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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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Budget Work Session, Monday August 12, 2019 at 2p.m.

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX
25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

**TUESDAY
AUGUST 13, 2019**

8:45a.m. - 8:50a.m. – First Reading of Ord# 140-Aucoin Rezone; Ord# 141-Muldoon Rezone; Ord# 142-Fliehs Rezone; Ord# 143-Bacon Rezone; Ord# 144-Prairie Hill Farms Rezone;
8:50a.m – 9:00a.m.. – Michael Bockorny Aberdeen Development Corporation Update
9:00a.m. – 9:05a.m. – Mike Scott, Landfill Manager-Wood Waste Grinding 2019 Contract, Discuss firestation container site, Dept. Update.
9:05a.m. – 9:15a.m. – Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent-Right of Way (Northern Electric, Midco & Northern Valley).
9:15a.m. – 9:20a.m. – 2020 Provisional Budget – Set Public Hearing Dates.
9:20a.m. – 9:25a.m. – Gary Vetter, Commission Assistant – Discuss advertising for sealed bids for Millim Bldg.

- Approve General Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2019.
- Claims
- HR Report
- Fair Contracts
- Sheriff's Report
- Lottery Permit
- SD Public Assurance Alliance coverage agreement.
- Legal Assignment
- Peddlers License/Permit

Any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion

Aberdeen Chrysler Center



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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

August 12, 2019 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.
2. Installation of new board member, Travis Harder.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of July 8, 2019 school board meetings as drafted.
2. Approval of July 2019 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
3. Approval of July District bills for payment.
4. Acknowledge receipt of Notification of Public School Exemptions #20-01, #20-02, #20-03, #20-04, #20-05, #20-06
5. Approve Open Enrollment Application #20-05, #20-06, #20-08, #20-10
6. Approve transportation request from Langford in accordance with SDCL 13-29-4.
7. Approve transportation request from Webster in accordance with SDCL 13-29-4.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider proposal for amended start time for junior kindergarten class from 12:30 to 12:15.
2. Consider proposal from Avera Performance Center for athletic training services for 2019-2020 school year.
3. Approve reassignment of Melissa Ulmer to MS/HS Administrative Assistant for the 2019-2020 school year.
4. Approve hiring Tasha Dunker as Elementary Librarian for the 2019-2020 school year at \$11.85/hour.
5. Approve Volunteer Coaches for 2019-2020.
 - a. Craig Sternhagen – Boys Soccer
 - b. Sarah Schuster – Volleyball

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From
this
to
this



Flood Insurance an Important Resource for South Dakotans

PIERRE, S.D. – It won't happen to me.

Many South Dakotans may believe they don't need to buy flood insurance. Their house has never flooded before. They don't live in a high-risk flood zone.

But flooding this year in South Dakota has demonstrated that much of the damage can occur in areas not considered especially at risk and a flood insurance policy is a sound investment. One inch of floodwater can cause up to \$25,000 of damage in a home.

The National Flood Insurance Program has received 222 flood insurance claims in South Dakota as of Aug. 6 and paid more than \$3.7 million to policyholders. More than half of those claims were for property that was not in a high-risk flood zone, or Special Flood Hazard Area. Most came from communities that were not designated for FEMA disaster assistance to homeowners and renters.

When flooding happens, the damage is not covered by most homeowner's insurance policies.

Property owners can protect themselves from these financial losses by having a flood insurance policy through the NFIP. Flood insurance coverage is available regardless of federal disaster declarations.

In South Dakota, 229 communities participate in the NFIP and 3,739 policies are in effect. Residents can purchase a flood insurance policy if their community participates in the NFIP, no matter their flood risk. After the recent disaster, several additional communities have expressed interest in participating in the NFIP.

Coverage is available for residential and commercial buildings and the contents in them:

Up to \$250,000 in building coverage and up to \$100,000 in contents coverage for single-to-four family residential structures

Up to \$500,000 in building coverage and up to \$100,000 in contents coverage for five-or-more family residential structures

Up to \$500,000 in building coverage and up to \$500,000 in contents coverage for businesses

How to buy:

Contact your insurance company or agent. In addition to the NFIP, flood insurance is also available from some private insurance providers.

For an agent referral, call 800-427-4661 or visit <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/How-Buy-Flood-Insurance>

For more information, visit FloodSmart.gov or call the NFIP helpdesk at 800-427-4661.



If you can dream it, we can build it!

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The Inside Scoop with Dusty

By Rep. Dusty Johnson

Photo by John Davis of the Aberdeen American News. Rep. Johnson hosts an Inside Scoop at the Twist Cone in Aberdeen, for the full article by Elisa Sand [click here](#).

An average summer day in South Dakota is 82 degrees. While I am in the state for the August work period, I want to make sure I get face time with as many of you as possible. To help beat the heat and hear from South Dakotans at the same time, I'm making stops at ice cream shops throughout the state to get the "Inside Scoop." I am always looking for more opportunities to sit down with constituents and have a conversation. What better way than over ice cream?

The more I hear from folks at home, the better I can do my job. Over the last eight months I have appreciated the phone calls, emails, Facebook messages and letters I've received while I'm in Washington, but nothing beats a face-to-face conversation. If you have a question, I want to answer it – if you have a concern, I want to hear it.

So far this summer I have hosted eight "Inside Scoops" throughout South Dakota. I made my first stop at Armadillos in Rapid City and more than thirty people throughout the community showed up to discuss trade, immigration, and healthcare. I also stopped in Hot Springs, Murdo, Miller, Belle Fourche and at the Twist Cone in Aberdeen. In the next several weeks, I have more than a dozen Inside Scoops planned and hopefully one brings me to your community! If you want to have a chat over ice cream, check out my events tab on Facebook or keep an eye out in your local newspaper. Everyone is welcome to attend—children, grandparents, neighbors, friends—and no ticket is required to participate in an Inside Scoop.

Whether it's three people or thirty people in attendance, these conversations make a difference. In Miller, I was able to hear one-on-one from Gene, a farmer, about his tough planting year. Often, these personal stories provide the inspiration behind legislation and are also something I carry with me to Washington in conversations with my colleagues about issues important to South Dakota.

Next up, I'm headed to Oacoma, Flandreau, Watertown, and Pierre. Whether you simply want to say hello, or you have a pressing issue you would like to discuss, feel free to stop by. I look forward to meeting many of you at an Inside Scoop this summer, so bring your questions, comments, concerns, and of course, an appetite for ice cream.

TNTax Business Services, Inc.

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Mindy Santema ~ Jennifer Starks



TNTax Business
Services, Inc.

Income Tax Preparation

TNTax Business Services provides full service Federal and State Income Tax Preparation services for Individuals, Partnerships, Corporations, S-Corporations, Trusts, and Non-Profits.

Payroll

TNTax Business Services can handle all of your payroll needs. We have staff experienced in running payrolls for companies of all sizes. This includes reporting and new hire reporting.

Many other services!

At TNTax Business Services we have staff experienced in bookkeeping, filing reports, AP, AR, sales & use tax, and much more.

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Sturgis Rally Vehicle Counts

STURGIS, S.D. – Traffic counts from the South Dakota Department of Transportation for vehicles entering Sturgis for the 79th annual Sturgis motorcycle rally Aug. 2-11, 2019.

Traffic counts at nine locations entering Sturgis for the 2019 Rally are as follows:

Friday, Aug. 2:	52,099 entering – up 5.4% from Friday last year
Saturday, Aug. 3:	59,572 entering – down -0.9% from Saturday last year
Sunday, Aug. 4:	55,551 entering – up 6.5% from Sunday last year
Monday, Aug. 5:	61,126 entering – up 2.9% from Monday last year
Tuesday, Aug. 6:	59,361 entering – down -1.5% from Tuesday last year
Wednesday, Aug. 7:	56,204 entering – down -7.3% from Wednesday last year
Thursday, Aug. 8:	54,540 entering – down -8.5% from Thursday last year

7 Day total:

2019: 395,453 2018: 398,318 down -0.7% over last year

The final traffic count update will be released on Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Once compiled, a full report will be available on the SDDOT website at: <http://www.sddot.com/transportation/highways/traffic/Default.aspx> sometime the week of Aug. 19.

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Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information

Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday August 3, 2019 to 6 a.m. Friday August 9, 2019

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	106	30	136	117
Misd Drug Arrests	136	36	172	138
Felony Drug Arrests	68	22	90	56
Total Citations	638	390	1028	759
Total Warnings	2138	973	3111	2930
Cash Seized	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,739.00
Vehicles Seized	3	0	3	6
For Drug Poss.	3	0	3	6
For Serial No.	0	0	0	0
Non-Injury Accidents	12	20	32	44
Injury Accidents	25	17	42	46
Fatal Accidents	1	0	1	4
# of Fatalities	1	0	1	4



Olive Grove
Golf Course

09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic
12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course
2019 Holiday Party

397-GOLF

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Bringing in a New School Year

By Governor Kristi Noem

Can you believe the summer is almost over? The launch of the school year is a little different for my family this year. Booker is beginning his senior year of high school in a few days and will be starting football soon (Go Chargers!). Cassidy and Kennedy are done with college now, so school supply shopping is a much easier task... though I have to admit I miss the days of picking out boxes of crayons and spiral notebooks.

With one in high school and two having gone all the way through our state's public schools, I've been privileged to have a front-row ticket to the continuum of our education system. And from this perspective, one thing is abundantly clear: we do a lot of things right in our South Dakota schools.

Earlier this year, I visited Todd County Middle School in Mission, South Dakota – a school that is doing a lot of things right. Their work has been bolstered in recent years by a state-funded Native American Achievement Grant, a 3-year project to jumpstart improvements in academic outcomes for Native American students and increase student success. The project requires schools to build cultural identities, encourage academic perseverance, and develop student leadership skills. Schools that received these funds are expected to integrate Native American culture and language throughout their curriculum. It's truly a remarkable program.

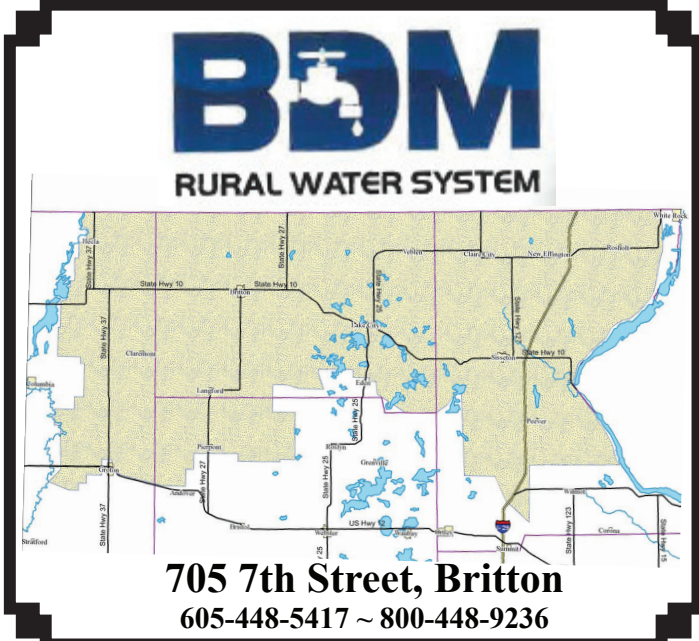
Because of this grant, Todd County Middle School has implemented several changes that are benefitting both the students and their community. They are incorporating Lakota language and culture into their school, addressing mental health, and meeting students where they are at for both behavior and academic needs.

It is a student-centered environment. Each morning, teachers and students start the day with wellness activities to get kids in the mindset for school. They make sure every student has had something to eat. Teachers collaborate and work together to instruct and support students. In addition to traditional counseling services, they have implemented a recovery room where students can go to work through anxiety or take time to sort through a difficult situation. These rooms are staffed with counselors and have proven successful in curbing violence in the school and helping students be ready to learn in the classroom.

And the results speak for themselves. The 8th grade class I talked with went from 78 acts of violence in their 5th grade year to only four incidents of violence as 8th graders. Academic gains are emerging as well. The students are articulate, confident, and optimistic – a reflection of the atmosphere throughout the school.

I was incredibly impressed by Todd County Middle School, and I know that successes like this are mirrored all over our state. Teachers are working to inspire students and prepare them for the workforce. I'm committed to further expanding opportunities in this arena, too. In a few months, we'll launch our "South Dakota Week of Work," which will expose students to high-demand careers and innovative businesses right here in South Dakota.

So as another summer comes to an end, let me leave our students (and teachers too!) with this back-to-school encouragement: Find things you are passionate about and act on them. Be bold. See the good in people. Focus each day on leaving this world a little better than you found it.



BDM
RURAL WATER SYSTEM

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The image shows a map of the BDM Rural Water System service area in South Dakota. The map includes major roads like State Hwy 10, State Hwy 37, State Hwy 27, State Hwy 25, State Hwy 13, and US Hwy 92. It also shows several towns and cities such as Britton, New Elliman, Clarion, and Puffer. The map is framed by a decorative border.

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It's Always Ag Appreciation Day in South Dakota

By Sen. John Thune

The Sioux Empire Fair's Ag Appreciation Day is one of many annual events throughout South Dakota that I try to attend each year. It's a great event for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is the hardworking farmers and ranchers who I'm able to see and personally thank for everything they do to help support our state's number one industry.

This year's event was a successful one, as always, where the food and company was far better than my rendition of "You Are My Sunshine" – another annual tradition. A big thanks to Mogen's Heroes for their musical accompaniment, but let's just say, I won't be selling out stadiums any time soon.

I've spent a lot of time this year listening to South Dakota's agriculture community. Things have been tough, which is an understatement, I know. Mother Nature has thrown one thing after another at farmers and ranchers, and it would be hard enough if it were only the weather that had contributed to this year's difficulties, but it's not. Producers have been left in the wake of multiple protracted trade disputes that have only compounded the anxiety in farm country during this growing season.

My message to the president and his administration throughout these ongoing trade disputes has been the same message that you've relayed to me: We need to successfully conclude these negotiations as soon as possible in order to expand existing markets and open new markets around the world. I believe it's the best way to create additional opportunities for producers and help ensure they are profitable in 2019 and beyond.

While we've seen some recent successes in Japan and the European Union, China remains one of most challenging hurdles to overcome. They're always playing the long game, and they're willing to endure economic pain that could only be tolerated by a state-run economy, which they're using as a weapon in this trade dispute.

Let me be clear: While I strongly support the president's goal in this fight, I can't emphasize enough how important it is that it come to a successful conclusion as soon as possible, because it's continuing to take a toll on the agriculture community, and they're feeling it.

Farmers and ranchers will be the first to tell you that they would much rather receive a check from a satisfied customer than from Uncle Sam. I truly believe most folks who aren't in the agriculture industry understand that, too, but I also believe they recognize there are times, like the ones we're facing today, where the agriculture community needs help in the form of a hand up, not a handout.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is currently in the process of accepting applications for its second round of Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments, which are intended to help producers who have been affected by the current sluggish agriculture economy, trade uncertainty, and difficult growing season offset some of their losses. MFP sign-ups began in late July and will be open until December 6, 2019, and payments are expected to begin by the end of August.

I've fought hard to help ease some of the requirements for folks to qualify for MFP payments, and while several of these efforts have been successful, I will continue to do everything I can to help mitigate the pain. None of these short-term programs will be able to fully replace what these folks have already lost, and they are merely a Band-Aid amid this ongoing trauma, but South Dakotans will always have their back, and for one big reason: the agriculture community has always had theirs.

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Daycare

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605/397-2633

Rapid City Family's Adoption Story an Inspiration to Us All

By U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

Raising a family has been the greatest privilege of my life. Jean and I have been blessed with four children and ten grandchildren who all live near our home in Fort Pierre. Providing a loving home where kids can grow up, learn values and feel safe is one of the most important jobs we as parents have to prepare them for their futures.

Every child deserves the love and support that a family provides. As any parent knows, raising kids is both the most rewarding and toughest job in the world. This includes parents who choose to adopt and raise children in need of a loving home. I have long been a proponent of adoption. Through my work as a senator, I have the opportunity to nominate a South Dakota family or organization for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's "Angels in Adoption" award each year. I was pleased to nominate Sean and Caresa O'Connor of Rapid City to be this year's Angels in Adoption.

Caresa and Sean first decided to explore adoption after their daughter Libby, then a high school student, told her mom that there was another baby out there for them that they needed to go find. She was so adamant, that Caresa called her husband to tell him about it and after praying together, they decided to call an adoption attorney. The attorney told them the process could take one to five years, but just three weeks later, they were on their way to meet their new daughter Winnie, now age 4. They then decided they wanted Winnie to have a sibling closer in age to her, so they went through the adoption process again and adopted their son RJ, now age 2.

Caresa has said that adoption brings people together—people that you never knew had a history with adoption will reach out to share advice or insight about their experience with adoption. Having a support system of people who know how the process works and can serve as a sounding board can be helpful. The O'Connors faced some hardship during their second adoption, which was disrupted twice. However, it all worked out for the best as Caresa says God matches you with your baby—the right baby for you and your family. We're so pleased the adoption process worked out the way it did for the O'Connor family.

The Angels in Adoption program highlights the need for loving families to open their homes and their hearts to children in need of a permanent, stable home. Angels in Adoption nominees like Sean and Caresa are honored for the work they do to share the positive impact adoption can make in the lives of children and families.

I'm pleased to nominate Sean and Caresa as this year's Angels in Adoption. Their inspiring adoption story shows us all that the foundation of any strong family is love, and that God works to bring families together. The impact adoption can have on families, children and societies is truly life-changing. I thank all the families who open their doors to kids in need.



"Jim of All Trades"
Handyman Service

605/397-7013

SDDVA Secretary Whitlock's August Column –

There is no Time Like Fair Time!

Greg Whitlock, Secretary - South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Whether you're 5, 15, 30, or 50 years of age, or older, the State Fair always promises a great time for all that attend.

Face it, the State Fair is unlike anything that has ever existed. Where else can you inhale a huge plate of fried food while walking toward the carnival rides? Where else can you have a corn dog for your main entree and funnel cake for dessert? Where else can you get anything fried on a stick? Where else can you watch grandstand performances and get up on stage for a little Karaoke? Where else can you visit a car show, tractor show, goat tying, arm wrestling, and play arcade games all within a few blocks of each other? Where else can you be right next to celebrities and political candidates and take selfies with them? Where else can you shop, learn, and connect with old friends while tracking five miles on your walk app? The list goes on and so does the fun!

The Fair also provides great opportunities for veterans. We may not be serving up fried pickles, cotton candy, kettle corn, or turkey legs, but we'll have a building full of experts that can answer veterans questions on disability, compensation, healthcare, long term care, home loans, rehabilitation and education, employment and training programs, pension, and death benefits. The Veterans Building, located on Flag Avenue, will be filled with veterans who served, and continue to serve, as they dedicate their lives to enhancing the lives of our veterans. We're just a stones throw away from the midway and our team will be available from 10:00 am – 4:30 pm each day of the Fair.

On Wednesday and Thursday evenings during the Red Wilk Construction Tuff Hedeman Bull Bash, Red and his team will be honoring some very special heroes. Being a Vietnam Veteran himself, he knows the importance of honoring veterans for the sacrifices they have made for their country. Over the years, Red has honored 100 plus veterans from all over South Dakota.

The State Fair is dedicating Thursday, August 29, as a "salute to veterans." The day affords all veterans free gate admission and a day of recognition. Governor Noem and I will be sharing our messages with veterans on the Freedom Stage at 10:30 am and will also be available to visit with our great heroes after the program.

A trip to the state fair is a tradition families have passed on from generation to generation. Hope to see you there! I'll be in the food court!



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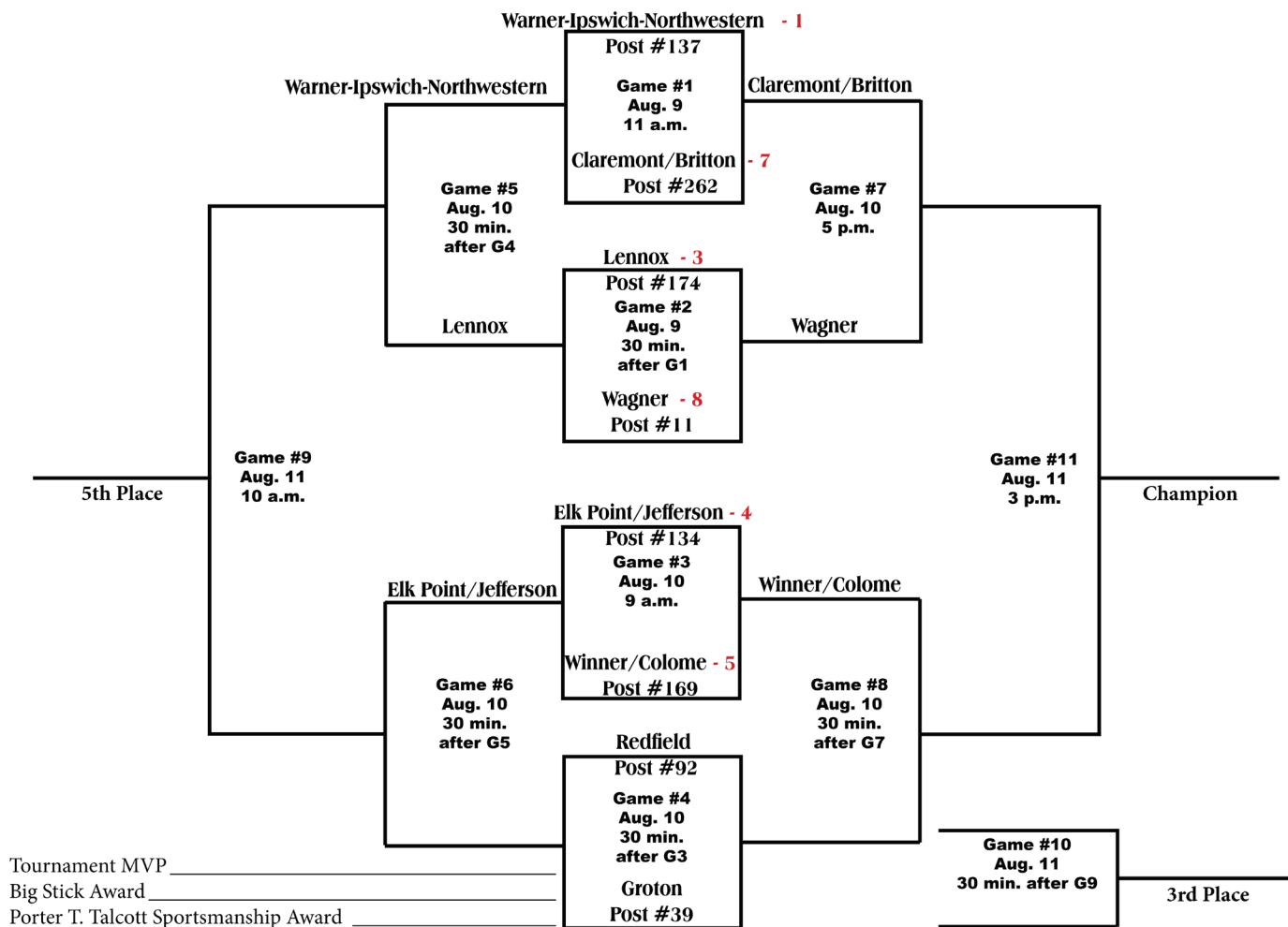
Rosewood Court has Yard of the Week

Last week's Yard of the Week was Rosewood Court. Residents pictured are Linn Wellman, Corrine VanderVorst and Toni Winther. The Yard of the Week is picked by members of the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Alyssa Sippel)

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



Mike and Jean Provide Update on Jean's Cancer Treatment

ROCHESTER, Minn. – U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) and his wife, Jean, today provided an update on Jean's cancer treatment:

"After multiple rounds of chemo treatment, we're pleased to report that not only has Jean's tumor shrunk in half, a Computerized Tomography (CT) scan showed no signs of the tumor spreading or metastasizing. The chemo is working as intended and Jean continues to handle the treatment well. We will continue with the current treatment at this time, which includes three intense days of chemotherapy followed by 18 days of recovery.

"Today's news is a testament to the power of prayer. Throughout this process, we have been overwhelmed by the support and prayers of so many. We could not have made it through the past several months without our family and South Dakota community behind us. For that, we are eternally grateful. Please keep the prayers coming!"

In June, Mike and Jean announced that Jean was diagnosed with a high-grade, aggressive tumor near her sciatic nerve. She is receiving treatment at The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

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From the Editors of E -
The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: If the world is running out of fresh water, why aren't we desalinating more ocean water?

-- H. Smith, Providence, RI

The protagonist of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 1798 lyrical ballad *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* proclaims: "Water water everywhere / nor any drop to drink" as his ship drifts through Antarctic seas with no land or fresh water in sight and the crew slowly dying of thirst. A fitting allegory for our modern age.

Indeed, we're in that same boat today given that salty oceans cover 70 percent of the Earth's surface while freshwater becomes increasingly scarcer due to human overpopulation and climate change. Globally some 700 million people lack access to clean water while droughts are the norm in many regions.

Stepping up desalination—that is, filtering salt out of seawater to make it potable—seems like an obvious solution. But the two most common techniques, reverse osmosis, pushing seawater through membranes to separate the salt; and distillation, boiling seawater and collecting the resulting salt-free water vapor, both require costly amounts of energy and infrastructure. They also create a lot of potentially toxic "brine" as waste that can kill crops and other vegetation and render groundwater too saline to drink, not to mention negatively alter the chemistry of the ocean. Currently the world's 18,000+ desalination plants pump 140 billion liters of brine into terrestrial holding pits or back into the ocean every day.

Ngai Yin Yip and his team of environmental engineers at Columbia University think their alternative method—"temperature swing solvent extraction" (TSSE)—can fix the problems of leftover brine, in turn making the desalination process cleaner and more efficient. TSSE uses a solvent that reacts to inexpensive low-grade heat to extract freshwater as efficiently as RO or distillation at a fraction of the cost.

Another promising alternative as pioneered by Penn State engineer Bruce Logan and colleagues is called battery electrode deionization (BDI), in which salty water is routed into channels with electrodes designed to capture salt ions and divert freshwater and salt accordingly. BDI is still in the R&D phase, but researchers hope it can eventually become a useful alternative to reverse osmosis or distillation.

But even these alternatives may be less desirable than leaving ocean water alone and focusing instead on conservation and recycling of existing fresh water supplies. The non-profit Pacific Institute reports that stepping up conservation and efficiency measures already in place in water-wise regions like California could reduce annual water use in urban areas by as much as 57 percent. Meanwhile, recycling (and treating) freshwater and making a bigger effort to capture stormwater run-off could produce enough drinking water to quench Los Angeles' thirst two times over.

Given the magnitude of the problem, we need to embrace all forms of increasing our supplies of fresh-water, whether they involve old-school methods like recycling or new-fangled approaches like technology-enabled desalination.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at [HYPERLINK "https://emagazine.com"](https://emagazine.com) <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit [HYPERLINK "https://earthtalk.org"](https://earthtalk.org) <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

We need our farmers.

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

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

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

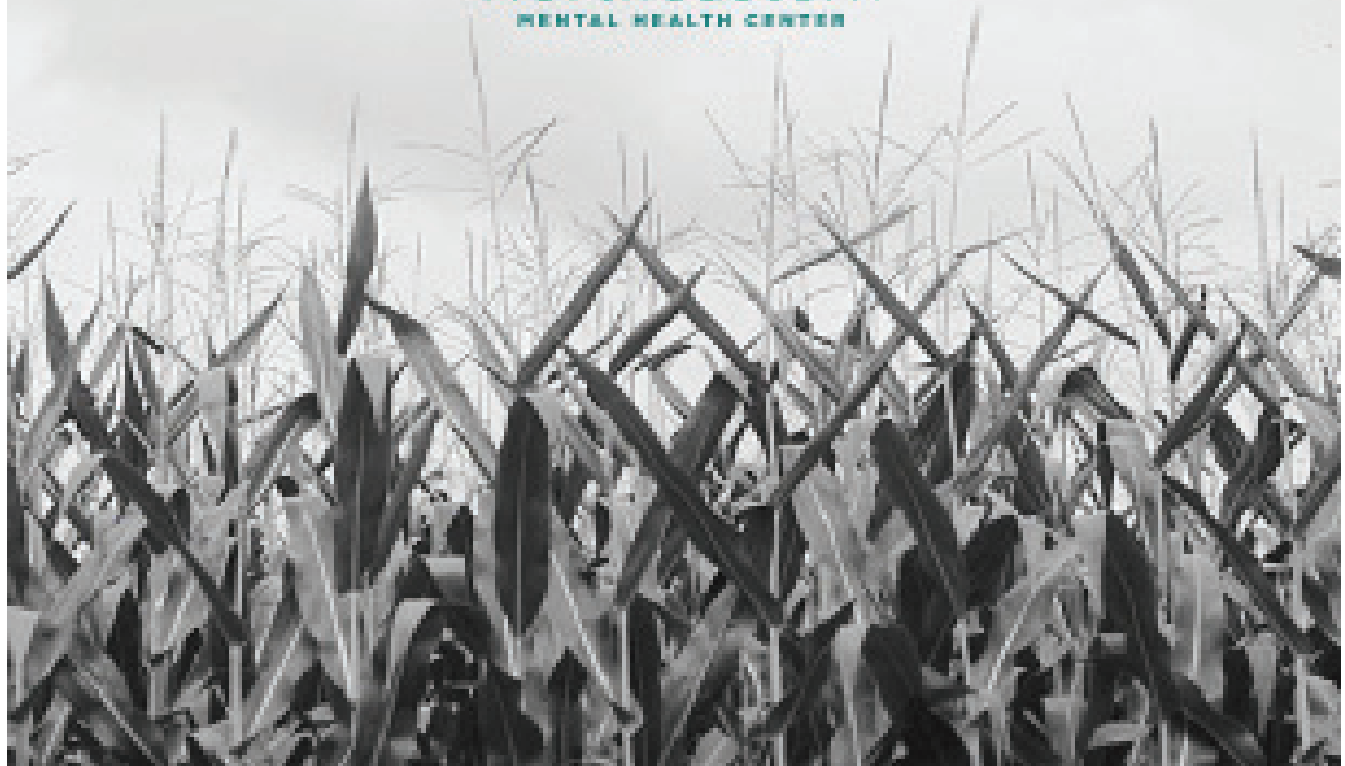
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

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



Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



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Today



Mostly Cloudy

High: 77 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 60 °F

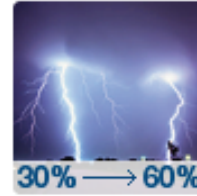
Sunday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 77 °F

Sunday
Night



30% → 60%

Chance
T-storms then
T-storms
Likely

Low: 64 °F

Monday



60%

T-storms
Likely

High: 79 °F

Cloudy With Gradual Clearing Today

Highs:
Low 70s East - Mid 80s West



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

NWSAberdeen

Created: 8/10/2019 3:53 AM

@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 08/10/2019 at 12:11 AM

Clouds and humid conditions will persist across the area today, and that will keep temperatures cool until the afternoon when we could see a few breaks allow for readings to warm into the 70s and 80s. We'll see a low chance for storms out west for Sunday but really its Sunday night/Monday when we'll see more widespread rainfall return to the area.

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Today in Weather History

August 10, 1886: An estimated F3 tornado moved southeast from 10 miles northwest of Aberdeen. This massive tornado destroyed four homes and a dozen barns. This is the earliest significant tornado on record for Brown County.

August 10, 2007: Several supercell thunderstorms developed along a frontal boundary during the evening bringing large hail, damaging winds, along with a couple of tornadoes. An EF0 tornado touched down north of Timber Lake with no damage reported. Another EF0 tornado touched down briefly north of Trail City with no damage occurring. Wakpala, in Corson County, and Mobridge saw golf ball sized hail. The hail broke some windows and damaged the siding on several houses in the Mobridge area.

1884: An earthquake, centered near New York City and registering a magnitude 5.5, hit the region a little after 2 PM. The tremor made houses shake, chimneys fall, and residents wonder what the heck was going on, according to a New York Times article two days later. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the USGS.

1856: A hurricane destroyed Isle Dernieres or Last Island, a pleasure resort south-southwest of New Orleans on this day. The highest points of the island were under five feet of water. The resort hotel was destroyed, along with the island's gambling establishments. Over 200 people perished, and the island lost all its vegetation and split in half. Only one cow remained on the island after the catastrophe. The Last Island is now just a haven for pelicans and other seabirds. The steamer Nautilus foundered during the storm. The lone survivor clung to a bale of cotton and washed ashore sometime later.

1856 - The Isle Derniere (Last Island) disaster occurred off the coast of Louisiana. A storm tide drowned 140 vacationers as a five foot wave swept over Low Island during a hurricane. (The Weather Channel)

1882 - Sandusky OH noted a four minute snow squall during the morning, frost was reported in the suburbs of Chicago, and a killing frost was reported at Cresco IA. (The Weather Channel)

1898 - The temperature at Pendleton OR climbed all the way to 119 degrees at set a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1924 - Colorado's deadliest tornado killed a woman and nine children in one house along its twenty-mile path east southeast of Thurman. Mennonite men had left the farm to provide possible aid, as the 200-yard wide storm was first seen while far away.(The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature soared to 114 degrees at Plain Dealing, LA, and reached 120 degrees at Ozark AR, to establish record highs for those two states. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - Hurricane Allen came ashore above Brownsville, TX, dropping fifteen inches of rain near San Antonio, and up to 20 inches in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Tidal flooding occurred along the South Texas coast. Hurricane Allen packed winds to 150 mph, and also spawned twenty-nine tornadoes. Total damage from the storm was estimated at 750 million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in the southeastern U.S. Ten cities in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina reported record high temperatures for the date. Macon GA hit 101 degrees. A tropical depression deluged southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana with torrential rains. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Citizens of Bluefield, WV, where the Chamber of Commerce provides free lemonade on days when the temperature warms into the 90s, were able to celebrate their record high of 90 degrees. Eight other cities also reported record high temperatures for the date,including Bismarck ND with a reading of 102 degrees.(The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirty-eight cities in the south central and southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 48 degrees, and Victoria TX with a low of 63 degrees. Oklahoma City OK reported a record cool afternoon high of 71 degrees, and the daily high of 64 degrees at Raleigh NC established a record for August. In Arizona, a record sixty-four day streak of 100 degree days at Phoenix came to an end.(The National Weather Summary)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 75 °F at 11:41 AM

Low Temp: 59 °F at 7:04 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 11:30 AM

Day Rain: 0.34

Record High: 106° in 1947

Record Low: 42° in 1985

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.71

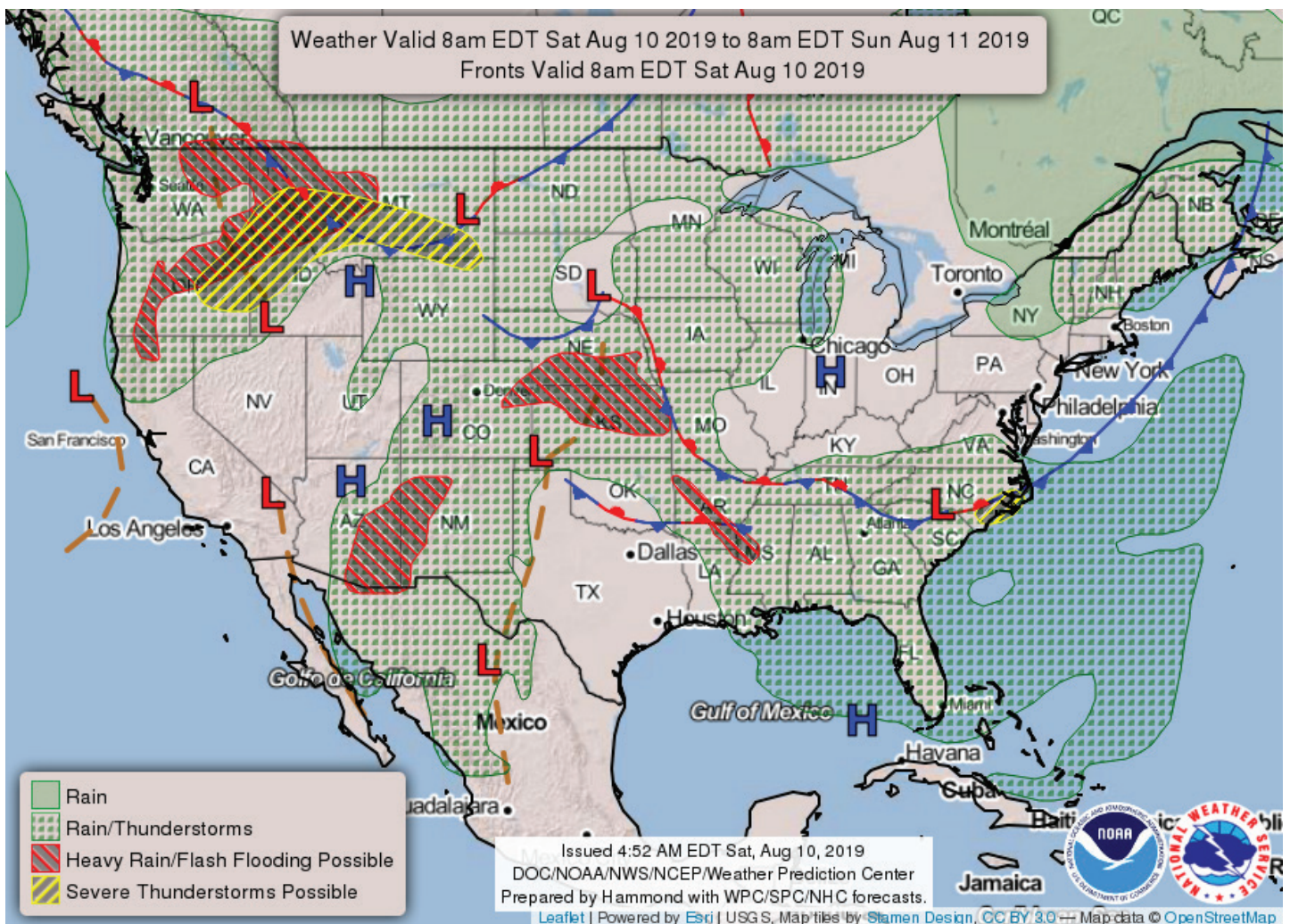
Precip to date in Aug.: 1.08

Average Precip to date: 14.57

Precip Year to Date: 17.67

Sunset Tonight: 8:49 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:29 a.m.



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WATCH YOUR STEP!

We live in a politically correct society. Each day brings new challenges and attacks on our faith, beliefs, values, families, churches, and the list actually seems endless. What was once the source of strength, hope, courage, encouragement, inspiration, wisdom, guidance and the guardian of our lives - Gods Holy Word - has now become irrelevant, ridiculed constantly, under attack by those who are godless, and has been replaced by humanism.

Listen, however, to the wise insight of Solomon: The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it. There is a very important distinction between the prudent and the simple. The simple are those who are open-minded to whatever is popular at the moment. They have no standards or criteria to distinguish between right and wrong. If it is in fashion or fashionable, popular or predominate in the lives of celebrities or politicians, the simple fall in line and become believers, then leaders and followers in the revolt to take God from His rightful place in His world.

But the prudent are different. They are filled with insight and good judgment. They wisely view all alternatives before making a decision. They are careful and cautious and use good, God-centered wisdom in all decisions. In this verse, prudent people are people who apply Gods guidance to lifes situations and follow His directions.

In another proverb, Solomon wrote, The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. Thank God for His wisdom! Follow it carefully!

Prayer: Thank You, God, for providing us the path to successful living. May our decisions reflect prudence that comes from knowing Your Word and following Your way. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 27:12 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Why murals will be the next public art trend in Sioux Falls

By JOE SNEVE The Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — First it was the Washington Pavilion. Then came SculptureWalk, Levitt at the Falls and, most recently, the Arc of Dreams.

Downtown Sioux Falls has experienced what Mayor Paul TenHaken and other community advocates have called an art renaissance in recent years. And art murals on exterior building walls could be the next step.

Sioux Falls already has a few them. Artist and muralist Shaine Schroeder in 2017 created a mural on the side of the Common Sense building at 12th Street and Second Avenue. And a large art piece, also Schroeder's, has graced the patio wall of M.B. Haskett on Phillips Avenue for years.

But now there's a concerted effort being spearheaded by the mayor's office and Downtown Sioux Falls, Inc. (DTSF) to transform blank walls into large pieces of art.

"We want to bring people to all areas of downtown and activate them through art, and murals are a great way to do that," DTSF President Joe Batcheller told the Argus Leader last month.

A mural is essentially any piece of artwork that's placed directly on a wall, ceiling or permanent surface. It could be painted or applied similarly to wallpaper.

Erica Beck, chief of staff in the mayor's office, said the TenHaken administration is taking "more intentional focus" on culture and arts through all of downtown, including murals.

The south side of the city's new parking ramp, which faces one of the busiest thoroughfares downtown and sits on the busiest corner in the neighborhood, is an ideal candidate for a mural, she said. She also sees the north side of the 10th Street viaduct bridge as a future mural site.

"That kind of art leads to additional people wanting to visit our community and experience our community," Beck said.

She said she also sees murals and other art works as a way to connect downtown to other core Sioux Falls neighborhoods that surround it through what's known as "place making." That's taking a static,



This July 21, 2017, photo shows M.B. Haskett's back patio walls transformed into a mural by Sioux Falls artist Shaine Schroeder, covering all four walls. Downtown Sioux Falls has experienced what Mayor Paul TenHaken and other community advocates have called an art renaissance in recent years. And art murals on exterior building walls could be the next step. The TenHaken administration is taking "more intentional focus" on culture and arts through all of downtown, including murals. (Shayna Burt/The Argus Leader via AP)

underused space and creating vibrancy, often time through art.

When it comes to the rules around murals, city ordinance is generally permissive. However, in 2016, a mural on the side of the Elegant Mommy retail store location near 37th Street and Minnesota Avenue prompted administrative action from City Hall.

The mural featured four renderings of mothers with their children along with the store name and a description of the type of goods and services offered. City zoning officials ruled that was in violation of ordinance, which says murals can't double as advertisement. Eventually, the store removed the text to get into compliance with city rules.

Zach DeBoer, vice president of the Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission, said that was an unfortunate situation that had a cooling effect on others' aspirations to create murals on their places of business.

"A lot of people think the city has either been stopping or preventing it, and instances like the Elegant Mommy doesn't help," he said. "But nothing that I've ever read in our ordinance stops anyone from painting or creating a mural . . . as long as it's not advertising what's sold inside."

And with a City Hall now embracing murals, there's real optimism that more will start showing up downtown. Batcheller said DTSF is working with building owners to garner interest in murals and has an arts fund in its budget to aid in paying for the creation of more art downtown.

In 2017, DTSF supplied about 30% of the funding for the mural on the side of the Common Sense retail store at 12th Street and Dakota Avenue. Today, it's become a place where people take selfies and group photos.

"That was meant really as a pilot project to see what sort of response we'd get from it," Batcheller said. "We can all say that's been very successful. ... It's become a destination."

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

Memorial to 'mother of Rapid City' abandoned, deteriorating

By SETH TUPPER Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A large concrete memorial that was created in 1937 to honor a Rapid City pioneer has been abandoned, forgotten and left to deteriorate behind a communications tower for the past 62 years, according to recent discoveries by local historical sleuths.

One of the people involved in locating the memorial, Jean Kessloff, said she is saddened by the memorial's fate.

"Is that the way we treat our history in this town?" she asked. "That's kind of how I feel about it."

Kessloff and others now hope the memorial can be salvaged and placed somewhere it can be appreciated again.

The memorial honored Alice Gossage, who arrived from Vermillion during Rapid City's official founding year of 1882 "to find a rough appearing western village which was to become the field of her life's work," according to her 1929 obituary in the Rapid City Journal.

Gossage's husband, Joseph, founded the Journal in 1878. His chronic health problems soon propelled Alice into a long-lasting leadership role at the paper, where she became a pioneering female publisher and editor who was involved in every aspect of the operation, from writing and typesetting to sales and delivery.

Her newspaper work made her a central figure in the city's early growth and history, but it was her charitable work that endeared her to Rapid City residents who later took great pains to memorialize her.

Gossage founded a charitable group called the Sunshine Society and devoted a portion of the Journal's building to the storage and distribution of shoes and clothing for the needy. According to her obituary, Gossage took "almost the entire responsibility for giving relief" to Rapid City's poorest residents during its earliest years.

Gossage sold the paper in 1925, her husband died in 1927, and she died in 1929 at the age of 68. Later

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tributes to Gossage referred to her as the “mother of Rapid City.”

Gossage’s contributions to Rapid City were so great that when local leaders conceived an idea during the early 1930s for a scenic drive atop a high ridge adjacent to the city — what became today’s Skyline Drive — a local businessman named Horace Gambrill proposed the creation of a memorial to Gossage at the road’s highest point, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Land for the memorial, which was designated as a park, was donated by George Mansfield and John Haines. Gambrill, along with the Fortnightly Club, of which Gossage had been a member, and other community leaders spearheaded a multi-year effort to raise money for a memorial structure. An architectural firm from Sioux Falls volunteered to design it.

The nation’s economy was crippled by the Great Depression, but money trickled to the fundraising committee in amounts ranging from 50 cents to \$10, along with touching written tributes to Gossage. Archives maintained by the Minnilusa Historical Association and Pioneer Museum, which is housed at the Journey Museum and Learning Center in Rapid City, include some of the letters and checks that were received.

U.S. Rep. Francis Case, who went on to become a U.S. senator and formerly worked for Gossage at the Journal, sent \$3 and wrote, “I want you definitely to know that if you are short on funds for this particular Memorial, I want to contribute again.” Recalling his time working for Gossage, Case wrote, “I think I have an admiration for her courage, her humanity and her determination and self-sacrifice that no one can exceed.”

The Minnilusa records and the Journal’s archives indicate that about \$300 was raised over the course of several years. Then, in 1937, the Works Progress Administration, a program begun by President Franklin Roosevelt to put people to work during the Depression, agreed to contribute labor to construct the memorial.

In the final tally, according to a recollection published by the Journal in 1948, the WPA spent \$2,992 on the memorial and the fundraising committee contributed \$326, for a total of \$3,318, which would equate to nearly \$60,000 today.

Construction of the memorial proceeded while Skyline Drive was being carved into the ridge and graveled, and also while statues of dinosaurs — today’s Dinosaur Park — were being erected farther north along the same ridge.

“The memorial itself is a shaft four or five feet high, square and concrete, on a large concrete base,” the Journal reported at the time. The memorial site was a flat, treeless spot atop the ridge from which could be seen “Rapid City to the east, Cowboy hill to the north, western Rapid valley to the west, and to the south the Harney range of the Black Hills.”

A bronze plaque affixed to the front of the memorial read, “Dedicated to the memory of Alice Gossage, pioneer, newspaper woman, humanitarian, friend, 1861-1929.” In tribute to Gossage’s Sunshine Society, a sundial was set into the top of the memorial.

During a dedication ceremony on June 5, 1938, dozens of people gathered in the Congregational Church to hear several speeches about Gossage.



A monument to Alice Gossage a founder of the Rapid City Journal that was originally on Skyline Drive in Rapid City, S.D., is shown in this July 30, 2019, photo. (Adam Fondren/

Rapid City Journal via AP)

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"The community owes a debt to such a person, a debt that cannot be paid — the only thing we can do is to build a memorial to her," Mayor Robert Hill said during his remarks.

After the speeches and several musical performances, attendees drove up Skyline Drive in a procession and gathered to watch one of Gossage's lifelong friends place a wreath on the memorial.

Despite the solemn respect paid to Gossage that day, her memorial would suffer a sadly surprising and unceremonious fate only 20 years later.

To the chagrin of many in the community who witnessed the expense and labor that had gone into Skyline Drive's construction during the 1930s, the road fell into disrepair during the 1940s. In 1947, a Journal editorial said the road "is now blocked off and is growing up to weeds."

The city made repairs to the road, but its condition continued to lapse. In 1940 and 1956, lawsuits filed by the original grantors of city parkland along Skyline Drive succeeded in returning some of the property back to private ownership on the grounds that the city had neglected to adequately care for it.

One of the lawsuits was filed by Richard "Dick" Mansfield, son of George Mansfield, one of the men who had donated land for the Gossage Memorial in the 1930s. Mansfield won his lawsuit against the city in 1956.

Archived notes of 1955 and 1956 meetings of the Minnilusa Historical Association indicate Mansfield was awarded ownership of the Gossage Memorial site and agreed to donate it to the association. The notes also say a company hoping to erect the second television transmitter tower in Rapid City came forward and offered the association \$800 for the land, which was a conveniently flat and high place for a tower. The association — which had been raising money for an addition to its museum in the building now occupied by Rapid City's Parks and Recreation Department in Halley Park — accepted the offer, according to the meeting notes.

Real-estate records show that Mansfield deeded the Gossage Memorial land to new owners in 1957. That same year, the new owners, Harry Daniels, of Deadwood, and Eli Daniels, of Rapid City, joined with John Daniels, of Deadwood, to construct a 450-foot tower for a new KRSD-TV station on the memorial site. The TV tower has since changed ownership and affiliation and is now the tower for KELO-TV and multiple radio stations.

The Journal, which published numerous stories during the 1930s about the planning, construction and dedication of the memorial, appears to have devoted less coverage to the memorial's fate in the 1950s. A 1957 story and photo package about the TV tower said it was "at the site of the old Gossage Memorial" without explaining what happened to the memorial. In 1958, a Journal story about the Minnilusa Historical Association reported that Mansfield had been elected its vice president, and "the Alice Gossage Memorial had been relocated to Halley Park from its former site on Skyline Drive."

But that was not entirely true. Only the memorial's small bronze plaque and sundial had been relocated and affixed to a pillar of quarried rocks and mortar in the southeast corner of Halley Park. That memorial still stands today, but it's largely unknown to the community.

The large concrete memorial structure that had been so lovingly placed atop Skyline Drive only 20 years earlier was left there, for reasons that do not appear to have been disclosed in the historical record.

Whether the concrete structure was pushed over before or during the erection of the TV tower, or whether the old memorial fell over then or sometime later, is also unknown to the local historical sleuths who have investigated it. However it happened, the memorial lies on its side today, cracked and deteriorating and nearly overtaken by vegetation, behind and just outside a fence that surrounds the TV tower. The old memorial is out of view to motorists on Skyline Drive, but is easily accessible by a gravel road that leads behind the tower.

The community's collective memory of the old memorial faded over the decades. Last winter, Pat Roseland, a local history buff, saw a 1930s picture of the memorial in a book about Pennington County's history. He did not recognize the memorial and wondered if it still existed.

Another local history buff, Jean Kessloff, joined the search and communicated with the city's Parks and Recreation Department, which had a picture on file of the concrete memorial's remains but possessed little further information. From the picture, Roseland determined the location of the memorial and found

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it last month.

Roseland and Mark Slocum, the executive director of the Minnilusa Historical Association and Pioneer Museum, subsequently located records in the Minnilusa archives that shed light on the memorial's creation and demise. The Journal found real-estate records pertaining to the old memorial site with the assistance of the Pennington County Register of Deeds Office.

Roseland now hopes the memorial can be resurrected.

"In my mind, it's still recoverable and reusable," he said.

There are still Alice Gossage relatives living in the Rapid City area, including her great niece, Laura Tonkyn, of Nemo. Tonkyn was aware of the modern memorial to her great aunt in Halley Park but was only vaguely aware of the earlier memorial to Gossage atop Skyline Drive. Tonkyn, who formerly worked for the Journal, said her family would welcome efforts to rescue the old concrete structure.

"If anybody gets a notion to do something with it," she said, "that would be nice."

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

15-53-56-59-63, Mega Ball: 1, Megaplier: 2

(fifteen, fifty-three, fifty-six, fifty-nine, sixty-three; Mega Ball: one; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$128 million

Law governing adoptions of Native American children upheld

By KEVIN MCGILL Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A 1978 law giving preference to Native American families in foster care and adoption proceedings involving American Indian children is constitutional, a federal appeals court ruled Friday, reversing a lower court judge in a case fraught with emotional arguments over adoptive families being "torn apart" and the urgency of protecting tribal families and cultures.

The decision from a three-judge panel the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal in New Orleans upholds the Indian Child Welfare Act in a lawsuit involving non-Indian families in multiple states who adopted or sought to adopt Native American children.

Opponents of the law called it an unconstitutional race-based intrusion on states' powers to govern adoptions. But the 5th Circuit majority disagreed, saying the law's definition of an "Indian child" is a political classification.

The opinion by Judge James L. Dennis said the U.S. Supreme Court has long recognized that Congress has broad power to regulate Native American tribes. And it said the act's definition of Indian child is broad.

"As Defendants explain, under some tribal membership laws, eligibility extends to children without Indian blood, such as the descendants of former slaves of tribes who became members after they were freed, or the descendants of adopted white persons," Dennis wrote. "Accordingly, a child may fall under ICWA's membership eligibility standard because his or her biological parent became a member of a tribe, despite not being racially Indian."

The decision was a victory for the U.S. Justice Department, which defended the law, and supporters who say the law is needed to protect and preserve Native American culture and families.

"We are pleased that the court followed decades of legal precedent in its ruling, preserving a law that protects Indian children and allows them to retain their identity by staying within their families and tribal

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communities," leaders of the Cherokee, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Oneida Nation and the Quinault Nation said in a joint press release.

Tyson Johnston, vice president of the tribal council of the Quinault Indian Nation in Tahola, Washington, was one of numerous tribal representatives who attended arguments in New Orleans in March. "This serves the best interest of our native children and families," he said in a telephone interview.

The ruling's immediate effect on adoptive families was unclear. Matthew McGill, an attorney who represented four families was not immediately available for comment Friday evening.

The lead plaintiffs in the lawsuit challenging the law are Chad and Jennifer Brackeen, a Texas couple who fostered a baby eligible for membership in both the Navajo and Cherokee tribes. The boy's parents voluntarily terminated their parental rights and the Brackeens petitioned to adopt him. After legal battles, they were able to keep him when a placement with a Navajo family fell through. They hope to adopt his younger half-sister, according to briefs.

McGill represents the Brackeens and a Minnesota couple, the Jason and Danielle Clifford, who were unable to adopt a child who lived with them after having been shuttled among foster homes. "The Cliffords' family was literally torn apart," he told the appeals court judges during arguments in March.

Dennis wrote for a panel that also included judges Jacques Wiener and Priscilla Owen. A footnote in the opinion said Owen dissented in part and would soon file a separate opinion.



FILE - In this Wednesday, March 13, 2019, file photo, Tehassi Hill, tribal chairman of the Oneida Nation, stands outside a federal appeals court in New Orleans, following arguments on the constitutionality of a 1978 law giving Native American families preference in adoption of Native American children. On Friday, Aug. 9, 2019, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld the constitutionality of the law. (AP Photo/Kevin McGill, File)

\$4M deal reached in deadly South Dakota building collapse

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Insurers for the developer and construction company involved in the fatal collapse of a building in downtown Sioux Falls in 2016 will pay more than \$4 million to settle lawsuits filed in the aftermath.

An agreement reached in U.S. Bankruptcy Court and approved by a judge this week ends most of the litigation resulting from the collapse of the former Copper Lounge building. The Dec. 2, 2016, collapse killed Ethan McMahon, an employee of Hultgren Construction, and left upstairs resident Emily Fodness trapped in the rubble for hours.

The agreement ends lawsuits brought against Hultgren and Legacy Developments by the McMahon and Fodness families, as well as other parties, the Argus Leader reported.

"No amount of money will bring Ethan back, but this is another step in the grieving process for his family," said McMahon family attorney Vince Roche. "With the bankruptcy proceedings behind us, we can now focus on pursuing our claims against Rise Structural Associates for its part in this tragedy."

Rise Structural Associates was the structural engineer on the project and has denied it was responsible

for the collapse.

The insurance company for Hultgren Construction, which declared bankruptcy, will pay \$2 million. An additional \$1.15 million will come from property insurance and \$1 million will be paid by Legacy Developments' insurance company.

Under the terms of the agreement, several parties will split just under \$630,000. The McMahon and Fodness families will split the remaining amount, about \$3.4 million.

The Copper Lounge was being renovated and collapsed when a load-bearing wall was removed by Hultgren Construction, which was owned by Legacy Developments executives.

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



FILE - In this Dec. 2, 2016, file photo, emergency personnel rescue a woman from the rubble after the Copper Lounge building collapsed in downtown Sioux Falls, S.D. In August 2019, the developer and construction company involved in the fatal collapse of the building agreed to a settlement of more than \$4 million. The agreement would end most of the litigation resulting from the collapse of the former Copper Lounge building. (Joe Ahlquist/The Argus Leader via AP, File)

Military: Midwest balloon flights didn't spy on civilians

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The military says recent high-altitude balloon flights over South Dakota and other Midwest states complied with federal laws against conducting surveillance on civilians.

Pentagon spokesman Chris Mitchell says two test flights that launched from Baltic, South Dakota, recently were part of a project to develop all-weather radar-imaging capability from the stratosphere. He says no tracking information was collected during these flights, and none will be collected in future flights.

But the South Dakota chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union said Friday it still has many questions about the imagery and how it will be used.

Policy Director Libby Skarin says the Pentagon statement seems to contradict filings, first reported by The Guardian, saying the balloons were meant to provide persistent surveillance to locate drug trafficking and homeland security threats.

Sturgis officer injured during pursuit

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A Sturgis police officer has been seriously injured in a motorcycle crash during a pursuit.

The officer was injured Thursday on Highway 14A, two miles southwest of Sturgis. The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the 54-year-old officer was pursuing another motorcycle rider when he lost control on a curve, went into the ditch and was thrown from his bike. The Highway Patrol didn't say why he was pursuing the other motorcycle.

The crash was one of several that have been reported during this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which wraps up Sunday.

Officials: Jeffrey Epstein dies by suicide in jail cell

By **JIM MUSTIAN** and
MICHAEL R. SISA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jeffrey Epstein, the well-connected financier accused of orchestrating a sex-trafficking ring, killed himself while awaiting trial in a New York prison, officials said Saturday.

Epstein was found unresponsive in his cell Saturday morning at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, according to a statement from the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The Fire Department said it received a call at 6:39 a.m. Saturday that Epstein was in cardiac arrest, and he was pronounced dead at New York Presbyterian-Lower Manhattan Hospital.

Epstein, 66, had been denied bail and faced up to 45 years behind bars on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges unsealed last month. Prosecutors accused him of sexually abusing dozens of underage girls. He had pleaded not guilty.

His arrest last month launched separate investigations into how authorities handled his case initially when similar charges were first brought against him in Florida more than a decade ago. U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta resigned last month after coming under fire for overseeing that deal when he was U.S. attorney in Miami.

The Bureau of Prisons confirmed that he had been housed in the jail's Special Housing Unit, a heavily secured part of the facility that separates high-profile inmates from the general population. Until recently, the same unit had been home to the Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who is now serving a life sentence at the so-called Supermax prison in Colorado.

A little over two weeks ago, Epstein was found on the floor of his jail cell with bruises on his neck, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity. At the time, it was not clear whether the injuries were self-inflicted or from an assault.

Epstein's death is likely to raise questions about how the Bureau of Prisons ensures the welfare of high-profile inmates. In October, Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger was killed in a federal prison in West Virginia where had just been transferred.

Cameron Lindsay, a former warden who ran three federal lockups, said the death represents "an unfortunate and shocking failure, if proven to be a suicide."

"Unequivocally, he should have been on active suicide watch and therefore under direct and constant supervision," Lindsay said. "When you have an inmate as high profile as Epstein, it's absolutely imperative the warden set the tone with his or her leadership to ensure these kinds of incidents don't happen."

The FBI is investigating Epstein's death, the Bureau of Prisons said.

On Friday, more than 2,000 pages of documents were released related to a since-settled lawsuit against Epstein's ex-girlfriend by Virginia Giuffre, one of Epstein's accusers. The records contain graphic allegations against Epstein, as well as the transcript of a 2016 deposition of Epstein in which he repeatedly refused to answer questions to avoid incriminating himself.

Sigrid McCawley, Giuffre's attorney, said Epstein's suicide less than 24 hours after the documents were



FILE - This March 28, 2017, file photo, provided by the New York State Sex Offender Registry shows Jeffrey Epstein. Epstein has died by suicide while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges, says person briefed on the matter, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019. (New York State Sex Offender Registry via AP, File)

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unsealed "is no coincidence." McCawley called on federal authorities to continue their investigation, focusing on Epstein associates who she said "participated and facilitated Epstein's horrifying sex trafficking scheme."

"The reckoning of accountability begun by the voices of brave and truthful victims should not end with Jeffrey Epstein's cowardly and shameful suicide," McCawley said in a statement. "The victims await the true justice they have sought and deserve."

Other accusers and their lawyers reacted to the news with frustration that the financier won't have to face them in court.

"We have to live with the scars of his actions for the rest of our lives, while he will never face the consequences of the crimes he committed the pain and trauma he caused so many people," accuser Jennifer Araoz said in a statement.

Brad Edwards, a Florida lawyer for nearly two dozen other accusers, said that "this is not the ending anyone was looking for."

"The victims deserved to see Epstein held accountable, and he owed it to everyone he hurt to accept responsibility for all of the pain he caused," Edwards said in a statement.

Epstein's arrest drew national attention, particularly focusing on a deal that allowed Epstein to plead guilty in 2008 to soliciting a minor for prostitution in Florida and avoid more serious federal charges.

Federal prosecutors in New York reopened the probe after investigative reporting by The Miami Herald stirred outrage over that plea bargain.

But his lawyers maintained that the new charges brought by federal prosecutors in New York were covered by the deal and were improper. They said he hasn't had any illicit contact with underage girls since serving his 13-month sentence in Florida.

Before his legal troubles, Epstein led a life of extraordinary luxury that drew powerful people into his orbit.

He socialized with princes and presidents and lived on a 100-acre private island in the Caribbean and one of the biggest mansions in New York.

The somewhat reclusive Epstein splashed into the news in 2002 after a New York tabloid reported he had lent his Boeing 727 to ferry former President Bill Clinton and other notables on an AIDS relief mission to Africa.

His friends over the years have included Donald Trump, Britain's Prince Andrew and former Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz.

But Epstein also enjoyed surrounding himself with much younger women, including Russian models who attended his cocktail parties and beautiful women he flew aboard his plane, according to a 2003 Vanity Fair profile.

This story has corrected the name of the Metropolitan Correctional Center.

Biden is still the Democrat to beat, but rivals see weakness

By JULIE PACE and BILL BARROW Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — In a barn down a gravel road in Iowa, Joe Biden tore into President Donald Trump's moral character, declaring in one of the fiercest speeches of his campaign that the words of the American president matter.

The next day, Biden's own words tripped him up. He told an audience in Des Moines that poor children are "just as bright and just as talented as white kids," before immediately clarifying his remarks.

The back-to-back episodes magnified the promise and the peril of Biden's candidacy. Three months after announcing his White House bid, he remains atop early polling for Democratic candidates, buoyed by a long history with voters and a belief among many of them that his decades of experience best position him to defeat Trump. Those attributes appear to have helped the former vice president withstand weeks of attacks on his lengthy record in politics.

But Biden's rivals remain confident that his fumbles, like the one in Iowa this week, eventually will catch

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up to him, undermining his electability argument.

"He has been durable," said David Axelrod, a longtime political strategist for President Barack Obama. "The question is whether that durability is because we aren't fully geared into the race or whether there are inherent strengths there."

Biden's team has been heartened by the consistency of his early polling numbers, despite the push from fellow candidates to cast the 76-year-old as out of step with the Democratic Party on women's health issues and race. Nearly every survey, both nationally and in the early primary states, shows him leading the crowded primary field, with Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and Kamala Harris following behind but so far unable to find a way to surpass him.

"It's because people know him. And they don't know just his name," said Jack Markell, the former Delaware governor and a Biden supporter. "If it were just name recognition, these polls may look different."

Biden's standing in the race is the subject of much debate within the Democratic Party. Advisers to other campaigns contend that polling at this stage of the race is often fluid, reflecting little more than name recognition. Biden aides frequently note that Trump led polls throughout the summer of 2015 and never relinquished the top spot.

What is clear is that some of Biden's rivals see an imperative to begin taking him on aggressively. Sanders has walloped Biden repeatedly over health care, comparing the former vice president's opposition to a "Medicare for All" system to Trump. Harris, as well as New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, has hammered Biden over comments he made about working with segregationists during his early years in the Senate.

Biden initially appeared caught off guard by the ferocity of the attacks on his 40-plus-year record in politics, particularly Harris' blistering critique in the first debate of his past opposition to federally mandated busing to combat segregated schools. Now advisers view that moment as a much needed jolt for the candidate, making clear to Biden that he would need to draw sharper distinctions with his Democratic rivals during the primary and not just focus his fire on Trump.

Since then, Biden has drawn contrasts with more liberal Democrats, like Warren and Sanders, over their proposals to do away with private health insurance and replace it with a government-run system. He's also vigorously defended Obama, the most popular Democrat in the nation who nevertheless has faced criticism from liberals who believe he didn't go far enough on health care and was too aggressive in deporting immigrants living illegally in the United States.

"(Biden's) done a better job since then trying to hug up to Obama as much as possible," said Jim Hodges, the former Democratic governor of South Carolina, who is yet to endorse a candidate. "That's his strength here."

Indeed, Biden's campaign is eager to focus more on his eight years as vice president than the decades that preceded his time in the White House. Advisers believe his years serving as No. 2 to the nation's first black president resonate particularly well with African American voters, one of the most powerful segments



Former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden meets with supporters before speaking at the Iowa Democratic Wing Ding at the Surf Ballroom, Friday, Aug. 9, 2019, in Clear Lake, Iowa. (AP Photo/John Locher)

of the Democratic electorate. Biden also evolved into a beloved elder statesman for many Democrats during those years, particularly after the 2015 death of his son Beau, who succumbed to brain cancer at age 46.

"It just hurts me to see what some people are saying about him," said Linda Robinson, a retired health care worker who heard Biden speak in Boone, Iowa. Robinson, who caucused for Biden in 2008 but hasn't decided who has her support this year, called the former vice president a "decent man."

The attacks from Harris and others have also prompted Biden advisers to encourage the former vice president to step up his campaign activities, including more question-and-answer sessions with voters and reporters, an approach that has been on display during his four-day Iowa swing. But that comes with risk for a freewheeling politician with a history of verbal fumbles.

At the start of the week, Biden got the locations of two back-to-back mass shootings wrong. And on Thursday night, he told voters in Des Moines that poor kids were as bright and talented as white children. He caught the flub and quickly added: "wealthy kids, black kids, Asian kids."

Biden's ultimate success in the race will depend in part on whether voters' warm feelings toward him will help excuse his frequent missteps or see them as a sign that the candidate — who would be the oldest president ever elected — has lost a step.

"He's always been prone to gaffes. That was true when he was in his 40s, 50s and 60s," Axelrod said. "The difference is because people are looking for signs of potential deterioration, gaffes that would be written off as Joe being Joe can become much more damaging to him."

During his Iowa trip, Biden has projected the confidence of a front-runner, rarely mentioning his primary opponents and even sitting in the front row at a state party dinner Friday night, applauding as his rivals spoke ahead of his concluding spot. Earlier in the day, Biden said that while there would be "ups and downs" in the Democratic primary, he expected to emerge victorious.

"It's a marathon and I'm going to be in it for the whole race," he said.

Pace reported from Washington.

Follow Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Barrow at <http://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>

Reshaping of federal courts concerns gun control supporters

By **DON THOMPSON** Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California has some of the toughest gun laws in the nation, including a ban on the type of high-capacity ammunition magazines used in some of the nation's deadliest mass shootings.

How long those types of laws will stand is a growing concern among gun control advocates in California and elsewhere.

A federal judiciary that is becoming increasingly conservative under President Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled U.S. Senate has gun control advocates on edge. They worry that federal courts, especially if Trump wins a second term next year and Republicans hold the Senate, will take such an expansive view of Second Amendment rights that they might overturn strict gun control laws enacted in Democratic-leaning states.

The U.S. Supreme Court so far has left plenty of room for states to enact their own gun legislation, said Adam Winkler, a gun policy expert at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. But he said the success of the Trump administration in appointing federal judges, including to the high court, could alter that.

"Those judges are likely to be hostile to gun-control measures," Winkler said. "So I think the courts overall have made a shift to the right on guns. We'll just have to see how that plays out."

The legal tug-of-war already is playing out in California.

The state banned the sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines nearly two decades ago as one of its numerous responses to deadly mass shootings; a voter initiative passed three years ago expanded on that, banning all ammunition magazines holding more than 10 rounds even among gun owners who

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already possessed them.

Earlier this year, a Republican-appointed federal judge overturned the ban, triggering a weeklong bullet buying spree among California gun owners before he put his decision on hold pending appeal. The same judge is overseeing another lawsuit brought by gun-rights groups that seeks to repeal a state law requiring background checks for ammunition buyers.

Legal experts, lawmakers and advocates on both sides said the decision in the case over ammunition limits foreshadows more conflicts between Democratic-leaning states seeking to impose tighter gun laws and an increasingly conservative federal judiciary.

"What you're looking at in the Southern District of California is happening all over the country," said Frank Zimring, a University of California, Berkeley law professor who is an expert on gun laws.

Trump has the opportunity to fill a higher percentage of federal court vacancies than any president at this point in his first term since George H.W. Bush nearly three decades ago.

To date, he has nominated 194 candidates for federal judgeships and has had 146 confirmed, out of 860 total federal district court judicial seats, according to the conservative Heritage Foundation. Of 179 seats on the federal

appellate courts, Trump has nominated 46 judges and had 43 confirmed. He is poised to fill 105 vacancies in the district courts and four in the appeals courts, according to the Heritage Foundation.

The changes to the federal judiciary could mean that even gun restrictions that were previously upheld by appointees of former Republican presidents may now be in jeopardy, said Hannah Shearer, litigation director at the San Francisco-based Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

"I think the judiciary is headed into a more extreme place on gun control issues because of President Trump's appointees," she said.

Even when gun and ammunition limits are upheld, those cases eventually could make their way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Trump may already have tipped the balance.

"The court is currently poised to take up its first Second Amendment case in about a decade. It's a challenge to a law New York City passed that prohibited people who have home handgun licenses from taking their guns outside the city for target practice or to a second home.

The city has told the court the case should be dropped, however, because it has relaxed its law.

Among other cases working their way through the courts are challenges to a California ban on certain handguns, other states' longstanding restrictions on carrying concealed weapons and limitations on in-



FILE - In this Jan. 13, 2014 file photo, former California State Sen. Kevin de Leon, D-Los Angeles, displays a homemade fully automatic rifle, confiscated by the Department of Justice, at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif. California is among a handful of states taking tough actions to limit the availability of guns including military-style assault weapons, restrict the capacity of ammunition magazines and require background checks for purchasing bullets. But those steps and future gun control laws passed by Democratic-leaning states could face an uphill battle as the federal court system becomes increasingly dominated by conservative Republican appointees.(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli, File)

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terstate handgun sales.

Yet forecasting how the Supreme Court might act, or even whether it will take certain cases, is fraught with uncertainty. The court has steered clear of gun-rights cases since establishing an individual right to possess guns in 2008 2010, and has let stand a number of state gun restrictions.

Still, gun-rights supporters are excited by the changes brought by Trump and the Republican-controlled Senate. The upcoming Supreme Court session "could be a real game-changer" with Trump's appointments of Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, said Chuck Michel, an attorney who represents both the National Rifle Association and the affiliated California Rifle & Pistol Association.

"To the extent that the composition of the court has changed and that it will give the Second Amendment back its teeth, it's very important," Michel said. "It looks like there's enough votes on the court right now to reset the standard."

His clients are challenging California's ammunition background check and extended magazine ban before U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez, an appointee of former President George W. Bush.

Other states that limit ammunition magazines in some way, typically between 10 and 20 rounds, are Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Vermont, according to the Giffords Law Center.

Democrats said the prospect of four more years of Trump judicial appointments is helping energize their opposition to his re-election.

"This would be one of the lasting legacies of Donald Trump," said former California state Senate leader Kevin de Leon, a Democrat from Los Angeles who carried or supported many of the state's firearms restrictions, including limits on military-style assault weapons. "When Trump is gone, they will be there for lifetime appointments."

Democratic lawmakers said they will continue pushing more firearms restrictions even as some fear they could be thwarted in the federal courts.

State Sen. Anthony Portantino, a Democrat from Southern California, acknowledges the potential for state gun restrictions to be overturned by federal judges, but says the stakes are too high to back down.

He noted that the gunman who recently killed three people and himself in Gilroy, at an annual garlic festival, was 19 and legally bought his assault-style rifle in Nevada before illegally bringing it into California. The gunman also carried a 75-round drum magazine and multiple 40-round magazines, all banned under California law.

"That he could smuggle that across state lines and kill a 6-year-old, to me that's an example of why we need federal action and why California should continue to lead and tell our story," Portantino said.

He is proposing a ban on anyone buying more than one gun a month and prohibiting almost all gun sales to those under age 21.

Associated Press writer Curt Anderson in Miami contributed to this report.

Trump-McConnell 2020? Senate head sets himself up as wingman

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's not quite "Trump-McConnell 2020," but it might as well be.

As he runs for reelection, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is positioning himself as the president's wingman, his trusted right hand in Congress, transformed from a behind-the-scenes player into a prominent if sometimes reviled Republican like none other besides Donald Trump himself.

"In Washington, President Trump and I are making America great again!" he declared at a rally in Kentucky, his voice rising over protesters.

Other than Democrat Nancy Pelosi — and more recently Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — no current politician has so quickly become such a high-profile object of partisan scorn. McConnell was heckled last weekend at his home state's annual "Fancy Farm" political picnic, and protesters outside his Louisville house hurled so many profanities that Twitter temporarily shut down his account for posting video of them online.

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Undaunted, he revels in the nickname he's given himself — the "Grim Reaper," bragging that he's burying the House Democrats' agenda — though he seems stung by one lobbed by opponents, "Moscow Mitch."

But the Democrats' agenda includes gun legislation to require background checks that Trump now wants to consider, forcing McConnell to adjust his earlier refusal to do so. The Senate leader has been here before, pushing ahead with a Trump priority that's unpopular with most Republicans. But this will test both his relationship with the president and his grip on the GOP majority.

All while he's campaigning to keep his job.

McConnell is even more dependent on Trump's popularity in Kentucky than on his own, a different political landscape from the one he faced in 2014, before the president took the White House.

"They need each other," says Scott Jennings, a longtime adviser to McConnell.

The new McConnell strategy shows just how far Trump has transformed the GOP, turning a banker's-collar-and-cufflinks conservative into a "Fake News!" shouting senator.

Theirs was not an easy alliance in Trump's first year, and they went a long stretch without talking to each other. But two years on, McConnell has proven a loyal implementer of the president's initiatives, and Trump no longer assails the senator on Twitter.

Perhaps no issue has drawn the unlikely partners together more than the current reckoning over national gun violence. Republicans, long allied with the National Rifle Association, have resisted stricter laws on firearm and ammunition sales. But the frequency of mass shootings and the grave toll are intensifying pressure to act.

Trump on Friday revived his interest in having Congress take a look at expanding federal background checks and other gun safety laws long pushed by Democrats, insisting he will be able to get Republicans on board. McConnell, in a shift, said he's now willing to consider those ideas "front and center" when Congress returns in the fall.

Said Trump, "I think I have a greater influence now over the Senate."

But McConnell doesn't call himself the Grim Reaper for nothing. He is well known on Capitol Hill for his legislative blocking skills, having stopped much of the Obama administration's agenda when he first became Senate leader and more recently halting bills coming from the Democratic-controlled House, including one to expand background checks.

"We've seen it before," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., in a tweet after the weekend mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. "An awful shooting occurs. @realDonaldTrump expresses interest in helping. Republicans try to get him off the hook with lesser measures. Nothing happens."



FILE - In this Aug. 3, 2019 file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., addresses the audience gathered at the Fancy Farm Picnic in Fancy Farm, Ky. The Republican Party, the Trump campaign and other GOP organizations say they are suspending their spending on Twitter to protest the platform's treatment of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Twitter temporarily locked McConnell's campaign account after it shared a video in which some protesters spoke of violence outside his Kentucky home, where he is recovering from a shoulder fracture. (AP Photo/Timothy D. Easley, File)

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In fact, McConnell and his allies have taken on Trump's style, lashing out at media and political opponents. When campaign volunteers came under criticism for appearing to choke a cardboard cutout of Ocasio-Cortez at the picnic in a photo circulated online, McConnell allies said the high schoolers were being treated unfairly by opponents trying to maliciously shame them in public.

The shift in McConnell's strategy is not lost on Democrat Amy McGrath, the former fighter pilot and the leading Democrat hoping to win the party's nomination to challenge him next fall, her campaign said.

McGrath is telling Kentuckians that McConnell is part of the problem, a long-serving leader who has stood in the way of gun safety, health care and other legislation for years, and hardly the one to fulfill Trump's promises. Democrats and Republicans say she is expected to attract plenty of fundraising dollars and volunteers in a race that could easily approach \$100 million, second only to the presidential contest.

"It almost feels like we have a mini-presidential campaign going on here," said Jennings.

Kentucky remains a GOP stronghold, and Trump is extraordinarily popular, which is part of the reason McConnell is tying his own political future to the president. But it's unclear if his is the right strategy for the times.

With a national profile, McConnell's record is coming under more scrutiny.

An investment in a Kentucky aluminum plant by a company with ties to Russia has raised questions. And McConnell's refusal to allow the Senate to consider a House-passed election security bill has resulted in opponents calling him "Moscow Mitch" following Russia's 2016 campaign interference. His campaign tries to make light of questions surrounding the shipping business run by the family of his wife, Elaine Chao, Trump's transportation secretary.

The state's lone Democratic congressman, John Yarmuth, whose district includes liberal Louisville, said McConnell has never been especially popular in Kentucky but has managed to keep winning elections.

"He's a survivor," Yarmuth said. "He's in good shape only because Trump's at the top of the ticket."

At the weekend events in Kentucky, McConnell was relishing his Senate post, telling voters that as the only member in congressional leadership not from New York or California, "I'm the guy that sticks up for middle America."

At breakfast before taking the stage, he said he was ready to take on all comers.

"I can't wait," he said. "There's nothing I like better than engaging these crazy left-wingers and saving this country," he said. "And we're going to do precisely that."

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

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NKorea fires 2 missiles into sea in likely protest of drills

By KIM JUNG-YOON and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Saturday extended a recent streak of weapons displays by firing what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, according to South Korea's military.

The fifth round of launches in less than three weeks was likely another protest at the slow pace of nuclear negotiations with the United States and the continuance of U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises that the North says are aimed at a northward invasion.

The South's military alerted reporters to the launches hours after President Donald Trump said he received a "beautiful" three-page letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and predicted that they will have more talks to try resolving the nuclear standoff. Trump reiterated that he was not bothered by the flurry of short-range weapons Kim has launched despite the growing threat they pose to U.S. allies in the region, saying Pyongyang has never broken its pledge to pause nuclear tests.

Hours after the latest launches, Trump tweeted that Kim spent much of his letter complaining about "the ridiculous and expensive" U.S.-South Korea military exercises. He said that Kim offered him "a small apology" for the flurry of missile tests, and that he assured him they would stop when the exercises end.

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Trump said that Kim wants to meet once again to "start negotiations" after the drills conclude, and that he's looking "forward to seeing Kim Jong Un in the not too distant future!"

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the presumed ballistic missiles were fired from the North's east coast and flew about 400 kilometers (248 miles) on an apogee of 48 kilometers (30 miles), before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

Seoul's presidential Blue House said the tests were likely aimed at verifying the reliability of the North's newly developed weapons and also demonstrating displeasure over the military drills.

Hours after Saturday's launches, the North's official Korean Central News Agency released a statement denouncing South Korea's recent acquisition of U.S.-made F-35 fighter jets and other plans to expand its military capabilities, saying that the moves deteriorate trust between the Koreas and increase risk of war on the peninsula. The agency said the South will gain "nothing but destruction if it treats (a nation of the same race) with hostility and pursues a contest of strength."

North Korea has unleashed a series of test firings of short-range weapons in recent weeks while saying that the joint military drills between the allies compel it to "develop, test and deploy the powerful physical means essential for national defense."

The North did not immediately comment on the launches. South Korea has said the weapons tests don't help efforts to stabilize peace and called for Pyongyang to uphold an inter-Korean agreement reached last year to form a joint military committee to discuss reducing military tensions.

The missile tests come amid stalled talks on the North's nuclear program. So far, North Korea has stuck by its unilateral suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests, which came during a diplomatic outreach to Washington last year.

Experts say Trump's downplaying of the North's launches allowed the country more room to intensify its testing activity while it seeks to build leverage ahead of negotiations, which could possibly resume sometime after the end of the U.S.-South Korea drills later this month.

Leif-Eric Easley, an expert at Seoul's Ewha Womans University, said North Korea is also looking to exploit Trump's preoccupation with getting South Korea to pay more for U.S. troop deployment in the country as well as Seoul's worsening relations with Tokyo over an escalating trade war that's spilling over to security issues. South Korea has threatened to end a military intelligence sharing agreement with Japan in what's



FILE - In this July 25, 2019, photo provided on Friday, July 26, 2019, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watches a missile test in North Korea. North Korea on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019, extended a recent streak of weapons display by firing projectiles twice into the sea, according to South Korea's military. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: "KCNA" which is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency. (Korean

Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP, File)

seen as an attempt to pressure the United States into mediating the dispute.

"Kim appeals to Trump directly about the exercises, trying to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul," Easley said. "Meanwhile, North Korean propaganda supports rising anti-Japan sentiment in South Korea, calculating that a diplomatically isolated Seoul will be more subject to Pyongyang's coercion."

The North described recent test firings as a new rocket artillery system and short-range ballistic missile launches. The North's state media said that Kim, while supervising a live-fire demonstration of newly developed, short-range ballistic missiles on Tuesday, said the launches were intended to send a warning to Washington and Seoul over their military drills.

The allies have scaled down their major military exercises since the first summit between Kim and Trump in June 2018 in Singapore created space for diplomacy. But the North insists even the downsized drills violate agreements between Kim and Trump.

The North's recent tests have dampened the optimism that followed the third and latest meeting between Trump and Kim on June 30 at the inter-Korean border. The leaders agreed to resume working-level nuclear talks, but there have been no known meetings between the two sides since then.

Associated Press writer Foster Klug in Tokyo contributed to this report.

NFL at 100: How college football became the pipeline to NFL

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer



FILE - In this 1934 file photo, University of Chicago halfback Jay Berwanger is shown in the action pose that served as the model for the Heisman Trophy. In the early days of the NFL, college football was king and playing the game professionally was not necessarily something players aspired to do.

(AP Photo/File)

Jay Berwanger won the inaugural Heisman Trophy in 1935 for the University of Chicago and became the No. 1 player taken in the first NFL draft a few months later.

He chose to work at a rubber company and be a part-time coach for his alma mater rather than try to make a living playing football.

More than five decades later, Oklahoma State Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders threatened to sue the NFL if it did not allow him to be drafted while he still had college eligibility.

In the early days of the NFL, college football was king and playing professionally was not something most players aspired to do. By planting its flag in large cities, embracing television exposure and playing a more entertaining style, the NFL surged in popularity in the middle of the 20th century and turned college football into a means to an end for many players.

Now college teams brag about sending players to the league, even while NCAA officials and college sports leaders try to downplay what has become obvious.

"I definitely think college football is sort of the minor leagues in a way. Like a breeding ground for the NFL," said Eric Winston, who played 10 years in the NFL as an offensive lineman and is currently the president of the players' association.

College football was already entrenched in American culture when the NFL was established in 1920 with most of its teams in small Midwestern towns.

"Baseball was the national pastime, but college football was the greatest sporting spectacle," said Mike Oriard, a Notre Dame graduate and former NFL player who has written several books on the history of football.

Games matching Notre Dame and Army packed Yankee Stadium in New York in the 1920s and '30s, even during the Great Depres-

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sion. The Rose Bowl game was a yearly event on the West Coast on New Year's Day. College football was seen as a worthy and noble enterprise: amateurs playing for school pride. The NFL was an abomination as far as the college football world was concerned," Oriard said.

When University of Illinois star Red Grange joined the NFL in 1925, a deal scandalously planned while he was still playing in college, he drew scorn from those in college football. Not only was professional football considered barbarian, it was thought to be a lesser version of the sport. Indeed, the NFL champion played a yearly exhibition game in August against a team of college all-stars in Chicago, starting in 1934. The college players won six of the first 17 games and there were two ties.

Grange became one of America's most famous sports stars, but he was more a phenomena than a trend setter.

"Professional football was out there as an option for former college players who didn't have anything better to do," Oriard said. "It was the Depression and if you didn't get a job right out of college you might play pro football for a couple of years."

After the league reorganized in the early 1930s and moved teams to big cities, it established a college draft. Berwanger was the first player selected, taken by the Philadelphia Eagles. His rights were later traded to the Chicago Bears. But the team never could meet his salary demands.

Davey O'Brien won the Heisman Trophy in 1938 and was the first winner to play in the NFL. He lasted two years before joining the FBI. That was typical throughout the 1940s and into the '50s. Dick Kazmaier, a running back for Princeton, won the Heisman in 1951 and was drafted the by the Bears. He decided to go to Harvard business school.

Despite all that, the NFL was gaining traction among working-class fans in places such as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Cleveland that didn't directly compete with college football. Salaries were growing and a career in football was becoming more appealing. College football viewed the NFL as the opposition and tried to keep it at a distance.

"Initially, when I came into the league in the late '50s and especially with the Cowboys in the '60s there were a lot of schools that did everything but ban you from their campus," said Gil Brandt, the longtime Cowboys executive inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame last weekend.

College teams feared losing players with eligibility remaining to the NFL, Brandt said. He credits NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle and Cowboys owner Tex Schramm with assuring colleges the NFL would not take players into the league until their college careers were over.

In the 1960s, the emergence of the AFL brought competition for players and escalated salaries. While the college game was still mostly run-based, professional football teams were pushing the passing game. Joe Namath threw almost as many passes (340) in his first season with the New York Jets of the AFL than he did in his 30-game career (374) at Alabama.

"Eventually the NFL became so much more fun to watch," Brandt said.

While the NCAA had rules in place that limited how often the top teams could appear on TV, fearing it would be a recruiting advantage and draw fans away from attending games, the NFL wanted as much television exposure as possible.

By the mid-1960s, top college football players were assumed to be heading to the NFL. It was clearly a step up in competition. The last time a college all-star team beat an NFL champion was 1963, a loss Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi held over his players for years. The game was discontinued in 1976.

In the 1970s and '80s, NFL strategies became more pervasive in college football, most notably in the increased reliance on the pass. As the two versions of the sport became more similar, college players were entering the NFL better prepared to play professional football.

The most significant development in the college-to-NFL pipeline in the 1980s came in 1989, when Sanders decided to jump from Oklahoma State to the NFL after a record-setting junior season in 1988.

The NFL said it was making an exception for Sanders, who was drafted No. 3 overall by the Detroit Lions and went on to a Hall of Fame career, but in reality it permanently opened the door to underclassmen. As NFL salaries soared, getting through college quickly became more desirable.

This year a record 135 players gave up college eligibility to enter the NFL draft once they were three

years removed from high school graduation.

Meanwhile, as college sports come under attack by critics who believe players should get a larger cut of the billions of dollars generated by football, administrators would like to see more alternative paths to the NFL.

"Maybe in football and basketball, it would work better if more kids had a chance to go directly into the professional ranks. If they're not comfortable and want to monetize, let the minor leagues flourish," Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany said in 2013. "I think we ought to work awful hard with the NFL and the NBA to create an opportunity for those folks."

Six years later, in football, nothing has changed.

Big-time programs — not just the likes of Alabama, Clemson and Ohio State — want to be seen as a fast track to an NFL payday. They proudly display to recruits the names of former players who have moved on to the NFL on the walls of football facilities, in the pages of media guides and on social media.

Mike Lombardi, a former NFL executive who has worked for Al Davis, Bill Walsh and Bill Belichick, said the message from college coaches is: "You come here, you know we'll develop you into a pro player. It sells that program."

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <https://podcastone.com/AP-Top-25-College-Football-Podcast>

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Trump: Kim wants to meet again, apologized for missile tests

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

BERKELEY HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that North Korea's Kim Jong Un wants to meet once again to "start negotiations" after joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises end. He also said Kim apologized for the flurry of recent short-range missile tests that has rattled U.S. allies in the region.

Trump is tweeting more details from the "beautiful" three-page letter he told reporters on Friday that he'd received from Kim. Trump, who is on vacation at his golf club in New Jersey, said Kim spent much of his letter complaining about "the ridiculous and expensive exercises," which North Korea sees as a threat.

He said Kim offered him "a small apology" for the recent tests and assured him "that this testing would stop when the exercises end." North Korea on Saturday fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, according to South Korea's military — the fifth round of launches in less than three weeks.



President Donald Trump talks to reporters on the South Lawn of the White House, Friday, Aug. 9, 2019, in Washington, as he prepares to leave Washington for his annual August holiday at his New Jersey golf club. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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"I look forward to seeing Kim Jong Un in the not too distant future!" Trump wrote.

The two leaders have met three times — in Singapore, Hanoi and at the Korean Demilitarized Zone — but critics say Trump has received few concessions in the standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program in exchange for the meetings.

At their second summit in Vietnam in February, Trump rejected Kim's demand for widespread sanctions relief in exchange for dismantling the North's main nuclear complex, a partial disarmament step.

The U.S. and South Korea have scaled down their major military exercises since Trump and Kim's first summit in June 2018. But the North insists even the downsized drills violate agreements between Kim and Trump and compel it to "develop, test and deploy the powerful physical means essential for national defense."

When they last met in June of this year, Trump and Kim agreed to resume working-level nuclear talks that have been stalled since February, but there have been no known meetings between the two sides since then.

Stocks fall again on trade-war worries, capping a wild week

By **STAN CHOE** and **ALEX VEIGA** AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks stumbled Friday as worries flared yet again that President Donald Trump's trade war with China may be worsening. It was a fitting end to a wild week where markets zoomed down, up and down again as investors recalibrated by the minute how much the tensions will hurt the global economy.

The S&P 500 dropped as much as 1.3% Friday after Trump said that it would be "fine" if a meeting on trade with China next month doesn't happen, before nearly eliminating the loss. It dropped again in the final minutes of trading and ended the day at 2,918.65, down 19.44 points, or 0.7%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 90.75, or 0.3%, to 26,287.44, and the Nasdaq lost 80.02, or 1%, to 7,959.14.

To anyone not paying attention, the numbers could paint the last week as a ho-hum one for markets: The S&P 500 was down just 0.5%. But that stretch included the worst plunge of the year for the S&P 500, as well as its best day in months.

Through the week, investors' mood pinballed from fear that China was raising the stakes in the trade war by weakening its currency to relief that the yuan's drop wasn't more sharp and back to concern that the U.S. and China may not even meet next month to talk about their problems. All of that was follow-up to Trump's threat last week to impose more tariffs on Chinese goods.

Underscoring the uncertainty, investors said they had no good explanations for some of the sharp swings that stocks had over the last week. While nowhere near as bad as it got during the Great Recession, investors' fear about the uncertain path forward for corporate profits and the global economy sent gold prices jumping and bond yields tumbling.

"We don't really see an end to the uncertainty any time soon," said Sameer Samana, senior global market strategist at Wells Fargo Investment Institute. Beyond the U.S.-China trade war, he also pointed to the upcoming U.S. elections, the pending British exit from the European Union and a completely separate trade war between South Korea and Japan, among other things.

"Unfortunately, it's tough to tell whether we're at peak uncertainty, but the level of uncertainty is high. What's remarkable is how close the markets still are to their all-time highs despite all the uncertainty."

The S&P 500 is only 2.1% below its record, which was set at the end of July. It's also up 9% since Trump said in March 2018 that "trade wars are good, and easy to win."

The economy is still growing, and the unemployment rate remains near its lowest level in half a century. The fear is that all the uncertainty that has caused stock prices to swing sharply could also make businesses and shoppers more cautious. If they pull back on their spending, it could lead to weaker profits for companies, which could cause businesses to cut back on hiring, which could do real damage to the

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economy.

Such fear has been most pronounced in the bond market, where yields have tumbled as investors scrambled for protection. When bond prices rise, their yields fall, and the yield on the 10-year Treasury sat at 1.73% Friday, down from 1.85% a week ago. It rose from 1.71% late Thursday and had been below 1.60% in the middle of the week.

"The bond market has been pricing that in way earlier and to a much greater degree than the stock market has," Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Globalt Investments, said of the trade-war threat.

Other areas of the world are facing even weaker economic growth, and the British government reported that its economy shrank in the second quarter for the first time since 2012.

The FTSE 100 in London slipped 0.4%, while Germany's DAX lost 1.3% and the CAC 40 in France dropped 1.1%. In Asia, the Hang Seng in Hong Kong fell 0.7%, Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.4% and South Korea's Kospi gained 0.4%.

In the commodities markets, benchmark U.S. crude jumped \$1.96 to settle at \$54.50 a barrel. It had dropped as low as \$50.52 earlier in the week amid worries that a weaker global economy would dent demand for energy. Brent crude, the international standard, rose \$1.15 to \$58.53 per barrel.

Gold edged down by \$1.10 to \$1,496.60 per ounce. It was a relatively quiet day following a roaring week, where gold hit its highest price in more than six years as investors scrambled for safety.

Silver was unchanged at \$16.90 per ounce, and copper fell 2 cents to \$2.58 per pound. Wholesale gasoline rose 2 cents to \$1.67 per gallon. Heating oil climbed 3 cents to \$1.81 per gallon. Natural gas fell 1 cent to \$2.12 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The dollar slipped to 105.57 Japanese yen from 105.95 yen late Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1207 from \$1.1185, and the British pound fell to \$1.2056 from \$1.2133.

AP Business Writer Damian Troise contributed.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 10, the 222nd day of 2019. There are 143 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 10, 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1861, Confederate forces routed Union troops in the Battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri, the first major engagement of the Civil War west of the Mississippi River.

In 1921, Franklin D. Roosevelt was stricken with polio at his summer home on the Canadian island of Campobello.

In 1944, during World War II, American forces overcame remaining Japanese resistance on Guam.

In 1945, a day after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Imperial Japan conveyed its willingness to surrender provided the status of Emperor Hirohito remained unchanged. (The Allies responded the next day, saying they would determine the Emperor's future status.)

In 1969, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered in their Los Angeles home by members of Charles Manson's cult, one day after actress Sharon Tate and four other people were slain.

In 1975, television personality David Frost announced he had purchased the exclusive rights to interview former President Richard Nixon.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a measure providing \$20,000 payments to still-living Japanese-Americans who were interned by their government during World War II.

In 1991, nine Buddhists were found slain at their temple outside Phoenix, Arizona. (Two teen-agers were later arrested; one was sentenced to life in prison, while the other received 281 years.)

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In 1995, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were charged with 11 counts in the Oklahoma City bombing (McVeigh was convicted of murder and executed; Nichols was convicted of conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to life in prison). Norma McCorvey, "Jane Roe" of the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, announced she had joined the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue.

In 2004, a boat carrying Dominican migrants seeking a better life in Puerto Rico drifted back to almost the same spot where the voyage began nearly two weeks earlier; at least 55 of the 86 people on board had died.

In 2006, British authorities announced they had thwarted a terrorist plot to simultaneously blow up 10 aircraft heading to the U.S. using explosives smuggled in hand luggage.

In 2008, at the Beijing Olympics, Michael Phelps began his long march toward eight gold medals by winning the 400-meter individual medley in 4:03.84 — smashing his own world record. Soul crooner Isaac Hayes, 65, died in Memphis, Tennessee.

Ten years ago: A double truck bombing tore through the village of a small Shiite ethnic minority near Mosul, Iraq, killing at least 28 people. Country duo Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn posted a message on their Web site announcing they had agreed to "call it a day" after 20 years of making music together.

Five years ago: Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki resisted calls for his resignation and accused the country's new president, Fouad Massoum, of violating the constitution (al-Maliki stepped down three days later). Rory McIlroy won his second straight major championship and fourth of his young career, rallying on the back nine in the PGA Championship in Louisville, Kentucky.

One year ago: Richard Russell, a 29-year-old airline ground agent, stole a commercial plane from Sea-Tac International Airport near Seattle; he flew for 75 minutes, performing dangerous stunts while being chased by military jets before crashing into a remote island in Puget Sound, killing himself.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Rhonda Fleming is 96. Singer Ronnie Spector is 76. Actor James Reynolds is 73. Rock singer-musician Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull) is 72. Country musician Gene Johnson (Diamond Rio) is 70. Singer Patti Austin is 69. Actor Daniel Hugh Kelly is 67. Folk singer-songwriter Sam Baker is 65. Actress Rosanna Arquette is 60. Actor Antonio Banderas is 59. Rock musician Jon Farriss (INXS) is 58. Singer Julia Fordham is 57. Journalist-blogger Andrew Sullivan is 56. Actor Chris Caldovino is 56. Singer Neneh Cherry is 55. Singer Aaron Hall is 55. Boxer Riddick Bowe is 52. Actor Sean Blakemore is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lorraine Pearson (Five Star) is 52. Singer-producer Michael Bivins is 51. Actor-writer Justin Theroux is 48. Actress Angie Harmon is 47. Country singer Jennifer Hanson is 46. Actor-turned-lawyer Craig Kirkwood is 45. Actress JoAnna Garcia Swisher is 40. Singer Cary Ann Hearst (Shovels & Rope) is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nikki Bratcher (Divine) is 39. Actor Aaron Staton is 39. Actor Ryan Eggold is 35. Actor Charley Koontz is 32. Actor Lucas Till is 29. Reality TV star Kylie Jenner is 22. Actor Jeremy Maguire is 8.

Thought for Today: "A man may fulfill the object of his existence by asking a question he cannot answer, and attempting a task he cannot achieve." — Oliver Wendell Holmes, American author (1809-1894).