

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 1 of 35

[2- Avera Athletic Trainer Services used at first game](#)

[3- Soccer: Boys win, girls lose in season opener](#)

[6- NE Mental Health Ad](#)

[7- Dolan begins his duties at Groton Area](#)

[8- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)

[9- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)

[10- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)

[11- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)

[12- Rev. Snyder's Weekly Column](#)

[14- Weather Pages](#)

[17- Daily Devotional](#)

[18- 2019 Groton Events](#)

[19- News from the Associated Press](#)



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

Aug. 20 Faculty Inservice
Aug. 20 Open House / Picnic (5-7:30)
Aug. 21 Faculty Inservice
Aug. 22 1st Day of School



Avera Athletic Trainer Services used at first game

The Avera Athletic Trainer Services were being utilized at the season opener of the girls soccer game on Saturday. Lindsey Swenson is the temporary trainer in Groton with a more permanent one being assigned in September. Swenson is the campus minister at Presentation College and works part-time at Avera St. Luke's.

Groton Area Athletic Director Brian Dolan said that he was happy that the school board approved the contract with Avera. "It's good for the students," he said. "It also saves the parents money as the trainer can determine if a rescue squad or ambulance is needed."

Riley Leicht suffered an arm injury with just three minutes left in the game. Swenson (right) is tending to her. On the left is Riley's mom, Sadie. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 3 of 35

Boys win, girls lose in season opener

Garretson girls defeated Groton Area, 4-0, with all of the goals scored in the first half of the first half. Groton Area boys defeated Freeman Academy, 2-0.



Cade Guthmiller

Photos by Paul Kosel



Austin Jones



Isaac Smith



Sydney Leicht

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 4 of 35



Brooklyn Gilbert



Jackson Cogley



Kaylin Kucker

Photos by Paul Kosel



Allyssa Locke

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 5 of 35



Kenzie McInerney



**Trista Keith
Kenzie McInerney in background**

Photos by Paul Kosel



Piet Solling

We need our farmers.

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

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

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

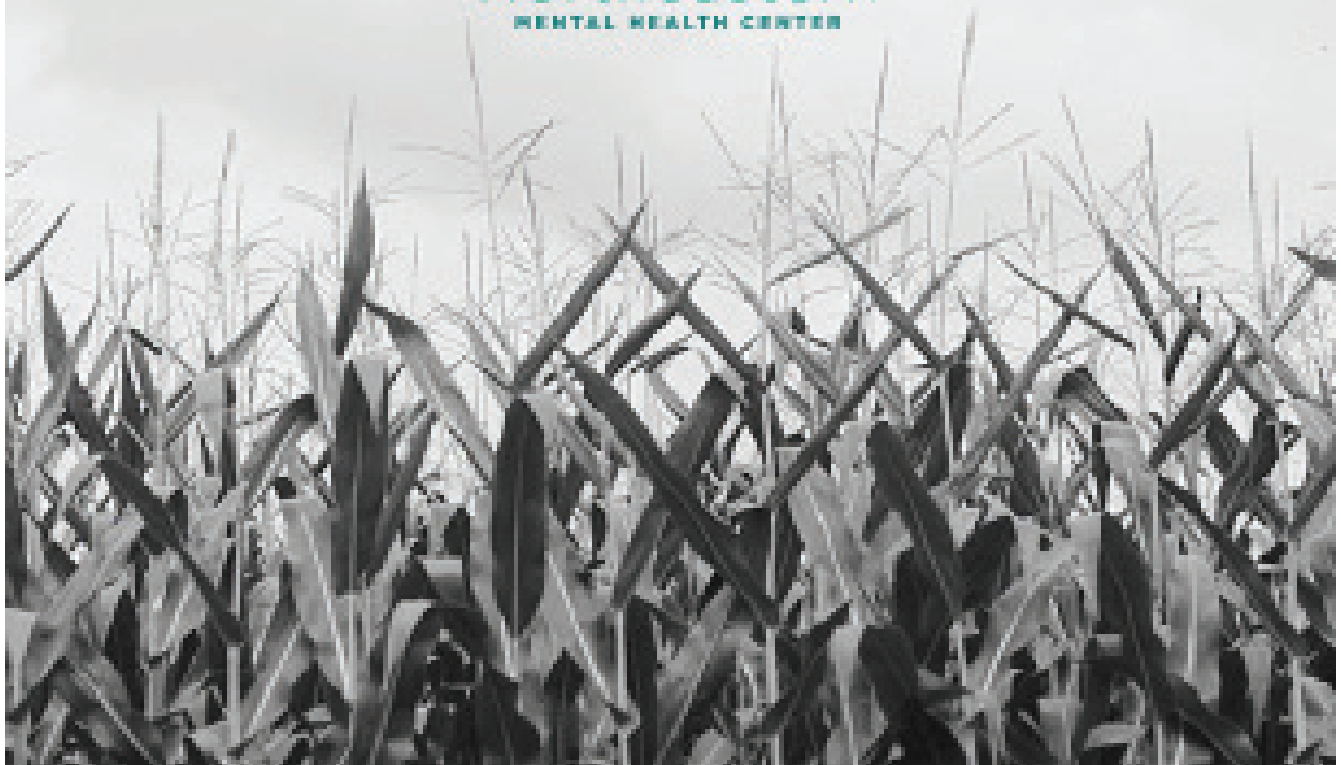
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

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



Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



Dolan begins his duties at Groton Area

Brian Dolan has switched from the green and gold to the black and gold and is now the new athletic director and head boys' basketball coach at Groton Area. Brian was AD and head boys' basketball coach at Aberdeen Roncalli for two years.

While Brian will be working at Groton, his wife, Kristen, will still be running the SonShine Patch at Aberdeen Roncalli. It is a preschool, after school and summer program at Roncalli.

Their son, Major (named after Major Applewhite who was coach at the University of Houston). Major will be a second grader and will be attending Roncalli Elementary School as his mom will be in the same building. But it took some time for Major to liking the idea of being a Groton Area Tiger fan. Brian said at first that Major had absolutely no intentions of wearing a Groton shirt. His parents had bought him one and put it in his room. "I'm not wearing it," Major had told his dad, Brian said. Major then found an orange shirt which he told his dad, "This is as close to Gold as I'm going to get." There was a Groton event that Major was at and again, they put the shirt so it was visible to Major. "This time he put it on," his dad recalls.

Brian said he is excited to start his role as the head basketball coach in Groton Area. As athletic director, he has already made a big change at Groton Area by securing the athletic training services from Avera. The way it is set up this year is that if an athlete needs the services of the trainer, they can see the trainer at any of the home events.

Brian's daughter, Hannah Leonard, is a freshman at South Dakota State University in Brookings and is the manager for the men's basketball team; his son, Cole Leonard of Oklahoma will be attending law school.

Brian also has two children at Kirkward, Mo., High school: Pryor Dolan is a sophomore and Regan Dolan is a seventh grader.

He was the head basketball coach at Upper Iowa University for seven years, head basketball coach at Wayne State College for three years, assistant athletic director for one year at Northern State University, at at Roncalli, he was director of development, athletic director, head boys' basketball coach and Dean of Students for two years. He graduated from Bishop Kelley High School, Tulsa, Okla., and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication and General at William Jewell College at Liberty, Mo.



Brian Dolan

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 8 of 35



CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



Dakotafest

As the cicadas buzz fills the sky in the waning days of summer and South Dakota's students begin to head back for their first few weeks of school, you can bet that Dakotafest is right around the corner. For those of you who don't know, Dakotafest is a three-day celebration of our state's agricultural community held just south of my home of Mitchell.

The celebration hosts over 50 acres of you-name-it and who's who in the ag industry. More than 500 businesses and exhibitors set up their tents in preparation for folks throughout the Midwest to make their way through the grounds. Tractors, windrowers, balers, planters, and much more stretch across the South Dakota plain as thousands gather to see what new technology is thriving in the ag sector or to listen in on a forum about ongoing trends.

It's not all just business at the Dakotafest, your kids will love it too. One of the highlights for me is the ribeye sandwich booth. Cut from the finest South Dakota beef, your taste buds will go crazy. I know it's just a sandwich, but every bite reminds me of the hard work and effort that livestock producers put into the quality of their meats in South Dakota. To end your meal with a sweet treat, be sure to stop by the SDSU dairy booth for a free scoop of freshly made ice cream.

I'll be speaking and taking questions from producers at the Ag and Trade Forum on Wednesday, August 21st. Times are tough in farm country, so it's more important than ever to hear your messages to carry it back to my colleagues in Washington. Times may be tough, but I'm amazed every day by the resilience of farmers and ranchers. As the administration continues trade negotiations with China, I will keep pushing for passage of the United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement and a quick resolve to ongoing discussions with the Chinese.

I hope to see you and your family at Dakotafest. Pull me aside and be sure to say hi!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 9 of 35



Helping South Dakotans Navigate the Federal Bureaucracy

While I spend much of my time working on legislation, attending committee hearings and voting on the Senate floor, a lesser known but equally as important role of my job is helping South Dakotans when they're having problems with a federal agency. Congressional offices refer to this as "casework," and it's actually the main focus in my state offices, located in Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City. My staff members who work in these offices are specially trained to act as liaisons between constituents and federal agencies to help fix problems South Dakotans may be having.

We frequently work on casework related to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medicare, Social Security, the IRS, the Department of Education and the Department of Labor, just to name a few. A couple of examples of casework we've worked on this year include helping veterans' access benefits and medals due to them, helping an adopted individual go through the process to become an American citizen and assisting numerous South Dakotans receive their correct payments through the Social Security Administration. We helped a South Dakotan file his tax return when the IRS notified him—wrongly—that he was deceased. The constituent was ultimately able to file his tax return and the IRS paid him back his refund plus interest. We also frequently work with the State Department to fast-track passports for constituents.

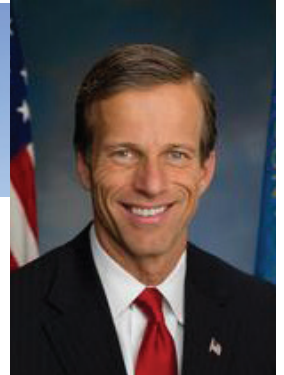
Over the past four-and-a-half years, we've had hundreds of casework success stories. We'll be sharing them over the coming months, so South Dakotans can see that no matter what their problem is, we've likely already handled something similar and will work to find a solution for them.

If you're having some trouble with a federal agency, I encourage you to reach out to us. It's very likely that we have dealt with a similar problem before and know the best route to attempt to get it fixed for you. We are here to help you, so even if you just have a simple question, don't hesitate to contact us. Office phone numbers and locations can be found on my website, www.rounds.senate.gov. Appointments are not necessary—feel free to just walk in and a team member will be able to meet with you during normal business hours. You can also send us an email through my website if that is easier for you.

For South Dakotans who do not live near one of our offices, we regularly hold "mobile office hours" in communities across the state. These provide residents with an opportunity to sit down with my team and get assistance if they need it. I post in advance where we'll be for mobile office hours on my Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SenatorMikeRounds, but also check your local newspaper, as we notify them as well. It is our goal to be easily available to all South Dakotans.

Cutting through the red-tape of a government agency can be confusing, frustrating and time-consuming, but you don't have to deal with it alone. No matter how big or small your problem may be, we are here to help you cut through the red tape.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Rural America Cannot Be Overlooked

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently announced that it was authorizing nearly \$5 million to invest in expanding rural broadband access across South Dakota. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, who visited South Dakota with me in 2017, said that he was "excited to see the benefits for rural residents who live all across the country." He went on to say, "In South Dakota, this round of funding takes another step toward closing the digital divide, providing access to digital opportunity to nearly 900 more unserved rural homes and businesses."

This might come as a surprise to folks who don't live in the heartland, but believe or not, there are still many places in America that don't have basic cell phone service, let alone high-speed rural broadband. This technology obviously exists, though, which is why I so strongly share Chairman Pai's commitment to "closing the digital divide" in rural America, particularly in parts of South Dakota that have been underserved or unserved all together over the years.

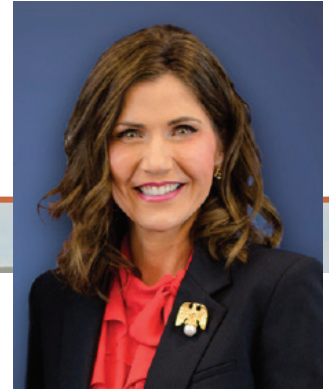
This effort means so much more than ensuring customers can stream their favorite Netflix show a little bit faster. For many families and businesses, having access to reliable broadband services means connecting to the world in ways they haven't been able to do before. It means tapping into markets that have been unreachable or accessing information that has been beyond their fingertips for far too long. Long story short, it means bringing these communities further into the 21st century.

I became chairman of the Senate's Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet earlier this year, and the very first hearing I convened was on the state of rural broadband in America. I wanted the subcommittee and the rest of my Senate colleagues to hear directly from South Dakota companies that are helping lead the way in expanding access to rural broadband, so I invited representatives from Golden West Telecommunications and Midcontinent Communications, which will be responsible for most of the infrastructure work related to this latest round of FCC funding, to participate. Their insight was invaluable, and the work they're doing in this space should be applauded.

According to the FCC's recent broadband deployment reports, the number of Americans lacking access to a fixed broadband connection has continued to decline, but this issue will continue to be a priority for me until we've closed that gap entirely for everyone who wants access to broadband. As folks in South Dakota know, rural America has a lot to offer, and with the potential for new and more efficient broadband infrastructure, there will be even more meaningful opportunities for advancements in health care, agriculture, education, economic development, and more.



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR **KRISTI NOEM**



Enhancing Bee Habitat

There are more than 400 species of native bees in South Dakota. Though we don't have exact numbers on bee distribution or abundance, we know bees are critical to our state's economy.

For more than 10 years, South Dakota's bee numbers have been on the decline. In fact, we've lost roughly 30 percent of our colonies each year. In 2018, we lost 40 percent of our colonies – a devastating loss for beekeepers and South Dakota agriculture as a whole.

See, bees are important pollinators for crops, and in many areas, native bees are the most important pollinators for plants. Many of the nutritious plants grazed by livestock in the Northern Great Plains are pollinated by insects like butterflies, moths and wasps, but most crops are dependent on the pollination of native bees.

These pollinator services to crops have a value of more than \$3 billion each year. In 2018 alone, South Dakota beekeepers produced more than 7.8 percent of the U.S. honey crop, with an economic contribution of more than \$23.7 million in the same year, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

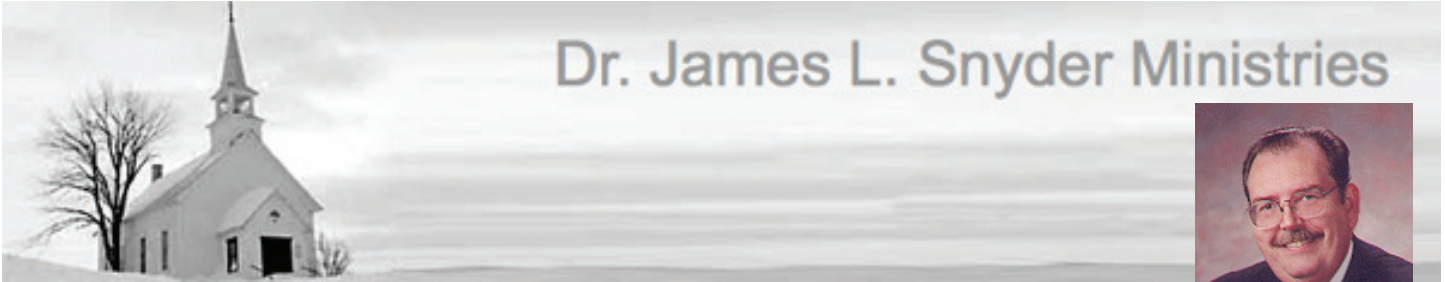
A downward bee population is not good news for crops, our economy, or other animals. So it's important for us to do something about it.

My focus on enhancing our state's habitat will directly influence the wellbeing of bees and other pollinators in South Dakota. What's good for the bees is good for pheasants, deer, farmers, ranchers, business owners, and everything in between.

My Department of Game, Fish and Parks has established pollinator plots on Game Production Areas and in state parks across South Dakota. Many of their plantings focus on flowering plants to enhance pheasant chick survival that also provide habitat for other wildlife species, bees included.

In addition to flowering plants, it's important to recognize the critical role that habitat like diverse prairies and grasslands plays in helping native wild bees and other pollinators. GFP has gone to great lengths to both incorporate forbs and wild flowers in many of its grassland habitat restoration projects, as well as implementing management practices on native prairie grasslands to promote diverse plant communities important to pollinators.

Enhancing habitat in South Dakota touches every aspect of life in our state – from the outdoor activities we enjoy to the honey we eat. We must be responsible in protecting these resources, creating healthy habitats, and supporting growth and health in our natural populations.



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



I Sure Do Miss St. Sanity

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and me recently celebrated our 48th wedding anniversary. It sure does not seem we have been married that long. I guess, as you get older, according to my grandmother, time goes faster. If that is true, I must be getting older.

We met in September, became engaged in February of the following year and in August of that year we had our "I Do" ceremony.

As a naïve young man, I did not know that that "I Do" meant that for the rest of my life I would "Do." I must say I have tried to keep up to that sacred covenant for all these years.

Confession is in order here, and I must say that on the wife's side of this relationship, the "I Do" covenant has been faithfully upheld.

I will admit that our marriage has not been perfect. After all, look who my wife has to deal with every day! And deal with, she has most successfully. If I were playing cards, she would have dealt a winning hand every time.

After all these years, things have changed quite a bit. I acknowledge that as normal. Nothing ever remains the same I'm sure. Some things I do not want to remain the same.

In some ways, I wish my age would remain the same, but that would be a very difficult thing to maintain. How can you tell people you are 20 years old when you look like 80? I have seen some research that says that 60 are the new 40. I can only hope.

We have had quite a trip down through these years. There have been children, then grandchildren, and then great-grandchildren. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage keeps these birthdays all up to date. My responsibility is buying the birthday card.

In spite of all the wonderful things we have experienced through the years, one thing I really miss.

To be honest, there are many things that I missed down through the years. This year I celebrate the 50th anniversary of my graduating from high school. I sure miss those days, but we got together and acted like fools, although some of us were not acting.

Of all the things I have missed, there is only one that rings a bell with me.

The thing I miss today is good old St. Sanity.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 13 of 35

I am old enough to remember the time when St. Sanity ruled the day. I must say that I sure miss him a lot today.

It is not that I have not looked for him. I have but to date I have not found him.

Of course, when I was younger we did not even have TV let alone Internet and cell phones. I spent a lot of time in that place quite unfamiliar today called the library. I had wonderful memories of time in the library. For those who do not know, a library is a place where they had books.

Looking around at the culture today, all I see is Ms. Insanity and boy is she popular.

During a recent trip I spent time listening to the radio and particularly some of the modern music. I am not quite sure what modern music is but I tried listening.

I remember the time when you could listen to music, hear the words and phrases, understand what they were saying and it all made sense. Now, not only can't I hear the words because of the beating of the drums in the background, but none of the words make sense.

Ms. Insanity has taken over the music industry.

One night the wife and I were watching a late TV show that had a contemporary comedian. I never heard of the person and as I was listening to him, I was not hearing him. I could barely make out the sentences and none of it really made sense. If that was humor, I am not laughing. I would like to share an example but I cannot remember anything that he said.

People laugh at Ms. Insanity because that is the expected thing to do.

Ms. Insanity has taken over the comedy industry.

I am not a big fan of politics. There was a political program on the other night my wife and I were watching. At first, I thought it was a comedy routine and my wife and I laughed and laughed.

As my wife was laughing she said, "Nobody is that stupid to say something that stupid." She laughed hysterically along with me.

Ms. Insanity has taken over politics to the point that sanity has been voted out.

As we were watching this political program, it occurred to me that this was not a comedy routine. What these people were saying was exactly what they believed. At least what they wanted me to believe they believed.

"You know," I whispered to my wife, "these people are not trying to be funny."

Looking at me rather weirdly, my wife said, "Oh, you silly boy, yes they are."

As we were laughing together, I could not help but think of what Jesus said. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

There may not be many sane people in this world today, but that is not going to stop me from hungering and thirsting after the things of God.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 14 of 35

Today

Tonight

Monday

Monday
Night

Tuesday



Becoming
Sunny

Clear

Sunny

Slight Chance
T-storms

Mostly Sunny

High: 74 °F

Low: 57 °F

High: 83 °F

Low: 64 °F

High: 78 °F



Pleasant Today & Monday

Today



70-80°

Tonight



55-60°

Monday



80-90°

Next Shot At Moisture: Monday Evening



Aberdeen, SD
National Weather Service

Updated: 8/18/2019 4:46 AM Centr

Published on: 08/18/2019 at 12:50AM

Dry conditions are expected through Monday afternoon as high pressure dominates. Southerly winds will increase Monday afternoon ahead of the next low pressure system.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 15 of 35

Today in Weather History

August 18, 1936: A tornado moved east, ending southeast of Gettysburg. A farmhouse and four barns were destroyed near Gorman, in Potter County. Property damage was estimated at \$20,000.

August 18, 1938: A tornado destroyed a barn, unroofed a gym, and damaged other buildings near Stephen, in Hyde County. The funnel moved northeast then curved to the northwest. There were two other tornadoes on this day. One moved northeast from near Worley and Broadland in Beadle County producing estimated F3 damage. The other was an estimated F2 and also started off in Beadle County and moved northeast into Kingsbury County. This storm injured three people.

August 18, 1983: High winds up to 80 mph caused extensive damage to trees, structures, and cars, in Lyman, Hyde, Faulk, and Brown Counties. In Presho, several homes lost their roofs. Hay bales were scattered, metal siding was ripped from outbuildings, and a ballpark lost three large fence sections. Gusty winds up to 75 mph were recorded at Ordway, in Brown County, causing damage to a mobile home. Two hangers at the Aberdeen airport received extensive damage, with roofs and doors torn off.

August 18, 2009: Numerous thunderstorms developed along a stationary front and trained over the same locations producing very heavy rains along with large hail. Nickel size hail falling for several minutes piled up to 6 to 8 inches deep near Harrold in Hughes County. Massive rains of 2 to nearly 5 inches resulted in the flash flooding of numerous roads. Several of the streets were washed out. Some rainfall amounts included 3.05 inches at Warner, 3.15 inches southwest of Bristol, 4.40 inches in Webster, and 4.50 inches east of Warner.

1925: During the late morning hours a severe hailstorm struck southeastern Iowa destroying crops along a path six to ten miles wide and 75 miles long. The hail also injured and killed poultry and livestock, and caused a total of 2.5 million dollars damage. The hailstorm flattened fields of corn to such an extent that many had to leave their farms in search of other work.

1931: The Yangtze River in China peaks during a horrible flood that kills 3.7 million people directly and indirectly over the next several months. This flood was perhaps the worst natural disaster of the 20th century.

1983 - Hurricane Alicia ravaged southeastern Texas. The hurricane caused more than three billion dollars property damage, making it one of the costliest hurricanes in the history of the U.S. Just thirteen persons were killed, but 1800 others were injured. The hurricane packed winds to 130 mph as it crossed Galveston Island, and spawned twenty-two tornadoes in less than 24 hours as it made landfall. (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1987 - Thirteen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Orlando FL with a reading of 98 degrees, and Portland ME with a high of 94 degrees. Newark NJ reached 90 degrees for the thirty-sixth time of the year, their second highest total of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Twenty-two cities, from the Carolinas to the Upper Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date, pushing the total number of daily record highs since the first of June above the 1100 mark. Afternoon highs of 102 degrees at Greensboro NC and 105 degrees at Raleigh NC equalled all-time records. Evening thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Scobey. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region and the Upper Ohio Valley produced torrential rains in eastern Virginia during the late morning and afternoon hours. Totals ranged up to twelve inches at Yorktown. Williamsburg VA was deluged with 10.78 inches of rain between 6 AM and 10 AM, with 6.72 inches reported in just two hours. Flash flooding caused nearly twelve million dollars damage in Accomack County VA. Early evening thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region produced walnut size hail and wind gusts to 80 mph around Casper WY. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the Yellowstone Park area, causing fifteen mudslides. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 16 of 35

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 83 °F at 4:19 PM

Low Temp: 62 °F at 5:37 AM

Wind: 31 mph at 5:03 PM

Day Rain: 0.48

Record High: 109° in 1959

Record Low: 38° in 2002

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 56°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.33

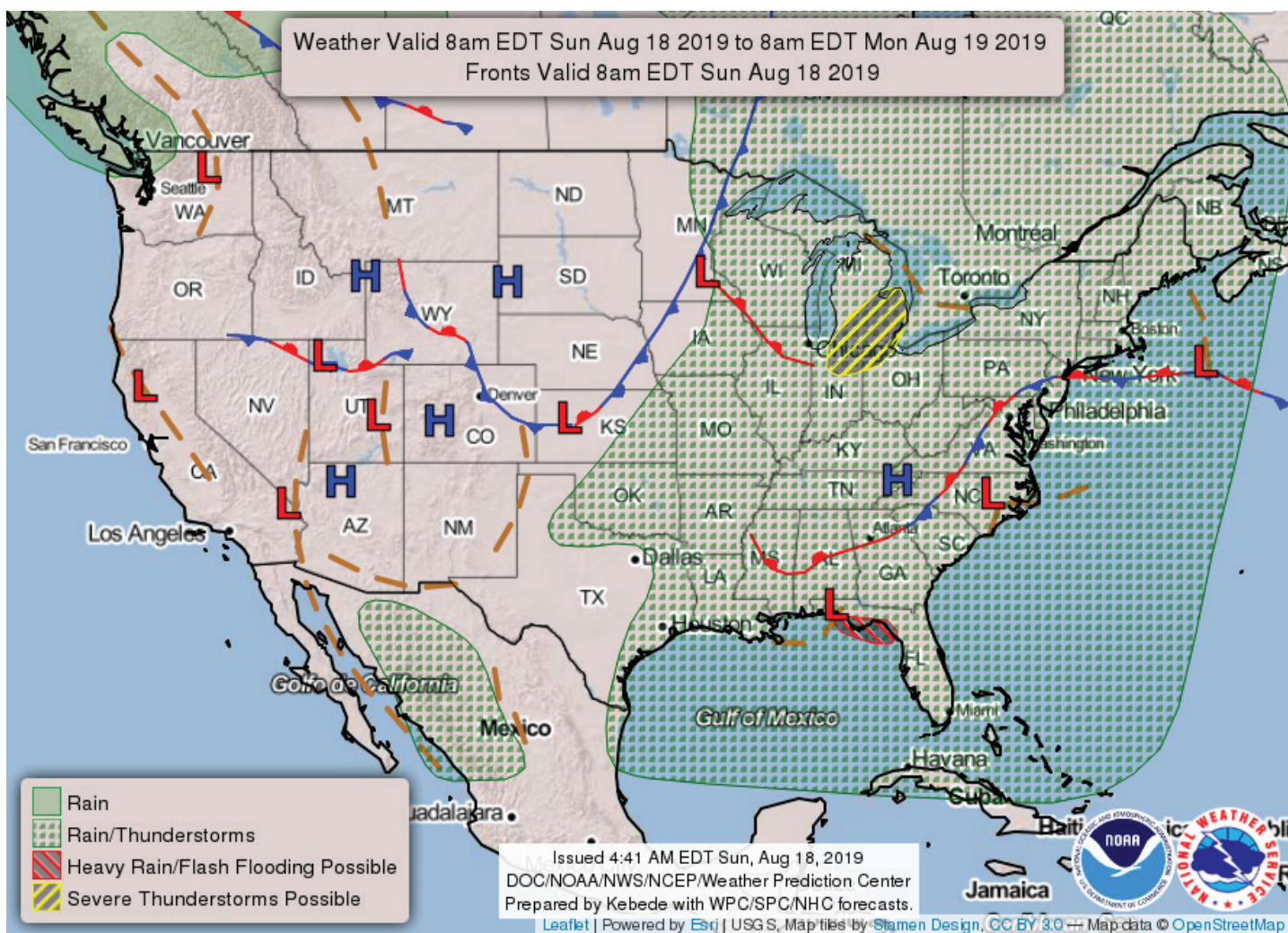
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.98

Average Precip to date: 15.19

Precip Year to Date: 19.57

Sunset Tonight: 8:36 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:39 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 17 of 35



FINANCES AND FRIENDSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 18 of 35

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 19 of 35

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

04-05-09-10-16

(four, five, nine, ten, sixteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$73,000

Lotto America

14-20-22-39-52, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 2

(fourteen, twenty, twenty-two, thirty-nine, fifty-two; Star Ball: two; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.5 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$79 million

Powerball

18-21-24-30-60, Powerball: 20, Power Play: 3

(eighteen, twenty-one, twenty-four, thirty, sixty; Powerball: twenty; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$149 million

Woman thought she had kidney stones, gave birth to triplets

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota woman who recently gave birth to triplets says she didn't find out about her pregnancy until she went to the hospital with what she thought were kidney stones.

KOTA-TV reports Dannette Giltz, of Sturgis, gave birth to the healthy triplets on Aug. 10.

Giltz says that despite having two other children, she did not know she was 34 weeks pregnant. She says that when she started having pains, she thought it was from kidney stones, which she has had before. Doctors told her she was actually in labor — with multiple babies.

The triplets were born within four minutes. Each weighed about 4 pounds (1.8 kilograms).

The babies' names are Blaze, Gypsy and Nikki.

USDA: South Dakota leads nation in unplanted acres

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says South Dakota farmers were unable to plant more than 3.8 million acres this year, the highest number in the nation.

KSFY-TV reports the tally includes 2.8 million unplanted corn acres and nearly 851,000 acres for soybeans.

The USDA says total number of unplanted acres nationwide was more than 19 million acres, and the is the highest since the agency began reporting those figures in 2007

Many states across the Midwest were hit hard by flooding this spring, leading to fields being too wet for farmers to plant.

Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

Tens of thousands flood Hong Kong park for latest rally

By KELVIN CHAN and YANAN WANG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Heavy rain fell on tens of thousands of umbrella-toting protesters Sunday as they marched from a packed park and filled a major road in Hong Kong, where mass pro-democracy demonstrations have become a regular weekend activity this summer.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 20 of 35

Organizers said they hoped the assembly would be peaceful, which would make for a rare calm weekend in a months-long movement that has been marked by violent clashes with police.

"We hope that there will not be any chaotic situations today," said organizer Bonnie Leung. "We hope we can show the world that Hong Kong people can be totally peaceful."

Leung's group, the Civil Human Rights Front, has organized three massive marches in Hong Kong since June. The protest movement, however, has been increasingly marked by clashes with police as demonstrators vent their frustrations over what they perceive to be the government's blatant refusal to respond to their demands.

"Peace is the No. 1 priority today," said Kiki Ma, a 28-year-old accountant participating in the march. "We want to show that we aren't like the government."

While police had granted approval for the rally, they didn't approve an accompanying march. Demonstrators nevertheless fanned out and filled the streets, as there was not enough space at the designated assembly area.

Public transit trains did not stop at stations near the assembly because of overcrowding.

In Beijing, You Wenze, a spokesman for China's ceremonial legislature, condemned statements from U.S. lawmakers supportive of Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement.

You called the lawmakers' comments "a gross violation of the spirit of the rule of law, a blatant double standard and a gross interference in China's internal affairs."

He said that Hong Kong's 7.5 million people and the Chinese population as a whole rejected the actions of a "very small group of violent protesters" as well as "any interference of foreign forces."

You did not mention any specific lawmaker, but numerous U.S. senators and Congress members, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have affirmed the U.S. commitment to human rights and urged Hong Kong's government to end the standoff.

Congress also has the power to pass legislation affecting Hong Kong's relationship with the U.S. in ways that could further erode the territory's reputation for stability and rule of law. That includes the recent re-introduction of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act in Congress, which would among its other provisions require the secretary of state to issue an annual certification of Hong Kong's autonomy to justify special treatment afforded to the city.

More directly, President Donald Trump could simply issue an executive order suspending Hong Kong's special trading status with the U.S., a move that could have a devastating effect on the local economy at a time when Beijing and Washington are engaged in a bitter trade war.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to Beijing in 1997 under the framework of "one country, two systems," which promised residents certain democratic rights not afforded to people in mainland China. But some Hong Kongers have accused the Communist Party-ruled central government of eroding



Protesters with umbrellas brave the rain during a rally in Hong Kong Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019. People are streaming into a park in central Hong Kong for what organizers hope will be a peaceful demonstration for democracy in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

their freedoms in recent years.

The protest movement's demands include Lam's resignation, democratic elections and an independent investigation into police use of force.

Harley Ho, a 20-year-old social work student who attended Sunday's rally, said protesters were undeterred by the rain and would not rest until their demands were met.

"We will stand here, we will take action until they respond to us," she said. "In the rain, our spirit becomes stronger."

Members of China's paramilitary People's Armed Police force have been training for days across the border in Shenzhen, including on Sunday morning, fueling speculation that they could be sent in to suppress the protests. The Hong Kong police, however, have said they are capable of handling the protests.

Associated Press journalists Ken Moritsugu, Yves Dam Van and Phoebe Lai in Hong Kong, Dake Kang in Shenzhen, China, and Christopher Bodeen in Beijing contributed to this report.

Portland 'ground zero' for protests between right, left-wing

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Hundreds of far-right protesters and anti-fascist counter-demonstrators swarmed downtown Portland, Oregon, on Saturday for a long-hyped rally that attracted President Donald Trump's attention and resulted in at least 13 arrests.

Police seized metal poles, bear spray and other weapons and closed bridges and streets to try to keep the rival groups apart. They were largely successful. Six minor injuries were reported.

"This was a dynamic event with demonstrators frequently moving from one part of the city to another," Mayor Ted Wheeler said at an evening news conference.

Leaders of the right-wing groups vowed to return to Portland, saying they would keep coming back to the liberal West Coast city so long as the left-wing antifascists, known as antifa, groups remained active.

President Donald Trump weighed in early Saturday, writing on Twitter that "Portland is being watched very closely... Hopefully the Mayor will be able to properly do his job."

He also wrote that "major consideration is being given to naming ANTIFA an 'ORGANIZATION of TERROR.'" It wasn't immediately clear what he meant by that because there's no mechanism for the United States government to declare a domestic organization a terror group.

Joe Biggs, the organizer of the right-wing gathering, said it was a success.

"Go look at President Trump's Twitter," he told The Oregonian/OregonLive. "He talked about Portland,



Members of the Proud Boys and other right-wing demonstrators march across the Hawthorne Bridge during an "End Domestic Terrorism" rally in Portland, Ore., on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019. The group includes organizer Joe Biggs, in green hat, and Proud Boys Chairman Enrique Tarrio, holding megaphone. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 22 of 35

said he's watching antifa. That's all we wanted,"

At the evening news conference Portland's mayor said Biggs was not welcome. "We do not want him here in my city. Period," Wheeler said.

Wheeler tied the demonstrations to "a rising white nationalist movement" and a growing sense of fear in the country.

"We're certainly seeing that play out," he said. "Portland being a very progressive community is always going to be at or near ground zero of this battle."

The events began late Saturday morning. Flag-waving members of the Proud Boys, Three Percenters militia group and others gathered downtown, some wearing body armor and helmets like the antifa protesters. Police said they had seized the weapons, including shields, from multiple groups as they assembled along the Willamette River, which runs through the city.

More than two dozen local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, were in the city for the right-wing rally. Portland Police said all of the city's 1,000 officers would be on duty for the gathering that was hyped on social media and elsewhere for weeks.

As of early afternoon, most of the right-wing groups had left the area via a downtown bridge. Police used officers on bikes and in riot gear to keep black-clad, mask-wearing anti-fascist protesters from following them.

But hundreds of people remained downtown and on nearby streets, and there were skirmishes throughout the day. Police declared a gathering of mostly left-wing protesters near Pioneer Courthouse Square a "civil disturbance" and told people to leave.

Police spokeswoman Lt. Tina Jones at one point said there were about 1,200 on the streets, but that number fell throughout the day.

The self-described anti-fascists had vowed to confront the right-wing rally, while leaders from the far right urged their followers to turn out in large numbers to protest the arrests of six members of right-wing groups in the run-up to the event.

Patriot Prayer's Joey Gibson, who organized similar rallies in 2017 and 2018 that erupted in clashes, surrendered Friday on an arrest warrant for felony rioting. He was at a confrontation that broke out on May 1 outside a bar where antifa members had gathered after a May Day demonstration.

In a video he livestreamed on Facebook, Gibson accused the police of playing politics by arresting him but not the masked demonstrators who beat up conservative blogger Andy Ngo at a June 29 rally that drew national attention.

A video of that attack went viral and led the Proud Boys, who have been designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, to organize Saturday's event.

Police continue to investigate several incidents from clashes on May 1 and June 29 and are politically neutral, Jones said.

Authorities had asked residents not to call 911 Saturday unless it's a life-threatening emergency and to stay away from the heart of downtown.

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said authorities tried to keep everyone safe and allow people to exercise their free speech rights during the rallies.

"Today was a long and arduous day," Outlaw said at the news conference. "The disruptions were held to a very small area of downtown Portland."

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

ESPN documentary shows Bleier's emotional return to Vietnam

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

Rocky Bleier thought he made peace with what happened in a rice paddy in Vietnam on Aug. 20, 1969.

What the former Pittsburgh Steelers running back didn't have though was closure until a trip back there last year.

Bleier's visit to Vietnam — the first time he had been back since being injured in battle — is the subject of ESPN's "The Return", which debuts Tuesday at 8 p.m. EDT on ESPN2. A shorter version began airing Saturday on "SportsCenter" as part of its weekly SC Featured series.

"It was a different catharsis than I anticipated," Bleier said. "Unlike the average veteran who returned after service and had to repress those feelings, I came back to a high-profile industry and became a story. In some regards it was cathartic (during his playing days) that I had to talk about it."

Bleier's story remains one of perseverance. He was selected by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 16th round in 1968 only to be drafted into the U.S. Army during his rookie season. Three months after being deployed, Bleier was shot through his thigh and suffered a grenade blast where shrapnel severely damaged his right foot and both legs when his "Charlie Company" unit was ambushed during a recovery operation in the Hiep Duc Valley.

Of the 33 soldiers in the infantry unit, 25 were injured and four killed.

Doctors were able to save Bleier's foot but told him he would never play football again. Not only did Bleier recover from his injuries, but he was an integral part of the Steelers' four Super Bowl teams in the 1970s.

He remains one of the most beloved players in franchise history. The feature opens with Bleier's induction into their Ring of Honor last year.

"It's a tragedy, I wish the war had never happened," Hall of Fame running back Franco Harris says during the film. "But if we change anything would the Old Man (Art Rooney) have put Rocky on the team and would Rocky have worked as hard as we had, and would we have four Super Bowls?"

Bleier acknowledges that the trip happened at the right time since his war and NFL experiences are intertwined.

Getting Bleier to return to Vietnam was one of ESPN producer Jon Fish's dream projects and happened after nearly 10 years of discussions. ESPN green-lighted it in March 2017 and the trip happened last August with Bleier, Fish, reporter Tom Rinaldi and a camera crew flying into Da Nang, which is 35 miles from the Hiep Duc Valley.

Bleier kept telling Fish and Rinaldi not to expect a lot of emotion before the trip, but all of that changed



In an image provided by ESPN from video, Rocky Bleier stands in Hiep Duc Valley, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) south of Danang in Vietnam, on Aug. 20, 2018. Three months into his deployment to Vietnam, Bleier was shot through the thigh and suffered a grenade blast to his foot. Doctors told him that he'd never play football again. Steelers owner Art Rooney supported Bleier by placing him on injured reserve rather than cutting him from the team. Bleier then defied the odds, returning to football as a star running back on the "Steel Curtain" Steelers teams of the 1970s and becoming the only war veteran to have four Super Bowl rings. (ESPN via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 24 of 35

when he finally got to the area. After giving Bleier time to walk around and take everything in, Rinaldi caught up with him and asked what he was feeling.

At that point, Bleier began to break down and weep.

"All of a sudden I had an overwhelming feeling of loss and sadness," he said. "Why did we fight this war? Why did we lose 58,000 soldiers and in all honesty for what? Maybe for first time I can understand on a slight basis the impact that our soldiers go through and maybe just a little what post-traumatic stress might be and how the body reacts to all the emotions."

Shortly after Bleier was overcome emotionally, he collapsed while walking through the area due to heatstroke and was taken to a clinic to be evaluated. He returned back to the rice paddy two days later.

Fish — who has been producing features for 22 years — said he was surprised that cameras were still rolling when Bleier collapsed.

"We were extremely calm and worried about his well being. When you do a TV shoot it is very involved and planned hour by hour but all of that went out the window," Fish said. "Here we are worried about Rocky and he wanted to go back and finish."

The heat and humidity didn't just affect Bleier. Fish said that two cameras had their motherboards completely fried due to the conditions.

On their second trip to the rice paddy, Bleier met a Viet Cong soldier who became a scout for the U.S. Army during the war. The former soldier had seen the crew filming, approached Bleier and said "4th to the 31st. America Division. Chu Li. Company B. Number 220."

The soldier was a scout for Bravo Company, which was ambushed in an earlier mission. It was Bleier's unit which was sent to retrieve the bodies of nine U.S. soldiers who were ambushed in an earlier mission.

"Everyone we met was pro American. There is a whole generation that the war is for the history books and not an experience they were a part of. The viewpoint has changed," Bleier said.

There was plenty of time during filming where Bleier had time alone to reflect. Rinaldi said their hope was to let the moments develop while not being obtrusive.

"It is no small request to ask someone to share their story and trust," Rinaldi said. "We all have great respect for the physical strength and courage that Rocky has. For him to be willing to be that vulnerable is something we didn't expect."

Bleier — who worked in television after he retired from the Steelers — has an appreciation for the process.

"Their sense of detail, coming up with the end result and impact you are looking for, that takes a talent. For me it was interesting and intriguing," Bleier said. "Tom is a wonderful writer in his own right and has this great charisma. Jon is creative. To keep this on track for 10 years you have to be a special person."

"Out of this whole thing there is a relationship that has developed. It is so easy now to call them friends rather than acquaintances. Hopefully this film will help some veterans with some healing or closure possibilities. I hope that it is the case."

Follow Joe Reedy at www.twitter.com/joereedy

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Afghan officials: Suicide attack at wedding hall kills 63

By RAHIM FAIEZ and CARA ANNA Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The death toll from a late-night suicide bombing at a crowded wedding party in the Afghan capital rose to at least 63 on Sunday, including women and children, officials said. It was the deadliest attack in Kabul this year.

Another 182 civilians were wounded in the Saturday night explosion, government spokesman Feroz Bashari said. Interior Ministry spokesman Nusrat Rahimi confirmed the casualty toll as families began to bury the dead. Some helped to dig graves with their bare hands.

Kabul residents were outraged as there appears to be no end to violence even as the United States and

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 25 of 35

the Taliban say they are nearing a deal to end their 18-year conflict, America's longest war.

The Taliban condemned the attack as "forbidden and unjustifiable" and denied any involvement, leading many to suspect the Islamic State group's local affiliate in Afghanistan in the attack. Both the Taliban and IS have carried large-scale attacks in the Afghan capital in the past.

The blast occurred in a western Kabul neighborhood that is home to many of the country's minority Shiite Hazara community. IS has claimed responsibility for many attacks targeting Shiites in the past.

The bomber detonated his explosives near the stage where musicians were playing and "all the youths, children and all the people who were there were killed," said eyewitness Gul Mohammad.

Ahmad Omid, a survivor, said about 1,200 guests had been invited to the wedding of his father's cousin.

"I was with the groom in the other room when we heard the blast and then I couldn't find anyone," he said. "Everyone was lying all around the hall."

Amid the carnage were blood-covered chairs, crushed music speakers and a pile of abandoned shoes.

The blast at the hall, known as Dubai City wedding hall, shattered a period of relative calm in Kabul. On Aug. 7, a Taliban car bomb aimed at Afghan security forces detonated his explosives on the same road, killing 14 people and wounding 145 — most of them women, children and other civilians.

Kabul's huge, brightly lit wedding halls are centers of community life in a city weary of decades of war, with thousands of dollars spent on a single evening.

"Devastated by the news of a suicide attack inside a wedding hall in Kabul. A heinous crime against our people; how is it possible to train a human and ask him to go and blow himself (up) inside a wedding?!!" presidential spokesman Sediq Seddiqi said in a Twitter post.

Messages of shock poured in on Sunday. "Such acts are beyond condemnation," the European Union mission to Afghanistan said. "An act of extreme depravity," U.S. Ambassador John Bass said.

The wedding halls also serve as meeting places, and in November, at least 55 people were killed when a suicide bomber sneaked into a Kabul wedding hall where hundreds of Muslim religious scholars and clerics had gathered to mark the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. The Taliban denied involvement in that attack, and IS did not claim responsibility.

Saturday night's explosion came a few days after the end of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, with Kabul residents visiting family and friends, and just ahead of Afghanistan's 100th Independence Day on Monday. The city, long familiar with checkpoints and razor wire, has been under heavier security ahead of the event.

The blast also comes at a greatly uncertain time in Afghanistan as the U.S. and the Taliban appear close to a deal on ending the war. The Afghan government has been sidelined from those discussions, and presidential spokesman Seddiqi on Saturday said his government was waiting to hear results of President Donald Trump's meeting Friday with his national security team about the negotiations.



Damage of the Dubai City wedding hall is seen after an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019. A suicide-bomb blast ripped through a wedding party on a busy Saturday night. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

Top issues include a U.S. troop withdrawal and Taliban guarantees they would not allow Afghanistan to become a launching pad for global terror attacks.

But many Afghans fear that terror attacks inside the country will continue, and their pleas for peace — and for details on the talks — have increased in recent days.

"Taliban cannot absolve themselves of blame, for they provide platform for terrorists," President Ashraf Ghani said Sunday on Twitter, declaring a day of mourning and calling the attack "inhumane."

Frustration at the authorities has also grown.

"We want the government to stop arguing about power and act like a human being to bring peace to this country," a worker at the wedding hall, Hajji Reza, said Sunday.

Blooms, beasts affected as Alaska records hottest month

By DAN JOLING Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Alaska has been America's canary in the coal mine for climate warming, and the yellow bird is swooning.

July was Alaska's warmest month ever, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sea ice melted. Bering Sea fish swam in above-normal temperatures. So did children in the coastal town of Nome. Wildfire season started early and stayed late. Thousands of walrus thronged to shore.

Unusual weather events like this could become more common with climate warming, said Brian Brettschneider, an associate climate researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' International Arctic Research Center. Alaska has seen "multiple decades-long increases" in temperature, he said.

"It becomes easier to have these unusual sets of conditions that now lead to records," Brettschneider said.

Alaska's average temperature in July was 58.1 degrees (14.5 Celsius). That's 5.4 degrees (3 Celsius) above average and 0.8 degrees (0.4 Celsius) higher than the previous warmest month of July 2004, NOAA said.

The effects were felt from the Arctic Ocean to the world's largest temperate rainforest on Alaska's Panhandle.

Anchorage, the state's largest city, on July 4 for the first time hit 90 degrees (32.22 Celsius) at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, 5 degrees higher than the city's previous recorded high of 85 degrees (29.44 Celsius).

Sea ice off Alaska's north and northwest shore and other Arctic regions retreated to the lowest level ever recorded for July, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado.

Arctic sea ice for July set a record low of 2.9 million square miles (7.6 million square kilometers). That was a South Carolina-size loss of 30,900 square miles (80,000 square kilometers) below the previous re-



Junar Lim takes photos of Ziah Lim, left, and Arsenia Lim, all of Cavite, the Philippines, at gardens in Town Square in Anchorage, Alaska, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019. Alaska recorded its warmest month ever in July and hot, dry weather has continued in Anchorage and much of the region south of the Alaska Range. (AP Photo/Dan Joling)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 27 of 35

cord low July in 2012.

Sea ice is the main habitat for polar bears and a resting platform for female walrus and their young. Several thousand walrus came to shore July 30, the first time they've been spotted in such large numbers before August.

Effects were less obvious in the Bering Sea off Alaska's west coast. Lyle Britt, a NOAA Fisheries biologist who oversees the agency's annual Bering Sea groundfish survey, was on a trawler east of the island of Saint Matthew during the first week of July.

"The temperature out there for us was in the high 70s," Britt said. "On those boats, everything up there is designed to conserve heat, not vent heat. It was unbearably warm inside the boat."

On the ocean bottom, Britt's crew for the second consecutive year found scant evidence of a "cold pool," the east-west barrier of extremely cold, salty water that traditionally concentrates Pacific cod and walleye pollock, the species that make fast-food fish sandwiches, in the southeastern Bering Sea.

Alaska's wildfire season started in April. July's dry and hot temperatures extended it. An expected rainy season marked by southwest winds pushing up moisture and soaking fires did not show up on time, said Tim Mowry, spokesman for the state Division of Forestry.

"It extended our fire season through the month of July," Mowry said.

Alaska by mid-July can usually free up crews to fight fires in other states, but only about 15 people have left this year. High fire danger around Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has kept crews in Alaska.

"We've pretty much held on to all our resources in-state at this point," Mowry said.

A burn ban and water sprinkler restrictions remain in place for Haines, just outside the Tongass National Forest. July extended a drought in the rainforest, said Rick Thoman, another climate expert at the International Arctic Research Center.

Cities in the southern half of the rainforest have limited or no hydropower because of low water levels. That means power has to be generated by burning diesel fuel, Thoman said.

July was the hottest month measured on Earth since records began in 1880, NOAA reported Thursday. And a United Nations report earlier this month warned that global warming threatens food supplies around the world.

But Alaska's recent heat has had silver linings. Barley and other crops are ready to harvest, said Stephen Brown of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service.

The growing season has been extended by a month, and if extra days become the norm, they will expand what can be grown in the state. Brown used heat radiated from his blacktop driveway to grow fruit not usually seen outside greenhouses.

"I've got a bumper crop of tomatoes and jalapenos this summer," he said.

On the other hand, the weather has stressed birch trees and left them vulnerable to leaf-eating insects.

"That gives the leaf miners opportunity to really whack them good," he said. "I'm looking at my lawn right now, and I need to rake leaves."

Brettschneider, the climate researcher, sees mostly negative effects from the hot July and climate warming. Alaska looks the way it does because of the temperature regime, he said, and in 50 years, Alaska may look like Idaho.

"We should expect changes. We should expect the forests to be in different locations. We should expect wildlife to move. We should expect plants to move. And in many cases, if they can't move fast enough, we should expect them to just go away," he said.

Biden's prism of loss: A public man, shaped by private grief

By NANCY BENAC Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the night before Joe Biden's world collapsed, he sat in a picture-perfect scene with his wife by the fireside in their Delaware living room.

Biden, the hotshot senator-elect at just 30, was reflecting on the big things he would do when he got to Washington. It was one week out from Christmas in 1972, and Neilia, also 30, was addressing holiday cards as her husband rambled on. But then she interrupted his musings to share an ill premonition.

"What's going to happen, Joey?" she asked her husband, in Biden's later recounting. "Things are too good."

One day later, Neilia and the couple's 13-month old daughter, Naomi, were dead. Sons Hunter and Beau, a year and a day apart at 3 and 4, were seriously injured.

While Biden was in Washington setting up his new office, Neilia's car had been broadsided by a tractor-trailer as she took the kids to pick out a Christmas tree.

When the phone rang, Biden said later, "I knew."

"You just felt it in your bones."

Nothing would ever be the same. Biden was instantly transformed into a politician whose career would forever be grounded in tragedy. Loss became central to Biden's political persona, a history he has often shared — at some points reluctantly, at others readily and on at least a few occasions with inaccuracies in the account. Now in his third bid for the White House, the painful story comes up as point of connection to voters and a personal experience on health care policy.

But Biden confidants say the history is much more than that. It's essential to explaining the candidate's inclination to give others, even political opponents, the benefit of the doubt. Surmounting loss helped to shape a determination to overcome hard things that friends see reflected in Biden's recent talk about the need to work even with those "who may offend every fiber of your being," and in his can-do attitude toward world trouble spots.

As it turned out, Biden's passage through hardship was not to be a one-time journey but a well-traveled path. His life was later rocked by serious illness, political setbacks, and, in 2015, Beau's death from brain cancer at age 46. There were other, less public, trials, including Hunter's struggles as an adult with addiction.

Despite life's cruelties, though, Biden remarried, added daughter Ashley to his family, spent 26 years in the Senate, eight as vice president and pursued the presidency off and on for more than three decades. He's now making another run at age 76.

"He is the unluckiest person I've ever known personally, and he is the luckiest person I've ever known personally," says longtime friend Ted Kaufman, who succeeded Biden in the Senate.

After the accident, Biden had no interest in the Senate anymore. No ambition for anything, really. His world view shrank to taking care of the boys.



In this Oct. 12, 1991, file photo, Senate Committee Chairman Joseph Biden, D-Del., gestures during hearings before the committee on allegations of sexual harassment by Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP Photo/Greg Gibson, File)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 29 of 35

"For the first time in my life, I understood how someone could consciously decide to commit suicide," he would later reveal.

Biden didn't just have to deal with grief. He had the added burden of processing it in public.

On Dec. 19, 1972, the day after Neilia's car accident, Richard Nixon's aides briefed the president on the tragedy, spelling out the name of the unfamiliar incoming senator "B-I-D-E-N."

Then the White House operator patches Biden through for a condolence call.

"So uh, so the, uh, but, uh, in any event, uh, I mean, looking at it in a, as you must, in terms of the future, because you, you have the great fortune of being young," the president tells him. "And now I'm sure that, uh, she'll be watching you from now on."

Biden utters a hurried thank you and ends the call.

He debated relinquishing the Senate seat he'd yet to even occupy but eventually agreed to give the job a try for six months.

Two-and-half weeks after Neilia's death, Biden was sworn in as senator in a small chapel at the hospital in Delaware. Beau, still in traction, was wheeled into the room in his bed; Hunter, by then out of the hospital, perched on his brother's bed for the ceremony.

Senators gave Biden broad leeway once in office. His sister Valerie moved in to take care of the boys. The new senator went home to Delaware every night to kiss them good night.

For decades to come, Biden would wrestle with the image he cut as a tragic figure and a self-described "hot commodity" on the Washington scene.

Loss became part of the Biden package. And it made for an uncomfortable fit at times.

"I am the youngest man in the Senate and I am also the victim of a tragic fate which makes me very newsworthy," he told Washingtonian in a 1974 interview.

"I'm sure that's why I get so many invitations all the time. I don't accept them and people understand why."

The conversation revealed a man still struggling with how to be in the spotlight. He at times appears boastful and also still broken. Biden shared a photo of his deceased wife in a bikini, offering that she looked "better than a Playboy bunny" and calling her "my greatest ally, my sensuous lover." He mentioned getting Rose Kennedy dinner invitations "at least 10 times and I've only gone once."

Former Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., who served with Biden in the Senate for nearly two decades, says that while many a politician wrestles with hidden personal tragedies, Biden from the beginning has been open about his pain.

When people "see someone who is able to make his way through that in public, which is infinitely more difficult, they have a feeling for him as a human being," Bradley said.

"Joe is Joe," says Bradley. "There's no artifice."

When Sen. Chris Coons' father lay dying in hospice care, there were plenty of expressions of support and concern.

The comforting words that the Delaware Democrat heard from Biden, a longtime friend, were different.

"He knows what you're going through," says Coons. "He knows that you can come through it."

He's seen Biden do the same for countless others — the family of a lost firefighter, the parent of a son killed in Afghanistan, the widow of local restaurateur, and so many more.

Often, these strangers-turned-partners-in-grief hear a message of reassurance from Biden that's drawn from his own experience: There will come a day, I promise you, when the thought of your son or daughter or your husband or wife "brings a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye."

They also may come away with his cellphone number.

"I have a long list of strangers who have my private number and an invitation to call," Biden wrote in his 2017 book. "And many of them do."

Former Democratic Rep. Steve Israel of New York says Biden called his mother in 2011 when the vice president heard that her husband had been diagnosed with lung cancer. In 2013, five months after Israel's

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 30 of 35

father died, the congressman's mother told him, "Joe called." Israel assumed she was reminiscing about Biden's call in 2011.

"No," his mother told him. "He just called a few days ago to check in on me." He called on New Year's Day, because the start of a new year is hard without someone you love.

"For many politicians, empathy is a strategy," Israel said. "For Joe Biden, it's second nature."

Iowa state Sen. Pam Jochum, a Democrat, remembers Biden calling to comfort her after her daughter Sarah died, and then again after he got wind that her sister had died just six months later. "Good lord, woman, you've been through the wringer," she remembers Biden telling her.

"The man understands the joys and sorrows of life," Jochum said. "I think it informs his public decisions."

For one family, though, the famed Biden reputation for empathy comes up short.

Curtis Dunn was the driver whose truck struck Neilia's car. By all accounts, Dunn was absolved of wrongdoing in the accident, with no evidence that speeding or alcohol was a factor. Dunn, who died in 1999, never forgot that awful day, wondering aloud in future years "how the little Biden boys are doing," recalls his daughter, 54-year-old Pamela Hamill of Newark, Delaware.

But decades later, Biden on at least two occasions, in 2001 and 2007, offered an inaccurate version of Dunn's role in the accident, referring publicly to a truck driver who "stopped to drink" before driving and describing the driver as "a guy who allegedly — and I never pursued it — drank his lunch instead of eating his lunch."

Hamill, dismayed by the misrepresentations, crusaded to correct the record, and got some media attention for her efforts.

Biden later called her — at first agitated about the impact the controversy was having on his own mother, who he said "had to go on anxiety medication," in Hamill's recounting. Further, Biden told her it was his own son, Beau, who had had to retrieve the accident report.

"Then he was very apologetic," Hamill continued. "By this time I was in tears. He said, 'I'm sorry, don't cry. I will come to your home with all your family there and apologize.'" But Biden told her he would not issue a public apology, telling Hamill that it would "end up in all the trashy magazines in the grocery store."

Hamill never took him up on the offer to meet with her family, worried about how her mother would handle it. She never heard from him again.

"I wish he would have done it publicly, but I put it to rest after that," Hamill said.

His refusal to make a public apology, she said, "is very telling."

In his latest pursuit of the presidency, his third try, Biden has often been reluctant to express regret.

He's caught flak from his Democratic rivals for his friendly relationships with political rivals. For calling Vice President Mike Pence "a decent man." For pointing with pride to his ability to deal with "civility" with segregationists such as Democratic Sens. James Eastland of Mississippi and Herman Talmadge of Georgia long ago in order to get things done.

In both instances, Biden went on to stress that he had had sharp policy differences with his former colleagues. After resisting for a time, Biden eventually apologized for giving the "impression" that he was praising segregationists but still defended his strategy of working "even with those we find repugnant" to accomplish things.

What struck detractors as a jarring disconnect made perfect sense to Biden fans, who trace a direct line from his background of suffering to his inclination toward connection.

"It's why he said Mike Pence is a good man," says former Democratic Sen. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, who spent a dozen years in the Senate with Biden. "That's how he sees humans."

Some see a connection, too, between Biden's past trials and the confident way he approaches national challenges.

When Biden played down China's threat to the U.S. — "China is going to eat our lunch? Come on, man" — he drew criticism from some of his Democratic rivals and President Donald Trump for underestimating the geopolitical challenge. But Coons saw it as a reflection of Biden's belief in the power of individuals —

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 31 of 35

and nations — to overcome great hurdles.

“What he was saying then is what he was saying to me and to so many others,” says Coons, recalling Biden’s words of comforts when his father was dying. “This is really hard but you can do it and you can get through it.”

Nearly half a century into his political career, Biden still processes events through the frame of reference of his past travails. And he’s still prone to mentioning the tragedies of his life as political lessons.

Often, he brings up the twin tragedies of his wife and daughter’s deaths and then Beau’s death in the context of health care policy, saying he “couldn’t imagine” what it would be like if he hadn’t had good access to health care. He mentioned the accident during a speech to a firefighters union in March, six weeks before he announced his latest campaign.

“I’m going to repeat myself but we feel so deeply indebted,” he said. “In December of ’72 when my wife was bringing home a Christmas tree, a tractor-trailer broadsided, killed my wife, killed my daughter. It took about an hour and a half, I’m told, for the jaws of life from my fire company to save my boys who in all likelihood, I’m told, would have died as well.”

He choked up last month during a speech in Iowa in which he invoked both the deaths of Beau and of his wife and daughter as he praised personal caregivers who are there to hold people’s hands when they “get really scared.”

In this, Biden is hardly alone. Many politicians use personal episodes to make political point.

Still, it was somewhat unexpected to hear him invoke his history as he defended himself against criticism that he was too physical with women.

He tries to “make a human connection” with those trying to “get through tragedy,” Biden said in a video message in which he said he understood that the boundaries of personal space have been reset in recent years.

“Over the years, knowing what I’ve been through, the things I’ve faced, I’ve found that scores, if not hundreds of people have come up to me and reached out for solace and comfort.”

Soon after, Biden went on to crack jokes about the criticism, suggesting it was an overreaction of the #Metoo era.

When it came time for Biden to make the decision on whether to run for president in the 2016 election, his emotions over the death of Beau were still too raw.

In an interview on “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” on Sept. 11, 2015, three months after Beau’s death, Biden opened up about his fragile state. He recalled a recent visit he had made to a military base in Colorado that had been going great until a man in the crowd called out Beau’s name and said they had served together in Iraq.

“All of a sudden I lost it,” Biden said. “I shouldn’t be saying this, but you can’t do that. You can’t do that.”

Still, Biden kept open his political options well into that October — and seethed when critics suggested he had leaked talk about Beau’s desire for him to run as part of a crass political calculation.

“The idea that I would use my son’s death to political advantage was sickening,” Biden wrote in his book about Beau’s passing, “Promise Me, Dad.”

“I didn’t think anybody would believe the charge, but I could feel my anger rise.”

On Oct. 21, 2015, at age 72, Biden announced he wouldn’t run for president — not in that election anyway.

The assumption by many was that it was the end of the road for Biden’s political career.

But less than four years later, the memory of Beau’s determination that his father stay engaged in public life factored into Biden’s decision to make another run.

Whatever happens from here, there’s a kind of liberation for Biden in knowing that he can run and lose and it still won’t be the worst thing that’s happened to him.

Kaufman, Biden’s longtime friend and political ally, says the two of them have a “difference of opinion” over how to age, Kaufman arguing that their older years should be a time to take a “more contemplative”

approach to life. A few years back, Kaufman says, he sent Biden a quotation he'd found from Pope John Paul XXIII from his days as a cardinal essentially validating Kaufman's side of their running debate.

Biden sent it back, after adding a counter message from poet Dylan Thomas:

"Do not go gentle into that night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

Associated Press news researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Nancy Benac on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/nbenac>

Warren, Sanders get personal with young, black Christians

By **BILL BARROW** Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Ga. (AP) — Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren framed their Democratic presidential bids in personal, faith-based terms Saturday before black millennial Christians who could help determine which candidate becomes the leading progressive alternative to former Vice President Joe Biden.

Sanders, the Vermont senator whose struggles with black voters helped cost him the 2016 nomination, told the Young Leaders Conference that his family history shapes his approach to President Donald Trump's rhetoric and the rise of white nationalism in the United States.

"I'm Jewish. My family came from Poland. My father's whole family was wiped out by Hitler and his white nationalism," Sanders said at the forum led by the Black Church PAC, a political action committee formed by prominent black pastors.

"We will go to war against white nationalism and racism in every aspect of our lives," Sanders said, promising to use the "bully pulpit" to unite instead of divide.

Warren, a Massachusetts senator and United Methodist, quoted her favorite biblical passage, which features Jesus instructing his followers to provide for others, including the "least of these my brethren."

"That's about two things," Warren said. "Every single one of us has the Lord within us. Secondly, the Lord does not call on us to sit back. The Lord does not just call on us to have a good heart. The Lord calls on us to act."

Sanders and Warren are looking for ways to narrow the gap with Biden, who remains atop primary polls partly because of his standing with older black voters. Polls suggest that younger black voters, however, are far more divided in their support among the many Democratic candidates.

The senators, both of whom are white, connected their biblical interpretations to their ideas about everything from economic regulation and taxation to criminal justice and health care.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks at the Iowa State Fair, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019, in Des Moines, Iowa. (AP Photo/John Locher)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 33 of 35

"This is a righteous fight," Warren said, who noted that she's taught "fifth-grade Sunday School."

Sanders, while not quoting Scripture as did Warren, declared that "the Bible, if it is about anything, is about justice." His campaign, he said, is "not just defeating the most dangerous president in modern American history. We are about transforming this nation to make it work for all of us."

Warren and Sanders received warm welcomes, with notable enthusiasm for their proposals to overhaul a criminal justice system both derided as institutionally racist and to eliminate student loan debt that disproportionately affects nonwhites.

"They obviously tailored their message in a way that would resonate with this audience," said Chanelle Reynolds, a 29-year-old marketing specialist from Washington, D.C. "But that means they spoke to issues and concerns that we care about."

Reynolds described her generation of black voters — churchgoing or not — as more engaged than in the past, but cautious about choosing among candidates months before the voting begins. "I'm going to take my time," she said, adding that "the last election, with Trump, shook us up, and we're not going to let this one go by."

Indeed, the youngest generation of voters typically doesn't shape presidential primary politics, for Democrats or Republicans.

Black voters collectively have driven the outcome of the past two competitive Democratic nominating fights. But Barack Obama in 2008 and Hillary Clinton in 2016 built their early delegate leads largely on the strength of older black voters in Southern states with significant African American populations.

Those states again feature prominently in the opening months of Democrats' 2020 primary calendar, giving black millennials in metro areas such as Atlanta, along with Nashville, Tennessee, and Charlotte, North Carolina, a chance to wield their influence early in the process.

Beyond the primaries, the eventual Democratic nominee will need younger black voters to flip critical states that helped elect Trump: Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"Anybody who's not talking to every community, particularly within the African American community, you're running a fool's race," said the Rev. Leah Daughtry, a pastor from Washington, D.C., and member of the Democratic National Committee, who co-moderated the Black Church PAC forum.

Three other 2020 candidates — Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, former Obama housing chief Julian Castro and Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana — attended the conference on Friday. Booker and California Sen. Kamala Harris are the most prominent black candidates in the 2020 race.

Mike McBride, a pastor who was Daughtry's fellow moderator, stressed that the black church and the black community as a whole are not monolithic. Democrats, he said, must reach beyond the traditional Sunday services in places such as South Carolina, the first primary state with a sizable black population.

"We need candidates to show up on our turf, not always asking us to show up on their turf," McBride said in an interview.

Daughtry said all Democratic candidates were invited, and she noted the absence of other leading candidates, including Biden, who is attending campaign fundraisers in the Northeast this weekend.

"He missed an opportunity," Daughtry said, to "make his case" to younger voters "who don't know him like older folks do."

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

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Aug. 18, the 230th day of 2019. There are 135 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 18, 1963, James Meredith became the first black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 34 of 35

On this date:

In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born in present-day America, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the Roanoke colony ended up mysteriously disappearing.)

In 1862, Dakota Indians began an uprising in Minnesota (the revolt was crushed by U.S. forces some six weeks later).

In 1894, Congress established the Bureau of Immigration.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing all American women's right to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, wound to a close after three nights with a mid-morning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1976, two U.S. Army officers were killed in Korea's demilitarized zone as a group of North Korean soldiers wielding axes and metal pikes attacked U.S. and South Korean soldiers.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage.

In 1993, a judge in Sarasota, Fla., ruled that Kimberly Mays, the 14-year-old girl who had been switched at birth with another baby, need never again see her biological parents, Ernest and Regina Twigg, in accordance with her stated wishes. (However, Kimberly later moved in with the Twiggs.)

In 1995, Shannon Faulkner, who'd won a 2 1/2-year legal battle to become the first female cadet at The Citadel, quit the South Carolina military college after less than a week, most of it spent in the infirmary.

In 2004, in Athens, Paul Hamm (hahm) won the men's gymnastics all-around Olympic gold medal by the closest margin ever in the event; controversy followed after it was discovered a scoring error cost Yang Tae-young of South Korea the title.

In 2017, Steve Bannon, President Donald Trump's top White House strategist, was forced out of his post by Trump; Bannon returned immediately as executive chairman to Breitbart News, which he led before joining Trump's campaign.

Ten years ago: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (HOHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk), during his first visit to Washington in five years, offered lavish praise for President Barack Obama; for his part, Obama spoke of an "extraordinary opportunity" for making peace in the Middle East. Robert Novak, the combative TV and newspaper pundit, died in Washington, D.C., at 78. Former South Korean President and Nobel Peace laureate Kim Dae-jung (kihm day-joong) died in Seoul.

Five years ago: Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the National Guard to Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis convulsed by protests over the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teen. Former Vermont U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, who in 2001 tipped control of the Senate when he quit the Republican Party to become an independent, died in Washington; he was 80. Don Pardo, 96, a durable radio and television announcer known for his introductions with a booming baritone on "Saturday Night Live" and other shows, died in Tucson, Arizona.

One year ago: Kofi Annan (KOH'-fee AN'-nan), the first black African to become United Nations secretary-general, died at the age of 80. Pakistan's cricket-star-turned-politician Imran Khan was sworn in as the country's prime minister despite protests by opposition parties, which accused the security services of intervening on his behalf in the July elections.

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is 92. Movie director Roman Polanski is 86. Olympic gold medal decathlete Rafer Johnson is 84. Actor-director Robert Redford is 83. Actor Henry G. Sanders is 77. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sarah Dash (LaBelle) is 74. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 69. Country singer Jamie O'Hara is 69. Comedian Elayne Boosler is 67. Country singer Steve Wilkinson (The Wilkinsons) is 64. Actor Denis Leary is 62. Actress Madeleine Stowe is 61. Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner (GYT'-nur) is 58. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 58. The former

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 049 ~ 35 of 35

president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is 57. Bluegrass musician Jimmy Mattingly is 57. Actor Adam Storke is 57. Actor Craig Bierko (BEER'-koh) is 55. Rock singer-musician Zac Maloy (The Nixons) is 51. Rock singer and hip-hop artist Everlast is 50. Rapper Masta Killa (Wu-Tang Clan) is 50. Actor Christian Slater is 50. Actor Edward Norton is 50. Actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner is 49. Actress Kaitlin Olson is 44. Actor-writer-director Hadji is 43. Rock musician Dirk Lance is 43. Actor-comedian Andy Samberg (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 41. Country musician Brad Tursi (Old Dominion) is 40. Actress Mika Boorem is 32. Actress Maia Mitchell is 26. Actress Madelaine Petsch is 25. Actress Parker McKenna Posey is 24.

Thought for Today: "The self-hatred that destroys is the waste of unfulfilled promise." — Moss Hart, American playwright and director (1904-1961).