

Groton Daily Independent

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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.

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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Championship: Honkers win State Jr. Legion Title

Groton Post 39 Fall Short To Claremont/Britton Post 262 , 5-4

Groton Post 39 opened up scoring in the second inning when Darien Shabazz grounded out, scoring one run.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 took the lead for good with four runs in the third inning. In the third Shabazz induced Boston Marlow to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored and Nico Alvarez singled on a 0-1 count, scoring two runs.

Zander Widener pitched Claremont/Britton Post 262 to victory. He went four innings, allowing three runs on two hits and striking out four. Austen Wieser threw three innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Shabazz took the loss for Groton Post 39. He went two innings, allowing five runs on one hit and striking out two.

Jackson Cogley, Alex Morris, and Chandler Larson each collected one hit to lead Groton Post 39. Groton Post 39 tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Shabazz led the way with two.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Benton West had the most chances in the field with five.

Third Place: Wagner Defeats Winner In Low-Scoring Affair

Both teams were strong on the hill Sunday, but Wagner Post 11 defeated Winner Post 169 3-1. Wagner Post 11 pitchers allowed just seven hits to Winner Post 169 .

Wagner Post 11 grabbed an early lead. Wagner Post 11 scored on a single by Lincoln Thury and a single by Anthony Bruguier in the second inning.

Wagner Post 11 pulled away for good with two runs in the second inning. In the second Thury singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run and Bruguier singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

Malcolm Janis was the winning pitcher for Wagner Post 11. He surrendered zero runs on five hits over six innings, striking out three and walking zero.

Evan Farner took the loss for Winner Post 169 . He allowed five hits and three runs over six innings, striking out six.

Nolan Dvorak started the game for Wagner Post 11. He went one inning, allowing one run on two hits and walking one

Wagner Post 11 tallied five hits on the day. Thury and Bruguier all collected multiple hits for Wagner Post 11. Bruguier and Thury each collected two hits to lead Wagner Post 11.

Joey Cole led Winner Post 169 with two hits in four at bats.

Fifth: Redfield Fights Back In Loss To Lennox

Redfield Post 92's effort to come back from down six runs in the first inning came up just short, as they fell 9-8 to Lennox Post 174 on Sunday. Redfield Post 92 scored six runs in the failed comeback. Peyton Osborn, Camden Osborn, Christian Deyoung, Seth Siebrecht, Osborn, and Easton Millar came through with RBIs to lead the rally.

Redfield Post 92 collected eight hits and Lennox Post 174 had nine in the high-scoring affair.

Lennox Post 174 got things moving in the first inning. Lennox Post 174 scored one run when Peyton Eich singled.

In the bottom of the third inning, Redfield Post 92 tied things up at six when Siebrecht grounded out, scoring one run.

Lennox Post 174 pulled away for good with two runs in the fourth inning. In the fourth Eich singled on a 1-0 count, scoring one run and Gavin Sanculi grounded out, scoring one run.

Redfield Post 92 tallied five runs in the third inning. The big inning was thanks to a single by Osborn, a groundout by Siebrecht, and a fielder's choice by Deyoung.

Tanner Miller led the Lennox Post 174 to victory on the pitcher's mound. He went five and two-thirds innings, allowing six runs on eight hits and striking out five. Conner Eich threw one and one-third innings

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in relief out of the bullpen.

Osborn took the loss for Redfield Post 92. He surrendered nine runs on nine hits over six and a third innings, striking out four and walking one.

Redfield Post 92 tallied eight hits on the day. Osborn and Osborn all had multiple hits for Redfield Post 92. Osborn and Osborn each collected two hits to lead Redfield Post 92.

Lennox Post 174 scattered nine hits in the game. Eich, Ty Spieler, and Brandon Fodness each collected multiple hits for Lennox Post 174 . Eich led Lennox Post 174 with three hits in four at bats. Spieler led Lennox Post 174 with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with seven stolen bases.

With Alex On The Mound, Groton shuts Out Winner

Alex Morris shut down Winner Post 169 , throwing a complete game shutout and leading Groton Post 39 to a 1-0 victory on Saturday

The pitching was strong on both sides. Morris struck out 12, while Jacob Beckers sat down five.

A single by Aaron Gilchrist in the first inning was a positive for Winner Post 169 .

Morris earned the win for Groton Post 39. He lasted seven innings, allowing five hits and zero runs while striking out 12.

Beckers took the loss for Winner Post 169 . He went six innings, allowing one run on five hits and striking out five.

Darien Shabazz went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Groton Post 39 in hits. Groton Post 39 didn't commit a single error in the field. Kaden Kurtz had the most chances in the field with 11.

Winner Post 169 totaled five hits. Adam Bohnet and Evan Farner all had multiple hits for Winner Post 169 .

Claremont/Britton Captures Lead Early To Defeat Wagner

Wagner Post 11 fell behind early and couldn't come back in a 1-0 loss to Claremont/Britton Post 262 on Saturday. Claremont/Britton Post 262 took the lead on a single in the second inning.

The pitching was strong on both sides. Claremont/Britton Post 262 pitchers struck out one, while Wagner Post 11 sat down five.

In the second inning, Claremont/Britton Post 262 got their offense started when Ben Gustafson singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

A single by Malcolm Janis in the first inning was a positive for Wagner Post 11.

William Cutler was the winning pitcher for Claremont/Britton Post 262 . He surrendered zero runs on four hits over seven innings, striking out one.

Dustin Honomichl took the loss for Wagner Post 11. He lasted seven innings, allowing five hits and one run while striking out five.

Honomichl went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Wagner Post 11 in hits.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 tallied five hits on the day. Benton West and Boston Marlow each collected multiple hits for Claremont/Britton Post 262 . Claremont/Britton Post 262 was sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Gustafson made the most plays with 12.

Elk Point/Jefferson Falls To Redfield In Low-Scoring Affair

Both teams were strong on the hill on Saturday, but Redfield Post 92 was just a little bit stronger at the plate in a victory over Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 on Saturday. Skyler Swatek started the game for Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 and recorded 15 outs.

Peyton Osborn pitched Redfield Post 92 to victory. He surrendered zero runs on zero hits over five innings, walking zero.

Swatek took the loss for Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 . He lasted five innings, allowing two hits and one run while striking out five.

Redfield Post 92 didn't commit a single error in the field. Seth Siebrecht had seven chances in the field, the most on the team.

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W.I.N Drops Game To Lennox After Late Score

W.I.N Post 137 stayed in it until the end, but Lennox Post 174 pulled away late in a 3-2 victory on Saturday. The game was tied at two with Lennox Post 174 batting in the top of the fifth when Brandon Fodness doubled on a 3-1 count, scoring one run.

The pitching was strong on both sides. Lennox Post 174 pitchers struck out six, while W.I.N Post 137 sat down four.

In the first inning, Lennox Post 174 got their offense started when Carter Van Houten singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

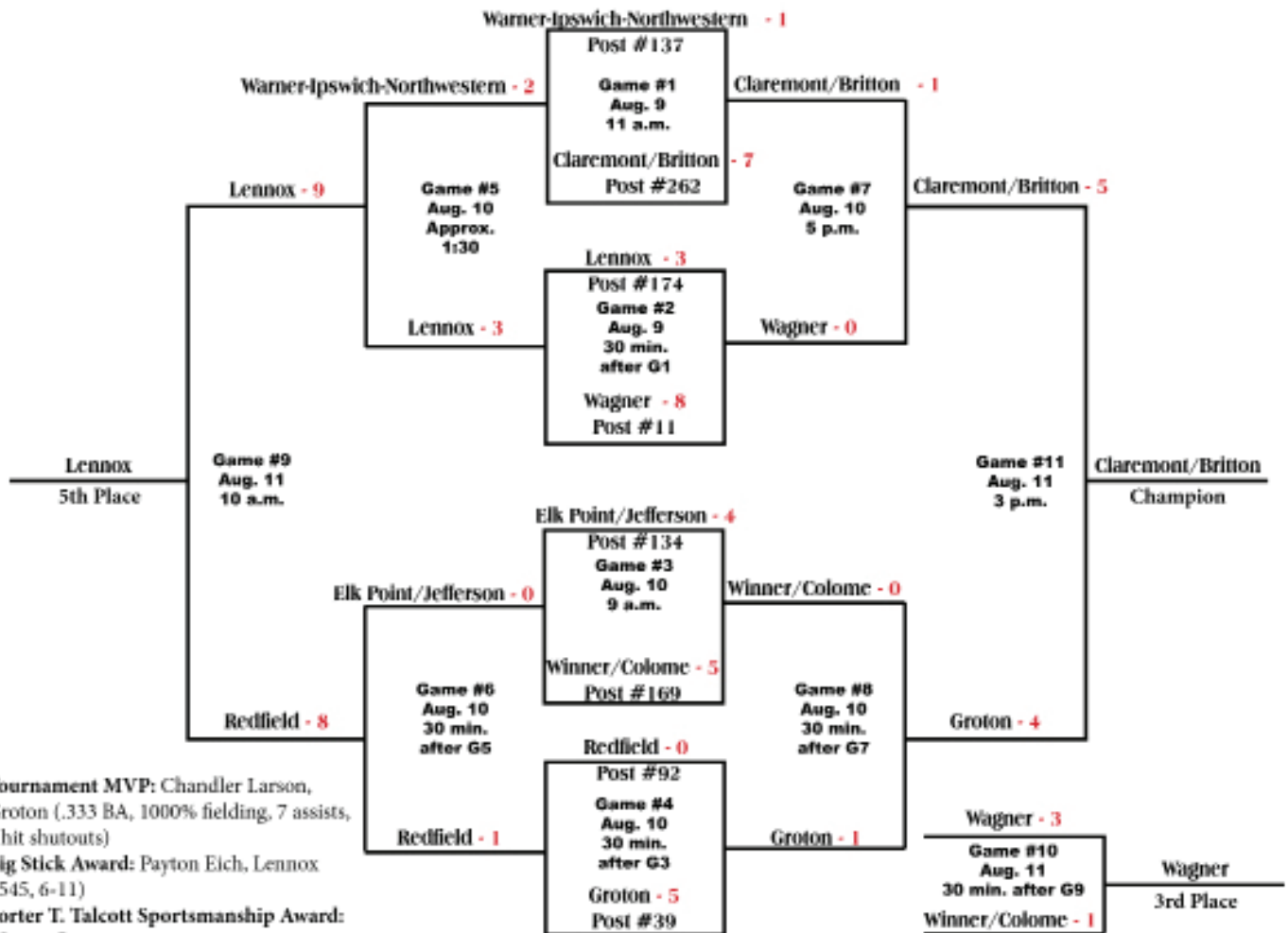
Peyton Eich earned the win for Lennox Post 174 . He allowed one hit and zero runs over three innings, striking out six and walking one.

Joshua McQuarie took the loss for W.I.N Post 137. He lasted five innings, allowing seven hits and three runs while striking out four.

Gavin Sanculi started the game for Lennox Post 174 . He went two innings, allowing two runs on two hits Sawyer Stroschein, Benjamin Fischbach, and Kyle Stahl each collected one hit to lead W.I.N Post 137.

Lennox Post 174 had seven hits in the game. Eich and Van Houten all collected multiple hits for Lennox Post 174 .

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



Tournament MVP: Chandler Larson, Groton (.333 BA, 1000% fielding, 7 assists, 4 hit shutouts)
Big Stick Award: Payton Eich, Lennox (.545, 6-11)
Porter T. Talcott Sportsmanship Award: Wagner Post #11

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Pitching By Chandler Shuts Out Redfield, Groton Takes The Win

Chandler Larson shut down Redfield Post 92, throwing a complete game shutout and leading Groton Post 39 to a 5-0 victory on Saturday

Groton Post 39 got on the board in the first inning when Pierce Kettering singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

A single by Christian Deyoung in the first inning was a positive for Redfield Post 92.

Larson took the win for Groton Post 39. He lasted seven innings, allowing four hits and zero runs while striking out six and walking one.

Deyoung took the loss for Redfield Post 92. He surrendered five runs on nine hits over five and a third innings, striking out three.

Groton Post 39 tallied nine hits. Darien Shabazz and Peyton Johnson all had multiple hits for Groton Post 39. Shabazz went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Post 39 in hits.

Deyoung led Redfield Post 92 with two hits in three at bats.

Winner Grabs Lead In Fifth Inning To Defeat Elk Point/Jefferson

Winner Post 169 stole the lead late and defeated Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 5-4 on Saturday. The game was tied at four with Winner Post 169 batting in the bottom of the fifth when Adam Bohnet singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 got on the board in the first inning when Andrew Nearman doubled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

Winner Post 169 scored three runs in the fourth inning. Bohnet and Landon Thieman each had RBIs in the big inning.

Kameron Meiners got the win for Winner Post 169 . He lasted seven innings, allowing five hits and four runs while striking out two and walking zero.

Noah Larson took the loss for Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 . He went two innings, allowing five runs on five hits and striking out one.

Tyler Goehring started the game for Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 . He lasted four innings, allowing one hit and zero runs while striking out nine

Bohnet went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Winner Post 169 in hits.

Nearman led Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 with two hits in four at bats.

Wagner Takes Victory Over Lennox , 8-3

Wagner Post 11 scores more runs than Lennox Post 174 , takes victory on Friday to the tune of 8-3

Wagner Post 11 scored five runs in the sixth inning. Jaydan Aungie, Dustin Honomichl, Nolan Dvorak, Riley Ruchtaeschel, and Aydan Bruguier all moved runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Dvorak took the win for Wagner Post 11. He lasted three and a third innings, allowing one hit and zero runs while striking out two and walking one. Anthony Bruguier and Aungie entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the game in relief.

Ty Spieler took the loss for Lennox Post 174 . He went six innings, allowing eight runs on seven hits and striking out five.

Malcolm Janis went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Wagner Post 11 in hits. Wagner Post 11 stole six bases during the game as two players stole more than one. Preston Nedved led the way with two.

Lennox Post 174 scattered eight hits in the game. Brandon Fodness and Cole Benning each had multiple hits for Lennox Post 174 .

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Claremont/Britton Victorious W.I.N Thanks To Fourth Inning Boost

Four runs in the fourth inning led Claremont/Britton Post 262 past W.I.N Post 137 7-1 on Friday. Claremont/Britton Post 262 big bats were led by Zander Widener and Colin Frey, who each had RBIs in the inning.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 got things moving in the second inning, when Connor Smith singled on a 3-2 count, scoring one run.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 tallied four runs in the fourth inning. The rally was led by by Frey and an error on a ball put in play by Widener.

Frey earned the victory on the hill for Claremont/Britton Post 262 . He surrendered zero runs on three hits over six and a third innings, striking out 11. Danny Feist threw two-thirds of an inning in relief out of the bullpen.

Benjamin Fischbach took the loss for W.I.N Post 137. He allowed three hits and seven runs over four innings, striking out three.

Nico Alvarez, Frey, Benton West, and Smith all had one hit to lead Claremont/Britton Post 262 . Claremont/Britton Post 262 stole nine bases during the game as three players stole more than one. Jesse Keough led the way with two.

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GAMECHANGER

Final | Tournament Game

1 **W.I.N Post 137**

Friday, August 09
11:00AM

Claremont/Britton Post 262 7

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
WIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	7
CLAR	0	1	0	4	2	0	X	7	4	2

W.I.N Post 137

Claremont/Britton Post 262

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Kyle Stahl	3	0	1	0	1	0
Benjamin Fischbach	3	0	0	1	1	1
Joshua McQuarrie	4	0	0	0	0	2
Sawyer Stroschein	2	0	0	0	1	1
Ethan Gilbert	3	0	0	0	0	3
Will Nilsson	3	0	1	0	0	0
Eric Severson	2	1	0	0	0	1
Austin Faw	3	0	1	0	0	2
Kaden Hix	1	0	0	0	0	1
Trevor Beyers	2	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	28	1	4	1	3	11

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Ben Gustafson	3	0	0	0	0	2
Colin Frey	3	0	1	1	1	0
Austen Wieser	4	0	0	0	0	1
Boston Marlow	3	1	0	0	0	0
Benton West	1	3	1	0	2	0
Nico Alvarez	3	0	1	0	0	0
Jesse Keough	1	1	0	0	2	0
Connor Smith	2	1	1	1	1	0
Zander Widener	3	1	0	2	0	0
Danny Feist	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	23	7	4	4	6	3

Batting

1B: Austin Faw, Trevor Beyers, Kyle Stahl, Will Nilsson
2B: Benjamin Fischbach
3B: Eric Severson
4B: Benjamin Fischbach, Kyle Stahl, Joshua McQuarrie
5B: Eric Severson
6B: Benjamin Fischbach, Kyle Stahl

Totals

Team OAB: 14 (48.57%)
 Benjamin Fischbach 2, Austin Faw, Trevor Beyers 2, Kyle Stahl 2, Sawyer Stroschein, Ethan Gilbert 2, Joshua McQuarrie 2, Eric Severson, Will Nilsson

Team LOB: 7

Fielding

E: Benjamin Fischbach 2, Kyle Stahl, Sawyer Stroschein, Ethan Gilbert, Joshua McQuarrie, Eric Severson

Batting

1B: Connor Smith, Benton West, Nico Alvarez, Colin Frey
2B: Connor Smith, Colin Frey, Zander Widener 2
3B: Boston Marlow, Zander Widener 2
4B: Jesse Keough
5B: Ben Gustafson
6B: Connor Smith, Benton West, Colin Frey, Zander Widener 2, Ben Gustafson 2, Jesse Keough 2
7B: Colin Frey, Jesse Keough

Totals

Team OAB: 16 (69.57%)
 Connor Smith 2, Benton West 2, Austen Wieser, Nico Alvarez 2, Colin Frey 2, Boston Marlow 2, Zander Widener 2, Ben Gustafson, Jesse Keough 2

Team LOB: 5

Fielding

E: Connor Smith

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GAMECHANGER

Final | Tournament Game

0 Redfield Post 92

Saturday, August 10
11:30AM

Groton Post 39 5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
REDF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
GROT	3	0	0	0	0	2	X	5	9	1

Redfield Post 92

Groton Post 39

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Owen Osborn	3	0	1	0	0	0
Camden Osborn	2	0	0	0	0	0
Christian Deyoung	3	0	2	0	0	0
Peyton Osborn	2	0	0	0	1	0
Easton Miller	3	0	0	0	0	0
Seth Seybrecht	3	0	0	0	0	2
Keaton Rohlf	3	0	1	0	0	0
John Jungwirth	3	0	0	0	0	2
Mason Whitley	2	0	0	0	0	2
Garvin Jaragolska	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	24	0	4	0	1	8

Batting

1B: Owen Osborn, Keaton Rohlf, Christian Deyoung 2
2B: Camden Osborn
3B: Camden Osborn
SS: Christian Deyoung
CF: Camden Osborn

Totals

Team OAB: 7 (29.16%)
 Camden Osborn, Owen Osborn, Christian Deyoung 3, Peyton Osborn, John Jungwirth

Team LOB: 5

Fielding

E: Keaton Rohlf, Peyton Osborn

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Darien Shebazz	3	1	3	0	1	0
Pierce Kettering	4	1	1	1	0	0
Alex Morris	3	0	0	0	0	2
Chandler Larson	3	1	1	1	0	0
Peyton Johnson	2	1	2	0	0	0
Kaden Kurtz	3	0	1	2	0	0
Jackson Cogley	2	1	0	0	1	0
Lane Krueger	2	0	1	0	1	1
Evin Nehls	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riley Thurston	1	0	0	0	1	0
Jace Kroll	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	23	5	9	4	4	3

Batting

2B: Darien Shebazz
3B: Peyton Johnson
1B: Lane Krueger, Peyton Johnson 4, Chandler Larson, Darien Shebazz 4, Kaden Kurtz, Pierce Kettering
SS: Chandler Larson, Kaden Kurtz 2, Pierce Kettering
CF: Riley Thurston
RF: Kaden Kurtz, Pierce Kettering
LF: Peyton Johnson
PH: Peyton Johnson 2, Chandler Larson, Darien Shebazz, Kaden Kurtz, Pierce Kettering, Jackson Cogley
CS: Darien Shebazz, Kaden Kurtz 2

Totals

Team OAB: 17 (58.62%)
 Lane Krueger 3, Peyton Johnson 2, Riley Thurston 2, Chandler Larson, Alex Morris, Darien Shebazz 4, Kaden Kurtz, Pierce Kettering, Jackson Cogley 2

Team LOB: 6

Fielding

E: Riley Thurston

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GAMECHANGER

Final | Tournament Game

0 Winner Post 169

Saturday, August 10
7:30PM

Groton Post 39 1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
WINR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
GROT	0	0	0	0	0	1	X	1	5	0

Winner Post 169

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Aaron Gilchrist	3	0	1	0	0	2
Landon Thiemann	3	0	0	0	1	2
Joey Cole	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jacob Beckers	3	0	0	0	0	3
Ashton Klein	2	0	0	0	1	0
Evan Farmer	3	0	2	0	0	0
Boston Monhart	3	0	0	0	0	3
Zach Bohnet	3	0	0	0	0	2
Adam Bohnet	3	0	2	0	0	0
Totals	30	0	5	0	2	12

Batting

2B: Adam Bohnet
TB: Adam Bohnet 1, Aaron Gilchrist, Evan Farmer 2
EC: Ashton Klein
RBI: Aaron Gilchrist
SB: Aaron Gilchrist

Totals

Team QAB: 6 (20.00%)
Adam Bohnet, Aaron Gilchrist, Landon Thiemann 2, Boston Monhart, Ashton Klein

Team LOB: 3

Fielding

E: Jacob Beckers, Joey Cole
BB: Aaron Gilchrist, Jacob Beckers

Groton Post 39

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Darlen Shebazz	2	0	2	0	1	0
Pierce Kettering	3	0	0	0	0	1
Alex Morris	2	1	0	0	1	0
Chandler Larson	3	0	1	1	0	1
Peyton Johnson	3	0	0	0	0	1
Kaden Kurtz	2	0	1	0	0	0
Jackson Cogley	2	0	1	0	0	0
Lane Krueger	2	0	0	0	0	1
Riley Thurston	2	0	0	0	0	1
Jace Kroll	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	21	1	5	1	2	5

Batting

2B: Darlen Shebazz, Kaden Kurtz
TB: Chandler Larson, Darlen Shebazz 3, Kaden Kurtz 2, Jackson Cogley
RBI: Chandler Larson
SB: Darlen Shebazz

Totals

Team QAB: 10 (47.62%)
Lane Krueger, Peyton Johnson 2, Chandler Larson, Alex Morris, Darlen Shebazz 3, Kaden Kurtz, Pierce Kettering

Team LOB: 4

Winner Post 169

Pitching	IP	FP	SA	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Jacob Beckers	6.0	32	.648	5	1	0	5	2	0
Totals	6.0	32	.648	5	1	0	5	2	0

Pitching

L: Jacob Beckers
Pitcher-Strikes: Jacob Beckers 32-53
Groundouts-Throws: Jacob Beckers 5-2
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: Jacob Beckers 14-23

Groton Post 39

Pitching	IP	FP	SA	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Alex Morris	7.0	105	.698	5	0	0	12	2	0
Totals	7.0	105	.698	5	0	0	12	2	0

Pitching

W: Alex Morris
RBI: Alex Morris
BB: Alex Morris
Pitcher-Strikes: Alex Morris 105-72
Groundouts-Throws: Alex Morris 5-2
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: Alex Morris 20-29

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Final | Tournament Game

1 Claremont/Britton
Post 262

Saturday, August 10
6:00PM

Wagner Post 11 **0**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
CLAR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0
WAGN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1

Claremont/Britton Post 262

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Ben Gustafson	4	0	1	1	0	1
Colin Frey	4	0	0	0	0	1
Austen Wieser	2	0	0	0	1	0
William Cutler	3	0	0	0	0	0
Benton West	3	1	2	0	0	1
Boston Marlow	3	0	2	0	0	0
Nico Alvarez	2	0	0	0	1	0
Jesse Keough	3	0	0	0	0	1
Zander Widener	3	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	27	1	5	1	2	5

Batting
1B: Benton West 2, Boston Marlow 2, Ben Gustafson
BB: Ben Gustafson
FC: Nico Alvarez, Colin Frey
SB: Colin Frey

Totals
 Team QAB: 5 (17.24%)
 Benton West, Austen Wieser, Nico Alvarez, Colin Frey, Boston Marlow
 Team LOB: 6

Fielding
DP: Colin Frey, Ben Gustafson

Claremont/Britton Post 262

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
William Cutler	7.0	75	.733	4	0	0	1	2	0
Totals	7.0	75	.733	4	0	0	1	2	0

Pitching
W: William Cutler
BP: William Cutler
Pitches-Strikes: William Cutler 75-55
Groundouts-Flouts: William Cutler 12-6
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: William Cutler 21-26

Wagner Post 11

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Anthony Bruguler	3	0	1	0	0	0
Preston Nedved	3	0	0	0	0	0
Malcolm Janis	2	0	1	0	1	0
Jayden Aungie	2	0	0	0	1	0
Dustin Honomichi	3	0	2	0	0	0
Nolan Dvorak	2	0	0	0	0	1
Simon Freier	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln Thury	3	0	0	0	0	0
Ayden Bruguler	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	22	0	4	0	2	1

Batting
1B: Anthony Bruguler, Dustin Honomichi 2, Malcolm Janis
SB: Simon Freier, Nolan Dvorak
FC: Preston Nedved
QIDP: Nolan Dvorak
SB: Preston Nedved, Jayden Aungie, Malcolm Janis

Totals
 Team QAB: 7 (26.92%)
 Anthony Bruguler, Simon Freier 2, Nolan Dvorak, Jayden Aungie, Dustin Honomichi, Malcolm Janis
 Team LOB: 5

Fielding
E: Anthony Bruguler

Wagner Post 11

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Dustin Honomichi	7.0	100	.660	5	1	1	5	2	0
Totals	7.0	100	.660	5	1	1	5	2	0

Pitching
L: Dustin Honomichi
WP: Dustin Honomichi
Pitches-Strikes: Dustin Honomichi 100-66
Groundouts-Flouts: Dustin Honomichi 9-6
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: Dustin Honomichi 19-29

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GAMECHANGER

Final | Tournament Game

5 Claremont/Britton
Post 262

Sunday, August 11
3:00PM

Groton Post 39 **4**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
CLAR	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	5	3	0
GROT	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4	3	1

Claremont/Britton Post 262

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Ben Gustafson	4	0	0	0	0	2
Colin Frey	3	1	0	0	1	1
Austen Wieser	3	1	1	0	1	1
Boston Marlow	3	1	1	1	1	1
Benton West	2	1	0	0	2	1
William Cutler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Nico Alvarez	1	1	1	2	2	0
Jesse Keough	2	0	0	0	1	1
Zander Widener	3	0	0	1	0	1
Cody Blanchard	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	24	5	3	4	8	11

Batting

1B: Austen Wieser, Nico Alvarez, Boston Marlow
2B: Nico Alvarez 1, Boston Marlow, Zander Widener
3B: Boston Marlow
SS: Benton West, Austen Wieser 2, Nico Alvarez, Colin Frey, Boston Marlow
CF: Boston Marlow

Totals

Team QAB: 14 (45.75%)
 Benton West 2, Austen Wieser 2, Nico Alvarez 3, Colin Frey 2, Boston Marlow 2, Ben Gustafson 2, Jesse Keough

Team LOB: 6

Fielding

DF: Cody Blanchard

Groton Post 39

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Darien Shebazz	2	1	0	0	2	0
Pierce Kettering	2	0	0	0	1	1
Alex Morris	3	0	1	0	1	0
Chandler Larson	3	1	1	1	1	1
Peyton Johnson	3	0	0	0	1	1
Kaden Kurtz	2	0	0	1	0	0
Jackson Cogley	3	1	1	0	0	1
Lane Krueger	2	0	0	0	0	0
Evin Nehls	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riley Thurston	1	1	0	0	2	0
Jace Kroll	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	21	4	3	2	8	4

Batting

1B: Chandler Larson, Alex Morris, Jackson Cogley
2B: Chandler Larson, Kaden Kurtz
3B: Pierce Kettering
SS: Kaden Kurtz
LF: Lane Krueger
CF: Riley Thurston, Alex Morris, Darien Shebazz 2, Pierce Kettering, Jackson Cogley 2

Totals

Team QAB: 13 (40.82%)
 Lane Krueger, Peyton Johnson 2, Riley Thurston 2, Chandler Larson, Alex Morris, Darien Shebazz 2, Kaden Kurtz, Pierce Kettering 3

Team LOB: 7

Fielding

IF: Darien Shebazz

State Junior Legion Championship Game



Dylan Frey was on the phone with his dad and head coach, Mike Frey. Mike was admitted to the hospital on Friday after he was diagnosed with blood clots in his lungs and legs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Lane Krueger makes the catch for Groton.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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The Groton American Legion Post #39 presented the colors during the playing of the National Anthem. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Paul Karst greeted the teams and led them in the Legion baseball code to start out the game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Emily Sternhagen sang the National Anthem. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Pierce Kettering wheeled to first base as he tried to outrun the throw to first baseman Ben Gustafson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Groton's Jackson Cogley successfully steals second base in front of Claremont-Britton's second baseman. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Colin Frey steals home just in front of the tag by Groton's catcher Kaden Kurtz. The score tied the game at two in the top of the third inning. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Peyton Johnson winds up for a pitch for Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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Zander Widener winds up for a pitch for Claremont-Britton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Boston Marlow was having cramps so Jen Gustafson was helping him loosen up. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Wyatt Locke, Aaron Severson and Tate Larson were among the grounds keepers touching up the infield after the third inning. Doug Hamilton said that the grounds crew did a "phenomenal" job. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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The view of the crows nest and the home dug-out. New dug-outs will be installed next year. They will be like the ones on the smaller fields except twice as big.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Danny Feist was warming up in case he had to come in to pitch towards the end of the game for Claremont-Britton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Darien Shabazz makes the catch in center field for Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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Zander Widener starts celebrating as Jesse Keough made the catch deep in center field to end game and give Claremont-Britton the state championship title.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Coach Dalton Locke (left) accepts the State B Junior Legion Runner-up Trophy from Legion Commissioner Paul Karst. (Photo by

Paul Kosel)



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Groton's Chandler Larson was selected as the State Tournament Most Valuable Player. He was presented with the award by State Legion Commissioner Paul Karst. Larson had a .333 batting average, 1000% fielding percentage, seven assists and four hit shut outs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Dylan Frey accepted the State Junior Legion Baseball championship trophy from Legion Commissioner Paul Karst. Frey's dad, Mike, is the head coach but ended up the hospital with some blood clots the day before.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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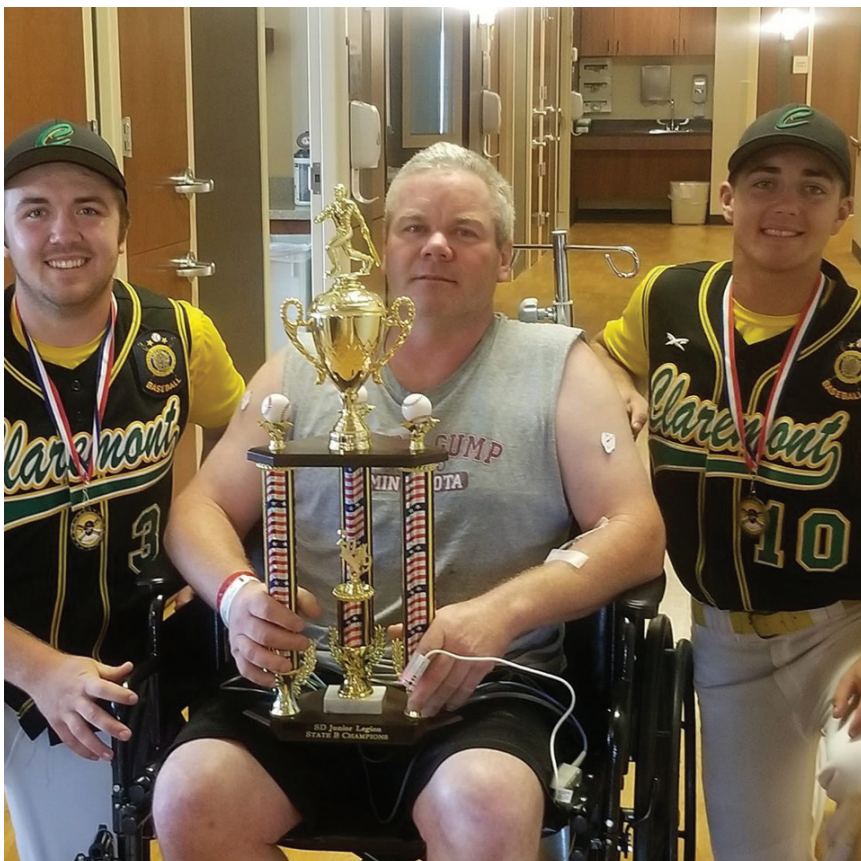


State B Jr. Legion Champions - the Claremont-Britton Honkers!

Front row -- Ben Gustafson, Benton West, Aden Godel, Kash Cutler, Cody Blanchard, Boston Marlow, Jordan Dawson, Jesse Keough

Back row -- Coach Joe Gustafson, Connor Smith, Will Cutler, Zander Widener, Bryce Peterson, Kade Larson, Nico Alvarez, Colin Frey, Austen Wieser, Danny Feist, Cole Bisbee and Coach Dylan Frey.

Not pictured -- head coach Mike Frey (hospitalized day 2 and 3 of the tourney with blood clots in lungs and leg). (Photo by Jen Gustafson)

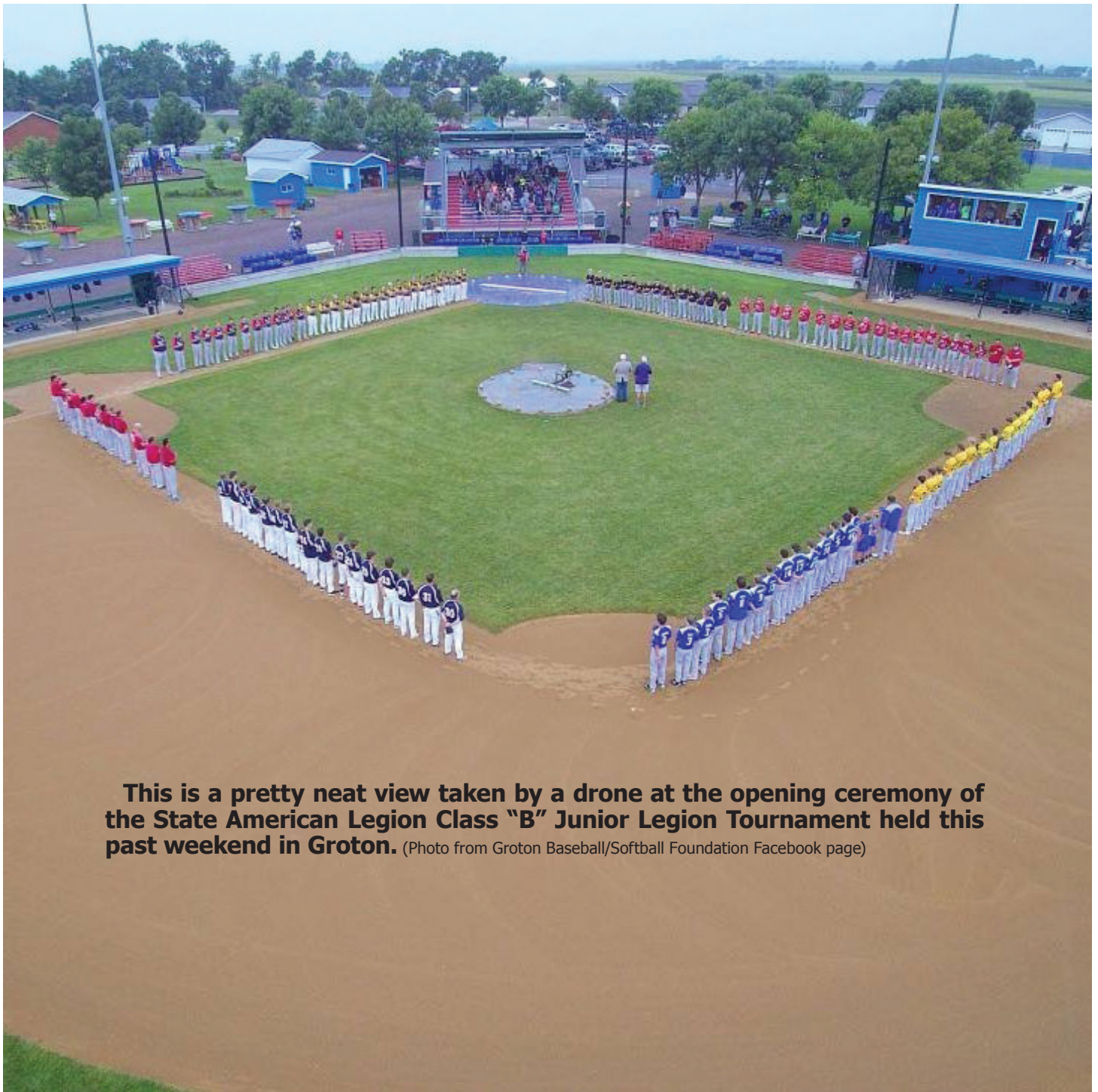


Dylan Frey (left) and Colin Frey (right) are pictured with their dad and coach, Mike Frey, in the hospital in Aberdeen.

(Photo from Mike's Facebook Page)

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This is a pretty neat view taken by a drone at the opening ceremony of the State American Legion Class "B" Junior Legion Tournament held this past weekend in Groton. (Photo from Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation Facebook page)

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There was a large crowd on hand for the state championship game between Groton and Claremont-Britton. As Dave Carson said, "It was a nice venue for the kids to play in front of a large crowd." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Sometimes words are hard to come by, but for Joni Groeblichhoff, she said it best with the following post she had on her Facebook page:

Anyone who knows me, knows that I love the game of baseball. For the past three days I've spent my time at the baseball field in Groton where they hosted the State B Jr Legion tournament. I watched eight different teams from around the state compete for a shot at a state title.

In the end, the two teams in the championship game were both from the northeast corner of the state. Groton versus Claremont/Britton. Both teams have a strong long standing tradition of baseball players and teams. As I sat among fans from both teams, I felt a real sense of pride. Pride in hailing from a small town who loves baseball, pride in knowing that the players are out there on that field ready to give it their very best attempt or maybe sitting on the bench in the dugout cheering on their teammates and giving support.

Among the sea of Groton red to my left and Honker green to my right, I was in the middle and could hear the fans from one team and then the next when a strike was thrown or a good play was made.

It was a hard fought battle. One team would walk away victorious. One team would feel defeat. In the end, it came down to one run that would end the game and the Honkers walked away with the state title. But you see, no matter who would have won, the players, coaches, fans and community would be proud of their team. They ARE proud of their team, whether they won or whether they got 2nd place.

"Life is a game we all try to play.

Some give up on it, some toss it away.

But the winner is one who may stumble and fall, and still find a way to handle it all."

I couldn't think of a better way to spend one of my final weekends of summer, than to take in the sights and sounds of the ballpark.

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The Karsts stand by the entrance sign at Locke-Karst Field in Groton. Paul Karst had coached for many years in Groton alongside fellow coach the late Ervin Locke, Jr. The team is named after both of those coaches. Pictured are Derek Karst, Paul Karst and Dan Karst. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



State B Jr. Legion Runner Up - Groton Post #39



Flihs has Yard of the Week

Loren and Julie Flihs at 511 N. 5th Street in Groton was chosen as last week's Yard of the Week, chosen and sponsored by the members of the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The NFL preseason has officially begun! The Vikings sailed to New Orleans to sack the Saints last week. Even though this was a preseason game, these two teams have plenty of history, so there was an over abundance of tension. The Vikings got out to an early lead in this one, and they were able to hold off a sudden surge by the Saints late in the game. In the end, the Vikings won 34-25.

The Vikings' offensive starters only played one drive, but it was nearly flawless. After receiving the opening kickoff, Kirk Cousins and the rest of the starters had an eight play, 78-yard drive. The drive started off with a hold on backup tackle Rashod Hill, but the Vikings were able to overcome the setback. Cousins was 4-4 for 65 yards, throwing two passes to Kyle Rudolph (10 and 20 yards), a beautiful 35-yard pass to Adam Thielen, and a one-yard touchdown pass to rookie running back Alexander Mattison. Cousins was also the leading rusher on the drive, picking up 10-yards and a first down on a scramble.

After the starters left the field, it was time to see what the backups could do. Quarterback Sean Mannion took the field and promptly went 3-and-out. His next drive started with another offensive holding penalty (again on Rashod Hill), but once again the Vikings were able to overcome, ending the drive with an 18-yard touchdown from Mannion to rookie WR Olabisi Johnson. Mannion and the rest of the Vikings' 2nd-team offense played the rest of the first half, quarterback Kyle Slotter got the third quarter, and rookie Jake Browning got the fourth. As a team, the Vikings completed 19/27 passes for 247 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions. On the ground, the team carried the ball 27 times for 213 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, the Vikings had their ups and downs. The starters allowed the Saints starters, minus Drew Brees, to move down the field with relative ease – but the defense held strong in the red zone and forced a field goal attempt from their 9-yard line. As a whole, the Vikings' defense ended the game with two sacks, four tackles for a loss, and six pass deflections. The play of the game was right after halftime, when defensive tackle Jayln Holmes deflected a pass, which was intercepted by Nate Meadors who ran 30 yards for the pick-six.

The player of the game on offense was Olabisi Johnson, the seventh-round rookie wide receiver. He only had two catches, but one was for an 18-yard touchdown where he had to contort his body to make the catch. The Vikings are wide open at receiver after Diggs and Thielen, so Bisi has a good chance to make the roster if he can keep it up.

The player of the game on defense was Hercules Mata'afa. The second-year player played linebacker at Washington State, but the Vikings have moved him to defensive tackle. He sat out last season which helped him bulk up, and while he's small for the defensive tackle position, he still managed to dominate when he was on the field. Mata'afa finished the game with three tackles, a sack, two QB hits, and two tackles for a loss.

Quick notes

Former Vikings' quarterback Teddy Bridgewater played well in the absence of Drew Brees, completing 14/19 passes for 134 yards and a touchdown.

The Vikings added an offensive tackle on Sunday, bringing in Nate Wozniak. If the name sounds familiar, it's because Wozniak played tight end for the Gophers two years ago. To make room for him, the team waived Tyler Catalina, who they had just signed last week.

The Vikings sent a fifth-round pick to the Baltimore Ravens for kicker/punter Kaare Vedvik. It remains to be seen if the team is going to use him to replace kicker Dan Bailey or punter Matt Wile.

Looking ahead, the Vikings return home and will battle the Seattle Seahawks in preseason game number two. The game will be on August 18 and will air at 7:00pm (CT). I expect most of the starters to play into the second quarter.

What were your thoughts on the game? Reach out to me on Twitter and let me know! (@JordanWright-NFL) Skol!

Get to Know 2019 Rural Dakota Pride Honoree, Jim Lane, Groton



When Jim Lane hears his peers make negative comments about “kids these days.” He is quick to disagree.

“I get to work with kids who put an incredible amount of work into their projects. Their work ethic, fortitude and personal drive are why I like volunteering as the robotics coach,” Jim explains, about the Groton High School students who make up the robotics team he has coached since 2011.

Robotics is a unique extra-curricular activity where teens are given the rules of a game, and then expected to build and program a robot to play that game, competing against an-

other robot built by an opposing team. Governed by an international organization, Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, the youth compete on the state level to qualify for regional, national and international competitions.

As the coach, Jim sees his role as practice organizer, supply provider, provider of transportation and teaching youth problem solving skills. “I don’t tell them anything. Robotics is not like basketball or football where the coach tells kids how to play the game,” he says, explaining that when the teens ask him questions, he asks them more questions. “Robotics teaches them how to problem solve by helping them think through issues. All their lives, they will have to solve problems. No matter what they do or where they go, there will be a problem. Whether it is a mechanical problem or a people problem.”

To emphasize his point further, Jim shares a story about a time when the Groton team qualified for a nation competition with more than 350 teams. “Our team was doing very well and close to the top at the end of the first day of matches. Then, their robot broke in last seconds of competition.”

The teens painstakingly took their robot apart, spending hours testing the parts to locate the problem. By 10 p.m. when the facility closed for the night, they were forced to leave their robot, which they still needed to finish putting back together. The next morning, they arrived early to finish putting the robot back together.

The Groton team ended up placing third overall in their division. “They won because they spent the time working on their robot, finding the problem and fixing it.”

Problem solving is something Jim enjoys. It’s a skill that comes in handy. He is a small business owner of a handyman business, Jim of All Trades. “I enjoy projects and I have a curious mind. The things I read for pleasure are Discovery Magazine and National Geographic.”

Jim first got involved in coaching robotics when his son, Logan, was in high school. Logan had been taking a robotics unit and the teacher learned of a competition in Sioux Falls. Logan and some of his friends were interested in participating, but they needed a parent to provide transportation. When the teacher asked Jim, he said, “yes.”

Then, Jim organized some practices...he was hooked. Even after Logan graduated, Jim is still involved. “I like watching kids take ownership of their robot and the work it takes,” Jim says.

Along with the opportunity to mentor local youth, Jim appreciates the opportunity to give back to the community he’s called home since 1976. “I like the fact it’s a small town and, when my kids were young

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and running around, people knew who they were and where they belonged. If they got into trouble, people know where to come.”

Jim has five grown children, Jamie Forrest, CJ, Lincoln, Logan and Marshall. In addition to robotics, Jim and his wife, Melodee, volunteer their time in other areas of the community as well. A few years ago, couple dedicated two years to organizing efforts to fundraise and build a warming house for the community ice rink.

To learn more about the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, visit <https://www.roboticseducation.org/>.

Jim is one of five volunteers recognized for their selfless contributions to South Dakota rural communities by South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) with the 2019 Rural Dakota Pride Honor August 31, during the 2019 South Dakota State Fair.

“Community is created and maintained through the efforts of volunteers,” explains Karla Hofhenke, SDFU Executive Director.

The other 2019 Rural Dakota Pride honorees include: Angie Mueller, Ethan; Jeannie Hofer, Huron; Rich Bakeberg, Frederick and Franklin Olson, Pierpont.



As an organization which serves South Dakota’s family farmers and ranchers, Doug Sombke, SDFU President, says Farmers Union recognizes the important role strong rural communities play in supporting agriculture producers and their families.

“South Dakota’s agriculture producers and their communities are closely connected. In good economic times they both prosper. When the economy is down, like today with the trade war, low commodity prices and extreme weather conditions, they both feel the pain,” Sombke said. “The Rural Dakota Pride honor is one of many ways SDFU works to show our support for both.”

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.

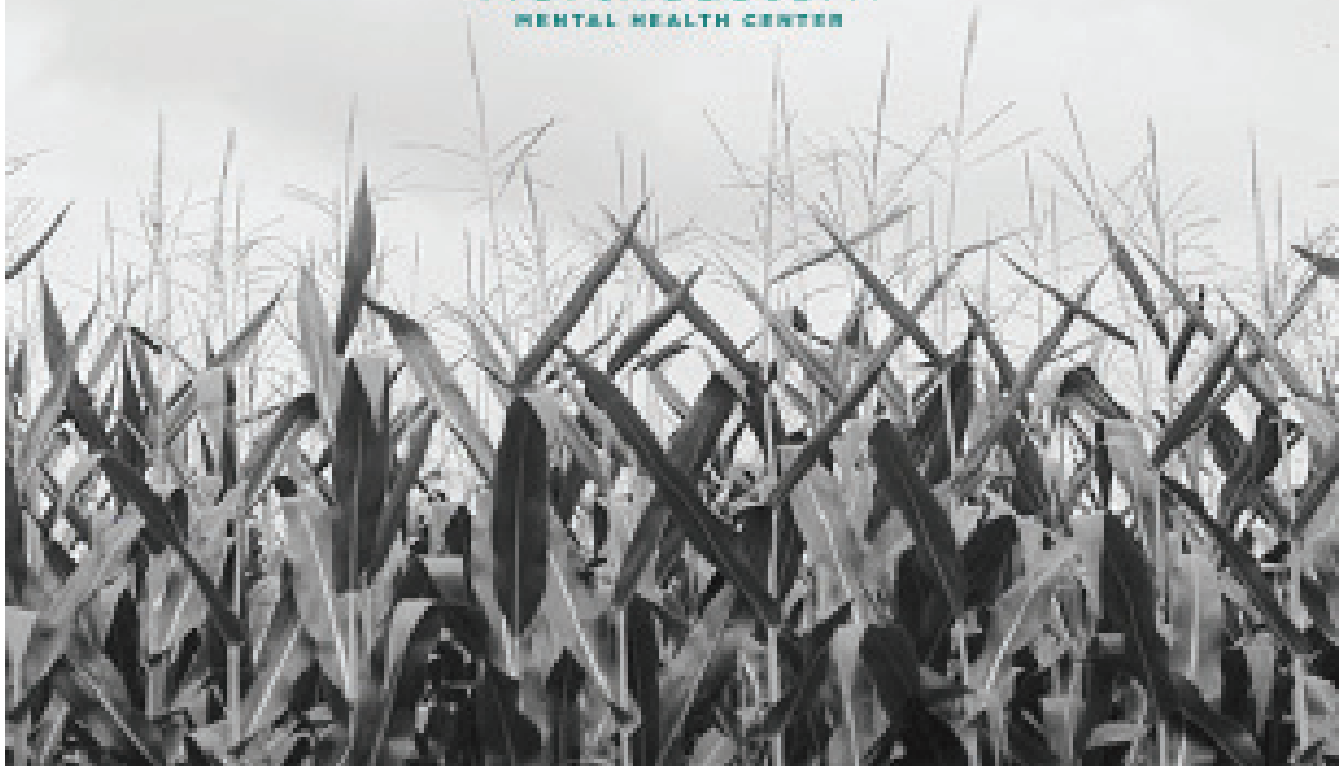
We're here to help.

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



60%

T-storms
Likely

High: 77 °F

Tonight



30%

Chance
T-storms then
Partly Cloudy

Low: 60 °F

Tuesday



Partly Sunny
then Partly
Sunny and
Breezy

High: 72 °F

Tuesday
Night



Decreasing
Clouds

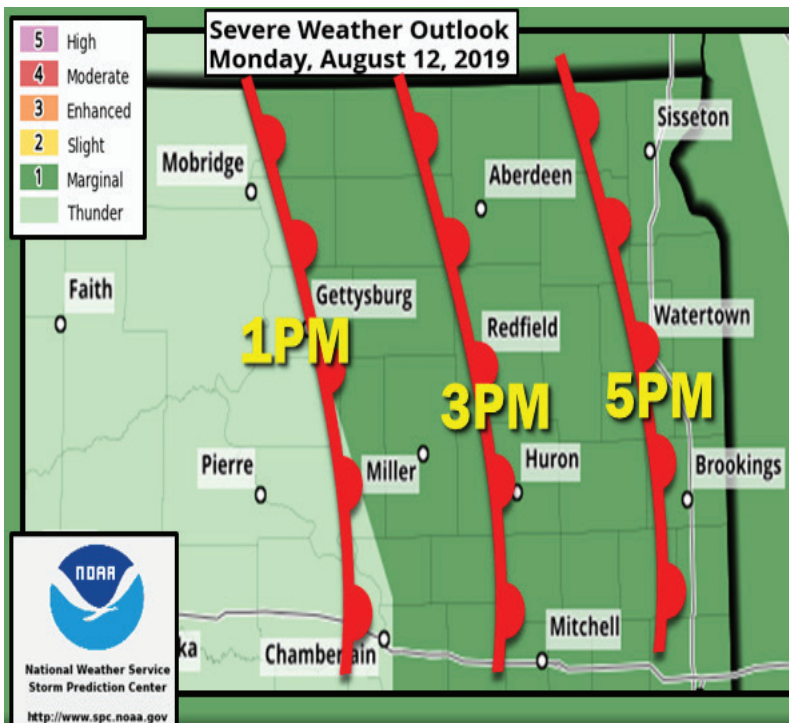
Low: 52 °F

Wednesday



Sunny

High: 74 °F



Afternoon Thunderstorms Threat

Weak Storms Develop
Around 1 PM & Track
Along The Front

Isolated Severe
Storm Threat
Including Hail/Winds
& Brief Tornadoes



NWS Aberdeen
ISSUED: 3:53 AM - Monday, August 12, 2019

Published on: 08/11/2019 at 11:57PM

A front moving across the area will provide the focus for isolated to scattered storms. These may present a brief severe weather threat if we can see some clearing before the front moves in - which may include a brief tornado or two. After the front passes through the severe weather risk diminishes rapidly.

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Today in Weather History

1831: The Great Barbados Hurricane was an intense Category 4 hurricane that left cataclysmic damage across the Caribbean and Louisiana in 1831. From August 11 through the 13, Bermudians were amazed to see the sun with a decidedly blue appearance, giving off an eerie blue light when it shone into rooms and other enclosed places. Ships at sea as far west as Cape Hatteras reported that "their white sails appeared a light blue colour." A month later it was learned that the astounding blue sunlight had coincided with a terrible hurricane that caused 1,477 people to lose their lives. It was assumed that the hurricane was intensive enough to cause an unusual disturbance in the higher atmospheric strata, and refraction, diffraction or absorption of light rays, to produce the blue reflection. Because the sun appeared bluish-green, Nat Turner took this as the final signal and began a slave rebellion a week later on August 21.

1987: A succession of thunderstorms produced rainfall that was unprecedented in 116 years of precipitation records at Chicago, Illinois during an 18 hour period from the evening of the 13th to the early afternoon of the 14th. The resulting flash flood was the worst ever to strike the Chicago metropolitan area, causing three deaths and water damage that amounted to 221 million dollars. O'Hare International Airport received an event total of 9.35 inches of rain in 18 hours, shattering the previous 24-hour record of 6.24 inches. For about 24 hours, the airport was only accessible from the air as all roads were blocked by high water, including the Kennedy Expressway.

1991: Stockton, California received 0.05 inch of rainfall on this day. Since 1949, this is the only measured rainfall in Stockton on August 13th.

2003: A string of days in Paris France with temperatures from the 4th to the 12th above 95°F ends when the day's high drops to 90°F. During the long, hot summer which began 25 July and has registered several days above 100°F, an estimated 14,800 have died from heat-related causes, the French government admits.

2014: An official, New York State 24 hour precipitation record was set at Islip, NY on August 12-13 when 13.57" of rain fell.

1778 - A Rhode Island hurricane prevented an impending British-French sea battle, and caused extensive damage over southeast New England. (David Ludlum)

1933 - The temperature at Greenland Ranch in Death Valley, CA, hit 127 degrees to establish a U.S. record for the month of August. (The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature at Seymour, TX, hit 120 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1955 - During the second week of August hurricanes Connie and Diane produced as much as 19 inches of rain in the northeastern U.S. forcing rivers from Virginia to Massachusetts into a high flood. Westfield MA was deluged with 18.15 inches of rain in 24 hours, and at Woonsocket RI the Blackstone River swelled from seventy feet in width to a mile and a half. Connecticut and the Delaware Valley were hardest hit. Total damage in New England was 800 million dollars, and flooding claimed 187 lives. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Early afternoon thunderstorms in Arizona produced 3.90 inches of rain in ninety minutes at Walnut National Monument (located east of Flagstaff), along with three inches of pea size hail, which had to be plowed off the roads. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Fifteen cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Youngstown OH reported twenty-six days of 90 degree weather for the year, a total equal to that for the entire decade of the 1970s. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms were scattered across nearly every state in the Union by late in the day. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Fergus Falls MN, and golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 60 mph at Black Creek WI. In the Chicago area, seven persons at a forest preserve in North Riverside were injured by lightning. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

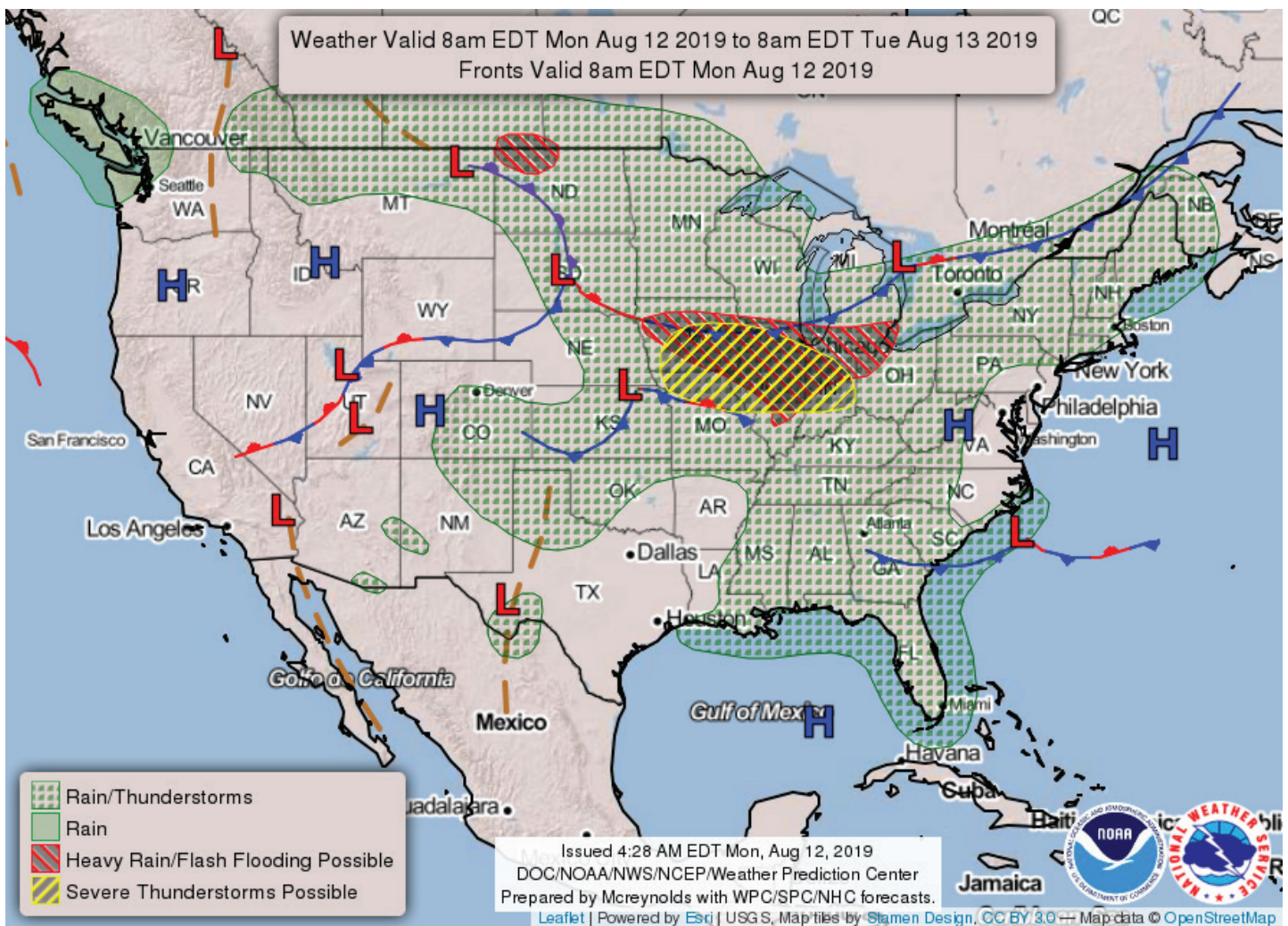
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 77 °F at 6:18 PM
Low Temp: 65 °F at 6:12 AM
Wind: 12 mph at 8:59 AM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 102° in 1933
Record Low: 40° in 1898
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 57°F
Average Precip in Aug.: 0.87
Precip to date in Aug.: 1.55
Average Precip to date: 14.73
Precip Year to Date: 18.14
Sunset Tonight: 8:46 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:32 a.m.



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FINANCES AND FRIENDSHIP

Is there a limit to friendship? It seems that there is.

"A man lacking in judgment strikes the hand of another in a pledge, and puts up security for his neighbor" is sound advice!

Only the hardest of hearts want to see anyone suffer from a lack of life's necessities. Most of us want to be thought of as having kind hearts and willing hands. Many have given more than their share of their goods and finances without thinking of the cost to them personally. There have been times that what once seemed wise, in the final analysis, was not wise, but stupid. So, we come to a verse that puts the idea of giving into the proper context for us.

It's foolish or a "man lacks judgment" for a person to place their name on a contract unless they know for certain the character and financial resources of the other person. So, there is indeed a limit to friendship.

Very often, and with good intentions and the desire to be "liked," we foolhardily shake hands or "make a pledge" for a person who cannot or will not honor their word. To enter into any agreement with any person for any reason must be given careful, prayerful thought. It is foolish to give our word and promise to fulfill any contract simply to be liked or considered a "friend."

This proverb addresses the idea of "certainty." If, for example, the person who is the primary individual on the contract becomes unable to fulfill his obligations, the burden of fulfilling the obligation falls on the "hand shaker." To do so may endanger the family of the co-signer as well as encourage the one wanting financial assistance to be extravagant and careless in spending. Being "nice" often results in being swindled. However, always be kind.

Prayer: We ask, Lord, that we may seek Your wisdom and guidance before making foolish choices to help others. May we be kind, cautious and prayerful. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 17:18 A man lacking in judgment strikes the hand of another in a pledge, and puts up security for his neighbor.

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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

Shooting simulator offers range of fictional scenarios

By **KELDA J.L. PHARRIS** Aberdeen American News

MELLETT, S.D. (AP) — Willie Dvorak was looking around for something to entertain his hunters once their time in the field finished for the day.

He guides hunts in Alaska for brown bear and elk and, back home in South Dakota, for trophy whitetail or coveys of ringnecks.

“Evening rolls around a little earlier in the winter,” he said.

Dvorak’s interest was piqued by a shooting simulator. He said he got to try one while visiting a client who works for the New York Police Department. The department uses the simulator as one facet in its training cadre.

Dvorak started looking into the units, which can run up to \$75,000 or so. He was going to purchase straight from a company, then caught wind of a fairly new one a man in Sturgis, Michigan, was looking to sell. He hauled the unit home just a few weeks ago.

The man who previously had it used to for concealed-carry, law enforcement and self-defense training.

“He didn’t have the time to use it as much as he’d like because of his job in law enforcement,” Dvorak said. “That was a lot of money to have tied up for him, so he decided to sell it to me. I think he had about \$50,000 into it.”

The previous owner helped walk Dvorak through the system so he hit the ground running. The manufacturer was also willing to give assistance as needed.

The simulator’s scenarios range from target shooting at plates to zombie fiction to terrorist and other life-or-death situations. As people started using Dvorak’s entertainment investment, he came to a realization.

The device gives insight into high-stress situations only small factions of people deal with regularly — those in law enforcement, the military and first response teams.

Dvorak’s Mellette home is unassuming save for a trophy room of animals from across the world. A spare room on his second floor is outfitted with the Tactical Arms Simulator, or TASimulator by Ti Training.

A white wall works as a drop screen for the images projected from the shelf of an entertainment-like system set in the middle of the room. The top, covered in black cloth, holds a handful of guns and cartridges. Laser sensors wrapped along crown-level frames detect the player’s weapon — a Glock 17 with a Dvorak-system.

“Like my name,” he said, explaining the chamber-bullet system that’s been replaced with a carbon dioxide cartridge and laser.

Ultimately, it’s danger-proof but the recoil feels like that of a bullet-firing Glock. A plastic option is also



In this July 17, 2019, photo, Willie Dvorak aims at the display of the shooting simulator during a scenario of an office shooting, in Mellette, S.D. The suspect is crouched by a desk at right. The simulator’s scenarios range from target shooting at plates to zombie fiction to terrorist and other life-or-death situations. (John Davis/Aberdeen American News via AP)

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available with negligible recoil. It's good for first-time shooters.

The simulator is labeled for "use in force" training. That's the only option — deadly force. The player, or "good guy," ventures into one of roughly 650 scenarios, and his or her only option is shooting or not.

"The name of the game is to not get killed, to not kill the wrong person and to make it home safe," he said.

Dvorak briefly announced scenarios and what good-guy persona the player should adopt. The player could be a citizen with conceal-carry permit at a rowdy bar, a campus security officer at a high school or a soldier at a border crossing. All are very in-the-moment scenarios that grip headlines with sobering adjectives and body counts.

The entertainment aspect is felt in the adrenaline and wary excitement as a player approaches the life-sized scenarios in full live action.

"Just like if the cops hear on the radio, 'Domestic dispute at the Dvorak's place,' then all they really know is there is a bunch of screaming and hollering and someone called to tell you," he said, his mouse clicking to set up another scenario.

The operator of the simulator can ramp up the stress level by adding more distractions. Moving backgrounds, vocal tracks and traffic noises amplify the stress and fuzzy the player's focus. The scenarios can even be directed to some extent. In one scene, a player's eyes focus on a fellow campus officer subduing a volatile student. Dvorak causes another teen to pull a firearm from the other end of the screen. It's too late and thankfully not real, Aberdeen American News reported.

Despite it being a wall projection, using only deadly force can be difficult to commit to, especially in a bar fight scenario when the "bad guy" has no apparent weapon. In real life, physical restraint seems the likeliest go to, but that doesn't work in a simulation.

Then Dvorak makes a point. When the character breaks a beer bottle, it becomes a potentially deadly weapon. And, in the subsequent scene, sure enough, a deadly attack ensues unhampered by the player's bullets.

In most scenarios there is a clear weapon or firearm, but Dvorak's message of "action is always faster than reaction" plays out over and over:

- A school shooting scenario with multiple distractions and a sniper-range shooter.
- A border stop gone awry with a suicide bomber.
- An active shooter in a business who knows the layout and the targeted scenario.

Each scene eases in, then comes on fast, like a nervous sweat, and by the time the player has deduced how the scenario might play out, the "bad guy" has already taken aim.

A player's shot accuracy has a margin of about an inch, Dvorak said. There're about 15 feet between player and wall with graduated depth of field, meant to look as real as possible. Some targets have bullet-proof vests, others hide behind vehicles or hostages or other officers. It's hard to know the right call. Dvorak simply asks players to put themselves in their character's shoes — an all but impossible task, especially with no prior training or experience.

The simulator offers a glimpse into the lives of those on the frontlines.

"A lot of people don't realize that if the cop fails to shoot, then he goes home in a body bag. If the cop gets too antsy, he kills somebody that shouldn't be killed. If he kills somebody that shouldn't be killed, he's going to jail for murder," Dvorak said. "The cop is being asked to make some really, really tough decisions in split-second timing."

So far, Dvorak's new entertainment trap has gotten a boon of attention from just word of mouth. He charges \$30 per person per hour-long session. The device, which includes a computer system, sensors, a projector, a screen and accessories, is easily transported for conventions, business events or other events.

Playground created in memory of Webster child

By LAURA BUTTERBRODT Watertown Public Opinion

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — After Justin and Brittany Zubke lost their 14-month-old daughter Emma last summer, they turned their grief and shock into a way to contribute to the Webster community.

Emma died unexpectedly during a camping trip at Lake Kampeska on June 17, 2018, from bronchial pneumonia. The Zubkes, along with the Webster 4-H clubs and community support, have created a playground at the Webster Fairgrounds in her memory.

"We kind of felt like we had to get our grief out the right way. We knew we had to cry, talk about it, stuff like that. We wanted to try to do it as healthy as possible," Brittany Zubke said. "What we found was healthiest for us and our grief was doing something to still feel like we're her parents.

Emma's Playground, which includes a 12x24-foot sheltered sandbox, spring pagriders, tic-tac-toe board and seating next to the 4-H show ring, was created to keep Emma's memory alive.

Justin and Brittany Zubke attended last year's Day County Fair after Emma died.

"It was hard to watch kids play and to realize Emma would never be a part of this fair, because before Justin and I even got married and had kids, we always talked about how our kids would be in 4-H," Brittany Zubke said.

Missy Bartelt, head leader of the 4-H Dakota Kids, and Stacey Dunse, leader of the 4-H Jolly Workers, put together a temporary play area in Emma's name at last year's fair with plastic pools filled with sand and corn. They saw the area was popular with kids of all ages as a play area or a space to gather.

They started the process of creating a permanent playground in February. Thanks to a grant from the Phyllis Hanse Family Fund and a donation from Brewster Building Center in Milbank, the biggest parts of the playground were paid for. Community members participated in a Tupperware fundraiser and donated money to the Zubkes, Watertown Public Opinion reported.

"As soon as we put the word out there that we were going to do Emma's playground, it was phenomenal the donations that just started coming in," Bartlet said.

The playground cost about \$23,000. The biggest cost was the shelter, which is built to be maintenance-free. Brittany Zubke said she wants her grandchildren to play on Emma's Playground someday.

She was six months pregnant with her second daughter, Elsie, when Emma died. Brittany Zubke said she and her husband worked through their grief as quickly as they were able.

"It's almost like we thought if we did everything in the right order, it would just go away, and we also



In this July 31, 2019 photo, Brittany Zubke holds her 10-month-old daughter Elsie at Emma's Playground, which was created in memory of her 14-month-old daughter Emma who died unexpectedly in June of 2018, in Webster, S.D. Emma died during a camping trip at Lake Kampeska, from bronchial pneumonia. The Zubkes, along with the Webster 4-H clubs and community support, have created the playground at the Webster Fairgrounds in her memory.

(Laura Butterbrodt/The Public Opinion via AP)

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wanted to do it before the next baby, before Elsie came to join us," said Brittany Zubke.

Part of their grieving process included ordering Emma's headstone, but waiting for it to arrive was a long process. Brittany Zubke's father put a hand-made cross on her grave to mark her resting place in the meantime.

This was the beginning of Emma's Markers, another thing the Zubkes did to not only help with their grief, but also other families who lost children. They would send a wooden cross to people who had lost a child but couldn't bring themselves to order the gravestone or couldn't afford one.

The Zubkes said while they are able to do things in Emma's memory, it isn't easy.

"It really is like a roller coaster and you've just got to learn how to hold your stomach in when you go down those hills," Brittany Zubke said. "Honestly, if it wasn't for these women and our community, we wouldn't have this done because Justin and I physically, mentally, emotionally did not have the energy to do all this."

Justin Zubke agreed, offering advice and encouragement to anyone who has lost a child or loved one, no matter what age.

"Lean on your loved ones," Justin Zubke said. "No one handles it the same so lean on the people around you. We got through it and you'll get through it too. It's a lot better than it was, but there's still certain days that aren't so hot."

Emma's Playground has open space left for expansion. They want to add new things to the playground that Emma would've played on as she got older. The playground is themed with purple butterflies, two symbols associated with Emma.

"I always told myself if I did have a girl, I wouldn't raise her like a pink princess," Brittany Zubke said. "She never had any pink, it was always purple."

Butterflies are a common symbol that represents an angel coming from heaven to visit loved ones, Brittany Zubke said.

The fairgrounds are used for a cattle show and camping spaces during state sporting tournaments as well as the Day County Fair, so Bartlet and Dunse said they think it will be used in spring, summer and fall while the fairgrounds are open.

"There'll be a lot of joy out here," Dunse said.

Information from: Watertown Public Opinion, <http://www.thepublicopinion.com>

Cardinals' Gardeck makes most of chance with No. 1 defense

By JOSE M. ROMERO Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Dennis Gardeck found himself on the field for more than half of the Arizona Cardinals' defensive snaps Thursday night in the preseason opener, not typical for a player listed atop the depth chart at his inside linebacker position.

Then again, Gardeck is accustomed to hard work. It's why the second-year pro, undrafted out of small-college Sioux Falls, found himself in the position of backup to Haason Reddick, who is coming back from a knee procedure and might not be ready until the start of the regular season.

With Reddick out, Gardeck is in with the No. 1 defense. And his six solo tackles led the Cardinals on Thursday, in no small part because Gardeck was on the field with the starting defense and second unit.

"That's why I love this game, because no matter how good you think you are, there's still so much more to do," Gardeck said. "I'm excited because there's still so much room to grow."

No NFL rookie last season saw more snaps on special teams than Gardeck, who logged 388 and made five solo tackles. This season he's playing defense, and has the confidence of his coaches.

"We feel like he continues to improve," Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury said of Gardeck. "We're excited to get Haason back, but Dennis has taken advantage of those reps, and hopefully we keep seeing him do that."

Gardeck called Thursday night "a blast" and "a night to remember."

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"I need to gain as much experience and just see those reps first hand," he said. "I love to play the game. I don't want to come out ever, even if it's preseason, Week 1 or Week 17. It doesn't matter. I like playing football."

REMEMBERING COACH DRAKE

The Cardinals also issued a statement on the passing of former wide receivers coach Darryl Drake, who died Sunday morning.

"It is impossible to overstate his impact on the game in nearly four decades as a coach in college and the NFL. Today, the entire football community mourns his loss," the Cardinals said on their official Twitter account.

Drake was with the Cardinals for five seasons from 2013 to 2017 before joining the Pittsburgh Steelers' staff.

Kingsbury opened his Sunday news conference by offering condolences to Drake's family.

"Listening to stories about him and his time here, he was an amazing man, amazing coach. Any time you coach 40 years in this profession, you impact a lot of lives, We just want to send our hearts out to his loved ones, and we're thinking about him," Kingsbury said.

NOTES: The Cardinals signed DE Pasoni Tasini, and activated TE Charles Clay and CB Brandon Williams from the physically-unable-to-perform list. Clay is listed atop the most recent depth chart despite being out since the start of training camp with a knee injury.



Arizona Cardinals center Mason Cole (52) puts a block on Cardinals linebacker Dennis Gardeck (92) during an NFL football training camp practice at State Farm Stadium Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019, in Glendale, Ariz. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Sturgis attendance likely seeing small uptick in attendance

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Western South Dakota's famed motorcycle rally in Sturgis is likely seeing a small uptick in attendance this year.

This year's 10-day motorcycle rally wrapped up Sunday. The rally has been held annually for the past 79 years.

Figures released by the South Dakota Department of Public Safety show a slight overall increase in vehicles entering Sturgis through midweek.

The Rapid City Journal reports that more drunken driving, drug, traffic and other arrests point to increased attendance from last year's estimate of 495,000.

The final traffic count won't be available until next week.

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

Storms, floods cause \$1.2B damage to public infrastructure

By The Associated Press

Storms and flooding have caused significant damage throughout the U.S. during the first half of 2019.

The Associated Press tallied about \$1.2 billion of damage in 24 states based on preliminary assessments of public infrastructure categories established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The tally includes damage to roads and bridges, utilities, water control facilities, public buildings and equipment, and parks.

Each state must meet particular damage thresholds to qualify for federal aid based on their populations. Most, though not all, of the damage costs tallied by the AP will be eligible for federal aid. Figures for some states include updated damage costs provided to the AP by state agencies after their initial reports to FEMA.

The total figures are likely to rise because several states haven't completed damage assessments for recent disasters. Figures also could rise for some states that already have submitted figures to FEMA but might still be able to add more counties to their disaster declarations. The AP's state-by-state figures do not include damage to levees eligible for aid from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has estimated repair costs at an additional \$1 billion for levees in the Missouri River basin.

Here's a look at state-by-state preliminary damage assessments, shown by each disaster:

ALABAMA

Event: Storms, tornadoes and flooding
Date: Feb. 19-March 20
Damage: \$10 million

ARKANSAS

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: May 21-June 14
Damage: \$7.1 million

CALIFORNIA

Event: Storms, flooding and landslides
Date: Feb. 13-Feb. 15
Damage: \$65.2 million

CALIFORNIA

Event: Storms, flooding and landslides
Date: Feb. 24-March 1
Damage: \$36.7 million.

IDAHO

Event: Storms, flooding and landslides
Date: April 7-13
Damage: \$3 million

ILLINOIS

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: March 15-23
Damage: \$672,474



FILE - In this Friday, March 15, 2019 file photo, a bridge brought down by flood waters is seen near Norfolk, Neb. The Associated Press tallied about \$1.2 billion of damage in 24 states based on preliminary assessments of public infrastructure categories established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The tally includes damage to roads and bridges, utilities, water control facilities, public buildings and equipment, and parks. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

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ILLINOIS

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: May-July
Damage: Assessments ongoing

IOWA

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: March 12-June 15
Damage: \$132.7 million

KANSAS

Event: Storms, tornadoes and flooding
Date: April 28-July 12
Damage: \$10.3 million

KENTUCKY

Event: Storms, flooding and landslides
Date: Feb. 6-March 10
Damage: \$38.9 million

LOUISIANA

Event: Storms and tornadoes
Date: April 24-25
Damage: \$7.3 million

LOUISIANA

Event: Flooding
Date: May 10-June 17
Damage: Assessments ongoing

LOUISIANA

Event: Tropical Storm Barry
Date: July 10-15
Damage: Assessments ongoing

MINNESOTA

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: March 12-April 28
Damage: \$33.1 million

MISSISSIPPI

Event: Storms, tornadoes and flooding
Date: Feb. 22-March 29
Damage: \$13.2 million

MISSISSIPPI

Event: Storms, tornadoes and flooding
Date: April 13-14
Damage: \$3.2 million

MISSOURI

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: March 11-April 16
Damage: \$35.1 million

MISSOURI

Event: Storms, tornadoes and flooding
Date: April 29-July 5
Damage: \$59.9 million

MONTANA

Event: Flooding
Date: March 20-April 10
Damage: \$2.2 million

NEBRASKA

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: March 9-April 1
Damage: \$435.9 million

NEBRASKA

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: April-July
Damage: Assessments ongoing

NORTH DAKOTA

Event: Flooding
Date: March 21-April 28
Damage: \$5.9 million

OHIO

Event: Storms, flooding and landslides
Date: Feb. 5-13
Damage: \$43.5 million

OHIO

Event: Storms, tornadoes, flooding and landslides
Date: May 27-29
Damage: \$4.6 million

OKLAHOMA

Event: Storms, tornadoes and flooding
Date: April 30-May 6
Damage: \$6.4 million

OKLAHOMA

Event: Storms, tornadoes and flooding
Date: May 7-June 9
Damage: \$20 million

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OREGON

Event: Storms, flooding and landslides
Date: Feb. 23-26
Damage: \$24.5 million

OREGON

Event: Storms, flooding and landslides
Date: April 6-21
Damage: \$7.5 million

SOUTH DAKOTA

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: March 13-April 26
Damage: \$41.9 million

TENNESSEE

Event: Storms, flooding and landslides
Date: Feb. 19-March 30
Damage: \$64 million

TENNESSEE

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: June 6-9
Damage: \$8.1 million

TEXAS

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: June 24-25
Damage: \$47.8 million

VERMONT

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: April 15
Damage: \$2.4 million

WEST VIRGINIA

Event: Storms, flooding and landslides
Date: June 29-30
Damage: \$2.7 million

WISCONSIN

Event: Storms and flooding
Date: March 13-26
Damage: \$2.9 million

Troops let Muslims walk to mosques in Indian-ruled Kashmir

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Troops in India-administered Kashmir allowed some Muslims to walk to local mosques alone or in pairs to pray for the Eid al-Adha festival on Monday during an unprecedented security lockdown that still forced most people in the disputed region to stay indoors on the Islamic holy day.

Some protesters demonstrated against the Indian government's surprise revocation of Muslim-majority Kashmir's special status last week. All communications and the internet remained cut off for an eighth day. The streets were deserted, with authorities not allowing any large groups to gather to avoid anti-India protests.

"Our hearts are on fire," said Habibullah Bhat, 75, who said he came to offer prayers despite his failing health. "India has thrown us into the dark ages, but God is on our side and our resistance will win."

Hundreds of worshippers gathered on a street in a neighborhood in Srinagar after the prayers and chanted "We want freedom" and "Go India, Go back," witnesses said. Officials said the protest ended peacefully.

Kashmir police said in a tweet that Eid festival prayers "concluded peacefully in various parts of the (Kashmir) Valley. No untoward incident reported so far." Independent verification of events in the region was difficult because of the communications shutdown.

India's foreign ministry shared photos of people visiting mosques but didn't specify where the photos were taken within the region, which New Delhi downgraded from a state to two federal territories a week ago.

Vijay Keshav Gokhale, the ministry's top diplomat, said communications restrictions "will be gradually eased when we feel the law and order situation improves."

He said most mosques were open but some were not for security reasons.

He told reporters there were "no reports of starvation" and that medical facilities, utilities and banking services were functioning normally.

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The security lockdown in India's only Muslim-majority region is expected to last through Thursday, India's independence day. The restrictions had been briefly eased for Friday prayers last week and for shopping ahead of Eid.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and opposition leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed support for people in the Indian-administered portion of Kashmir to have self-determination. Both visited the Pakistani-controlled portion of Kashmir for Eid.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over control of Kashmir, and the first one ended in 1948 with a promise of a U.N.-sponsored referendum in the territory. It has never been held.

Qureshi urged the international community to take notice of "Indian atrocities and human rights violations in Kashmir." He said Islamabad was trying its best to highlight the Kashmir issue internationally and expose Indian "cruelties" in the region.

Thousands of additional troops were sent to the disputed Himalayan region before India's Hindu nationalist-led government said last Monday that it was revoking Kashmir's special constitutional status and downgrading its statehood.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in an address to the nation that the move would free the territory of "terrorism and separatism" and accused Indian archrival Pakistan of fomenting unrest.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan but claimed in full by both. Rebels have been fighting Indian rule in the portion it administers for decades.

Restrictions, security lockdowns and information blackouts are nothing new for Kashmiris. The region witnessed months of clampdowns during massive public uprisings against Indian rule in 2008, 2010 and 2016. However, this is the first time that landline phones have been cut off, intensifying hardship.

Frequent separatist calls for general strikes and protests are routinely met with security lockdowns.

Kashmiris have learned to figure out ways to survive the hardships of incarceration inside their homes. Residents are also used to stockpiling essentials, a practice usually undertaken during harsh winter months when roads and communications lines often remain snapped.

Over a million people live in the area under security siege in Srinagar.

Residents have begun to face shortages of food and other necessities as shops remain shuttered and public movement is restricted. Parents have struggled to entertain their children who are unable to go to school. Patients have faced shortages of prescription drugs.

Authorities say they have made cash available in ATMs so that residents could take out money to buy essentials for Eid.

___ Associated Press journalists Ashok Sharma and Emily Schmall in New Delhi and Roshan Mughal in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, contributed to this report.



Muslims walk past Indian paramilitary soldiers after offering prayers during Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of the Sacrifice, in Jammu, India, Monday, Aug.12, 2019. An uneasy calm prevailed in Indian-administered Kashmir on Monday as people celebrated a major Islamic festival during a severe crackdown after India moved to strip the disputed region of its constitutional autonomy and imposed an indefinite curfew. (AP Photo/Channi Anand)

'A waterfall of love': Woodstock memories 50 years later

By MICHAEL HILL Associated Press

BETHEL, N.Y. (AP) — They helicoptered over crowds into the Woodstock festival and hiked in past abandoned cars. They danced at dawn on a muddy hillside and dodged drenching rain. They barely slept, phoned Mom to say they were OK and marveled at their sheer numbers. They left behind sodden socks and sleeping bags, but gained an enduring sense of community.

Fifty years later, memories of the anarchic weekend of Aug. 15-18, 1969, remains sharp among people who were in the crowd and on the stage for the historic festival.

Here are their recollections of the Woodstock festival.

GOING UP TO THE COUNTRY

Woodstock was staged 80 miles (130 kilometers) northwest of New York City on a bucolic hillside owned by dairy farmer Max Yasgur. It was a great spot for peaceful vibes, but miserable for handling the hordes coming in by car.

Rock photographer Henry Diltz got to the site early during the setup: "All these hippie carpenters were sawing and hammering, building this huge plywood deck right at the bottom of this big, green hillside. It was like being on an aircraft carrier. The green alfalfa was waving in the breeze ... It was all wonderful. It was like summer camp ... And then suddenly one day there were people sitting up there on the hillside and at first I thought, 'What the hell are they doing up there?' and then 'Oh yeah, right, I forgot. There's going to be (a concert).'"

Ilene Marder, an 18-year-old traveling up from the Bronx: "People were abandoning their cars — not on the side of the road, but ON the road ... I was very responsible then, 'You can't just leave your car in the middle of the road!' But everyone did ... There was an immediate sense that something was happening that never happened before."

Singer Nancy Nevin's band, Sweetwater, was supposed to open Woodstock, but they got caught in traffic: "We got out of the car and kind of glared at each other. And there was no one in charge. You have to remember that everything about Woodstock being chaos is the truth ... Some guy was running around with a t-shirt and walkie-talkie, and he looked like he knew what he was doing. We talked to that guy and he said, 'Well, I'm going to ask for helicopters.'"

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

The enduring story of Woodstock is that more than 400,000 people jammed into an area of about a square mile without a disaster.

Nancy Nevins first saw the crowd from a helicopter: "It didn't even look like a crowd. It looked like a carpet. It didn't even look like people, it was a big spread, multi-colored as far as you can see. And Alex (Del Zoppo, Sweetwater's keyboardist) says to the pilot, 'What are those crops, man?' And he laughed and said, 'Those aren't crops, dude, those are people.'"



This Wednesday, July 24, 2019, photo shows the number 50 and a peace sign mowed into the grass at the site of the 1969 Woodstock Music and Arts Fair in Bethel, N.Y. Fifty years later, memories of the rainy weekend Aug. 15-18, 1969, remain sharp among people who were in the crowd and on the stage. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

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Kevin Rheden was an 18-year-old from the Hudson River Valley: "I'm meandering up through bodies, you know, smiling faces and feeling this overwhelming feeling of comfort. I can't describe it except to say that the hillside was just like a waterfall of love ... It's like I'm not alone. There are other people out there that think like me, dress like me, look like me and live like me."

Henry Diltz : "Late the afternoon I thought, 'You know, I'm going to walk through that crowd to the top of the hill and turn around and take a photo looking over the crowd down the hill at the stage.' And so I did that and it took me quite a while to get up there, and by then it was just getting dark and I'm looking down and taking a picture and I hear ... 'Ladies and gentleman, Crosby, Stills & Nash,' And I go, 'Oh s---! There's my friends, and I'm way up here!' It took me half the set to get back through the whole crowd and get back up on stage."

David Crosby of Crosby, Stills & Nash: "I saw people tear a sandwich and share it. Being nice to each other, gave us hope. There is the significant thing. For a minute, we were hopeful. For a minute we were not facing the Vietnam War. For a minute, we were not facing losing the Kennedys. For a minute, Dr. King's death wasn't hanging over us. For a minute, we were behaving like decent human beings."

Annette Nanes, who drove to the festival with a college friend: "You know what they call good vibes? It was an incredible experience with all these people and was very peaceful and just listening to great music. Everyone was really friendly and helpful."

Country Joe McDonald, performer: "I never saw a fight. At one point from the stage, I saw the crowd kind of separate ... and two guys were circling each other waving their fists like they were going to fight about something. And then somebody handed them a joint and they each took a puff off the joint and then they kind of laughed and hugged each other and then they sat back down."

RAINBOWS ALL OVER YOUR BLUES

Little went as planned. Fences came down. It became a free concert. The show ran late. Food was scarce. It rained.

Lighting director Chip Monck was told by promoter Michael Lang that he had an extra job: "Michael just tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'Oh, by the way, we've neglected to hire an emcee and you're it because you don't have anything to do in the daytime.'"

William Tindale was among the state troopers dispatched to Bethel: "We just didn't know what was going to happen. We just sat in a car. It was pretty boring. But we were just concerned about them getting into a riot or something."

Jefferson Airplane guitarist Jorma Kaukonen and the band arrived Saturday for an evening performance. They ended up playing Sunday: "We got there in the morning. We were supposed to go on at like 6 in the evening. So we had a whole day to kill. Guys had little minibikes, I like two-wheeled things with motors on them, so we got to do that, and just hanging out with our friends."

Ted Neumann, college student: "The closer you got to the stage on Sunday just meant you were almost underwater, because there were literally streams going down the hill."

Debra Conway lived nearby and would drive in and out via back roads: "By Sunday, it was really disgustingly muddy and smelly and steamy. It was not the big glamour myth. We weren't high, so maybe it was different for people who were."

Ted Neumann: "The only way to communicate was to stand on line at somebody's house and wait for use of their phone and give them a dollar ... The field that I parked my car at, there was some farm house there and there was a line of 20 or so people. And you just waited on line and used the woman's phone. So I called my mother, told her where I was and told her I was safe."

DANCE TO THE MUSIC

More than 30 acts performed, and a few had career-defining moments. Because the concert ran into Monday morning, many missed Jimi Hendrix's iconic set.

Country Joe McDonald performed an impromptu solo set that was tepidly received — until he led a now-famous foul-mouthed cheer: "I walked off stage and nobody even noticed that I left. And I went over to (tour manager) Bill (Belmont) and I asked him if he thought it would be OK if I did the cheer and 'Fixin'

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to Die Rag," the song about Vietnam, because I was saving it for that evening to play with the band. And he said, 'Well, nobody's paying any attention to you. What difference does it make what you do?' And I thought, 'Hey, he's right.' So I walked out there and yelled, 'Give me an F!' And they stopped talking to each other and they looked at me and yelled 'F!'"

Ted Neumann: "It was just one (act) after another. Just talking to each other in the field and saying, 'Well, it can't get any better than that.' And then the next thing seemed even better ... When Jefferson Airplane came on, it was sunrise, essentially, and hearing Grace Slick say, "Good morning people!"

John Fogerty waited a while with Creedence Clearwater Revival to go on after the Grateful Dead, who finished around midnight: "It was just pitch black. I couldn't see anything except a couple rows right here, I think, where the stage lights were spilling over. And the people there, it looked like one of those paintings of the souls in Dante's Inferno. They're all intertwined, and they're all naked, and they're all asleep, muddly ... They're not moving and, you know, we're rocking out ... And finally I begin to realize that's why I'm not hearing a big response from the darkness: they're all asleep, a half-a-million. The Grateful Dead had put half a million people to sleep!"

Jorma Kaukonen: "Carlos Santana's performance was an eye opener because we'd never seen anything like that. I remember that to this day as being one of the great live shows of all time."

Henry Diltz: "I had my rented station wagon parked behind the stage ... I woke up Monday morning to ... "Ladies and gentlemen, Jimi Hendrix" ... I leapt out of the back of that car and ran up on stage ... When he played the Star-Spangled Banner ... I remember my first thought was, 'Why is he playing that? That's the song of the government that we hate for trying to send us off to war ... That's their song. No, wait a minute. That's our song. He's reclaiming it for us.' ... In that quiet of the dawn, it went out from these huge speakers and it echoed against the bare hillside because many people had left. It just reverberated in the air. It was so riveting and so amazing everyone was standing there with their mouths open."

I'M GOING HOME

The people who left behind a trampled, littered hillside knew they had been through a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Ilene Marder: "I do remember looking out upon the sea of sleeping bags in the mud. It's all I could see — it felt like to the horizon. I'm sure it wasn't. You just saw these hulking shapes in the mud and you knew that they were sleeping bags or collapsed tents. There were shoes. There were socks. There were water coolers, every kind of article of clothing. But mostly sleeping bags or blankets."

Annette Nanes: "I went to work on Monday and I was working in a very prim and proper office. And they knew that I went to a concert and They had heard about you know this whole Woodstock thing over the weekend. They said to me, 'Annette, YOU were at Woodstock!?' They were incredulous. I said 'Yeah.' And I went back to my work in my little skirt. "

Marty Miller on his uncle Max Yasgur, who died in 1973: "It changed him in many respects. He became more reflective and because he became more known, people would reach out to him ... to reunite families, kids that had run away, things like that. He spent his last years doing a lot of that."

Jorma Kaukonen: "I've got a 13-year-old daughter and I took her to the museum of Woodstock last year. And we looked at all the stuff and she found it appalling that we went out dressed like that. But aside from that, I will never see an audience that big, as a performer, as long as I live."

Kevin Rheden: "I found a meaning. I knew everything was gonna be all right no matter what I did or where I was going to go. It wasn't just my long hair or the clothes that I wore. It was something in my soul that I connected with other people. It's a memory that I have and the older I get, things fade. But that feeling inside me has not left me."

AP reporters John Carucci in New York and Marcela Isaza in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Hong Kong airport shuts down amid pro-democracy protest

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — One of the world's busiest airports canceled all flights after thousands of Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters crowded into the main terminal Monday afternoon.

Hong Kong International Airport said in a statement that the demonstration "seriously disrupted" airport operations.

Hong Kong has experienced more than two months of mass protests calling for democratic reforms and an independent inquiry into police conduct, with both the protesters and police adopting ever-more extreme tactics.

In Beijing, the Cabinet's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office issued a statement saying the situation in Hong Kong was "beginning to show the sprouts of terrorism" and constituted an "existential threat" to the population of Hong Kong.

"One must take resolute action toward this violent criminality, showing no leniency or mercy," said the statement, attributed to spokesman Yang Guang. "Hong Kong has reached an inflection point where all those who are concerned about Hong Kong's future must say 'no,' to law breakers and 'no' to those engaged in violence."

Only flights that had already begun boarding or those cleared for landing were allowed to use runways at the airport.

"All other flights have been canceled for the rest of today," the airport statement said.

A massive traffic jam soon formed on the highway leading back to Hong Kong's city center. Some protesters were seen walking toward the airport amid the stifling heat.

Earlier Monday, Hong Kong police showed off water cannons that could be deployed in the case of future demonstrations, a development which Amnesty International has warned could lead to serious injuries if misused within the densely-populated city's confined spaces.

Legislators and journalists were invited to witness the display of extreme crowd control tactics, which came after a weekend of protests at the airport and on the streets of one of the city's main shopping districts.

During the weekend protests, website Hong Kong Free Press showed footage of one arrest that appeared to include officers in plain clothes pinning a demonstrator pressed to the ground. The young man, who said his name was Chow Ka-lok and asked for a lawyer, was shown with a bleeding head wound and said he had a broken tooth.

Police have also reported injuries among their ranks, including eye irritation from laser pointers, burns from petrol bombs and bruises and cuts from flying .

Protesters hurled bricks at officers and ignored warnings to leave before tear gas was deployed in the Sham Shui Po area, police said, calling a march there an "unauthorized assembly."

Tear gas was also deployed in central Hong Kong on both sides of Victoria Harbour, in the Tsim Sha Tsui



Protesters wave flags at the Hong Kong International Airport, Monday, Aug. 12, 2019. One of the world's busiest airports canceled all flights after thousands of Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters crowded into the main terminal Monday afternoon. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

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area on the Kowloon side and in Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island. At one point, protesters blocked the entrance to a plaza to prevent police from entering.

A train station in Kwai Fong filled with smoke after about a dozen police officers fired tear gas inside. It was not clear how many protesters were inside the station at the time, but it has been rare for officers to fire tear gas indoors.

Earlier, a large group of mostly young protesters marched down the middle of Hennessey Road, a main shopping drag in the Causeway Bay area, as a rally was held in nearby Victoria Park. Many wore face masks to shield their identities, and a few had helmets. Others just carried backpacks over the black T-shirts that have become their uniform.

The protest movement's demands include the resignation of the Chinese territory's leader, Carrie Lam, democratic elections for her successor, the release of those arrested in earlier protests and an investigation into police use of force.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the principle of "one country, two systems," which promises the city certain democratic rights not afforded to people on the mainland. But in recent years, some have accused the Communist Party-ruled central government of steadily chipping away at their freedoms.

Banners at the rally in Victoria Park read "Give Hong Kong back to us" and "Withdraw the evil law," the latter a reference to an extradition bill that was the original spark for the protests. A large crowd sat under umbrellas, which are both a protest symbol in Hong Kong and protection from the summer heat.

At the airport, a flight attendant protesting on his day off, who gave only his surname, Lau, to avoid repercussions from his employer, said heavy-handed police tactics had alienated some people.

"The police have told a lot of lies to Hong Kong people. We cannot believe them anymore. We have to come here to protest," Lau said. China has reportedly threatened to bar air crew who take part in protests from its air space.

Another protester, who identified herself only as Bea, said she took the day off from work to express her outrage.

"I feel that I have to do something. ... It's just too sad to see what has happened. The police action has gone totally nonsensical," she said.

Associated Press journalists Katie Tam and Raf Wober and journalist Royston Chan contributed to this report.

Mass shootings have Latinos worried about being targets

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS** and **ANITA SNOW** Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — When Michelle Otero arrived at an art show featuring Mexican-American women, the first thing she did was scan the room. Two exits. One security guard.

Then she thought to herself: If a shooter bursts in, how do my husband and I get out of here alive?

Otero, who is Mexican-American and Albuquerque's poet laureate, had questioned even attending the crowded event at the National Hispanic Cultural Center a day after 22 people were killed in a shooting at an El Paso, Texas, Walmart.

That shooting and an earlier one in Gilroy, California, killed nearly two dozen Latinos. The violence has some Hispanics looking over their shoulders, avoiding speaking Spanish in public and seeking out escape routes amid fears they could be next.

A huge immigration raid of Mississippi poultry plants last week that rounded up 680 mostly Latino workers, leaving behind crying children searching for their detained parents, also has unnerved the Hispanic community.

The events come against the backdrop of racially charged episodes that include then-candidate Donald Trump referring to Mexican immigrants as "rapists," Trump, as president, referring to migrants coming to the U.S. as "an invasion" and viral videos of white people chastising Hispanics for speaking Spanish in public.

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"It's almost like we're hitting a climax of some kind," said Jennifer Garcia, a 23-year-old University of New Mexico student originally from Mexico. "Some people, especially our elders, don't even want to leave the house or speak Spanish."

From Houston to Los Angeles, Latinos have taken to social media to describe being on edge, worrying that even standing in line for a Taco Tuesday special outside a food truck or wearing a Mexican national soccer team jersey might make them a target.

Although the motive in the Gilroy shooting is unknown, authorities say the El Paso shooting suspect, who is white, confessed to targeting people of Mexican descent. The suspect also is believed to have written an anti-Hispanic rant before gunning down mostly Latino Walmart shoppers with an AK-47-style rifle. The attack has rattled a city that has helped shape Mexican-American life in the U.S. for generations.

The manifesto included anti-immigrant and anti-Latino language similar to Trump's.

Garcia said she has seen widespread anxiety among immigrants since Trump was elected in November 2016 and the angst after the shootings "has reached another level."

Alexandro Jose Gradilla, a professor of Chicana and Chicano studies at California State University, Fullerton, said he and his wife, also a professor, "know anyone can look up a class schedule and start shooting."

"White supremacists don't see the difference between immigrants to fourth-generation Latinos," he said. "They see brown."

Carlos Galindo-Elvira of the Anti-Defamation League in Arizona said that, in the days after the El Paso shooting, the organization received calls from concerned Hispanics seeking information about white supremacy and the website where the manifesto was posted.

Some worried whether a mass shooting could happen in Phoenix, a city more than 40% Hispanic, said Galindo-Elvira.

"What I tell people is that we cannot live in fear, but we also have to be vigilant and be aware of the rhetoric and our surroundings," he said.

He said information is important and since last year the league has been training officials at Mexican consulates across the U.S. about how to report hate crimes against their citizens amid the heightened anti-Latino rhetoric.

Still, Erik Contreras, 36, the grandson of Panamanian and Mexican immigrants, said the recent violence has left him nervously checking parking lots where he worries attackers could hit.

"The other day we went to the Oakland Zoo, and I found myself looking for the way out, just in case," said Contreras, who works at a Union City, California, school and has three children. "I don't want to live



In this June 2019, photo, U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Xiara Mercado stands at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. A Facebook post by Mercado, of Puerto Rico, drew wide attention when she described a recent encounter at a Honolulu Starbucks with a woman who complained about her talking in Spanish on the phone. Mercado wouldn't comment on recent anti-Latino violence that has terrified many Hispanics, but insisted people should speak up when they suffer discrimination. (Xiara Mercado via AP)

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like that. This is our country.”

Otero, the poet, said she tries to make sense of the attacks by replaying facts in her mind.

“This is someone who drove nine hours to kill people like me,” she said of the El Paso shooter, holding back tears. “I don’t know what to make of that.”

In an effort to help, she is organizing a public reading by poets in Albuquerque to raise money for the families of the El Paso victims.

Flaviano Graciano of the immigrant advocacy group New Mexico Dream Team said activists are using the tragedies to organize residents. He says groups are planning forums to help educate Latino immigrants on their rights and how they can protect themselves against violence and anticipated raids.

Sometimes the best way to deal with anti-Hispanic bias is just to stand up to it, said Air Force Senior Airman Xiara Mercado. She grabbed attention on Facebook last month with her story of a woman giving her a hard time for speaking Spanish.

Mercado told The Associated Press that as a member of the military she couldn’t comment on the recent anti-Latino violence. But in her case, after suffering past discrimination, “I finally just decided to speak up.”

She said she remained silent when, years earlier, she was told to “speak American” during a stay in Michigan, then later when a police officer in Indiana questioned the authenticity of her Puerto Rican driver’s license.

But Mercado, 27, said she had enough when she was confronted by a woman as she chatted on the phone in Spanish with a friend from the U.S. territory at a Honolulu Starbucks. The woman told her speaking Spanish was “distasteful” and “does not represent America and that uniform you are wearing.”

In a July 17 Facebook post shared more than 48,000 times, Mercado said she told the women: “The only distasteful thing here is that you are clueless to your discrimination, please educate yourself. Have a nice day.”

The 15th Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, confirmed that Mercado is with the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and backed her up, saying: “The Air Force recognizes our strength comes from diversity.”

Snow reported from Phoenix. Follow her on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/asnowreports> .

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

US-China trade war leaves Europe as collateral damage

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Like a sleek Mercedes crunched between two freight trucks, Europe’s economy is being knocked off course by the conflict between the U.S. and China over trade.

The bill for damages from the U.S-China collision could be reflected in new growth figures due Wednesday that could show that Europe’s economic motor, Germany, is stalled or shrinking. Beyond that, economists say there are signs that years of declining unemployment since the depths of the Great Recession and the eurozone debt crisis may be ending.

And if the trade wars escalate to include higher U.S. tariffs on cars made in Europe, the picture could look even worse.

The heart of the matter is Germany, Europe’s largest economy and a key trade partner of both the U.S. and China.

Exports amount to almost half the German economy - 47%, according to the World Bank — as its companies play a dominant role in global markets for luxury autos and complex industrial machinery. Supply chains from Germany extend into neighboring eurozone countries as well, while German profits are often invested in factories in places like Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. Great when trade is booming — but it means Germany remains more vulnerable than less open economies such as Portugal or France to a

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slowdown in global trade in goods and services.

And that is what's happening.

German has spewed wretched economic data for weeks: an 8% annual fall in exports in June, a 1.5% drop in industrial production in June from the month before, three times bigger than expected. Surveys of executives suggest the industrial sector is in recession, with consumer demand and services propping up the economy.

But the damage from trade uncertainty may be spreading to consumers and companies that do business only at home.

While German unemployment remains low at 3.1%, job gains have stalled recently. Growth in the eurozone as a whole halved to 0.2% in the second quarter compared with the first. Italy, the third largest economy in the eurozone, was another weak spot, with zero growth after only 0.1% in the first quarter.

One unsettling sign is that investment in new plants and equipment across the eurozone has weakened this year even as factory capacity utilization remains relatively strong. That is a departure from the longer term pattern, and suggests that managers don't see stronger sales and profits ahead.

Ironically, trade between Germany and the U.S. and between Germany and China is holding up pretty well. It's mainly the uncertainty about the outcome of the clash between U.S. President Donald Trump and the Chinese Communist leadership that has been weighing on business confidence and deterring decisions to invest and buy across global markets. Last week, Trump imposed a 10% tariff on an additional \$300 billion in Chinese goods effective Sept. 1.

As a result, research firm Oxford Economics forecasts world trade growth of just 1.2% this year, far below last year's 4.9% rise.

There are a few small benefits for Europe. While the U.S. and China ramped up barriers against each other, the U.S. has largely kept tariffs on European products the same, except for introducing charges on steel and aluminum imports. China has actually lowered charges on exports from the 19 European countries that use the euro.

"That mildly positive effect for the eurozone has been, however, more than offset by the hit to business sentiment and demand," says economist Florian Hense at Berenberg bank. "As uncertainty about the future trading regime is pervasive, businesses have cut their outlook and their investment plans. The slowdown in Chinese actual and potential growth, which the trade tensions have exacerbated, also weighs on demand for eurozone exports." Hense thinks the U.S. and China will eventually cut a deal and remove the uncertainty.

But for now the drawn-out trade discussion continues to corrode optimism.

Top companies have issued cautious outlooks along with their earnings for the most recent quarter, even those that are doing relatively well. Volkswagen CEO Herbert Diess warned that "growing protectionism also poses major challenges for the globally integrated auto industry." Siemens AG CEO Joe Kaeser said that "geopolitics and geo-economics are harming an otherwise positive investment sentiment."



Raindrops on the camera lens reflect the lights of the Mainfest event at the river Main in Frankfurt, Germany, late Friday, Aug. 2, 2019. (AP Photo/Michael Probst)

The auto industry in particular, with its dependence on demand from operations in China, looks less healthy. Daimler, maker of Mercedes-Benz luxury cars, has issued four profit warnings over 18 months and saw its first quarterly loss since 2009. BMW lost money on its autos business in the first quarter for the first time in a decade. Trump has recently repeated a willingness to increase tariffs on imported autos if he does not get a satisfactory new trade deal with the EU.

Some of Europe's troubles can't be blamed on the trade dispute. The auto industry is under pressure to meet lower greenhouse gas emissions limits imposed by the European Union. Automakers had expected to rely on more fuel-efficient diesels to help meet the requirements, but saw diesel sales plunge after Volkswagen was caught in 2015 cheating on diesel emissions tests.

Another source of uncertainty is Britain's impending departure from the EU, currently set for Oct. 31. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he wants to leave without an extension even if that means no divorce deal to smooth trade.

In an effort to ward off a steeper slowdown or possible recession, the European Central Bank has signaled it could provide more monetary stimulus at its Sept. 12 meeting, including new purchases of bonds, which pump newly created money into the economy. It's a measure of Europe's reversal of fortune that a four-year, 2.6 trillion-euro (\$2.9 trillion) bond purchase program was halted only in December.

"What is hurting German exports currently is the uncertainty which has spread across the globe and has also paralyzed many European economies," said Carsten Brzeski, chief economist for Germany at ING. "Looking ahead, the outlook for German exporters is clearly in the hands of the U.S. and China."

Autopsy of Epstein performed, but details yet to be released

By JIM MUSTIAN, MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The details of how Jeffrey Epstein died in his Manhattan jail cell over the weekend have yet to be released, but medical officials have performed an autopsy on the high-profile inmate accused of sexually abusing underage girls.

Epstein's abrupt death Saturday cut short a criminal prosecution that could have pulled back the curtain on the inner workings of a high-flying financier with connections to celebrities and presidents, though prosecutors have vowed to continue investigating.

Epstein, 66, had been denied bail and faced up to 45 years behind bars on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges unsealed last month. He had pleaded not guilty and was awaiting trial.

The manner in which he died remains a mystery, but guards on Epstein's unit were working extreme overtime shifts to make up for staffing shortages the morning of his apparent suicide, a person familiar with the jail's operations told The Associated Press.

The person said that the Metropolitan Correctional Center's Special Housing Unit was staffed with one



FILE- In this July 30, 2008 file photo, Jeffrey Epstein appears in court in West Palm Beach, Fla. Epstein has died by suicide while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges, says person briefed on the matter, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019.

(AP Photo/Palm Beach Post, Uma Sanghvi, File)

guard working a fifth-straight day of overtime and another who was working mandatory overtime. The person wasn't authorized to discuss jail operations publicly and spoke Sunday on the condition of anonymity.

Epstein had been placed on suicide watch after he was found a little over two weeks ago with bruising on his neck, according to the person familiar with the matter. But he was taken off the watch at the end of July and therefore wasn't on it at the time of his death, the person said.

Epstein's removal from suicide watch would have been approved by both the warden of the jail and the facility's chief psychologist, said Jack Donson, a former prison official who worked for the Bureau of Prisons for more than two decades.

Last week, 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.

Epstein's July 6 arrest drew national attention, particularly focusing on a deal that allowed him to plead guilty in 2008 to soliciting a minor for prostitution in Florida and avoid more serious federal charges.

His lawyers maintained that the new charges in New York were covered by the 2008 plea deal and that Epstein hadn't had any illicit contact with underage girls since serving his 13-month sentence in Florida.

The federal investigation into the allegations remains ongoing, U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said. He noted in a statement Saturday that the indictment against Epstein includes a conspiracy charge, suggesting others could face charges in the case.

U.S. authorities have said Epstein also had a residence in Paris and used a fake Austrian passport to travel to France in the 1980s. The French government called for prosecutors to open an investigation into Epstein's links to France, with the secretaries of state for women's rights and protecting children releasing a statement Monday.

The statement said it was "fundamental" to launch an investigation in France so that his death "doesn't deprive the victims of the justice they deserve" and to protect other girls from "this kind of predator."

The Paris prosecutor's office did not immediately comment.

Sisak reported from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Balsamo from Savannah, Georgia. Associated Press writers Curt Anderson, Jennifer Peltz, David Klepper, Larry Neumeister and Angela Charlton contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. DETAILS OF JEFFREY EPSTEIN'S DEATH NOT YET REVEALED

Medical officials have performed an autopsy on the high-profile inmate accused of sexually abusing underage girls and paying them hundreds of dollars in cash for massages but have yet to release the results.

2. WHO IS UNDER SCRUTINY IN FINANCIER'S DEATH

Jeffrey Epstein's death is also the latest black eye for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the jail's parent agency that already was under fire for the October death of Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger, who was fatally beaten at a federal prison in West Virginia shortly after his arrival.

3. FIVE CHILDREN KILLED IN FIRE AT DAY CARE CENTER

At least four victims, who ranged in ages from 8 months to 7 years, were staying overnight at the residential house that had been turned into a day care.

4. WHO SOUTH KOREA REMOVED FROM PREFERRED TRADE LIST

Japan was taken off a list of nations receiving preferential treatment in trade in what was seen as a countermeasure to Tokyo's recent decision to downgrade Seoul's trade status amid a diplomatic row.

5. DESPITE US SANCTIONS, VENEZUELA'S ECONOMY SHOWS SOME LIFE

Economists caution that the surprise bounce is unlikely to last. Sweeping U.S. sanctions, tightened last

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week when the Trump administration threatened to target foreign companies found doing business with Venezuela's government, are likely to exacerbate an economic fall years in the making.

6. WHERE THERE'S AN UNEASY CALM

Troops in India-ruled Kashmir allowed Muslims to walk to mosques alone or in pairs and pray for Eid al-Adha during a security lockdown in its second week that still forced most people indoors on the Islamic holy day.

7. REMEMBERING WOODSTOCK 50 YEARS LATER

Memories of the anarchic weekend of Aug. 15-18, 1969, remain sharp among people who were in the crowd and on the stage for the historic festival.

8. THIS IS A STORY ABOUT A DIFFERENT SQUAD

The alterna-squad consists of Reps. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan, Mikie Sherill of New Jersey, Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania and Virginians Spanberger and Elaine Luria — women possessing deep military and intelligence experience, now voices of moderation in a Democratic party often portrayed as veering sharply left.

9. FIRST CELEBRITY IMPRISONED IN #METOO ERA TO FIGHT CONVICTION

Bill Cosby's lawyers contend the trial judge erred in letting five other accusers testify to bolster the prosecution's case. The 82-year-old comedian is serving a three- to 10-year prison term in Pennsylvania.

10. WHERE EVERYTHING IS SMALLER AND NARROWER

The Golden Gai, a one of a kind tourist attraction, is a sliver of old Tokyo in a modern metropolis filled with endless gleaming buildings. Nearly 280 bars and restaurants are squeezed into an area about the size of half a soccer field.



FILE - In this July 15, 2019 courtroom artist's sketch, defendant Jeffrey Epstein, left, and his attorney Martin Weinberg listen during a bail hearing in federal court, in New York. Officials say the FBI and U.S. Inspector General's office will investigate how Epstein died in an apparent suicide, while the probe into sexual abuse allegations against the well-connected financier remains ongoing. A person familiar with the matter says Epstein, accused of orchestrating a sex-trafficking ring and sexually abusing dozens of underage girls, had been taken off suicide watch before he killed himself Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019, in a New York jail. (Elizabeth Williams via AP, File)

Sentries, not 'squad': Moderate Dems ones to watch for 2020

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

CULPEPER, Va. (AP) — Abigail Spanberger talked about rural broadband. She held court on health care, solar energy and the border crisis.

But as the freshman Democrat from Virginia fielded a dozen questions during a recent town hall in Culpeper, she never once took on President Donald Trump directly — not even when the topic turned, fleetingly, to impeachment.

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"We are making every decision, whichever way it goes, based on facts and evidence and our duty to uphold the Constitution," she said.

This is a story about a different kind of squad.

Spanberger is part of a group of first-term female representatives with national security backgrounds who flipped Republican seats last year and matter most on questions of impeachment and Democratic control. The alterna-squad consists of Reps. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan, Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey, Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania and Virginians Spanberger and Elaine Luria — women possessing deep military and intelligence experience, now voices of moderation in a party often portrayed as veering sharply left.

Spanberger, whose district is anchored in the suburbs of Richmond, Virginia, and extends to the exurbs of Washington, D.C., was a CIA operations officer. Slotkin is a former CIA analyst and acting assistant secretary of defense. Sherrill is a former U.S. Navy pilot, Naval Academy graduate, Russian policy officer and federal prosecutor. Houlahan is an Air Force veteran and engineer. And Luria is a former nuclear engineer in the Navy.

The women are part of a group within the caucus focused on the minutiae of election security, with a name that hints at how they see themselves: Task Force Sentry. They can often be seen shuttling through hallways together, engaged in quiet conversation, or sitting side by side in the House. They are not the first to speak inside private caucus meetings, but when they do, "people listen," said Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., who chairs the Democrats' campaign arm.

"You don't come from a national security background and have any kind of extreme views," Bustos said. Constituents in these closely split districts, she said, "won't stand for extremism. They elected these people to get something done."

The national security veterans eschew cliques and Twitter fights, though they are careful to say that they have no quibble with members of the more famous "squad" made up of progressive Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts. Yet they are laboring, now, to edge around the fireball of Trump's battle with those four congresswomen of color over race and who is adequately American.

While Republicans portray the squad as emblematic of a Democratic Party turning toward socialism, the moderates are trying to forge their own brand. And Trump cannot easily cast them as villains, in part because they won't play along. They simply can't go down that road if they want to win reelection in their districts, which Trump won in 2016 and may yet win again.

"Don't even mention his name," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says she advises all Democrats.



FILE - In this Jan. 4, 2019, file photo, Rep. Abigail Spanberger, D-Va. walks to a closed Democratic Caucus meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington. There's another squad in Washington besides Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and her progressive allies. The alterna-squad is a group of first-term female representatives with national security backgrounds who flipped Republican seats last year and matter most on questions of impeachment and Democratic control. And for Spanberger and her allies, calling for Trump's ouster is politically perilous. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

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The advice applies most of all to the national security squad and the other 26 Democrats representing "red-to-blue" House districts, whose reelections are Pelosi's top priority.

Slotkin puts it this way about her constituents: "They fear that if we go down this path of impeachment, we're not going to be working on the things that affect their lives, their pocketbooks, their kids. And so if we're going to do this ... we better have our act together."

That approach is worlds away from Tlaib's "impeach the mother---er" war cry against Trump on the January day the new Congress was sworn in. For Spanberger and the other four women in the national security group, calling for Trump's ouster is politically perilous.

"She realizes she can be a one-termer and on impeachment, she can't be too far out in front," said Republican activist Kurt Christensen, who attended Spanberger's town hall in Culpeper.

"It would be political suicide here," agreed Democrat Ron Artis, who supported Spanberger in her successful bid to defeat Republican Dave Brat to become the first Democrat to represent the district in nearly a half-century.

These members have insisted all year that their constituents ask questions on issues like health care far more often than impeachment. So as Spanberger talks about rural broadband, Sherrill talks about the Gateway rail project. Houlahan says she gets questions about health care and education. Luria gets queries about veterans, and Slotkin had an event recently on the same topic.

Their ideas for legislation include preventing foreign financial support for U.S. campaigns and finding ways to identify threats.

But the expertise that girds that work also has focused members of this group on the first volume of special counsel Robert Mueller's report about Russian election interference in the 2016 campaign and the willingness of some in Trump's orbit to receive any information on Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. Especially chilling, these lawmakers say, is Mueller's warning that the Russians aren't finished interfering in U.S. elections.

Slotkin followed up on Mueller's testimony by co-sponsoring a bill to require campaigns to report attempts by foreigners to influence U.S. elections.

There is a palpable frustration among the congresswomen with constant requests to answer strictly political questions, such as whether there is concern that the president is succeeding in linking red-to-blue Democrats to "socialists."

"I don't think we should be talking about our feelings. I think we should be talking about legislation," Spanberger said while rushing to House votes before the August recess. "I just want to focus on (the price of) drugs and infrastructure and protecting the integrity of elections."

To this group, impeachment is "a process, not an outcome," said Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., a member of Democratic leadership.

"What these women have managed to do is come to Congress as veterans with amazing national security expertise that would be valued in anybody," said Clark, who has called for Trump's impeachment. "But it is also unique and interesting that they are women. ... They are respected."

Associated Press writer Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

Warren vows in Iowa as candidates' sprint to caucuses begins

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The chant — "2 cents, 2 cents, 2 cents" — started in the back of a crowd that packed sidewalks at the Iowa State Fair. Elizabeth Warren, basking in the spontaneous adulation of her proposed wealth tax, prompted roars with her call for the ultra-wealthy to "pitch in 2 cents so everybody gets a chance to make it."

A night before, the Massachusetts senator enjoyed similar treatment when Democrats at a party dinner

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jumped to their feet — some beginning to dance — at the opening bars of Dolly Parton's "9 to 5," the song that would usher Warren on stage.

For someone whose White House ambitions were dismissed by some Democrats earlier this year, Warren's reception in Iowa this weekend was a clear warning sign to other 2020 candidates that hers is a campaign to be reckoned with in the state that kicks off the race for the party's nomination.

Warren was one of nearly two dozen candidates who paraded through Iowa this weekend, speaking at the state fair, the annual Wing Ding dinner and a forum on gun control. The sheer volume of visiting contenders signaled a new phase of the campaign, ending the get-to-know-you period and beginning a six-month sprint to the Iowa caucuses.

In that time, the historically large field will winnow, front-runner Joe Biden will be tested more forcefully and a fierce competition will unfold for candidates to be seen as the more viable alternative. They'll be competing for the support of Democratic voters who say their top priority is to land on a nominee who can defeat President Donald Trump.

As the caucuses near, strategists say Warren's ground-level organization — demonstrated by her large staff and a proven ability to get her supporters to appear at large events like the fair — is fueling her momentum.

"Elizabeth has a super organization and her campaign is hot," said David Axelrod, who helped run former President Barack Obama's winning Iowa campaign. "But we've seen hot candidates before. August is no guarantee of what happens in February."

As Biden maintains a tenuous lead in polls and Warren gains ground, there's time for ascendant candidates Pete Buttigieg and Kamala Harris to get hot. Bernie Sanders, meanwhile, is still in the top-tier with a devoted following.

Biden and Harris have both boosted their investments in Iowa recently. The former vice president now has 75 full-time staffers on the ground and 12 offices throughout the state, a number they're planning to more than double by the caucuses. Harris' team touts 65 staffers and seven offices, and the California senator recently went on the airwaves with an ad focused on her mother and her economic policy.

But Biden's Iowa swing showcased the challenges that lie ahead for him. The visit was marred by a series of gaffes in which he stumbled over his words or seemed to get the dates wrong on major events.

Some longtime Biden supporters worried he's lost some of his spark. Greene County Democratic Party Chair Chris Henning said that, in the past, "I was crazy about him."

"Energy-wise, he looked people in the eye, remembered your name, called your name — and he's not that Joe Biden anymore," she said.

If Biden's worried, he didn't show it in Iowa. With a smile on his face, he strolled through the state fair, stopping for ice cream.

"You're gonna see these numbers go up and down and up and down," Biden said. "All I can do is try



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaks at the Iowa State Fair, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019, in Des Moines, Iowa. (AP Photo/John Locher)

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to be as authentic as I can.”

Harris’ five-day Iowa tour marked the longest stretch she’s spent in any early voting state. After a slow summer in which she faced questions about her commitment to the state, Harris said her biggest challenge in Iowa is being relatively unknown.

“There are people in this race that have had national profiles for many years,” she told reporters. “I’m still introducing myself to people.”

Harris impressed her audiences with what retired real estate agent Wendy Ewalt called her “warmth,” after they met on the sidewalk outside Juanita’s restaurant in Storm Lake.

“She has something intangible,” Ewalt said. “She connects.”

Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and Sanders, a Vermont senator, also remain strong contenders. Sanders has added seasoned staffers to his team and maintains tens of thousands of volunteers and a strong grassroots network of activists who helped him pull off a surprise near-tie in the 2016 caucuses.

Buttigieg, who has distinguished himself in the field as a gay, married man and a 37-year-old girding for generational change in politics, drew large crowds and began courting Iowans more aggressively in July. He raised an impressive \$25 million during the second quarter, which has helped him bring 60 new staff members to Iowa in the past two weeks. His campaign manager, Mike Schmuhl, recently spent four days in Iowa with him and held private meetings with staffers and key Democrats, as his team works to build up their operation in the state.

Buttigieg drew one of the biggest responses at the Wing Ding dinner, and he’ll have the media spotlight largely to himself when he returns this week for a three-day trip through eastern Iowa counties where Trump won in 2016.

Jeff Link, a veteran Democratic campaign adviser known best for his work for former Sen. Tom Harkin, noted of Buttigieg and Harris that “it seems they are a little more focused on Iowa than maybe they were in the first half of the year.”

But, he added, “The only thing that matters is the fourth quarter.”

The caucuses are famous for their unpredictability. In the fall of 2007, when trailing Hillary Clinton, Obama drew crowds of tens of thousands to college campuses and gave a scorching speech obliquely attacking his rival as too careful. He later notched a historic victory that propelled him to the White House.

Similarly, after leading Iowa into the late summer of 2003, Howard Dean came under attack for a reputation of being angry and untested on the national scene. Following a campaign makeover that fall, John Kerry surged early in 2004 and won the caucuses on his way to the nomination.

Beto O’Rourke, a former Texas congressman, is counting on that kind of scenario to lift his struggling campaign. He has dozens of staffers on the ground, 11 field offices and cash stocked away if he can break through the crowded field.

Should Harris or Buttigieg flop, there is time for Cory Booker or Amy Klobuchar to catch on. Booker, a New Jersey senator, wowed Democrats with his fiery speech at the Wing Ding dinner and has a strong Iowa operation. Klobuchar, a senator from neighboring Minnesota, has played up her Midwestern roots.

“Booker and Klobuchar may catch fire at some point,” former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack said. “The big unknown is whether folks drop out and endorse remaining candidates. That could change things dramatically.”

5 children killed in fire at Pennsylvania day care center

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — A day care center where children could stay overnight as their parents worked was ravaged Sunday by a fire that killed five and sent the owner to the hospital, authorities said.

The victims in the lakeside city of Erie ranged in ages from 8 months to 7 years, Chief Guy Santone of the Erie Fire Department said.

At least four of the victims were staying overnight at the residential house that had been turned into a day care center, Erie Chief Fire Inspector John Widomski told the Erie Times-News.

The fire, reported at about 1:15 a.m. Sunday, was funneling out of every first-floor window when firefighters arrived, Widomski said.

Valerie Lockett-Slupski, standing across the street from the fire-damaged house, told the newspaper she

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was the grandmother of four of the children, and that they were staying at the day care center because their parents were working overnight. She said the family had two boys and two girls and had used the center for almost a year.

"So we are all at a loss, trying to figure out how this happened," Lockett-Slupski said.

The cause of the fire remained under investigation Sunday afternoon, Widomski told the newspaper.

The Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership lists the Harris Family Daycare as "a 24 hour, 7 days a week childcare service including holidays."

The state Department of Human Services Office of Child Development and Early Learning listed the day care as in compliance with requirements following a Dec. 28, 2018, inspection. But a Jan. 3, 2019, inspection note on that listing highlighted "ashes and cigarette or cigar butts" in "a child care space, play space or food preparation area."

The day care center's response to the note reads, "I will make sure it will be cleaned up and remain that way," and the department listed the issue as corrected.

Another department note from the same date reads "protective receptacle covers shall be placed in electrical outlets accessible to children 5 years of age or younger," to which the day care's response was, "I turned the outlets so they were closed. I will make sure that they are turned closed when not in use."

That issue was also listed as being corrected.

Widomski told the newspaper that the fire appeared to have started in the living room area on the first floor. The department's two fire inspectors and three Erie police detectives trained in fire investigations are working to determine the cause of the blaze.

The owner of the center was flown to UPMC Mercy for treatment, Santone said.

Erie police detectives said the owner was in stable condition, the newspaper reported.

Santone said a neighbor was also injured.



Paul Laughlin, 57, places stuffed animals on Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019 outside a home at 1248 West 11th St. in Erie, Pa., where multiple people died in an early-morning fire. (Greg Wohlford/Erie Times-News via AP)

Venezuela's moribund economy shows a pulse amid US sanctions

By SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Errol Irausquin is carving out a profitable niche with his burgeoning Fat Panda restaurant business in Venezuela's capital, despite an economic collapse that has driven millions from their crumbling homeland.

Capitalizing on his success selling from a food truck, Irausquin brought his Asian-influenced menu to a new restaurant featuring spicy sandwiches that drip down customers' arms in an upscale corner of Caracas. A second location is coming soon — the sign of a little froth amid Venezuela's otherwise economic nightmare.

"Part of the population decided to stay here in the country," Irausquin said. "People need things to do. They crave going out and mingling in the open air."

He's not alone. In seeming defiance of the doomsday predictions from Washington about the economy's

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impending implosion, a number of trendy restaurants and shops packed with imported consumer goods, from Froot Loops to iPhones, have popped up in the last few months across Caracas.

Driving the resurgence is President Nicolas Maduro's decision in May — little appreciated at the time — to loosen rigid currency controls in place for 16 years. That step allowed banks to buy and sell U.S. dollars at any exchange rate, making it far easier for entrepreneurs to operate in a currency accepted internationally. At the same time, socialist authorities are looking the other way as the greenback has replaced the worthless local currency, the bolivar, as an accepted form of payment for purchasing even a slice of pizza.

Some even posit that with the country increasingly isolated, well-connected businessmen, some of them facing sanctions themselves, are repatriating ill-gotten gains from government contracts and the illicit sale of gold and drugs to fund the construction of new office buildings and businesses.

The result is a rare adrenaline boost for what has been a moribund economy. For the first time in years, what's still among the world's highest inflation rates is slowing, supermarkets are filling up and capitalist instincts are being unleashed.

Economists caution that the surprise bounce is very limited and unlikely to last. Sweeping U.S. sanctions, which were tightened last week when the Trump administration threatened to target foreign companies found doing business with Venezuela's government, are likely to exacerbate an economic fall years in the making.

Nonetheless, for Venezuela's shrinking elites it's a reprieve from years of scrounging across empty store shelves and driving past their favorite restaurants only to see they'd closed their doors.

A party-like street fair appeared one recent Sunday when a line of food trucks set up along a small park as the clouds cleared following a tropical downpour. Live music and glowing strings of lights drew a crowd, creating a feeling that life had returned to normal.

Luis Vicente Leon, president of Caracas-based polling firm Datanalisis, says the divide between Venezuela's haves and have-nots is growing more stark as the crisis grinds on, with the primary fault line being access to U.S. dollars.

While the wealthy one-fifth have long thrived on savings in foreign banks and paychecks from international firms, an increasing number of Venezuelans depend on \$4 billion sent annually in remittances from the over 4 million compatriots who've fled in recent years.

The return of a few comforts after years of scarcity underscores the limited effectiveness of sanctions in dislodging Maduro from power, said Leon. Protests led by Juan Guaidó, who is recognized as Venezuela's rightful leader by the U.S. and more than 50 countries, have been fading in the capital, although turnout



A man pays for his purchases with U.S dollars at a store in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Aug. 9, 2019. A number of trendy shops packed with imported consumer goods have popped up in the last few months across Caracas while socialist authorities look the other way as the greenback has replaced the worthless local currency, the bolivar, as an accepted form of payment. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

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in the interior, where economic conditions are as desperate as ever, remains high.

"You are going to have a destroyed country and a bubble that manages to survive without the country's real problems being solved," Leon said.

The vast majority of Venezuelans live in deepening poverty, without help from abroad. Roughly 80% depend on government-subsidized food and earn a monthly minimum wage in bolivars equal to \$3.50, which shrinks each day under inflation that topped 1 million percent last year, according to the International Monetary Fund. The IMF estimates the economy has shrunk to its lowest level in seven decades and will fall another 35% this year.

That's in a country that once ranked among Latin America's most prosperous nations, producing wealth from the world's largest crude reserves. Critics blame two decades of socialist rule for plummeting oil production and a crumbling nation.

Amid the otherwise bleak outlook, entrepreneurs are seizing on the chance to meet the demand of well-off consumers.

One of Caracas' most exclusive import stores offers valet parking. Inside, personal assistants carry customers' hand baskets from the moment they enter until they're ready to pay. They can select from a wide variety of items such as watermelon-flavored beer and low sodium sea salt — all priced in dollars.

Other stores sell vape e-cigarettes, Neutrogena face wash and pods of Keurig Starbucks Caffe Verona — the sort of specialty items that had long been absent in Venezuela.

It's not all high-priced luxury items. Even once-abundant staples that Venezuela no longer produces in sufficient quantities — like baking flour and cooking oil — are on offer, so even lower-income families sometimes scrape together enough to buy a few things.

Among those cashing in is Daisy Romero. Tired of watching sales slide at her clothing store, she recently converted the small storefront into a bodega supplied with packages of imported goods sent by her son in the U.S. Business is good, she said, adding that customers step into her store giddy with excitement.

"Wow, you have so many cereals that I haven't seen in years," she said, repeating a common reaction from customers. "How much is that? Give me one of those."

Physician Jorge Hoegl wandered into a newly opened import store, finding snacks such as Haagen-Dazs ice cream, once common in Venezuela's stores before the crisis took hold in the last five years.

While these stores sell some over-the-counter drugs, most people with long-term illnesses, such as diabetes, still struggle to find medicine. Hoegl for one doesn't see these new businesses as an answer to Venezuela's deeper troubles.

"All of a sudden, you see these stores and you might think that everything has somehow improved," he said. "But this isn't going to improve the situation. This is a chronic problem that will take a long time to fix."

Scott Smith on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ScottSmithAP>

North Korea boosts Kim's rising status as global statesman

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and FOSTER KLUG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — There's no question that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is in full control of his nation. But a recent change to how he's being formally described in the North Korean Constitution may allow him even more diplomatic leverage as he steps with increasing confidence onto the world stage for negotiations over his powerful weapons program.

Despite a flurry of unprecedented summits between Kim and the world powers that surround him, the outcome of that crucial diplomacy is very much in question amid currently deadlocked nuclear disarmament talks and an outburst of North Korean weapons tests in recent weeks.

North Korea on Friday said that its rubber-stamp parliament will hold its second meeting of the year on Aug. 29. It follows weeks of intensified North Korean weapons tests and belligerent statements over U.S.-South Korea military exercises and the slow pace of nuclear negotiations with the United States.

Kim has said he would seek a "new way" if Washington doesn't change its hard-line stance on

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sanctions relief by the year's end, though experts doubt he'll fully abandon diplomacy and give away his hard-won status as a global statesman.

President Donald Trump on Saturday said that Kim wrote him a "beautiful" three-page letter in which he expressed desire to meet once again to "start negotiations" after U.S.-South Korea military exercises end, and also apologized for the flurry of short-range missile tests.

The North's new constitutional changes, which show Kim's further consolidation of his already formidable powers, could allow him to act more clearly as a diplomat on the world stage, technically signing a peace treaty with Trump, for instance, or giving speeches at the U.N. General Assembly, analysts say.

The changes, which were only made public recently on the country's Naenara website, appear linked to an unusual political reality in the North: While Kim Jong Un is the undisputed leader, it is Kim's grandfather, national founder Kim Il Sung, who is enshrined as North Korea's eternal president.

Kim has governed from his position as chairman of Pyongyang's powerful State Affairs Commission, which was established in 2016 to replace his father's military-based National Defense Commission as the country's top decision-making institution.

The constitution makes clear that Kim's role as chairman of the new commission makes him the country's supreme leader. But it now adds that he also "represents the country." This signals potential changes from previous decades, analysts say, when it was the president of the presidium of North Korea's parliament — the Supreme People's Assembly — who acted as the ceremonial head of state.

"You could argue that the head-of-state business is meant to put Kim on the same plane as Xi, Trump or Putin. It certainly elevates his stature," said Joshua Pollack, a senior research associate with the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California, referring to Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Whatever the new changes mean, no one, inside or outside the country, is disputing Kim's status as the ultimate decision maker, and despite the new constitutional description, he has already been doing high-level diplomatic work on the world stage, releasing statements with Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in following those respective summits.

The North's new constitution is the "Kim Jong Un Constitution," according to South Korea's Institute for National Security Strategy, a think tank affiliated with Seoul's main spy agency. It is clearly designed with



FILE - This July 25, 2019, file photo provided by the North Korean government shows a test of a missile launch in North Korea. North Korea on Friday, Aug. 9, 2019 said that its rubber-stamp parliament will hold its second meeting of the year on Aug. 29. It follows weeks of intensified North Korean weapons tests and belligerent statements over U.S.-South Korea military exercises and the slow pace of nuclear negotiations with the United States. 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)

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Kim's future role in diplomacy in mind, including negotiations with the U.S. and also potential activities on the U.N. stage, the think tank said. Kim will be handling the important stuff in foreign affairs, while the head of the parliament will be mostly relegated to formalities, such as issuing credential letters to diplomats, it added.

North Korea's government has yet to weigh in on the change.

"The constitutional revisions reinforce the shift Kim Jong Un has been trying to make away from the 'military first' politics of his father's era, toward a new strategy of prioritizing economic development," said John Delury, a Korea expert at Seoul's Yonsei University. It allows Kim to "represent North Korea in the international community."

Following a flurry of nuclear and missile tests in 2017, including three launches of long-range missiles potentially capable of reaching the U.S. mainland, Kim declared his nuclear arsenal as complete and urged a shift in national focus toward economic growth. But there are doubts whether he'll ever fully deal away an arsenal he may see as his strongest guarantee of survival.

The new constitution maintains a description of North Korea as an "invincible political and ideological power, a nuclear power and an indomitable military power" and emphasizes Kim's commitment to economic growth and developing science and technology.

North Korea's weapons tests in recent weeks have been accompanied by rising frustration over the pace of nuclear talks and continued military exercises between the United States and South Korea, which the North claims are an invasion rehearsal. The series of short-range ballistic launches are seen as measured brinkmanship aimed at pressuring Washington and Seoul and building leverage ahead of negotiations, which could resume sometime after the end of the military drills later this month.

The United States has called for North Korea to commit to completely relinquishing its nuclear and missile program and rejected the North's demands for sanctions relief in exchange for piecemeal deals toward partially surrendering its nuclear capabilities.

Klug reported from Tokyo.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Aug. 12, the 224th day of 2019. There are 141 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 12, 2017, a car plowed into a crowd of people peacefully protesting a white nationalist rally in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and hurting more than a dozen others. (The attacker, James Alex Fields, was sentenced to life in prison on 29 federal hate crime charges, and life plus 419 years on state charges.) President Donald Trump condemned what he called an "egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides;" Democrats and some Republicans called on him to specifically denounce white supremacy. Two Virginia state policemen were killed in a helicopter crash while monitoring the Charlottesville protests.

On this date:

In 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home to the Indianapolis 500, first opened.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt nominated Hugo Black to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1939, the MGM movie musical "The Wizard of Oz," starring Judy Garland, had its world premiere at the Strand Theater in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, three days before opening in Hollywood.

In 1944, during World War II, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., eldest son of Joseph and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was killed with his co-pilot when their explosives-laden Navy plane blew up over England.

In 1953, the Soviet Union conducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb.

In 1962, one day after launching Andrian Nikolayev into orbit, the Soviet Union also sent up cosmonaut Pavel Popovich; both men landed safely Aug. 15.

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In 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, the model 5150, at a press conference in New York.
In 1985, the world's worst single-aircraft disaster occurred as a crippled Japan Airlines Boeing 747 on a domestic flight crashed into a mountain, killing 520 people. (Four people survived.)

In 1992, after 14 months of negotiations, the United States, Mexico and Canada announced in Washington that they had concluded the North American Free Trade Agreement. Avant-garde composer John Cage died in New York at age 79.

In 2000, the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk and its 118-man crew were lost during naval exercises in the Barents Sea.

In 2004, New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey announced his resignation and acknowledged that he'd had an extramarital affair with another man.

In 2013, James "Whitey" Bulger, the feared Boston mob boss who became one of the nation's most-wanted fugitives, was convicted in a string of 11 killings and dozens of other gangland crimes, many of them committed while he was said to be an FBI informant. (Bulger was sentenced to life; he was fatally beaten at a West Virginia prison in 2018, hours after being transferred from a facility in Florida.)

Ten years ago: Ehsanul Islam Sadequee, a 23-year-old Georgia man, was convicted of aiding terrorist groups by sending videotapes of U.S. landmarks overseas and plotting to support "violent jihad" after a federal jury in Atlanta rejected his arguments that it was empty talk. (Sadequee was sentenced to 17 years in prison.) Guitar virtuoso Les Paul died in White Plains, New York, at 94.

Five years ago: Lauren Bacall, 89, the slinky, sultry-voiced actress who created on-screen magic with Humphrey Bogart in "To Have and Have Not" and "The Big Sleep" and off-screen magic in one of Hollywood's most storied marriages, died in New York. Steve Ballmer officially became the new owner of the Los Angeles Clippers; the sale closed after a California court confirmed the authority of Shelly Sterling, on behalf of the Sterling Family Trust, to sell the franchise. (Her husband, Donald Sterling, had unsuccessfully fought the sale of the team he owned since 1981 in court.)

One year ago: Fewer than two dozen white nationalists showed up for a rally near the White House, where thousands of counterdemonstrators had gathered to send a message that racism is unwelcome. A year after the violence at a rally of white supremacists and other extremists in Charlottesville, Virginia, the mother of Heather Heyer, the woman killed while protesting against that rally, visited the site of the attack and said the country's racial wounds had not healed. Brooks Koepka wins the PGA Championship in St. Louis; Tiger Woods finished second after a final-round score of 64. A NASA spacecraft, the Parker Solar Probe, lifted off on a mission intended to bring it within 3.8 million miles of the surface of the sun. (The craft made its first close approach, to within 15 million miles, just two and a-half months after liftoff.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Hamilton is 80. Actress Dana Ivey is 78. Actress Jennifer Warren is 78. Rock singer-musician Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 70. Actor Jim Beaver is 69. Singer Kid Creole is 69. Jazz musician Pat Metheny is 65. Actor Sam J. Jones is 65. Actor Bruce Greenwood is 63. Country singer Danny Shirley is 63. Pop musician Roy Hay (Culture Club) is 58. Rapper Sir Mix-A-Lot is 56. Actor Peter Krause (KROW'-zuh) is 54. Actor Brent Sexton is 52. International Tennis Hall of Famer Pete Sampras is 48. Actor-comedian Michael Ian Black is 48. Actress Yvette Nicole Brown is 48. Actress Rebecca Gayheart is 48. Actor Casey Affleck is 44. Rock musician Bill Uechi is 44. Actress Maggie Lawson is 39. Actress Dominique Swain is 39. Actress Leah Pipes is 31. Actor Lakeith Stanfield is 28. NBA All-Star Khris Middleton is 28. Actress Cara Delevingne is 27. Actress Imani Hakim is 26.

Thought for Today: "The secret to life is meaningless unless you discover it yourself." — From "Of Human Bondage" by W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965).