

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match vs Redfield High School (Away) on Aug 29 at 6:00 PM  
Redfield-Doland High School  
Type: nonconference Opponent: Redfield High School Comments: C and JV matches @ 6pm

No School on Aug 30  
Groton Area Elementary School, Groton Area High School

Football: Boys Varsity Game vs Ellendale/Edgeley-Kulm (Away) on Aug 30 at 7:00 PM  
Ellendale High School  
Type: nonconference Opponent: Ellendale/Edgeley-Kulm

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



## Turning the lights

Housemovers were moving a house through Groton yesterday and two of the four traffic control lights had to be moved. With the new lights, all the city had to do was loosen the bolts and turn the lights. Before that, the whole pole had to be taken down. The city's payloader was out of commission so Brian Bahr was kind enough to help with the lifting and pushing of the arms.

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## Waage has Yard of the Week

The Brenda and Brad Waage yard at 201 E. 9th Ave. was chosen as the August 19th Yard of the Week by the members of the Groton Garden Club. This photo was taken in their back yard. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



## Kluess has Yard of the Week

The Rod and Arlys Kluess yard at 401 N. 5th St. was chosen as the August 26th Yard of the Week by the members of the Groton Garden Club. The Kluess' are celebrating their 48th Anniversary! (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## 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.

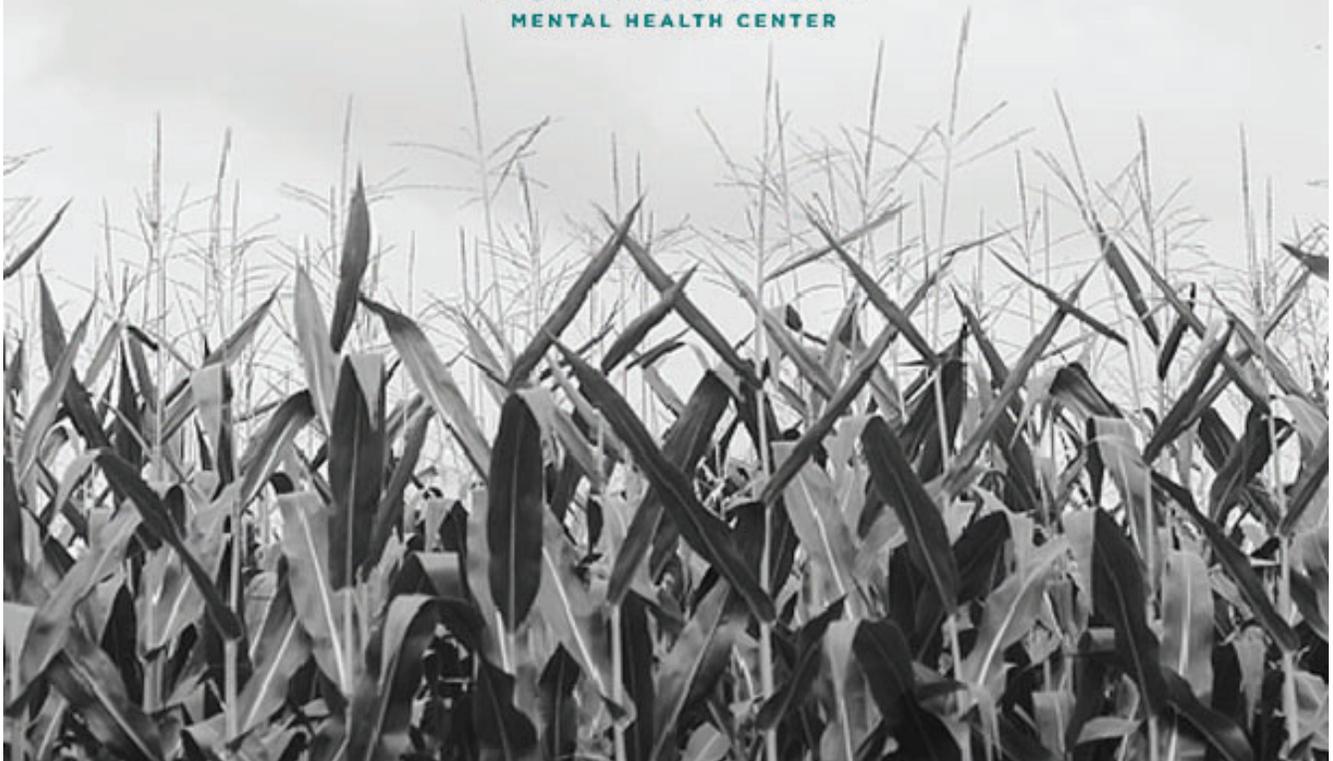
We're here to help.

**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 Walworth.



Northeastern  
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER





*Adults and Students . . . come  
learn what social issues are  
involving our youth  
in our community.*

# **Solutions** **to** **Social Issues**

**SPONSORED BY LOCAL CHURCHES**

Youth Groups Welcome ~ Large Groups please RSVP 605/377-0709

Seminars are:

**September 11 at United Methodist Church:**

**Drugs & Alcohol**

**October 9 at Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church:**

**Sex Trafficking and Date Violence**

**November 6 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church:**

**Suicide and Bullying**

**Light Meal at 5:45 p.m. ~ Seminar begins at 6:30 p.m.**

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Today



Sunny

High: 78 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 55 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 76 °F

Thursday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 48 °F

Friday



Partly Sunny

High: 71 °F

## Dry, Pleasant Mid-Week Weather



Highs in the low 70s to low 80s Wednesday and Thursday,  
mid-60s to low 70s Friday



Next chance for precipitation: Friday

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 8/27/2019 2:46 PM Central

Published on: 08/27/2019 at 10:50AM

Gusty northwest winds and shower activity will lessen and cease by this evening. Then, dry and mild weather takes over Wednesday and Thursday.

## Today in Weather History

August 28, 2011: Several thunderstorms tracking southeast across the region brought large hail along with damaging winds to parts of the area. Golf ball hail broke some windows on several homes and the church in Herried in Campbell County. Colossal hail up to three inches in diameter caused some vehicle and siding damage in Tolstoy, in Potter County. In Redfield, seventy mph winds downed a tree along with many large tree branches. Also, the metal on a roof was peeled back.

1973: An F4 tornado touched down near Canaan, New York, and moved to western Massachusetts. Three people were killed in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts when a truck stop was destroyed, and another person died in a ruined house nearby.

1990: Between 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. a devastating F5 tornado ripped a 16.4 mile-long path through portions of Kendall and Will counties in northern Illinois. A total of 29 people were killed, and 350 more were injured. An estimated \$160 million in damages occurred. The tornado's path width ranged from 200 yards to half a mile. A total of 470 homes were destroyed, and another 1000 homes were damaged. Sixty-five thousand customers lost power.

2005: Hurricane Katrina attained Category 5 status on the morning of August 28 and reached its peak strength at 1800 UTC that day, with maximum sustained winds of 175 mph and a minimum central pressure of 902 mbars (26.6 inHg).

1898 - Torrents of rain accompanied by a furious wind upset the rain gage at Fort Mohave AZ. However, water in a wash tub set out on the mesa, clear of everything, measured eight inches after the 45 minute storm. (The Weather Channel)

1911 - Saint George, GA, was deluged with 18.00 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1959 - Lieutenant Colonel William Rankin bailed out of his plane at a height of 46,000 feet into a violent thunderstorm, and lived to write about the 45 minute journey (which normally would have been a thirteen minute descent). He described it as one of the most bizarre and painful experiences imaginable. (The Weather Channel)

1971 - Heavy rains from Tropical Storm Doria caused devastating floods in central and northeast New Jersey resulting in 138 million dollars damage. In southeastern Pennsylvania, high winds downed trees and power lines, and in New York City, heavy rains flooded streets and subways. (David Ludlum)

1986 - The temperature at Apalachicola, FL, dipped to 62 degrees to shatter their previous August record by four degrees, having tied their August record high of 99 degrees on the 2nd of the month. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms broke the heat in the southeastern U.S. and the Gulf Coast Region, but not before seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date. The severe thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 80 mph downing large trees around Horse Shoe NC, and pelted southeastern Meridian MS with hail two inches in diameter. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Tropical Storm Chris spawned a tornado near Manning, SC, which killed one person, and spawned three tornadoes in North Carolina. Chris produced one to two foot tides, and three to six inch rains, over coastal South Carolina. Severe thunderstorms in New York State and Vermont, developing ahead of a cold front, spawned a tornado which killed one person at Hector NY, produced tennis ball size hail at Brandon VT, and produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Lyndonville VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms in Nebraska produced 4.50 inches of rain around McCook, and 4.65 inches near Auburn and Brownville. Showers in Montana pushed the rainfall total for the month at Havre past the previous August record of 3.90 inches. (The National Weather Summary)

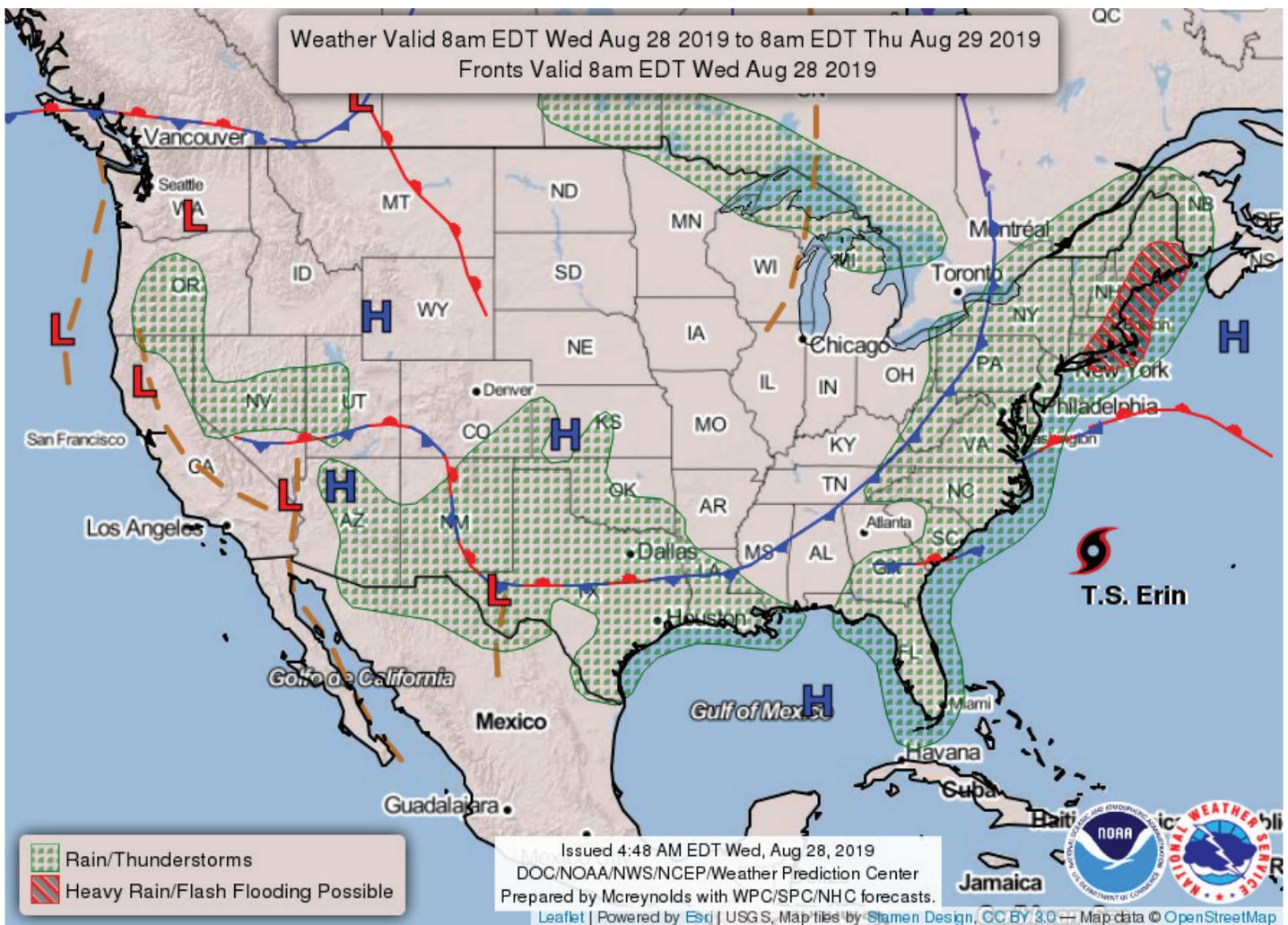
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp:** 69 °F at 6:44 PM  
**Low Temp:** 53 °F at 4:02 AM  
**Wind:** 28 mph at 2:22 PM  
**Day Rain:** 0.00

**Record High:** 104° in 1937  
**Record Low:** 31° in 1893  
**Average High:** 79°F  
**Average Low:** 53°F  
**Average Precip in Aug.:** 2.12  
**Precip to date in Aug.:** 3.01  
**Average Precip to date:** 15.98  
**Precip Year to Date:** 19.60  
**Sunset Tonight:** 8:19 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:51 a.m.





## A MOTHERS DESIRED NAME

Whenever we had any need, we would say Ma! If we faced a problem, were in trouble, had a banged-up knee or a cut or bruise, we would still say Ma. Often it would be Thanks, Ma or Please, Ma? even Ma, why me? or Ma! I need help! But all of us called her Ma. It contained feelings of warmth and comfort, reassurance in times of trouble and difficulty, or happy smiles and laughing voices on special occasions. Now it brings precious memories of a saint reading her Bible, kneeling quietly in prayer for her children, or leading a large number of children to a Child Evangelism class. Ma deserved to be called blessed!

Solomon raised the bar on motherhood to its highest level when he wrote, Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also and he praises her. This verse suggests a scene at a banquet or special gathering when children gather together and publicly announce to the world that their mother is worthy of being called Blessed. It is not a term that is used to praise God. Its strict use is for one person to praise another person for outstanding accomplishments. In this instance, it is children praising their mother for her influence on and in their lives by imparting Gods wisdom as their foundation for successful living.

The husband is also part of the celebration and he also praises her. What a beautiful picture of a family! Too often we hear of dysfunctional families, broken families, single-parent families, blended families, neglected families - every type of family imaginable except families that have a mother who is called blessed by her children and praised by her husband.

We desperately need homes filled with such mothers.

Prayer: Father, we need homes where Moms are called blessed! Give us Christian homes where the Bible is taught and lived and homes filled with Your love! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 31:28 Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also and he praises her.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 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, 10 a.m. Sharp (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, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 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, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

08-12-23-39-43, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 2

(eight, twelve, twenty-three, thirty-nine, forty-three; Mega Ball: six; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$103 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

### Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Belle Fourche def. Sturgis Brown, 25-16, 25-21, 25-21

Beresford def. Canton, 25-22, 25-12, 25-17

Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-18, 25-13, 25-12

Castlewood def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-17, 25-16, 25-20

Chester def. Flandreau, 25-18, 25-8, 25-12

Estelline/Hendricks def. Iroquois/Doland (VB), 25-21, 25-10, 25-8

Garretson def. Tri-Valley, 25-11, 20-25, 25-23, 25-20

Howard def. DeSmet, 25-21, 25-15, 25-15

Huron def. Yankton, 25-10, 25-19, 25-19

Ipswich def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-16, 25-11, 25-18

James Valley Christian def. Lake Preston, 23-25, 25-11, 25-12, 25-17

Langford def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-22, 25-9, 25-22

Lead-Deadwood def. Newell, 25-17, 22-25, 25-16, 25-15

McCook Central/Montrose def. Bridgewater-Emery, 21-25, 25-21, 25-13, 25-12

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Parkston, 25-17, 25-23, 25-23

Northwestern def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-12, 25-13, 25-15

Parker def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-17, 25-20, 25-14

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-22, 25-15, 24-26, 25-20

Sioux Valley def. Deuel, 25-17, 23-25, 25-21, 27-25

St. Thomas More def. Douglas, 25-8, 25-14, 25-18

Vermillion def. West Central, 25-21, 13-25, 20-25, 25-21, 15-9

Winner def. Bon Homme, 25-17, 25-21, 25-13

Hanson Tournament

First Round

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-10, 25-21

Avon def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-19, 25-18

Freeman def. Platte-Geddes, 25-22, 25-17

Gayville-Volin def. Hanson, 25-27, 25-20, 25-19

Semifinal

Freeman def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-23, 25-16

Gayville-Volin def. Avon, 25-18, 25-18

## High court hearing appeal from man convicted of killing wife

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court is hearing an appeal from a Pierre man convicted of killing his wife 13 years ago.

At issue before the court Tuesday is whether Brad Reay's (ray-uh's) attorney provided adequate counsel. Reay was convicted of killing Tami Reay in Pierre in February 2006.

KGFX reports the victim's body was found by a Lake Oahe's spillway north of Pierre after an extensive search. She'd been stabbed multiple times and her throat had been cut.

A jury convicted Reay of first-degree murder despite his attempts to pin the death on their 12-year-old daughter.

In his appeal, Reay argues defense attorney Tim Rensch failed to pursue experts to look into bite marks on the victim's body, DNA on a towel or tool marks on a tarp covering Tami's body.

Information from: KGFX-AM, <http://www.drgnews.com/>

## Three killed in crash were from Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Public Safety says the three people killed in a fiery crash last weekend were from Sioux Falls.

Department officials said Tuesday 39-year-old Alyssa Skogen was driving a car that crossed the center line and collided with a pickup truck driven by 44-year-old Fredrico Sammiguel on Highway 42 near Sioux Falls Saturday. Both drivers were killed as well as a passenger in the truck, 57-year-old David Kiefer. The pickup caught fire shortly after the crash.

Two boys, ages 5 and 10, in Skogen's car suffered serious, but non-life threatening injuries. The South Dakota Highway Patrol investigated the crash.

## Former deputy pleads not guilty to sexually exploiting girls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former longtime law enforcement officer who worked for several agencies in South Dakota has pleaded not guilty to attempted sexual exploitation of a minor and other federal charges.

Francis "Frank" Kistler, who most recently was a Fall River County sheriff's deputy, is accused of attempting to persuade two girls to have sex between January and July, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Dakota. Kistler, 60, used his cell phone and computer to send obscene material to the girls, prosecutors said. He was also charged with attempted enticement of a minor using the internet and transfer of obscene material to a minor, according to the Argus Leader .

U.S. Magistrate Judge Daneta Wollmann ordered Kistler released from jail last week after he entered his plea, but said he must follow a curfew, use electronic monitoring and undergo mental health treatment. Wollmann also ordered him not to be in contact with anyone under age 18 and not to leave South Dakota, possess weapons or access the internet.

Kistler began his law enforcement career in 1991 as a reserve deputy in Custer County, according to the Rapid City Journal . He also worked in Eagle Butte and Charles Mix counties. In Fall River County, Kistler was assigned to Edgemont, but was fired after approximately a year on the job, according to Sheriff Robert Evans.

Kistler was investigated by the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation. He has until Oct. 4 to reach a plea deal or go to trial Oct. 22. If convicted, he could be sentenced to a maximum 30 years for the attempted sexual exploitation charges and a maximum 10 years on the obscenity charge.

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

## Deutsche Bank has tax returns sought in Congressional probe

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's longtime bank revealed Tuesday that it has tax records Congress is seeking in its investigation of the president's finances.

Deutsche Bank said in court papers it has tax returns responsive to a subpoena sent this year, in which Congress asked the bank for a host of documents related to Trump and his family.

Trump has long declined to release his tax returns and wants to block two House committees from getting the records, calling their document requests unlawful.

A federal appeals court ordered Deutsche Bank to say whether or not Trump's tax returns were in its possession after an attorney for the bank refused to answer that question during a hearing last week.

The bank, in its court filing Tuesday, blacked out the name of the person or people whose tax records it had, citing privacy rules. It said it also has tax records "related to parties not named in

the subpoenas but who may constitute "immediate family" of individuals named in the document request.

Messages were left with a Deutsche Bank attorney seeking comment on the filing.

Deutsche Bank has lent Trump's real estate company millions of dollars over the years. Lawmakers have said they are seeking the banking records as they investigate possible "foreign influence in the U.S. political process."

Trump and three of his children sued to stop the House Financial Services and Intelligence committees from getting the records on the grounds that the requests were overly broad and unconstitutional.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals indicated last week it would take a hard look at the legality of the subpoenas.

The court is considering an appeal from a lower court's decision this year to allow the subpoenas to proceed. U.S. District Judge Edgardo Ramos said in that case that Trump and his companies are "highly unlikely" to succeed in challenging them.



**FILE - In this Oct. 7, 2016, file photo a flag for Deutsche Bank flies outside the German bank's New York offices on Wall Street. Deutsche Bank revealed in court papers on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019, that it has tax records Congress is seeking in its investigation into President Trump's finances.**

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

## OxyContin maker, government attorneys in settlement talks

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — State attorneys general and lawyers representing local governments said Tuesday they are in active settlement talks with Purdue Pharma, the maker of the prescription painkiller OxyContin that is facing billions of dollars in potential liability for its role in the nation's opioid crisis.

Purdue has been cast by attorneys and addiction experts as a main villain in the crisis for producing a blockbuster drug while understating its addiction risk. A report by NBC News said the privately held

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company has offered to settle for \$10 billion to \$12 billion.

In a statement, the Stamford, Connecticut-based company said it's prepared to defend itself but sees little good in years of "wasteful litigation and appeals."

"Purdue believes a constructive global resolution is the best path forward, and the company is actively working with the state attorneys general and other plaintiffs to achieve this outcome," the company said.

News of the settlement talks involving more than 2,000 lawsuits against the company and other players in the painkiller industry comes about two months before the first federal trial over the toll of opioids is scheduled to start in Cleveland.

NBC reported that Purdue presented a plan for it to declare Chapter 11 bankruptcy and then restructure into a for-profit "public benefit trust."

Paul Farrell Jr., a lead plaintiffs' lawyer representing local governments, said all sides remain under a gag order: "All we can confirm is that we are in active settlement discussions with Purdue."

Attorneys general representing several states also confirmed the accelerated negotiations.

Ohio Attorney General David Yost is "actively engaged in conversations with Purdue," said spokeswoman Bethany McCorkle, declining further comment.

Kylie Mason, spokeswoman for Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody, declined comment on details of any possible settlement but said the state will "continue to aggressively pursue justice — to ensure those companies complicit in the opioid crisis pay for the pain and suffering inflicted on our state."

Purdue Pharma is owned by members of the Sackler family, who have given money to cultural institutions around the world, including the Smithsonian Institution, New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art and London's Tate Modern. The New York Times reported late Tuesday the payout would include \$3 billion from the Sackler family. In addition, the Sacklers would sell another drug company, Mundipharma, which would add \$1.5 billion to the settlement.

In March, Purdue and members of the Sackler family reached a \$270 million settlement with Oklahoma to avoid a state trial on the toll of opioids there.

Lawsuits filed by more than 2,000 state, local and tribal governments have cast Purdue as a chief villain in an overdose crisis that has killed more than 400,000 people in the U.S. since 2000.

The lawsuits assert the company aggressively sold OxyContin as a drug with a low chance of triggering addictions despite knowing that wasn't true.

Purdue's drugs are just a slice of the opioids prescribed, but critics assign a lot of the blame to the company because it developed both the drug and an aggressive marketing strategy.

"Our mission here has always been clear — make Purdue Pharma and the other manufacturers and distributors pay for what they did to Pennsylvania and its people, and put the Sackler family out of the opioid



**FILE - This Feb. 19, 2013 file photo shows OxyContin pills arranged for a photo at a pharmacy in Montpelier, Vt. State attorneys general and lawyers representing local governments said Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019, they are in active negotiations with Purdue Pharma, maker of the prescription painkiller OxyContin, as they attempt to reach a landmark settlement over the nation's opioid crisis.** (AP Photo/Toby Talbot, File)

business for good," said Jacklin Rhoads, spokeswoman for Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, who has staffers at the Cleveland negotiations.

\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

## Sick and dying workers demand help after cleaning coal ash

By TRAVIS LOLLER Associated Press

KINGSTON, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Valley Authority, long respected for providing good jobs and cheap electricity, is facing a growing backlash over its handling of a massive coal ash spill a decade ago, with potentially serious consequences for an industry often opposed to environmental regulation.

A jury in Knoxville decided within hours that the TVA's contractor, Jacobs Engineering, breached its safety duties, exposing hundreds of cleanup workers to airborne "fly ash" with known carcinogens. The jurors said Jacobs' actions were capable of making the workers sick. The key question of whether they caused each worker's injuries was left for a different jury in a second phase of the civil trial.

More than 200 workers blame the contractor for exposing them to ash they say caused a slew of illnesses, some fatal, including cancers of the lung, brain, blood and skin.

Despite last November's favorable verdict for the first 72 plaintiffs, they won't get monetary damages unless they can prove exactly what caused their specific illnesses. The judge, alluding to their urgent need for medical care, ordered mediation. More than a hundred other plaintiffs await the outcome.

"To have the burden put on you, that you have to prove what caused these horrific things -- that's an atrocity," said Janie Clark, whose husband, Ansol, has a rare blood cancer after driving a fuel truck at the site. "I guess that's just the law."

Jacobs' attorney, Theodore Boutrous, said the company "was doing its best to help manage the cleanup in a way that is safe — that the regulators have said is safe." He stressed that it hasn't been proven that Jacobs — or even coal ash — is to blame for any illnesses.

The workers encountered a moonscape after a leaking six-story earthen dam collapsed at the TVA's Kingston Fossil Plant on Dec. 22, 2008, releasing more than a billion gallons of coal ash. It remains the largest industrial spill in modern U.S. history. It also prompted the EPA to begin regulating coal ash storage at more than 1,000 active ash dumps around the country, although not as stringently as environmentalists



**In this Aug. 6, 2019, photo, Ansol and Janie Clark pose at a memorial Ansol Clark constructed near the Kingston Fossil Plant in Kingston, Tenn. The Tennessee Valley Authority was responsible for a massive coal ash spill at the plant in 2008 that covered a community and fouled rivers. The couple says the memorial is for the workers who have come down with illnesses, some fatal, including cancers of the lung, brain, blood and skin and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Ansol Clark drove a fuel truck for four years at the cleanup site, and now suffers from a rare blood cancer.** (AP Photo/

Mark Humphrey)

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would like.

The TVA paid for as many as 900 people to contain and remove the pollution, some working 12-hour shifts for months at a time. The sludge dried into a fine dust that sparkled like glitter and sometimes whirled into clouds so thick, drivers could barely see past the hoods of their trucks.

In Associated Press interviews, workers said they were healthy before breathing the ash, but have since suffered unusual symptoms. They recalled joking darkly about "coal ash flu" before suffering strange lesions and seeing their skin flake off like fish scales. At least 40 co-workers have died, they said, some gruesomely, collapsing and coughing up blood.

"We cleaned it up in a little over five years, and it would've took 25 years to do it the right way," said Doug Bledsoe, who drove trucks there and now has brain and lung cancer.

Foreman Michael Robinette testified that Jacobs safety manager Tom Bock ordered him to take one worker's mask away and get rid of all the masks in the equipment room. "We threw them in the dumpster," Robinette testified.

And Greg Schwartz, a Jacobs' subcontractor, testified his supervisor said masks weren't allowed "because it looked bad."

"They didn't want people driving by and seeing people with masks. That was the answer I got," Schwartz said.

Bock, at trial, denied the workers' allegations that he ordered dust masks destroyed or discouraged their use.

The TVA is not a defendant and hasn't commented on these personal injury cases, other than to say Jacobs was responsible for worker safety. With its reputation at stake, the agency stresses that coal ash is classified as "nonhazardous" by the EPA.

Duke University geochemist Avner Vengosh, who is not involved in the litigation, tested ash from the Kingston spill and found high levels of radioactivity and toxic metals, including arsenic and mercury. In a statement about his 2009 peer-reviewed study, he warned that inhaling airborne particles could "have a severe health impact on local residents or workers."

But the workers said Jacobs safety supervisors told them "you could eat a pound of it a day and it wouldn't hurt you."

Ron Bledsoe, a truck driver who now struggles to breathe with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, said supervisors made a big deal about safety glasses and steel-toed boots but downplayed the fly ash swirling around them.

Jacobs officials testified they followed regulations for air monitoring, with results verified by outside agencies, and found the workers were never exposed to dangerous levels. Workers testified they witnessed the monitoring being manipulated.

Regardless, experts say there isn't enough research to establish a safe level of prolonged exposure to fly ash.

"We need more research, because people are potentially getting sick from coal ash," said Kristina Zierold, an epidemiologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham who is not involved in the lawsuits. She compared it to the concerted effort it took to prove scientifically that smoking causes illness.

Regulations apply to dust in general and to many of the individual elements of fly ash, but more work is needed to understand what happens in the body when all those toxic chemicals are breathed in together. That's one reason some of the workers may have an uphill battle proving their particular illnesses resulted from prolonged exposure, said Paul Terry, an epidemiologist at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who testified for the workers.

At a TVA board meeting last week, Janie Clark pleaded for help with the workers' medical bills. "They cleaned up your mess," she said. "Please do not let these hardworking people be treated as collateral damage."

TVA Board chairman Skip Thompson responded with sympathy but made no promises.

The Clarks wanted to visit a beach after the cleanup. Janie's never seen the ocean. Ansol's illness now makes that difficult.

"It don't matter anymore," she said. "They killed that dream in me."

## UK opposition reacts with fury to Parliament suspension

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson asked Queen Elizabeth II on Wednesday to suspend Parliament, throwing down the gauntlet to his critics and causing outrage among opposition leaders who will have even less time to thwart a no-deal Brexit.

Johnson told lawmakers he has decided to ask the monarch to give her speech that outlines the government's legislative agenda on Oct. 14. Since Parliament is normally suspended before the speech, the decision means opposition lawmakers would be unlikely to have enough time to pass laws blocking the U.K.'s exit from the European Union without a negotiated deal on Oct. 31.

Though Johnson had previously refused to rule out suspending Parliament, the timing of the decision took lawmakers — many of whom are on vacation — by surprise. They reacted with fury, including John Bercow, Speaker of the lower House of Commons, who was not told in advance of Johnson's plan.

"Shutting down Parliament would be an offense against the democratic process and the rights of Parliamentarians as the people's elected representatives," he said. "Surely at this early stage in his premiership, the prime minister should be seeking to establish rather than undermine his democratic credentials and indeed his commitment to Parliamentary democracy."

The pound plunged on the news, down to \$1.2196 from almost \$1.2300 the previous day.

A day earlier, opposition lawmakers declared that they would work together to try to stop a departure from the European Union without an agreement, setting up a legislative challenge to Johnson and his promise to complete the divorce by Oct. 31, come what may.

Some 160 lawmakers have signed a declaration pledging "to do whatever is necessary" to prevent Johnson from bypassing Parliament in his plans. Johnson's do-or-die promise has raised worries about a disorderly divorce that would see new tariffs on trade and border checks between Britain and the EU, seriously disrupting business.

Johnson has told European Union officials it won't be possible to agree a deal on Britain's departure from the trading bloc without the removal of controversial language on a "backstop," aimed at avoiding the return of a border between EU member Ireland and Britain's Northern Ireland. He said at the close of the G-7 summit in Biarritz, France, Monday that he was "marginally more optimistic," of progress.



**Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson smiles during his final press conference at the G7 summit Monday, Aug. 26, 2019 in Biarritz, southwestern France.** (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

## As troops prepare to leave Afghanistan, will aid stream out?

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JEBUL SIRAJ, Afghanistan (AP) — The children will inherit any peace that comes to Afghanistan, if only they can live to see it.

Whimpering and badly malnourished, they are among the most vulnerable in a country that remains one of the poorest in the world. Now an expected United States-Taliban agreement to end nearly 18 years of fighting raises questions about whether the foreign aid largely propping up the country will drop as troops withdraw.

Much depends on the Taliban, who have indicated they want that aid to continue even as they call for armed "invaders" to leave. But if the insurgent group that already controls roughly half of Afghanistan tries to assert a harsh form of Islamic law across the country or continues its attacks, some donors could walk away.

The urgency of aid is seen in Jebul Siraj, a mountainside community north of the capital, Kabul, where a burqa-clad woman held a gaunt, startled-looking boy named Abdullah, just 7 months old. Days ago, he was at an emergency ward. Now he sipped

curiously at a supplement as part of a new nutrition monitoring program at a clinic in Parwan province supported by the United Nations children's agency. Mothers and children lined up outside.

Some 2 million children in Afghanistan face acute malnutrition, according to UNICEF, about 600,000 of them so severely malnourished that without urgent treatment they could die.

The hospital in nearby Charikar city treats more than 1,000 children a month for malnutrition and the problem is growing, nurse Fariba Hashimi said.

"It's mostly an economic issue, for mothers as well," she said. "They can't breastfeed because they don't have enough income to feed themselves." Aid has dropped in recent years, with supplemental biscuits and wheat flour that was once provided for patients now unavailable.

Health care and other basic services are precarious in a country where the World Bank says grants finance some 75% of total public expenditures. This year it warned against the dire consequences of "any rapid decline in international aid flows."

Afghanistan has been the largest single recipient of American aid since the U.S.-led invasion to oust the Taliban in 2001, but despite billions of dollars in assistance more than half of its people still live in poverty. Much of the aid has gone to security efforts, and frustrated Afghans assert that untold amounts have been lost in corruption and mismanagement.

U.S. aid to the country was cut in half in 2014, the year that U.S. and NATO forces formally ended their combat mission. About 20,000 forces remain, largely to train and support Afghan counterparts.

If a U.S.-Taliban agreement on ending America's longest war brings badly needed peace, Afghanistan



**In this Aug. 21, 2019, photo, a nurse, right, checks the height of a malnourished girl, Humaira, in a ward at Indira Gandhi hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan. Whimpering and badly malnourished, the children are among the most vulnerable in a country that remains one of the poorest in the world. Now an expected United States-Taliban agreement to end nearly 18 years of fighting raises questions about whether humanitarian aid will decline as foreign troops withdraw.** (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

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could see an increase in aid, said Alex Thier, who once directed assistance for the country with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

But if the peace process drags out or fails, that could "depress enthusiasm for giving," he warned after a visit to Kabul this month. Some donors could be reluctant to fund a government in which the Taliban wield power and don't respect the rights of women and others.

The Taliban have indicated they want international aid to continue, and understanding how to keep it flowing is part of talks with the U.S., Thier said, citing what he has heard from diplomats, Taliban proxies and people who met with Taliban leaders in intra-Afghan dialogues in Moscow and Qatar this year.

"Part of the Taliban motivation in the peace process is, they clearly want to avoid being a pariah state as before," he said. But no one knows what they will give up to keep receiving support.

The local U.N. humanitarian coordinator, Toby Lanzer, who has spoken with "all of the authorities across Afghanistan," said he believes aid won't drop, calling the country's case so compelling that efforts must continue, whatever happens. He has spoken with the United States and other "particularly generous" countries and believes donors are in Afghanistan for the long haul.

Asked how the interest of President Donald Trump's administration in cutting overall foreign aid complicates the situation, Lanzer paused for more than 10 seconds before saying that "when it comes to a strategic location such as Afghanistan, everybody has to chip in, and everybody has been chipping in. And I would very much count on the continued generosity of the people of the United States of America, of institutions such as USAID, to stay the course."

Next year could be Afghanistan's most pivotal, he said, as the latest round of international aid pledges ends. He expects another pledging conference in 2020 for "the new government, whichever government that might be."

At the Indira Gandhi children's hospital in Kabul, which treats 70 to 80 malnourished children a month, director Dr. Mohammad Bashir Qurishi worried about how doctors will be paid and medicine purchased if aid follows troops out of the country.

Everyone is afraid of losing the progress made since 2001, he said, as the U.S. and the Taliban negotiate the country's future while excluding the Afghan government.

"If Trump wants to take us back to Stone Age time, then it is their policy," he said.

In the ward for malnourished children, decorated with aid stickers from UNICEF and Japan, a nurse pointed out fragile toddlers. One 2-year-old, her face covered in tape to keep a nasal feeding tube in place, breathed with discomfort, a Barbie-like doll next to her on her pillow.

Nearby was Bibi Warai. Her 2-year-old granddaughter had just died at home outside the eastern city of Jalalabad, and now the girl's 3-year-old sister, Humaira, was undergoing treatment. After their hours-long journey to the capital she wished for more such wards so that all Afghans can reach help in time.

"My son told me, 'How can you leave us at this time of mourning?'" she said. "I told him, 'I can't stay, I have to take my child for treatment.' Maybe God will help us, and she will survive."

She placed her hand gently on the girl's forehead and began to cry.

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Associated Press video journalist Ahmad Seir in Kabul contributed to this report.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. DORIAN THREATENS PUERTO RICO

Forecasters say the tropical storm made a last-minute shift in its path and could reach near-hurricane strength in its approach to the reeling U.S. territory.

### 2. NEW PRIME MINISTER ROILING BRITISH POLITICS

Boris Johnson is suspending Parliament, squeezing time for opposition lawmakers to hamper efforts to

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quash a no-deal Brexit.

### 3. OXYCONTIN MAKER, FEDS IN SETTLEMENT TALKS

State attorneys general and lawyers representing local governments say they are negotiating with Purdue Pharma, facing billions of dollars in potential liability for its role in the nation's opioid crisis.

### 4. WHO IS IMPACTED BY AMAZON WILDFIRES

Lingering smoke causes concern among Brazilians who say that respiratory problems — particularly among children and the elderly — have increased as fires in the region rage.

### 5. 'MAYBE GOD WILL HELP US'

Whimpering and badly malnourished, Afghan children are among the most vulnerable in a country that remains one of the poorest in the world.

### 6. TRUMP'S LONGTIME BANK HAS HIS TAX RECORDS

Deutsche Bank says in court papers it has tax returns responsive to a congressional subpoena sent this year.

### 7. MEXICAN BAR ATTACK KILLS NEARLY 2 DOZEN

Attackers possibly using gasoline bombs set fire to a bar in Mexico's Gulf coast city of Coatzacoalcos, killing 23 people and injuring 13.

### 8. BACKLASH GROWS AS COAL ASH SPILL WORKERS FALL SICK

The Tennessee Valley Authority is coming under scrutiny over its handling of a massive coal ash spill a decade ago.

### 9. WHAT IS GETTING A LIMITED RELEASE IN THEATERS

Netflix will give "The Irishman" an exclusive cinematic release for about a month, providing theaters Martin Scorsese's big-budget crime epic before it lands on the streaming service.

### 10. NBA STAR HELPS BLACK COLLEGES

African-American golfers are hoping a gift from Stephen Curry to fund Howard University golf teams will spark a resurgence in the sport at historically black colleges and universities.



**People arrive to a private harbor to move boats away for protection ahead of the arrival of Tropical Storm Dorian in Boqueron, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019.** (AP Photo/

Ramon Espinosa)

## **Biden: Racism in US is institutional, 'white man's problem'**

**By ERRIN HAINES and JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Racism in America is an institutional "white man's problem visited on people of color," Vice President Joe Biden said, arguing that the way to attack the issue is to defeat President Donald Trump and hold him responsible for deepening the nation's racial divide.

Taking aim at incendiary racial appeals by Trump, Biden said in an interview with a small group of reporters on Tuesday that a president's words can "appeal to the worst damn instincts of human nature," just as they can move markets or take a nation into war.

Biden is leading his Democratic challengers for the presidential nomination in almost all polls, largely because of the support of black voters. He has made appealing to them central to his candidacy and vowed to make maximizing black and Latino turnout an "overwhelming focus" of his effort. The interview, more

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than an hour long, focused largely on racial issues.

"White folks are the reason we have institutional racism," Biden said. "There has always been racism in America. White supremacists have always existed, they still exist." He added later that in his administration, it would "not be tolerated."

By highlighting the nation's racial tensions and placing blame on Trump, Biden is showing that he, too, is willing to make race a core campaign issue, but from the opposite perspective of the Republican president. Turnout and enthusiasm among black voters will be critical for the Democratic nominee, notably to try to reclaim states like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. He also emphasized a cross-over appeal to both black voters and non-college-educated white voters.

To accentuate his appeal to black voters, Biden said that he will advertise in black publications and engage with cultural institutions like the black church, black fraternities and sororities, and historically black colleges.

"The bad news is I have a long record. The good news is I have a long record," Biden said when asked about his enduring support among black voters. "People know me — at least they think they know me. I think after all this time, I think they have a sense of what my character is, who I am."

"I've never, ever, ever in my entire life been in a circumstance where I've ever felt uncomfortable being in the black community," he added, suggesting that his familiarity was not matched by many of his competitors for the 2020 nomination.

While he did not specify to whom he was referring, Biden said he believes there are "assertions and assumptions" made about black voters that he believes are inaccurate, and he said that "a lot of people haven't spent much time in the community."

Without mentioning her by name, Biden also referenced California Sen. Kamala Harris' attack on him during the first presidential debate on the issue of busing as a solution to school desegregation.

"All I know is I don't think anybody in the community thinks I am — what's the phrase?" Biden asked, paraphrasing Harris' comment that "I know you're not a racist, Joe."

"I don't think anyone thinks that about me," Biden said.

Biden was also asked whether he would select a woman or person of color as his running mate should he become the nominee. He said that while he would "preferably" do so, he is ultimately seeking a partner on the ticket who is "simpatico with what I stand for and what I want to get done."

"Whomever I pick would be preferably someone who was of color and who was of a different gender, but I'm not making that commitment until I know that the person I'm dealing with I can completely, thoroughly trust, is authentic, and is on the same page."

Looking ahead to the next Democratic debate in Houston in September, he said that he understands why he has a target on his back but cautioned that Democrats "shouldn't be forming a circular firing squad and shooting" because it only helps Trump.

Trump's reelection campaign dismissed Biden's accusation that Trump had inflamed racial tensions in



**Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a campaign event at Keene State College in Keene, N.H., Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019.** (AP Photo/

Michael Dwyer)

the country.

"Having moved on from the Russia Hoax, Democrats are now employing the oldest play in the Democrat playbook: falsely accusing their opponent of racism, extending it even to the President's supporters. Calling half the country racist is not a winning strategy," said Tim Murtaugh, the Trump campaign's communications director.

Biden also said that the Democratic field would narrow and allow for more meaningful exchanges. In the current crowded field, he said it's difficult to have any meaningful debate at all, calling it a "non-debate debate."

Biden, who has been attacked most forcefully by Harris, said that he believed "those who made the most direct attacks on one another haven't really benefited much by it at the end of the day."

## Storm Dorian expected to strengthen, could hit Puerto Rico

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Tropical Storm Dorian threatened Puerto Rico with a direct hit on Wednesday, as forecasters said it made a last-minute shift in its path and could reach near-hurricane strength in its approach to the U.S. territory.

The storm is expected to pass over or near western and central Puerto Rico, with landslides, widespread flooding and power outages possible. President Donald Trump declared an emergency Tuesday night and ordered federal assistance for local authorities.

"Practically the entire island will be under sustained tropical storm force winds," said Roberto García, director of U.S. National Weather Service San Juan, during a press conference late Tuesday.

However, he said the forecast could change overnight, adding that late shifts occur with storms such as Dorian that do not have a well-defined center.

Early Wednesday, Dorian was located about 240 miles (390 kilometers) east southeast of Ponce, Puerto Rico. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said it had strengthened slightly, with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (96 kph) while moving northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

The storm is expected to dump 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 centimeters) of rain with isolated amounts of 8 inches (20 centimeters).

The change in the storm's course concerned many across the U.S. territory, where some 30,000 homes still have blue tarps as roofs nearly two years after Hurricane Maria. The island's 3.2 million inhabitants still depend on a shaky power grid that has remained prone to outages since it was destroyed by the Category 4 storm.

Jorge Ortiz, a 50-year-old construction worker, was taking no chances. Wiping sweat from his brow, Ortiz



**Jorge Ortiz works to tie down his roof as he prepares for the arrival of Tropical Storm Dorian, in the Martín Peña neighborhood of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019. The 50-year-old construction worker was taking no chances as Dorian approached Puerto Rico on Tuesday and threatened to brush past the island's southwest coast at near-hurricane strength.** (AP Photo/Gianfranco Gaglione)

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climbed up a shaky ladder under a punishing morning sun and tied down pieces of zinc that now serve as his roof because Maria ripped the second floor off his house when it hit on Sept. 20, 2017.

He was forced to rebuild everything himself and finished just three months ago with no assistance from the local or federal government.

"They told me I didn't qualify because it was a total loss," he said, shaking his head as he added that he was wary. "I'm worried that despite all this sacrifice, I'll lose it again."

The U.S. National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch for Puerto Rico and a tropical storm warning for Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A tropical storm watch was in force for the Dominican Republic from Samaná to Puerto Plata.

Dorian already caused power outages and downed trees in Barbados and St. Lucia, and a still-uncertain long-term track showed the storm near Florida over the weekend.

Although top government officials in Puerto Rico said they were prepared for the storm and had sufficient equipment, a couple of mayors, including those in the western region, said they did not have enough generators or shelters that were properly set up.

Jesús Laracuente, a 52-year-old construction worker who lives in the impoverished neighborhood of Las Monjas in the capital of San Juan, also had doubts about government preparations.

"The people here are prepared. We already learned our lesson," he said, referring to Maria. "What de-spairs us is knowing that the slightest breeze will leave us without power. It's the government that fails us."

José Ortiz, executive director of Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority, acknowledged that the distribution system still has weak areas and could "suffer" under winds of 50 to 60 mph. However, he stressed the agency has the needed inventory, including more than 120,000 lights, 23,000 poles and 7,400 transformers.

But Freddyson Martínez, vice president of a power workers' union, told The Associated Press that while the electric grid has improved in some areas, he worries about a lack of power line workers and post-Maria patches which feature lines affixed to palm trees.

"Those are problems that are still being corrected to this day," he said. "These are the realities we have to face with this storm."

The island's transportation secretary acknowledged that crews are still rebuilding roads damaged or blocked by Maria, more than 1,000 of which remain blocked by that storm's landslides.

Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez urged those living in flood-prone areas or under a blue tarp to move into one of the island's 360 shelters on Tuesday night. Housing Secretary Fernando Gil has said some 9,000 to 13,000 homes with blue tarp roofs are located in the region that Dorian is expected to affect the most.

Officials also said public schools and government offices would remain closed through at least Thursday.

"We learned our lesson quite well after Maria," Vázquez said. "We are going to be much better prepared."

Dorian was expected to move near the Turks and Caicos Islands and southeastern Bahamas on Thursday night or Friday.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Erin formed well off the U.S. East Coast on Tuesday night, and the National Hurricane Service said the storm is forecast to move northward over the open Atlantic with no threat to land.

It was about 690 miles (1,110 kilometers) west of Bermuda and 300 miles (482 kilometers) southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph.

## Respiratory ailments rise in Brazil as Amazon fires rage

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO** Associated Press

PORTO VELHO, Brazil (AP) — Lingering smoke in the Amazon caused concern Tuesday among Brazilians who say that respiratory problems — particularly among children and the elderly — have increased as fires in the region rage.

"The kids are affected the most. They're coughing a lot," said Elane Diaz, a nurse in the Rondonia state capital of Porto Velho, as she waited for a doctor's appointment at the city's 9 of July hospital with her 5-year-old-son Eduardo. "They have problems breathing. I'm concerned because it affects their health."

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The number of people treated for respiratory issues increased sharply in recent days at the local Cosme e Damia Children's hospital.

"This period has been very tough. The dry weather and the smoke causes many problems on children, such as pneumonia, coughing and secretion," Daniel Pires, a pediatrician and the hospital's adjunct-director told the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper. "From Aug. 1 to Aug. 10, the median (number) of cases was about 120 to 130 children with respiratory problems. From Aug. 11 to (Aug. 20) it went up to 280 cases."

Growing fears over the health impacts are emerging as the number of fires in Brazil surges, with more than 77,000 documented by the country's National Space Research Institute in the last year. About half of the fires occurred in the Amazon region, with most in the past month.

But as breathing-related ailments appear to be on the rise, attention to the issue has largely been overshadowed by growing acrimony between Brazil and European countries seeking to help fight Amazon fires and protect a region seen as vital to the health of the planet.

At a summit in France this week, G-7 nations pledged to help fight the flames and protect the rainforest by offering \$20 million, in addition to a separate \$12 million from Britain and \$11 million from Canada.

But Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right climate skeptic who took office this year with a promise to boost development in Latin America's biggest economy, questioned whether offers of international aid mask a plot to exploit the Amazon's resources and weaken Brazilian growth. On Tuesday, he said that his French counterpart President Emmanuel Macron had called him a liar and would have to apologize before Brazil considers accepting rainforest aid.

Macron has to retract those comments "and then we can speak," Bolsonaro said.

In a video message, Brazilian novelist Paulo Coelho offered an apology to France for what he called Bolsonaro's "hysteria," saying the Brazilian government had resorted to insults to dodge responsibility for the Amazon fires.

Meanwhile, within Brazil, a number of people said they supported Bolsonaro despite local and international criticism of his handling of the crisis, exposing a divide that has split the country.

Grace Quale, a hospital laboratory technician who attended a service at an evangelical church on Sunday, said that critics "want to overthrow our president," and that she didn't see a link between Bolsonaro's environmental policies and the number of people getting treatment for respiratory problems.

Mona Lisa Pereira, an agronomist, also said criticism of Brazil's government was skewed.

"Germany had already been helping through NGOs and they couldn't prevent this," Pereira said. "It seems like this is the fire of a lifetime. But it's not. We have fires every year."

Others said in an open letter that the government's discourse and measures are leading to a "collapse in federal environmental management and stimulate environmental crimes inside and outside the Amazon."

More than 500 employees from the environmental regulator IBAMA signed the letter and included a list of emergency measures they recommended, including more qualified management and employees, and



**Land smolders during a forest fire in Altamira in Brazil's Amazon, Aug. 26, 2019. The fire is very close to Kayapo indigenous land located on the Bau indigenous reserve.** (AP Photo/Leo Correa)

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a greater budget and increased autonomy.

The Amazon has experienced an increased rate of fires during drought periods in the last 20 years, but the phenomenon this year is "unusual" because drought has not yet hit, said Laura Schneider of Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

Schneider, an associate professor in the geography department, said fire is commonly used by people to clear land for cultivation, and the actual area burned this year must be measured for an accurate comparison with damage in past years.

While many of the recorded fires this year were set in already deforested areas by people clearing land for cultivation or pasture, Brazil government figures show that they are much more widespread this year, suggesting the threat to the vast Amazon ecosystem is intensifying.

But for now, more immediate consequences of the raging flames were becoming clear.

The world's largest rainforest is a major absorber of carbon dioxide, considered a critical defense against rising temperatures and other disruptions caused by climate change.

The government in the Amazonian state of Rondonia has warned that the burning of land can produce smoke that can "greatly influence atmospheric pollution, putting the life of many at risk."

Experts there said that when exposed to smoke, residents can suffer from rhinitis, sinus and respiratory problems like asthma and bronchitis, while chronic exposure can also lead to pulmonary illnesses, including lung emphysema.

"We've seen that (Porto Velho) has been taken over by smoke, so inhaling those antigens and pathogens can harm the whole city's population," Ana Carolina Terra Cruz, a specialist in pulmonary illnesses, told the state government website.

On Tuesday, some clouds and a blue sky were partly visible in the Porto Velho morning light. But by the afternoon, haze had again settled, with smoke so thick that it darkened the usually blazing sun.

Pereira, the agronomist, said that smoke was "everywhere."

"It's bad for everyone," she said. "Not just our children."

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Associated Press writers Christopher Torchia and Anna Jean Kaiser, in Rio de Janeiro, and Carlos Valdez in La Paz, Bolivia, contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to give the name of the hospital as 9 of July, not 9 of August.

## Coco's comeback: Gauff erases deficits to win US Open debut

By **HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Here's how new all of this is to Coco Gauff: She didn't quite realize she only has to play every other day at the U.S. Open.

"I'm still used to playing juniors," the American said with a chuckle, "so I forgot about the day off."

She's still just 15. She's competing in just her second Grand Slam tournament. And yet she's definitely showing she can perform like someone much older and more experienced.

With her parents jumping out of their front-row seats over and over again, and a raucous partisan crowd backing her at Louis Armstrong Stadium, Gauff trailed by a set and a break, then again by a break in the third set, before coming up big down the stretch to get past Anastasia Potapova of Russia 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in her debut at Flushing Meadows.

"Honestly, I mean, I really don't remember the match too well," Gauff said, "because everything is still a blur."

Here is what is clear: She displayed the same sort of gumption she did while saving match points in a Centre Court comeback at Wimbledon during her captivating run to the fourth round there last month.

Gauff simply does not give in or give up.

As strong as her serve and other strokes are, she's already showing an ability to make adjustments during a match and figure out ways to win, time and again. Gauff was ranked 313th when she got a wild-card

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invitation into qualifying at Wimbledon, then became the youngest player in history to make it through those preliminary rounds at that prestigious tournament.

After beating Venus Williams in the first round, then a 2017 Wimbledon semifinalist in the second, Gauff got to Week 2 before her surprising showing there ended with a loss to eventual champion Simona Halep.

It was enough to persuade the U.S. Tennis Association to provide a wild card into its event, a special entry she needed because her ranking is 140th.

Four top-10 men's seeds all tumbled out: No. 4 Dominic Thiem, No. 8 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No. 9 Karen Khachanov and No. 10 Roberto Bautista Agut. The biggest beneficiary could be three-time champion Rafael Nadal, the No. 2 seed, who found no such trouble, easily putting together a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory at night over John Millman.

The last match of the schedule didn't begin until after 11 p.m. and ended after 1 a.m. Wednesday, with the volatile Nick Kyrgios delighting the crowd with some trick shots — one particularly outrageous on-the-run passing shot forehand 'tweener landed in the net, alas, but a full-sprint, slide-into-the-doubles-alley forehand winner was celebrated with a dance — while beating Steve Johnson 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-4.

In women's action, 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens was stunned 6-3, 6-4 by Anna Kalinskaya, a 20-year-old Russian qualifier ranked 127th.

Stephens, an American seeded 11th, finished with 33 unforced errors, more than twice as many as Kalinskaya, who had been 0-5 at Slams and 0-4 against top-20 opponents.

"I was playing one good point, one bad point, one good point," Stephens said. "The inconsistency doesn't help me at all."

Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2004 champion, and two-time finalist Viktoria Azarenka also lost at night. Earlier, defending champion and No. 1 seed Naomi Osaka dropped her first five games against 84th-ranked Anna Blinkova, wasted a match point in the second set, then finally put together a 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2 victory.

A couple of years ago, when Gauff was 13, she got a chance to practice with Osaka.

"Her dad and my dad are actually quite cool," Osaka said Tuesday. "She seems to be doing great."

Gauff's father and mother were kind of quiet in the early going at Armstrong, until their daughter waved to her guest box after falling behind 3-0 early.

"I was telling them to get hyped up more. I needed more positive energy. I was nervous. Just looking at them when they're giving me a fist pump gives me a little reassurance," Gauff explained. "I think they were nervous. They wanted to stay more reserved, too. I was like, 'No, I need you guys to come on, stand up.'"

They obliged, yelling and clapping after what seemed to be each point Coco won. Dad also pounded a fist on his chest repeatedly.

"I think I gave them a heart attack, especially my mom," Gauff said. "And my dad, he looks a little bit tired over there, too."

Gauff did not start well against the 72nd-ranked Potapova.



**Coco Gauff, of the United States, reacts after defeating Anastasia Potapova, of Russia, during the first round of the US Open tennis tournament Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019, in New York.** (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

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Not well at all.

Gauff, who is based in Florida, double-faulted three times in her first service game on a breezy evening with the temperature sliding down to about 70 degrees.

Maybe she was trying to be too fine, sending shots right near the lines. The high-risk, high-reward strategy more often yielded results in the former category than in the latter at the outset. Both players hit the ball violently while covering the court well, creating lengthy, entertaining points often introduced by serves at, or above, 100 mph.

They seemed like a couple of talented and experienced veterans with the benefit of years on tour, not a pair of teens each in the U.S. Open's main draw for the first time. Potapova is a past Wimbledon junior champion, and still only 18, so this was the youngest matchup in the first round at Flushing Meadows.

Soon enough it was 5-1, and then that set belonged to Potapova, with Gauff turning to her guest box and putting her palms up, as if to ask, "What can I do differently?"

Not much later, when Potapova broke to open the second set, Gauff's shoulders slumped and she whacked her racket against her right leg.

And that's when her turnaround began.

With spectators roaring their approval, Gauff broke right back and was on her way to dominating the second set.

There was some trouble still awaiting. Gauff went down 1-0 in the third set, then took four games in a row. But at 4-1, Potapova took a medical timeout and a trainer massaged her right shoulder. She quickly pulled even at 4-all.

Gauff took command from there, breaking and then serving out the victory. This is still all so new to her. She doesn't show it, though.

"I know we're going to see each other a lot in the future. I hope we do see each other in the future," Gauff said, "but hopefully in the finals, not in the first round."

More AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Black schools hope NBA star's gift sparks a golf resurgence

By JESSE J. HOLLAND Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ernie Andrews looks out to the grounds of Washington's historic Langston Golf Course and shrugs at the fact that fewer young black golfers are coming out to play these days.

As a black man and longtime pro at a place that was once one of the few courses in the U.S. where African Americans were allowed to play, Andrews is hoping a gift from NBA star Stephen Curry to re-establish a golf program at prominent and historically black Howard University is the start of an upward trend.

"This is a great sport, and we have too much tradition as a people trying to get into the sport to lose it now," Andrews said.

Curry's gift to Howard in Washington is bringing new attention to golf at historically black colleges and universities and spotlighting the harsh budget constraints that they face in keeping their programs alive.

Black colleges and universities are a crucial pipeline to increasing diversity in golf at a time when few African Americans are playing the sport at the college and professional levels.

Only about 300 of the NCAA's more than 10,000 college golfers are black, according to association data. And just three African American golfers are on the PGA Tour: Tiger Woods, Harold Varner III and Cameron Champ.

More than half of the collegiate black golfers compete at HBCUs, but those programs are constantly struggling for survival. Only about a quarter of the more than 100 HBCUs have golf teams, said Craig Bowen, president and founder of the Black College Golf Coaches' Association.

Howard abandoned its golf program in the 1970s before Curry, a two-time NBA MVP who has won three championships with the Golden State Warriors, intervened last week. He donated some of his fortune toward a six-year deal to help the school relaunch its men's and women's teams for the 2020-21 academic year.

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Jackson State University in Mississippi made history in 2007 by becoming the first HBCU to compete in the NCAA Division I golf tournament. But the university suspended its men and women's golf teams a decade later when it faced a budget crisis.

Some HBCUs struggle to find black golfers and end up fielding teams with white players, and the programs are among the first to get targeted during budget crunches.

"It's not football or basketball generating dollars, and they don't want to go out and spend money and actually have to go out and raise money for golf," said Bowen, who used to coach golf at Chicago State and Benedict College in South Carolina, which are both HBCUs.

Many believed that Woods' barrier-shattering ascent that started with his historic 1997 win at the Masters — at a club that once banned black golfers — would usher in a new generation of African American players on the PGA Tour.

But those projections didn't materialize, in part because of the deep challenges that young African Americans still face when it comes to taking up a sport that requires considerable expense and travel to play at a high level.

"A lot of my golf organizations and clubs are really being challenged in attracting young people," said Debert Cook, publisher of the African American Golfer's Digest.

Curry, who has long been known as a passionate golfer, made the announcement about his Howard donation at Langston Golf Course, one of the few U.S. golf courses to allow African Americans when it opened in 1939. The course was home to the Royal Golf Club and the Wake Robin Golf Club, the nation's first for African American men and women.

African Americans made steady progress in golf after Langston Golf Course was built, culminating with Woods' domination of the sport in the early 2000s.

In 1964, Althea Gibson, a tennis pioneer who also played golf professionally, became the first black woman to play in the LPGA Tour. And Charlie Sifford joined the PGA Tour in 1961 after years of the organization's whites-only clause that kept out golfers of color.

Andrews said young golfers still have to fight the perception that it's "a white man's" sport. He hopes that a resurgence of HBCU golf will help bring more African American youth into the sport.

Golf is a great way to teach discipline and perseverance, he said, as well as an avenue into the corporate world for students who may not otherwise have a way in.

"We use golf, but the real teaching is about life," Andrews said.



**Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry tees off at Langston Golf Course in Washington, Monday, Aug. 19, 2019, following an announcement that he would be sponsoring men's and women's golf teams at Howard University.**

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

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## Asian markets mixed after Wall Street slide

By **JOE McDONAL**  
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks were mixed Wednesday as uneasy investors watched for signs of progress on U.S.-China trade after Wall Street slid.

Shanghai retreated, Tokyo advanced and Hong Kong was unchanged.

Investors who worry the U.S.-Chinese tariff war will drag the global economy into recession were left guessing after President Donald Trump's conflicting comments on trade talks.

Markets rose after Trump said Monday said Beijing was ready to negotiate seriously following two weekend phone calls. But a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman couldn't confirm any exchange had taken place.

Investors are "finding it difficult to put a finger as to where the ongoing U.S.-China trade issue is headed," said Jingyi Pan of IG in a report. "The saying that we are a tweet (from Trump) away from the next trade escalation between U.S. and China had certainly grown to become the broad view."

The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.4% to 2,889.66 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 advanced 0.1% to 20,478.90. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was off 1 point at 25,663.14.

Seoul's Kospi gained 0.4% to 1,932.08 and Sydney's S&P-ASX was 0.1% higher at 6,478.40. Taiwan, New Zealand and Jakarta advanced while Singapore retreated.

On Wall Street, investors shifted money from stocks to U.S. government bonds, gold and other traditional safe-haven assets.

UBS, the largest wealth manager in the world, recommended that customers reduce their exposure to stocks, the first time the bank has done so since the depths of Europe's debt crisis in 2012.

The yield in the 10-year Treasury bond below that of the two-year Treasury, an unusual phenomenon that has correctly predicted the five most recent recessions.

The benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.3% to 2,869.16. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.5% to 25,777.90. The Nasdaq slid 0.3% to 7,826.95.

U.S. and Chinese trade negotiators are due to meet next month in Washington, but neither side has given any indication of offering concessions to break a deadlock. A round of talks last month in Shanghai ended with no sign of progress.

Washington and Beijing fueled investor pessimism on Friday with an additional round of tit-for-tat tariff hikes. Their punitive duties on billions of dollars of each other's goods already have battered exporters on both sides and prompted forecasters to cut economic growth outlooks.

"There are no grounds to believe China will concede to a deal based on unilateral, lopsided demands under rising tariffs duress," said Mizuho Bank in a report.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 56 cents to \$55.49 per barrel in electronic trading on the New



**A currency trader watches computer monitors near the screens showing the foreign exchange rates at the foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2019. Asian stocks were mixed Wednesday as uneasy investors watched for signs of progress on U.S.-China trade after Wall Street slid.** (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

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York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.29 on Tuesday to close at \$54.93. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 41 cents to \$59.44 per barrel in London. It advanced 91 cents the previous session to \$59.03.

CURRENCY: The dollar advanced to 105.84 yen from Tuesday's 105.76 yen. The euro declined to \$1.1088 from \$1.1092.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 28, the 240th day of 2019. There are 125 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 28, 1955, Emmett Till, a black teen-ager from Chicago, was abducted from his uncle's home in Money, Mississippi, by two white men after he had supposedly whistled at a white woman; he was found brutally slain three days later.

On this date:

In 1916, Italy declared war on Germany during World War I.

In 1944, during World War II, German forces in Toulon and Marseille (mahr-SAY'), France, surrendered to Allied troops.

In 1963, more than 200,000 people listened as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 1968, police and anti-war demonstrators clashed in the streets of Chicago as the Democratic National Convention nominated Hubert H. Humphrey for president.

In 1987, a fire damaged the Arcadia, Fla., home of Ricky, Robert and Randy Ray, three hemophiliac brothers infected with AIDS whose court-ordered school attendance had sparked a local uproar. Academy Award-winning movie director John Huston died in Middletown, R.I., at age 81.

In 1990, an F5 tornado struck the Chicago area, killing 29 people.

In 1996, Democrats nominated President Bill Clinton for a second term at their national convention in Chicago. The troubled 15-year marriage of Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana officially ended with the issuing of a divorce decree.

In 2005, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin (NAY'-gin) ordered everyone in the city to evacuate after Hurricane Katrina grew to a monster storm.

In 2008, surrounded by an enormous, adoring crowd at Invesco Field in Denver, Barack Obama accepted the Democratic presidential nomination, promising what he called a clean break from the "broken politics in Washington and the failed policies of George W. Bush."

In 2012, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney swept to the Republican presidential nomination at a storm-delayed national convention in Tampa, Florida.

In 2013, a military jury sentenced Maj. Nidal Hasan to death for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood that claimed 13 lives. On the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial, President Barack Obama stood on the same steps as he challenged new generations to seize the cause of racial equality.

In 2017, floodwaters reached the rooflines of single-story homes as Hurricane Harvey poured rain on the Houston area for a fourth consecutive day; thousands of people had been rescued from the flooding.

Ten years ago: The Los Angeles County coroner's office announced that Michael Jackson's death was a homicide caused primarily by the powerful anesthetic propofol (PROH'-puh-fahl) and another sedative, lorazepam (lor-AZ'-uh-pam). Celebrity disc jockey Adam Goldstein, known as DJ AM, was found dead in his New York apartment; he was 36.

Five years ago: Comedian Joan Rivers was rushed to New York's Mount Sinai Hospital after she suffered cardiac arrest at a doctor's office where she'd gone for a routine outpatient procedure (Rivers died a week

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later at age 81). Acknowledging he "didn't get it right" with a two-game suspension for Ravens running back Ray Rice, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell (guh-DEHL') announced tougher penalties for players accused of domestic violence, including six weeks for a first offense and at least a year for a second. Glenn Cornick, 67, the original bass player in the rock band Jethro Tull, died in Hilo, Hawaii.

One year ago: A white former police officer, Roy Oliver, was convicted of murder for fatally shooting an unarmed black 15-year-old boy, Jordan Edwards, while firing into a car packed with teenagers in suburban Dallas; Oliver was sentenced the following day to 15 years in prison. Puerto Rico's governor raised the official death toll from Hurricane Maria in the U.S. territory from 64 to 2,975, after an independent study found that the number of people who died in the aftermath of the 2017 storm had been severely undercounted. Mourners filed into an African American history museum in Detroit for a public viewing for the late Aretha Franklin, part of a week of commemorations for the soul legend.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sonny Shroyer is 84. Actress Marla Adams is 81. Actor Ken Jenkins is 79. Former Defense Secretary William S. Cohen is 79. Actor David Soul is 76. Former MLB manager and player Lou Piniella (pihn-EHL'-uh) is 76. Actress Barbara Bach is 73. Actress Debra Mooney is 72. Singer Wayne Osmond (The Osmonds) is 68. Actor Daniel Stern is 62. Olympic gold medal figure skater Scott Hamilton is 61. Actor John Allen Nelson is 60. Actress Emma Samms is 59. Actress Jennifer Coolidge is 58. Movie director David Fincher is 57. Actress Amanda Tapping is 54. Country singer Shania (shah-NY'-uh) Twain is 54. Actor Billy Boyd is 51. Actor Jack Black is 50. Actor Jason Priestley is 50. Actor Daniel Goddard (TV: "The Young and the Restless") is 48. Olympic gold medal swimmer Janet Evans is 48. Actor J. August Richards is 46. Rock singer-musician Max Collins (Eve 6) is 41. Actress Carly Pope is 39. Country singer Jake Owen is 38. Country singer LeAnn Rimes is 37. Actress Kelly Thiebaud is 37. Actor Alfonso Herrera is 36. Actress Sarah Roemer is 35. Actor Armie Hammer is 33. Rock singer Florence Welch (Florence and the Machine) is 33. Actress Shalita Grant is 31. Country-pop singer Cassadee Pope (TV: "The Voice") is 30. Actress Katie Findlay is 29. Actor/singer Samuel Larsen is 28. Actor Kyle Massey is 28. Actress Quvenzhané (kwuh-VEHN'-zhah-nay) Wallis is 16. Reality TV star Alana Thompson, AKA "Honey Boo Boo," is 14.

Thought for Today: "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference." — Elie Wiesel (EL'-ee vee-ZEHL'), Romanian-born journalist-author.

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