also complained about overcrowding towns and paving open space to make room for "hordes" of Latinos and Silicon Valley whites.

The FBI says Legan appeared to be interested in conflicting violent ideologies, but authorities have not found a written explanation for his attack or any indication of previous violent behavior.

U.S. law does not contain a specific domestic terrorism charge. As a result, the FBI looks for possible hate crimes, weapons and other violations. Simply being a member or showing support for a white supremacist organization is not unlawful.

However, such links are a crime in foreign terrorism cases, even if the investigation doesn't involve accusations of violence.

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In the El Paso case, authorities are weighing hate-crime charges that could carry the death penalty.

Family members of Legan released a statement saying they were "deeply shocked and horrified" by his actions. They also apologized to the victims and their families.

"We have never and would never condone the hateful thoughts and ideologies that led to this event, and it is impossible to reconcile this with the son we thought we knew," the family said in a statement released by attorney Chuck Smith.

Legan grew up less than a mile from Christmas Hill Park, where the festival was held. His father was a competitive runner and coach; his brother was an accomplished young boxer; and his grandfather had been a Santa Clara County supervisor.

Police say Legan fired 39 shots from an AK-47-style rifle before turning the gun on himself during a shootout with three Gilroy police officers. He was wearing a bullet-resistant vest and carrying several high-capacity magazines, with more ammunition on the ground and in a bag in a nearby creek.

Three officers, who responded within a minute, fired 18 times at Legan, police Chief Scot Smithee said.

The FBI says investigators continue to examine Legan's digital media to determine his possible ideology, who he may have been in contact with regarding the ideologies, who if anyone helped him, and why he committed the violence, Bennett said.

The target list was found during the investigation of the digital evidence. Bennett said the groups included were being notified but the FBI would not release their names.

Associated Press Writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report from Washington.

Ohio shooter said to have wrestled with dark thoughts

By **MATT SEDENSKY** and **JOHN SEEWER** Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — A man who fatally gunned down nine people outside a Dayton, Ohio, bar had long wrestled with mental illness that manifested itself in a fascination with tragedy, uncontrollable urges to unleash violence and suicidal thoughts so deep he twice put a gun in his mouth, ready to pull the trigger, a woman who dated him said Tuesday.

Though her account failed to pinpoint what drove 24-year-old Connor Betts to carry out Sunday's attack, the woman who said she went out with him for a few months earlier this year offered the most detailed portrait yet of a troubled young man obsessed with the darkest of thoughts.

"I have no idea what his motivation was. I will never know," Adelia Johnson wrote in a 2,200-word recounting of the relationship she sent to reporters and posted online. "There wasn't a hate crime. He fought for equality. This wasn't a crime of passion. He didn't get passionate enough. This wasn't very premeditated. He wasn't a thorough planner."

The tone was set on their first date, she said, when Betts showed her a video of last year's Pittsburgh synagogue shooting and narrated it play-by-play. Later, he steered conversations to talk about world tragedies and his suicidal thoughts.

"He trusted me with so much of his darkness that I forgot most of it," Johnson wrote, adding that she brushed off much of what she heard. Talking about serial killers made sense as it was a theme in a Sinclair Community College psychology class they both were taking, a captivation with disaster and violence was offset by the sweetness of a "perfect gentleman," and joking about a desire to hurt others was seen as the coping tool of a man grappling with illness.

Johnson said she and Betts bonded over their mental illnesses: He told her he had bipolar disorder and might also suffer from obsessive-compulsive disorder.

And she said he confided that while he loved guns, he didn't believe those with mental illnesses should be allowed to have them.

Johnson showed The Associated Press text message exchanges with Betts to corroborate their relationship. She said she didn't have any photos of them together.

Betts' high school classmates said he was once suspended for compiling lists of students he wanted to

rape or kill.

Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl said Tuesday that Betts had a "history of obsession with violent ideations with mass shootings and expressed a desire to commit a mass shooting." Todd Wickerham of the FBI said "we have uncovered evidence throughout the course of our investigation that the shooter looked into violent ideologies."

Authorities have not pinpointed a motive for the shooting, but said Betts was wearing a mask and body armor when he opened fire with an AR-15 style gun outside a strip of nightclubs in Dayton early Sunday. Looking back, Johnson said two moments in her relationship with Betts stand out as "red flags."

In March or April, on the road in Illinois for a gig with his heavy-metal band, she said a drunk and slurring Betts called her and said something about how "he wanted to hurt a lot of people." Later, in May, Johnson said Betts was planning to leave a letter at the home of an ex-girlfriend that warned her, "You can't outrun your past."

That time, Johnson said, he tried to downplay it as a joke, but she knew it wasn't. When she pushed him to explain, she said he spoke of "uncontrollable urges to do things," including a time he set fire to an abandoned building. She said she knew she had to break things off, without her own capacity "to be his therapist."

When Johnson got a text from a friend who also knew Betts after the shooting asking if she thought he could be the gunman, she didn't think it was possible. Though he had problems with his parents, she knew him to like his sister, who was among those killed.

How could this man who once expressed her love for her be behind such evil, she asked herself.

With police swooping in so quickly early Sunday as the attack was unleashed, and Betts killed in the gunfire, an answer seemed unlikely to come.

"Him getting shot is exactly what he wanted," she wrote. "He would be the first one to tell you that he hated himself."

Associated Press writer Michael Biesecker in Washington contributed.

Sedensky reported from New York and can be reached at msedensky@ap.org and <https://twitter.com/sedensky>

In his own words: Ex-Cardinal's letters to abuse victims

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — At first glance, the handwritten postcards and letters look innocuous, even warm, sometimes signed off by "Uncle T." or "Your uncle, Father Ted."

But taken in context, the correspondence penned by disgraced ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick to the young men he is accused of sexually abusing or harassing is a window into the way a predator grooms his prey, according to two abuse prevention experts who reviewed it for The Associated Press.

Full of flattery, familiarity and boasts about his own power, the letters provide visceral evidence of how a globe-trotting bishop made young, vulnerable men feel special — and then allegedly took advantage of them.

The AP is exclusively publishing correspondence McCarrick wrote to three men ahead of the promised release of the Vatican's own report into who knew what and when about his efforts to bed would-be priests. Access to an archbishop for young men seeking to become priests "is a key piece of the grooming process here," said one of the experts, Monica Applewhite.

Pope Francis defrocked McCarrick, 89, in February after a church investigation determined he sexually abused minors as well as adult seminarians. The case has created a credibility crisis for the Catholic hierarchy, since McCarrick's misconduct was reported to some U.S. and Vatican higher-ups, but he nevertheless remained an influential cardinal until his downfall last year.

McCarrick has declined to comment on his case, except to say in an initial statement last year that he

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was innocent but accepted the Holy See's decision to remove him from ministry. McCarrick lawyer J. Michael Ritty declined to comment on the correspondence.

The testimony of James Grein, 61, the first child McCarrick baptized, was key to the Vatican case. The son of close family friends, Grein told church investigators that McCarrick began sexually abusing him when he was 11, including during confession and at family weddings and holiday celebrations.

In an interview with AP, Grein said McCarrick's exalted place in the family over three generations created pressure on him to visit with McCarrick during weekends away from boarding school and visits when he would be molested.

"If I didn't go to see Theodore I was always going to be asked by my brothers and sisters or my dad, 'Why didn't you go see him?'"

That family dynamic is present in the postcards McCarrick sent to Grein — notes without postmarks that were included in letters McCarrick sent to his father.

"Time is getting close for your visit back east," McCarrick wrote to Grein while he was at boarding school at the Woodside Priory School in California in the 1970s. "I'll be calling home one of these days to check on arrangements." He signed the note "Love to all, Your uncle, Fr. Ted."

Applewhite said the text betrays McCarrick's clear expectations that Grein would come visit, as well as the involvement of his family in arranging the rendezvous. A postcard visible to the family, she added, is the most open form of communication, and was likely meant to show Grein that what McCarrick was doing wasn't wrong.

"To send it in a postcard says 'I have nothing to hide,'" said Applewhite, who has counseled U.S. dioceses and religious orders about child protection programs and training.

In 1981, McCarrick was named the first bishop of Metuchen, New Jersey. Last year, his seminarian victims began speaking out about how their former bishop would refer to them as his "nephews" and insist that they call him "Uncle Ted" — creating an informal family relationship that would make it very difficult for any of them to ever report misconduct, Applewhite said.

Former seminarians recounted how McCarrick would invite groups of young men for weekends fishing or at his beach house, always inviting one extra to force someone to share his bed. McCarrick later denied having ever had sexual relations with anyone but acknowledged an "unfortunate lack of judgment" in sharing a bed with the men, according to a 2008 email to the Vatican.

In correspondence to one Metuchen seminarian after he was named archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, McCarrick detailed his jet-setting ministry in the summer of 1987, when he travelled to Russia and Poland at the height of St. John Paul II's efforts to bring down communism in Eastern Europe. Later that year, he told the young man how he accompanied John Paul on his U.S. pilgrimage.

"It's reminding him of his position of power, that he has all this access to special privileges," said Elizabeth Jeglic, professor of psychology and expert in sexual violence prevention at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She said the message to the seminarian was: "You stay with me, you get access to that."

The seminarian later wrote to another bishop that he had witnessed McCarrick and other would-be priests engaging in sexual activity during a fishing trip and that McCarrick had groped him during an overnight stay at McCarrick's Manhattan apartment later that summer. He said he vomited in the bathroom that Friday night because of the trauma.

In a letter soon after, McCarrick wrote: "I just want to say thanks for coming on Friday evening. I really enjoyed our visit."

In eight letters to the seminarian, McCarrick repeatedly urged the young man to call him collect at his offices in Newark, providing his direct line and the dates of his comings and goings. He also urged him repeatedly to come visit — a frequency of demanding contact that Jeglic said constituted harassment and an attempt to "keep him in the web."

"We have an almost full house, and by tomorrow the couches and maybe the floor will be taken — but we would have made room even for a big guy like you," McCarrick wrote him.

In a sign of possible desperation, he added: "P.S. Do you even get my letters?"

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McCarrick also referred to an incident where the two met a Mafia-associated businessman who was gunned down shortly after in a mob hit.

"Thank God we didn't go to dinner on Saturday night!" McCarrick wrote. "We'd have been in the middle of a gangland rub-out."

In a subsequent letter Aug. 28, 1987, written on Admirals Club letterhead during a flight in Poland, McCarrick referred again to the murder in his trademark small script: "You stick with your uncle and you'll really meet exciting people."

Jeglic said the reference to the mob hit was a shared, illicit experience that "bonds you in secrecy."

Another seminarian, the Rev. Desmond Rossi, was studying for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception seminary in Newark, New Jersey when McCarrick was named archbishop. He said McCarrick had made it a point to greet Rossi's father at Mass, and wrote to Rossi when the young man took a sabbatical in 1987.

In the letter, McCarrick wrote that he had just been with John Paul during his trip to Miami, and was praying for Rossi to come back.

"You're still very much part of the family," McCarrick wrote.

Rossi said he now sees McCarrick was grooming him with the letter, particularly his reference to John Paul and being part of "the family."

"Here's an archbishop of the church telling a 25-year-old kid who is interested in priesthood that he just left a meeting with the pope," Rossi said. "This is a major deal!"

Rossi ultimately moved to another diocese in 1989, after a meeting where he said McCarrick rolled his chair "inappropriately close" and touched Rossi's leg as he spoke.

"At that moment, pretty much in my mind I thought 'I'm leaving this diocese,' because it was that uncomfortable," Rossi said.

As much as he considers himself a survivor, Rossi acknowledges that McCarrick was a gifted, charismatic pastor. Applewhite said abusers aren't just monsters — as evidenced by McCarrick's own correspondence looking out for his seminarians.

"If we're only looking for demons, we're not ever going to catch anyone," she said.

The U.S. victims' advocacy group SNAP said McCarrick's correspondence provides "textbook examples of grooming behavior" that should serve as a wakeup call about the subtle ways predators build relationship with their victims and ingratiate themselves into families.

"We hope that the publication of these letters will lead to both healing for the survivors and new opportunities for parents and the public to become educated about grooming," SNAP said in a statement after the AP report.

Links to the letters:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6238060-c-aug87-letter.html>

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6238062-c-tuesday-letter.html>

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6238061-c-saturday-letter.html>

Bolton warns foreigners that violate Venezuela asset freeze

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton pressed his case Tuesday for sweeping action against Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro, warning foreign governments and companies that they could face retaliation in the U.S. if they continue to do business with his socialist administration.

Bolton's comments came after the White House froze all Venezuelan government assets in the U.S. late Monday, putting the country on a short list of U.S. adversaries, including Cuba, North Korea and Iran that have been targeted by such aggressive financial measures.

"The Maduro regime now joins that exclusive club of rogue states," Bolton said at a one-day conference in Peru of more than 50 governments aligned against Maduro.

The broad ban blocking companies and individuals from doing business with Maduro's government and

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its top supporters took effect immediately and is the first of its kind in the Western Hemisphere since an asset freeze against Gen. Manuel Noriega's government in Panama and a trade embargo on the Sandinista leadership in Nicaragua in the 1980s.

"We are sending a signal to third parties that want to do business with the Maduro regime: Proceed with extreme caution," Bolton said. "There is no need to risk your business interests with the United States for the purposes of profiting from a corrupt and dying regime."

While the order falls short of an outright trade embargo — notably, it spares Venezuela's still sizable private sector — it represents the most sweeping U.S. action to remove Maduro since the Trump administration recognized opposition leader Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's rightful leader in January.

Critically, it also exposes foreign entities doing business with the Maduro government to so-called secondary sanctions in the U.S. — a fact not lost on Maduro's government as it tries to rally support at home and abroad.

"The U.S. has to understand once and for all that they aren't the owners of the world," Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said in a statement from Caracas. "Every country that has investments in the U.S. should be very worried because this sets a dangerous precedent against private property."

Flanked by Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino, who the U.S. has tried to woo into betraying Maduro, Rodríguez said the sanctions would only bring more hardship on the Venezuelan people without weakening the socialist revolution.

She also posited that Washington's real aim is to sabotage ongoing negotiations in Barbados with the opposition aimed at resolving the country's protracted political and economic crisis.

A senior Trump administration official said the timing of the sanctions reflects the U.S. assessment that those talks, which started in May and are being sponsored by Norway, are going nowhere and being used by the Maduro government to buy time. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to comment on the talks.

In a further sign of tensions, Venezuela also accused the U.S. of "hostile and illegal incursions" by sending military aircraft and a ship into its air and maritime territory. By letter, Venezuela urged the U.N. Security Council to investigate "dangerous" U.S. actions that threaten war while behaving like an "outlaw state."

The executive order signed by President Donald Trump justified the financial move by citing Maduro's "continued usurpation of power" and human rights abuses by security forces loyal to him.

Maduro's foreign supporters staunchly denounced the move.

Konstantin Kosachev, the head of the Russian upper house's international affairs committee, accused the U.S. of "international banditry," while Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel expressed solidarity with Maduro and Venezuelans, accusing the U.S. of "brutal cruelty" through a "blockade" that should not be allowed.

But even some U.S. allies could be affected by the move, which Bolton acknowledged has been used only sparingly in the past half-century.

A number of European countries, from Spanish oil company Repsol to Air France, continue to operate in Venezuela and could see their U.S. assets seized unless they cut ties with the government. India and China are major buyers of crude from state-run oil giant PDVSA. All of the companies rely on the U.S. to process financial payments.

The European Union and Canada banded together in April to sharply criticize a U.S. decision to lift a two-decade ban on lawsuits against foreign firms operating on properties Cuba seized from Americans following Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution.

The real life impact of the new sanctions on regular Venezuelans remains to be seen. The moribund economy has been suffering for years from six-digit hyperinflation, widespread shortages and a deep contraction that surpasses that of the Great Depression in the U.S.

Previous sanctions targeting the South American nation's oil industry, the source of almost all of its export earnings, have already accelerated a crash in oil production that started with Maduro's election in 2013 following the death of his mentor Hugo Chavez.

More than 100 officials and government insiders also have had their U.S. assets frozen and blocked

from doing business with Americans. As part of the executive order, Americans or U.S. companies that do business with such individuals face penalties. The same Maduro supporters will also be banned from entering the U.S.

Exceptions will be allowed for the delivery of food, medicine and clothing. Transactions with Venezuela's still sizable private sector are also spared, although it's possible even legitimate transactions will be affected as U.S. and foreign companies and banks exhibit an excess of caution.

"The truth is that no financial institution wants to run afoul of the Treasury Department," said Geoff Ramsey, a researcher at the Washington Office on Latin America, urging the U.S. to robustly support the negotiations sponsored by Norway rather than sanctions.

It is unclear how the actions will affect American oil giant Chevron, which last month received a three-month exemption from the U.S. Treasury to allow it to continue drilling for oil with Venezuela's state-run oil monopoly PDVSA.

Guaidó celebrated the U.S. action, saying it would protect Houston-based oil company CITGO, Venezuela's most valuable overseas asset, from attempts by Maduro to mortgage its assets.

"Any individual, company, institution or nation that tries to do business with the regime will be seen by the international justice system as collaborating with and sustaining a dictatorship," Guaidó said in a series of late-night Tweets Monday. "They will be subject to sanctions and considered an accomplice to crimes."

Associated Press writer Joshua Goodman reported this story from Bogota, Colombia, and AP writer Scott Smith reported in Caracas. AP writers Franklin Briceno in Lima, Peru, and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

Peter Strzok sues FBI for firing him over anti-Trump texts

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A veteran FBI agent who wrote derogatory text messages about Donald Trump filed a lawsuit Tuesday charging that the bureau caved to "unrelenting pressure" from the president when it fired him.

The suit from Peter Strzok also alleges he was unfairly punished for expressing his political opinions, and that the Justice Department violated his privacy when it shared hundreds of his text messages with reporters.

"This campaign to publicly vilify Special Agent Strzok contributed to the FBI's ultimate decision to unlawfully terminate him," the lawsuit says, "as well as to frequent incidents of public and online harassment and threats of violence to Strzok and his family that began when the texts were first disclosed to the media and continue to this day."

The complaint, which names as defendants Attorney General William Barr and FBI Director Chris Wray, revisits a political drama that was seized on by conservative critics of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation as proof that the bureau was biased against Trump. It provides new details about the circumstances of Strzok's firing and amounts to the latest defense of his reputation, coming months after a fiery congressional hearing in which he insisted that his personal views never influenced his work.

Multiple investigations are underway examining whether the FBI acted properly during the Russia investigation, and Strzok remains a frequent target of Trump's scornful tweets. A Justice Department inspector general report focused on the early days of the Russia probe is expected to be released in the coming weeks.

Spokespeople for the FBI and the Justice Department declined to comment on Strzok's lawsuit.

Strzok, a veteran counterintelligence agent who helped lead FBI investigations into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server and ties between the Trump campaign and Russia, was removed from Mueller's team after the texts with FBI lawyer Lisa Page came to light. He was fired from the FBI last August.

The lawsuit seeks reinstatement to the FBI, back pay and a declaration that the government violated his rights.

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Many of the texts, on FBI cell phones, were biting critical of Trump during his 2016 run for office. They were found by the department's inspector general during its investigation of the FBI's Clinton email probe. The watchdog office criticized both Strzok and Page, with whom he was having an affair, for their judgment in sending the messages but didn't find that the Clinton email investigation was tainted by political bias.

In the lawsuit, Strzok attorney Aitan Goelman says the FBI deputy director who fired him was responding to "unrelenting pressure from President Trump and his political allies in Congress and the media." That deputy, David Bowdich, overruled the recommendation of a disciplinary official that Strzok be merely demoted and suspended, and denied him the chance to appeal, the complaint says.

The FBI has said that Bowdich, as the FBI's No. 2 official, had the authority to overrule disciplinary findings. Bowdich said at the time that Strzok's "sustained pattern of bad judgment in the use of an FBI device" called into question decisions made during the Clinton email investigation and the early stages of the Russia probe, the lawsuit says.

The complaint also says the campaign to fire Strzok included "constant tweets and other disparaging statements" from Trump, as well as the president's direct appeals to Wray and Barr's predecessor as attorney general, Jeff Sessions, to fire Strzok.

In addition, the lawsuit says the administration discriminated against his viewpoint by firing him even though other government officials who have supported Trump in the workplace have kept their job.

It notes that the White House has not fired counselor Kellyanne Conway despite the determination that she violated the Hatch Act — a law that limits political activity by government workers — by disparaging Democratic presidential candidates while speaking in her official capacity.

"The Trump administration has consistently tolerated and even encouraged partisan political speech by federal employees, as long as this speech praises President Trump and attacks his political adversaries," the complaint contends.

The lawsuit also says the Justice Department set out to smear Strzok's reputation and humiliate him when it disclosed nearly 400 text messages he had sent or received.

In the complaint, Strzok aims to explain some of the texts that have attracted the most negative attention, including one in which he told Page "we'll stop" a Trump presidency.

Many conservatives and critics of the Russia investigation have interpreted the text as Strzok saying that he would work to prevent Trump from being elected, but the suit says the message was actually meant to reassure Page that the American people would not support a Trump candidacy.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Manson prosecutor: Keep them all locked up forever

By JOHN ROGERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stephen Kay was a fresh-faced prosecutor just 27 years old and three years out of law school when circumstances handed him the Charles Manson "family" murder case.

Over the next half-century, it would come to define his career and lead to death threats that to this day he worries a Manson sycophant might try to carry out.

"I don't dwell on it, but I'm careful. I always look around to see if I'm being followed or anything," the retired prosecutor said recently as he paused to discuss the case that punctured the peace, love and happiness movement that flowered in the late 1960s.

Kay helped lock up Manson family members but never really relinquished the case in his decades with the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. He attended some 60 parole hearings over the years where he argued the killers should never be released.

"The crime was simply too heinous," he said.

It was 50 years ago this week that Manson, a small-time career criminal who had reinvented himself as a hippie guru, dispatched a band of disaffected young followers on a deadly weekend rampage that would terrorize Los Angeles and forever imprint on the American consciousness the image of the slight,

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steely-eyed cult leader as the face of evil.

On that first night, Aug. 8, 1969, Manson sent a handful of his young, mostly female followers to the palatial hilltop estate of actress Sharon Tate with orders to kill everyone there. The 26-year-old actress and four friends were bludgeoned, shot and stabbed scores of times. Their blood was used to scrawl the words "Pigs" and "Helter Skelter" on the walls.

Tate, the wife of director Roman Polanski, was 8½ months pregnant, and her killers later testified that she pleaded in her last moments for her unborn baby's life. Others killed were coffee heiress Abigail Folger, celebrity hairstylist Jay Sebring and Wojciech Frykowski, an aspiring screenwriter and friend of Polanski, who was out of town.

On the way into the estate, the attackers crossed paths with 19-year-old Steven Parent, who was leaving after visiting an acquaintance who lived in the guesthouse. Parent was shot to death.

The next night, Manson himself led a handful of followers to the home of wealthy grocer Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary, tying up the couple and leaving the others to butcher them with knives.

Authorities would say later that it was part of a plot Manson hatched to persuade gullible young followers to launch a race war that only he could hide them from. He'd gotten the premonition, they said, from a twisted interpretation of the Beatles song "Helter Skelter."

The killers went on trial the following year, and Kay joined the prosecution team two months later after the original lead prosecutor was dismissed and Vincent Bugliosi took over. Bugliosi's subsequent book "Helter Skelter" became one of the best-selling crime tales of all time.

Kay, 76, spent nearly 40 years in the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. He says the Manson case was "definitely the most bizarre" he ever tried, adding with understatement: "It was almost a circus."

The cult leader and his followers carved Xs into their foreheads to show their disdain for society. At one point, Manson leaped over the defense table with a pencil in hand and shouted at the judge that someone should cut off his head. At another, he grabbed a newspaper with a headline declaring President Richard Nixon had concluded he was guilty and held it up for the jury to see.

Outside the courthouse, Manson followers not implicated in the killings gathered daily to sing songs and even threaten to set themselves on fire. One day, two young female followers sneaked up alongside Kay in the courthouse parking lot.

"They said they were going to do to my house what was done at the Tate house," he said, adding both he and Bugliosi, who died in 2015, retained bodyguards throughout the trial.

Over the years, Manson, who died in 2017, would threaten Kay's life from behind bars.

When that trial was completed after nearly a year, Manson and three followers — Susan Atkins, Leslie Van Houten and Patricia Krenwinkel — were sentenced to death but later had their punishment reduced to life in prison. Atkins also died while serving her term, in 2009.

Another disciple, Charles "Tex" Watson, fled to his native Texas after the killings and fought extradition for nearly a year. When he returned, Bugliosi and Kay, now co-counsels, won his conviction.

Van Houten, whose attorney vanished during the first trial and was later found dead under mysterious circumstances, was granted a retrial in 1976. By then Bugliosi had left the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, and Kay was the sole lead prosecutor.

After a hung jury, he won a conviction in 1978, and Van Houten returned to prison, where she has earned bachelor's and master's degrees in counseling and leads programs to rehabilitate fellow inmates. She was recommended for parole three times in recent years, but each time the governor blocked the recommendation.

"I admit that she's a model prisoner, and I commend her for that, and I think she should keep doing her good work in prison," Kay said. "But you know, the victims in this case were dead and buried in 1969. They don't get any parole."

Retired for several years now, Kay still keeps in touch with Sharon Tate's younger sister, Debra, having grown close to the family during the trials and numerous parole hearings.

Meanwhile, new books and films about Manson seem to come out every year, but Kay says people

shouldn't expect one from him.

"It would be nice if it would just go away," he said of the public's continuing fascination with Manson. "But," he quickly added, "it's the case that never goes away."

Before massacre, El Paso became a hot spot on Mexican border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Deny Martinez paid a smuggler \$7,000 to take him and his teenage son from Honduras to the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, across from El Paso, Texas.

His smuggler's destination was Ciudad Juarez, Mexico: a dry river basin in view of El Paso's downtown office towers. The channel crosses the city and, at one point, is less than 3 miles (5 kilometers) from the Walmart where a gunman attacked shoppers on Saturday, resulting in 22 deaths.

An unprecedented wave of Central American families has reached the U.S. border this year — most strikingly in El Paso, where the suspected assailant was linked to an online screed against a "Hispanic invasion" and Latino asylum seekers.

It is unknown why the gunman traveled from his hometown near Dallas to El Paso, but the border city of 700,000 people has become a hotbed for immigrant crossings after years of being one of the sleepest locations on the border. With smugglers often dictating the route, Central Americans find they can easily cross the dried-up Rio Grande in El Paso with young children. Then they wait for Border Patrol agents to arrest them and to be released to a robust network of private shelters in the city.

Martinez, 34, was freed with his 14-year-old son after four days in U.S. custody and given a notice to appear in immigration court. He came for economic reasons and had no plans to seek asylum.

"I feel very happy to be in the country," he said on a Sunday night in April before boarding a Dallas-bound bus. "Let's see how much time they give me here."

Agents in the Border Patrol's El Paso sector made as many arrests during the entire 2012 fiscal year as they averaged in a single week in May. The sector saw a more than sevenfold increase in apprehensions from October through June, compared with the same period a year earlier.

The Border Patrol released a grainy surveillance video of more than 1,000 people crossing the border illegally in El Paso on May 29, the largest group the agency ever encountered. Armed militia members started flocking to the desert on the outskirts of El Paso this past spring, including one group that detained 300 migrants. The group posted a Facebook Live video of the encounter in which militia members repeatedly described it as an "invasion."

President Donald Trump planned to visit the city Wednesday amid backlash from some El Paso residents who believe his hardline immigration rhetoric has helped fuel the online vitriol associated with the Walmart gunman. Trump held a rally here in February and invoked El Paso during his State of the Union speech in making the case for his border wall, drawing criticism because he overstated the city's crime rate.

With a population that is 80% Latino, El Paso is one of the most heavily Hispanic big cities in America and one of the safest. It holds deep significance for many Mexican-Americans.

The desert oasis' economy depends on Mexican factories and shoppers who frequently cross the border to shop in El Paso, and many residents have close ties to neighboring Ciudad Juarez. Eight Mexican citizens were killed in Saturday's massacre.

El Paso's enduring connection to Mexico plays out in daily rituals of education, family, and commerce. After the bells ring in El Paso high schools, the international bridges become a sea of backpacks, with hundreds of American students going home to their families in Ciudad Juarez. Pesos and dollars are accepted on both sides of the border.

Thousands of residents have a border fence as their backyard. Mexican architecture shapes the city, from opulent mission-style haciendas in the hills to humble adobe houses.

Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers have long been part of the community, and many of them responded to the shooting Saturday.

"Our diversity is what makes us special," Mayor Dee Margo said Monday.

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El Paso only recently became a way station for thousands of migrants fleeing poverty and murders in Guatemala and Honduras, many of them families. People who came in families or as unaccompanied children accounted for 85% of El Paso sector arrests from October to June, compared with 66% for the entire Mexican border.

The swiftness of the shift to El Paso surprised many agents.

"It's like flipping a switch," said Aaron Hull, who was chief of the Border Patrol's El Paso sector during the surge earlier this year.

Annunciation House, a nonprofit group that has aided migrants for 40 years in El Paso, arranged beds, meals and transportation assistance for thousands of people at a time earlier this year, finding space in churches, motels and other shelters. U.S. authorities say the group's work may help explain the city's draw for asylum seekers.

"Migrant families have learned, 'Come to El Paso. Come to Juarez. You're going to be there a couple days. You'll get processed and released. You will go to Annunciation House, and they'll take care of you from there,'" said Corey Price, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's field office director for enforcement and removal operations in El Paso, who considers the group a partner and praises its work. He spoke just before the Trump administration began making many Central Americans wait in Ciudad Juarez for their hearings in U.S. immigration court.

On one Thursday morning, a group of 23 Central Americans, about half of them children, walked unimpeded across the dry riverbed that separates Mexico from the U.S., blocked from going farther into the U.S. by tall steel bollards that the Trump administration installed to replace less formidable barriers. They walked along a dirt road and waited for agents to spot them.

One woman was four months' pregnant. A 36-year-old Guatemalan man with his 9-year-old son said he came for economic reasons. A Guatemalan man with an 11-year-old boy said he was fleeing a corrupt, ineffective government.

Juan Gaspar Casinto, who worked as a private security guard in Guatemala, hovered over his 6-year-old daughter as she slept on the floor of a Greyhound station, packed with other migrants on a Saturday night.

Casinto, 31, said coming to the U.S. alone wasn't an option. Children must be released within 20 days under a court order, a fact that became more widely known after the Trump administration was ordered by a judge to stop its general practice of separating families.

"You have to come with children," he said. "You can get in if you do. If you don't, you won't get in."

Death penalty questionable as a deterrent to mass killing

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is calling for new death penalty legislation as an answer to hate crimes and mass killings. But whether that would deter shooters is questionable — especially since most don't live to face trial.

More than half the perpetrators of mass shootings since 2006 have ended up dead at the scene of their crimes, either killed by others or dying by suicide, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University.

Death penalty scholars and psychologists say killers motivated by ideology are unlikely to be deterred by punishment. Most of them are willing to die or understand the risk and prepare for it. Some want the fame that an execution could potentially bring to their cause.

"In fact, in the case of terrorism, it might be worse than that because you have the very real possibility of creating martyrs," said Gary LaFree, head of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland, and co-founder of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism.

Trump's remarks Monday on the death penalty followed weekend attacks that killed a total of 31 people in Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas. The shooting suspect in El Paso is believed to have posted a racist, anti-immigrant screed on the internet before the shooting. The motive in Dayton remains unknown.

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Trump said he was ordering the Justice Department to propose legislation ensuring that “those who commit hate crimes and mass murders face the death penalty, and that this capital punishment be delivered quickly, decisively, and without years of needless delay.”

The death penalty was one of several steps Trump outlined that embrace conservative responses to mass shootings — such as denouncing video games and calling for changes in mental health laws — while brushing aside Democratic calls for stricter gun regulations and demands that he back off his virulent anti-immigrant rhetoric.

But the deterrent effect of the death penalty has long been questioned. Several studies have shown it doesn’t work to reduce crime. And perpetrators of mass killings are already subject to the death penalty in 30 states as well as under federal law. According to an analysis from the Death Penalty Information Center, all but two of the states where mass shootings have occurred already have capital punishment.

The El Paso shooting occurred even though Texas has used the death penalty far more than any other state, executing 108 prisoners since 2010.

“Look at Dylan Roof,” said Miriam Gohara, a Yale University law professor who studies the death penalty, referring to the man convicted and sentenced to death in the racist 2015 killings at a Charleston church. “He has been sentenced to death. And that clearly did not dissuade these people.”

Of the 82 public mass shootings since 2006, 30 gunmen killed themselves and 16 were killed, according to the AP/USA Today/Northeastern database. Fourteen are serving life sentences, 12 are awaiting trial, and only three have been given the death penalty. There was also one who committed suicide while in custody. Others received other penalties and one suspect had charges dropped.

The database tracks every mass killing in the country dating back to 2006, defined as involving four or more people killed (not including the offender) over 24 hours, regardless of weapon, location, victim-offender relationship or motive.

The federal death penalty was reinstated in 1988, though actual executions rare. The government has put to death only three defendants since 1988, the most recent of which occurred in 2003, when Louis Jones was executed for the 1995 kidnapping, rape and murder of a female soldier.

The Justice Department has continued to approve death penalty prosecutions and federal courts have sentenced defendants to death. Attorney General William Barr recently ordered the Bureau of Prisons to schedule executions again , starting in December.

Experts say death penalty cases are time consuming and costly, and suggest the money would be better spent in mental health. And because there isn’t one motivator that pushes someone into violence, there isn’t a panacea answer.

For one thing, psychologists haven’t been able to study many of the shooters, said Frank Farley, a Temple University psychology professor and former president of the American Psychological Association. “Because so many of them never survive, there’s no fabulous study on the psychology of mass killers,” he said.

Associated Press data editor Meghan Hoyer contributed to this report.

Boom in overdose-reversing drug is tied to fewer drug deaths

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Prescriptions of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone are soaring, and experts say that could be a reason overdose deaths have stopped rising for the first time in nearly three decades.

The number of naloxone prescriptions dispensed by U.S. retail pharmacies doubled from 2017 to last year, rising from 271,000 to 557,000, health officials reported Tuesday.

The United States is in the midst of the deadliest drug overdose epidemic in its history. About 68,000 people died of overdoses last year, according to preliminary government statistics reported last month, a drop from the more than 70,000 in 2017.

“One could only hope that this extraordinary increase in prescribing of naloxone is contributing to that stabilization or even decline of the crisis,” said Katherine Keyes, a Columbia University drug abuse expert.

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About two-thirds of U.S. overdose deaths involve some kind of opioid, a class of drugs that includes heroin, certain prescription painkillers and illicit fentanyl. Naloxone is a medication that can reverse opioid overdoses, restoring breathing and bringing someone back to consciousness. It first went on sale in 1971 as an injection. An easier-to-use nasal spray version, Narcan, was approved in 2015.

Local, state and federal officials have embraced naloxone as a lifesaving measure. Cities and states have standing orders that allow pharmacies to give it out without a doctor's prescription, and officials have tried to put it into the hands of virtually anyone who might encounter a person overdosing, including drug users, police and even librarians.

CDC researchers noted there were fewer than 1,300 naloxone prescriptions dispensed in 2012, meaning the number grew more than 430-fold in six years.

Health officials said pharmacies should be giving out even more.

"We don't think anybody is at the level we'd like to see them," said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC report is based on data from IQVIA, a company that tracks health care information, and looked at prescriptions from more than 50,000 retail pharmacies across the country. It included both prescriptions written by doctors for specific patients and those filled under the broader standing orders.

The report offers only a partial picture, however, since only about 20% of naloxone was sold to retail pharmacies in 2017, according to an earlier government report.

Still, it's the CDC's first close look at where most retail dispensing is happening. The agency provided data for about 2,900 of the nation's 3,100 counties and parishes.

The researchers found it was most common in cities, and in the South.

Experts said the findings likely reflect a number of factors. More naloxone is likely prescribed in places where more people are using opioids and where policies increase access.

Of the 30 counties with the highest rate of naloxone dispensing in 2018, 13 were in Virginia and five were in Kentucky. But the highest naloxone dispensing rate was in Marshall County, Indiana, according to the CDC data.

The CDC recommends that naloxone be prescribed to patients who are getting high-dose opioids and are at risk for an overdose. It noted that only one naloxone prescription is written for every 69 high-dose opioid prescriptions.

Another finding: The number of high-dose opioid prescription painkillers dispensed fell to about 38 million last year, from nearly 49 million the year before.

That likely also contributed to the decline in overdose deaths last year, Schuchat said.

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

This story has been corrected to show Virginia had 13 of the highest-dispensing counties, not 11.

A heightened US-China financial war imperils global economy

By PAUL WISEMAN and MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just what the fragile global economy didn't need: An unpredictable escalation in President Donald Trump's trade war with China, one that spreads the conflict to currency markets, threatens to involve other countries and raises the risk of a global recession.

At a time when growth in the United States and the world is already weakening and Trump has said he'll impose new taxes on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese imports, Beijing is halting purchases of U.S. farm goods and the two sides are trading punches over the value of the U.S. dollar against the Chinese yuan.

The heightened hostilities could hobble world economic growth by depressing financial markets, discouraging trade and elevating uncertainty for businesses trying to decide whether and where to situate

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factories, buy supplies and sell products.

When companies across the world lose confidence or certainty about global trade policies, they tend to postpone plans to invest, expand and hire. Spread across the global economy and over time, those trends can trigger a severe economic downturn.

"President Trump is playing with fire here, and recession risks are very high," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

Barely a month ago, Trump and President Xi Jinping had announced a truce in their rancorous dispute over allegations that Beijing steals and forces foreign companies to hand over trade secrets, unfairly subsidizes Chinese companies and engages in cyber-theft of intellectual property.

The cease-fire broke last week when Trump, professing frustration that 12 rounds of negotiations had failed to break the impasse, said he would impose tariffs Sept. 1 on the \$300 billion of Chinese imports that he'd previously left untouched.

On Monday, China hit back. It revealed that it had stopped buying U.S. farm products — a severe blow to Trump supporters in rural America. Beijing's central bank also allowed the yuan to sink to an 11-year low against the dollar.

The fall of the yuan drew fire from Trump, who accused China of allowing it to give its exporters an unfair price advantage. On Monday evening, the Treasury Department declared China a currency manipulator for the first time since 1994.

The rapid-fire sequence of events "shatters confidence, trust and expectations," said Sung Won Sohn, an economist at Loyola Marymount University in California. World stock markets tumbled Monday — the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 767 points or 2.9% — before rebounding Tuesday on signs that China was stabilizing the yuan.

Despite Tuesday's respite, the prospects for a trade deal, which appeared bright as recently as mid-May, have dimmed to near-invisibility.

"They are all moving in the wrong directions," Sohn said. "I don't think the Chinese are looking for a trade deal during the current term of President Trump. They have decided he is too unpredictable to negotiate with."

The world economy hardly needs the strain. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other forecasters have all downgraded their forecasts for global growth this year.

It isn't just the trade war. Manufacturers around the world have allowed their inventories to build up and now are slowing production to bring their stockpiles closer to customers' demand. J.P.Morgan's global manufacturing index fell in July for the third straight month to the lowest level since 2012. Moody's Investors Service predicts that global auto sales will drop 3.8% this year.

The prospect that Britain will leave the European Union without a trade deal — a risk that seemed to rise after Boris Johnson became prime minister last month — is imperiling Europe's economic prospects.

Japan is preparing to raise its consumption tax in October, threatening to stifle an economy that's already gasping for growth.

"The timing could not be worse," said Paul Sheard, senior fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School. "Japan is the third-largest economy in the world."

Trump's decision to impose tariffs on foreign steel, aluminum, dishwashers, solar panels and hundreds of Chinese imports — and the retaliation it's drawn from other countries — has chilled global trade investment. Companies are waiting to see whether and how the disputes work out.

"There are considerable downside risks with an escalation of protectionism," said Sara Johnson, executive director of global economics at the research firm IHS Markit. "We're disrupting supply chains, and tariffs ultimately lead to less efficient global production."

Oxford Economics says business pessimism has risen sharply: 56% of the companies it surveyed July 12-Aug. 1 said the risk of a sharp global slowdown has risen, up from 32% in the spring.

"Once you lose economic confidence, it takes a very long time to build it back up," said Harry Broadman, chair of Berkeley Research Group's emerging markets practice and a former White House economic adviser.

The tit-for-tat exchange Monday over China's currency brought a new, dangerous element into the mix.

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"We haven't been on this terrain since the 1930s," said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at the consultancy RSM.

Trump has made clear he wants to see the U.S. dollar drop against the yuan, the euro and other currencies. That's one reason he's applied relentless pressure to the Federal Reserve to cut U.S. interest rates — a move that tends to drive the dollar lower. (The Fed last week cut its key interest rate for first time in a decade.)

"The president has signaled that he has no problem with a weaker dollar," said Joe Manimbo, senior market analyst at Western Union Business Solutions. "This is certainly unprecedented in modern times."

Turning a trade war into a currency war heightens the danger. It shifts the battlefield to currency markets, where policymakers have much less control.

"Currency wars take on a life of their own," Brusuelas said.

In the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, traders dumped Asian currencies and delivered devastating recessions to Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea, where borrowers struggled to repay U.S. dollar-denominated loans and left local banks drowning in bad debt.

Indeed, a dollar-versus-yuan fight is unlikely to remain confined to the United States and China. If other countries see Chinese or U.S. exporters gaining a currency advantage, they'll feel pressure to respond by pushing their currencies lower, too.

"The idea that the U.S. is going to be able to engage in dollar devaluation that adversely impacts (the yuan) without adversely impacting other trading partners is sheer fantasy," Brusuelas said. "Currency wars are guaranteed not to stay two-party affairs."

In the past, the notion that the United States might intervene in the markets, buying foreign currencies and pushing down the dollar to gain an advantage, would have been farfetched.

"We're in a new ballgame here," Sheard said. "The old rules are not necessarily going to be respected anymore."

Trump, Republican party sue over California tax return law

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The Trump campaign and Republican Party sued California on Tuesday over a new law requiring presidential candidates to release their tax returns to run in the state's primary, legislation that was aimed at prying loose President Donald Trump's returns.

California's law is "a naked political attack against the sitting President of the United States," the state and national Republican parties argued in one of two lawsuits filed in U.S. District Court in Sacramento.

The law signed last week by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom requires candidates for president and governor to release five years of tax returns to appear on the state's primary ballot, but the requirement does not extend to the general election. Trump has refused to release his returns, saying they are under audit.

The lawsuits argue the law violates the U.S. Constitution by creating an extra requirement to run for president and deprives citizens the right to vote for their chosen candidates. The Constitution puts just three requirements on presidential candidates: That they are natural born citizens, 35 or older and a U.S. resident for at least 14 years.

California is the first state to pass such a law, though many others under Democratic control have tried since Trump left office.

California holds its 2020 presidential primary on March 3. Without a serious Republican competitor, Trump would likely be able to forego the state's primary and still win the nomination.

But the parties' lawsuit argues it will "directly impede" Trump's ability to secure the nomination. California provides 14% of the delegates needed to win the party's nomination, the suit says.

Trump counsel Jay Sekulow called the law "flagrantly illegal," and said voters already spoke in 2016 on whether Trump should release his tax returns.

"The effort to deny California voters the opportunity to cast a ballot for President Trump in 2020 will clearly fail," Sekulow said in a statement.

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It's the latest legal battle between the Trump administration and California, which has sued the federal government more than 50 times since Trump took office.

Tax returns reveal sources of income, charitable giving, business dealings and other information that Democrats in the state Legislature say is essential for voters. Every president has released his or her tax returns since the early 1970s.

"There's an easy fix Mr. President -- release your returns as you promised during the campaign and follow the precedent of every president since 1973," Newsom tweeted.

The Trump campaign, meanwhile, argued in its suit that Democrats are "on a crusade to obtain the President's federal tax returns in the hopes of finding something they can use to harm him politically."

Republicans also say keeping Trump off the ballot could depress voter turnout in the primary, hurting Republicans in other races down ticket, such as for the state Legislature. That could hurt the party's chances of being in the general election in some races, given California's top-two primary system that sends the two highest vote getters in the primary to the general election regardless of party.

The U.S. Supreme court has previously halted state efforts to add ballot access rules for congressional candidates. Former Gov. Jerry Brown, also a Democrat, vetoed a similar law two years ago, arguing it would create a slippery slope of trying to force candidates to release additional information to run for president.

At least two other lawsuits have already been filed.

Asian shares mostly lower after China stabilizes currency

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Wednesday as markets calmed after China's decision to stabilize its currency.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dipped 0.8% to 20,421.93. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.3% to 6,497.60 in morning trading. South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.2% to 1,913.43. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped 0.8% to 25,758.83, while the Shanghai Composite was little changed, inching down less than 0.1% to 2,776.91.

Wall Street regained its footing a day after its biggest decline in a year, which had been set off by news that China allowed its currency to depreciate against the dollar to its lowest level in 11 years.

The S&P 500 index rose 37.03 points, or 1.3%, to 2,881.77. The index dropped 3% on Monday, its worst loss since December. The Dow climbed 311.78 points, or 1.2%, to 26,029.52. The Nasdaq composite gained 107.23 points, or 1.4%, to 7,833.27. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies picked up 14.67 points, or 1%, to 1,502.09.

Global investors have grown nervous lately about the possible impact that a trade war between the U.S. and China could have on the economy and corporate profits.

But China's decision to allow its currency to stabilize Tuesday suggests Beijing might hold off from aggressively allowing the yuan to weaken as a way to respond to U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods.

"Markets have gone full circle again hoping for the best while preparing for the worst where even the tiniest gestures could see investors could respond more positively than warranted given how emotionally invested market participants are," said Stephen Innes, managing partner at VM Markets in Singapore.

ENERGY:

Benchmark crude oil lost 12 cents to \$53.51 a barrel. It fell \$1.06 to \$53.63 a barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, fell 5 cents to close at \$58.89 a barrel.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar rose to 106.10 Japanese yen from 106.40 yen on Tuesday. The euro rose slightly to \$1.1211 from \$1.1199.

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

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 7, the 219th day of 2019. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 7, 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

On this date:

In 1782, Gen. George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

In 1789, the U.S. Department of War was established by Congress.

In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

In 1959, the United States launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back images of Earth.

In 1961, Yale psychology professor Stanley Milgram began conducting his controversial human behavior experiments concerning obedience toward authority figures.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1971, the Apollo 15 moon mission ended successfully as its command module splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 2000, Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore selected Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman as his running mate; Lieberman became the first Jew on a major party's presidential ticket.

In 2005, ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings died in New York at age 67.

In 2010, Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2017, medical examiners said the remains of a man who'd been killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11 had been identified, nearly 16 years after the attacks.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a tour of Africa, urged South Africans to press for political and economic reforms in neighboring Zimbabwe.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes in northern Iraq, warning they would be launched if needed to defend Americans from advancing Islamic militants and protect civilians under siege. President Obama signed a \$16.3 billion measure aimed at helping veterans avoid long waits for health care. A jury convicted a suburban Detroit homeowner of second-degree murder and manslaughter in the killing of an unarmed woman on his porch, rejecting Theodore Wafer's claim that he was afraid for his life when he heard Renisha McBride pounding on his door in the middle of the night and had acted in self-defense. (Wafer was sentenced to at least 17 years in prison.)

One year ago: Sharice Davids won a Democratic congressional primary in Kansas, becoming the state's first Native American and gay nominee for Congress. (Davids went on to become one of the first two Native American women elected to the House.) The fourth suspect in the shooting death of emerging South Florida rap star XXXTentacion turned himself in to authorities. Chicago police said they would deploy hundreds of additional officers to neighborhoods where a burst of gun violence over the weekend left at least 11 people dead and 70 wounded. Hall of Fame hockey forward Stan Mikita, who helped the Chicago Black Hawks win the 1961 Stanley Cup, died at the age of 78.

Today's Birthdays: Magician, author and lecturer James Randi is 91. Former MLB pitcher Don Larsen is 90. Humorist Garrison Keillor is 77. Singer B.J. Thomas is 77. Singer Lana Cantrell is 76. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is 75. Actor John Glover is 75. Actor David Rasche is 75. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 69. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 69. Actress Caroline Aaron is 67. Comedian

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Alexei Sayle is 67. Actor Wayne Knight is 64. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 61. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 61. Actor David Duchovny is 59. Country musician Michael Mahler (Wild Horses) is 58. Actress Delane Matthews is 58. Actor Harold Perrineau is 56. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 56. Country singer Raul Malo is 54. Actor David Mann is 53. Actress Charlotte Lewis is 52. Actress Sydney Penny is 48. Actor Greg Serano is 47. Actor Michael Shannon is 45. Actress Charlize Theron (shar-LEES' THEHR'-en) is 44. Rock musician Barry Kerch (Shinedown) is 43. Actor Eric Johnson is 40. Actor Randy Wayne is 38. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 37. NHL center Sidney Crosby is 32. MLB All-Star Mike Trout is 28. Actor Liam James is 23.

Thought for Today: "There are a lot of people who think our job is to reassure the public every night that their home, their community and their nation is safe. I don't subscribe to that at all. I subscribe to leaving people with essentially — sorry it's a cliché — a rough draft of history. Some days it's reassuring, some days it's absolutely destructive." — Peter Jennings (1938-2005).