

# Groton Daily Independent

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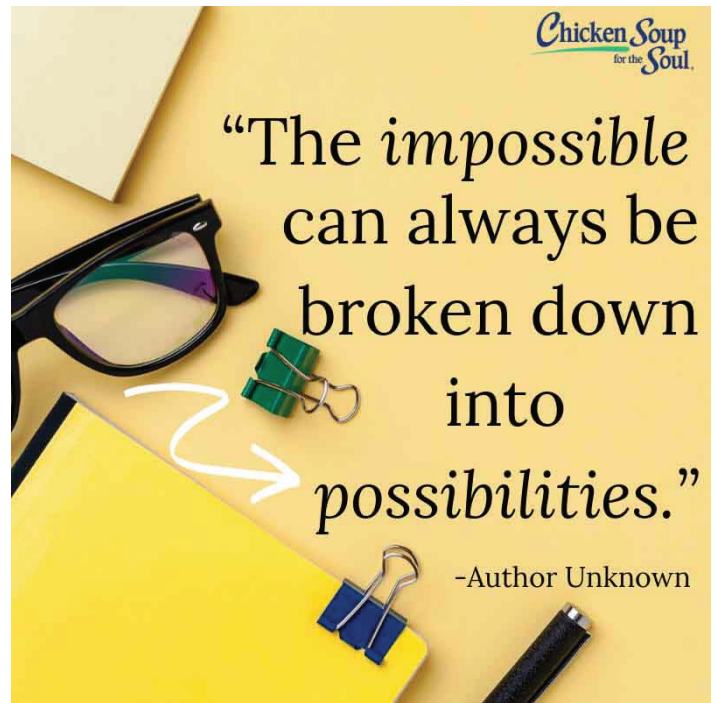
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**OPEN:** **Recycling Trailer in Groton**  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Upcoming  
**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

Today: 1:00 p.m. Girls hosting Garretson,  
3:00 p.m.: Boys hosting Freeman Academy in soccer  
Aug. 20 ..... Faculty Inservice  
Aug. 20 ..... Open House / Picnic (5-7:30)  
Aug. 21 ..... Faculty Inservice  
Aug. 22 ..... 1st Day of School

## Activities association continues work on recruiting officials, mitigating tourney costs

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — As a new year began for the South Dakota High School Activities Association's board of directors, it decided to continue the work it started in the past year on the recruitment of officials and a study of the costs endured by schools that host state tournaments.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said the study of postseason management fees would need to continue since the association only has one year of data from member schools. That data fluctuates wildly.

Swartos said some schools invest heavily in hospitality, while others spend very little. Some schools counted the cost of hiring substitute teachers who fill in for teachers who work the state tournaments, while others did not count that expense.

The data collected from schools shows that one school netted \$3,000 hosting a state event while another lost \$25,000.

Fees paid to schools to host state events vary by event from \$200 for oral interpretation to \$50,000 for the state football tournament. Those fees are separate from the costs the association incurs when it rents a venue like the Denny Sanford Center in Sioux Falls or the Rushmore Plaza in Rapid City.

Hosting state events can be good for the local economy, Swartos said, but the association would like to find a way to mitigate the costs for schools who host the events.

"The only way to mitigate that is a bid process," Swartos said.

In that process, a community would bid to host a tournament, paying the association a certain amount and keeping any additional revenue.

While such an arrangement would be good for school districts, Swartos predicted that some critics would say, "This is geared toward just one city."

Bidding "would be a real difference in how we operate state events right now," said board member Brian Maher of Sioux Falls, the city that would likely hold the upper hand on attracting tournaments in a bid process. "That's the primary way we could generate more revenue."

Board member David Planteen of Langford asked if communities were likely to turn their backs on fine arts events if they didn't get the bid on a state basketball tournament.

Maher, who served on the Nebraska activities association board, said in that state Omaha and Lincoln were likely to get the bid on any tournament they wanted to host. Many tournaments were hosted in Lincoln, Maher said, because students like to have their tournaments at the University of Nebraska campus.

Smaller Nebraska communities were always competing for events like the one-act play competition, Maher said. "Communities want these events."

Swartos noted that the sales of T-shirts at state tournament venues totaled \$27,000 in the last school year. He said in the past, in order to keep that revenue local, the association has turned down offers of \$50,000 and \$80,000 per year to run state tournament T-shirt sales. Swartos said it may make more sense to bid out the T-shirt business and send the extra money to school districts.

Currently the only way the association can increase the revenue it passes on to member schools is to increase attendance at state events, increase ticket prices or seek a sixth corporate partner.

Planteen cautioned against seeking another corporate contributor.

"We don't want to water that down," Planteen said of the corporate contributors. "That doesn't make sense to me."

The study of costs to member schools will continue into the next year, as will work on the board's goal of attracting more officials.

Swartos said the main reasons officials quit working games is abuse from fans and coaches, time away from work and families, and frustration at not getting to officiate more contests.

Geography is one of the biggest challenges the association faces according to SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand. He said most officials are located in the Sioux Falls and Rapid City areas

with a lack of officials from the James River to Wall.

As an example, he said a new basketball referee in Sioux Falls might work one or two varsity games a year. Last year a new baseball referee in Pierre worked 32 varsity games.

"There's nobody else out there," Krogstrand said.

In addition to the recruitment of officials and the study of mitigating state tournament costs, board chairman Moe Ruesink of Sioux Valley challenged the SDHSAA staff to offer some additional goals at the board's November meeting.

—30—

## Two schools seek membership in activities association

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Next year there will be a new high school in South Dakota. On Thursday, the school's superintendent briefed the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors about the school and its desire for membership in SDHSAA.

Anthony Fairbanks will be the superintendent of the new school, Lakota Tech High School, located five miles east of Pine Ridge. The school will be an addition to the Oglala Lakota County School District which serves 1,800 students in four pre-kindergarten through eighth grade schools and a virtual high school.

Fairbanks told the board that Lakota Tech High School will have a capacity for 400 students and will be ready to serve students in 2020.

"Next fall we'd like to start," Fairbanks said.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said once the local school board approves a resolution to join the association, work can begin on scheduling and classifying the school's teams.

Fairbanks said the new school hopes to field teams in girls' and boys' basketball, cross-country and track and field as well as girls' volleyball. The school district is also interested in offering football, Fairbanks said, but that may have to wait until the 2021 school year.

Fairbanks noted that Lakota Tech High School is the United States' first and only career technical education high school within an Indian reservation. The school will help students develop work force skills in business, health sciences, public service, science and technology and industrial arts.

As part of its consent agenda, the board also accepted for membership the Wessington Springs Cyber High School. It also granted a cooperative agreement between the cyber high school and Wessington Springs High School in the sports of volleyball, cross-country, boys' and girls' basketball, track and field and golf.

While consent agenda items are usually approved without comment, some board members expressed concerns about the fact that while cyber high school students might not reside within the school district, they would still be eligible to compete in Wessington Springs' varsity sports.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand said the Wessington Springs School District has some cyber school students who live in the district and want a chance to compete in activities.

"It's not a recruiting kick" for the district, Krogstrand said.

Allowing students who don't reside in a school district eligibility to compete in varsity sports "could have long-range consequences," according to board member Jerry Rasmussen of Dakota Valley.

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## Newsweek

### NOT COMING SOON: MAR-A-GREENLAND

In what can only be described as the mid-August story we all need and deserve, President Donald Trump reportedly inquired about purchasing Greenland, the autonomous Danish territory located just north of Canada and Iceland.

The president is allegedly interested in Greenland because of the world's largest island's strategic location and its wealth of untapped natural resources. The New York Times reported yesterday that the president asked numerous advisers on multiple occasions about buying the land.

On Friday, leaders around the globe said "thanks, but no thanks" to the idea. "Greenland is rich in valuable resources such as minerals, the purest water and ice, fish stocks, seafood, renewable energy and is a new frontier for adventure tourism. We're open for business, not for sale," tweeted Greenland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ane Lone Bagger.

Denmark, which supplies about two thirds of Greenland's budget as well as military protection to the territory also said it wasn't happening.

"It has to be an April Fool's joke. Totally out of season," tweeted former Denmark prime minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen.

The foreign affairs spokesman for the Danish People's Party, Soren Espersen, had harsh words for Trump. "If he is truly contemplating this, then this is the final proof that he has gone mad," he told broadcaster DR. "The thought of Denmark selling 50,000 citizens to the United States is completely ridiculous," he said.

Politicians from Greenland said that they would rather be associated with Denmark than the U.S. "I am sure a majority in Greenland believes it is better to have a relation to Denmark than the United States, in the long term," said Aaja Chemnitz Larsen, a member of the Danish parliament from Greenland's second-largest party Inuit Ataqatigiit, to Reuters. "My immediate thought is 'No, thank you'," she said.

But believe it or not, the president's inquiries aren't completely unfounded. The U.S. military operates the Thule Air Base in northern Greenland and Trump's administration has been watching the arctic region closely as tensions between Russia and China heat up over the area, and climate change opens up potential new shipping routes. In May, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the area an "arena of global power and competition." Trump is likely not the only one eyeing the territory as a possible strategic stronghold.

But the latest news could make for an awkward meeting next month when the president plans to meet with the leaders of Denmark and Greenland during a visit to Copenhagen. It really doesn't seem like any parties will be selling or buying any real estate, but who knows. A golf resort in Nuuk probably wouldn't work anyway.

Nicole Goodkind is a political reporter at Newsweek. You can reach her on Twitter @NicoleGoodkind or by email, N.Goodkind@newsweek.com.

## We need our farmers.

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

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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 Wakarusa.



Northeastern  
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



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Today



Patchy Fog  
then Sunny

High: 82 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 60 °F

Saturday



Sunny then  
Showers  
Likely

High: 79 °F

Saturday  
Night



T-storms  
Likely

Low: 52 °F

Sunday



Mostly Sunny

High: 74 °F

## ENHANCED RISK of Severe T-Storms

### WHEN

Late this afternoon into the evening hours. The highest risk period will be from 4 pm - 12 am.

### WHAT

Scattered/numerous severe thunderstorms possible. These storms could produce wind gusts over 70 mph, large hail up to 2 inches in diameter, and an isolated tornado threat.

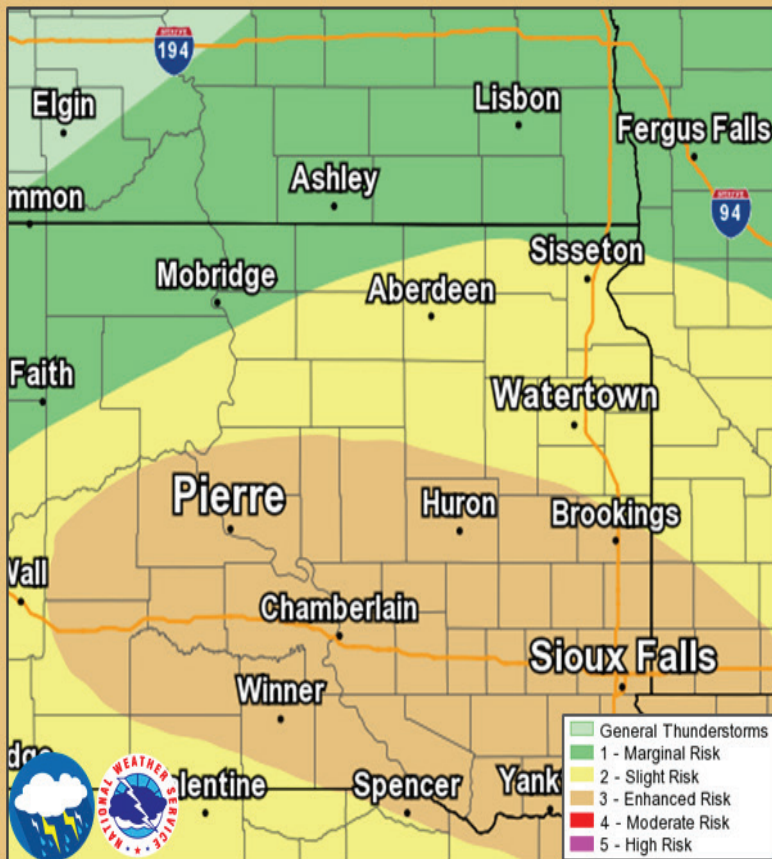
### WHERE

Much of central South Dakota, including Pierre, Miller, and Murdo.

### ACTION

Pay close attention to the weather and be prepared to seek shelter if necessary.

ISSUED: 3:35 AM - Saturday, August 17, 2019



Published on: 08/16/2019 at 11:43PM

A cold front will move into the area late this afternoon and through the evening hours. An unstable air mass will set up ahead of this front as the day wears on. Thunderstorms are expected to develop along the cold front this afternoon across central South Dakota, then continue to develop and move eastward through the evening hours. The strongest of storms will be capable of producing wind gusts over 70 mph, along with hail up to 2 inches in diameter. With this being a Saturday and many people doing outdoor activities, you will want to pay close attention to the weather and have a plan in case severe weather threatens you.

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## Today in Weather History

August 17, 1961: Intensive rainfall occurred during the overnight hours on the 17th through the early morning hours on the 18th. Some rainfall amounts include 4.13 inches in Clark, 2.52 inches 1 W of Summit, 2.50 in Andover, 2.20 in Waubay, 2.15 in Wilmot, 2.12 in Wheaton, and 2.10 in Clear Lake.

August 17, 2007: An estimated four to six inches of rain and hail to the size of baseballs caused localized flooding between Piedmont and Tilford in Meade County, especially near poor drainage areas and at a barricade along a frontage road. The water washed over several roads and was several inches deep on Interstate 90, forcing law enforcement officials to close it for a couple of hours. Torrential rains estimated at four to six inches fell west of Hermosa in Custer County between 6 pm and 8 pm MST. Battle and Grace Coolidge Creeks overflowed their banks and several dry canyons filled with water and drained into the creeks. State highways 40 and 36 were flooded in numerous spots. A river gauge on Battle Creek just east of Hermosa crested at 14.91 feet at 9 pm, rising from 2.63 ft at 7:30 pm and above the flood stage of 8.0 feet. About six inches of water covered Highway 79 at the Battle Creek bridge. A railroad bridge about 3/4 mile downstream became clogged with debris and water rose behind the embankment and flooded six homes. At about 8:30 pm MST, a section of the embankment failed, flooding a new subdivision on the other side. All of the approximately 20 houses were damaged; three homes were washed off their foundations, and one of those houses was carried a half a mile east of the subdivision by the flowing water. There were no injuries.

1899: Hurricane San Ciriaco set many records on its path. Killing nearly 3,500 people in Puerto Rico, it was the deadliest hurricane to hit the island and the strongest at the time, until 30 years later when the island was affected by the Hurricane San Felipe Segundo, a Category 5 hurricane, in 1928. It was also the tenth deadliest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded. San Ciriaco is also the longest lasting Atlantic hurricane in recorded history, continuing for 28 days. On August 17, the hurricane turned back to the northwest and made landfall near Hatteras, North Carolina on the following day. San Ciriaco remains the strongest hurricane to make landfall on the Outer Banks since 1899.

1946: An estimated F-4 tornado killed 11 people and injured 100 others in the Mankato, Minnesota area around 6:52 PM. The deaths and most of the injuries occurred in the complete destruction of the 26 cabins at the Green Gables tourist camp, 3 miles southwest of Mankato. A 27-ton road grader was reportedly hurled about 100 feet. Another tornado an hour later destroys downtown Wells, Minnesota.

1969: The music festival, known as Woodstock, should have ended on this day. Jimi Hendrix, the last act to perform, was delayed due to rain on Sunday evening. Jimi Hendrix took the stage at 8:30 am Monday morning.

1915 - A hurricane hit Galveston, TX, with wind gusts to 120 mph and a twelve foot storm surge. The storm claimed 275 lives, including forty-two on Galveston Island, with most deaths due to drowning. Of 250 homes built outside the seawall (which was constructed after the catastrophic hurricane of 1900), just ten percent were left standing. (The Weather Channel)

1969 - Camille, the second worst hurricane in U.S. history, smashed into the Mississippi coast. Winds gusted to 172 mph at Main Pass Block LA, and to 190 mph near Bay Saint Louis MS. The hurricane claimed 256 lives, and caused 1.3 billion dollars damage. Several ocean going ships were carried over seven miles inland by the hurricane. The hurricane produced winds to 200 mph, and a storm surge of 24.6 feet. Complete destruction occurred in some coastal areas near the eye of the hurricane. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Northern and Central Plains Region. One thunderstorm spawned a tornado near Fairbury NE, along with baseball size hail and wind gusts to 100 mph, causing severe crop damage west of town. Ten cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Syracuse NY hit 97 degrees for the first time in twenty-two years. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

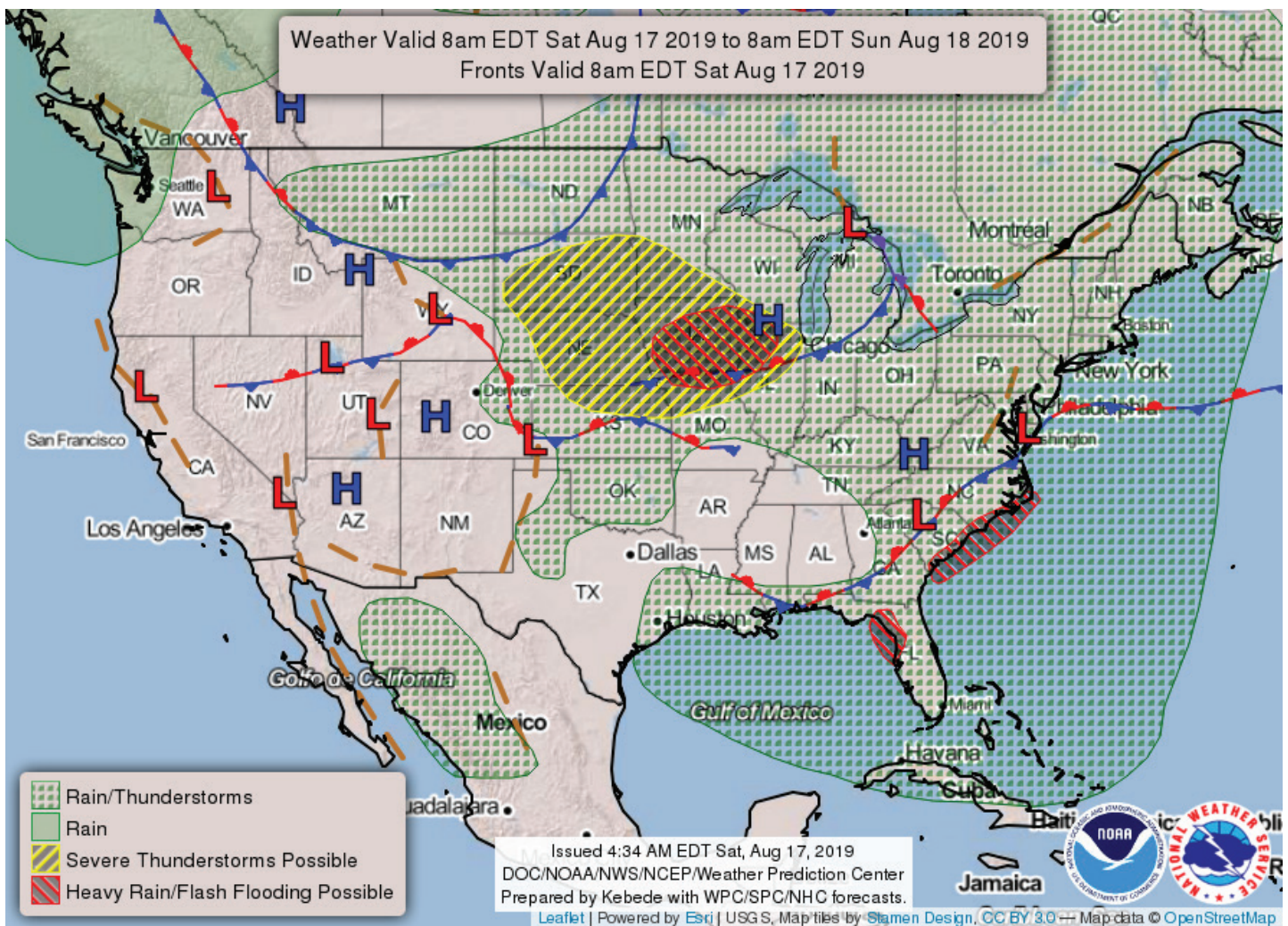
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 81 °F at 5:25 PM**  
**Low Temp: 53 °F at 6:32 AM**  
**Wind: 14 mph at 12:10 PM**  
**Day Rain: 0.01**

**Record High: 104° in 1976**  
**Record Low: 39° in 2012**  
**Average High: 82°F**  
**Average Low: 56°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug.: 1.25**  
**Precip to date in Aug.: 2.50**  
**Average Precip to date: 15.11**  
**Precip Year to Date: 19.09**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:38 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:38 a.m.**





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## ON BEING BLAMELESS

What happens when life turns ugly and there is no reason to get out of bed and face life? Do we give up and give in? Do we surrender our principals and live a life of compromise? Do we forget where we were or what made us different from others? Do we live a life filled with anger and resentment? What do we do if we do not want to do right?

Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse provides some sound advice. This verse tells the story of a man who had it all and lost it all. He was riding high and then life turned ugly. But the events of life did not change him: he changed the events of life. He remained faithful to God, turned his back on evil, and continued to live a life controlled by God. He was a man of integrity and character!

We often confuse personality with character. Its easy. Personality is who people think we are. Character is who God knows us to be. Personality changes over time and is temporary. Character is deep-rooted and flows from our relationship with God. Personality is on the outside. Character is from God and is deep inside our hearts. Personality often comes from a smile to hide the pain and struggle we are dealing with. Character weeps openly, honestly and freely when the going gets difficult, the nights long, and the days dark, the sun is hidden and the clouds heavy. Personality changes to meet the needs of the moment. Character meets the moment without changing - being confident that we can meet the challenge and endure the struggle with God. What matters to you? Personality or Character. The choice is yours.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, that we will submit our will and ways to Your will and Your ways. Give us a desire and Your power to be people of character who do right! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 28:6 Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

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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

### Board debates raising bond requirements for drillers

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A state board is weighing whether to raise bonding requirements for natural gas and oil drillers.

The Rapid City Journal reports the Board of Minerals and Environment is considering the increase as the state pursues a \$15.5 million lawsuit against a Texas-based company for abandoning gas wells in western South Dakota.

Spyglass Cedar Creek drilled 40 natural gas wells near Buffalo then abandoned them after natural gas prices plummeted.

Board members called the Spyglass saga a “perfect storm.”

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Minerals and Mining program administrator Mike Lees says the state has not had similar issues with other oil and gas developers in the state.

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



**Jonathan Imafidor works on a mural on the former American Legion building in Mellette, S.D. The building, now owned by Tom “Willie” Dvorak depicts scenes from South Dakota and Alaska with animals who are subjects of Dvorak’s guided hunting business. The building is now used for storage. Imafidor is a muralist originally from Nigeria who is now based in Atlanta, Georgia.** (Kelda J.L. Pharris/Aberdeen

American News via AP)

### Mellette mural is where bison roam, brown bears play

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

MELLETTE, S.D. (AP) — Pastel swatches reach to the heavens as a building in Mellette gets a makeover born of a hunting guide’s and traveling muralist’s prideful work.

The guide is Tom “Willie” Dvorak of Mellette. The muralist is Nigerian-born Jonathan Imafidor. Together they’re using Imafidor’s skill to create a mural on two brick faces of the former American Legion building. The scene’s north face will be set in “Dakota,” Imafidor said July 29. The west side will depict a scene from Alaska — the two states in which Dvorak guides hunts.

A flag for President Donald Trump flew above, and a bison Imafidor was giving texture to peered south across the town and into the sliver of open plains beyond.

Imafidor is no stranger to the area nor to painting animals that are quintessentially South Dakotan. He’s done murals in Lemmon, Faulkton and Hettinger, which is along U.S. Highway 12 to the west and just across the border into North Dakota, Aberdeen American News reported.

He’s done even more in his current home base of Atlanta, where in September 2017 he moved to get his master’s degree from the Savannah College of Art & Design, Atlanta.

Last summer, Imafidor worked with friend and fellow Nigerian Dotun Popoola on a Faulkton mural depicting the last wild bison hunt in Faulk County in 1883.

The latest project is a collaboration of Dvorak’s livelihood and Imafidor’s vision. Both men hold a comfortable confidence and respect in each other’s work.

“Most time they give me an idea of what they want,” Imafidor said of his clients. “But I try to work around in it to (make) an interesting

subject. For a building like this I don't think anything can be more appropriate than a landscape because it needs a lot of space to breath because we have so many elements like windows, doors," Imafidor said as he painted.

He works from 8 a.m. until about 9 p.m., altering sides as the sun coaxes the shade to a new spot.

"I look at the structure I'm going to be working on and that dictates the technique that I use and the subject that would best fit. If the owner of the building had told me to do something else, I would've advised him," Imafidor said.

His works in Atlanta tend to be commissioned, but entirely of his own volition, he said. In his South Dakota murals he's given a more extensive purview, but seems to revel in it. He scrolls through dozens of photos of bison, and he's also seen them in person.

"He wanted me to tell his story as a hunter," Imafidor said of Dvorak. "I asked him a few questions — 'What have you been hunting? What kind of animals have you killed? What animal is your source of livelihood?' He has hunted a lot of bears. It's really symbolic to him. He told me about prairie dog. It's one of the largest sources of his income. I asked him what part of the U.S. does he really function in his hunting games, you know?"

A shadowy, unfinished coyote croons on the far end of the Mellette mural. Two male bison kick up dust in the foreground. Prairie dogs and a calf are to come. All against a backdrop that would only work as camouflage against South Dakota's July sunsets. On the other wall, a mother brown bear with three cubs looks ready to walk up First Avenue, fresh from wading in an Alaskan lake.

There were some eyebrows raised when Imafidor set about his work. But as his scenes went from colorful bursts to familiar forms, he's received more and more positive feedback. On July 29, three people stopped in the span of 20 minutes to praise his work. At the time he was six days in and had a finish date another six days away.

Imafidor's mural projects start with primer, then he uses mural paint, which holds up better to outdoor elements. In a few months, Imafidor believes the mural will be ready for a matte clear coat that will help the animals and scenery shrouding Dvorak's makeshift storage shop for another 50 to 70 years.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## Longtime Rapid City church member fills many needs

By TANYA MANUS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Sloppy joes are Phyllis Harper's way of showing God's love.

For 32 years, she has led a team of volunteers from Bethel Assembly of God Church who prepares and serves dinner once a month at Cornerstone Rescue Mission. This week, Harper is retiring from her long-time volunteer role.

Harper, 88, is known in her family and church for her cooking. Her brownies and other recipes are in the Bethel church cookbook, and her talents have been an ideal fit for the Cornerstone meal preparation ministry.

"The church needed somebody to take it on and so I did. I ended up doing it for 32 years!" Harper said, laughing. "I had really good help."

Harper calls and organizes dozens of volunteers who donate hamburger, or contribute salad, canned vegetables, fruit, rolls, and pans of homemade brownies, cake or bar cookies. Harper and four or five volunteers transport the food to Cornerstone. There, they prepare the sloppy joes using 30 pounds of hamburger, three bags of frozen chopped onions, two bottles of ketchup, two jars of salsa, a dozen packets of seasoning mix and cans of tomato sauce, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Six volunteers then dish up and serve dinner. "They really like our sloppy joes," Harper said. "I know we're a blessing to the people that come through the line that need the food, and we always have fun fixing the food."

Harper and her team feed between 100 and 175 people each month, said Deb Berg, volunteer coordina-

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tor at Cornerstone Rescue Mission.

"I wish I had a thousand Phyllises," Berg said. "It's a big undertaking to cook the food for that many people and serve it. It's just amazing how long Phyllis has stuck with us. How do you even thank somebody for that?"

"Phyllis is not a quitter," said Carol Gossard, Harper's sister. "We inherited that from our parents. Our mother taught Sunday school until she was about 84. That's the way our folks were. If they were in it for God, they were in it. Phyllis gives it her whole heart."

Harper has been an integral part of Bethel Assembly of God Church for much of her life. Her parents were charter members of the church, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year.

Rev. Earl Harper was the first pastor from 1949 to 1969. Phyllis married Jack Harper, the pastor's son, in 1952. The couple raised three sons and were involved at Bethel Assembly of God when their family wasn't stationed elsewhere during his Air Force career. Jack passed away in 2002.

Harper taught Sunday school and the Missionettes group for school-aged girls for many years and sang in Bethel's choir. Currently, in addition to the Cornerstone meal preparation, Harper visits people who are in poor health, and provides rides to doctor's appointments and church.

"She loves the interaction of serving the people," said Susan Walter, who was Bethel's church secretary for 27 years. "She is a cornerstone at the church."

Harper is stepping down from the meal preparation ministry now that the church has found another volunteer, Angie Langstaff, to run it.

"I'm very thankful that I've had the good health to do it this long," Harper said, adding that she might still volunteer to make a dessert for the Cornerstone meal simply because she enjoys baking.

Harper is looking forward to becoming more active in a women's prayer group and spending time with her three sons, eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

"They just don't make them like Phyllis anymore," Berg said. "Everything she's done, everything Bethel Assembly has done — that's a lot of meals and they've fed a lot of people. 'Thank you' never feels like it's enough."

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

04-14-24-26-46, Mega Ball: 14, Megaplier: 2

(four, fourteen, twenty-four, twenty-six, forty-six; Mega Ball: fourteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$70 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$149 million

## Mom charged with trying to kill baby plans insanity defense

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman accused of trying to drown her baby plans to plead not guilty by reason of insanity.

The Argus Leader reports an attorney for Julia Jacquelyn Alzoubaidi made the statement in a recent court filing before her trial scheduled for September. Judge Susan Sabers this week granted a prosecution request for a mental health evaluation.

Alzoubaidi was charged last October with attempted first-degree murder and felony child abuse after troopers responding to a crash off Interstate 229 near the Big Sioux River found her face down in the water and her 6-month-old infant near the bank. Both survived.

She told hospital staff she planned to kill her child and herself because she thought the baby had an attachment disorder and she felt she was an unfit mother.

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

### 3 Sioux Falls men charged with kidnapping, beating man

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three men are accused of brutally beating a man and holding him hostage in a Sioux Falls basement for two days, claiming he owed them money.

But court documents say the victim went to the home of one of the men to collect payment for repairing a door. The documents say the men grabbed the victim, beat him and burned his face and hair with a blow torch. An affidavit says he was ordered to take off his clothing and forced into the basement where he was kept for two days before he was let go. One of the men told him they planned to kill him because they thought he was a confidential informant.

The Argus Leader reports the three Sioux Falls men are charged with first-degree kidnapping and aggravated assault.

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

### 1 teen killed, 3 seriously injured in crash near Parkston

PARKSTON, S.D. (AP) — A 15-year-old has died and three other teens have suffered life-threatening injuries in a crash near Parkston.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a girl driving a pickup truck was killed when she swerved to avoid a pothole, but landed in the ditch where the vehicle rolled several times and caught fire.

The driver died at the scene Thursday. The patrol says the three passengers suffered life-threatening injuries when they were thrown from the pickup. They include a 15-year-old girl and two boys, ages 14 and 16.

The oldest teen was taken to the Parkston hospital and the two others were flown to Sioux Falls hospitals. The victims have not been identified.

### Legislative solution sought to abandoned wells

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota leaders are considering legislation to prevent the state from bearing the financial responsibility of closing abandoned gas wells.

The state is on the hook for nearly \$1 million to plug 40 abandoned wells in northwestern South Dakota. State minerals and mining administrator Mike Lees says the state has never faced this problem before and has no established policy as a result.

"We haven't had any orphaned gas wells in the last 50 years. This is a new uncharted territory for all of us. ... You've inherited this brand new problem," Lees told the Minerals and Environment Board on Thursday.

Board officials and the governor's office have started to consider legislation for the 2020 session to increase accountability in state law, the Argus Leader reported.

The state is suing Spyglass Cedar Creek, of Houston, Texas, for abandoning the wells after a drilling project fell through several years ago. The state is seeking \$15.5 million from Spyglass as penalty for abandoning the wells, but until the state receives that money, it's on the hook for nearly the entire cost of the wells. It has only \$10,000 in bond money from Spyglass.

Protecting the state, landowners and the environment needs to be balanced with the state's policy encouraging the use of its oil and gas natural resources, said Bob Morris, a member of the Minerals and Environment Board.

Industry opposition killed a bill in 2013 to increase the bond amount required for shallow wells like the Spyglass project, but that option could be back on the table for the 2020 legislative session. The Depart-

ment of Environment and Natural Resources is seeking input from gas and oil companies about a proposed bond increase to \$50,000 per well.

Several Minerals and Environment Board members support creating an option to allow companies to request a lower bond amount if they can prove plugging a well would cost less than \$50,000.

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

## House speaker as US emissary: Pelosi emerges as force abroad

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent



**FILE - In this Aug. 10, 2019, file photo, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi smiles during a news conference at a hotel in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. There's an American leader whose words increasingly resonate abroad, who's adored in foreign capitals and who sends a message just by her arrival. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has emerged as an alternative ambassador in the Trump era.** (AP Photo/

Elmer Martinez)

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's an American leader whose words resonate on the global stage. Who draws attention in foreign capitals. Who carries a message from the United States by simply arriving.

It's not just President Donald Trump. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is emerging as an alternative ambassador abroad, an emissary for bedrock democratic values and the promise of stability that some see as diminishing in the Trump era.

As the president heads to the Group of Seven summit in France next week with his "America First" agenda, Pelosi has been quietly engaging the world from another point of view. She is reviving a more traditional American approach to foreign policy, in style and substance, reinforcing long-standing U.S. alliances and commitments to democracy and human rights, at a time when the old order appears to be slipping away.

"What's really important for people to know is, we're all in this together," Pelosi told The Associated Press in an interview. "This isn't about me. It's about our country and our shared values, to show our strength of who we are and what we believe."

Since retaking the speaker's gavel this year, Pelosi has led large congressional delegations abroad: to assure European allies at a Munich security conference; warn Britons of the pitfalls of Brexit; assess the migrant crisis in Central America; and mark the 400th anniversary of the slave trade in Africa with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including the immigrant congresswoman who became the subject of a Trump rally chant, "Send her back!"

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that at a time when U.S. policy is "confusing everybody in the world," Pelosi and the members of Congress are trying to "present the best face of America."

"Thank goodness that they're doing this," Albright said.

With the lawmakers, Pelosi is sending a "very clear message" to the foreign officials in the room, said Rep. Norma Torres, D-Calif.,

a Guatemalan American who joined the Central American trip.

"Presidents come and go. Congress will always be there," Torres said.

The scope of Pelosi's diplomacy often resonates with members of the president's party, creating rare bipartisan accord.

This past week, when Trump said he hopes it works out with Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters facing retaliation from China — "I hope nobody gets killed," he told reporters — Pelosi affirmed the U.S. commitment to human rights and urged the Hong Kong government to end the standoff. It was a senti-

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ment shared by several top Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. Congressional leaders routinely play a role influencing policy abroad. While House speaker, Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., visited the former Soviet Union. More recently, when John Boehner, R-Ohio, was speaker, he invited Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu to address a joint meeting of Congress amid opposition to the Obama administration's nuclear deal with Iran. Pelosi, as a young lawmaker, went to China to oppose the violent crackdown on democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square.

But not since the late Republican Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., globe-trotted the world has a U.S. lawmaker emerged with such a presence, as a protector of long-held American values, as Pelosi.

"This is what diplomacy looks like," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., who traveled with Pelosi this month to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras as the migrant crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border played out.

Trump has not been pleased with some of Pelosi's trips.

In a stunning move this year, the president abruptly ordered the grounding of the military aircraft that was set to take lawmakers to Belgium and Afghanistan to visit troops. The move was in retaliation for Pelosi's decision to postpone Trump's State of the Union address during the federal government shutdown.

Trump dismissed Pelosi's "excursion" as a "public relations event" and suggested the lawmakers could fly on commercial aircraft to the combat zone. Congressional travel is, by law, federally funded.

Critics may see the trips as merely junkets or, worse, meddling in the administration's foreign affairs. American politicians generally abide by a rule to leave their political differences at water's edge. During a trip to Africa, Pelosi surprised some when she declined to answer questions about Trump's racist tweets against members of Congress.

Sometimes more can be said diplomatically by saying little.

At the Munich security conference this year, Pelosi was embraced by European leaders at a time when Trump's attacks on NATO were threatening the decades-old alliance of Western nations.

"She was greeted like a rock star," said Wendy Sherman, an Obama-era ambassador and former State Department counselor under Albright. Around that time, Pelosi and McConnell invited the NATO secretary-general address to Congress.

Still, words matter and Pelosi's interventions in Brexit rippled this past week across the United Kingdom again. She reiterated the message delivered earlier this year, in London and in a speech to the Irish Parliament, that there will be "no chance" of a U.S.-Britain trade deal passing Congress if British efforts to leave the European Union result in a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, which could undermine the peace process there.

Her stand countered the one Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, was taking during his own visit talking up a quick trade deal.

Lawmakers who travel with Pelosi say the trips are demanding, with grueling schedules and working meals, but rewarding as she delegates others to speak for the group. Many of the trips were initially their ideas.

When the head of the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., asked her to Ghana, Pelosi sought out the highest ranking African American in the House, Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, to lead the group's discussion with the country's president.

Later, Pelosi took a photo with Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., the Somali American refugee who the Trump rally crowd wanted to send "back," as the two passed through a historic doorway at the coastal site where enslaved Africans were bound for the middle passage to the Americas.

"So much of what we are doing carried history," Clyburn said.

Mark Salter, a longtime aide to McCain, said while the Republican senator and the Democratic speaker disagreed on "a million things," Pelosi, like his former boss, "believes in the ideals of this country" and fostering those ideals abroad.

"She's a statesman and McCain would applaud it," Salter said. "He would look at the speaker, those activities, with appreciation."

\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Jill Lawless in London, Francis Kokutse in Accra, Ghana, Sonia Perez D. in Guatemala City, Marcos Alemán in San Salvador, El Salvador, and Luis Alonso Lugo in Washington contributed to this report.



## Indian authorities begin easing clampdown in Kashmir

By ASHOK SHARMA Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Authorities in Indian-administered Kashmir began restoring landline phone services on Saturday after a nearly two-week security crackdown and news blackout following a decision by India's government to downgrade the Muslim-majority region's autonomy.

Shahid Choudhary, a government administrator in Srinagar, the region's main city, said restrictions were being lifted in most areas and government offices were open. He also said on Twitter that food and other supplies were available "in abundance."

Police said restrictions on the movement of people were relaxed in several parts of the region.

Rohit Kansal, another administrator in Srinagar, said there were six to seven minor incidents of protests in areas which remained under a lockdown, suggesting clashes with security forces. He said that eight people suffered injuries, but they were in stable condition. He didn't give other details.

Kansal told reporters that public transport buses had started operating in some rural areas in Indian-controlled Kashmir. He also said cell-phone and internet services had resumed in some districts, but news reports said that happened only in the Hindu-dominated Jammu region, which was not threatened by anti-India protests.

Security forces that blanketed the region remained on high alert after hundreds of people took to the streets for an anti-India protest following Friday prayers in Srinagar.

The government had imposed the lockdown to avoid a violent reaction to its decision on Aug. 5 to downgrade the autonomy of the region. The decision by the Hindu nationalist government in New Delhi has raised tensions with Pakistan and touched off anger in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir.

There was a deadly exchange of gun and mortar firing between Indian and Pakistani forces Saturday across the militarized Line of Control that divides Kashmir between the archrivals. Both countries claim the Himalayan region in its entirety, and they have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

An Indian soldier was killed by Pakistani forces in Nowshera sector, Col. Aman Anand, an Indian army spokesman, said in New Delhi. Earlier in the week, Pakistani security forces said firing by India in the region killed three Pakistani soldiers and two civilians in separate incidents. Both sides frequently exchange gunfire in the region and accuse each other of violating a 2003 cease-fire accord.

In Islamabad, Pakistani military spokesman Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor said the country's armed forces were fully prepared to respond to any Indian aggression.

The U.N. Security Council met to discuss Kashmir for the first time in decades, and Pakistan's U.N. ambassador said the session showed that people in the region "may be locked up ... but their voices were heard



**A Kashmiri boy, who was injured in a protest last week, holds up an X-Ray showing pellet injuries in his leg, as he recovers at his home in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir, Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019. Authorities began restoring landline phone services on Saturday after a nearly two-week security crackdown and news blackout following a decision to downgrade the majority-Muslim region's autonomy.** (AP Photo/Dar Yasin)

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today." The council took no action during the closed meeting, which was called for by China and Pakistan. President Donald Trump spoke with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan by phone on Friday and conveyed the importance of India and Pakistan reducing tensions through dialogue, said White House spokesman Hogan Gidley.

Khan welcomed the Security Council meeting, saying on Twitter that "addressing the suffering of the Kashmiri people and ensuring resolution of the dispute is the responsibility of this world body."

According to Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Trump said he would also talk to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Qureshi said the Security Council taking up Kashmir proved that it is an international dispute and not an internal matter of India as New Delhi claimed.

Kansal, the Srinagar administrator, said landline services in 17 of around 100 telephone exchanges had been made operational in Indian-held Kashmir on Saturday. Half of the region's exchanges are expected to be in service by Sunday, he said.

Primary schools will reopen on Monday, and public transport will be restored gradually after evaluating the security situation, said B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, a senior official with the regional government.

On Friday, hundreds of demonstrators in Srinagar carried green Islamic flags and signs reading "Stop genocide in Kashmir, wake up world." Some threw stones and clashed with security forces, which responded with tear gas.

Modi, who has defended the Kashmir changes as freeing the territory from separatism, and his supporters have welcomed the move. One of the revisions allows anyone to buy land in Indian-controlled Kashmir, which some Kashmiris fear could change the region's culture and demographics. Critics have likened it to Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over control of Kashmir since they won independence from British colonialists in 1947. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training insurgents who have been fighting for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with Pakistan since 1989. Pakistan says it only provides moral and diplomatic support to rebels.

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Associated Press writer Zarar Khan in Islamabad contributed to this report.

## **New York City subway scare suspect taken into police custody**

**By MICHAEL R. SISAK and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — A man suspected of placing two devices that looked like pressure cookers in a New York City subway station on Friday, causing an evacuation and snarling the morning commute, has been apprehended, police said.

Chief of Detectives Dermot Shea tweeted Saturday morning that a man seen in surveillance video holding one of the objects was taken into custody. Police identified the objects as rice cookers and determined they were not explosives.

Police say the man was located around 12:45 a.m. Saturday in the Bronx and taken to a hospital for treatment and observation. Police did not specify what, if any, injuries or condition he was being treated for.

A West Virginia sheriff's department identified the man as Larry Kenton Griffin II, of Bruno, West Virginia and said he had a criminal history in the state.

The Logan County Sheriff's Department said it has arrested Griffin, 26, at least three times in the past eight years, including a 2017 arrest on charges alleging he sent obscene material to a minor.

Griffin's cousin Tara Brumfield told a Huntington, West Virginia, television station that he is a good person who has been dealing with mental health issues.

Offering a possible explanation for his involvement with the rice cookers, she said Griffin has a habit of picking up items in one place and putting them down in another.

"Whether it's tools or a fishing pole or something like that like he'll pick up one thing and leave it there and then pick up another and then leave it there and I've watched him do stuff like that a bunch of times,"

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she told the station, WSAZ-TV.

It wasn't immediately known if Griffin had a lawyer representing him in the New York case. No charges have been announced.

New York City police said security cameras captured a man pulling the cookers out of a shopping cart and placing them in the Fulton Street subway station near the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan.

A third cooker of the same make, year and model was found about 2 miles away (3 kilometers) on a sidewalk in the Chelsea neighborhood, prompting another police investigation.

Police stressed at a news conference on Friday that it wasn't clear if the man was trying to frighten people or merely throwing the objects away.

"I would stop very short of calling him a suspect," said John Miller, the New York Police Department's top counterterrorism official.

"It is possible that somebody put out a bunch of items in the trash today and this guy picked them up and then discarded them, or it's possible that this was an intentional act."

Police tracked Griffin down about 13 hours after releasing a flyer asking people to help them identify him. Social media posts from the department described him as a person of interest who was wanted for questioning. The Logan County Sheriff's Department said it assisted an FBI task force by speaking with Griffin's relatives in hopes of obtaining his possible location.

Dozens of suspicious packages are reported daily in the city, but the proximity of the subway station to the site of the Sept. 11 attacks served to heighten anxiety before police gave the all-clear.

Multiple subway lines were partially suspended during the police investigation, and delays continued throughout the morning.

Many rice cookers look like pressure cookers, which use pressure to cook food quickly — a function that has been used to turn them into bombs.

Pressure cookers packed with explosives killed three people and injured hundreds when a pair of Islamic extremists detonated them during the Boston Marathon in 2013.

In September 2016, a pressure-cooker bomb went off in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, injuring 30 people.

In 2017, a would-be suicide attacker set off a homemade pipe bomb in an underground passageway at the Times Square subway station during rush hour, seriously injuring himself.



**This photo released by NYPD shows a person of interest wanted for questioning in regard to the suspicious items placed inside the Fulton Street subway station in Lower Manhattan on Friday, Aug. 16, 2019 in New York. Chief of Detectives Dermot Shea tweeted Saturday, Aug. 17, that the man seen holding one of the rice cookers in surveillance video was taken into custody. The discovery of the cookers Friday led to an evacuation and roiled the morning commute.** (NYPD via AP, File)

## Judge blasts Georgia officials' handling of election system

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia election officials have for years ignored, downplayed and failed to address serious problems with the state's election management system and voting machines, a federal judge said in a scathing order this week.

U.S. District Judge Amy Totenberg said those problems place a burden on citizens' rights to cast a vote and have it reliably counted. She called Georgia's voting system "antiquated, seriously flawed, and vulnerable to failure, breach, contamination, and attack."

Despite those findings, Totenberg ruled Thursday that Georgia voters will use that same election system this fall because of concerns about the state's capacity to make an interim switch while also implementing a new system .

Plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging Georgia's system had asked Totenberg to order an immediate switch to hand-marked paper ballots for special and municipal elections this fall. But she declined, citing worries about the state's capacity to manage an interim switch while also implementing a new system that is supposed to be in place for the March 24 presidential primaries.

"(T)he totality of evidence in this case reveals that the Secretary of State's efforts in monitoring the security of its voting systems have been lax at best — a clear indication that Georgia's computerized election system is vulnerable in actual use," Totenberg wrote in a 153-page ruling that devotes considerable space to chronicling those shortcomings.

Here are some of the concerns Totenberg identified:  
LACKLUSTER RESPONSE TO A SECURITY LAPSE

Security experts in 2017 disclosed a gaping hole exposing personal data for 6.7 million Georgia voters, as well as passwords used by county officials to access election-staging files. That lapse at the Center for Election Systems at Kennesaw State University, which managed the system for the secretary of state, still wasn't fixed six months after it was first reported to election authorities.

The relevant servers were wiped soon after the lawsuit was filed. Totenberg said officials' assertions that the servers "were simply 'repurposed' and not intentionally destroyed or wiped is flatly not credible."

Election officials have refused to "fully acknowledge or remedy these circumstances and their broader ramifications for the voting system's security and reliability," Totenberg wrote. She also said election officials had shown "inconsistent candor" with her about this and other voting system security issues.

The Center for Elections Systems eventually became part of the secretary of state's office. Michael Barnes, who directed it at Kennesaw State remains in that role. But Barnes "could recall little or what expressly was done" after they received notification of the breach, Totenberg wrote.

PROBLEMATIC FROM THE START

Totenberg cited a brief filed by the Electronic Privacy Information Center that says "almost from their inception" the paperless electronic voting machines Georgia has used since 2002 "have been plagued by warnings that the voting machines are unreliable, insecure, unverifiable."

"(W)hile Georgia election officials have effectively taken no steps to address these deficiencies with its



**This May 22, 2018, file photo, shows a voter access card inserted in a reader during voting in the Georgia primary in Kennesaw, Ga. A federal judge has ordered Georgia to stop using its outdated voting machines after 2019. U.S. District Judge Amy Totenberg on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, issued the order after voting integrity advocates and individual voters asked her to order the state to immediately switch to hand-marked paper ballots. (AP**

Photo/Mike Stewart, File)

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DRE-based system — a litany of other states have abandoned the plagued machines in exchange for a more secure and reliable alternative voting method,” Totenberg wrote.

## BALLOT BUILDING SECURITY

Barnes testified last month that the state’s election management system, which is used to build ballots, is housed on private computers not connected to the internet, saying the system is “air gapped.” He also testified that he uses a “lockable” USB drive to transfer files between those computers and internet-connected computers.

Relying on testimony from cybersecurity experts, Totenberg wrote that using a USB drive in that way exposes the data to malware and leaves the entire election system vulnerable to contamination.

The state has a contract with election equipment company Election Systems & Software, which employs three people to design and configure Georgia’s databases. They built all the ballots for last November’s elections, Barnes testified.

They work from home on computers disconnected from the internet, Barnes testified. But Totenberg noted that Barnes couldn’t say what physical security measures they have at their homes and that their computers are “outside the secure facilities that the Secretary of State maintains for ballot building.”

## RISK ASSESSMENTS AND RESPONSE

Fortalice Solutions, a cybersecurity firm hired by the secretary of state’s office to do risk assessments, identified 22 security risks in the networks it examined for an October 2017 report. In a subsequent Nov. 30, 2018, report Fortalice found that just three of those risks had been fixed and another three were in the process of being fixed.

Totenberg wrote that the record includes “scant” evidence of what “targeted remedial measures” state officials took following the November 2018 report.

Totenberg also wrote that the state never asked Fortalice or another expert “to conduct an actual cybersecurity review and analysis” of its election-related systems and databases.

## VOTER TROUBLES

Totenberg cited a “mountain of voter testimony showing that these vulnerabilities have a tangible impact” on voters’ attempts to cast a ballot and have their vote counted.

The plaintiffs provided statements from 137 Georgia voters, two county poll workers and 15 poll watchers about problems during the November 2018 midterm election. Those included: self-casting ballots, malfunctioning voting machines, voter selections flipping to another candidate, and electronic pollbooks showing incorrect polling places or addresses for voters.

## STATE RESPONSE

In an email to The Associated Press, Tess Hammock, spokeswoman for Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, said, “These conclusions are silly and unfounded. At the end of the day no judge should be susceptible to political Rhetoric.”

In a subsequent email she added that the secretary of state’s office looks forward to implementing the new system.

Much of what Totenberg mentioned took place while now-Gov. Brian Kemp was secretary of state. Kemp spokeswoman Candice Broce didn’t respond to emails seeking comment.

Lawyers for the state have argued that implementing a new election system resolves the problems of the old system.

State election officials testified that steps were taken to ensure the election management system’s safety when it was transferred from Kennesaw State, and that they had acted to remedy vulnerabilities identified in risk assessments.

During a hearing last month, under questioning by a plaintiffs’ attorney, Barnes said, “I feel confident in Georgia’s voting system, yes.”

## Doctors warn of fallout from new immigration rule

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Diabetics skipping regular checkups. Young asthmatics not getting preventive care. A surge in expensive emergency room visits.

Doctors and public health experts warn of poor health and rising costs they say will come from sweeping Trump administration changes that would deny green cards to many immigrants who use Medicaid, as well as food stamps and other forms of public assistance. Some advocates say they're already seeing the fallout even before the complex 837-page rule takes effect in October.

President Donald Trump's administration trumpeted its aggressive approach this past week as a way to keep only self-sufficient immigrants in the country, but health experts argue it could force potentially millions of low-income migrants to choose between needed services and their bid to stay legally in the U.S.

"People are going to be sicker. They're not going to go get health care, or not until they have to go to an emergency room," said Lisa David, president and CEO of Public Health Solutions, New York's largest public health organization. "It's going to cost the system a lot of money."

Immigrants who want permanent legal status, commonly called a green card, have long been required to prove they won't be "a public charge." The Trump administration announced Monday that would redefine the term to mean those who are "more likely than not" to receive public benefits over a certain period. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will also now consider other factors, including income, education and English proficiency.

"We want to see people coming to this country who are self-sufficient," said Ken Cuccinelli, the agency's acting director. "That's a core principle of the American dream. It's deeply embedded in our history, and particularly our history related to legal immigration."

Two California counties and attorneys general in 13 states sued, saying the changes will increase public health risks.

There are signs that is already happening in cities including Chicago, Detroit and New York, immigrant advocates say.

Within hours of the announcement, a Minnesota immigration attorney said she received a flurry of calls from worried clients about whether to leave Medicaid. A Detroit nonprofit helping Latinos and immigrants with social services said its usually jam-packed lobby was empty the day after the rules were unveiled.



**In this Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2019, photo, Dr. Jasmine Saavedra, a pediatrician at Esperanza Health Centers whose parents emigrated from Mexico in the 1980s, examines Alondra Marquez, a newborn baby in her clinic in Chicago. Doctors and public health experts warn of poor health outcomes and rising costs they say will come from sweeping changes that would deny green cards to many immigrants who use Medicaid, as well as food stamps and other forms of public assistance. Saavedra is convinced that if new Trump administration criteria were in effect for her parents three decades ago, she wouldn't have become a pediatrician.** (AP Photo/Amr Alfiky)

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New York's largest public health organization, Public Health Solutions, which serves a large immigrant population, reported a 20% drop in food stamps enrollment since the rule was first proposed in the fall.

There is precedent for such a chilling effect.

After 1996 welfare and immigration changes that limited public assistance for some immigrants, the use of benefits dropped steeply among U.S. citizen children and refugees, groups who were still eligible. Studies based on data following that change showed people disenrolled from Medicaid at rates ranging from 15% to 35%, according to Harvard University's Francois-Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights. And, it found, this came at a high cost: Asthma-related school absences in 1996 led to \$719 million in lost parental productivity.

Federico Mason, who emigrated from Mexico over two decades ago, said he is worried about the new criteria because he is low-income and doesn't speak English well. The Chicago resident said he has no immediate plans to remove his 8- and 15-year-old sons, who are U.S. citizens, from Medicaid, but the new rule has made him more fearful about providing for his family and about applying for a green card.

"If one day I want to adjust my status, it will be more difficult because of these unfair policies that continue to discriminate against me," he said in Spanish.

Overall, non-citizen low-income immigrants use public benefits at a much lower rate than low-income U.S.-born citizens, but there's the possibility that millions of people could drop benefits out of fear or confusion. Estimates vary. It could be as high as 24 million people, according to the nonpartisan Fiscal Policy Institute, which includes in its count anyone in a family that has received food, health or housing support and where at least one person is a non-citizen.

Dr. Deanna Behrens, a pediatric critical-care physician in suburban Chicago who wrote public testimony opposing the rule change, said children are the most vulnerable.

She said non-citizen parents might hesitate to apply for their children who are U.S. citizens, mistakenly fearing that if their children get benefits it will destroy their own chances of getting a green card and tear their families apart. That will lead to people being unable to afford care for chronic diseases like asthma and diabetes, as well as preventative measures. Instead, they'll rely on far more costly emergency rooms.

"This has forced the immigrant families into an impossible choice," Behrens said.

Roughly 544,000 people apply for green cards annually, with about 382,000 falling into categories that would be subject to the new review, according to the government.

Esperanza Health Centers, which runs four Chicago-based clinics that serve low-income and largely immigrant populations, has seen an increase in the number of uninsured children. Since a draft of the new rule was released in the fall, the clinics report having 600 children without insurance, including those who have disenrolled from Medicaid. Typically, it's about 200, according to Jessica Boland, director of behavioral health.

"We're condemning people to having a much more unhealthy lifestyles because we believe that there is something awful about their request for what we think for most people is a right and not a privilege: health care," said Dr. Kenneth Davis, president and CEO of Mount Sinai Health System, which covers eight hospitals in New York.

Over a dozen major patient groups, including the March of Dimes and the American Heart Association, have written fierce opposition to the rule.

The issue is personal for Dr. Jasmine Saavedra, a pediatrician who works at an Esperanza clinic in a heavily Latino Chicago neighborhood.

She is convinced that if new Trump administration criteria were in effect for her parents three decades ago, she would have had a far different future. Her parents emigrated from Mexico in the 1980s unable to speak English and with little education. While working low-wage jobs, they relied on food stamps for a short time to get by.

Her mother later quit public assistance because of the stigma, but Saavedra said there were days when her mother wouldn't eat so her children could. She believes that helped her become a doctor and her two sisters become an accountant and a nurse.

"Maybe when certain people think about immigrant families, they do think of it as a burden on this country, the way people would tell my mom she was when she was receiving assistance," Saavedra said. "But my parents, with no education, not speaking this language, being impoverished with a little bit assistance when they could, got us out and they have three successful daughters."

Follow Sophia Tareen on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sophiatareen> .

Associated Press video journalist Mike Householder in Detroit contributed to this report.

## From tusks to tails, nations eye trade in endangered species

By JAMEY KEATEN and MARIA CHENG Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — From guitars to traditional medicines and from tusk to tail, mankind's exploitation of the planet's fauna and flora is putting some of them at risk of extinction. Representatives of some 180 nations are meeting in Geneva to agree on protections for vulnerable species, taking up issues including the trade in ivory and the demand for shark fin soup.

The World Wildlife Conference on trade in endangered species, known as CITES, which takes place every three years, aims to make sure that global trade in specimens of wild animals and plants doesn't jeopardize their survival.

The conference opens Saturday and runs through Aug. 28, with key decisions expected to be finalized in the last two days. It had originally been due to take place in Colombo in May and June, but was moved to Geneva after a series of terror attacks in the Sri Lankan capital.

Three months ago, the first comprehensive U.N. report on biodiversity warned that extinction is looming for over 1 million species of plants and animals. There are growing concerns that policymakers aren't acting quickly enough to stop it.

"Business as usual is no longer an option ... The rate of wildlife extinction is accelerating," said CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero in her opening remarks to the conference.

"The assessment confirms that nature's dangerous decline is unprecedented," Higuero said.

The meeting also comes just days after the Trump administration announced plans to water down the U.S. Endangered Species Act — a message that could echo among attendees at the CITES conference, even if the U.S. move is more about domestic policy than international trade.

Alain Berset, head of the home affairs department of host Switzerland, noted that sustainable management of threatened species "of course requires taking into account the interests and the needs of the countries where these species live."

CITES bans trade in some products entirely, while permitting international trade in other species provided it doesn't hurt their numbers in the wild.



**Picture taken on March 5, 2019 shows a black rhinoceros in the savannah landscape of the Etosha National Park. (**

Matthias Toedt/AP via AP)



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Demand is diverse for animal and plant products, prized for their medicinal properties or as pets, culinary delicacies, and products for knitwear and handbags — among many other uses.

Customs officials around the world know to be on the lookout for the CITES logo on shipments of plants and animals across borders: It amounts to a highly respected seal of approval that trade in such species is legitimate.

The meeting's agenda contains 56 proposals to change — mostly strengthen — the level of protection among vulnerable or endangered species. But some argue that protections should be downgraded because the relevant populations have stabilized or even increased. Officials say the decisions are to be based on science, not political or other considerations.

"The new wildlife trade rules ... cover an array of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, trees and other plants. Twenty listing proposals are inspired by concern over the growing appetite of the exotic pet trade for charismatic amphibians and reptiles," CITES says.

Africa is facing an internal debate about elephants and ivory.

Zambia — which argues its population of wild African elephants is large and stable, at about 27,000 — wants to "downlist" that population to allow for ivory stockpile sales and exports of hunting trophies, hides and leathers. A few other countries in southern Africa want another rule on elephants eased. But 10 other countries — all but one African — want total protection for elephants from any international ivory trade.

Israel is even proposing tougher regulations on the legal trade of mammoth ivory, hoping to undercut illegal traffickers of elephant tusk who sneakily try to pass it off as "ice ivory" — ivory that comes from mammoth tusks.

Elephant and mammoth tusks can be almost indistinguishable to the untrained eye, and the mammoth ivory trade has become a booming business. Conference attendees will have to determine whether products from a long-extinct species can or should be covered by CITES.

Advocacy group Avaaz says one key question is whether Japan, home to the world's largest legal ivory market, will join other countries committed to closing their ivory trade.

"Japan's ivory market is fueling the international illegal ivory trade," Avaaz campaigner Andy Legon said in an e-mail. "And with elephants facing extinction, China, the U.S., Hong Kong SAR, Singapore and others have recently committed to closing their ivory markets."

Flora, arguably a less glamorous subject than animal life, also gets spots on the agenda. One proposal, for example, would exempt musical instruments from trade restrictions on a type of rosewood that's prized by guitar makers.

Also on the agenda are sharks. Some researchers say commercial demand for shark fins — largely driven by the Chinese appetite for shark fin soup — is decimating populations.

Sharks are getting some support in high places, including from retired basketball all-star Yao Ming, who led China's Olympic team three times. Yao became a WildAid ambassador in 2006 when he signed a pledge to give up shark fin soup and has since appeared in numerous ads calling for diners to skip the luxury soup to save sharks.

WildAid, an environmental group, also says Yao was instrumental in bringing about China's ivory ban two years ago.

Luke Warwick of the Wildlife Conservation Society said dried shark fin can command up to \$1,000 per kilogram, and listing more shark species to the CITES list would be just one of several measures needed to help vulnerable populations of the predators of the deep.

"You've got this huge, unsustainable global trade in shark fin and huge parts of it, 80%, are not regulated, with millions of animals dying," he told a Geneva news conference this week. "We're watching them disappear before our eyes."

Dr. Abdulla Naseer, the Maldives' environment minister, said his island nation supports three proposals to protect 18 species of sharks and rays, namely the mako shark, white-spotted wedgefish and giant guitarfish.

"We would be ensuring future trade is sustainable ... before it's too late," he said. "We want to see the oceans protected for future generations."

Maria Cheng reported from London.

## Native American voters, once overlooked, seek role for 2020

By KALI ROBINSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidates will descend on Iowa next week to do something that Native Americans say doesn't happen enough: court their vote.

At least seven White House hopefuls have said they'll attend a forum in Sioux City on Monday and Tuesday named for longtime Native American activist Frank LaMere, who died in June. Tribal leaders and citizens will talk with candidates about issues including health care, education and violence against National American women.

Several candidates attending the forum, including Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Julian Castro and Marianne Williamson, have issued platforms dedicated to the needs of indigenous people. Marcella LeBeau, a 99-year-old registered Democrat and a citizen of the Two Kettles Band of the Lakota, said that's a change from the past when politicians largely overlooked Native American issues.

"We're like a third-world country," she said. "No one really listens to us."

Many Native Americans live in "hard-to-count" rural areas and are not reflected in the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, so the census cannot accurately measure their voter registration as it would for black, white, Asian and Hispanic citizens. Census estimates say Native Americans make up around 1.7% — or 5.3 million — of the U.S. population, and suggest that more than 3.7 million Native Americans are of voting age.

As more Native Americans gain access to the polls, they may be a powerful asset for candidates. Richard Witmer, a political scientist from Creighton University who specializes in American Indian politics and policy, said the Native American vote can swing a close national election.

"The Native vote is absolutely going to matter. It's going to matter a lot," Witmer said of next year's race.

Candidates rarely court the Native American vote like they do other demographics, noted Nicole Willis, a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla who lives in Seattle.

"It's almost like a moral test of a candidate. Like, are you going to pay attention to this group that has traditionally been ignored?" said Willis, who was a Native American outreach adviser to President Barack Obama as well as a 2016 presidential adviser to Sanders.



**In this June 25, 2019, photo, Marcella LeBeau, of the Two Kettles Band of the Lakotae, is photographed on Capitol Hill in Washington. Democratic presidential candidates will descend on Iowa next week to do something that Native Americans say doesn't happen enough: Court their vote. At least seven White House hopefuls have said they'll attend a forum in Sioux City on Monday and Tuesday named for longtime Native American activist Frank LaMere, who died in June. LeBeau, a 99-year-old registered Democrat, said that's a change from the past when politicians largely overlooked Native issues. "We're like a third-world country," she said. "No one really listens to us." (AP Photo/Kali Robinson)**

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Warren has had her own problems with the Native American community. After President Donald Trump gave her the nickname "Pocahontas" for her claims of Cherokee citizenship, Warren took a DNA test to try to prove her ancestry. The test did provide some evidence of a Native American in Warren's lineage, albeit as many as 10 generations back.

But the Cherokee Nation complained that tribal nations, not DNA tests, determine citizenship, and that Warren was "undermining tribal interests with her continued claims of tribal heritage." Warren apologized and will face scrutiny at the forum over how she handles the issue.

Ahead of the event, New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland, a citizen of the Laguna Pueblo and one of the first Native Americans in Congress, endorsed Warren for president. And Warren joined with Haaland on Friday to propose legislation that would cordon off funding for tribal priorities from Congress' unpredictable appropriations process, fulfilling a key recommendation the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights made last year.

Warren also proposed setting up a permanent White House office dedicated to tribal issues and backed more resources for aiding tribal land acquisition, among other ideas to help Native American communities.

Activists say tribal citizens still face barriers to voting that must be addressed.

Many Native Americans live on far-flung reservations without polling centers. Before Four Directions, a group promoting voting rights for Native Americans, sued for satellite offices on Nevada's Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe reservation in 2016, residents had to drive nearly 100 miles roundtrip just to vote, said Oliver "O.J." Semans, co-founder of the forum and a citizen of South Dakota's Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

Voter ID requirements are another hurdle. States such as North Dakota require voters to provide ID and a street address at the polls, so the many rural Natives with only a P.O. Box number have been barred from voting, Semans said.

Just this month, a federal appeals court ruled against members of North Dakota's Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, who had said such requirements were unconstitutional.

Four Directions has worked in New Mexico, Montana, South Dakota and elsewhere to abolish ID laws, establish voting centers on reservations and give Native Americans on reservations the ability to cast no-excuse absentee ballots, often by suing local governments.

In some areas where Four Directions has made voting more accessible, Native voter turnout has doubled, Semans said.

The swing vote is likely to favor Democrats, who are often seen as more receptive toward the needs of Native American communities on issues like health care, tribal sovereignty and economic development, Witmer said.

Indigenous people hold profound respect for their tribal elders and leaders, who can sway the vote of whole reservations, Semans said. Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada, Colorado, North Carolina, Minnesota and Arizona, each of which has a sizable Native population, are most likely to see a Native swing vote in 2020, Semans said.

"Political parties have taken for granted how Natives turn out and vote," Semans said. "Either pay attention to us or don't count on us."

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Associated Press writer Elana Schor contributed to this report.

## Hong Kong's divide: Protests for democracy, rally for China

By YANAN WANG and KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Pro-democracy protesters marched on one side of Hong Kong's famous harbor on Saturday to demand the government heed their demands. Across the water, a pro-government rally called for an end to the often violent protests.

The dueling demonstrations highlighted the political divide in the semiautonomous Chinese territory, which for 10 weeks has been rocked by protests that show no signs of relenting.

"The government right now doesn't listen to the people, and the police are too violent," said Bobby Tse, a 76-year-old retiree who watched the pro-democracy march from a bridge. "It didn't used to be like

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this. We didn't have to protest every week. But now even though we have protests every week, the government still gives no response."

At the pro-government rally, speakers on a stage said they love both Hong Kong and China and asked the protesters why they are afraid of China. Supporters gave a thumbs-up to police officers and posed for photos with them. Leo Chen, a 47-year-old driver, said he came out because he wants peace in his city of 7.4 million people.

"Before, everyone in Hong Kong helped each other, it was very harmonious," he said. "Now to see it become like this, I'm not happy, so I've come out to show a little strength."

Earlier Saturday, thousands of schoolteachers marched to the official residence of Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, to show support for the protesters, who have taken to the streets since early June and include many students.

Carrying signs that read "Protect the next generation" and umbrellas to ward off intermittent downpours, the teachers tied white ribbons to a metal fence near Government House. They said the government should answer the protesters' demands and stop using what they called police violence to disperse demonstrators who have taken over streets and besieged and defaced government buildings.

"We want to protect our students, our youngsters, so teachers are willing to come out and speak for the youngsters, and also, to stand by them so they are not alone," said Fung Wai-wah, president of the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union, which organized the march.

The movement's demands include Lam's resignation, democratic elections and an independent investigation into police use of force. A rally in Victoria Park has been called for Sunday by a pro-democracy group that has organized three massive marches through central Hong Kong since June.

"Even though we're all scared of getting arrested, we have to keep going," said Minnie Lee, a 31-year-old logistics worker who joined the pro-democracy march. "What we are fighting for is democracy and our rights. We're not doing anything wrong. If we stop now, things will only get worse."

Tensions rose briefly after the march, with riot police deployed to chase down a group of pro-democracy protesters they said were assembling illegally outside their station, shining laser pointers and throwing eggs. Officers formed a line on a nearby street, thumping their batons on their shields before charging.

But by that time, most protesters had already melted away into the city's densely populated Mong Kok district, leaving officers to face angry local residents, who told them to leave and accused them of being members of crime gangs. The police eventually left without firing tear gas.

Members of China's paramilitary People's Armed Police force have been training this week across the border in Shenzhen, fueling speculation that they could be sent in to suppress the protests. Officers didn't appear to hold major drills on Saturday, but could be seen doing jumping jacks and stretching inside a sports stadium. Dozens of army-green armored carriers and trucks were parked inside and outside the facility.

The Hong Kong police, however, have said they are capable of handling the protests.



**Pro-democracy protesters gather for a march in Hong Kong Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019. Another weekend of protests is underway in Hong Kong as Mainland Chinese police are holding drills in nearby Shenzhen, prompting speculation they could be sent in to suppress the protests.** (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

"I can tell you we're confident the police have the capability to maintain law and order," Yeung Man-pun, commander of the Kowloon City district, said Friday when asked about the possibility of a deployment of mainland security forces.

Outside of Hong Kong, demonstrations were held in support of both the pro-democracy movement and China.

In Australia, at least 200 protesters descended on Sydney Town Hall, chanting "Long live China" and singing the Chinese national anthem, while a protest in support of the pro-democracy movement continued in Melbourne.

The Melbourne rally had turned ugly on Friday night, with police moving in to separate some 100 pro-China protesters from those sympathetic to Hong Kong. Saturday's protest in the southern city was peaceful.

In Taiwan, people held a flash mob demonstration in Taipei, the island's capital, in support of the Hong Kong protests.

Associated Press writer Ken Moritsugu, videojournalist Yves Dam Van and news assistant Phoebe Lai in Hong Kong and videojournalist Dake Kang in Shenzhen, China, contributed to this report.

## Signs of recession worry Trump ahead of 2020

By JOSH BOAK and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is warning of an economic crash if he loses reelection, arguing that even voters who personally dislike him should base their ballots on the nation's strong growth and low unemployment rate.

But privately, Trump is growing increasingly worried the economy won't look so good come Election Day.

The financial markets signaled the possibility of a U.S. recession this week, sending a jolt of anxiety to investors, companies and consumers. That's on top of concerns over Trump's plans to impose punishing tariffs on goods from China and word from the United Kingdom and Germany that their economies are shrinking.

Though a pre-election recession here is far from certain, a downturn would be a devastating blow to the president, who has made a strong economy his central argument for a second term. Trump advisers fear a weakened economy would hurt him with moderate Republican and independent voters who have been willing to give him a pass on some of his incendiary policies and rhetoric. And White House economic advisers see few options for reversing course should the economy start to slip.

Trump has taken to blaming others for the recession fears, mostly the Federal Reserve, which he is pushing for further interest rate cuts. Yet much of the uncertainty in the markets stems from his own escalation of a trade war with China, as well as weakened economies in key countries around the world.

Some of Trump's closest advisers have urged him to lower the temperature of the trade dispute, fearing



President Donald Trump reacts at the end of his speech at a campaign rally, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in Manchester, N.H. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

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that further tariffs would only hurt American consumers and rattle the markets further. The president blinked once this week, delaying a set of tariffs in an effort to save Christmas sales.

Aides acknowledge it is unclear what steps the White House could take to stop a downturn. Trump's 2017 tax cut proved so politically unpopular that many Republicans ran away from it during last year's midterms. And a new stimulus spending program could spark intraparty fighting over big deficits.

The hope among administration officials is that a mix of wage gains and consumer spending will power growth through 2020. Yet Trump knows his own survival hinges on voters believing that he alone can prolong the economy's decade-plus expansion.

"You have no choice but to vote for me because your 401(k), everything is going to be down the tubes," the president said at a Thursday rally in New Hampshire. "Whether you love me or hate me, you've got to vote for me."

Trump has spent much of the week at his New Jersey golf club, many of his mornings on the links, his afternoons watching cable television and his evenings calling confidants and business executives to get their take on the market's volatility.

Though he has expressed private worries about Wall Street, he is also skeptical about some of the weaker economic indicators, wondering if the media and establishment figures are manipulating the data to make him look bad, according to two Republicans close to the White House, not authorized to discuss private conversations.

His skepticism has been reinforced by White House officials who have long been inclined to only show Trump rosier economic assessments.

Amid the market turmoil this week, the president tweeted out defenses of his economic record.

He blasted the Fed for not cutting interest rates deeper, under the belief that sharper cuts would lead to more lending activity and make the U.S. dollar more competitive against foreign currencies. The president also highlighted the strength of consumer spending — as retail sales have jumped 3.4% from a year ago.

Yet his focus on the Fed may be counterproductive.

The Federal Reserve voted last month to trim rates for the first time since 2008, a step taken to insulate the economy against trade uncertainty. But consumers interpreted that as a precautionary move ahead of a downturn rather than as part of an effort to keep the economy growing, according to the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment survey released Friday.

Consumer confidence has dropped 6.4% since July. The pessimism could worsen if the Fed decides to slash rates in accordance with Trump's wishes.

"Additional cuts in interest rates would act to increase consumer apprehensions about a potential recession," said Richard Curtin, director of the survey.

One sector already suffering this year is manufacturing, the very industry that Trump pledged to revive and fortify with his tariffs. Factory output has fallen 0.5% during the past 12 months, the Fed said Thursday.

There are a few steps the government could take to help manufacturing and the economy, said Linda Dempsey, vice president of international economic affairs at the National Association of Manufacturers.

Congress could approve the updated trade agreement among the United States, Canada and Mexico — which would protect the North American supply chain. Secondly, the government could renew the soon-to-expire charter for the Export-Import Bank. But reconciling the situation with China is tricky because it involves negotiations between two countries with competing interests.

"That requires two sides — it's not something the United States and our own political environment can deal with," Dempsey said.

Most economists — including Fed officials — still expect the economy to grow this year, just at a slower pace than last year's 2.9%.

A senior White House official said the growth in the second quarter this year was artificially low because of unusually bad weather and problems at Boeing that hurt aircraft production. Thus the baseline economy might be stronger than many forecasters think.

Financial markets on Wednesday pointed to a possible downturn as the interest rate charged on a 10-

year U.S. Treasury note fell below the rate on a 2-year note. That event has traditionally foreshadowed a recession. But the Trump official said it might have lost its predictive power because of the low rates and other policies of central banks worldwide.

But the falling rates on U.S. Treasury notes indicates that the recession countdown clock is now ticking, said Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West.

The only challenge is figuring out when that alarm bell might ring.

"I think we're heading down that road to recession — we're on that steady march toward that inevitable conclusion," Anderson said. "It's just that drip, drip, drip of trade war anxiety that is hanging over market sentiment."

## AP Interview: Pelosi assails 'weakness' of Trump, Netanyahu

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday the U.S.-Israel relationship can withstand the "weakness" of President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who shook diplomatic norms this week in barring two members of Congress from visiting the country.

Pelosi told The Associated Press that the "weakness of Netanyahu and the weakness of Donald Trump combined" into a policy that's "a no."

"We have a deep relationship and long-standing relationship with Israel that can withstand Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu," Pelosi said. "We cannot let their weaknesses stand in the way of our ongoing relationship."

She said the U.S. commitment to Israel isn't dependent on either leader, a sign there may not be lasting fallout from this week's incident, particularly in terms of foreign aid, which must be approved by Congress.

In an extraordinary move, Netanyahu, with a push from Trump, barred entry for Democratic Reps. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota ahead of their planned visit. Tlaib was later granted a humanitarian exception to visit her grandmother in the West Bank, but ultimately decided against the trip.

Trump views the freshmen congresswomen as among his chief opponents — part of the "squad" of newly elected liberal lawmakers — and has called them out at his rallies and in racist tweets as he runs for reelection. Trump describes them as the face of the Democratic Party.

Trump complained Friday about Tlaib's decision against taking the trip.

"Rep. Tlaib wrote a letter to Israeli officials desperately wanting to visit her grandmother. Permission



**In this July 26, 2019, file photo, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Pelosi says longstanding U.S.-Israel relations can withstand the "weakness" of President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu barring two members of Congress from visiting the country. Pelosi told The Associated Press on Friday, Aug. 16, that the "weakness of Netanyahu and the weakness of Donald Trump combined" into a policy that's "a no." She's not discouraging other lawmakers from visiting Israel. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)**

was quickly granted, whereupon Tlaib obnoxiously turned the approval down, a complete setup," Trump tweeted. "The only real winner here is Tlaib's grandmother. She doesn't have to see her now!"

The two Muslim lawmakers support a Palestinian-led boycott of Israel, and barring their entry was an escalation of Netanyahu's attempts to quash the global boycott, divestment and sanctions movement.

Both leaders are up for re-election — Netanyahu in the fall, and Trump next year. Critics of the decision framed it as stoking divisions for short-term political gain at the expense of harming the deep ties that Israel has long enjoyed with both political parties in the U.S.

Pelosi said she had "great, great, great sadness" over the decision, but she was not discouraging other lawmakers from visiting Israel.

"Members will make their own decisions about this, but I would not discourage travel to Israel," Pelosi said.

"We have a strong relationship with Israel as well as a deep love and respect for the people of Israel. And, again, this is not going to undermine that, try as President Trump will to do that."

## Hundreds come to honor El Paso victim after public invited

By JAMIE STENGLE and RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — When Jordan Ballard read that one of the victims of the El Paso massacre had few relatives and the public was invited to her funeral, the Los Angeles resident bought a plane ticket and flew to Texas to honor a woman she had never met.

She was one of hundreds of strangers who braved 100-degree (38 Celsius) heat to pay their respects to 63-year-old Margie Reckard. Feeling heartbroken and alone after her death, Reckard's companion of 22 years, Antonio Basco, had welcomed anyone to attend.

"I arrived here this morning," said Ballard, 38, who lived in New York City during the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "His story moved me."

The service was moved from a funeral home to La Paz Faith Memorial & Spiritual Center to accommodate the crowd. Vocalists and musicians volunteered to help, including a mariachi band. Condolences and orders for flowers poured in.

"He felt like he was going to kind of just be by himself with this whole thing but it's not so," Perches Funeral Homes director Harrison Johnson said Thursday of Basco.

While well-wishers waited, Basco arrived to people shouting blessings in English and Spanish. Before entering the funeral home, someone gave him a gift that appeared to be an El Paso t-shirt.

"I love y'all, man," Basco said, before breaking down.

As the line swelled, Basco came back out to thank attendees personally for coming. People crowded around to hug and touch him. Basco appeared overwhelmed that strangers were now running toward him to show love and offer condolences.

Moments later, mariachis walked through the crowd singing "Amor Eterno," the 1984 ballad by the late



**Mourners wait in line, Friday, Aug. 16, 2019, for the memorial services in El Paso, Texas, of Margie Reckard, 63, who was killed by a gunman who opened fire at a Walmart in El Paso earlier in the month.** (AP Photo/Russell Contreras)



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Juan Gabriel, that has become an anthem for El Paso following the shooting. Some attendees sang along. Others sobbed and got out of line.

Jason Medina, 42, of El Paso, said he had to come. Wearing a black and red zoot suit, Medina stood quietly in line and waited for his chance to say goodbye to someone he never knew. "I know her now," Medina said. "We're all family, bro."

Johnson, who is also a pastor, headed the service. Funeral home staff urged attendees to be patient as people began rotating in and out of the service amid scorching heat.

Reckard had children from a previous marriage who travelled from out of town to the funeral. But Johnson said that for Basco, Reckard was "his life, his soul mate, his best friend." The couple had a car wash business, he said.

"Probably some people have felt like Mr. Tony in a time of death — they felt like they were alone and nobody was around," Johnson said.

On Tuesday, Perches posted on Facebook a photo of a bereft Basco kneeling by a candlelight memorial. The post welcomed anyone to attend Reckard's funeral and soon drew thousands of comments and shares.

Perches is among local funeral homes offering free services for the 22 people killed. In the days after the shooting, Basco told El Paso television station KFOX that Reckard's kindness and selflessness was incomparable. "When I met her she was an angel and she still is," Basco said.

Her son, Harry Dean Reckard, told The New York Times that when he and his brother and sister were children, the family didn't have much money and frequently moved. He said his mother would sometimes work at fast food restaurants or as a hotel housekeeper to add to what her husband earned as a truck driver.

"As a kid, I just remember her feeding us and trying to provide for us the best that she could," said Harry Dean Reckard, who lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

He said that after his father died in 1995, his mother began a relationship with Basco. The couple had moved to El Paso a few years ago. He said his mother, who had been battling Parkinson's disease, "was loved by many."

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Associated Press reporter Russell Contreras reported from El Paso, Texas.

## 'Easy Rider' star, 1960s swashbuckler Peter Fonda dies at 79

By LINDSEY BAHR and ANDREW DALTON Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Peter Fonda, the son of a Hollywood legend who became a movie star in his own right after both writing and starring in the counter-culture classic "Easy Rider," died Friday at his home of complications from lung cancer. He was 79.

"I am very sad," Jane Fonda said in a statement. "He was my sweet-hearted baby brother. The talker of the family. I have had beautiful alone time with him these last days. He went out laughing."

Born into Hollywood royalty as Henry Fonda's only son, Peter Fonda carved his own path with his non-conformist tendencies and earned an Oscar nomination for co-writing the psychedelic road trip movie "Easy Rider." He would never win that golden statuette, but he would later be nominated for his leading performance as a Vietnam veteran and widowed beekeeper in "Ulee's Gold."

Fonda was born in New York in 1940 to parents whose personas were the very opposite of the rebellious images their kids would cultivate. Father Henry Fonda was already a Hollywood giant, known for playing straight-shooting cowboys and soldiers. Mother Frances Ford Seymour was a Canadian-born U.S. socialite.

He was only 10 years old when his mother died. She had a nervous breakdown after learning of her husband's affair and was confined to a hospital. In 1950, she killed herself. It would be about five years before Peter Fonda learned the truth behind her death.

Fonda accidentally shot himself and nearly died on his 11th birthday. It was a story he told often, including during an acid trip with members of The Beatles and The Byrds during which Fonda reportedly said, "I know what it's like to be dead."

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John Lennon would use the line in The Beatles song "She Said She Said."

Fonda went to private schools in Massachusetts and Connecticut as a child, moving on to the University of Nebraska in his father's home state, joining the same acting group — the Omaha Community Playhouse — where Henry Fonda got his start.

He then returned to New York and joined the Cecilwood Theatre, getting small roles on Broadway and guest parts on television shows including "Naked City" and "Wagon Train."

Fonda had an estranged relationship with his father throughout most of his life, but he said that they grew closer over the years before Henry Fonda died in 1982.

"Peter is all deep sweetness, kind and sensitive to his core. He would never intentionally harm anything or anyone. In fact, he once argued with me that vegetables had souls (it was the '60s)," his sister Jane Fonda said in her 2005 memoir. "He has a strange, complex mind that grasps and hangs on to details ranging from the minutiae of his childhood to cosmic matters, with a staggering amount in between. Dad couldn't appreciate and nurture Peter's sensitivity, couldn't see him as he was. Instead he tried to shame Peter into his own image of stoic independence."

Although Peter never achieved the status of his father or even his older sister, the impact of "Easy Rider," which just celebrated its 50th anniversary, was enough to cement his place in popular culture.

Fonda collaborated with another struggling young actor, Dennis Hopper, on the script about two weed-smoking, drug-slinging bikers on a trip through the Southwest as they make their way to New Orleans for Mardi Gras.

On the way, Fonda and Hopper befriend a drunken young lawyer — Jack Nicholson in a breakout role — but raise the dander of Southern rednecks and are murdered before they can return home.

Fonda's character Wyatt wore a stars-and-stripes helmet and rode a motorcycle called "Captain America," re-purposing traditional images for the counter-culture.

Actress Ileana Douglas tweeted her condolences Friday with the hashtag "RIPCaptainAmerica."

"'Easy Rider' depicted the rise of hippie culture, condemned the establishment, and celebrated freedom," Douglas wrote. "Peter Fonda embodied those values and instilled them in a generation."

Fonda had played bikers before "Easy Rider." In the 1966 Roger Corman-directed "Wild Angels," in which he plays Heavenly Blues, leader of a band of Hells Angels, Fonda delivers a speech that could've served as both a personal mantra and a manifesto for the youth of the '60s.

"We wanna be free!" Fonda tells a preacher in the film. "We wanna be free to do what we wanna do. We wanna be free to ride. We wanna be free to ride our machines without being hassled by the man! And we wanna get loaded!"

Fonda produced "Easy Rider" and Hopper directed it for a meager \$380,000. It went on to gross \$40 million worldwide, a substantial sum for its time.



**In this Friday, Oct. 23, 2009 file photo, Peter Fonda, poses atop a Harley-Davidson motorcycle in Glendale, Calif. Fonda, the son of a Hollywood legend who became a movie star in his own right both writing and starring in counter-culture classics like "Easy Rider," has died. His family says in a statement that Fonda died Friday, Aug. 16, 2019, at his home in Los Angeles. He was 79.** (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File)

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The film was a hit at Cannes, netted a best screenplay Oscar nomination for Fonda, Hopper and Terry Southern, and has since been listed on the American Film Institute's ranking of the top 100 American films. The establishment gave its official blessing in 1998 when "Easy Rider" was included in the United States National Film Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

In 1969, he told The Associated Press that, "As for my generation, it was time they started doing their own speaking. There has been too much of the 'silent majority' — at both ends of the generation gap."

He did reflect later in a 2015 interview with The Hollywood Reporter that it may have impacted his career prospects: "It certainly put a nail in the coffin of 'the next Dean Jones at Disney.'"

Fonda's output may have been prolific, but he was not always well-regarded, which he was acutely aware of. But he said that "Ulee's Gold," which came out in 1997, was the "most fun" he'd ever had making a movie. He wore the same wire-rimmed glasses his father wore in "On Golden Pond," although he said beyond that he was not channeling Henry Fonda in the performance. He lost out on the Oscar to Nicholson, who won for "As Good as It Gets."

Nicholson said in his acceptance speech that it was an honor to be nominated alongside "my old bike pal Fonda."

He remained prolific for the rest of his life with notable performances as the heel in Steven Soderbergh's "The Limey," from 1999, and in James Mangold's 2007 update of "3:10 to Yuma." He'd even play himself in an episode of the spoof documentary series "Documentary Now!" about life as "an Oscar Bridesmaid."

Fonda is survived by his third wife, Margaret DeVogelaere, his daughter, actress Bridget Fonda and son, Justin, both from his first marriage to Susan Brewer.

"In one of the saddest moments of our lives, we are not able to find the appropriate words to express the pain in our hearts," the family said in a statement. "As we grieve, we ask that you respect our privacy."

Hillel Italie contributed from New York and Katie Campione contributed from Los Angeles.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2019. There are 136 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 17, 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide.

On this date:

In 1863, federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of pounding.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed for 256 U.S. deaths, three in Cuba.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minnesota, in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year.

In 1988, Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel were killed in

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a mysterious plane crash.

In 1996, the Reform Party announced Ross Perot had been selected to be its first-ever presidential nominee, opting for the third-party's founder over challenger Richard Lamm.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton gave grand jury testimony via closed-circuit television from the White House concerning his relationship with Monica Lewinsky; he then delivered a TV address in which he denied previously committing perjury, admitted his relationship with Lewinsky was "wrong," and criticized Kenneth Starr's investigation.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

In 2017, a van plowed through pedestrians along a packed promenade in the Spanish city of Barcelona, killing 13 people and injuring 120. (A 14th victim died later from injuries.) Another man was stabbed to death in a carjacking that night as the van driver made his getaway, and a woman died early the next day in a vehicle-and-knife attack in a nearby coastal town. (Six suspects in the attack were shot dead by police, two more died when a bomb workshop exploded.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, addressing the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Phoenix, chastised the defense industry and Congress for wasting tax dollars "with doctrine and weapons better suited to fight the Soviets on the plains of Europe than insurgents in the rugged terrain of Afghanistan." An accident at Russia's largest hydroelectric plant killed 75 workers.

Five years ago: U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder ordered a federal medical examiner to perform another autopsy on the remains of Michael Brown, a black Missouri teenager whose fatal shooting by a white police officer spurred a week of rancorous and sometimes violent protests in suburban St. Louis. Inbee Park of South Korea successfully defended her title in the LPGA Championship, beating Brittany Lincicome with a par on the first hole of a playoff to end the United States' major streak at three.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he had canceled plans for a Veterans Day military parade, citing what he called a "ridiculously high" price tag; he accused local politicians in Washington of price-gouging. Tesla CEO Elon Musk, in an interview with The New York Times, said he'd been overwhelmed by job stress. an admission that pushed down the stock value of the electric car company and brought pressure on its board to take action; shares in Tesla tumbled about 9 percent.

Today's Birthdays: Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin is 93. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 78. Actor Robert DeNiro is 76. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 73. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 72. Actor-screenwriter-producer Julian Fellowes is 70. Actor Robert Joy is 68. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 67. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 66. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 64. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 64. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 62. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 61. Author Jonathan Franzen is 60. Actor Sean Penn is 59. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 58. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 57. Singer Maria McKee is 55. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 54. Rock musician Jill Cuniff is 53. Actor David Conrad is 52. Actress Helen McCrory is 51. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 50. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 50. Rapper Posdnuos is 50. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 49. Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 48. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 45. Actor Bryton James is 33. Actor Brady Corbet is 31. Actor Austin Butler is 28. Actress Taissa Farmiga is 25. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold is 24.

Thought for Today: "A river has no politics." — David E. Lilienthal, American public official (1899-1981).