

# 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 9-11

State Junior Legion Tourney in Groton

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



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## DAMAGING DEBT: S.D. college graduates weighed down by heavy student debt

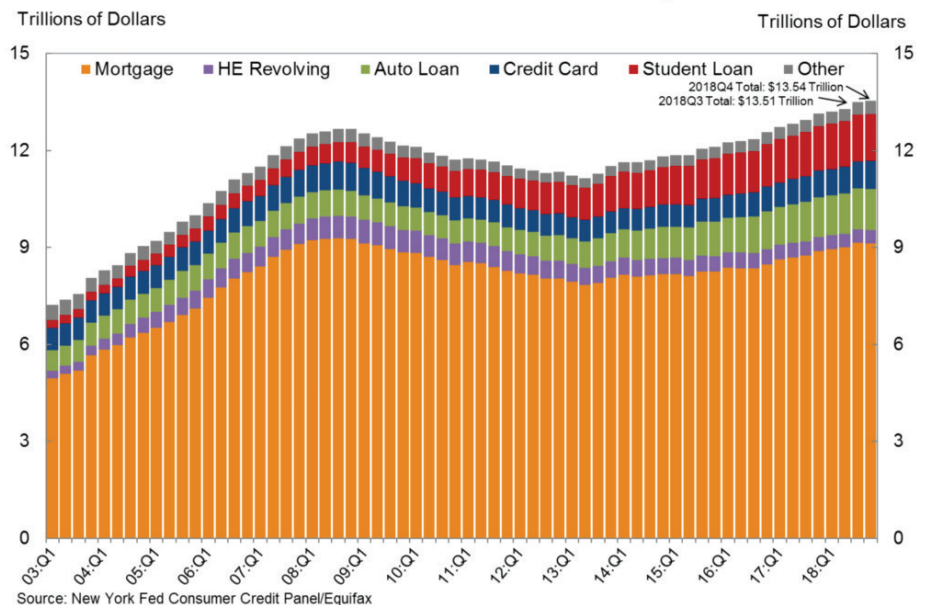
By: Nick Lowrey

South Dakotans owe more than \$1.5 billion to the federal government on loans they took out to finance their educations and many borrowers are finding themselves crushed under the weight of their college debt, even many years after they graduated.

About 52,000 South Dakotans have some debt from direct federal

**This chart shows the breakdown of types of debt carried by Americans over the past 15 years, and indicates how the percentage of debt for college loans (shown in red) has risen at a faster rate than debt for a mortgage, credit cards and auto loans.** Source: New York Federal Reserve Bank

### Total Debt Balance and its Composition



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student loans, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Thousands more owe millions of dollars more on other federal student loan products and to private student loan companies. Those loans were made — often to people still in their teens — on the promise that the money would help provide them with a more stable, prosperous financial future.

But promises of higher pay, strong job satisfaction and financial stability haven't panned out for many graduates. Nationally, wage growth has fallen far behind the increasing cost of higher education. In South Dakota, many graduates face high college costs and debt loads in a state known for low wages and limited white-collar job opportunities.

South Dakota college students routinely rank among the most indebted in America. Roughly 74 percent of South Dakota graduates carry some college debt, with an average of more than \$30,000 owed. Only two other states, New Hampshire and West Virginia, saw such high rates of student debt. The national average student debt load is \$32,731 at graduation. College tuition varies widely across the state and nation, but most students can expect to pay about \$60,000 to graduate from a public university in South Dakota and several times that for private schools or those



**Jay Perry, vice president for academic affairs at the South Dakota Board of Regents, said big changes are needed in the way higher education is paid for in order to reduce student debt. A good place to start, Perry said, would be for the state to create a need-based scholarship program to lower costs.** Photo: Nick

Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

"There is no way to keep the current approach and also reduce the amount of student loan debt nationally. That math is not going to add up."

-- Jay Perry, vice president of academic affairs for the S.D. Board of Regents

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located in other parts of the country.

For Valerie Scott of Sioux Falls, getting student loans and completing two degree programs at Augustana University was relatively easy compared to trying to pay off the debt she still owes nearly a decade after graduating. Scott has paid about \$42,000 on her student loans and owes about \$35,000 more, she said.

She works in medical billing, and pays about a third of her income on college loans. She said she cannot afford to purchase a home and had to borrow money from her parents to buy a used car from her grandmother.

"I approached student loans as an 18-year-old with the mindset that I'd just work hard and pay them off and it would be fine," said Scott, now 29. "When I boil it down to just me and the invisible people who lent me money, I don't know that I feel taken advantage of. I went in knowing I was going to be paying for years, but I just feel tired and wish I was done."

Scott is far from alone in feeling trapped by college debt. Research on student borrowing is beginning to show the potentially dire economic consequences of the nation's nearly \$1.6 trillion student debt load.

Studies show homeownership, which is the biggest indicator of stability for most American families, is being delayed or forgone completely at least partially due to student debt. In a 2017 report called "Echoes of Rising Tuition in Students' Borrowing, Educational Attainment and Homeownership in Post-Recession America," economists at the New York Federal Reserve Bank found that homeownership for American 30-year-olds dropped from 32 percent in 2007 to 21 percent in 2016. Up to 35 percent of the decline could be attributed to student debt, the report said.

A 2015 study by economists at the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank found student debt had caused a 14 percent nationwide reduction in the number of new small businesses with one to four employees over

## ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE COSTS ACROSS GREAT PLAINS

This chart shows the average annual cost of tuition, fees and room and board for freshmen at public colleges across seven Great Plains states. While South Dakota ranks low on this chart, state officials say the state is the most expensive in net college costs due to low levels of grants and scholarships available.

STATE	TOTAL COST/YEAR
Minnesota	\$18,973
Iowa	\$18,521
Nebraska	\$16,918
Wyoming	\$16,387
South Dakota	\$16,251
North Dakota	\$15,048
Montana	\$14,329

\*Total cost includes tuition, fees, room and board for 2019 fiscal year

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10 years. The number of new businesses with up to 20 employees, the largest category of small business, saw a reduction of 6.2 percent due to student debt, the study concluded. Small businesses account for about 60 percent of new, private sector employment annually.

The debt issue vexes prospective, current and former college students with no end in sight. Skyrocketing college costs, reduced state support for higher education and the ease of getting educational loans have combined to make going into debt for higher education almost a foregone conclusion for many. Meanwhile, many South Dakota graduates are enrolled in payment plans that reduce monthly loan bills but create the potential for huge tax bills later in life.

South Dakota Treasurer Josh Haeder is hoping a new program can help slow the growth of college debt in the state. He is working on a financial literacy and college savings effort that could help some students avoid debt. The plan is in its infancy right now, but he wants to roll it out in April 2020. Financial literacy and more savings are needed to address what is a growing problem in the state, Haeder said.

"There's a much broader conversation that needs to take place with 16-year-olds before they start looking at student loans," Haeder said. "We're talking about a huge issue here. This is a gigantic statewide and national issue."

## Pay now and pay later

Before taking their first federal student loan, borrowers are required to take a short, online course about the loan, which includes information about how and why it needs to be repaid. After that course, students are free to borrow as much as they can. Schools can educate their students about borrowing money but most don't do much.

The logo for Front Porch 605 is shaped like a red barn with a white roof. The words "FRONT PORCH" are written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the red section, with "605" in a smaller font below it, flanked by two horizontal white lines. Below the red section is a black rectangular area containing white text. At the top of this black area, it says "VINTAGE | NEW | RESTYLED | MADE" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below that, in a larger font, it says "OPEN ON OCCASION". A white horizontal bar separates this from the next line, which says "FOLLOW US:" followed by blue and red social media icons for Facebook and Instagram. At the bottom of the black area, in a white serif font, it says "We are a home decor mercantile with an eclectic mix of found, created and vintage pieces to help make your home as unique as you are!"

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an eclectic mix of found, created and  
vintage pieces to help make your  
home as unique as you are!**

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Student lenders, including the federal government, are eager to give students money because the loans tend to be profitable and there's very little risk. For example, the Congressional Budget Office in 2017 predicted the U.S. Department of Education would bring in \$110 billion in profit from interest on direct loans over the ensuing 10 years. Student borrowers also aren't provided the same protections as other borrowers. It is much more difficult to discharge a student loan through bankruptcy than it is to discharge credit card debt, for example.

There hasn't been much incentive for colleges and universities to spend time educating their students on debt. The ability of a college or university to tap federal loans as financial aid is directly tied to their students' loan default rates, and South Dakotans' default rates are low.

According to the 2018 South Dakota Board of Regents Fact Book, 12.8 percent of South Dakota college borrowers had defaulted over the previous three years. The state default rate was inflated by borrowers who went to for-profit colleges. For-profit college students defaulted at a rate of more than 23 percent. Public university students saw a default rate of 7.5 percent, while private, non-profit schools saw a 5.7 percent default rate. Schools lose the ability to tap federal loans for their students when default rates hit 40 percent or stay at 30 percent for three years.

Just because a student stays out of default doesn't mean they're making ends meet or paying off their loans. A growing number of student borrowers are opting to use income-based payment plans, an option that keeps them out of default but doesn't end up paying the loan off. In part because of extended payment plans and income-based payment plans, people ages 30 to 39 now hold more student debt than any other age group and have since 2014.

Income-based repayment plans, many of which were created in 2010, work by reducing a borrower's monthly payments based on how much money a borrower is making, but can leave them with a huge tax bill decades later.

Under the plans, loan payments are based on either 10 percent or 20 percent of the borrower's income that is above 150% of the federal poverty line. If the borrower's income is less than 150% of the poverty line in a given year, they don't have to pay at all. In 2019, 150 percent of the poverty line for a single person was \$18,735 and \$38,625 for a family of four.

When income-based payment plans were created, federal officials knew many borrowers using the plans

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would never pay off their principal debt. Instead, they promised to forgive the loan after 20 or 25 years depending on the type of loan and whether enough qualifying payments were made. The amount forgiven would then be taxed at that time as if it were income.

By the end of the first three months of 2019, more than \$813 billion worth of Americans' direct federal student loans — currently the most common type of student loan — wasn't being paid off. Less than half, roughly \$384 billion, was temporarily deferred, in forbearance, held by students still in school or by students who had graduated less than six months earlier. About \$430 billion belonged to former students who were using an income-based repayment plan, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Brooke Moeller, a chiropractor in Chamberlain, is an example of how income-based repayment plans may seem like a good deal at first but can have serious financial implications later. Moeller, who owed around \$200,000 on student loans in 2012, made five monthly payments of \$1,500 each but then learned that of the \$7,500 paid to the lender, her principal had been reduced by only \$700.

"The gal on the phone basically told me that I needed to apply for an income-based repayment plan and that I would never get my student loans paid off if I wanted to have a family and a home," Moeller said. "That was the moment that I pretty much broke down."

South Dakota higher education officials don't track the number of former students using income-based repayment plans, said Jay Perry, vice president of academic affairs for the South Dakota Board of Regents. They have no idea how many of their graduates aren't actually paying their debt off and will be saddled with enormous tax bills if and when their loans are forgiven.

"That might be a bigger problem in South Dakota than in other states simply because it's a low-wage state," Perry said of the prevalence of income-based repayment in South Dakota.

Data available on the U.S. Department of Education's student aid website show 19,800 South Dakotans who collectively owe \$1.1 billion on their federal loans were enrolled in an income-driven repayment plan at the end of 2018.

In 2007, under the George W. Bush administration, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program was created. The program was designed to encourage employment in public service fields by promising potential hires that they could get their student loans forgiven by working in government or nonprofits for 10 years and making 10 years of payments. In 2017, when the first group of public employees became eligible for forgiveness, more than 99 percent of those who applied were denied. The approval rate hasn't improved much in almost two years.



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## Greater investment, lower returns

On average, college graduates can expect to make about \$1 million more in income over their lifetime than non-graduates, said Perry. The extra earning potential is often called the "college premium" and it really hasn't changed much over the last few decades.

What has changed is how much a degree costs and who is paying for it.

Until 2009, taxpayers, not students, were footing most of the bill for a degree from a public university. As recently as 2007, South Dakota's taxpayers were covering about 55 percent of the cost of a public college education. In 2009, for the first time in state history, students themselves paid more than half, about 51 percent, of the cost of higher education. South Dakota students have been paying more than taxpayers ever since.

By 2018, South Dakota public university students were paying 56 percent of the cost of their education. In contrast, national statistics show that the parents of today's college students likely paid for just 30 percent of their own education costs. Those who attended a public university prior to 1988, meanwhile, probably were paying for closer to 20 or 25 percent of their education, according to a 2017 report by the Center on Budget Policy and Priorities, a non-profit think tank.

State funding for higher education hasn't kept pace with rising costs for everything from technology to compliance with federal rules and laws. In 2011, South Dakota made a 10 percent across-the-board cut to state spending, which added to the pressure that has forced public universities to raise tuition and fees almost every year for more than a decade, Perry said.

The nationwide average price of tuition at public colleges has jumped by more than 200 percent from 1988, when it was \$3,360, to \$10,230 in 2018, according to the College Board, a non-profit focused on college student success. As college became more expensive, more students were forced to borrow more money. A 2017 New York Federal Reserve report, "Echoes of Rising Tuition", said a typical 30-year-old in 2015 had actually reduced their overall personal debt load compared to a typical 30-year-old in 2003.

But the decline in debt has as much or more to do with increased use of student loans than any other factor. The report showed the typical 30-year-old in 2015 would have had 174 percent more student debt than a 30-year-old would have had in 2003, while at the same time carrying 36 percent less credit card debt and 28 percent less mortgage debt. Higher student loan balances make securing a mortgage, car loan or credit card more difficult.

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Average wages, meanwhile, have increased far less than the price of a college degree. A July 2019 report by the Congressional Research Service found that inflation-adjusted wages for middle income Americans grew about 6.1 percent between 1979 and 2018. For top earners, wages increased 37.6 percent. In South Dakota, overall wages grew about 6.3 percent between 1979 and 2001 but growth slowed to 4.1 percent between 2001 and 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Graduates with heavy college debt face a daunting employment landscape when seeking work in South Dakota.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the state is dominated by low-wage service jobs that pay well below the national average salary. Statistics from the department in 2017 show that 71 percent of employed South Dakota residents, about 292,000 people, make under \$40,000 a year. South Dakota ranks third-lowest in average annual pay statewide at under \$41,000 a year, with the national average at \$55,470. Meanwhile, the data show that 37% of jobs in South Dakota are in low-pay fields such as food service, administrative assistance and sales.

Meanwhile, the state ranks at or near the lowest pay in the nation in several employment categories that likely require a college degree, including architecture/engineering, education, life/physical/social sciences, arts/design/sports/media, computer and mathematical, legal fields, community and social services and business and financial operations.

Graduates who take on debt but then find an unreceptive employment marketplace can struggle to thrive or live independently.

Sara Carlson of Brookings started college at Concordia College, a private school in Moorehead, Minn., in 2008, but transferred and graduated from South Dakota State University in 2011 with a degree in graphic design. She had about \$30,000 worth of debt when she graduated.

Carlson, now 30, couldn't find a job in graphic design and currently works at the Runnings store in Brookings as a department manager making slightly more than \$34,000 a year. She now pays \$260 a month on college loans and has about two and a half years of payments left before her debt is paid.

"On my salary, my monthly budget comes about \$200 short," Carlson said.

The current funding model for college likely is unsustainable, said Perry, of the board of regents. Because students now shoulder most of the costs of college and because those costs continue to increase, the amount of debt they'll have to take on will keep growing.

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"There is no way to keep the current approach and also reduce the amount of student loan debt nationally. That math is not going to add up," Perry said.

The regents have worked with South Dakota high schools to create dual-credit programs so students can earn college credits before arriving on campus, Perry said. The university system has also implemented exploratory studies programs at its campuses in an effort to help students pick a major and graduate within four years. The regents have also been lobbying aggressively for the state to create a needs-based scholarship program in an effort to bring net-costs to students down.

But Perry said none of the board's recent efforts will affect the state's current student debt load and the borrowers who owe money. He said a comprehensive set of reforms is needed to turn the tide of oppressive student debt.

"These are complex problems and we need to stop pointing fingers and start working together," Perry said. "One bill, one change, one new Board of Regents policy isn't going to solve the problem."

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### **SOUTH DAKOTA COLLEGES AMONG COSTLIEST IN NATION FOR NET COSTS**

South Dakota's public university students pay an average of \$4,000 more per year more for college degrees than most other public college students in the country, according to a new report.

The report, set to be presented in early August to the state Board of Regents, shows the net cost of attendance at South Dakota's public universities is the eighth-highest in the nation, said Jay Perry, vice president for academic affairs for the board that governs the state university system.

Net price is the price paid after scholarships, grants and other forms of non-obligation aid are accounted for. The net price South Dakotans pay at their public universities comes in at an average of \$16,706. The national average is \$12,697, according to the report.

"We're not only the most expensive in the region on that cost, but when you compare to other states that are in the same ballpark on net cost, it's the Eastern Seaboard and it's South Dakota," Perry said.

In real numbers, the cost to attend the state's universities is actually below the national average. The total average price of attendance, which includes tuition, room and board, for South Dakota's universities is \$22,393 a year. The national average comes in at about \$23,248.

But the lack of a needs-based scholarship and other state-funded forms of financial aid in South Dakota mean the state's college students are on the hook for a much greater percentage of the price of getting a degree, Perry said.

South Dakota has the third-least amount of state grant money available to its students and the fourth-least amount of grant aid available from university endowments, the report says. Overall, South Dakota has the second-least amount of grant aid available to its students in the nation, the new report says.

The report says the consequences of high net costs already are being felt in the number of low-income students choosing to attend college in the state. The number of recipients of federal Pell Grants that aid lower-income students at South Dakota public universities fell from 31.5 percent in 2010 to 22.5 percent in 2018, the report says.

— Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch



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## Three Local Seminars Planned

A local group is working on the finishing touches to three seminars that will be put on in Groton. The first will be Sept. 11 at the United Methodist Church with the theme being, "Drugs & Alcohol". The second will be held Oct. 9 at the Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church with the theme being, "Sex Trafficking and Dating Abuse". The third will be Nov. 6 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church with the theme being, "Suicide and Bullying." Guest speakers will be on hand at each of the seminars and more information will be published as details get finalized. Pictured at the meeting were going clockwise from left: Pastor Josh Jetto, Glenna Remington, David Hunter, Kim Weber, Rachel Otter, Dawn Bohlmann and Pastor Brandon Dunham. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## State Jr. Legion Coaches Meeting

Groton is hosting the State Junior Legion Baseball Tournament this weekend. Games will begin today with Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern taking on Claremont/Britton at 11 a.m.. About 30 minutes after that game, Lennox will take on Wagner. The evening session at 5 p.m. will feature Elk Point/Jefferson in the first game followed by Groton taking on Redfield.

Doug Hamilton from the Groton Legion Post #39 (standing on the left) and Matt Locke (dark blue at the head table on the far end) hosted the coaches meeting last night at the Legion.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## South Dakota 4-H Boosts Leadership Skills and Civic Engagement Through 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Learning about political processes in the vibrant, living classroom of the nation's capital, 38 South Dakota 4-H youth participated in Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF), an intensive 4-H civic engagement program for high school youth. The program was held at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md., on June 15-23.

"The overall experience was incredible. I made lifelong friends and learned valuable lessons from our nation's capital. The memories I made on this trip are unforgettable and have deepened my appreciation for United States history," said Laura Bogue of Lincoln County.

For more than 50 years, the National 4-H Conference Center has invited thousands of youth from across the country to travel to Washington, D.C., and participate in civic workshops, committees and field trips before returning home to make positive changes in their own communities. CWF not only strengthens youth's understanding of the government's civic process, but it also boosts their leadership skills, communication skills and overall confidence.

During CWF, youth get a behind-the-scenes look at the nation's capital while meeting with members of Congress to learn more about how their government works. At the end of the program, youth draft step-by-step action plans to address important issues in their communities.

"CWF was so much fun, from making new lifetime friends, to learning about historical events, government and our country," said Taryn Opdahl of Hamlin County.

A group photo taken in front of the U.S. Capital is featured on the next page.

The South Dakota 4-H Contact for information about CWF is Amanda Stade, South Dakota 4-H Events Management Coordinator, at 605-688-4167 or amanda.stade@sdstate.edu.

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Front Row (left to right): Alisha McMartin, Turner County; Brylee Eden, Beadle County; Layla Hockenbary, Butte/Lawrence County; Katie McDonnell, Bennett County; Hannah Frost, Minnehaha County; Katrina Heles, Clay County; Samantha Thyen, Codington County; Elliot Basso, Pennington County

Second Row (left to right): Taryn Opdahl, Hamlin County; Samantha Ford, Davison County; Shelby Nellen, Fall River County; Kate DeVelder, Clay County; Ashley Masat, Spink County; Kiley Klein, Lake County; Jarody Udager, Meade County; Bailey Urbaniak, Meade County

Third Row (left to right): Kylie Teller, Harding County; Hannah Schentzel, Spink County; Callie Frei, Charles Mix County; Emily Nold, Brookings, County; Elli Richardson, Lincoln County

Fourth Row (left to right): Colton Wicks, Lake County; James Nussbaum, Moody County; Sara Thyen, Codington County; **Nicole Marzahn, (Groton) Brown County**; Logan Tlam, Davison County; Abigail Connor, Miner County; Maesa Dvorak, Charles Mix County

Back Row (left to right): Charlie Wingert, Pennington County; Cole Hockenbary, Butte/Lawrence County; Trevor Johnson, Day County; **Colin Frey, (Claremont) Brown County**; Mayson Mansfield, Bennett County; Bryce Johnson, Day County; William Karels, Grant County; William Meyer, Beadle County; Laura Bogue, Lincoln County; Samantha Jenc, Hamlin County



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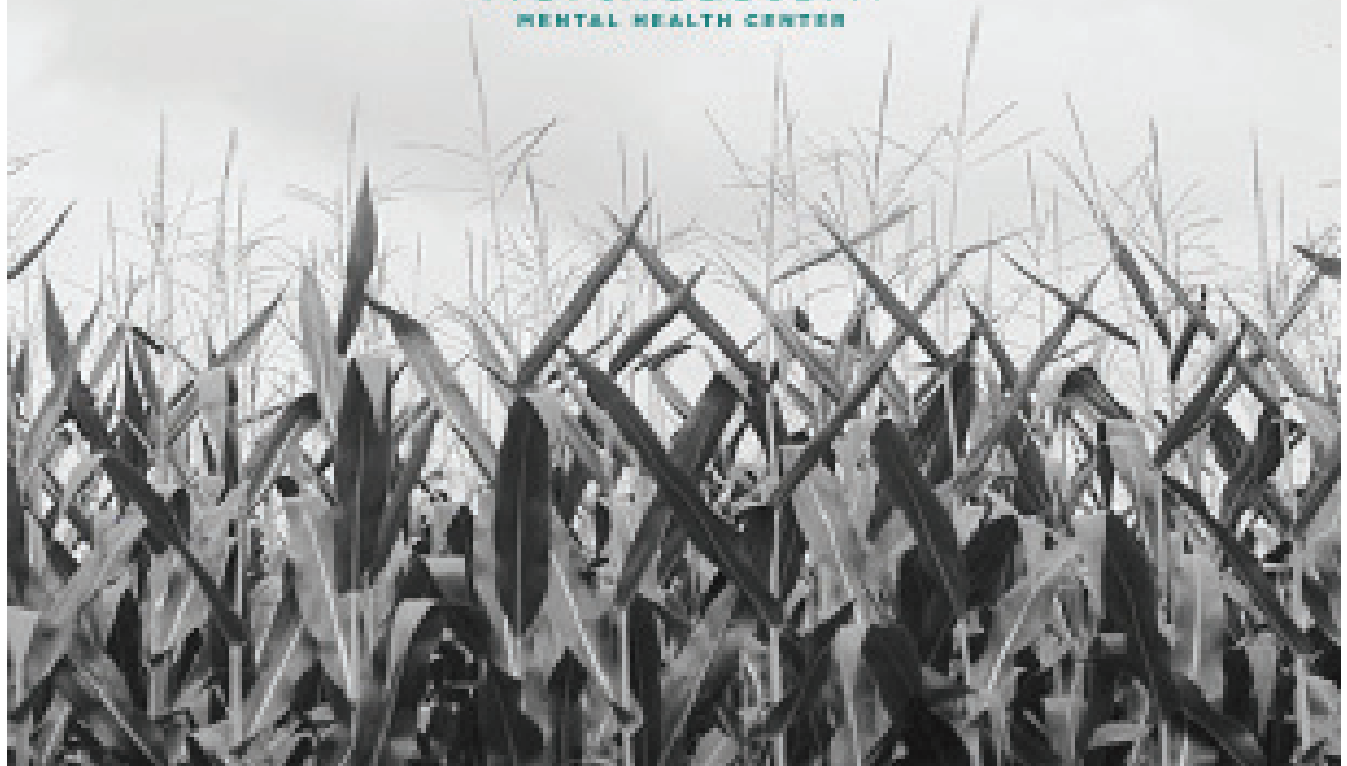
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Northeastern Mental Health Center services the counties of Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Marshall, McPherson, Potter, Spink and Walworth.



Northeastern  
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER





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Today

Tonight

Saturday

Saturday  
Night

Sunday



Partly Sunny  
then Chance  
T-storms

High: 79 °F



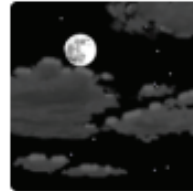
T-storms

Low: 63 °F



Chance  
T-storms then  
Partly Sunny

High: 79 °F



Partly Cloudy

Low: 61 °F



Partly Sunny

High: 77 °F

## SLIGHT RISK of Severe Storms

### WHAT

Storms Threats Include:

- Wind Gusts Over 60 MPH
- Hail Larger Than Golf Balls
- Brief Heavy Rainfall
- Isolated Tornadoes

### WHERE

**Greatest Threat:** Central & South Central South Dakota, Including Pierre & Chamberlain.

**Lesser Risk Areas:** North Central & James Valley.

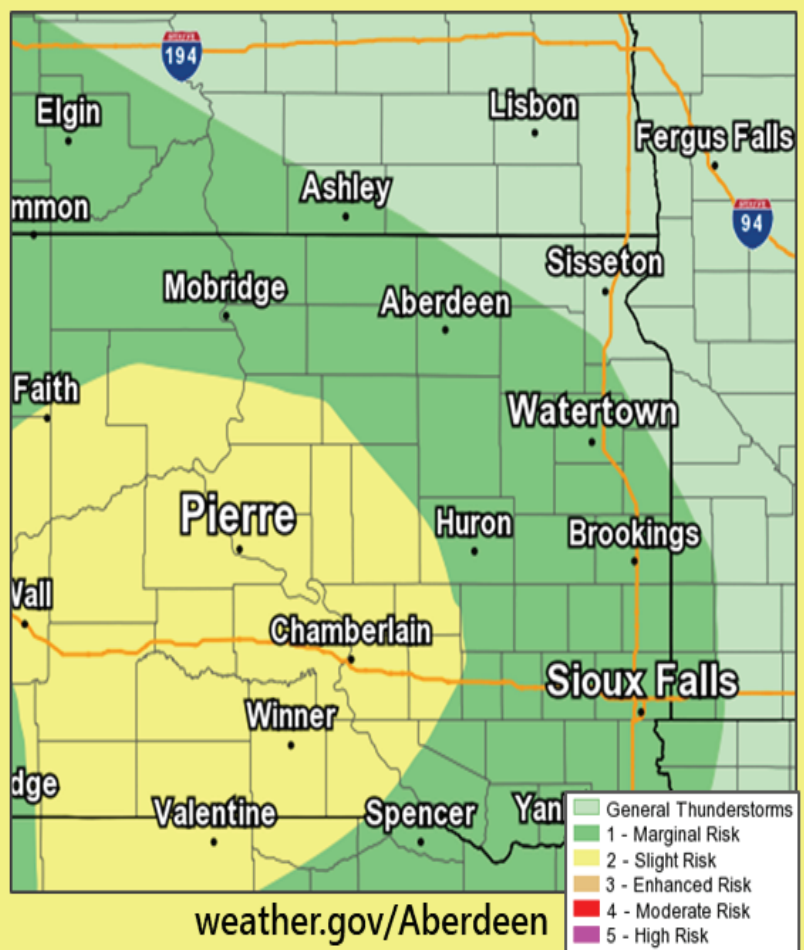
### WHEN

Mid-Day Through About 6 pm.

### ACTION

Monitor the weather and have a plan of action if severe weather approaches your area.

ISSUED: 4:10 AM - Friday, August 09, 2019



Published on: 08/09/2019 at 12:15AM

Storms moving in from western South Dakota should reach central South Dakota around mid-day with the risk for severe weather, which includes hail, high winds, heavy rain and the potential for a tornado or two. Again, the main area of concern is central South Dakota, with a lower risk for northern and eastern South Dakota. Tonight, we could see re-development in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota with a heightened risk for flooding.



## Today in Weather History

August 9, 1918: An estimated F2 tornado touched down east of Bristol, South Dakota, and moved NNE. The tornado was said to look like a long snake in a spiral, smashing barns into kindling.

August 9, 1992: A tornado packing winds estimated between 113 and 157 mph caused significant damage to the town of Chester, in Lake County. Shortly after 7 pm CDT a tornado tore right through the heart of Chester causing considerable damage. Four businesses were destroyed, three others had significant damage, and five had minor damage. An elevator and new grain bin were leveled, and another bin was heavily damaged. Most of the building housing the fire department was demolished. Also, many houses and vehicles sustained damage, and large trees were uprooted or broken off. In one instance a steel beam was thrust through a garage and into the car inside. One mile north of Chester, an entire house was moved off the foundation. The town had to be evacuated for 19 hours after the tornado because the tornado damaged a 12,000-gallon ammonia tank releasing 4,000 gallons of the liquid gas into the air. The ammonia was a health hazard forcing residents out. To the south of Chester, the storm destroyed a new convenience store and blew two fuel tanks over 100 yards.

1878: The second deadliest tornado in New England history struck Wallingford, Connecticut, killing 34 persons, injuring 100 others, and destroying thirty homes. The tornado started as a waterspout over a dam on the Quinnipiac River. It was 400 to 600 feet wide and had a short path length of two miles. The deadliest New England tornado occurred in 1953 when an F4 killed 90 people in Worcester, Massachusetts.

1969: An F3 tornado hit Cincinnati, Ohio, killing four persons and causing fifteen million dollars property damage. The tornado moved in a southeasterly direction at 40 to 50 mph.

1987 - Florida baked in the summer heat. Nine cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Jacksonville with a reading of 101 degrees. Miami FL reported a record high of 98 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Tropical Storm Beryl deluged Biloxi with 6.32 inches of rain in 24 hours, and in three days drenched Pascagoula MS with 15.85 inches of rain. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region and over the Central High Plains Region. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced wind gusts to 92 mph at Harrah. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms in Arizona deluged Yuma with record torrential rains for the second time in two weeks. The rainfall total of 5.25 inches at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot established a state 24 hour record, and was nearly double the normal annual rainfall. Some of the homes were left with four feet of water in them. Seventy-six cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Lake Charles LA equalled their record for August with a low of 61 degrees. Canaan Valley WV was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 32 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

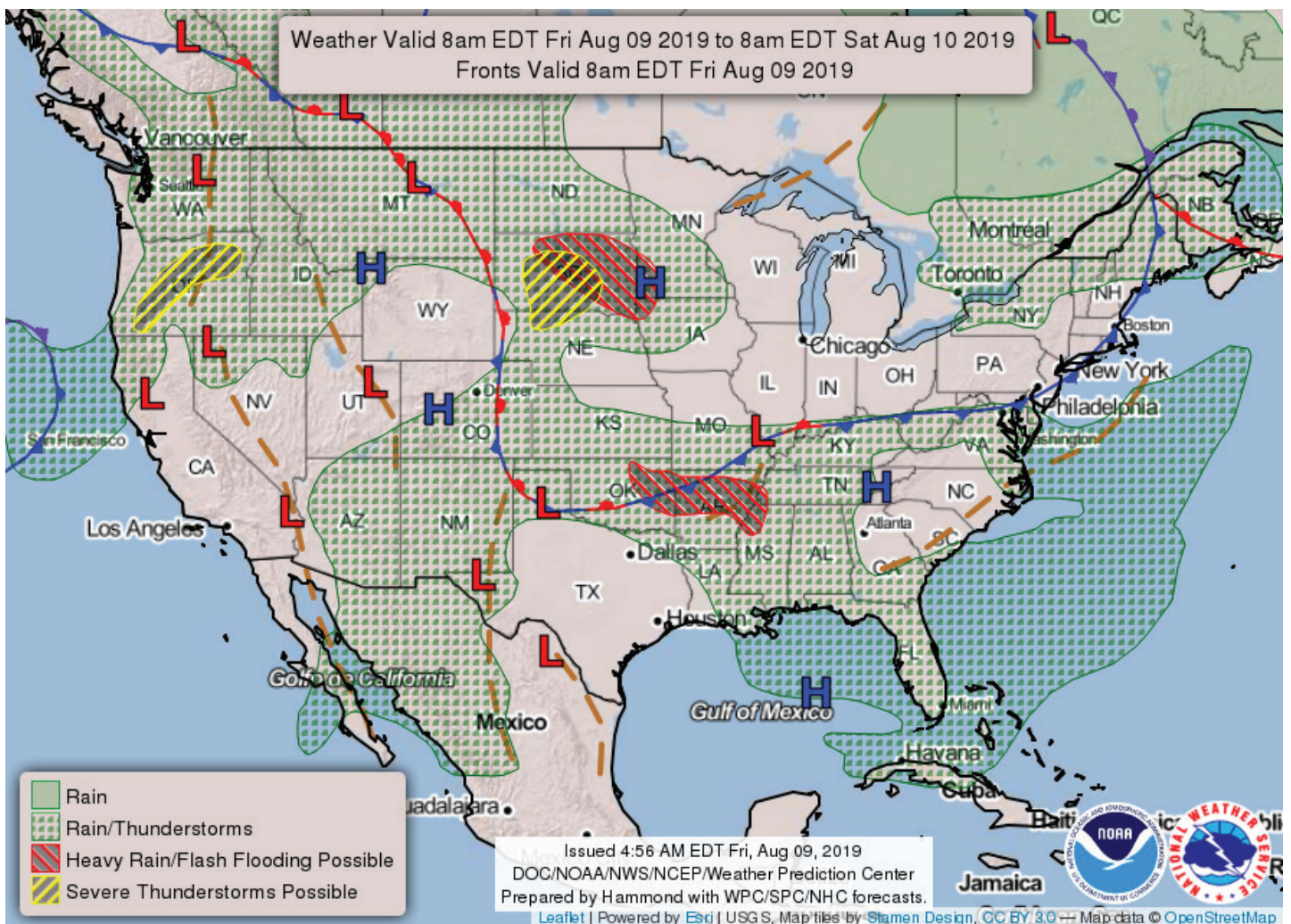
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 78 °F at 4:20 PM**  
**Low Temp: 52 °F at 6:18 AM**  
**Wind: 13 mph at 3:13 PM**  
**Day Rain: 0.00**

**Record High: 105° in 1947**  
**Record Low: 41° in 1927**  
**Average High: 83°F**  
**Average Low: 58°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug.: 0.63**  
**Precip to date in Aug.: 0.74**  
**Average Precip to date: 14.49**  
**Precip Year to Date: 17.33**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:51 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:28 a.m.**



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## PASS IT ON

Many parents strive to leave an inheritance for their children. They have a sense of obligation and duty to work and sacrifice to make certain that those they leave behind will have more than they did. They didn't have much of this world's goods so they want to make life a little easier and more comfortable for the others they leave behind.

It is one thing to leave an inheritance and quite another to leave a legacy. An inheritance is made up of things - monetary, physical, tangible, negotiable items that have a cash value attached to them. However, a legacy is quite different.

While not all parents leave an inheritance for their children, all parents leave their children a legacy. Legacies are the core values of our life that we pass on to our children that guide and guard them and give them purpose in life. It is a process of instilling values in children that brings glory to God by the lives they live. Godly legacies will provide God's wisdom, insight, and knowledge that shape behaviors and give purpose and meaning to life.

An inheritance is something parents can leave to their children but a legacy is much more than that. Parents who honor God in all things leave a God-honoring legacy for their children to follow and pass on to their children. We all leave legacies to be passed on.

Be wise my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt. It is obvious that Solomon wanted to leave a legacy for his children that did not come from his wealth but from God's wisdom that exceeded his wealth: A God-like character.

Prayer: We pray, Father, that each of us will leave legacies that honor You and inspire others to follow You. May we live like we are leaving a legacy because we are! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 27:11 Be wise my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.

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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 Associated Press

### **Sioux Falls man charged in fatal stabbing of Vermillion man**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say the fatal stabbing of a Vermillion man was the result of a botched drug deal.

Twenty-five-year-old Christopher Michael Wood of Sioux Falls has been charged with murder, manslaughter and other felonies in the death of Zachary Adam Barta.

Barta was stabbed once in the chest Wednesday, and died at a Sioux Falls hospital. Wood was arrested later Wednesday after a foot chase. Court documents say that while he was running, Wood discarded a knife that appeared to have dried blood on the blade.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports that Wood refused to make his initial court appearance Thursday. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Three other suspects charged with lesser offenses made their initial appearances Thursday.

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

### **Montana judge to take up Keystone pipeline flap in fall**

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A Montana judge won't take up the latest dispute between the Trump administration and environmental groups over the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline until this fall.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris scheduled a hearing for Oct. 9 on the groups' request to block President Donald Trump's new permit allowing the pipeline to be built across the U.S.-Canada border.

Justice Department attorneys also will present their argument at the hearing to dismiss the lawsuit challenging Trump's issuing of the permit in March.

Trump signed the new permit after Morris blocked construction of the 1,184-mile (1,900-kilometer) pipeline from Canada to Nebraska in a ruling that said officials had not fully considered oil spills and other impacts.

The plaintiffs accuse Trump of signing the new permit to get around Morris' previous order.

### **Rally death attributed to carbon monoxide poisoning**

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Sheriff's officials say the death of a Nebraska man at the Sturgis motorcycle rally in South Dakota is apparently due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Omaha man, who has not been identified, was found dead in his motor home at the rally on Tuesday. The Meade County coroner is investigating.

Officials say there has been only one other fatality associated with the rally, which runs through Sunday. A 29-year-old man died in a motorcycle crash Monday south of Lead.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the man lost control of his bike, slid into the ditch and was thrown from the motorcycle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

### **Curfew eased partially in Kashmir for Friday prayers**

NEW DELHI (AP) — A strict curfew keeping residents of Indian-controlled Kashmir in their homes for a fifth day was eased for Friday prayers, the police chief said.

The mostly Muslim region has been under an unprecedented security lockdown and near-total communications blackout to prevent unrest as India's Hindu nationalist-led government announced it was revoking Kashmir's special constitutional status and downgrading its statehood.

"People will be allowed to go to the area-specific mosques for the prayers in most parts of Srinagar city," the region's police chief, Dilbagh Singh, told The Associated Press on Friday.

The relaxing of the curfew in Kashmir's main city was temporary but a precise timeframe wasn't given. Friday prayers started at 12:37 p.m. in Srinagar and lasted for about 20 minutes.

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Television images showed small groups of people offering prayers in local mosques.

"We see a sense of calm and normalcy (in Kashmir). There has been no incident of violence," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar told reporters in New Delhi.

The Press Trust of India news agency earlier said authorities would allow people to offer prayers in small local mosques, but there would be no Friday congregation at the historic Jama Masjid where thousands of Muslim normally pray every week.

Jama Masjid has been a center of regular anti-India protests after Friday prayers.

Authorities will be closely watching for any anti-India protests, which are expected to determine a further easing of restrictions for the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha to be celebrated Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an address to the nation on Thursday promised Kashmiri people that his government is making "sincere efforts to ensure that the people in the region have no difficulties in celebrating Eid."

The restrictions on public movement throughout Kashmir have forced people to stay indoors and closed shops and even clinics. All communications and the internet have been cut off. Modi said the situation in the region would return to normal gradually.

Kashmir is claimed in its entirety by both India and Pakistan and is divided between them. Rebels have been fighting Indian rule for decades and most Kashmiri residents want independence or a merger with Pakistan.

Pakistan's foreign minister was to meet Friday with Chinese leaders in Beijing as part of efforts to pressure India to reverse its decisions on Kashmir.

Before leaving for Beijing, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said he will apprise Islamabad's "trusted friend" about the situation.

Pakistan says it is considering a proposal to approach the International Court of Justice over India's action. It also has downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi, expelled the Indian ambassador and suspended trade and a key train service with India.

An estimated 20,000 people living along the heavily militarized Line of Control in the Pakistan-administered part of Kashmir have moved to safer places in the past week due to cross-border firing. Pakistan said cluster munitions were fired in violation of the Geneva Convention and international humanitarian law.



**A man walks past Rapid Action Force (RAF) soldiers standing guard in Jammu, India, Friday, Aug. 9, 2019. The restrictions on public movement throughout Kashmir have forced people to stay indoors and closed shops and even clinics. All communications and the internet have been cut off. Prime Minister Modi said late Thursday the situation in the region would return to normal gradually.** (AP Photo/Channi Anand)

Anand)

## McConnell wants to consider gun background checks in fall

By LISA MASCARO and MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shifting the gun violence debate, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says he now wants to consider background checks and other bills, setting up a potentially pivotal moment when lawmakers return in the fall.

The Republican leader won't be calling senators back to work early, as some are demanding. But he told a Kentucky radio station that President Donald Trump called him Thursday morning and they talked about several ideas. The president, he said, is "anxious to get an outcome, and so am I."

Stakes are high for all sides, but particularly for Trump and his party. Republicans have long opposed expanding background checks — a bill passed by the Democratic-led House is stalled in the Senate — but they face enormous pressure to do something after mass shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, that left 31 people dead. McConnell, who is facing protests outside his Louisville home,

can shift attention back to Democrats by showing a willingness to engage ahead of the 2020 election.

"What we can't do is fail to pass something," McConnell said. "What I want to see here is an outcome."

McConnell said he and Trump discussed various ideas on the call, including background checks and the so-called "red flag" laws that allow authorities to seize firearms from someone deemed a threat to themselves or others.

"Background checks and red flags will probably lead the discussion," McConnell told Louisville's WHAS-AM. He noted "there's a lot of support" publicly for background checks. "Those are two items that for sure will be front and center as we see what we can come together on and pass."

Trump has been interested in federal background checks before — and tweeted Monday about them — only to drop the issue later, a turnaround similar to his reversal on gun proposals after the 2018 high school shooting at Parkland, Florida.

The powerful National Rifle Association and its allies on Capitol Hill have long wielded influence, but the gun lobby's grip on Democrats started slipping some time ago, and it's unclear how much sway the NRA and other gun groups still hold over Republicans in the Trump era.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Trump assured them in phone calls Thursday he will review the House-passed bill that expands federal background checks for firearm sales.

In a joint statement, they said Trump called them individually after Pelosi sent a letter asking the president to order the Senate back to Washington immediately to consider gun violence measures.

Schumer and Pelosi said they told Trump the best way to address gun violence is for the Senate to take up and pass the House bill. Trump, they said, "understood our interest in moving as quickly as possible



**Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., smiles after vote on a hard-won budget deal that would permit the government to resume borrowing to pay all of its obligations and would remove the prospect of a government shutdown in October, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019.** (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)



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to help save lives.”

The politics of gun control are shifting amid the frequency and toll of mass shootings. Spending to support candidates backing tougher gun control measures — mostly Democrats — surged in the 2018 midterms, even as campaign spending by the NRA declined.

NRA chief Wayne LaPierre said in rare public statement Thursday that some federal gun control proposals “would make millions of law-abiding Americans less safe and less able to defend themselves and their loved ones.”

The organization said proposals being discussed in Congress would not have prevented the mass shootings in Texas and Ohio that killed 31 people.

McConnell has been under pressure from Democrats, and others, to bring senators back to Washington after the back-to-back weekend shootings.

Earlier, more than 200 mayors, including those in Dayton and El Paso, urged the Senate to return to the Capitol. “Our nation can no longer wait,” they wrote.

McConnell on Thursday rejected the idea of reconvening the Senate, saying calling senators back now would just lead to people “scoring points and nothing would happen.”

Instead, the GOP leader wants to spend the August recess talking with Democratic and Republican senators to see what’s possible. Senators have been talking among themselves, and holding conference calls, to sort out strategy.

“If we do it prematurely it’ll just be another frustrating position for all of us and for the public,” he said.

The politics of gun violence are difficult for Republicans, including McConnell. He could risk losing support as he seeks reelection in Kentucky if he were to back 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 gun laws.

GOP senators are also considering changes to the existing federal background check system, modeled on a law signed last year that improved the National Instant Criminal Background Check system, as well as increased 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.

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

## **Biden centers campaign where he started: Trump’s character**

**By BILL BARROW Associated Press**

BURLINGTON, Iowa (AP) — Joe Biden’s campaign is not anchored in a big policy idea like Bernie Sanders’ Medicare for All. He is not proposing transformative change like Elizabeth Warren. Instead, Biden’s call to voters is a more visceral one, casting the 2020 race as a test of the country’s character.

The recent back-to-back mass killings in Texas and Ohio have, for now, allowed Biden to re-center his campaign on those ideas. After spending the past three months largely on defense over a long policy record that draws fire from Democratic Party’s most progressive corners, Biden reasserted himself this week with a blistering takedown of President Donald Trump’s racist language and the ways in which some of the Republican president’s anti-immigrant outbursts could have inspired one of the shootings.

“I will not let this man be reelected president of the United States of America,” Biden said this week in Iowa, where he weaved between hushed disappointment and incredulous fury over a president who offers “no moral leadership.”

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Biden has hardly been alone among Democratic presidential candidates in assailing Trump after the latest killings. The shooting suspect in El Paso has been linked to a racist screed that echoed many of the president's own tirades about an immigrant "invasion," prompting at least two of Biden's rivals to brand Trump a "white supremacist."

Yet only Biden has made questions of character — that of Trump and the nation — the centerpiece of his White House bid. He says it was Trump's equivocating response to the 2017 racial clash in Charlottesville, Virginia, that prompted him to run and he has repeatedly declared the election a battle "for the soul of the nation."

It's a more comfortable platform for Biden, an elder statesman in the party who consistently polls high on personal attributes, than running as an ideologue or agent of change. The 76-year-old would be the oldest new president in history — 78 upon inauguration. And his positions on a range of issues, including abortion access and criminal justice, have evolved along with his party over the past four decades, subjecting him to bruising criticism from progressives.

Biden's advisers contend that those past policy positions will matter less to most voters, both in the Democratic primary and the general election, than their assessments of Trump's moral fitness for the job. In Iowa this week, Biden tore into what he sees as Trump's shortcomings on that front.

"The words of a president matter," he said in a Wednesday speech. "They can appeal to the better angels of our nature. But they can also unleash the deepest, darkest forces in this nation."

At the Iowa State Fair a day later, Biden said, "Everything the president's said and done encourages white supremacists."

His words resonated with Staci Beekhuizen, a teacher in Lee County, Iowa, who called Biden's Wednesday address "presidential."

"The vice president showed us exactly what we need right now," she said.

Tom Harter, who attended the Burlington, Iowa, speech with his 90-year-old mother, said there was something "calming" about Biden's takedown of Trump.

"He has a stature about him," Harter said.

Trump also took notice of Biden's speech, calling it boring. The president later lashed out at his Democratic Party critics, accusing them of bringing racism into the national discourse.

Other candidates joined Biden this week in hammering Trump, who has bristled at any suggestion that his harsh, anti-immigrant rhetoric contributed to the shooting in El Paso. During visits Wednesday to El Paso and Dayton, Ohio, Trump repeatedly tangled with his adversaries, including presidential candidate and former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, an El Paso native.

O'Rourke and Sen. Cory Booker delivered high profile remarks following the shooting this week, with Booker choosing as his venue the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, where a white supremacist in 2015 killed nine black citizens as they prayed. Both candidates trail Biden and several others



**Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the Des Moines Register Soapbox during a visit to the Iowa State Fair, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019, in Des Moines, Iowa.** (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

in the 2020 Democratic field.

But even as Biden's top competitors shred Trump, they have built their central campaign pitches around something else.

Sanders and Warren, in particular, are economic populists of the left. California Sen. Kamala Harris released her first paid ad this week centered mostly on voters' economic concerns.

Iowa State Rep. Dennis Coohon, who has endorsed Biden, said that while he believes the former vice president can compete on policy, his best argument remains one aimed at the incumbent president.

"If you know Joe Biden," Coohon said, "you know he's the right man for this moment."

Associated Press reporter Thomas Beaumont contributed to this report.

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>

## Trump heads for golf club holiday as summer storms loom

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Now is the summer (vacation) of the president's discontent.

As Donald Trump prepares to leave on Friday for his annual August holiday at his lush New Jersey golf club, he's confronting a storm of crises, at home and abroad, that could set the course for his upcoming re-election bid.

With his poll numbers stalled and his ability to rally the country questioned, he's being tested by an escalating trade war with China that may slow the economy, rising tensions with both Iran and North Korea and, in the aftermath of the mass shootings last weekend, pressure to act on guns and face accusations of his own role in fostering an environment of hate.

The dark clouds are converging as the Republican president's bid for a second term takes on new urgency. Trump exudes confidence but as the two dozen Democrats eager to take his job sharpen their attacks, the White House — or, for the next 10 days, the clubhouse in Bedminster, New Jersey — will have to mount a multifront effort rooted in maintaining his base rather than trying to expand it.

"There are often presidents facing reelection who face an onslaught," said Douglas Brinkley, presidential historian at Rice University. "Those are the times when you need to heal the nation's wounds or make your case for a real change. But Trump long ago decided that he was going to try to be a president who divided and conquered to intimidate friend and foe alike."

Unlike other embattled incumbents at this point in their terms, Trump does not face a serious primary



**In this Aug. 7, 2019, photo, President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump board Air Force One for a trip to Dayton, Ohio and El Paso, Texas, at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. As Trump prepares to leave Friday for his annual August holiday at his lush New Jersey golf club, the president will confront a storm of crises, at home and abroad, that could set the course for his upcoming re-election bid.**

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)



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challenge. His vise-like grip on the Republican Party has warded off insurgencies like Ronald Reagan's challenge to Gerald Ford in 1976 or Pat Buchanan's to George H.W. Bush in 1992, allowing him to focus solely on his foes across the aisle.

Trump has long bristled at the term "vacation" and is expected to hold a handful of official events and trips while settled in New Jersey's horse country. But aides say his attention will be focused on golf, cable news and Twitter. They often worry about the scattershot outbursts — such as his "fire and fury" to North Korea in 2017 — that can emerge when Trump escapes Washington and has more access to his friends and less to his staff.

When Robert Mueller's Russia probe wound down, culminating in the special counsel's appearance before Congress last month, a sense of relief permeated the West Wing, which was finally free of the investigation that has shadowed the administration since its earliest days. But Trump's punitive trade tariffs, his racially inflammatory language and now a renewed national call for action on gun control have created internal pressure on the president and his staff.

His reelection strategy, which has placed white grievance and immigration at the forefront in an effort that his aides say is designed to activate his base of conservative voters, represents an approach not seen by an American president in the modern era. Already condemned by Democrats, Trump's language has come under increased scrutiny this week after a warning similar to his about a "Hispanic invasion" was found in the rambling screed linked to the gunman who killed 22 people in El Paso, Texas.

The president's response to the shootings — nine more people were killed in Ohio a few hours after El Paso — has been uneven. He largely stayed out of view last weekend, also in Bedminster, and then on Wednesday turned a visit to the two grieving cities into an awkward mix of hugs and handshakes followed soon after by aggressive political attacks against Democrats.

Some Democrats have accused Trump of giving license to the hate lurking in dark corners of American life, even contending he has blood on his hands for the weekend of violence.

"It's both clear language and in code: This president has fanned the flames of white supremacy in this nation," said former Vice President Joe Biden in Iowa on Wednesday. "If Donald Trump is reelected, I believe he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation."

The White House did not respond to a request for comment Thursday.

But Trump's problems extend beyond America's borders. After he pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal, Tehran upped its enriched uranium production, sending it last month over the limit specified by the agreement. Tension in the Persian Gulf has accelerated as Iran shot down a U.S. drone and seized control of ships in the Strait of Hormuz. American forces returned the favor, shooting down an Iranian drone.

The president opted against a military strike last month and indicated he would be open to talks, but Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has said he would only negotiate if all of the crippling U.S. sanctions were lifted. And he warned Tuesday that anyone's conflict with Iran would "be the mother of all war."

Trump has also mused about pulling American forces out of Afghanistan by the 2020 election, a move some aides fear would be premature and could lead to a dangerous vacuum in the region.

The president is personally invested in North Korea.

Just over a month ago, he became the first U.S. president to step into North Korea and, in a meeting with Kim Jong Un, negotiated a restart to talks that had broken down during a Hanoi summit in February. Trump has repeatedly praised Kim and the letters he has sent, believing that a close relationship is the key to nuclear breakthrough.

But since the meeting at the DMZ, with negotiations yet to resume, North Korea has tested several short-range missiles, a provocation that Trump has had to resort to diplomatic gymnastics to brush aside.

"These missile tests are not a violation of our signed Singapore agreement, nor was there discussion of short-range missiles when we shook hands," Trump tweeted this week. "There may be a United Nations violation, but Chairman Kim does not want to disappoint me."

The president's top preoccupation of late, however, has been the escalating trade dispute with China. He fumed last week when negotiations in Shanghai broke down, and, against the advice of advisers, he

slapped additional tariffs on China.

His moves rattled the financial markets, which have been volatile for days, and have worried West Wing aides who fear a battle with Beijing could not only hurt Trump voters, including farmers at the mercy of China's retaliatory tariffs, but could undermine the president's best argument for reelection, a strong economy.

The president himself does not seem bothered.

"He doesn't think he is facing any challenges. His attitude is, 'The economy is doing great, I am putting the hammer down on China, the rest is just noise,'" said former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci. "The media is against him, his supporters are for him and the Democrats don't seem like a threat."

"He's going on vacation feeling smug."

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

## Scandal-ridden NRA head LaPierre digs in against gun control

By LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press

In the aftermath of the back-to-back shooting massacres in Texas and Ohio, the debate over gun control has returned to the National Rifle Association and its immense power to stymie any significant legislation on the issue.

The man largely responsible for the NRA's uncompromising stance is its decades-long CEO, Wayne LaPierre, who has been engulfed in turmoil and legal issues as he orchestrates the group's latest effort to push back against gun control measures.

Law enforcement authorities are investigating the NRA's finances, and the gun group has ousted top officials and traded lawsuits with the longtime marketing firm credited with helping to shape LaPierre's and the NRA's image.

LaPierre's seven-figure salary, penchant for luxury clothing shopping sprees and reports that he sought to have the NRA buy him a \$6 million mansion at an exclusive golf community have drawn considerable scrutiny amid allegations of rampant misspending.

Ardent gun rights supporters have turned on LaPierre in recent months, taking to Twitter and Facebook with the hashtags #changethenra and #savethe2a. Some are calling for his resignation and questioning how he can turn the tide against the push for more robust gun control measures after the Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas, rampages, given all the scandals.



**FILE - In a April 27, 2019 file photo, National Rifle Association Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre speaks at the NRA Annual Meeting of Members in Indianapolis. In the latest national furor over mass killings, the tremendous political power of the NRA is likely to stymie any major changes to gun laws. The man behind the organization is LaPierre, the public face of the Second Amendment with his bombastic defense of guns, freedom and country in the aftermath of every mass shooting.** (AP Photo/Michael Conroy, File)

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"They've done so much damage to their reputation that the effectiveness of any NRA statements in really swaying opinion has to be considered diminished," said Rob Pincus, a longtime NRA member and firearms instructor who founded a group calling for LaPierre's resignation. "Anything that gets said by Wayne LaPierre is going to be followed by 'amidst turmoil over \$300,000 in suits and a \$6 million mansion they were going to buy him,' and all these other allegations that are out there."

The NRA has abided by its usual reaction after mass shootings — initially saying nothing followed by a muted response. In this case, its lead spokesman said it would not "participate in politicizing these tragedies" and remained committed to the "safe and lawful use of firearms by those exercising their Second Amendment freedoms."

Behind the scenes, however, there's evidence of LaPierre's pull. The Washington Post reported that LaPierre warned President Donald Trump after he expressed support for a background check bill that such a move would be unpopular among Trump's supporters, according to officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the talks. The NRA would neither confirm nor deny the report.

LaPierre, who rarely speaks to mainstream media outlets, declined requests to be interviewed. In a written statement issued Thursday, he said none of the gun control proposals being discussed would have prevented the most recent attacks.

"Worse, they would make millions of law abiding Americans less safe and less able to defend themselves and their loved ones," the statement said. He described many of the proposals as "soundbite solutions" that "fail to address the root of the problem, confront criminal behavior or make our communities safer."

To learn how LaPierre accumulated such vast power in both the NRA and American politics while remaining an enigma outside the closed-off world of the gun-rights organization, The Associated Press interviewed dozens of current and former staffers and members who have worked with him.

LaPierre's public persona is as the hard-fisted leader of the NRA, the public face of the Second Amendment with his bombastic defense of guns, freedom and country.

Behind the scenes, however, the 69-year-old CEO's current and former associates see a different man.

The LaPierre they know is an introvert who rarely roams the halls of NRA headquarters to interact with staffers. He's not even considered a serious "gunner."

In fact, LaPierre's early career included working for Democratic lawmakers in Virginia, where he spent most of his childhood. He's said to have been in line to work for liberal icon and then-Democratic House leader Tip O'Neill until the NRA came calling in 1977.

Pro-gun activist Jeff Knox tells a story about how his father, Neal Knox, a former top lobbyist at the NRA, brought LaPierre to a gun range outside Washington early in his NRA career. LaPierre pulled out a rusty shotgun and the elder Knox, appalled by its condition, removed the dipstick from his Cadillac and used the oil to wipe off the rust.

"Wayne was like 'What? What's the big deal?'" said Knox, whose father, now deceased, lost a battle with LaPierre for control of the NRA. LaPierre became the group's CEO in 1991.

"He's gotten some nice guns since then, but I wouldn't call him a gun guy," Knox said. "I think he's a true believer, but I don't think he quite gets it. ... It's always been business and political to him, where to Dad it was almost a religion. It was a calling."

Richard Feldman, a former NRA lobbyist and author of "Ricochet: Confessions of a Gun Lobbyist," recalls that during congressional hearings, he and other NRA lobbyists would sit together to observe the proceedings while LaPierre, carrying big yellow legal pads, would sit in the back and wave people away.

"He was really like the professor. His office was just chock-full of papers and books all over the place," Feldman said. "He never looked like the kind of guy who would end up" CEO of the NRA.

LaPierre went on to become a powerful leader, surviving several internal NRA political skirmishes that lately have been worthy of a "Game of Thrones" subplot.

He also successfully navigated the Washington political landscape and helped create a culture in which



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Republicans don't dare touch gun-control measures, even after massacres of children.

He's credited with working to end the decade-long ban on assault weapons that expired in 2004. More recently, the NRA spent \$30 million helping to elect Trump.

Yet, it's been a rough road since Trump's election. It's been more difficult rallying contributions to the NRA with a president in the White House who's viewed as friendly toward gun rights. The NRA's power has been questioned, especially after the 2018 midterm elections where it was outspent by gun-control groups.

Since then, the legal issues have mounted almost by the week. The group's non-profit status has been threatened by an investigation by the attorney general in New York, where the NRA's charter was established in the 1800s.

There are allegations that LaPierre expensed hundreds of thousands of dollars in luxury clothing purchased in Beverly Hills and that the NRA has made tens of thousands of dollars in payments to a handful of influential board members. The Washington Post reported this week that the NRA considered buying a \$6 million mansion at LaPierre's request last year before deciding against the purchase.

The NRA's president, Oliver North, stepped down in the midst of a rancorous annual meeting last spring. More recently, Chris Cox, its top lobbyist and widely viewed as a successor to LaPierre, resigned after LaPierre accused him of being in cahoots with North in a failed attempt to oust him as CEO.

The rare airing of the group's dirty laundry has exposed a divide within the NRA among those who believe members' dues are being misspent to enrich a small cadre of NRA elite.

Even some board members have openly criticized the NRA. Among them is Allen West, who described the organization as a "cabal of cronyism." After he and other critical board members were stripped of their committee assignments, West said the NRA stands for "National Retaliation Association."

The ire has also come from hardcore gun rights supporters. Some felt betrayed when the NRA didn't push back on Trump's ban on bump stocks after the 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas. Others are unhappy that the Trump administration hasn't translated into an easing of gun laws.

Now LaPierre and the NRA are facing new backlash from Americans outraged over the violence in El Paso and Dayton carried out by gunmen armed with AK-47 and AR-15-style rifles.

"Everyone pays attention to Wayne LaPierre as the face of the NRA, but really everything under him has been washed away," said Adam Winkler, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law and an expert on gun rights and politics.

Longtime watchers of the NRA say it would be a mistake to count out LaPierre, who has earned the firearms community's trust with the successful fights against gun control he's led for decades.

Some acknowledge the allegations of financial improprieties are a problem, but they are happy with the NRA's legislative record under LaPierre.

"Wayne's got a lot of equity," said Rick Manning, a former NRA lobbyist. "When you win, people give you a lot of rope. ... And he's won."

Tom King, a longtime NRA board member, said LaPierre deserves that loyalty. The criticisms lodged against LaPierre, he said, have been fueled by anti-gun advocates and taken out of context.

"He's not going to give up. He's going to fight to the bitter end. And anybody who says differently doesn't know the man," King said.

## China issues top warning for strong typhoon nearing coast

BEIJING (AP) — China issued its top warning for coastal areas of Zhejiang province Friday ahead of a strong typhoon carrying heavy rain and winds and expected to send an intense storm surge up the mighty Yangtze River.

Heavy rain was expected in Zhejiang, Shanghai and nearby provinces on Friday before Typhoon Lekima hits land on Saturday morning, then weakens as it moves north.

Parts of northern Taiwan closed offices and suspended classes at schools on Friday as the storm passed northeast of the island. The same area was hit by a magnitude 6.0 earthquake Thursday that caused minor

damage but no deaths or injuries.

The red alert China issued is the most serious in its four-tiered alert system, prompting authorities to prepare evacuations, suspend train and air travel and require vessels to return to port. In Zhejiang, ferry service had been cancelled and more than 200 tourists evacuated from popular Beiji island.

The National Meteorological Center said Lekima was gusting at 209 kph (130 mph) and traveling northwesterly at 13 kph (8 mph). Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau put its sustained winds at 173 kph (108 mph) and said the bands of wind and rains around the storm's eye were shrinking.

The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters warned authorities overseeing seven provinces including Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangsu and Shanghai Municipality to make preparations and have emergency response systems ready to be deployed. In Zhejiang, nearly 5,000 fishing boats had been recalled to port, authorities reported.

An intense storm surge was expected to raise waters in the estuary of the Yangtze River, China's mightiest, beginning Friday. Three main streams of the Yangtze River are likely to exceed alert levels and the commission overseeing the river for the Ministry of Water Resources has ordered efforts to prevent floods and oversaturation of levees along the river's banks.



**A Taiwanese woman makes her way against powerful gusts of wind generated by typhoon Lekima in Taipei, Taiwan, Friday, Aug. 9, 2019.** (AP Photo/Chiang Ying-ying)

## Immigration raids to have long-term effects on poultry towns

By **JEFF AMY** and **ROGELIO V. SOLIS** Associated Press

MORTON, Miss. (AP) — Effects of the largest immigration raid in at least a decade are likely to ripple for years through six Mississippi small towns that host poultry plants.

A store owner who caters to Latino poultry plant workers fears he will have to close. A school superintendent is trying to rebuild trust with the Spanish-speaking community. And the CEO of a local bank says the effects are likely to touch every business in her town.

More than 100 civil rights activists, union organizers and clergy members in Mississippi denounced the raid, but the state's Republican Gov. Phil Bryant commended federal immigration authorities for the arrests, tweeting that anyone in the country illegally has to "bear the responsibility of that federal violation."

Officials said 680 people were initially detained during Wednesday's operation. U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement sent more than 300 of those people home by dawn Thursday, with notices to appear before immigration judges, said ICE spokesman Bryan Cox.

In the coming months, as those people await hearings, they're unlikely to be able to work, and local churches are gathering food and money to provide aid.

Juan Garcia and his wife own Hondumex, a grocery store and restaurant catering to Latinos in downtown Morton, a small town of roughly 3,000 people about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of the capital of Jackson. Sales have been terrible since the raid, Garcia said Thursday, surrounded by plantains, pastries and specially butchered meat. Garcia said even those who have been released will have trouble before

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they go to court.

"All the workers, the people that have been taken, they're not going to be able to spend money," Garcia said. "They're not going to be able to work in the plant."

Garcia said many workers at the two raided poultry plants — Koch Foods and PH Foods — have bought houses. He questions whether they will be able to keep up their mortgage payments. Garcia said he and his wife also own a restaurant in nearby Philadelphia, Mississippi, and he may close the Morton store.

"I was thinking about shutting down my business," Garcia said. "I don't think we're going to be able to stay here."

Martha Rogers, the chairman and CEO of the Bank of Morton, also expressed concern for the local economy. Rogers said many Spanish-speaking residents have become customers of the bank.

"Every business in town will be affected," said Rogers, whose family has owned a controlling interest in the small bank since the 1950s.

Scott County Superintendent Tony McGee said more than 150 students were absent Thursday from the 4,100-student district, including a number of students in Morton, where the enrollment is about 30% Latino.

Parents are saying they're afraid for their children to come back to class, McGee said. School officials have been making phone calls and visiting homes to try to coax the parents to let the students return.

"We're just trying to reassure them that if those kids come to school, we're going to do everything possible to make sure they come back to you," McGee said. "We want those children at school."

McGee said some longtime teachers told him that Wednesday "was by far the worst day they have ever spent as educators."

ICE didn't have much space to detain workers, even overnight, because the number of people in custody is hovering near all-time highs. The agency has been housing thousands more than its budgeted capacity of 45,274 people, largely because of an unprecedented surge of Central American families arriving at the Mexican border. Those released included 18 juveniles, with the youngest being 14 years old, said Jere Miles, special agent in charge of ICE's Homeland Security Investigations unit in New Orleans. Workers were assessed before they were released, including for whether they had any young children at home.

The companies involved could be charged with knowingly hiring workers who are in the county illegally and will be scrutinized for tax, document and wage fraud, said Matthew Albence, ICE's acting director.

Koch Foods, one of the country's largest poultry producers based in the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge, said in a statement Thursday that it follows strict procedures to make sure full-time employees are eligible to work in the country.

Gabriela Rosales, a six-year resident of Morton who knows some of those detained, said she under-



**Handcuffed workers await transportation to a processing center following a raid by U.S. immigration officials at Koch Foods Inc., plant in Morton, Miss. U.S. immigration officials raided several Mississippi food processing plants on Wednesday and signaled that the early-morning strikes were part of a large-scale operation targeting owners as well as employees.** (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)



stands that "there's a process and a law" for those living in the country illegally. "But the thing that they (ICE) did is devastating," she said. "It was very devastating to see all those kids crying, having seen their parents for the last time."

The Rev. Mike O'Brien, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Canton, said he waited outside the Peco Foods plant in the city until 4 a.m. Thursday for workers returning by bus. O'Brien said he visited parishioners whose relatives had been arrested. He said he also drove home someone who had hidden from authorities inside the plant.

"The people are all afraid," he said. "Their doors are locked, and they won't answer their doors."

Children whose parents were detained were being cared for by other family members and friends, O'Brien said.

"They're circling the wagons that way and taking care of each other," he said.

Associated Press reporters Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Emily Wagster Pettus in Jackson, Mississippi, contributed to this report.

## Trump picks new acting national intelligence director

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday named Joseph Maguire, the nation's top counterterrorism official, as acting national intelligence director, part of a leadership shake-up at the agency that oversees 17 U.S. spy agencies.

Maguire will become acting director on Aug. 15, the same day that National Intelligence Director Dan Coats' resignation takes effect. It's also the same day that deputy national intelligence director Sue Gordon will be walking out the door. Democrats accused Trump of pushing out two dedicated intelligence professionals.

"Admiral Maguire has a long and distinguished career in the military, retiring from the U.S. Navy in 2010," Trump tweeted. "He commanded at every level, including the Naval Special Warfare Command. He has also served as a National Security Fellow at Harvard University. I have no doubt he will do a great job!"

Coats also praised Maguire, saying in a statement that he "has had a long, distinguished career" and will lead the intelligence community with distinction.

It's unclear if Trump, who has had an uneven relationship with the intelligence agencies since he took office, plans to also nominate Maguire to formally replace Coats.

After Coats announced his retirement late last month, the president nominated Texas GOP Rep. John Ratcliffe to be the new director of national intelligence. But Ratcliffe removed himself from consideration



**FILE - In this July 25, 2018, file photo, retired Vice Adm. Joseph Maguire and now current director of the National Counterterrorism Center, appears before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. President Donald Trump has named Maguire as acting national intelligence director.** (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

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after just five days amid criticism about his lack of intelligence experience and qualifications for the job. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence has been in upheaval since Coats, who had bumped elbows with Trump, announced late last month that he was stepping down as of Aug. 15. Then on Thursday, Gordon, who has worked in the intelligence field for three decades, announced she was leaving the same day with Coats.

"Sue Gordon is a great professional with a long and distinguished career," Trump tweeted Thursday. "I have gotten to know Sue over the past 2 years and have developed great respect for her. Sue has announced she will be leaving on August 15.

But it was clear that Gordon was not resigning by choice.

"I offer this letter as an act of respect and patriotism, not preference," Gordon wrote in a note to Trump that accompanied her two-paragraph resignation letter. "You should have your team. Godspeed, Sue."

A person familiar with the personnel decisions said Gordon spoke to Trump twice in the past week. The individual was not authorized to publicly discuss the decision and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Gordon thanked the president for the opportunity to serve the nation as deputy national intelligence director for two years. She said she would resign effective Aug. 15 and would subsequently retire from federal service.

She said she was confident in what the U.S. intelligence agencies had accomplished and what they were poised to do going forward. "I have seen it in action first-hand for more than 30 years," her resignation letter said. "Know that our people are our strength and they will never fail you or the nation. You are in good hands."

After Coats announced his resignation, Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House intelligence committee, urged Trump to promote Gordon. He cited U.S. law that requires that Gordon be elevated once Coats stepped down.

Schiff, D-Calif., said if Trump tried to bypass Gordon, it would be evidence of his intent to politicize the intelligence agencies to serve his "partisan aims and an attempt to do an end run around the legally mandated succession."

Donald Trump Jr., the president's son, tweeted in response: "If Adam Schiff wants her in there, the rumors about her being besties with Brennan and the rest of the clown cadre must be 100% true." John Brennan is a former director of the CIA who has come under fire from Trump.

On Thursday, Schiff called Coats and Gordon's retirements a "devastating loss" to the intelligence community. "These losses of leadership, coupled with a president determined to weed out anyone who may dare disagree, represent one of the most challenging moments for the intelligence community."

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, called Gordon a "consummate professional."

"The mission of the intelligence community is to speak truth to power," Warner said. "Yet in pushing out two dedicated public servants in as many weeks, once again the president has shown that he has no problem prioritizing his political ego even if it comes at the expense of our national security."

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C., called Gordon's departure a "significant loss" and said she had been a "stalwart partner" to the intelligence panel. But he also praised Maguire, who he said he has known for some time. "I have confidence in his ability to step into this critical role," Burr said.

Maguire retired from the navy after 36 years of military service. Before retiring, he was deputy director for operational planning at the National Counterterrorism Center. Trump nominated Maguire, a leader in the U.S. Navy Seal community, as director of the center in June 2018 and he was confirmed by the Senate in December 2018.

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## Asian shares rise following broad rally for US stocks

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares rose Friday as investors bought back stocks following gains on Wall Street, although worries about a trade dispute between the U.S. and China remained.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added nearly 0.6% in morning trading to 20,706.95. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.2% to 6,577.90. South Korea's Kospi added nearly 1.0% to 1,939.30. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.4% to 26,216.54, while the Shanghai Composite edged up 0.4% to 2,806.54.

Data on Japan's economy for the April-June period that were better than expected added to the optimism. The Cabinet Office reported Japan's gross domestic product, or the total value of a nation's goods and services, grew at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 1.8% during the three months ended in June, compared to the previous quarter.

Technology companies powered stocks broadly higher on Wall Street Thursday, driving the S&P 500 to its best day in more than two months and erasing its losses for the week.

The rally, which pushed the Dow Jones Industrial Average up by more than 370 points, followed an early rise in bonds yields after a weekly government report on unemployment claims came in better than economists had expected.

The absence of new worrisome turns in the U.S.-China trade tussle may have also helped keep investors in a buying mood.

The S&P 500 index rose 54.11 points, or 1.9%, to 2,938.09. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 371.12 points, or 1.4%, to 26,378.19. The Nasdaq composite, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, vaulted 176.33 points, or 2.2%, to 8,039.16. It also had its best day in more than two months and was on track to end the week with a gain. The Russell 2000 index picked up 31.45 points, or 2.1%, to 1,532.13.

President Donald Trump spooked the markets last week when he threatened to impose 10% tariffs on all Chinese imports that haven't already been hit with tariffs of 25%. China retaliated on Monday and allowed its currency, the yuan, to weaken against the U.S. dollar. China stabilized the yuan on Tuesday, helping lift stocks.

### ENERGY

Benchmark crude rose 9 cents to \$52.63 a barrel. It rose \$1.45 to \$52.54 a barrel Thursday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, added 7 cents \$57.45 a barrel.

### CURRENCIES:

The dollar rose to 106.01 Japanese yen from 105.97 Thursday. The euro was little changed but inched down to \$1.1195 from \$1.1197.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 9, the 221st day of 2019. There are 144 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 9, 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, a U.S. B-29 Superfortress code-named Bockscar dropped a nuclear device ("Fat Man") over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

On this date:

In 1854, Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," which described Thoreau's experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts, was first published.

In 1902, Edward VII was crowned king of Britain following the death of his mother, Queen Victoria.

In 1910, the U.S. Patent Office granted Alva J. Fisher of the Hurley Machine Co. a patent for an electrically powered washing machine.



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In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the United States took first place in the 400-meter relay.

In 1944, 258 African-American sailors based at Port Chicago, California, refused to load a munitions ship following a cargo vessel explosion that killed 320 men, many of them black. (Fifty of the sailors were convicted of mutiny, fined and imprisoned.)

In 1969, actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally slain at Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers were later convicted of the crime.

In 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive as President Richard Nixon's resignation took effect.

In 1982, a federal judge in Washington ordered John W. Hinckley Jr., who'd been acquitted of shooting President Ronald Reagan and three others by reason of insanity, committed to a mental hospital.

In 1985, a federal judge in Norfolk, Virginia, found retired Navy officer Arthur J. Walker guilty of seven counts of spying for the Soviet Union. (Walker, who was sentenced to life, died in prison in 2014 at the age of 79.)

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan nominated Lauro Cavazos (kah-VAH'-zohs) to be secretary of education; Cavazos became the first Hispanic to serve in the Cabinet.

In 1995, Jerry Garcia, lead singer of the Grateful Dead, died in Forest Knolls, California, of a heart attack at age 53.

In 2004, Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols, addressing a court for the first time, asked victims of the blast for forgiveness as a judge sentenced him to 161 consecutive life sentences.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama flew to Guadalajara, Mexico, for a two-day speed summit with Mexican President Felipe Calderon (fay-LEE'-pay kahl-duh-ROHN') and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Iraqi authorities arrested British contractor Danny Fitzsimons in the shooting deaths of two co-workers in Baghdad's protected Green Zone. (Fitzsimons was convicted by an Iraqi court in 2011 and sentenced to 20 years in prison.)

Five years ago: Michael Brown Jr., an unarmed 18-year-old black man, was shot to death by a police officer following an altercation in Ferguson, Missouri; Brown's death led to sometimes-violent protests in Ferguson and other U.S. cities, spawning a national "Black Lives Matter" movement.

One year ago: Vice President Mike Pence announced plans for a new, separate U.S. Space Force as a sixth military service by 2020. The parents of first lady Melania Trump were sworn in as U.S. citizens; they had been living in the country as permanent residents. Player demonstrations again took place at several early NFL preseason games, with two Philadelphia Eagles players raising their fists during the national anthem. Evacuation orders expanded to 20,000 as a wildfire that had been intentionally set moved perilously close to homes in Southern California.

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Cousy is 91. Actress Cynthia Harris is 85. Tennis Hall of Famer Rod Laver is 81. Jazz musician Jack DeJohnette is 77. Comedian-director David Steinberg is 77. Actor Sam Elliott is 75. Singer Barbara Mason is 72. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player John Cappelletti is 67. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Doug Williams is 64. Actress Melanie Griffith is 62. Actress Amanda Bearnse is 61. Rapper Kurtis Blow is 60. Hockey Hall of Famer Brett Hull is 55. TV host Hoda Kotb (HOH'-duh KAHT'-bee) is 55. Actor Pat Petersen is 53. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders is 52. Actress Gillian Anderson is 51. Actor Eric Bana is 51. Producer-director McG (aka Joseph McGinty Nichol) is 51. NHL player-turned-coach Rod Brind'Amour is 49. TV anchor Chris Cuomo is 49. Actor Thomas Lennon is 49. Rock musician Arion Salazar is 49. Rapper Mack 10 is 48. Actress Nikki Schieler Ziering is 48. Latin rock singer Juanes is 47. Actress Liz Vassey is 47. Actor Kevin McKidd is 46. Actress Rhona Mitra (ROH'-nuh MEE'-truh) is 44. Actor Texas Battle is 43. Actress Jessica Capshaw is 43. Actress Ashley Johnson is 36. Actress Anna Kendrick is 34.

Thought for Today: "Education is a private matter between the person and the world of knowledge and experience, and has little to do with school or college." — Lillian Smith, American writer-social critic (1897-1966).

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## Groton City Aug. 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2019

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Community Center for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Blackmun, Peterson, Wells, McGannon, Glover via telephone and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Hope Block, Stacy Mayou, Paul Kosel, Kathy Sundermeyer, Terry Herron, Officer Bjerke, Dan Sunne and Dwight Zerr. Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Babcock entered the meeting at 7:02pm.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Peterson to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted aye.

Payroll, \$34,143.82, Employee salaries; Executive, \$931.34, ; Administrative, \$3,179.69, ; Public Safety, \$8,833.33, ; Public Works, \$9,419.19, ; Culture & Recreation, \$11,780.27, ; First State Bank, \$9,796.71, SS and WH ; First State Bank, \$499.98, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$950.00, Employee savings; SD State Treasurer, \$10,354.04, Sales and excise 6/19; Aflac, \$250.28, Employee insurance; Allied , \$10,180.20, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$299.88, Employee insurance; Guardian Insurance, \$204.05, Employee insurance; Crawford Trucks, \$36.12, Disconnect switch for yellow truck; Dakota Press, \$1,616.00, Publishing 8/18-6/19; Employers Mutual Ins, \$85.20, Employee insurance; Galls, \$115.26, Uniforms; Jacobs & Son Construction, \$43,715.18, Payment #1 Street Project; MidAmerican Research , \$280.47, White striping paint; NW Energy, \$893.90, Natural gas; Runnings Supply, \$14.34, Oil; S&S Lumber, \$615.48, Seven dust, nets, gloves, ext cords, bug spray, hammer, keys, sprayer, cable ties, concrete mix, tin snips; SD Dept of Health, \$499.00, Water testing; SD Retirement, \$7,751.57, Employee retirement; SD Supp Retirement, \$335.00, Employee retirement; Dwight Strom, \$300.00, Family crisis; Verizon , \$42.61, Dump camera communication; Western Area Power, \$17,468.94, Power; Chase Visa, \$3,939.53, Rubble site arm, postage, paper products, flowers for pool, water, cleaners, library book, rifle supplies, copy paper, chair mat, lodging for FO school, trophies, pool balls, lounge chair replacement parts, time cards; BB/SB Foundation, \$2,576.81, Remaining donation; Pauer Sound, \$7,423.19, Sound system; Geffdog, \$155.65, Banners; Stan Houston, \$129.95, Trimmer for park and shop; Full Circle Ag, \$318.41, Herbicide; Lien Transportation, \$5,263.06, Hot mix; Web Water, \$16,146.49, Water 7/19; EcoLab, \$106.00, Pest control; A&B Business, \$223.13, Copier rent; Ameripride, \$47.14, Rug rent; Menards, \$314.32, Cemetery drain supplies; Darrel's Sinclair, \$371.80, Mosquito pickup tire repair; Drew Johnson, \$1,000.00, Legal fees 7/19; Midstates Group, \$175.00, State baseball trophies; Gary's Engine and Repair, \$56.48, Chromer repair; Associated Supply, \$1,264.39, Pool chemicals; Share Corp, \$129.57, Shop chemicals; Core & Main, \$2,342.21, Fire hydrant; Van Diest, \$2,430.00, Mosquito control chemicals; DGR Engineering, \$2,000.00, Complete electric study fee; Riteway, \$734.73, Utility billing postcards; Clark Engineering, \$34,197.22, Street project meeting, drafting, documentation, meals, Water tower 12% complete; Banyon, \$150.00, Timecard clock in module add on; Dairy Queen, \$112.00, Concession resale; Dakota Pump & Control, \$6,631.64, Water softstart and new plc unit to control pumps; GDI News, \$217.64, Publishing; PAC, \$94.16, Concession resale; Compliance Signs, \$33.50, Employee only parking sign; Groton Ford, \$360.76, Replace serp belt bucket truck; \$403.08, Clean radiator, resister block for blower motor '04 Sierra; \$72.70, Cabin air filter instal-

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lation '17 Ford Explorer

Herron reported that the gravel had been put on the last street in the street project, and paving will be done the week of August 19th. Herron left the meeting at 7:18pm.

Zerr reported that he has been busy street sweeping, helping asphalt, and that manholes have been done. Zerr left the meeting at 7:21pm.

Sunne reported fixing some loose wires, helping with asphalt and the annual inspection on trucks will be in September. Sunne left the meeting at 7:26pm.

Mayou requested to attend a class in Sisseton regarding child abuse and neglect. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Babcock to approve Mayou to attend this meeting. All members voted aye.

Payment request #2 from H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction for \$153,668.75 was approved on a motion by McGannon and seconded by Glover. All members voted aye.

The Change Order #2 from H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction for the street project was approved on a motion by Peterson and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

The 2020 proposed budget was introduced to the council, and board members will prepare for the first reading of the appropriation ordinance at the next meeting.

Moved by Peterson and seconded by Babcock to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:48pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:41pm.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Glover to move the temporary police officer's wage to \$24 per hour as of August 7, 2019. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to hire Tony Garcia as the full time police officer at \$52,416 annual salary. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by McGannon to adjourn the meeting at 8:44pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Hope Block, Finance Officer