

Groton Daily Independent

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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

Impacting the Future of South Dakota's Soil Health One Bucket at a Time

By Lura Roti for the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition

Handing large containers of water to two students, Mark Misar asks them to begin pouring water over two, loaf-size soil samples. One sample he collected from a no-till soybean field on his farm. The other sample he collected from a conventionally tilled field nearby.



As the water runs onto the soil samples and drains

into clear containers below, the class sees a dramatic difference. Water running off conventionally tilled soil is murky and full of soil sediment, while the water infiltrating through the no-till soil sample is clear.

"I can lecture to students that no-till management and other soil health practices help with water infiltration and reduce runoff, but will they remember it? When they see something happening, and do something with their own hands, that is the stuff they remember," explains Misar, a third-generation farmer who teaches agriculture education classes for Bon Homme High School.

The table-top rainfall simulator Misar used for the hands-on demonstration of the movement of rainfall on fields under different types of land management, along with lesson plans and student worksheets, came from a Soil Health Bucket.

A teaching aid he received at no cost from the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, the Soil Health Bucket is filled with 18 accredited lesson plans and tools valued at more than \$500, including a shovel, soil probe, pH strips, EC meter, nitrate/nitrite test strips and much more.

"Lots of these tools we would not have access to, and to not have to pay for these tools is very helpful. In small schools like ours, budgets are tight. Like most teachers, I already buy a lot of stuff out-of-pocket as it is," Misar says.

Misar is one of more than 95 South Dakota agriculture education instructors, science teachers and other educators to receive a Soil Health Bucket, since the S.D. Soil Health Coalition began distributing them in 2017. And like Misar, a recent survey showed 92 percent of teachers who use the Soil Health Bucket curriculum in their classrooms found them to be a helpful teaching tool.



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428 N Highway 281, Aberdeen

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"These buckets are user-friendly. They have everything teachers need to teach about soil health. It gives them the opportunity to start wherever they feel comfortable," explains Jim Clendenin, who provides Soil Health Bucket orientation to educators across the state in his role as a Soil Health Specialist with the S.D. Soil Health Coalition.

"Kids respond to the lessons because they are hands-on. These lessons get them asking questions and thinking about what they can do to improve our soil health," explains Clendenin, who spent 35 years teaching and recently retired after serving as Agriculture Department Head of Lake Area Technical Institute.

Getting students to ask questions about soil health and helping them understand how farming practices impact soil health are top priorities for Misar.

"I try to explain to them that our existence is really based on productive soil and rainfall. If either one of those is lacking, we will cease to exist," Misar says "I like to think that some of what I am sharing with kids is making an impact and changing their farming operations or changing the way they think. Getting them to think about how their actions impact things down the road - that is what I am going for."

Fund Soil Health Buckets and impact positive change

Findings from a 2018 soil health knowledge,



Mark Misar, a third-generation Tyndall farmer who teaches agriculture education classes for Bon Homme High School and one of more than 95 South Dakota agriculture education instructors, science teachers and other educators to receive a Soil Health Bucket, since they began to be distributed by the S.D. Soil Health Coalition in 2017. And like Misar, a recent survey found 92 percent of teachers who use the Soil Health Bucket curriculum in their classrooms found them to be a helpful teaching tool.

Misar is pictured here, on his farm with his children, Izaac, 9; Lyla, 1 and Emmett, 3.



Groton American Legion Post #39

Lounge: 397-2603 • Downtown Groton

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interest, and awareness survey, conducted by the S.D. Soil Health Coalition say Misar's soil health focus is making a difference. The survey of more than 500 high school and college-age youth, currently enrolled in agriculture classes, showed a direct correlation between soil health education and demonstrated knowledge (review complete survey findings at www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/soil-health-buckets/).

For example, one foundational principle of soil health management is understanding the negative impact soil tillage has on soil health, structure, biology and function. By a 64 percent to 34 percent margin, students who indicated they had previous "high exposure" to formal education regarding soil health topics, selected "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with the statement, "Overtime, tillage or plowing allows rain to soak more easily into the ground."

"This higher understanding of the adverse impact of tillage is a clear indicator that "high exposure" students retained key soil health education information," notes Cindy Zenk, Coordinator S.D. Soil Health Coalition.

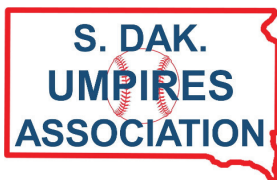
Misar, who returned to farm fulltime in 2011 after receiving an agronomy degree from South Dakota State University, says his understanding of soil health principles guides him in making changes to farming practices on his family's farm.

He explains no-till farming and implementing cover crops into his crop rotation cut down on fuel and fertilizer costs. These soil health practices eliminated



Soil Health Buckets are a teaching aid provided to South Dakota agriculture education and science teachers at no cost from the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, the Soil Health Bucket is filled with 18 accredited lesson plans and tools valued at more than \$500, including a shovel, soil probe, pH strips, water testing meter, nitrate/nitrite test strips and much more.

To provide more educators with Soil Health Buckets, S.D. Soil Health Coalition seeks additional sponsors. To sponsor a bucket or if you're an educator who would like to receive a bucket, visit <https://www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/soil-health-buckets/> or contact Cindy Zenk, Coordinator of S.D. Soil Health Coalition at sdsoilhealth@gmail.com or (605) 280-4190. (Courtesy of S.D. Soil Health Coalition)



1959  2019















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The South Dakota Umpires Association

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erosion and runoff, built organic matter and increased water infiltration. "It must be working. You know how wet we were this year? Many fields in my area are sitting idle, but I was able to plant into every acre this year – even the low areas."

Misar credits his farm's economic stability to soil health practices.

"I had to make changes to the way I was farming, otherwise I would not be able to stay on the land," says Misar, who together with his wife, Elisa is raising three young children on the farm.

Encouraging other producers to embrace change to positively impact the future of South Dakota's soils is the reason First Dakota National Bank, other businesses and organizations sponsor Soil Health Buckets, says Nate Franzen, President of the Agri-Business Division of First Dakota National Bank.

"Soil health is a key to sustainable food production to nourish our human race. We supported the Soil Health Bucket project to enhance the knowledge level of all youth, whether from a farm or ranch or not. Understanding the science behind feeding the world needs to be of keen interest to us all," Franzen says.

In addition to First Dakota National Bank, current funding for Soil Health Buckets was provided from the financial support of Farm Credit Services of America, Ducks Unlimited Inc., South Dakota Agricultural Foundation, Inc and Dacotah Bank.



High school students use the Soil Health Bucket water infiltration kit to learn about how no-till and other soil health practices reduce erosion, runoff and increase water infiltration. In addition to the infiltration kit, the Soil Health Bucket is filled with 18 accredited lesson plans and tools valued at more than \$500, including a shovel, soil probe, pH strips, water testing meter, nitrate/nitrite test strips and much more. (Courtesy of S.D. Soil Health Coalition)



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To provide more educators with Soil Health Buckets, S.D. Soil Health Coalition seeks additional sponsors. To learn more about the Soil Health Bucket program, visit <https://www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/soil-health-buckets/> or contact Cindy Zenk, Coordinator of the S.D. Soil Health Coalition at sdsoilhealth@gmail.com or (605) 280-4190.

About Soil Health Coalition

The South Dakota Soil Health Coalition is a producer led, non-profit, membership organization that was created in the spring of 2015. The Coalition is governed by a nine-member board of farmers and ranchers from across the state and includes several staff members. Staff and board members strive to carry out the Coalition's mission to "Promote Improved Soil Health" through education and outreach. Major projects and membership benefits include: field walks and workshops, annual Soil Health School, mentoring network, bi-monthly newsletter, informational videos, and the distribution of soil health education kits to school groups. Additional information can be found at www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org.



Exposing youth to soil health education early can have a positive impact, according to the findings from a 2018 survey. The survey of more than 500 high school and college-age youth, currently enrolled in agriculture classes, showed a direct correlation between soil health education and demonstrated knowledge (review complete survey findings at www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/soil-health-buckets/). (Courtesy of S.D. Soil Health Coalition)

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Groton Post #39



Back row, left to right: Head Coach Dalton Locke, Anthony Schinkel, Jace Kroll, Peyton Johnson, Evin Nehls, Chandler Larson, Tristan Traphagen, Alex Morris, Lucas Simon, Adrian Knutson and Assistant Coach Kevin Nehls.

Front row, left to right: Doug Heminger, Jackson Cogley, Riley Thurston, Pierce Kettering, Kaden Kurtz, Darien Shabazz, Lee Iverson, Jayden Zak and Lane Krueger.

Jersey#	Name	Yr. Graduate	Position	Bat/Throw
1	Lane Krueger	2022	IF	R/R
3	Peyton Johnson	2020	1st/P	L/R
6	Riley Thurston	2020	IF	R/R
7	Lee Iverson	2021	IF	R/R
9	Tristan Traphagen	2021	1B	R/R
11	Chandler Larson	2021	SS/P	R/R
14	Alex Morris	2021	P/C	R/R
17	Darien Shabazz	2020	OF/P	R/R
18	Adrian Knutson	2021	IF/C	R/R
21	Evin Nehls	2022	OF/P	R/R
23	Kaden Kurtz	2022	C/P	R/R
24	Pierce Kettering	2022	OF/3rd	R/R
28	Lucas Simon	2021	IF	R/R
29	Jace Kroll	2022	OF	R/R
31	Jackson Cogley	2022	OF/IF/C	R/R
32	Jayden Zak	2022	OF/IF/P	R/R
33	Anthony Schinkel	2020	OF	R/R
34	Doug Heminger	2021	OF	R/R

Coaches: Dalton Locke, Kevin Nehls

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Redfield Post #92



Left to right front row: Kevin Weller, Sean Domke, Peyton Osborn, Christian DeYoung, Mason Whitley, Gavyn Jaragoske, Keaton Rohlf, Seth Siebrecht

Second row: Easton Millar, Owen Osborn, Camden Osborn, Johnathon Jungwirth, Elijah Morrissette, Jacob Fehlman, Nolan Gall

Top row: Coaches Tommy Gregg and Brent Osborn

Jersey#	Name	Yr.	Graduate	Position	Bat/Throw
#2	Camden Osborn	2022		P/F/C	R/R
#3	Keaton Rohlf	2023		C/P	R/R
#4	Kevin Weller	2024		OF	R/R
#5	Owen Osborn	2022		P/IF	L/R
#7	Jacob Fehlman	2022		OF	R/R
#9	Easton Millar	2022		P/IF/OF	R/R
#10	Mason Whitley	2023		OF	R/R
#12	Christian DeYoung	2020		P/C/IF/OF	R/R
#13	Sean Domke	2022		OF	R/R
#15	Peyton Osborn	2022		P/IF	R/R
#17	Nolan Gall	2023		IF/OF	L/R
#20	Elijah Morrissette	2024		IF	R/R
#32	Johnathon Jungwirth	2020		OF	L/L
#33	Seth Siebrecht	2023		IF/P	L/L
#99	Gavyn Jaragoske	2022		OF	R/L

Coaches

#24	Brent Osborn
#42	Tommy Gregg

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Today



Sunny

High: 79 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Friday



Mostly Sunny
then Chance
T-storms

High: 84 °F

Friday
Night



T-storms
Likely

Low: 66 °F

Saturday



Slight Chance
T-storms

High: 84 °F

Another Mild & Dry Day Before Moisture
Returns Friday-Saturday



Highs Today:
Low 70s – Low 80s

Highs Friday:
Upper 70s – Upper 80s



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD
www.weather.gov/abr

NWSAberdeen

Created: 8/8/2019 4:28 AM

@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 08/08/2019 at 12:30AM

It will be another mild dry day, but warm and muggy air will return on Friday ahead of the next system that could provide a decent soaking for the weekend.

Today in Weather History

August 8, 2010: Thunderstorms produced damaging winds and flash flooding from heavy rain along and near the Missouri River in southeast South Dakota during the late afternoon. Bon Homme and Yankton Counties were among the hardest hit areas. Avon in Bon Homme County, thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage to trees and power lines. The tree damage included large trees uprooted or blown down, and falling trees destroyed at least two houses. The damage to power lines caused a power outage over the town which lasted about 5 hours. The winds also destroyed a large shed and damaged a camper parked in the shed. In Tyndall, thunderstorm winds of 70 mph caused tree damage, including large trees blown down. The winds also blew down power lines, damaged several small sheds, and tore shingles off roofs. Thunderstorm winds also ripped through Yankton County. Near Napa, winds overturned several campers and caused widespread tree damage, including large trees blown down at a Lewis and Clark Lake campground.

1874: Swarms of Rocky Mountain locust invaded Denver, Colorado. Millions were seen cruising through the air. The insects were picked up by a thunderstorm gust front and carried into the city. The grasshoppers ravaged crops in surrounding counties for the last month. Click [HERE](#) for more information about The Year of the Locust, 1874.

1878 - The temperature at Denver, CO, soars to an all-time record high of 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1881 - A cloudburst and flash flood occurred at Central Springs, CO, and Idaho Springs, CO. (David Ludlum)

1882 - An August snowstorm was reported by a ship on Lake Michigan. A thick cloud reportedly burst on the decks covering them with snow and slush six inches deep. Snow showers were observed at shore points that day. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1983 - The temperature at Big Horn Basin, WY, reached 115 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorm rains in eastern Nebraska sent the Wahoo River and Ithica River above flood stage. Thunderstorm rains in western Iowa sent the Nishnabotna River over flood stage. Up to seven inches of rain deluged the Council Bluffs area Friday evening and Saturday morning. Thunderstorms produced 4.4 inches of rain in three hours Friday evening, along with golf ball size hail. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a slow moving cold front produced severe weather from central Kansas to southern Wisconsin late in the day. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced hail three inches in diameter at Vinton, and produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Donohue and near Mount Pleasant. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A total of ninety-nine cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Alpena MI with a reading of 40 degrees. Mount Mitchell NC was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 35 degrees. Early evening thunderstorms around Las Vegas NV produced wind gusts to 116 mph. The high winds damaged or destroyed about eighty- two aircraft at Henderson Sky Harbor Airport and McCarran International Airport, causing fourteen million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2007: A tornado bounces across Staten Island and Brooklyn, New York, ripping off roofs and damaging dozens of buildings. The EF-2 twister hop-scotched through Brooklyn's Bay Ridge and Sunset Park neighborhoods around 6:30 am.

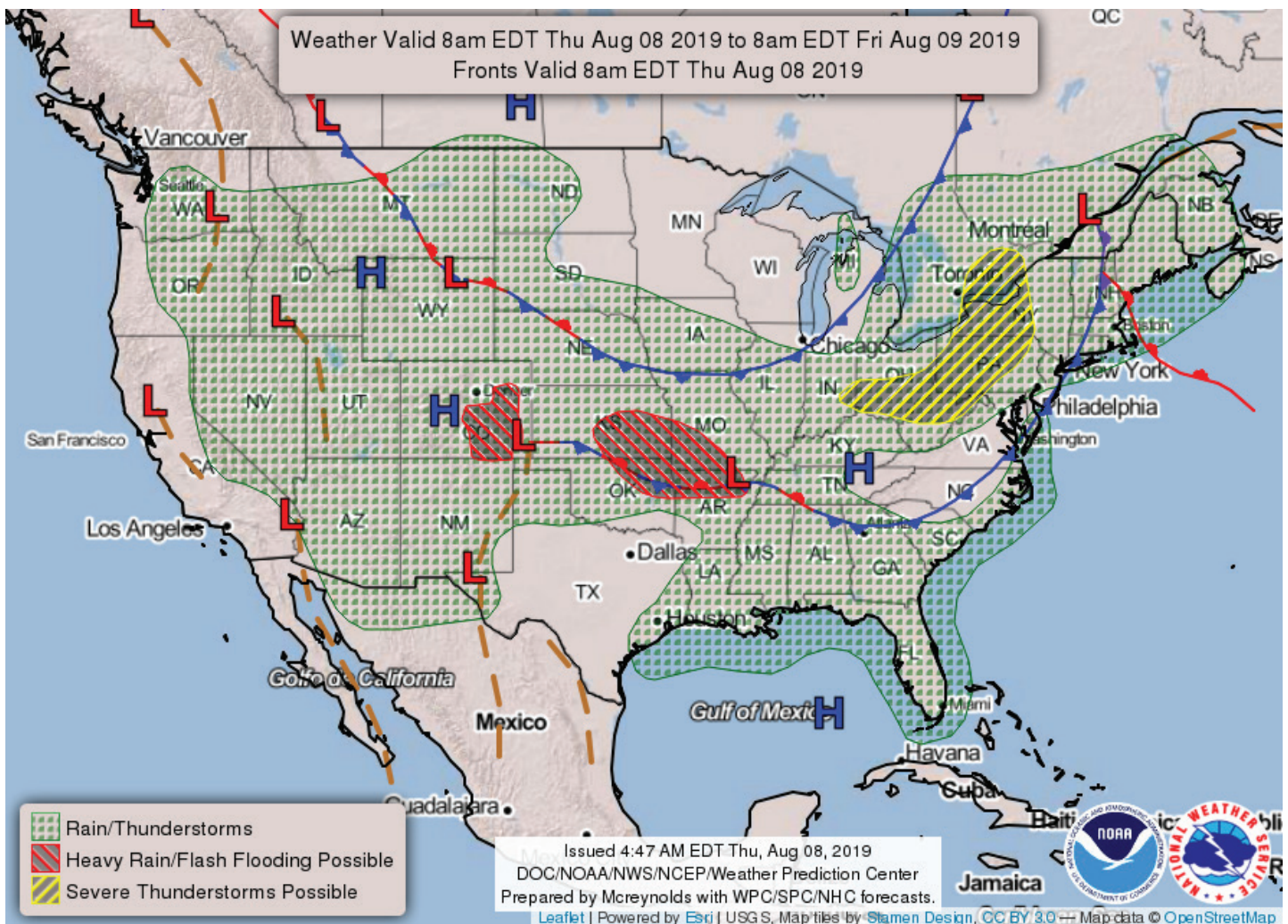
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 78 °F at 3:46 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 6:12 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 6:33 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 108° in 1936
Record Low: 42° in 1939
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 58°F
Average Precip in Aug.: 0.55
Precip to date in Aug.: 0.74
Average Precip to date: 14.41
Precip Year to Date: 17.33
Sunset Tonight: 8:52 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:27 a.m.



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ITS ALL ABOUT WHO?

Perhaps the most boring people in the world are those who enjoy heaping praises on themselves. They have a view of themselves that far exceeds the reality of who they are and what they have accomplished in life. As one person so aptly said, They have I problems - I have done this and I have done that and I am better than you are and my opinions about myself are trustworthy, reliable and verifiable. And if you do not believe me, ask me and Ill go into more detail and explain more clearly what I have already achieved in life with more to come.

Solomon must have known people who were not only self-centered but self-sufficient, self-serving and self-satisfied. They had completed a self-evaluation survey and broken all previous records. Wisely, Solomon provided some sound advice for those who fall into that category: Let other people praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.

Praise is not the problem. If we see someone doing something that is commendable, helpful, kind, and gracious in serving others on behalf of God, they are certainly worthy of recognition. So, being recognized or praised for what we have done is not the problem either.

The problem lies in the fact that if we evaluate ourselves by ourselves for ourselves, we usually overlook our flaws and think more highly of ourselves than we ought to.

Jesus said it best: I am not seeking glory for myself. If we glorify God, others will praise our works, and we will give God the credit for the gifts He has given us!

Prayer: We pray, Father, for an attitude of humility and a life of integrity as we work with Your Son to bring honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving to Your name! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 27:2 Let other people praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt (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 **AP** Associated Press

Storm causes extensive damage in Burke

BURKE, S.D. (AP) — The Town of Burke in southern South Dakota has been hard hit by a strong summer storm.

The Gregory County Sheriff's Office says only authorized emergency responders and local residents are allowed in the town Wednesday as they deal with the storm's aftermath.

Mayor Tom Glover says two people suffered minor injuries when a garage collapsed Tuesday night. Among the buildings that sustained major damage are Burke Middle School and the Gregory County Courthouse.

National Weather Service meteorologist Mike Gillispie tells the Argus Leader the agency is sending a team to investigate the damage and whether it was caused by a tornado or straight line winds.



A lumberyard was destroyed in Burke, South Dakota after a severe thunderstorm blew through the area on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019. (Jason Witt/The Argus Leader via AP)

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

Sioux Falls police make arrest in fatal stabbing

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say they've made an arrest in a fatal stabbing in Sioux Falls.

Officers were called to a local hospital Wednesday where a 25-year-old Vermillion man died of stab wounds. Police arrested a 25-year-old Sioux Falls man on possible murder and manslaughter charges. Authorities haven't said what led them to the suspect, who is being held in the Minnehaha County Jail.

More information about the case is expected at a briefing Thursday morning.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

01-03-06-11-12

(one, three, six, eleven, twelve)

Estimated jackpot: \$57,000

Lotto America

06-25-44-50-51, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 3

(six, twenty-five, forty-four, fifty, fifty-one; Star Ball: four; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.35 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Powerball

08-32-47-53-59, Powerball: 3, Power Play: 3

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(eight, thirty-two, forty-seven, fifty-three, fifty-nine; Powerball: three; Power Play: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$112 million

South Dakota inmate serving life for '88 murder dies

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota prison inmate serving a life sentence for murdering a man 30 years ago has died.

The state Department of Corrections says 55-year-old Ronald Corder died Tuesday at a Sioux Falls hospital from a health condition.

Corder was serving a life sentence out of Clay County in southeastern South Dakota for first-degree murder.

The Argus Leader reports Corder was convicted of killing 29-year-old Cliff Hirocke of Vermillion on Dec. 4, 1988. Hirocke was found bludgeoned to death at a game preserve 3 miles (5 kilometers) south of Vermillion.

South Dakota rape case tests police seizure of placenta

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court will be asked to decide whether police investigating the possible statutory rape of a 15-year-old girl needed a warrant to seize a placenta or other materials discarded after an abortion.

It's a tricky question in South Dakota, where strict laws discourage abortion and many politicians view fetuses as equal to fully formed humans. A deputy state's attorney argues in this case that the accused can have no expectation of privacy in medical remains and that tissue resulting from an abortion is simply waste, legally the same as household garbage.

The teenager from Rapid City, South Dakota, traveled nearly 400 miles (650 kilometers) to a clinic in Denver to have an abortion in May 2018, the Rapid City Journal reported. During the course of that procedure, the teen mentioned that she had been 15 when she became pregnant by her 25-year-old boyfriend. The age of consent in South Dakota is 16. The state's only abortion clinic is in Sioux Falls.

The clinic reported the possible rape to Denver police, who turned over a sample of the placenta to a Rapid City detective in June that year. DNA tests confirmed that the boyfriend, Nathan Hankins, could not be excluded as the father, and he was charged in September with fourth-degree rape.

A clinic worker told the detective, Ryan Gebhard, that he didn't need a warrant to collect the sample because it was considered medical waste and was being used in a criminal investigation, according to a brief filed by Lara Roetzel, chief deputy state's attorney for Pennington County.

Hankins' defense team argued that taking the placenta without a warrant violated his Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures. While he approved of the abortion and knew the clinic would obtain and dispose of the remains, that didn't mean he expected or consented for the material to be handed over to the police, attorney Martha Rossiter said.

"It really should shock people" that police officers can take body parts without a warrant the way they can take evidence from a trash can on a public sidewalk, Rossiter said.

Last week, Judge Jeff Davis rejected a defense motion to throw out the placenta evidence, saying the evidence was obtained in keeping with Colorado laws and medical practices.

Rossiter said the defense will appeal Davis' decision to the South Dakota Supreme Court.

The prosecutor and defense attorney said they weren't aware of any other South Dakota case that has used a placenta as evidence, but the prosecutor noted that one of the Colorado officers testified that he's taken placenta samples about 12 times without a warrant, and that those seizures have never been challenged in court.

"To believe that society does not appreciate some expectation of privacy in medical remains would be shocking ... this is not analogous to leaving a cup in the trash on the side of the road," the defense lawyers wrote in a brief.

Roetzel said Colorado law and U.S. Supreme Court rulings make it clear that fathers have no right to prevent or be notified of an abortion, and therefore fathers have no control over or privacy interests in

the results of an abortion.

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

Regional Health will handle hundreds of Sturgis rally cases

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — It's all hands on deck for Regional Health hospitals, clinics and urgent care facilities throughout the Black Hills during the Sturgis motorcycle rally.

The Rapid City-based health care system treated 610 people at its five hospitals related to the Sturgis rally last year. General staffing is increased, more equipment is brought in and more security is added.

Regional Health coordinator Marla Venjohn tells the Rapid City Journal there's usually an influx of head trauma and neurosurgery cases, so there's additional surgeons ready for general surgery, neurosurgery and orthopedics.

In addition to dozens of clinics, Regional Health operates hospitals in Rapid City, Sturgis, Spearfish, Deadwood and Custer. The rally which runs through August 11 is expected to attract about a half million visitors this year.

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

Mayors urge Senate to return to Washington for gun bill vote

By MATTHEW DALY and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 200 mayors, including two anguished by mass shootings in Texas and Ohio, are urging the Senate to return to the Capitol to act on gun safety legislation amid criticism that Congress is failing to respond to back-to-back shootings that left 31 people dead.

In a letter Thursday to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer, the mayors wrote, "Our nation can no longer wait for our federal government to take the actions necessary to prevent people who should not have access to firearms from being able to purchase them."

The mayors urged the Senate to vote on two House-passed bills expanding background checks for gun sales that passed that chamber earlier this year. It was signed by El Paso, Texas, Mayor Dee Margo, Dayton, Ohio, Mayor Nan Whaley and others where mass shootings have occurred, including Orlando and Parkland, Florida, Pittsburgh and Annapolis, Maryland.



FILE - In this July 23, 2019, file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington. More than 200 mayors, including the mayors of El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, are urging Senate leaders to call senators back to the Capitol to act on bipartisan gun safety legislation. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

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"Quick passage of these bills is a critical step to reducing gun violence in our country," they wrote.

The push comes as McConnell, the Republican leader, resists pressure to recall senators from the congressional recess, despite wrenching calls to "do something" in the aftermath of the shootings.

Instead, the Republican leader is taking a more measured approach, as GOP senators talk frequently among themselves and with the White House in the face of mounting criticism that Congress is failing to act.

President Donald Trump is privately calling up senators while publicly pushing for an expansion of background checks for firearms purchases, but McConnell knows those ideas have little Republican support. In fact, the White House threatened to veto a House-passed background checks bill earlier this year. Yet, as the nation reels from the frequency of shootings and their grave toll, McConnell's unwillingness to confront the gun lobby or move more swiftly is coming under scrutiny.

"I can only do what I can do," the president told reporters Wednesday as he departed Washington for visits to El Paso and Dayton to comfort victims and families and to praise first responders.

Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown made a personal plea to Trump during his visit to "call on Sen. McConnell to bring the Senate back in session this week, to tell the Senate he wants the background checks bill that has already passed the House."

The politics of gun violence are difficult for Republicans, including McConnell, who would risk losing support as he seeks reelection in Kentucky if he backed restricting access to firearms and ammunition. Other Republicans, including those in Colorado, Maine and swing states, also would face difficult votes, despite the clamor for some changes to gun laws.

"In Congress, we're trying to come up with some answers," Texas GOP Sen. John Cornyn, who is also up for reelection, said after donating blood in El Paso.

In Kentucky, where McConnell is recuperating from a shoulder fracture sustained in a weekend fall, activists have been demonstrating at his home and protesting at his downtown Louisville office.

In the meantime, Trump continues to say there's "great appetite" for background checks legislation.

But that is not the case, for now.

Instead, Republicans are trying to build support for more modest measures, including so-called red-flag bills from Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., that would allow friends and family members to petition authorities to keep guns away from people deemed a threat to themselves or others. But those efforts are also running into trouble from conservatives, who worry about due process and infringing on gun owners' rights.

GOP senators are also considering changes to the existing federal background checks system, modeled on the so-called "fix-NICS" law signed last year that improved the National Instant Criminal Background Check system, as well as strengthening penalties for hate crimes.

While many of those proposals have bipartisan support, Democrats are unlikely to agree to them without consideration of the more substantive background checks bill.

"We Democrats are not going to settle for half-measures so Republicans can feel better and try to push the issue of gun violence off to the side," Schumer said Wednesday.

Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat who, along with Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., is pushing a bill to expand background checks, said Trump's support will be the determining factor in whatever gets done.

"At this point in time leadership comes from President Trump," Manchin said.

Associated Press writer Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this report.

5 years after Ferguson, racial tension might be more intense

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Michael Brown's death at the hands of a white Missouri police officer stands as a seismic moment in American race relations. The fledgling Black Lives Matter movement found its voice, police departments fell under intense scrutiny, progressive prosecutors were elected and court policies revised.

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Yet five years after the black 18-year-old was fatally shot by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson on a steamy August day, racial tension remains palpable and may be even more intense. From the march on Charlottesville to President Donald Trump's tweets attacking congressional Democrats of color and Colin Kaepernick's kneeling at NFL games, the country often seems more divided than ever.

Ferguson "drew attention to the practices of police violence and a lot of the stereotypes and viewpoints that people had about black Americans," said Adia Harvey Wingfield, a Washington University sociologist and expert on race relations. "I wish I could be a little more optimistic about its overall implications, but I am not sure yet that there is too much reason for optimism. I think that we're in a place where we kind of see some progress coupled with some steps backward."

The suburban St. Louis community has changed, though to some, not fast enough. The government for the city of 21,000 is now more reflective of its populace, which is two-thirds black. Four of the six City Council members are black, compared with just one in 2014. The police force that was overwhelmingly white in 2014 is now far more diverse.

The town has seen sweeping changes in the way the Police Department and municipal court operate. An ongoing agreement with the Justice Department requires even more reforms, and the monitor overseeing the agreement wants the pace to accelerate.

Behind all of that, a father still grieves.

"We share the same name," Michael Brown Sr., 41, said of his son. "We have the same blood. He has no voice. I have the voice for him so I have to keep pushing."

The cascade of events on Aug. 9, 2014, began with a chance encounter on the street.

Wilson had just left a home after a call about a sick baby when he drove by Brown and a friend, who were walking in the middle of Canfield Drive, a busy two-lane street. Wilson told them to use the sidewalk.

Words were exchanged, then Wilson noticed a pack of cigarillos in Brown's hand. A radio dispatch had just reported the theft of cigarillos from a market. Wilson confronted Brown, who was unarmed.

The situation escalated in a flash. Brown reached into Wilson's SUV, and a fight began. Wilson's gun went off. Brown ran. Suddenly, the 6-foot-4, 290-pound teenager turned back toward Wilson, who later told investigators that Brown looked "psychotic" and "hostile."

Wilson fired several shots, but Brown kept coming, the officer said, until the final shot to the head felled him.

Some people in the Canfield Green apartment complex initially said Brown had his hands up in surrender, stories that quickly spread on social media. Brown's bloodied body lay on the street in the August heat for four hours, inciting even more anger.

The next night, as thousands attended a prayer vigil on Canfield, a much larger and angrier crowd gath-



FILE - In this Aug. 20, 2014, file photo, protesters march in the street as lightning flashes in the distance in Ferguson, Mo. Michael Brown's death on Aug. 9, 2014, at the hands of a white Missouri police officer stands as a seismic moment of race relations in America. The fledgling Black Lives Matter movement found its voice, police departments fell under intense scrutiny, progressive prosecutors were elected and court policies revised. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson, File)

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ered on nearby West Florissant Avenue. A QuikTrip convenience store was set on fire and soon, dozens of other businesses were looted, damaged or destroyed. Rocks and bottles were hurled at police officers. Police were so outnumbered they could only stand and watch.

Subsequent protests were met with a far larger police presence. Officers from throughout the St. Louis region showed up in armored vehicles, wearing riot gear and carrying military-style weapons.

Chris Phillips, a filmmaker who lived in Canfield Green at the time, was among many whose livestream video captured images of police using pepper spray, tear gas and batons in their clashes with protesters.

"I just think that the big presence of heavy artillery, with that kind of response, really upset people," said Phillips, now 38.

Several months later, on Nov. 24, 2014, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch announced that a grand jury had declined to indict Wilson, and the violent protests started anew.

The anger in Ferguson went much deeper than Michael Brown's death. Racial tension that simmered for decades began to boil.

Few metropolitan areas have suffered worse "white flight" than St. Louis. As white residents moved farther out, northern suburbs — known locally as North County — became increasingly populated with African Americans.

By 2014, two-thirds of Ferguson's 21,000 residents were black, but the city's leadership was virtually all white. The police force had just three blacks among 53 officers. Black residents were far more likely to be pulled over and arrested than whites, and far more likely to face burdensome fines and court costs.

The following spring, in March 2015, the Justice Department also declined to indict Wilson but issued a report citing racial bias in Ferguson's policing. The report also found that the municipal court used ticketing and court fees to generate revenue. Police Chief Tom Jackson was among the top leaders who resigned.

A year later, the city council reached an agreement with the Justice Department requiring massive reforms overseen by a court-appointed monitor. That process is ongoing.

Among the changes: About half of the police force is now made up of black officers, and they're led by a black chief, Jason Armstrong.

The problem is finding enough officers. Ferguson has 13 vacancies. Many departments across the country face similar shortages, but Mayor James Knowles III said the challenge is especially daunting in Ferguson, where police remain under a microscope.

"There are a lot of people, especially some of the best and brightest, who might have thought they may want a career in policing," Knowles said. "They're going to ask themselves the question, 'Do I want to go through this, put my family through this?'"

Ferguson has seen a spike in homicides — nearly 30 in the past five years in a town where killings were once uncommon. Knowles believes criminals have become more brazen knowing police are hesitant to make traffic stops — the so-called "Ferguson effect."

"When you're not pulling people over, you're not getting these guns off the street, you're not seizing contraband and illegal weapons," Knowles said.

Not everyone is sure that Ferguson is embracing change. Many black residents were angered when the longtime finance director, Jeffrey Blume, was appointed interim city manager earlier this year. The Justice Department report singled out Blume's role in encouraging traffic fines as a revenue source.

"As a community we hear you loud and clear: You don't care," Felicia Pulliam, 54, told the city council last month.

Knowles believes the agreement with the Justice Department sometimes hinders, rather than promotes, progress. He said the city has paid out more than \$600,000 in monitor fees, and the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on legal costs would be better spent on improving policing.

"Instead of spending money on a \$300-an-hour law firm, why shouldn't I be spending that money on sending those officers to additional training?" Knowles asked.

The city's monitor, Boston attorney Natasha Tidwell, gave Ferguson mixed reviews in a June report. She lauded the city for implementing a police use-of-force policy and cited progress in use of body-worn and in-car cameras. The review also gave generally high marks for municipal court reforms.

But Tidwell cited "sluggish" progress in community policing, officer training and data collection.

Ferguson is starting to look different. On West Florissant, the burned-out QuikTrip is long gone, replaced with a new \$4 million building housing the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis is building a teen center nearby, and a large new health care facility is also planned. Still, vacant lots and empty storefronts abound.

Susan Ankenbrand and her husband moved their family to Ferguson 44 years ago, at a time when other whites were heading the other direction, because they wanted to raise their kids in a diverse community. She acknowledged that the events of 2014 drove a racial wedge through the heart of Ferguson, leaving a wound that's a long way from healed.

"We need to be able to talk to each other," said Ankenbrand, 76. "So tell me how to do that."

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. WARMING REPORT SEES HUNGRY FUTURE

A new United Nations scientific report examines how global warming and land interact in a vicious cycle. Human-caused climate change is dramatically degrading the land, while the way people use the

2. TRUMP MET BY PROTESTERS AS HE VISITS SITES OF MASS SHOOTINGS

President Donald Trump paid visits to cities reeling from mass shootings that left 31 dead and dozens more wounded.

3. WHO'S PUSHING SENATE TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR GUN BILL VOTE

More than 200 mayors are urging Senate leaders to return to Washington to act on bipartisan gun safety legislation.

4. FOUR DEAD AND TWO WOUNDED IN CALIFORNIA STABBING

A man who was "full of anger" went on a two-hour stabbing and robbery rampage in Southern California, killing four people and wounding two others.

5. LIFE UNDER CURFEW

The lives of millions in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir have been upended since New Delhi imposed an unprecedented security lockdown.

6. FIVE YEARS AFTER FERGUSON, RACIAL TENSION MIGHT BE MORE INTENSE

Five years after Michael Brown was fatally shot by a Ferguson police officer on a steamy August day, racial tension remains palpable and may be even more intense.

7. WHAT STATE FAIR IS A MUST FOR 2020 PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS

The Iowa state fair, a quadrennial presidential prerequisite stop, is a cultural obstacle course more fraught



President Donald Trump shakes hands with El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, in El Paso, Texas. Trump paid visits to cities reeling from mass shootings that left multiple people dead and wounded. (Mark Lambie/

The El Paso Times via AP)

with pitfalls than opportunities to sway the narrow band of voters who will attend the state's kickoff caucuses in less than six months.

8. ISRAELI TROOPS SEARCH WEST BANK AFTER KILLING OF SOLDIER

Israeli military says it is sending reinforcements to the West Bank, after the body of a 19-year-old soldier with stab wounds was found near a Jewish settlement.

9. PUERTO RICO BRACES FOR MORE PROTESTS AGAINST LATEST GOVERNOR

Puerto Ricans brace for more political turmoil as the third governor in a week takes charge of this U.S. territory still divided over who should lead the economically struggling island.

10. RETIREMENT HAS'NT SLOWED LINDSEY VONN

The bustling life of the all-time winningest female skier in World Cup history includes, wrapping up her memoir in a book set to be published early next year and working with Dwayne Johnson on a sports apparel project.

Protesters chant against Trump as he visits Dayton, El Paso

By **ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press**

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Aiming to play the traditional role of healer during national tragedy, President Donald Trump paid visits to cities reeling from mass shootings that left 31 dead and dozens more wounded. But his divisive words preceded him, large protests greeted him and biting political attacks soon followed.

The Republican president and first lady Melania Trump flew to El Paso late Wednesday after visiting the Dayton, Ohio, hospital where many of the victims of Sunday's attack in that city were treated. For most of the day, the president was kept out of view of the reporters traveling with him, but the White House said the couple met with hospital staff and first responders and spent time with wounded survivors and their families.

Trump told them he was "with them," said press secretary Stephanie Grisham. "Everybody received him very warmly. Everybody was very, very excited to see him." Trump said the same about his reception in the few moments he spoke with the media at a 911 call center in El Paso.

But outside Dayton's Miami Valley Hospital, at least 200 protesters gathered, blaming Trump's incendiary rhetoric for inflaming political and racial tensions in the country and demanding action on gun control. Some said Trump was not welcome in their city. There were Trump supporters, as well.

In El Paso, former Rep. Beto O'Rourke spoke to several hundred people at a separate gathering. O'Rourke, a potential Democratic 2020 presidential rival, has blistered Trump as a racist instigator, but he also told those in his audience the open way the people of his hometown treat each other could be "the example to the United States of America."

Emotions are still raw in both cities in the aftermath of the weekend shootings. Critics contend Trump's own words have contributed to a combustible climate that has spawned death and other violence.

The vitriol continued Wednesday.

Trump's motorcade passed El Paso protesters holding "Racist Go Home" signs. And Trump spent part of his flight between Ohio and Texas airing his grievances on Twitter, berating Democratic lawmakers, O'Rourke and the press. It was a remarkable split-screen appearance for TV viewers, with White House images of handshakes and selfies juxtaposed with angry tweets.

Trump and the White House have forcefully disputed the idea that he bears some responsibility for the nation's divisions. And he continued to do so Wednesday.

"My critics are political people," Trump said as he left the White House, noting the apparent political leanings of the shooter in the Dayton killings. He also defended his rhetoric on issues including immigration, claiming instead that he "brings people together."

Some 85% of U.S. adults believe the tone and nature of political debate has become more negative, with a majority saying Trump has changed things for the worse, according to recent Pew Research Center polling. 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.

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In Dayton, raw anger and pain were on display as protesters chanted "Ban those guns" and "Do something!" during Trump's visit.

Holding a sign that said "Not Welcome Here," Lynnell Graham said she thinks Trump's response to the shootings has been insincere.

"To me he comes off as fake," she said.

Dorothee Bouquet, stood in the bright sun with her 5-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son, tucked in a stroller. She told them they were going to a protest "to tell grownups to make better rules."

But in El Paso, where more protests awaited, Raul Melendez, whose father-in-law, David Johnson, was killed in Saturday's shooting, said the most appropriate thing Trump could do was to meet with relatives of the victims.

"It shows that he actually cares, if he talks to individual families," said Melendez, who credits Johnson with helping his 9-year-old daughter survive the attack by pushing her under a counter. Melendez, an Army veteran and the son of Mexican immigrants, said he holds only the shooter responsible for the attack.

"That person had the intent to hurt people, he already had it," he said. "No one's words would have triggered that."

Local Democratic lawmakers who'd expressed concern about the visit said Trump had nonetheless hit the right notes Wednesday.

"He was comforting. He did the right things and Melania did the right things. It's his job to comfort people," said Sen. Sherrod Brown, who nonetheless said he was "very concerned about a president that divides in his rhetoric and plays to race in his rhetoric."

"I think the victims and the first responders were grateful that the president of the United States came to Dayton," added Mayor Nan Whaley, who said she was glad Trump had not stopped at the site of the shooting.

"A lot of the time his talk can be very divisive, and that's the last thing we need in Dayton," she said.

Grisham, responding on Twitter from aboard Air Force One, said it was "genuinely sad" to see the lawmakers "immediately hold such a dishonest press conference in the name of partisan politics."

Despite protests in both cities, the White House insisted Trump had received positive receptions. One aide tweeted that Trump was a "rock star" at the Dayton hospital.

The White House did not allow reporters and photographers to watch as he talked with wounded victims, medical staff and law enforcement officers there, but then quickly published its own photos on social media and released a video of his visit.

There was discord in El Paso, too. Rep. Veronica Escobar, the Democratic congresswoman who represents the city, declined to meet with Trump. "I refuse to be a prop," she said in an interview on CNN.

Visits to the sites of mass shootings have become a regular pilgrimage for recent presidents, but Trump, who has sometimes struggled to project empathy during moments of national tragedy, has stirred unusual backlash.



President Donald Trump speaks to the media as he visits the El Paso Regional Communications Center after meeting with people affected by the El Paso mass shooting, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, in El Paso, Texas. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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Though he has been able to summon soothing words and connect one-on-one with victims, 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.

As the presidential motorcade rolled up to a 911 center in El Paso, it passed a sign aimed at Trump that said “Racist go home.”

Elsewhere in the city, O’Rourke told several hundred people that his hometown “bore the brunt” of hatred from the shooting but could also hold an answer to the strife.

On the eve of his trip, Trump lashed out at O’Rourke, saying he “should respect the victims & law enforcement - & be quiet!”

On his flight between one scene of tragedy and the second, Trump said he tuned in as another 2020 rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, excoriated him in a speech that slammed him as incapable of offering the moral leadership that has defined the presidency for generations and “fueling a literal carnage” in America.

Trump declared the speech “Sooo Boring!” and warned that “The LameStream Media will die in the ratings and clicks” if Biden wins.

Trump seemed focused on politics through the day. He mentioned the crowd at his earlier rally in El Paso. When a reporter asked what he saw during the day, he answered with claims about how he was received respectfully in both cities. Then on the flight home he unleashed another political tweet:

“The Dems new weapon is actually their old weapon, one which they never cease to use when they are down, or run out of facts, RACISM! They are truly disgusting!”

Associated Press writer John Seewer contributed to this report. Colvin reported from Washington.

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

New UN warming report sees hungry future that can be avoided

BY SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the ground, climate change is hitting us where it counts: the stomach — not to mention the forests, plants and animals.

A new United Nations scientific report examines how global warming and land interact in a vicious cycle. Human-caused climate change is dramatically degrading the land, while the way people use the land is making global warming worse.

Thursday’s science-laden report says the combination is already making food more expensive, scarcer and even less nutritious.

“The cycle is accelerating,” said NASA climate scientist Cynthia Rosenzweig, a report co-author. “The threat of climate change affecting people’s food on their dinner table is increasing.”

But if people change the way they eat, grow food and manage forests, it could help save the planet from a far warmer future, scientists said

Earth’s land masses, which are only 30% of the globe, are warming twice as fast as the planet as a whole. While heat-trapping gases are causing problems in the atmosphere, the land has been less talked about as part of climate change. A special report, written by more than 100 scientists and unanimously approved by diplomats from nations around the world at a meeting in Geneva, proposed possible fixes and made more dire warnings.

“The way we use land is both part of the problem and also part of the solution,” said Valerie Masson-Delmotte, a French climate scientist who co-chairs one of the panel’s working groups. “Sustainable land management can help secure a future that is comfortable.”

Scientists in Thursday’s press conference emphasized both the seriousness of the problem and the need to make societal changes soon.

“We don’t want a message of despair,” said science panel official Jim Skea, a professor at Imperial Col-

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lege London. "We want to get across the message that every action makes a difference"

The report said climate change already has worsened land degradation, caused deserts to grow, permafrost to thaw and made forests more vulnerable to drought, fire, pests and disease. That's happened even as much of the globe has gotten greener because of extra carbon dioxide in the air. Climate change has also added to other forces that have reduced the number of species on Earth.

"Climate change is really slamming the land," said World Resources Institute researcher Kelly Levin, who wasn't part of the study but praised it.

And the future could be worse.

"The stability of food supply is projected to decrease as the magnitude and frequency of extreme weather events that disrupt food chains increases," the report said.

In the worst case scenario, food security problems change from moderate to high risk with just a few more tenths of a degree of warming from now. They go from high to "very high" risk with just another 1.8 degrees (1 degree Celsius) of warming from now.

Scientists had long thought one of the few benefits of higher levels of carbon dioxide, the major heat-trapping gas, was that it made plants grow more and the world greener, Rosenzweig said. But numerous studies show that the high levels of carbon dioxide reduce protein and nutrients in many crops.

For example, high levels of carbon in the air in experiments show wheat has 6 to 13% less protein, 4 to 7% less zinc and 5 to 8% less iron, she said.

But better farming practices — such as no-till agricultural and better targeted fertilizer application — have the potential to fight global warming too, reducing carbon pollution up to 18% of current emissions levels by 2050, the report said.

If people change their diets, reducing red meat and increasing plant-based foods, such as fruits, vegetables and seeds, the world can save as much as another 15% of current emissions by mid-century. It would also make people more healthy, Rosenzweig said.

The science panel said they aren't telling people what to eat because that's a personal choice.

Still, Hans-Otto Portner, a panel leader from Germany who said he lost weight and felt better after reducing his meat consumption, told a reporter that if she ate less ribs and more vegetables "that's a good decision and you will help the planet reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Reducing food waste can fight climate change even more. The report said that between 2010 and 2016 global food waste accounted for 8 to 10% of heat-trapping emissions.

"Currently 25-30% of total food produced is lost or wasted," the report said. Fixing that would free up millions of square miles of land.



FILE - This Monday, July 30, 2018 file photo shows rows of soybean plants in a field near Bennington, Neb. A report by the United Nations released on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019 says that human-caused climate change is dramatically degrading the planet's land, while the way people use the Earth is making global warming worse. The vicious cycle is already making food more expensive, scarcer and even less nutritious, as well as cutting the number of species on Earth, according to a special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

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With just another 0.9 degrees of warming (0.5 degrees Celsius), which could happen in the next 10 to 30 years, the risk of unstable food supplies, wildfire damage, thawing permafrost and water shortages in dry areas "are projected to be high," the report said.

At another 1.8 degrees of warming from now (1 degree Celsius), which could happen in about 50 years, it said those risks "are projected to be very high."

Most scenarios predict the world's tropical regions will have "unprecedented climatic conditions by the mid to late 20th century," the report noted.

Agriculture and forestry together account for about 23% of the heat-trapping gases that are warming the Earth, slightly less than from cars, trucks, boats and planes. Add in transporting food, energy costs, packaging and that grows to 37%, the report said.

But the land is also a great carbon "sink," which sucks heat-trapping gases out of the air.

From about 2007 to 2016, agriculture and forestry every year put 5.7 billion tons (5.2 billion metric tons) of carbon dioxide into the air, but pulled 12.3 billion tons (11.2 billion metric tons) of it out.

"This additional gift from nature is limited. It's not going to continue forever," said study co-author Luis Verchot, a scientist at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture in Colombia. "If we continue to degrade ecosystems, if we continue to convert natural ecosystems, we continue to deforest and we continued to destroy our soils, we're going to lose this natural subsidy."

Overall land emissions are increasing, especially because of cutting down forests in the Amazon in places such as Brazil, Colombia and Peru, Verchot said.

Recent forest management changes in Brazil "contradicts all the messages that are coming out of the report," Portner said.

Stanford University environmental sciences chief Chris Field, who wasn't part of the report, said the bottom line is "we ought to recognize that we have profound limits on the amount of land available and we have to be careful about how we utilize it."

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears

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.

More than 220 people sue on Guam alleging clergy sex abuse

By MICHAEL BIESECKER Associated Press

AGAT, Guam (AP) — Long after clergy sex abuse erupted into scandal in the United States, it remained a secret on the American island of Guam, spanning generations and reaching to the very top of the Catholic hierarchy.

For decades, abusers held the power in a culture of impunity led by an archbishop who was among those accused. Anthony Sablan Apuron was convicted in a secret Vatican trial and suspended in 2016, after which restrictions he supported on the reporting of abuse were eased.

More than 220 former altar boys, students and Boy Scouts are now suing the U.S. territory's Catholic archdiocese over sexual assaults by 35 clergy, teachers and scoutmasters, hoping to finally see justice. The archdiocese filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this year, estimating at least \$45 million in liabilities, and survivors have until Aug. 15 to file for a financial settlement.

Thousands of pages of court documents reviewed by The Associated Press, along with extensive interviews, tell a story of systemic abuse going back to the 1950s and of repeated collusion by predator priests. Seven men have publicly accused Apuron of sexual assaults they endured as children, including his own nephew.

The archbishop, now 73, denies the allegations, but in April the Vatican revealed that Pope Francis had upheld the findings of a secret church trial that he was guilty of sex crimes against children.

"He believed he was untouchable, more powerful than the governor," said Water Denton, a former U.S.

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Army sergeant who alleges he was raped by Apuron 40 years ago as an altar boy. "But it was me against him, and I had nothing to lose."

Though Apuron has been removed from public ministry and effectively exiled from Guam, he remains a bishop and receives a monthly \$1,500 stipend from the church. The Guam archdiocese said it did not know where Apuron is, and his lawyer declined repeated requests for comment. The AP found he recently registered to vote in New Jersey, but residents at the address he listed said he doesn't live there and they don't know him.

To this day, no member of the Catholic clergy on Guam has ever been prosecuted for a sex crime, including Apuron. Secret church files that could have helped provide evidence for prosecutions are alleged to have been burned. And unlike dozens of archdioceses on the U.S. mainland, Guam has yet to issue a list of priests whom the church deems credibly accused of sexual assault.

Despite church law that requires bishops and archbishops to maintain records on sex abuse allegations, the new archbishop, Michael Jude Byrnes, said his predecessor left him nothing. He couldn't explain why, but said he had heard rumors of "a big bonfire" outside the chancery before Apuron left.

"It's horrific," Byrnes said. "The sins of the fathers are left to the children. ... It's important for the Church of Guam to confront, in a good way, the evil that we found, and to acknowledge it, and to own it."

Catholicism is deeply engrained in the culture of Guam's indigenous people, known as Chamorros. Four out of five Guamanians are Catholic. Many streets on this former Spanish colony of 165,000 are named for bishops and priests — including some now accused of sexual abuse.

Brothers Tomas and Ramon De Plata have filed suit alleging abuse by more than one priest. In March 1964, the brothers say, Apuron — then a seminarian in his late teens — was at a sleepover in the rectory. Around midnight, Ramon says, he walked into the priest's bedroom looking for the bathroom and saw Apuron and another priest engaged in sex acts with a boy from his school. Ramon says the future archbishop got up from the bed and placed a hand on his shoulder.

"He was calling me to join them," recounted Ramon De Plata, now 65 and retired from the U.S. Army. "I said, 'Don't touch me!'"

Denton says he dreamed as a 13-year-old altar boy of becoming a priest, just like Father Tony. So he felt privileged when in the spring of 1977, Father Tony invited him to spend the night before Sunday mass in the squat concrete block rectory. He says he woke up face down on bed, his legs spread, and the priest on top of him.



Walter Denton prays as the sun rises in his backyard in Agat, Guam, Saturday, May 11, 2019. Denton is one of over 200 former altar boys, students and Boy Scouts who are now suing Guam's Catholic archdiocese over decades of sexual abuse they say they suffered at the hands of almost three dozen clergy, teachers and scoutmasters. "He took everything from me. From that day forward my demeanor changed. I break down, I hurt everyday and I still hurt," said Denton. But, he adds, "he didn't ruin my faith. I still believe in God." Former Archbishop of Agana, Anthony Apuron denies the allegations. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

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"I yelled, I screamed, and I begged Father Tony, 'Please stop! Please stop!'" Denton, now 55, recounted. First, Denton told his mother what happened, but says she accused him of making it up. Denton then confided in an older altar boy, who said Apuron had abused him too. Together, Denton says they reported the assaults to another priest, but that man did nothing and later turned out to be an abuser himself.

When Guam's archbishop died in 1985, Apuron was quickly named as his successor. With him in charge, pedophile priests were protected from the top.

In August 2015, Denton reported his rape to Apuron's superior, the apostolic nuncio for the Pacific. Denton wrote a notarized four-page letter to Pope Francis, and the Vatican opened an investigation. Months ticked by.

In May 2016, a Guam survivor publicly accused Apuron of molesting him. Tired of waiting, Denton informed the church that he too was going public. The day before his scheduled press conference, Pope Francis suspended Apuron.

In a written statement issued in April, after Pope Francis rejected his final appeal, Apuron maintained his innocence but compared the decision to a death sentence.

Denton still thinks about what happened almost every day, but after decades away from the church, the former altar boy is once again attending mass.

"People ask me, 'Walter, how are you doing?'" Denton said. "And I say, 'I'm blessed. God has blessed me.'"

Mass shootings so far this year almost reach 2018 levels

By **MARTHA BELLISLE** and **MEGHAN HOYER** Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Just seven months into 2019, the U.S. has experienced almost as many mass killings as occurred in all of 2018.

Back-to-back mass shootings in Texas and Ohio brought the total number of mass killings so far this year to 23, leaving 131 people dead. There were 25 mass killings in 2018, claiming 140 lives, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, Northeastern University and USA Today.

The database tracks every mass killing dating back to 2006, and the El Paso and Dayton massacres had traits that were similar to many earlier incidents. That includes shooting a family member while carrying out a mass killing, which happened in Dayton; the young age of the perpetrators; and the tendency of the shooters to commit suicide or get killed by police.

Here are some takeaways:

OVERALL NUMBERS

The last three years have seen several fluctuations in mass killing numbers. In 2017, 225 people died in 32 mass killings, driven by the massacre in Las Vegas. In 2018, the year was marked by a surge in mass killings in public places, including schools in Texas and Florida.

A typical year has roughly 29 mass killings.

Mass killings — defined as killings involving four or more fatalities, not including the killer — have occurred in 16 states this year. California has experienced four of them.

FAMILY MEMBERS KILLED

The majority of mass killings involve domestic violence, and eight of 74 public mass shootings since 2006 involved the killing of a blood relative, the data shows. The shooter's parent, sibling, cousin, nephew or niece was shot first and then the perpetrator sought out others to kill.

"They'll take it out on family and then society, figuring they already committed a murder," said David Chipman, a former agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives who now works as a policy adviser at Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence. "Domestic violence is the most risky call for service that police go on."

Before 20-year-old Adam Lanza killed 26 children and staff at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, he had fatally shot his mother in their Newtown, Connecticut home.

Jaylen Fryberg, 15, sent text messages to lure two cousins and several friends to the cafeteria at Marysville Pilchuck High School in Marysville, Washington, in 2014. He then shot the four students before turning

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the gun on himself.

And last month, police say a man in Southern California began his rampage by killing and injuring family members before shooting strangers. In the end, he is accused of killing four people.

YOUNG KILLERS

The AP/USA Today/Northeastern database shows that many mass shootings are committed by a certain demographic: young, white men.

Most mass shootings in the U.S. are carried out by men, with white men making up nearly 50 percent of the shooters, the database shows.

The median age of a public mass shooter is 28; significantly lower than the median age of a person who commits a mass shooting of their family, according to the database.

Since 2006, 12 mass shootings have been committed by gunmen 21 or younger. That includes the 21-year-old suspected gunman in El Paso.

ARRESTED OR KILLED

More than half of public mass shooters either kill themselves on the scene or are shot by police.

Lanza and Fryberg killed themselves, as did Stephen Paddock, the man who killed 58 people and wounded 422 attending a country music festival in Las Vegas in 2017. So did the man who killed 33 at Virginia Tech in 2007; the former municipal worker who murdered 12 in Virginia Beach this year; and the mentally ill man who gunned down four at an IHop restaurant in Nevada in 2011. The Pulse nightclub shooter was killed by police in Orlando.

The man who opened fire at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in July also committed suicide.

"They obviously went through the thought process of 'I may end up dead,'" said Frank Farley, a Temple University psychology professor and former president of the American Psychological Association. "And did it anyway."

James Holmes, who killed 12 and wounded 70 in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, was sentenced in 2015 to life in prison. Dylann Roof, a white supremacist who fatally shot nine people attending the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2015, was sentenced to death.

Prosecutors are also seeking the death penalty for Patrick Wood Crusius, the man accused of fatally shooting 22 people at an El Paso Walmart.



A pedestrian passes a makeshift memorial for the slain and injured victims of a mass shooting that occurred in the Oregon District early Sunday morning, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, in Dayton, Ohio. President Donald Trump is headed to Dayton and El Paso, Texas on Wednesday to offer a message of healing and unity, but he will be met by unusual hostility in both places by people who fault his own incendiary words as a contributing cause to the mass shootings . (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

Associated Press Writer Colleen Long contributed to this report from Washington, D.C.

Follow Martha Bellisle <https://twitter.com/marthabellisle>

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Fried Oreos here: Iowa State Fair a must for 2020 hopefuls

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Howard Dean took one bite of a deep-fried Oreo and dismissively pitched the rest into the garbage.

Mitt Romney famously flipped a pork chop, right into the gravel. And John Kerry capped his Iowa State Fair fare with a strawberry smoothie, rather than a cold beer that offered a chance for him to seem connected with regular folks.

"I wouldn't order a smoothie," said Jeff Link, a veteran Iowa Democratic operative. "That kind of summed the whole thing up right there."

The state fair, a quadrennial presidential prerequisite stop, is a cultural obstacle course more fraught with pitfalls than opportunities to sway the narrow band of voters who will attend the state's kickoff caucuses in less than six months. Starting Thursday, more than 20 Democratic presidential candidates will begin weighing nutritionally questionable food choices and navigating media flocks resembling crows on a French fry — all while trying to seem both presidential and comfortable with the folkways of Middle America.

This year, selections that include bacon-wrapped corn dogs and a monstrosity called the hot beef sundae pose particular challenges for Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a vegetarian, and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who keeps vegan.

"There are few breakthrough moments, and the memorable ones are often not good," said John Norris, who managed John Kerry's 2004 Iowa caucus campaign.

Joe Biden, who will return to the fair Thursday, would know.

In August 1987, he lifted passages of a speech by British Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock's speech without attribution during a 1987 Democratic candidates' debate at the fair. The revelation punctuated previous questions of plagiarism that shadowed Biden and led ultimately to his early drop from the 1988 race.

It was an epic fair fail. But presidential history also is sprinkled with winning performances.

In 2007, Barack Obama's romp through the Midway with his family — and iconic turn on the bumper cars with his daughter Sasha — cast a glow over the rising Illinois senator.

But for every such gauzy memory, there are more clunkers, or worse yet, permanent scars.

In 2007, amid heavy expectations, former Republican Sen. Fred Thompson famously made his Iowa debut by attending the Iowa State Fair wearing a pair of \$500 Gucci loafers.

That was after he was chauffeured down the voter-packed Grand Concourse by golf cart to meet his escort, the notoriously frugal Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley. Thompson stayed aboard the cart, waving only occasionally at the many star-struck voters who recognized him.



FILE - In this Aug. 10, 2007, file photo, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, and his wife Ann, flip pork chops in the Iowa Pork Producers tent at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, Iowa. The state fair, a quadrennial presidential prerequisite stop, is a cultural obstacle course more fraught with pitfalls than opportunities to sway the narrow band of voters who will attend the kickoff caucuses in less than six months. (AP Photo/Charlie

Neibergall, File)

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The episode was hardly a black eye. But, just as Kerry's smoothie contributed to questions about the Massachusetts senator's connection to regular folk, Thompson's less-than-enthusiastic embrace of the time-honored Iowa tradition clashed with the down-home Southerner he often portrayed as an actor.

Some candidates this year may be better-prepared than others. Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper will avoid Kerry's oversight. Hickenlooper, who founded a successful brewery, will pour beers for fairgoers at the craft beer tent.

On Wednesday, Sen. Amy Klobuchar joked about her love of a good state fair, noting she attends the fair in her neighboring home state of Minnesota every year — and that she, too, has experience with butter sculptures.

"One thing we have in common, of course, as strong dairy states, is the butter carving. I am looking very forward to seeing your butter cow at the Iowa State Fair. I am going to have to decide if it holds a candle to our Princess Kay of the Milky Way statue," she said, referencing Minnesota's iconic butter bust.

One test, the soap box speech, has carried potentially dangerous repercussions, thanks to the once idealistic notion of a former Des Moines Register editor.

"I think the challenge is the soap box speech, getting through it without incident or statements that come back to haunt you," said former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack.

In 2002, then-political editor Blair Clafin mused about promoting the Register while drawing candidates, otherwise given to holding court while roaming the fairgrounds, to a single location.

Clafin's idea, a take on 19th century street-corner oratory, would become the Register's Political Soapbox. Now entering its 18th year, the once simple straw-bale and poor-quality microphone setup has evolved into a constructed stage that campaign organizers pack with supporters in hopes of projecting momentum.

"Under the best of circumstances, I figured it might become a quaint Iowa State Fair tradition, requiring just a microphone and a few bales of hay," said Clafin, now director of sustainability communications at Cummins Inc. in Indiana. "More than 20 presidential candidates over a week speaking from a stage? I never imagined anything like that."

In 2015, would-be presidential nominees Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump skipped the Register venue during their fair tours. Trump made a decidedly Trumpian entrance, on his private helicopter. But he had the crowd when he provided children a ride.

Their decision to skip the speechifying may have been influenced by Romney's contentious episode at the Register venue in 2011, when the former Massachusetts governor got in a testy back-and-forth with protesters, eliciting one of the 2012 campaign's most memorable, if awkward, lines.

"Corporations are people, my friend. Of course they are," Romney countered to a protester angry that corporations weren't paying higher taxes. "Everything corporations earn ultimately goes to people."

The exchange, captured by the crowd of national media on hand, punctuated the narrative that the wealthy former venture capitalist was out of sync with voters.

Then there are achingly awkward moments that point to a candidate's long odds.

Bob Graham sang from the Register venue, "You've got a friend in Bob Graham," a tune he'd attributed to his 40 years of success in Florida politics. The smattering of applause became a metaphor for Graham's presidential campaign, which ended before the caucuses.

But what a candidate eats often is the most scrutinized, if certainly visual, image at the fair, home to deep-fried everything.

Not to be outdone by anyone, then-Ohio Gov. John Kasich wolfed down not one but three pork chops at the must-stop Iowa Pork Producers complex.

Despite the minefield the fair presents, candidates can gain something beyond a strategic advantage in Iowa if they listen to the people they meet, said veteran Republican strategist Bob Haus.

"People are honest. They'll tell you what they think because they're on their turf, and often have a few beers in them," Haus said. "So you honestly get feedback. A lot you like, and some you may not."

Biden: Trump 'fanning the flames of white supremacy'

By STEVE PEOPLES and BILL BARROW Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Iowa (AP) — Joe Biden on Wednesday accused President Donald Trump of “fanning the flames of white supremacy” in his most aggressive attack yet on the character of the man he would like to defeat in 2020.

“Trump offers no moral leadership,” Biden declared in Burlington, Iowa. The president “seems to have no interest in unifying the nation.”

Biden’s remarks, which have been echoed in some form by most of the Democratic presidential candidates, signaled how sharp and bitter the nation’s cultural and political divides will be on the long road to Election Day.

They also marked a moment of unity for Biden and his presidential rivals, who have turned on each other in recent weeks. But on Wednesday, they were nearly unanimous in their support of an aggressive plan to confront gun violence just days after another series of mass shootings elevated the issue to the forefront of the party’s presidential primary.

Virtually all of them vowed to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, while some, like Cory Booker, called for requiring all gun owners to obtain licenses.

Hours before Biden lashed out against Trump in Iowa, Booker spoke in Charleston, South Carolina’s Mother Emanuel Church, where a white supremacist shot to death nine black parishioners four years ago. The New Jersey senator demanded bold action to stop gun violence.

“We must act to get weapons of war off our streets, out of our grocery stores, our bars, our temples and our churches by banning assault weapons once and for all,” a solemn Booker said.

While many Democrats have yet to take a firm position on licensing, their willingness to lean in on gun control marks a definite shift for the party. Democrats with national ambitions have traditionally feared alienating millions of gun owners by embracing plans to enact dramatic changes to the nation’s gun control laws.

As recently as 2013, President Barack Obama’s White House released a photo of the Democrat shooting a rifle. Former Democratic presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter were also eager to be photographed holding firearms.

But on Wednesday, even red-state Democrat Steve Bullock, the Montana governor, backed gun control measures, insisting in a Washington speech that gun owners are worried about their families’ safety just like everyone else. He called for universal background checks, a ban on assault weapons, and so-called “red flag” laws aimed at restricting gun ownership from high-risk individuals.

“I am a hunter and a gun owner,” Bullock said. “And let me say as a hunter, no real hunter needs a 30-round clip. No real hunter needs a weapon of war.”

Such positions may not be so politically risky.

Even before mass shootings over the weekend in Ohio and Texas left at least 31 dead, national polls



Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a community event, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, in Burlington, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

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found strong majorities of voters favor stricter gun laws.

More than 90% of voters supported mandatory background checks for all gun purchases, according to a May poll conducted by Quinnipiac University; another 77% favored mandatory licenses for all gun purchasers and 63 percent support a nationwide ban on assault weapons.

"The 2020 aspirants on the Democratic side are all outmuscling each other to see who can have the most aggressive program on the issue of gun safety. That's a seismic shift from past presidential cycles," said John Feinblatt, president of Mayor's Against Illegal Guns, which is hosting a presidential forum on gun control in Iowa this weekend.

The organization, backed by billionaire Michael Bloomberg, spent roughly \$30 million to shape the 2018 midterm elections and will again spend a "significant" amount up and down the ballot in 2020, Feinblatt said.

John Anzalone, a veteran Democratic pollster who is advising Biden, acknowledged the party's sudden willingness to embrace gun control.

"It's no longer radical," he said. "No one's afraid of the NRA anymore."

Despite the shifting political dynamics and surge in mass shootings, Republican leaders in Congress have blocked efforts to enact significant gun control legislation, including a relatively modest plan to require universal background checks.

Trump has periodically expressed support for gun control measures, but his administration has not followed through, and his political party in Congress has shown no appetite to address the issue.

There were early signs this week, however, that a bipartisan proposal by Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., to adopt "red flag" laws is gaining some traction. The still-emerging plan would create a federal grant program to encourage states to adopt laws to take guns away from people believed to be a danger to themselves or others.

A similar bill never came up for a vote in the GOP-controlled Senate last year, but both parties express hope that this year will be different.

Trump has signaled support for the plan.

On Wednesday, Trump was visiting the Ohio and Texas communities that were still grappling with the fallout of the weekend shootings.

The president and first lady Melania Trump began their visit at the Ohio hospital where many of the victims of Sunday's attack were treated. Outside Miami Valley Hospital, at least 200 protesters gathered, hoping to send a message to the president that they want action on gun control.

Democrats are eager to oblige.

In addition to pledging action on guns, many are linking the violence to Trump's racist rhetoric, which includes warnings of an immigrant invasion.

The man accused of killing at least 22 in an El Paso, Texas Walmart on Sunday referenced similar language in a manifesto before the deadly spree.

Biden promised to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, reminding voters that he helped enact the now-expired law in the 1990s that originally outlawed such weapons. He also signaled support for a federal program to buy back assault weapons from gun owners.

Turning to the president, Biden said, there was "no evidence that that the presidency has awakened his conscience in the least." Trump "has more in common with George Wallace than George Washington," he added.

Trump derided Biden's remarks on Twitter as "sooo boring!"

Gilda Cobb-Hunter, a South Carolina state legislator, who has been critical of Biden at times, said it's beyond time for elected leaders to embrace gun control, even if it turns off some rural voters.

"I want to see Democrats take a stand on this issue," she said. "Enough with the words. It's time for action."

Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writers Elana Schor in Washington and Meg Kinnard in Charleston, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

Puerto Ricans get their 3rd governor in 6 days

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez became Puerto Rico's new governor Wednesday, just the second woman to hold the office, after weeks of political turmoil and hours after the island's Supreme Court declared Pedro Pierluisi's swearing-in a week ago unconstitutional.

Accompanied by her husband, Judge Jorge Díaz, and one of her daughters, Vázquez took the oath of office in the early evening at the Supreme Court before leaving without making any public comment. She then issued a brief televised statement late Wednesday, saying she feels the pain that Puerto Ricans have experienced in recent weeks.

"We have all felt the anxiety provoked by the instability and uncertainty," Vázquez said, adding that she would meet with legislators and government officials in the coming days. "Faced with this enormous challenge and with God ahead, I take a step forward with no interest other than serving the people ... It is necessary

to give the island stability, certainty to the markets and secure (hurricane) reconstruction funds."

The high court's unanimous decision, which could not be appealed, settled the dispute over who will lead the U.S. territory after its political establishment was knocked off balance by big street protests spawned by anger over corruption, mismanagement of funds and a leaked obscenity-laced chat that forced the previous governor and several top aides to resign.

But it was also expected to unleash a new wave of demonstrations because many Puerto Ricans have said they don't want Vázquez as governor.

"It is concluded that the swearing in as governor by Hon. Pedro R. Pierluisi Urrutia, named secretary of state in recess, is unconstitutional," the court said in a brief statement.

Pierluisi said that he had stepped forward to help islanders "in the best good faith and desire to contribute to the future of our homeland," but that he would respect the court's ruling.

"I must step aside and support the Justice Secretary of Puerto Rico, the Honorable Wanda Vázquez Garced," he said in a statement before she was sworn in.

People began cheering in some parts of San Juan after the ruling was announced.

But late in the day, about two dozen protesters gathered outside the governor's mansion and called for the removal of Vázquez.

"There'll be no peace as long as there's impunity," yelled the crowd, which remained calm as curious onlookers including tourists took pictures and video.

Carmen Santiago, a homemaker from San Juan who joined the protest, said Puerto Ricans still have



Justice Secretary Wanda Vazquez is sworn in as governor of Puerto Rico by Supreme Court Justice Maite Oronoz, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019. Vazquez took the oath of office early Wednesday evening at the Puerto Rican Supreme Court, which earlier in the day ruled that Pedro Pierluisi's swearing in last week was unconstitutional. Vazquez was joined by her daughter Beatriz Diaz Vazquez and her husband Judge Jorge Diaz. (AP Photo/Dennis M.

Rivera Pichardo)

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energy to organize more protests.

"Especially the young people," she said. "It should be the people who choose the governor, not the party."

But many Puerto Ricans are physically and emotionally exhausted and want an end to the political turmoil, said Xiomary Morales, a waitress and student who works a block away.

She praised the court's decision, saying that those in power "are used to doing what they want."

"They should just hold fresh elections, hit restart like a PlayStation game," Morales said.

Tita Caraballo, a retired nurse from the inland eastern city of Gurabo, disagreed with the court.

"I think they are playing with the people and, I don't know, maybe they have someone they want and that is why they are doing this," Caraballo said.

Pierluisi was appointed secretary of state by then-Gov. Ricardo Rosselló while legislators were in recess, and only the House approved his nomination. Pierluisi was then sworn in as governor Friday after Rosselló formally resigned in response to the protests.

Puerto Rico's Senate sued to challenge Pierluisi's legitimacy as governor, arguing that its approval was also necessary, and the Supreme Court decided in favor of the Senate.

The Senate had also asked the court to declare unconstitutional a portion of a 2005 law saying a secretary of state need not be approved by both House and Senate if they have to step in as governor. Puerto Rico's constitution says a secretary of state has to be approved by both chambers.

The court agreed that the law's clause was unconstitutional.

"Today this Tribunal speaks with a single voice, loud and clear," Justice Roberto Feliberti Cintrón said in his written opinion. "The constitutional norms do not allow for absurdities and legal technicalities to contravene our Democratic System of Government."

In a separate opinion, Justice Erick Kolthoff Caraballo said Puerto Rico has suffered upheaval "like never in its modern history" and "the People need calm and security that things will soon return to order."

Senate President Thomas Rivera Schatz praised the court ruling in a triumphant statement.

"With absolute LEGITIMACY, we will seek TRUE PEACE and STABILITY," he said.

Six of the court's nine judges were appointed by governors from the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, to which both Pierluisi and Rivera Schatz belong.

Vázquez, a 59-year-old former prosecutor, is to serve out the remainder of Rosselló's term, with the next election scheduled for 2020.

Vázquez became justice secretary in January 2017. She previously worked as a district attorney for two decades at Puerto Rico's justice department, handling domestic and sexual abuse cases, and in 2010 was appointed director of the Office for Women's Rights.

Some critics say that as justice secretary that she was not aggressive enough in pursuing corruption investigations involving members of her New Progressive Party and that she did not prioritize gender violence cases.

William González Roman, a retiree also from Gurabo, wasn't bullish on the idea of Vázquez as governor.

"We will see. You have to give everyone a chance, right?" González said. "Let's see what decisions (she makes), but I tell you that job is big with a lot of responsibility."

Rosselló's resignation followed nearly two weeks of protests after the public emergence of the chat in which he and 11 other men including government officials mocked women, gay people and victims of Hurricane Maria, among others. More than two dozen officials resigned in the wake of the leak, including former Secretary of State Luis Rivera Marín.

"NOW is when that detestable group from the chat that lied, mocked, machinated, conspired, violated the law and betrayed Puerto Rico is truly ended and will leave government," Rivera Schatz, the Senate president, said Wednesday.

Associated Press writer Mariela Santos contributed to this report.

Asian stocks rebound after volatile Wall Street day

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks rebounded Thursday after Wall Street eked out a gain following volatility fueled by concern fallout from the U.S.-Chinese trade war will spread.

Market benchmarks in Shanghai, Tokyo and Hong Kong all advanced, recovering some of their losses following three days of anxiety over the decline of China's yuan against the dollar.

Investors were rattled Wednesday by a wave of interest rate cuts by central banks in India, Thailand and New Zealand. That adds to rate cuts since May in Australia, South Korea and the Philippines in response to fear U.S.-Chinese trade tension will dent global economic growth.

"Trade anxiety remains high, impacting equities," said Alfonso Esparza of Oanda in a report.

The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.6% to 2,785.66 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 rose 0.6% to 20,636.72. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.4% to 26,103.39 and Seoul's Kospi added 0.8% to 1,925.74.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 was 0.1% higher at 6,526.60 and benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia advanced.

On Wall Street, the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.1%, to 2,883.98. It had been down 2% during the heaviest bout of selling.

The Dow dropped 0.1% to 26,007.07. The Nasdaq composite index climbed 0.4% to 7,862.83.

Last week, President Donald Trump rattled markets when he promised to impose 10% tariffs on Sept. 1 on all Chinese imports that haven't already been hit with tariffs of 25%. China struck back on Monday, allowing its yuan to weaken against the U.S. dollar.

The yuan fell further Tuesday and Wednesday, but investors were encouraged by Chinese central bank promises the decline wouldn't continue and the exchange rate would be kept stable.

On Thursday, the yuan strengthened slightly to 7.0460 to the dollar from 7.0597 late Wednesday. But it stayed below the politically sensitive level of seven to the U.S. currency that it broke through on Monday.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude jumped \$1.46 to \$52.55 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract plunged \$2.54 on Wednesday to close at \$51.09. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose \$1.53 per barrel in London to \$57.76. It dropped \$2.71 the previous session to \$56.23.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 106.16 yen from Wednesday's 106.26 yen. The euro edged up to \$1.1211 from \$1.1200.



A currency trader watches monitors at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019. Asian stocks rebounded Thursday after Wall Street eked out a gain following volatility fueled by concern fallout from the U.S.-Chinese trade war will spread. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2019. There are 145 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 8, 1974, President Richard Nixon, facing damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal, announced he would resign the following day.

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.

In 1876, Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his mimeograph.

In 1942, during World War II, six Nazi saboteurs who were captured after landing in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others who cooperated with authorities were spared.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed the U.S. instrument of ratification for the United Nations Charter. The Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.

In 1968, the Republican national convention in Miami Beach nominated Richard Nixon for president on the first ballot.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned lies" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign — which he ended up doing.

In 1993, in Somalia, four U.S. soldiers were killed when a land mine was detonated underneath their vehicle, prompting President Bill Clinton to order Army Rangers to try to capture Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid.

In 2000, the wreckage of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, which sank in 1864 after attacking the Union ship Housatonic, was recovered off the South Carolina coast and returned to port.

In 2002, Saddam Hussein organized a big military parade and then warned "the forces of evil" not to attack Iraq as he sought once more to shift the debate away from world demands that he live up to agreements that ended the Gulf War.

In 2003, the Boston Roman Catholic archdiocese offered \$55 million to settle more than 500 lawsuits stemming from alleged sex abuse by priests. (The archdiocese later settled for \$85 million.)

In 2006, Roger Goodell was chosen as the NFL's next commissioner.

In 2008, China opened the Summer Olympic Games with an extravaganza of fireworks and pageantry.

Ten years ago: Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the U.S. Supreme Court's first Hispanic and third female justice. A small plane collided with a sightseeing helicopter over the Hudson River in New York City, killing nine people, including five Italian tourists. Typhoon Morakot slammed into Taiwan, leaving more than 670 either dead or missing (the typhoon also killed 22 people in the Philippines and eight in China).

Five years ago: The U.S. unleashed its first airstrikes against the Islamic State group in northern Iraq amid a worsening humanitarian crisis. Israel and militants from Gaza resumed cross-border attacks, after a three-day truce expired.

One year ago: The United States announced that it would impose new sanctions on Russia for illegally using a chemical weapon in an attempt to kill a former spy and his daughter in Britain. Australian golfer Jarrod Lyle died at the age of 36 after a long battle with cancer. A Montana coroner said the death of "Superman" actress Margot Kidder had been ruled a suicide from a drug and alcohol overdose.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Nita Talbot is 89. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 82. Actress Connie Stevens is 81. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 80. Actor Larry Wilcox is 72. Actor Keith Carradine is 70. Movie director Martin Brest is 68. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 67. Percussionist Anton Fig is 66. Actor Donny Most is 66. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 62. TV personality Deborah Norville is 61. Actor-singer Harry Crosby is 61. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 58. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison) is 58. Rapper Kool Moe Dee is 57. Rock musician Ralph Rieckermann is 57. Middle distance runner Suzy Favor Hamilton is 51. Rock singer Scott Stapp is 46. Country singer Mark Wills is 46. Actor Kohl Sudduth is 45. Rock musician Tom Linton (Jimmy Eat World) is 44. Singer JC Chasez ('N Sync)

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is 43. Actress Tawny Cypress is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Drew Lachey (lah-SHAY') (98 Degrees) is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marsha Ambrosius is 42. Actress Lindsay Sloane is 42. Actress Countess Vaughn is 41. Actor Michael Urie is 39. Tennis player Roger Federer is 38. Actress Meagan Good is 38. Rock musician Eric Howk (Portugal. The Man) is 38. Actress Jackie Cruz (TV: "Orange is the New Black") is 35. Britain's Princess Beatrice of York is 31. Actor Ken Baumann is 30. Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo is 30. Pop singer Shawn Mendes is 21. Actress Bebe Wood (TV: "The Real O'Neals") is 18.

Thought for Today: "It is the anonymous 'they,' the enigmatic 'they' who are in charge. Who is 'they'? I don't know. Nobody knows. Not even 'they' themselves." — Joseph Heller, American author (1923-1999).

We need our farmers.

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

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