

# Groton Daily Independent

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## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 3 - Tuesday

10 a.m.: Boys Golf at Lee Park  
Volleyball at Ipswich (7th grade match at 4:30 p.m., No 8th grade match, C match at 5:15, JV match at 6:30 and varsity to follow)

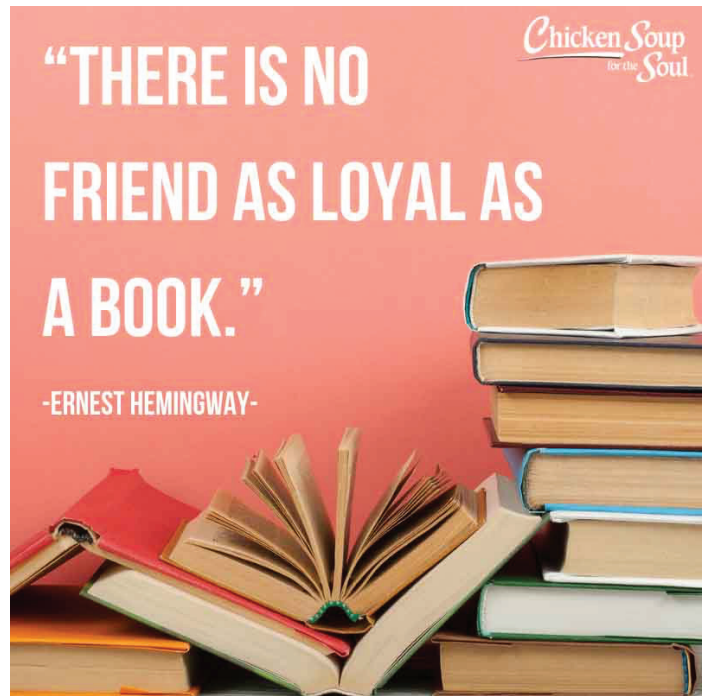
St. John's: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

**Breakfast:** Mini Pancakes

**Lunch:** Pizza Cruncher, Cooked Carrots

**Senior Menu:** Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, apricots, whole wheat bread.



### 4 - Wednesday

St. John's: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.  
Emmanuel: Lutheran Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; Parent meeting for confirmation, 7 p.m.; Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
C&MA: Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, Kid's Club, 7 p.m.

UMC: Coffee time, 9 a.m.

**Breakfast:** Stuffed Bagels

**Lunch:** Turkey Gravy, Mashed Potatoes

**Senior Menu:** Hearty Vegetable Beef Soup, Chicken Salad sandwich, Mandarin oranges, cookie.

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Ipswich  
Tigers**

**VS**



**Groton Area Tigers**

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019

7:00 p.m. at Ipswich

**SPONSORED BY DAKOTA RISK MANAGEMENT**

## Activities association seeks increased revenues for member schools

By Dana Hess

### For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — The start of a new school year means the beginning of high school sports. It won't take long before those sports are culminating in tournaments.

October will see tournaments for boys' and girls' soccer, boys' golf, girls' tennis and competitive dance and cheer. In November the seasons will end for volleyball and football.

Before the new school year even began, the South Dakota High School Activities Association budgeted for those events and more—tallying expenses and projecting revenues. Personnel in the Pierre-based office made those decisions without knowing which teams would be participating in the tournaments and, perhaps more importantly, what the weather will be like at tournament time.

### Ticket sales key to funding

Dan Swartos, executive director of the activities association, estimates that 70% of the association's \$2.8 million in operating income is generated by ticket sales to state and regional tournaments.

A former school superintendent, Swartos was accustomed to creating a school budget with a set revenue base of taxes and state aid. He controlled the budget by getting a handle on expenses.

At the association, many expenditures, like how much it costs to rent the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls or the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, are set.

"We don't have a lot of wiggle room in terms of our expenditures," Swartos said. "So how we control our budget is through controlling revenues."

About 7% of the association's budget comes from dues from member schools as well as a \$60 fee for each SDHSAA-sanctioned sport or activity the school sponsors. As the association hunts for ways to increase revenues, Swartos doesn't want to increase school dues or fees or the price of admission to state tournaments.

"We kind of hang our hat on collecting as little as we can from the schools because we know they're in tight budgetary situations as well," Swartos said.

### Cash doesn't flow easily

In an effort to be transparent and user-friendly, the association recently gathered its financial information into one section on its website, [sdhsaa.com](http://sdhsaa.com), under the About Us tab.

Listed there are balance sheets, audits, income statements and event financials. The association's cash flow chart, found in each board meeting agenda on the website, shows how difficult it is to keep the association operating when revenues come in so sporadically.

During the 2018-19 school year, the association had a positive cash flow—more revenue than expenses—in only four of the 12 months. In the prior year, there were three months of positive cash flow.

"We get our income just a few times a year," Swartos explained, as revenue comes in from state tournaments. "In between we have an investment/reserve account where we sweep money over and then replace that money once we receive income again."

### Budgeting for state tournaments

Some aspects of budgeting for a state tournament—projecting expenses and revenues—are easier than others.

"If 10 people show up, or if 10,000 people show up, it's going to cost us the same to run that tournament," said Isaac Jahn, the association's financial director.

In addition to paying for the venue and reimbursing team expenses, tournament costs include paying for officials, custodians, bands, supplies, awards and tickets.

Revenue projections are based on prior years' events at the same location.

"When's the last time we hosted this event at this site? What did the attendance look like? That's what we go off," Jahn said.

Geography can also play a part in budget projections.

"At Rapid City, we generally get less in terms of attendance and revenue because you're going to get

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fewer casual fans from the east side of the state that are going to drive all the way out there," Swartos said. "But the expenses, generally, in terms of venues, are less."

Swartos admits that there's some guesswork that goes on when it comes to projecting revenue. Ticket sales can get an unexpected boost from an acclaimed player in his last tournament or the qualification of two teams located close to the host site, making it easier for more of their fans to attend.

According to Swartos, the association takes a conservative approach when it budgets for state events. "We're going to err on the high side in terms of expenses when it comes to budgeting," Swartos said. "We'll err on the lower side in terms of income."

The last school year proved that even the best budget projections can't predict the weather.

"The last year was a tough one," Swartos said. "We had a blizzard in soccer and it felt like we had snow events every event from there on out."

Even with the rough winter, the association came within about \$4,000 on a \$2.8 million budget.

## Unique situation in football

Due to the renovation of the Dakota Dome at the University of South Dakota, this year's football championship games will be held in Brookings on the campus of South Dakota State University.

Moving such a big, popular event to a new venue could have been a budgeting nightmare. The association's projections were helped along by a disparity in venue prices.

The usual cost for the association's three-day rental of the Dome is \$50,000. This year's championships will be played over two days because the SDSU Jackrabbits have a home game on the Saturday of the high school championships. SDSU is charging \$12,000 for the use of Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

Holding to its conservative principles on budgeting, with less in expenses, the association also budgeted for less in revenue. The conditions for outdoor football in November are hard to predict.

"It could be a snowstorm and we could have a bad attendance," Swartos said. "It could be a 70-degree day and we could have great attendance. We're hoping that the difference in the venue cost will help offset ticket sales quite a bit."

## The search for new revenue

This past year the association polled member schools that hosted state tournaments about their costs. The results varied wildly. Some schools invested in hospitality rooms. Other did not. Some schools counted the cost of hiring substitute teachers to fill in for personnel who had to work at the state event. Others didn't count that cost.

Even with just one year of data, it became apparent that some schools are losing money when they host state events.

"We have a prescribed amount that we give them to host an event. A lot of times that doesn't cover all their costs," Swartos said. "Our focus has been on looking for ways to make sure that a school isn't losing money by hosting a state event."

One way to raise revenue would be to bid out a merchandise contract for state events. Currently host schools are allowed to sell T-shirts at the tournament and keep the revenue for their student council or booster club.

Based on past interest from merchandise companies, Swartos knows a bidder would pay more for the T-shirt business than host sites are currently earning.

"If we were to get a centralized contract, we would probably get quite a bit larger dollar amount guaranteed in revenue from that merchandise supplier," Swartos said, "and then we could pass that money on to the schools in terms of higher payouts that we give them for hosting to help cover their costs."

Early discussions on bidding tournaments

Another way to raise revenue and help allay the costs to host schools would be initiating a bid process for state tournaments.

"It would be looking at communities themselves to recognize that this is a pretty big boon to their community, to get their chambers of commerce involved and help offset the costs to the schools as well," Swartos said.

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Currently the association's tournaments and activities are scheduled on a rotation of sites. Communities know when they're getting a tournament so they have no incentive to invest in it.

"Even if we were able to throw a process together, we'd be starting with contracts in the 2023-24 school year," Swartos said. "We're just sort of starting to look into that right now."

This fall Swartos will attend a meeting with his counterparts from surrounding states. Some of them have bid processes for state tournaments and he plans to quiz them about how that works.

"The costs for holding state tournaments goes up every year, just like the cost for everything else in life," Swartos said. "We're trying to control those costs and this would potentially be a way to do it."

## **Sponsors play important funding role**

About 15% to 20% of the association's revenue budget comes from sponsorships. Its corporate contributors—Sanford Health, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Insurance, the South Dakota Army National Guard and Billion Auto—play a key role in keeping costs down for schools.

Corporate contributions are used to pay for catastrophic insurance. At \$7.65 per high school participant, the insurance provides each student with \$1 million in coverage.

"That helps us insure that every kid that participates in one of our events, whether they're from Buffalo or whether they're from Harrisburg, if something terrible happens, they're going to be covered up to \$1 million," Swartos said.

The cost of catastrophic insurance, \$180,000, used to be billed back to the schools.

## **Helping schools absorb costs**

As a nonprofit organization, the association works to make sure that any extra funds find their way back to member schools.

"The more net profit we have at the end of the year, the more money we give back to schools," said Jahn, the finance director.

As an example, Jahn notes that the association, through dues and fees takes in \$190,000 annually from member schools. In the 2017-18 school year the association paid back to schools \$226,000. In the 2018-19 school year weather lowered the schools' return to \$205,000.

"The more income we have, the more we give back to schools," Jahn said. "We're not just stockpiling that cash."

## 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.

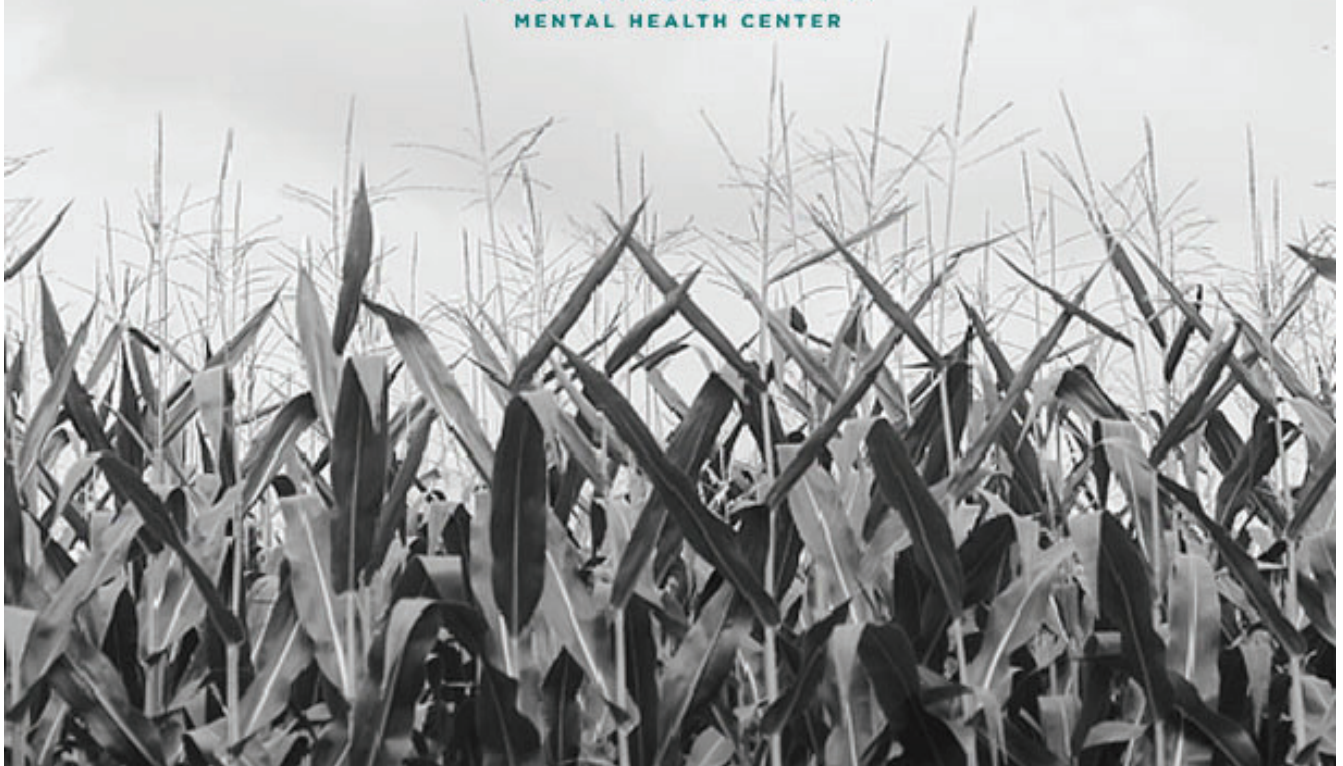
We're here to help.

**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 and Breezy

High: 72 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 43 °F

Wednesday



Sunny

High: 75 °F

Wednesday Night



Mostly Clear then Slight Chance T-storms

Low: 60 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 82 °F

## A Mild Mid-Week

Today: Partly Cloudy & Breezy. Highs 70s.

Tonight: Mostly Clear with Light Winds. Lows in 40s, to around 50.

Wednesday: Partly Cloudy & Breezy  
West Highs 70s east 80s west

Surface high pressure building in today will provide for breezy conditions across the area. Slackening winds and mostly clear skies should lead to chilly temperatures tonight. Wednesday should bring a modest rebound to temperatures.

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## Today in Weather History

September 3, 1974: An early freeze occurred across Minnesota and Wisconsin as temperatures fell into the upper 20s to the lower 30s. The cold was the earliest freeze on record in some parts of the state ending the growing season. The most significant damage was to the soybean and corn crop. Damage estimates were more than \$100 million.

September 3, 1999: Training thunderstorms resulted in extensive flash flooding in a 30 to 40-mile wide band from Fort Pierre in southeast Stanley County to Hecla in northeast Brown County. Rainfall amounts in this corridor ranged from 3 to 7 inches. As a result, the communities of Blunt in Hughes County and Onida in Sully County were severely flooded. Most of the homes and businesses were inundated throughout Blunt and Onida causing severe damage. Only a few houses in these communities were spared from receiving water in their basements. Most homes also experienced sewer backup. The sewer systems in both Onida and Blunt were flooded and shut down. Many people had to go to temporary shelters as a result of the flooding. Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had a lot of street flooding resulting in road closures and detours. Also, several basements in Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had the sewer backup. The torrential rains flooded many township and county roads along with several state and U.S. highways. Sections of Highways 14, 20, 83, and 1806 along with many other roads in central and northeast South Dakota had to be closed due to the flooding. Many of the township and county roads had massive amounts of gravel washed away. Some bridges received minor damage with some culverts also lost. A few pets and livestock were also lost as a result of the flooding. Many acres of crops were flooded throughout the area. Some rainfall amounts included 3 inches at Fort Pierre, 4 inches at Hecla and in the Aberdeen Area, 5 inches at the Sand Lake Wildlife Refuge and Blunt, 6 inches at Seneca, 7 inches 10 miles southeast of Gettysburg and at Onida.

1821 - A hurricane made landfall at Long Island, near Kennedy Airport, then moved through western Connecticut. The hurricane produced a record tide at New York City. (David Ludlum)

1953 - The temperature at Erie PA reached 99 degrees, and Stroudsburg PA established a state record for September with a reading of 106 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Denver, CO, received 4.2 inches of snow, their earliest snow of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1970 - During the early evening hours, in the midst of a severe hailstorm at Coffeyville KS, a stone 17.5 inches in circumference and nearly two pounds in weight was recovered. It was the largest measured hailstone in U.S. weather records. Average stone size from the storm was five inches in diameter, with another stone reportedly eight inches in diameter. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Temperatures dipped into the 40s and 50s for morning lows across much of the eastern half of the country, with eleven cities reporting record lows for the date. Pellston MI tied Gunnison CO for honors as the cold spot in the nation with a low of 30 degrees. Smoke from forest fires darkened skies in southern Oregon and northern California. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Sixteen cities in the northwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 89 degrees at Stampede Pass WA and 116 degrees at Redding CA established records for the month of September. Readings of 98 degrees at Spokane WA and 100 degrees at Yakima WA equalled records for September. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from Minnesota to Nebraska during the day and evening. Evening thunderstorms in Nebraska produced wind gusts to 100 mph at Valentine and Gretna, and produced baseball size hail at Lewellen. Thunderstorms in Arizona produced 2.20 inches of rain in forty minutes at Green Valley, and wind gusts to 60 mph. Eight cities in Texas and Florida reported record high temperatures for the date, including Victoria TX and San Antonio TX, each with a reading of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



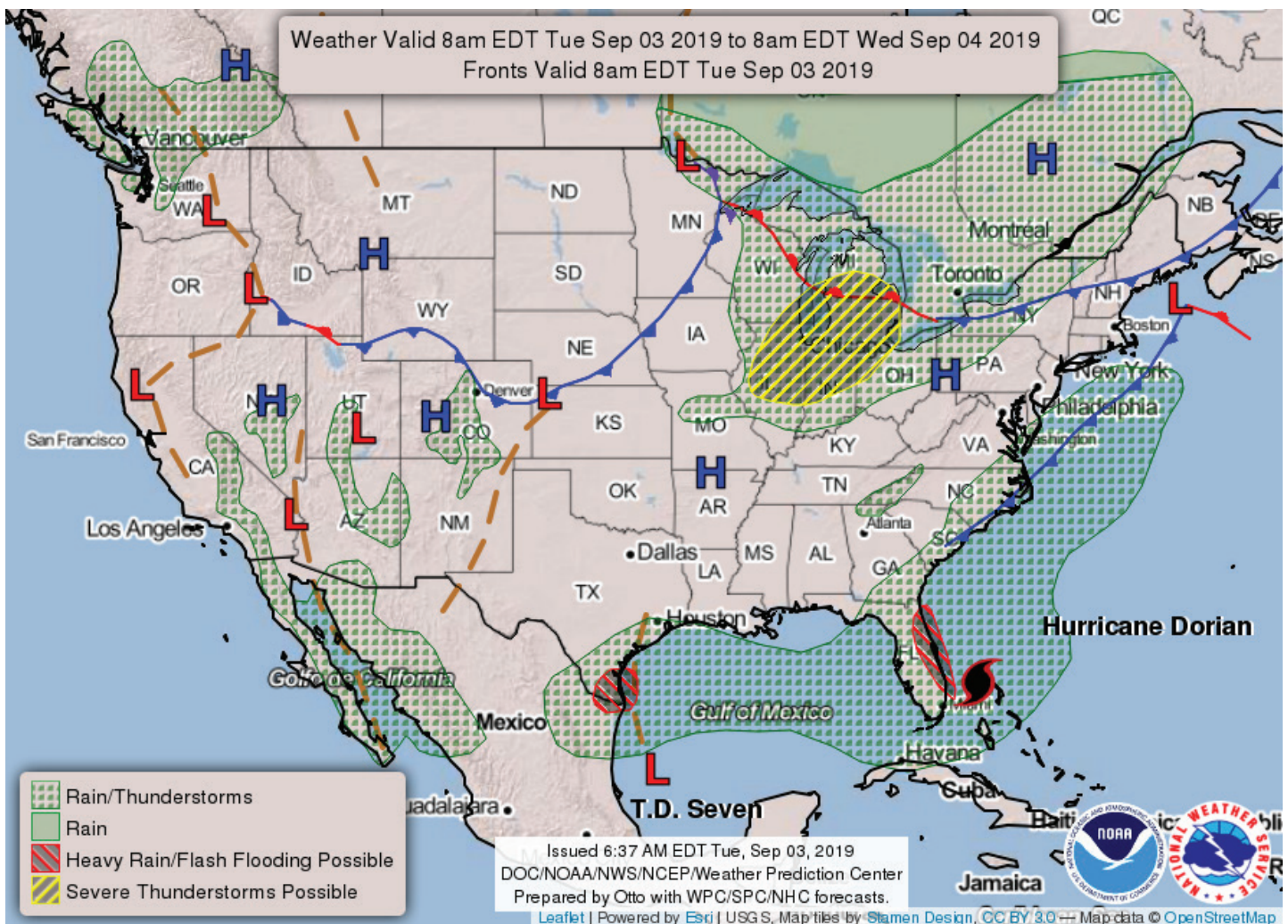
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 76 °F at 3:45 PM**  
**Low Temp: 58 °F at 6:58 AM**  
**Wind: 23 mph at 2:22 PM**  
**Day Rain: 0.00**

**Record High: 102° in 1897**  
**Record Low: 31° in 1974**  
**Average High: 77°F**  
**Average Low: 51°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept.: 0.16**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 16.45**  
**Precip Year to Date: 19.76**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:08 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:59 a.m.**



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## A SPINE AND A SPIRIT

Kenneth was a shy eight-year-old who loved to read. On one occasion his Sunday school teacher asked him to read part of the story of Daniel. In reading one of the verses, he accidentally read an exceptional spine was within him rather than an excellent spirit was within him. Both phrases, however, clearly describe who Daniel was.

Daniel was recognized for his wise insight, great wisdom, and prophetic visions. As he rose to power and prestige with the king, the other palace administrators became jealous of his privileged position. In their effort to get rid of Daniel, they were successful in persuading the king to outlaw prayer. The fact that prayer was outlawed did not matter to Daniel, and rather than give in to political pressure, he continued to pray boldly and publicly to the Lord, his God.

We all recall with pleasure the amazing miracle God performed by protecting him when he was thrown into a den of hungry lions. God was with him and guarded him against any harm. Daniel was faithful to God and God, in turn, was faithful to him and blessed him.

Daniel was able to show his exceptional spine every time he was challenged to surrender to the demands of a sinful world. It was the excellent spirit that came from his relationship with God that gave him his exceptional spine. He knew that His God was sovereign, and would guide him and give him His favor for being faithful.

Prayer: Father, give me a faith that will not flinch and a spine that will not shrink when tempted to compromise. Assure me of Your presence and power as I honor You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Daniel 6:3 Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

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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)

## News from the Associated Press

### **Black Hills National Forest getting 350 more acres**

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service has purchased an additional 350 acres for the Black Hills National Forest for preservation of wildlife habitat and protection of at-risk watersheds and impaired streams.

The Forest Service announced the purchase Wednesday from the Trust for Public Land, the Rapid City Journal reported. The land, which was owned by the Myrle G. Case Trust, care of Wells Fargo Bank, was bought with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Black Hills National Forest has about 1.2 million acres.

In addition to preserving wildlife habitat and protecting watersheds and streams, officials said the land will also be used to provide more recreational opportunities for the public.

The Rapid City Journal reports the parcels are in an impaired watershed area called Spring Creek, and that Forest Service officials will work on improving an impaired stream — Tenderfoot Creek. The creek has 3.6 miles that flow within the parcels. It's all part of collaboration among municipal, state and federal agencies to bring Spring Creek in compliance with state water-quality standards, Forest Service officials said.

The purchase of the 350 acres is also part of the Revised 1997 Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Phase II Amendment. It states: "In cooperation with other landowners, strive for improved landownership and access that benefit both public and private landowners."

The nine parcels from the purchase are about 5 miles north of the city of Custer.

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

### **Shattering Taliban attack in Kabul even as US deal nears**

**By RAHIM FAIEZ and CARA ANNA Associated Press**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban on Tuesday defended their suicide bombing against an international compound in the Afghan capital that killed at least 16 civilians and wounded 119 people, just hours after a U.S. envoy said he and the militant group had reached a deal "in principle" to end America's longest war.

Angry Kabul residents whose homes were shredded in the explosion climbed over the buckled blast wall and set part of the compound, a frequent target of the militants, on fire. Thick smoke rose from the Green Village, home to several foreign organizations and guesthouses, whose location has become a peril to nearby local residents as well.

"People were screaming and saying, 'My children are trapped in the rubble,'" one witness, Faiz Ahmad, said. A large crater was left in the street.

The Taliban continue such attacks even as a U.S. envoy says the deal with the insurgents only needs the approval of President Donald Trump to become a reality. The accord would include a troop withdrawal that the Taliban already portray as their victory.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told The Associated Press that "we understand that peace talks are going on ... but they must also understand that we are not weak and if we enter into talks ... we enter from a strong position."

He said the attack was a response to raids by U.S. and Afghan forces on civilians in other parts of the country. While he acknowledged there should be less harm to civilians, he said they shouldn't be living near such an important foreign compound.

Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said some 400 foreigners had been rescued after the suicide bomber targeted the compound late on Monday. Five other attackers were shot and killed by security forces after the suicide bomber detonated a tractor packed with explosives, he said.

The attack occurred just hours after the U.S. envoy briefed the Afghan government on an agreement

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"in principle" with the Taliban that would see 5,000 U.S. troops withdraw from five bases in the country within 135 days of a final deal. Between 14,000 and 13,000 troops are currently in the country.

The Green Village also was hit by a suicide car bomber in January, again as the U.S. envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, was visiting the capital to brief the Afghan government on his negotiations with the Taliban on ending nearly 18 years of fighting.

Hours before Monday's attack, Khalilzad showed a draft deal to the Afghan president after declaring that they are "at the threshold of an agreement" following the end of the ninth round of U.S.-Taliban talks in Qatar. The agreement still needs Trump's approval.

There was no immediate comment from Khalilzad after the blast that was strongly condemned by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

Shaken Kabul residents questioned whether the Taliban will respect any agreement, especially after foreign troops withdraw from the country.

"This what the Taliban are up to in Afghanistan; totally committed to total destruction. Can they be trusted!!??" presidential spokesman Sediq Seddiqi tweeted.

The Taliban carry out such attacks even as the militant group appears to be getting what it wants in a deal with the U.S. — a troop withdrawal. The group wants all of the some 20,000 U.S. and NATO troops out of Afghanistan immediately, while the U.S. seeks a withdrawal in phases that would depend on the Taliban meeting certain conditions such as a reduction in violence.

Attacks have surged in recent months, including Taliban assaults on two provincial capitals over the weekend, as the group seeks to strengthen its negotiating position not only with the U.S. but with the Afghan government in the even more challenging intra-Afghan talks that are meant to follow a U.S.-Taliban deal on Afghanistan's future. The Taliban have rejected talking with the government so far, dismissing it as a U.S. puppet.

Some analysts also have warned that some factions of the Taliban might be expressing displeasure with the U.S. deal, though Taliban political leaders at the talks in Qatar have insisted that their tens of thousands of fighters would respect whatever agreement is reached.

The militant group is at its strongest since the U.S.-led invasion to topple its government after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. The Taliban now control or hold sway over roughly half of Afghanistan.

The United Nations and others say civilians are suffering, often caught in the cross-fire as government forces, backed by the U.S., pursue the militants with airstrikes and raids. Afghanistan was the world's deadliest conflict in 2018.

The Taliban spokesman, Mujahid, said that whenever there is a reduction of violence in Afghan cities, the government asserts that the militant group is no longer able to carry out attacks because of stronger Afghan security forces.

"They should realize that they can't stop the Taliban," Mujahid said. "Hopefully they must understand that by now."

## Neighbor: Texas gunman was 'violent, aggressive person'

By PAUL J. WEBER and JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — The gunman in a West Texas rampage "was on a long spiral of going down" and had been fired from his oil services job the morning he killed seven people, calling 911 both before and after the shooting began, authorities said.

Officers killed 36-year-old Seth Aaron Ator on Saturday outside a busy Odessa movie theater after a spate of violence that spanned 10 miles (16 kilometers), injuring around two dozen people in addition to the dead.

FBI special agent Christopher Combs said Monday that Ator called the agency's tip line as well as local police dispatch on Saturday after being fired from Journey Oilfield Services, making "rambling statements about some of the atrocities that he felt that he had gone through."

"He was on a long spiral of going down," Combs said. "He didn't wake up Saturday morning and walk

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into his company and then it happened. He went to that company in trouble.”

Fifteen minutes after the call to the FBI, Combs said, a Texas state trooper unaware of the calls to authorities tried pulling over Ator for failing to signal a lane change. That was when Ator pointed an AR-style rifle toward the rear window of his car and fired on the trooper, starting a terrifying police chase as Ator sprayed bullets into passing cars, shopping plazas and killed a U.S. Postal Service employee while hijacking her mail truck.

Combs said Ator “showed up to work enraged” but did not point to any specific source of his anger. Ator’s home on the outskirts of Odessa was a corrugated metal shack along a dirt road surrounded by trailers, mobile homes and oil pump jacks. On Monday, a green car without a rear windshield was parked out front, the entire residence cordoned off by police tape.

Combs described it as a “strange residence” that reflected “what his mental state was going into this.” Combs said he did not know whether Ator had been diagnosed with any prior mental health problems.

A neighbor, Rocio Gutierrez, told The Associated Press that Ator was “a violent, aggressive person” that would shoot at animals, mostly rabbits, at all hours of the night

“We were afraid of him because you could tell what kind of person he was just by looking at him,” Gutierrez said. “He was not nice, he was not friendly, he was not polite.”

The daylight attack over the Labor Day holiday weekend came just weeks after another mass shooting killed 22 people in the Texas border city of El Paso. Authorities have not said how Ator obtained the gun used in the shooting, but Ator had previously failed a federal background check for a firearm, said John Wester, an agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Wester did not say when Ator failed the background check or why.

Online court records show Ator was arrested in 2001 for a misdemeanor offense that would not have prevented him from legally purchasing firearms in Texas. Federal law defines nine categories that would legally prevent a person from owning a gun, which include being convicted of a felony, a misdemeanor domestic violence charge, being adjudicated as a “mental defect” or committed to a mental institution, the subject of a restraining order or having an active warrant. Authorities have said Ator had no active warrants at the time of the shooting.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted Monday that “we must keep guns out of criminals’ hands” — words similar to his remarks that followed the El Paso shooting on Aug. 3, when he said firearms must be kept from “deranged killers.” But Abbott, a Republican and avid gun rights supporter, has been noncommittal about tightening Texas gun laws.

Abbott tweeted that Ator didn’t go through a background check for the weapon he used in Odessa. He did not elaborate, and a spokesman referred questions to the Texas Department of Public Safety, which didn’t immediately respond for comment.

Odessa Police Chief Michael Gerke said Ator’s company also called 911 on Saturday after Ator was fired but that Ator had already taken off by the time police showed up.

“Basically, they were complaining on each other because they had a disagreement over the firing,” Gerke said.

Gerke said he believes Ator had also been recently fired from a different job but did not have any details.

Authorities said they remain unable to provide an exact timeline of the shooting, including how much time passed between the traffic stop at 3:13 p.m. and police killing Ator at the movie theater.

Odessa officials Monday released the names of those killed, who were between 15 and 57 years old. Among the dead were Edwin Peregrino, 25, who ran out of his parents’ home to see what the commotion was; mail carrier Mary Granados, 29, slain in her U.S. Postal Service truck; and 15-year-old high school student Leilah Hernandez, who was walking out of an auto dealership.

Ator fired at random as he drove in the area of Odessa and Midland, two cities more than 300 miles (482 kilometers) west of Dallas. Police used a marked SUV to ram the mail truck outside the Cinergy Movie Theater in Odessa, disabling the vehicle. The gunman then fired at police, wounding two officers before he was killed.

Police said Ator's arrest in 2001 was in the county where Waco is located, hundreds of miles east of Odessa. Online court records show he was charged then with misdemeanor criminal trespass and evading arrest. He entered guilty pleas in a deferred prosecution agreement where the charge was waived after he served 24 months of probation, according to records.

The weekend shooting brings the number of mass killings in the U.S. so far this year to 25, matching the number in all of 2018, according to The AP/USATODAY/Northeastern University mass murder database. The number of people killed this year has already reached 142, surpassing the 140 people who were killed all of last year. The database tracks homicides where four or more people are killed, not including the offender.

Weber reported from Austin. Associated Press journalists Michael Balsamo, Meghan Hoyer and Michael Biesecker in Washington and Tim Talley in Oklahoma City contributed to this report.

## Lam says she hasn't resigned because it's easy way out

By KATIE TAM Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Tuesday she has never tendered her resignation to China over the anti-government protests that have roiled the city for three months.

Lam was asked repeatedly at a news briefing about a Reuters report on Monday citing leaked audio of her telling business leaders recently that she would quit if she had a choice.

"I have never tendered a resignation to the central people's government. I have not even contemplated to discuss a resignation ... the choice of not resigning was my own choice," Lam said when asked why Beijing refused to let her quit.

"I know it is not going to be an easy path, and that's why I have said that I have not given myself the choice to take an easier path and that is to leave."

Lam also slammed the recording and leaking of her comments from the private meeting as "unacceptable."

Lam was elected as Hong Kong's chief executive by a pro-Beijing committee of Hong Kong elites, and the mainland government has spoken in support of her government and the city's police force throughout the sometimes-violent protests.

The demonstrators who have filled parks and streets regularly since early June want democratic reforms to Hong Kong's government and an independent inquiry into police actions against protesters.

Lam has come under withering criticism for pushing an extradition bill that would allow Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China for trials. She has suspended the bill, but the protesters want it entirely withdrawn.

Clashes between police and protesters have become increasingly violent, with demonstrators throwing gasoline bombs and rods at officers in protests last weekend. Authorities in turn have employed water cannons, tear gas, rubber bullets and batons. More than 1,100 people have been detained.

Lam said Tuesday that the "one country, two systems" formula under which the former British colony was returned to China in 1997 would be upheld. The formula promised greater civil rights in Hong Kong than those afforded to mainland Chinese, but Hong Kong residents have expressed worries that promise is eroding.

She also said the Chinese government believes that the Hong Kong government can overcome the conflict on its own, without any interference. Some have expressed fear the Chinese military would crack down on the protests.

Lam said she doesn't know how long it will take to end the civil disobedience but that she remains confident of restoring law and order.

The mostly young protesters say that a degree of violence is necessary to get the government's attention after peaceful rallies were futile. Lam's administration says the violence must end before any dialogue can begin.

In Beijing, the mainland office responsible for Hong Kong slammed the escalating violence and warned that China will "not sit idly by" if the situation worsens.

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Yang Guang, spokesman for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, told a news conference there were elements of "terrorism" and "clear features of a color revolution" among the radical "separatists" in Hong Kong.

He distinguished the "thugs and rioters" from the large number of people who participated in peaceful demonstrations, saying their motive now is to paralyze the Hong Kong government and end the "one country, two systems" policy.

A spokeswoman, Xu Luying, said Beijing supports Lam's government in "using all necessary laws," when asked about the possible imposition of colonial-era emergency laws that provide greater power to detain people, impose curfews and censor the media.

She said Hong Kong's government can request help from the Chinese garrison to end the worst crisis since the city returned to Chinese rule, and that this would not mean the end of Hong Kong's autonomy as the deployment is provided for under current laws.

Xu also raised the possibility of invoking Article 18 of the Basic Law, Hong Kong's constitution, which stipulates that the National People's Congress can decide that a region is in a state of emergency that's beyond the control of the region's government, which effectively means that Beijing can intervene without Hong Kong's request.

"If the situation continues to deteriorate and morphs into a turmoil that endangers national sovereignty and security, the central government will never sit idly by," she said.

Tens of thousands of students clad in gas masks and hard helmets along with their formal school uniforms, boycotted the first day of classes Monday as part of a citywide strike. Workers also participated in a rally at a public park adjacent to the government headquarters.

The prolonged protests have hurt Hong Kong's economy amid a slowdown in the Chinese economy and its trade war with the United States.

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Associated Press writers Yanan Wang in Beijing and Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, contributed to this report.

## Deadly Dorian pounds relentlessly at desperate Bahamas

By **RAMON ESPINOSA, DÁNICA COTO and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN** Associated Press

FREEPORT, Bahamas (AP) — Hurricane Dorian remained stationary early Tuesday, its relentless winds causing catastrophic damage in the northwest Bahamas, flooding the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama with walls of water reaching the second floors of buildings, trapping people in attics and drowning the Grand Bahama airport under 6 feet of water. At least five people died and 21 injured people were airlifted to the capital by the U.S. Coast Guard, Bahamas officials said.

"We are in the midst of a historic tragedy," Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said. "The devastation is unprecedented and extensive."

Winds and rain continued to pound the northwest islands, sending people fleeing the floodwaters from one shelter to another.

By Tuesday morning, the storm's top sustained winds had dipped to 120 mph (193 kph), making it a Category 3 hurricane, but it remained almost stationary. It was centered 25 miles (40 kilometers) northeast of Freeport — roughly the same distance from the city as at 9 a.m. Monday. Hurricane-force winds extended out as far as 45 mph (75 kilometers) in some directions.

Hundreds of thousands of people in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina were ordered to evacuate before the storm rolls up the Eastern Seaboard, bringing the possibility of life-threatening storm-surge flooding even if the storm's heart stays offshore, as forecast. Several large airports announced closures and many flights were cancelled for Monday and Tuesday.

The U.S. Coast Guard airlifted at least 21 people injured on Abaco Island, which Dorian hit on Sunday with sustained winds of 185 mph (295 kph) and gusts up to 220 mph (355 kph), a strength matched only by the Labor Day hurricane of 1935, before storms were named. Scientists say climate change generally



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has been fueling more powerful and wetter storms and the only recorded storm more powerful than Dorian was Hurricane Allen in 1980, with 190 mph (305 kph) winds, though it did not make landfall at that strength.

Abaco and Grand Bahama, neither much more than 40 feet (12 meters) above sea level at their highest points, are home to some 70,000 people.

Bahamian officials said they received a "tremendous" number of calls from people in flooded homes. One radio station said it received more than 2,000 distress messages, including reports of a 5-month-old baby stranded on a roof and a woman with six grandchildren who cut a hole in a roof to escape rising floodwaters. At least two designated storm shelters flooded.

Dorian killed one person in Puerto Rico, at the start of its path through the Caribbean.

Minnis said many homes and buildings were severely damaged or destroyed, but it was too early to say how much the rebuilding effort would cost. Choppy brown floodwaters reached roofs and the top of palm trees on Monday.

Parliament member Iram Lewis told The Associated Press his greatest fear was that waters would keep rising overnight and that stranded people would lose contact with officials as cellphone batteries died.

"It is scary," he said, adding that Grand Bahama's airport was 6 feet (almost 2 meters) underwater and that people were moving shelters as floodwaters kept surging. "We're definitely in dire straits."

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Dorian was expected to start moving slowly to the west-northwest Tuesday while continuing to pound Grand Bahama Island into the morning.

The Center said the track would carry the storm "dangerously close to the Florida east coast late Tuesday through Wednesday evening and then move dangerously close to the Georgia and South Carolina coasts on Wednesday night and Thursday."

While it was expected to stay offshore, meteorologist Daniel Brown cautioned that "only a small deviation" could draw the storm's dangerous core toward land.

A mandatory evacuation of entire South Carolina coast took effect Monday covering about 830,000 people, and transportation officials reversed all lanes of Interstate 26 from Charleston to head inland earlier than planned after noticing traffic jams from evacuees and vacationers heading home on Labor Day, Gov. Henry McMaster said.

A few hours later, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp ordered mandatory evacuations for that state's Atlantic coast, also starting at midday Monday.

Authorities in Florida also ordered some mandatory evacuations.

FlightAware.com reported that that airlines had cancelled 1,361 flights within, into or out of the US by Monday afternoon — vastly above an average day — with Fort Lauderdale International the most affected, and airlines had already cancelled 1,057 flights for Tuesday, many involving Orlando, Fort Lauderdale and Miami airports.

A hurricane watch was in effect for Florida's East Coast from Deerfield Beach north to South Santee River in South Carolina. A storm surge watch was extended northward to South Santee River in South Carolina. Lake Okeechobee was under a tropical storm watch.

A National Guard official, John Anderson, said many people were complying with the evacuation orders. "We have not seen much resistance at all," he said.

Coto reported from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Weissenstein from Nassau, Bahamas. Associated Press journalists Tim Ayles in Freeport and Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed to this report.

## Former Navy SEAL enters Yale as a 52-year-old freshman

By PAT EATON-ROBB Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Former Navy SEAL James Hatch says heading to class as a freshman at Yale University is just about as nerve-racking as preparing for the uncertainty of combat.

At 52 years old, Hatch does not fit the profile of the traditional Yale freshman.

"My experience in academia is somewhat limited, at best," he said. "But I want to learn, and I feel this can make me a better person. I also feel my life experience, maybe with my maturity — which my wife

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would say is laughable — I think I can help some of the young people out.”

Hatch’s journey to the Ivy League has been serpentine.

He joined the military out of high school, became a SEAL and spent just short of 26 years in the Navy, fighting in Afghanistan and other hot spots.

His military career ended after he was seriously wounded in 2009 during a mission to find Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who had walked off his post.

Eighteen surgeries and some notoriety followed after his story became public during Bergdahl’s trial. He suffered from serious post-traumatic stress, fell into drinking and drugs, and even attempted suicide.

But he got help from professionals and his family, he said, and is now better able to cope.

Hatch has authored a memoir, become a speaker and runs Spikes K-9 Fund, a nonprofit organization that helps cover the health care costs and provides ballistic vests for police and military dogs.

It’s a cause he has been passionate about since being a dog handler in the military. He credits dogs with saving his life several times, including on his final mission, when one alerted him to the position of the enemy.

Hatch was admitted to Yale after applying to be an Eli Whitney scholar, a program for nontraditional students who have had their educational careers interrupted.

“I was shocked to get accepted,” he said. “But my wife told me I would be silly not to take this opportunity, and she’s right. So I’m going to do my best, get in there and start swinging.”

Hatch is in Yale’s Directed Studies program, which teaches students how to analyze great texts and write persuasive essays through courses in philosophy, literature, and historical and political thought. Tuition and other costs are being covered by the G.I. Bill, scholarships from veterans groups and Yale.

He will attend classes with his PTSD service dog, Mina, who he said has already become popular with other students. His biggest worries, he said, are that he’s too old and might not fit in or be able to do the work.

“I think everyone there has a little bit of this ‘impostor syndrome’ where you feel, ‘Oh, my gosh, am I good enough to be here,’” he said.

But Hatch is just the type of person the Yale wants, said Patricia Wei, the director of admissions for the Eli Whitney Students Program.

“He brings just an incredibly different perspective,” she said. “We don’t have anyone here that is like Jimmy and just his life and professional experiences will add tremendously to the Yale classroom, to the Yale community.”

Hatch said he believes having a Yale degree will open more doors for him in seeking funding for his charity work. He also believes it might broaden his world view and help get him a seat at the table when government officials start discussing where and when to use the U.S. military.

“I feel like the political folks and the senior military folks spend so much time in that particular fish tank, that they some of the givens in their mind, should not be givens,” he said. “I believe getting a classical education can help fill in my base and combined with my military experiences can be the most beneficial thing I can have. I think I have a voice that should be heard.”

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. HURRICANE STILL DEVASTATING BAHAMAS

Dorian came to a catastrophic daylong halt over the islands, killing at least five people with 21 injured airlifted by the U.S. Coast Guard. People in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina were ordered to evacuate before the storm rolls up the Eastern Seaboard.

### 2. TRAGIC SCUBA DIVING HOLIDAY

At least 25 people were confirmed dead and nine others still missing after a boat fire near an island off the Southern California coast.

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## 3. BREXIT SHOWDOWN AS DEADLINE NEARS

Opposition parties are challenging Prime Minister Boris Johnson's insistence that the U.K. will leave the European Union on Oct. 31 even without a deal.

## 4. WHERE RISING TENSIONS COULD LEAD TO CONFRONTATIONS

The U.S. Navy is trying to put together a new coalition to counter what it sees as a renewed maritime threat from Iran in the Persian Gulf. Experts say an "accidental escalation" of hostilities is a plausible scenario.

## 5. NEIGHBOR: GUNMAN WAS 'VIOLENT, AGGRESSIVE'

The man who carried out a deadly West Texas shooting rampage "was on a long spiral of going down," the FBI says.

## 6. SELL YOUR WEAPONS HERE

New Zealand is buying back tens of thousands of guns from owners. Laws banning military-style semi-automatics were rushed through after a lone gunman killed 51 people at two Christchurch mosques in March.

## 7. CHECKING IF CASH GIVEAWAYS WORK

An experiment testing the impact of "universal basic income," an old idea getting new life thanks to the 2020 presidential race, is underway in a California city.

## 8. IN SYRIA, RESILIENCE AMID TRAGEDIES

A father, whose loss of 9-month-old twins in a poison gas attack in April 2017 was seen around the world in viral videos, is still facing hardship caused by his country's civil war, now in its ninth year.

## 9. NO LAUGHING MATTER

Comic actor Kevin Hart's wife says he's "going to be just fine" following a weekend car crash that left him with a major back injury.

## 10. AVICII'S MUSIC TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

A benefit concert for suicide prevention featuring the music of the late DJ and producer is being organized in Sweden.

## At least 25 confirmed dead in boat fire in California

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — At least 25 people were confirmed dead and nine others still missing after a tragic boat fire early Monday near an island off the Southern California coast.

The dive-boat Conception, far out to sea in the middle of the night, became fully engulfed in flames as 30 passengers on a recreational scuba diving trip slept below deck.

"You couldn't ask for a worse situation," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said at a Monday news conference.

Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Kroll says at least 25 people on a recreational scuba-diving trip died and the search will continue through the night for the nine others still missing. He says five others have been found but not recovered due to unsafe conditions under the boat, which sank in about 60 feet (18 meters) of water. Kroll says these numbers are based on initial reports and authorities are awaiting final counts from the autopsies.

Five crew members sleeping on the top deck jumped off and took a dinghy to safety. Two had minor injuries.

Meanwhile, authorities opened a family assistance center where counseling was being provided to relatives of those onboard. None of their names were immediately released.

The missing and dead were among 39 passengers and crew who had departed Santa Barbara's Channel Islands Harbor on Saturday aboard the boat Conception for a Labor Day weekend scuba-diving trip.

The fire broke out about 3 a.m. as the Conception was anchored off Santa Cruz Island, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles. The crew appeared to quickly call for help.

"The call was garbled, it was not that clear, but we were able to get some information out of it to send vessels," said Coast Guard Petty Officer Mark Barney.

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Capt. Paul Amaral of the vessel assistance company TowBoatUS also launched a fast boat from Ventura Harbor, but it was some 30 miles (48 kilometers) away. By the time it got there around 5 a.m. a Coast Guard helicopter and a fireboat were on scene.

Amaral said he first searched the water and shoreline, then turned back to the Conception, which was adrift and going aground. He attached a line and pulled it into deeper water where the fireboats could reach.

"We launched that boat knowing that the vessel was on fire, lots of people aboard," he told The Associated Press.

The five crew members, meanwhile, had taken their dingy to a private fishing boat, The Grape Escape, that was anchored near the north shore of Santa Cruz Island.

That boat's owners, Bob and Shirley Hansen, told The New York Times they were asleep when they heard pounding on the side of their 60-foot (18-meter) vessel about 3:30 a.m. and discovered the frightened crew members.

"When we looked out, the other boat was totally engulfed in flames, from stem to stern," Hansen said. "I could see the fire coming through holes on the side of the boat. There were these explosions every few beats. You can't prepare yourself for that. It was horrendous."

Hansen said two of the crew members went back toward the Conception looking for survivors but found no one.

Four bodies had injuries consistent with drowning, Kroll said.

It wasn't immediately clear when the other bodies that have been found might be retrieved or when divers could search the boat for others.

"It's upside down in relatively shallow water with receding tides that are moving it around," Brown said. Investigators have not yet determined a cause for the fire.

The 75-foot (23-meter) Conception was on a three-day excursion to the chain of rugged, wind-swept isles that form Channel Islands National Park in the Pacific Ocean west of Los Angeles. The fire broke out as the boat sat anchored in Platt's Harbor off Santa Cruz Island.

The Conception, based in Santa Barbara Harbor on the mainland, was owned by Santa Barbara-based Truth Aquatics, founded in 1974. A memorial outside Truth Aquatics in the Santa Barbara Harbor grew Monday night as mourners came to pay their respects.

Dave Reid, who runs an underwater camera manufacturing business with his wife, Terry Schuller, and has traveled on the Conception and two other boats in Truth Aquatics' fleet, said he considered all three among the best and safest.

"When you see the boats they are always immaculate," he said. "I wouldn't hesitate at all to go on one again. Of all the boat companies, that would be one of the ones I wouldn't think this would happen to."

His wife said Truth Aquatics crews have always been meticulous in going over safety instructions at the beginning of every trip she's been on.

"They tell you where the life jackets are, how to put them on ... the exits, where the fire extinguishers are, on every single trip," said Schuller. "They are the best, the absolute best."

Both said the sleeping area is comfortable but tight, however, with bunk beds stacked next to one another on the lowest deck. Coming up to the top deck to get off requires navigating a narrow stairway with only one exit.

If the fire was fast-moving, Reid said, it's very likely divers couldn't escape and the crew couldn't get to them.

Coast Guard records show all safety violations from the last five years were quickly addressed by the boat's owners. Some safety violations were related to fire safety. A 2016 inspection resulted in owners replacing the heat detector in the galley and one in 2014 cited a leaky fire hose.

The Conception was chartered by Worldwide Diving Adventures, which says on its website that it has been taking divers on such expeditions since the 1970s.

Andy Taylor, owner of Blue Water Hunter Dive Shop in Santa Barbara, said he discussed dive conditions with several people Friday as they were buying some last-minute things before boarding the Concep-

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tion. Taylor said he often sends divers to Truth Aquatics for trips and he has friends who have crewed on the Conception.

He said he was on the phone all day Monday as friends checked to make sure he wasn't on the boat.

"Right now it's a big question of who was on there and who wasn't," he said. "I'm scared to see the list of names, honestly."

Associated Press writers John Antczak, John Rogers, Frank Baker and Justin Pritchard in Los Angeles, Stephanie Mullen in San Francisco, Michael R. Blood in Oxnard, California, and Michael Balsamo in Washington contributed to this story.

## In California, a buzzy campaign idea gets a test run

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang wants to give cash to every American each month.

Susie Garza has never heard of Yang. But since February, she's been getting \$500 a month from a nonprofit in Stockton, California, as part of an experiment that offers something unusual in presidential politics: a trial run of a campaign promise, highlighting the benefits and challenges in real time.

Garza can spend the money however she wants. She uses \$150 of it to pay for her cellphone and another \$100 or so to pay off her dog's veterinarian bills. She spends the rest on her two grandsons now that she can afford to buy them birthday presents online and let them get the big bag of chips at the 7-Eleven.

"I've never been able to do that. I thought it was just the coolest thing," said Garza, who is unemployed and previously was addicted to drugs, though she said she has been sober for 18 years following a stint in prison. "I like it because I feel more independent, like I'm in charge. I really have something that's my own."

Garza is part of an experiment testing the impact of "universal basic income," an old idea getting new life thanks to the 2020 presidential race, although Stockton's project is an independent one and has no connection to any presidential race.

Yang, a tech entrepreneur, has anchored his longshot bid with a proposal to give \$1,000 in cash to every American, saying the payments will shield workers from the pain of certain job losses caused by automation. The idea has helped him win unexpected support and even muscle out some better-known candidates from the debate stages. His proposal isn't too far off from one by U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, one of the top contenders for the Democratic nomination, who has a proposal to give up to \$500 a month to working families.

Stockton, once known as the foreclosure capital of the country and for one of the nation's largest municipal bankruptcies, is a step ahead of both candidates. In February, the city launched the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration, a pilot program spearheaded by a new mayor and financed in part by the nonprofit led by Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes. The city chose 125 people who earned at or below the city's median household income of \$46,033. They get the money on a debit card on the 15th of each month.

"I think poverty is immoral, I think it is antiquated and I think it shouldn't exist," said Michael Tubbs, the city's 29-year-old Democratic mayor.

Tubbs' personal story includes a cousin who was killed, a father who is in prison and a mother who, as a teenager, raised him with the help of multiple jobs. He found his way to Stanford and public service, where he persuaded his beleaguered city to sign on to a provocative new idea: guaranteed cash.

Stockton residents, who have elected Republican mayors for 16 out of the last 22 years, were skeptical, worried about encouraging people not to work. Tubbs said he calmed their fears by noting the money came from private donations, not taxpayer dollars.

"I would tell people all that time that would be upset or would call angry, I would say, well, I'm just as angry as you are, but I'm angry about the problem. I'm not angry about possible solutions," Tubbs said.

A team of researchers is monitoring the participants. Their chief interest is not finances but happiness.

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They are using what they call a "mattering scale" to measure how much people feel like they matter to society.

"Do people notice you are there? Those things are correlated to health and well-being," said Stacia Martin-West, a researcher at the University of Tennessee who is working on the program along with Amy Castro-Baker at the University of Pennsylvania.

The money has made Jovan Bravo happier. The 31-year-old Stockton native and construction worker is married and has three children, ages 13, 8 and 4. He said he didn't see enough of his children when he worked six days a week to pay the bills.

That changed when he started getting \$500 a month. Now he only works one Saturday a month. He uses the other Saturdays to take his kids to the amusement park and ride bikes with them in the park.

"It's made a huge difference," he said. "Just being able to spend more time with the wife and kids, it brings us closer together."

Stockton officials do not release the names of the program participants. They arrange interviews with journalists only for those who volunteer to discuss their experiences.

The idea of a guaranteed income dates back to at least the 18th century and has crossed ideological and cultural lines.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Republicans Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney oversaw four guaranteed-income experiments scattered across the country when Rumsfeld, later a defense secretary, was director of President Richard Nixon's Office of Economic Opportunity and Cheney, the future vice president, was his deputy.

The program had some hiccups, including a woman who spent all the money on alcohol and a man who went into debt buying expensive furniture for his government-subsidized apartment, according to a 1970 New York Times story. But the experiment concluded that the money did not stop people from working and led Nixon to propose expanding the program, which ultimately did not pass Congress.

Since then, other studies have reached similar results. A 2018 study in Alaska, where residents have gotten a share of the state's oil revenue every year since 1982, found the money has not shrunk the state's labor force. The same was found in a 2010 UCLA study in North Carolina, where the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has shared casino revenue with its members since the mid-1990s.

The latest momentum comes with the help of the technology industry, which is grappling with how to prepare for the job losses likely to come with automation and artificial intelligence.

The tech connection has drawn criticism from left-leaning labor unions skeptical of the industry's motives.

"We think the future of work should be defined by working people, not tech billionaires," said Steve Smith, spokesman for the California Labor Federation, a group of 1,200 unions and a reliable ally for some of the state's most liberal policies. "If there are no jobs available, you are pretty much stuck with your \$1,000 a month check while the CEO of the tech company that automated you out of a job is being paid a billion dollars a year."

Other critics note that the programs can chip away at the social safety net. Yang's plan requires recipients to decline food stamps and some other government assistance.

There's also the question of how to pay for it.

Stockton's program, giving 125 people \$500 per month for 18 months, will cost just over \$1.1 million. Harris' plan, which covers working families making up to \$100,000 annually, would cost about \$275 billion per year, according to the Tax Policy Center. To pay for it, she says she would repeal some of the 2017 GOP tax cuts and impose new taxes on corporations.

Yang's plan, which covers every adult in the United States, would cost \$2.8 trillion per year. He would impose a new tax on businesses' goods and services while shrinking some other government assistance programs. Representatives for Yang and Harris did not respond to interview requests.

The Stockton experiment runs through July 2020. Researchers expect to release their first round of data this fall, when the presidential campaigns are preparing for the Iowa caucuses and state primaries.

Tubbs says he already sees success in making the city a focal point in the discussion about the future of capitalism and the U.S. economy. But once the experiment is over, he's not sure what's next. He says

guaranteed income would need to be much bigger — at least statewide — to really have an impact.

Garza does not know what's next for her, either. She relies on her husband for most things, and he recently lost his job. The extra \$500 a month was so helpful, it left her wondering how she was lucky enough to get it — a question she posed to the program's director.

"She goes, 'Because you're blessed,'" Garza said. "And I just left it at that."

## UK Parliament takes on pivotal day on Brexit

By **DANICA KIRKA** Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Parliament was reconvening Tuesday for a pivotal day in British politics as lawmakers challenged Prime Minister Boris Johnson's insistence that the U.K. will leave the European Union on Oct. 31 even without a deal.

Amid loud cries from protesters on the streets surrounding the House of Commons, lawmakers returned from their summer recess with a key piece of legislation on their agenda that would prevent an immediate no-deal exit. If it passes this week, Johnson's Downing Street office says he'll call an early election.

Johnson has tried to crack down on members of his Conservative Party who oppose his Brexit plans, warning them they would be expelled from the party if they supported the parliamentary efforts to block or delay Brexit.

Former Treasury chief Philip Hammond — one of the Conservative rebels — said that he expected there would be votes to take control of business in the House of Commons on Tuesday. If those pass, the legislation to block no-deal would be considered the following day.

"Many colleagues have been incensed by some of the actions over the past week or so, and I think there is a group of Conservatives who feel very strongly that now is the time to put the national interest ahead of any threats to us personally or to our careers," Hammond told the BBC. "I think there will be enough people for us to get this over the line today."

As Brexit faces crucial days, international investors are showing concern. The pound sterling fell as low as \$1.1960 on Tuesday, down about a cent on the day before, stabilizing around \$1.1990.

That was its lowest level since a "flash crash" in October 2016, when uncertainty after the Brexit vote was particularly high.

A no-deal Brexit is considered dangerous because it will sever decades of seamless trade with the single market of 500 million. But Johnson insists the potential for leaving without a deal must remain as a bargaining chip in negotiations with the EU.

The bloc is adamant it will not renegotiate the agreement struck with former Prime Minister Theresa May, which Johnson considers unacceptable.

Johnson's supporters said lawmakers were weakening the government's negotiating position with the EU.

"The one thing that has helped focus minds in the EU is that we're leaving come what may and we've got a very focused task of what a good deal would look like," Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told ITV. "But the lingering doubt they've got is: Will the shenanigans in Parliament somehow lead to the cancellation or the delay of Brexit?"

"That's encouraging them, and weakening our position to actually get the deal we all want."

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit and British politics at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

## Biden taps influence industry despite pledge on lobbyists

By **BRIAN SLODYSKO** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden entered the Democratic primary promising "from day one" to reject campaign cash from lobbyists.

"I work for you — not any industry," he tweeted.

Yet hours after his April campaign kickoff, the former vice president went to a fundraiser at the home

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of a lobbying executive. And in the months since, he's done it again and again.

It's difficult to quantify how much Biden has raised from the multibillion-dollar influence industry, but the roughly \$200,000 he accepted from employees of major lobbying firms is far more than any of his rivals has received, according to a review of campaign finance data by The Associated Press.

Though it's a small fraction of the \$21.5 million he reported raising in the second quarter of 2019, the money demonstrates a comfort with an industry that is the object of scorn of Democratic activists and some of Biden's principal rivals.

Biden's pledge applies only to federally registered lobbyists, and most of the money tracked by the AP was from others in the influence industry. But thousands of dollars did come from federally registered lobbyists, and Biden's campaign said it is returning such donations.

His campaign accepted roughly \$6,000 in contributions from at least six federally registered lobbyists, including representatives of Google, aerospace and defense giant Lockheed Martin, and pharmaceutical companies, records show. An additional \$5,750 was donated by two lobbyists who had been registered shortly before making contributions to Biden's campaign, records show.

In at least two instances, donations came from lobbyists with criminal records who have served time in federal prison.

Former Florida Rep. Lawrence J. Smith, a federally registered lobbyist representing the city of Pembroke Pines, gave Biden \$1,000 after attending a fundraiser in May. Smith left Congress in 1993 after it was revealed he bounced 161 bad checks. He was convicted months later of tax evasion and using campaign cash to settle a gambling debt.

Maryland statehouse lobbyist Gerard E. Evans gave Biden \$2,600, records show. He was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison in 2000 after being found guilty of participating in an elaborate fake legislation scheme that bilked clients out of more than \$400,000 in lobbying fees, according to court records.

Excluded from Biden's pledge are lobbyists who work at the state level and those who lobby, or supervise lobbyists, but do not meet the legal threshold requiring them to register.

Spokesman Matt Hill said in a statement that Biden will "fight the influence of corporations and special interests in our political system, which is why his campaign refuses donations from corporations, their PACs, and federal lobbyists."

Biden's approach contrasts sharply with Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who have built their campaigns around a vow to reject big money in politics. Both have sworn off big-dollar fundraisers, while Biden has embraced them.

Such an embrace "doesn't mean your positions are up for sale," said John Wonderlich, executive director of the Sunlight Foundation, a nonpartisan group that advocates for government transparency. But it "can certainly change what issues seem the most salient and whose voice gets heard."

Biden is not alone in accepting contributions from the influence industry. President Donald Trump vowed to "drain the swamp" but has since reaped contributions from powerful industries with business before his administration. And many of Biden's Democratic rivals have made similar pledges that also include subtle caveats and omissions.

Still, he collected about \$30,000 more from employees of top lobbying firms than California Sen. Kamala Harris and roughly \$100,000 more than South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, both of whom made similar pledges but have been in the race longer than him. Every other White House hopeful received far less.

Several recent fundraisers held for Biden highlight his ties to prominent figures in the influence business, many of whom have been active in Washington for decades.

In August, Biden was feted at the home of Nelson W. Cunningham, president and co-founder of McLarty Associates and a former adviser to Bill Clinton. The global public affairs firm represents Chevron, General Electric, Walmart and Uber, but notes on its website that the list only includes "the ones we can mention."

Several days before, Biden attended a fundraiser at the Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, home of Peter Shields, the leader of Washington-based Wiley Rein, a firm with recent lobbying clients that include AT&T, global



mining company Glencore, Nucor steel, Verizon and former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. His campaign kickoff fundraiser was at the Philadelphia home of David L. Cohen, a Comcast executive who oversees the telecom giant's lobbying operation.

Biden's campaign says the fundraiser hosts are not registered lobbyists and often have diverse work portfolios that include much more than government relations. But they are also players in the influence game.

Biden's pledge to reject money from lobbyists is a change for him. Before he entered the 2020 race, his American Possibilities political action committee had no such prohibition.

The PAC, which Biden used to finance his political activities after leaving the White House in 2017, accepted at least \$113,000 from at least a dozen current and formerly registered lobbyists, in addition to more than 30 others who work in the influence industry, records show. Among them are representatives for Boeing, Apple, the NFL, Facebook, General Motors and the National Association of Mortgage Brokers, as well as other representatives of the big pharmaceutical, tech, telecom and financial services companies, records show.

One of the top recipients of money from the PAC was a company Biden created.

His campaign says the \$137,000 routed to Biden's company, Celtic Capri, was used to pay or reimburse aides for work, such as during last year's midterm elections when Biden kept up an aggressive campaign schedule.

Yet the move is commonly used to avoid disclosing how political money is spent. Because the money was routed to Celtic Capri, campaign finance records don't detail the end recipient of the payments, which are listed as reimbursements or "staff support." Around the same time, Biden collected \$425,000 in salary from Celtic Capri, according to a financial disclosure.

Adav Noti, a former Federal Election Commission attorney, said the use of limited liability companies such as these is a growing problem. "The ultimate recipients of the money aren't disclosed. Sometimes it's for legitimate, or quasi-legitimate, reasons. And sometimes it's for illegitimate reasons."

## **New Zealand gun buyback exposes emotions, possibly hustlers**

**By NICK PERRY Associated Press**

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Some New Zealand gun owners are upset they're being compelled to hand over their assault weapons for money. Others believe a government-imposed ban on certain semi-automatics following a March shooting massacre is the best way to combat gun violence. And The Associated Press has found at least one man may have tried to swindle hundreds of thousands of dollars from the system set up to compensate gun owners.

New Zealand is six weeks into an ambitious program to buy tens of thousands of guns from owners across the country. After a lone gunman killed 51 people at two Christchurch mosques nearly six months ago, the government rushed through new laws banning military-style semi-automatics in a move that's being closely followed around the world.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told the AP in July that most New Zealanders disagree with the U.S. model under which gun ownership is seen as a constitutional right. The new laws in New Zealand emphasize that gun ownership is instead considered a privilege.

So far, owners have turned in more than 15,000 newly banned guns as well as 64,000 parts and accessories. In return, the government has handed them 32 million New Zealand dollars (\$20 million). But nobody has a clear target for the program because authorities haven't kept track of the number of guns in the country.

Tentative estimates put the total number of guns in New Zealand at about 1.5 million and the number of weapons that are now banned at up to 175,000. If those numbers are correct, it would mean less than 10% of the banned weapons have been handed in so far. Owners have until Dec. 20 to turn them over or potentially face charges.

Some politicians and opponents say the buyback scheme is a fiasco that is unfairly targeting law-abiding gun owners rather than criminals or gangs. However, Police Deputy Commissioner Mike Clement, a 40-year

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veteran tapped to oversee the scheme, says it has been working well. He's been traveling the country to some of the dozens of buyback events, and says nobody really knows how many banned guns are out there so any estimates are unhelpful.

"We're just going to keep pushing ourselves," Clement said.

On Saturday, the last day of the Southern Hemisphere winter, Clement stood in the sun outside an event center near Wellington owned by a dog owners' club. On this day, the center had been turned into a makeshift venue to hand in guns. Heavily armed officers patrolled while others greeted gun owners cheerfully as they arrived and ushered them inside.

Under the buyback scheme, gun owners get between 25% and 95% of the pre-tax price of a new gun, depending on the condition of their guns. Police take bank details from owners and usually deposit money into their accounts within a few days.

After collecting the weapons, police use a hydraulic machine to crush the barrels and triggers out of shape before tossing them into crates that are loaded onto a truck for disposal.

One of the owners who showed up on Saturday was Paul Campbell, a chiropractor who has enjoyed target shooting since he was 10 years old. Campbell said he was turning in an AR-15 rifle, an AR-10 rifle and a 1961 ex-army SLR rifle that he considered sacred because it was part of a collection used by soldiers in battle. He said he disagreed with the ban and felt it was a knee-jerk reaction to an isolated event. He said previous laws were adequate if they'd been properly enforced.

"Nothing is going to stop crazy behavior when crazy shows up, except good watchfulness by society to see the cracks, to see the problems, to see problem people," Campbell said. "This is a mental aberration, it's not a behavior brought on by the object."

Michael Dowling, chairman of the Council of Licensed Firearm Owners, said gun owners had mixed reactions to the ban and some felt badly treated but most were trying to comply with the law. He said the council doesn't agree with the ban and believes it could create a much bigger black market.

"We're concerned at a high level that the way this has been approached, it potentially could mean a lot of firearms don't get handed in," Dowling said. "And that will create issues for generations to come."

But gun owner Phillip Fee, who was handing in his Remington semi-automatic rifle, said he supported the ban wholeheartedly, especially after the Christchurch shootings. He said there were lots of people who wanted to become infamous or highlight a cause, and that powerful semi-automatics gave them the means.

"There are not too many things that you can take that number of lives with in such a short period of time," he said. "So there has to be some form of control."

As well as some 250 buyback events like the one near Wellington planned over three months, police are also reaching out to dealers to try and collect weapons through them. Police also have so far traveled to the homes of more than 50 gun owners who have large numbers of weapons to pick up the guns directly.

In all, the New Zealand government has set aside more than NZ\$200 million for the buyback scheme. And it seems at least one man may have tried to take advantage. Police are investigating whether the man, who isn't a New Zealand citizen, imported cheap gun magazines from Australia to try to cash in.

Clement said the man showed up at an Auckland buyback event with thousands of magazines seeking to collect hundreds of thousands of dollars in government compensation. A possible flaw in his plan? Clement himself happened to be at the event.

"It's one of those things that didn't look right, didn't feel right," Clement said.

He said police were keeping hold of the magazines and hadn't paid the man any money while they carried out their investigation.

"The vast majority of people are doing the right thing," Clement said. "But there are a handful of people who just, for whatever reason, feel like there might be an opportunity they might be able to exploit."

Brenton Tarrant, a 28-year-old Australian white supremacist, has pleaded not guilty to terrorism, murder and attempted murder charges following the March 15 mosque attacks. He remains in jail ahead of his trial, which has been scheduled for next May.

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## Dorian isn't moving because the upper atmosphere is too calm

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Powerful Hurricane Dorian has been going nowhere because nothing high up is making it budge.

It may sound strange when talking about a storm that once had 185 mph (298 kph) winds, but it's actually been too calm high in the atmosphere. While this has been horrible for the Bahamas, where the storm's pounding has been relentless, it may help spare Florida a bit, meteorologists said.

Usually the upper atmosphere's winds push and pull hurricanes north or west or at least somewhere. They are so powerful that they dictate where these big storms go.

But the steering currents at 18,000 feet (5,486 meters) above ground have just ground to a halt. They are not moving, so neither is Dorian.

After reaching record-tying wind speeds on landfall in the Bahamas, the storm just stalled. Its eyewall first hit Grand Bahama Island Sunday night, and 18 hours later part of the eye still lingered there, meteorologists said. The hurricane center late Monday called the storm "stationary" after several hours of crawling at 1 mph (1.6 kph).

"This is unprecedented," said Jeff Masters, meteorology director at Weather Underground who used to fly into hurricanes. "We've never had a Category 5 stall for so long in the Atlantic hurricane record."

What's happening — or more aptly, not happening — has been an ongoing battle between high pressure systems that push storms and low pressure systems that pull them.

A high pressure system in Bermuda has been acting like a wall, keeping Dorian from heading north. But a low pressure trough moving east from the Midwest has eroded that high and is trying to pull Dorian north. Those two weather systems "are fighting it out and neither is winning," Masters said.

There's just no flow pushing it anywhere. Think of it like a tiny paper boat or a pebble in a stagnant pond, which just doesn't move, said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

Air — high off the ground and closer to where people live — is often stagnant in the summer and this is an extreme version of that, Masters said.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey got stuck when steering currents collapsed, absolutely drenching Houston, but that wasn't as powerful a storm as Dorian, Klotzbach said.

Usually hurricanes that don't move eventually kill themselves because they churn up colder water from deep below the surface and storms need warm water as fuel, Masters said.

"It's got to keep moving," Masters said.

But the Bahamas and the Gulf Stream are one of the few places where warm water runs so deep. Stalling isn't as much of a death sentence there as elsewhere, but it will still weaken the storm a bit, which is good for Florida and the U.S. East Coast, Klotzbach said.

And the longer Dorian stalls in the Bahamas, the more the low pressure system has a chance to erode the high pressure and pull the hurricane north and away from Florida, Masters said.

## Biden, Buttigieg say no compromises on overhauling gun laws

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and BILL BARROW Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — Democratic presidential candidates Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg, moderates who project themselves as pragmatic collaborators, are taking a no-compromise approach on the overhaul of the nation's gun laws after the latest mass shooting.

Campaigning separately in eastern Iowa on Monday, the former vice president and the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, say the minimum provisions include universal background checks, a ban on military-style weapons and high-capacity ammunition, and red flag laws to allow officials to confiscate firearms from dangerous people.

Biden told reporters before a Labor Day picnic in Cedar Rapids that inaction from President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans is "disgraceful." Asked if there's room for negotiation, he declared: "None. This is one we have to just push and push and push and push and push." Buttigieg also rejected

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compromise, saying after a campaign event in Cedar Rapids: "There is just no good faith in the congressional GOP nor, I believe, in the White House when it comes to dealing with this issue."

Their comments come two days after a gunman toting an assault-style rifle went on a rampage in Odessa, Texas, killing seven people around town before being gunned down by police. The FBI said the shooter "was on a long spiral of going down." This shooting occurred less than a month after two other high-profile mass shootings, in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio.

Biden's and Buttigieg's positions represent a rare case of absolutism from the two men. Despite their generational divide, at ages 76 and 37, both have staked their campaigns in part on calls for a more civil, productive governing process in Washington.

They both pointed to public opinion polls are a reason for their uncompromising approach. According to national public opinion polls for the past several years, large majorities of Americans support requiring background checks for all gun buyers. Majorities, though smaller, also support banning the sale of military-style weapons such as the AR-15.

"Look, you can either defy the American people or you can defy the NRA," Buttigieg said. "You have a choice."

Yet any movement to tighten gun laws has stopped cold for years with Republicans controlling one or both chambers of Congress.

Buttigieg and Biden both predicted that intransigence will draw voters' ire at the ballot box.

"If Republicans don't make that right choice this time, I think they will be punished with the loss of power. And maybe that's what it will take to motivate them to come a little more in line with the American people," Buttigieg said.

Added Biden: "It's going to result in seeing some of them defeated."

Trump expressed a commitment Sunday, hours after the latest deadly mass shooting, to work with a divided Congress to "stop the menace of mass attacks."

He notably came out in favor of background checks in 2018 after 17 students and adults were killed at a Parkland, Florida, high school, only to quickly retreat under pressure from the National Rifle Association. He's followed the same course after recent killings in California, Ohio and Texas.

Another Democratic presidential candidate, Amy Klobuchar, on Monday noted Trump's reversal.

"He flipped" after talking to the NRA, Klobuchar said. "That's what happens."

The Minnesota senator stopped short of taking the same stance as Biden and Buttigieg, however. Klobuchar has co-sponsored a Senate proposal to ban military-style weapons. But she acknowledged that's more of a wish-list item for Democrats given GOP control of the Senate.

For now, she said, the "minimum of what we should do" includes expanded background checks, the red flag laws and closing the so-called boyfriend loophole that deals with gun rights for perpetrators of domestic violence. Federal law that bars those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence against spouses and "similarly situated" companions from possessing firearms. The prohibition has been applied in cases of live-in companions, but Klobuchar argues it doesn't go far enough to protect some victims who weren't living with their abuser.

Democrats' broad field of presidential candidates has been unified in calling for stricter gun laws. But Biden's strong position Monday stands out given his advocacy for more compromise on Capitol Hill.

Previously, he has said he is capable of working with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and recalled that, as a young senator in the 1970s, he found ways to work with Southern segregationist senators elected during the Jim Crow era.

This time, he said, there's no place for a bargain because Republicans are being "irrational."

"I'll work with Mitch McConnell where we can agree, but on this one he's not going to agree because he is where the president is," Biden said. "So we just have to beat them, flat out beat them."

Follow the reporters on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/TomBeaumont> and <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>.

## 4th time in 4 years: It's hurricane evacuation time in US

By **CODY JACKSON** and **JEFFREY COLLINS** Associated Press

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — It's become a hurricane-season ritual in the Southeast: When a storm threatens, coastal residents board up homes, load up SUVs and fill highways where the traffic lanes are reversed to offer a speedy escape inland.

For some people, Hurricane Dorian is the fourth storm they have had to flee in four years.

Forecasters are not sure if the core of the powerful system will ever strike the U.S. It is predicted to stay offshore as it spins north, paralleling the coasts of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

But if scientists are off by even a few dozen miles, the storm could plow onshore somewhere along that route. So more than a million people have been ordered to leave seaside communities, and more evacuations were issued Monday — all the way to North Carolina's Outer Banks.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster is aware of the complaints. He opened a news conference Monday acknowledging that his evacuation decision would not make everyone happy.

"The best thing in the world would be for that hurricane to take a sharp right and go out in the ocean. We would all celebrate," McMaster said. "But we would rather be safe than sorry."

Part of the evacuation fatigue is that recent storms have not had a catastrophic impact along the Atlantic Coast. There were dire possibilities of a Category 4 Hurricane Matthew striking Florida, but that storm made a turn similar to the one forecast for Dorian.

Matthew did cause billions of dollars of wind and flooding damage before coming ashore in South Carolina as a Category 1 storm.

Some of Flory Reddick's neighbors in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, east of Jacksonville, got flooded during Matthew. An evacuation order has been made for Dorian too. But Reddick stayed then and plans to stay now.

"It's a lot of trouble to get ready and then nothing happens. You know you're glad. But you think, wow, I went to all this trouble for nothing, rolling up rugs, taking them upstairs, to only have your roof come off and get everything wet anyway," Reddick said.

Atlantic Coast states have seamless plans in place thanks to lots of practice. In South Carolina, officials noticed traffic jams on Monday morning as evacuees and tourists heading home on Labor Day filled Interstate 26. In response, authorities reversed lanes about four hours earlier than planned so both sides of the highway were headed inland from Columbia to Charleston.

Twenty years ago, motorists sat on that same interstate for more than 20 hours in traffic jams caused by the evacuation for Hurricane Floyd.

"We certainly know how to do it because we have done it a number of times," McMaster said.

Georgia is pulling out its well-used plan to reverse the lanes of Interstate 16 out of Savannah starting Tuesday morning. In Florida, tolls were suspended on many freeways with few reports of gridlock or long lines.

In Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, the local emergency manager displayed a map during a televised news conference that showed the entire island under at least 2 feet (61 centimeters) of water if the forecasts are wrong and Dorian moves right over the island at the southern tip of the state.

Mayor John McCann was discouraged walking around the island and hearing people tell him they were tired of leaving and wanted to ride this one out.

Matthew brought hurricane force winds to the island, but it also took days for officials to let people back onto the island. Residents were angry because neighbors who stayed behind posted pictures and videos on social media of homes that were fine or had only minor damage. Then conditions got worse, and families had to wait to return.

Officials said they learned lessons from Matthew to get people back quicker and communicate better about when the island would be reopened. McCann on Monday asked anyone thinking about staying to realize it wasn't only themselves they put in danger.

"Do the right thing not only for yourself but your neighbors around and the people who have to respond

if things go bad," the mayor said.

Collins reported from Columbia. Associated Press writers Meg Kinnard in Charleston and Gerald Herbert in Vero Beach, Florida, contributed to this report.

## Woodstock? Nope. This fest was in Prairieville, Louisiana

By KEVIN MCGILL Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — August, 1969. Thousands of long-haired young people, some nude or nearly so, populate the rural landscape. Janis Joplin, Santana, and the Grateful Dead are among the featured acts and the air is thick with the sound of rock and the smell of marijuana.

Woodstock?

Nope. Prairieville. Prairieville, Louisiana.

Fifty years ago, in Woodstock's wake, an estimated 30,000 people jammed into, or camped outside of, a speedway in Prairieville, 65 miles (104.6 kilometers) west-northwest of New Orleans, for what was dubbed the New Orleans Pop Festival. It was a bayou-country re-enactment of sorts.

It was smaller than Woodstock, which had drawn an estimated 400,000 to farmland in New York two weeks earlier. But there was a similar hippie vibe at the Louisiana festival, says John Moore, aka Deacon John, the New Orleans guitar virtuoso and vocalist who is still performing 50 years later.

"We wanted to emulate Woodstock by showing that New Orleans, despite its location in the Deep South, which was, you know, the harbinger of hatred and evil and racism — and all the anti-war stuff was going on — we wanted to show them that New Orleans could have a festival, too, without any violence," Moore said in an interview. He was in his New Orleans home, crowded with guitars and other instruments, folders crammed with sheet music and memorabilia including a poster and program from the festival.

Some of the widely famous acts that played Woodstock also played at Prairieville, including Creedence Clearwater Revival, Canned Heat, and Country Joe & the Fish, whose "I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die-Rag" became an anti-Vietnam war anthem.

Jimi Hendrix was not there to repeat his Woodstock performance. But Deacon John, then 28, was.

He recalls giving the crowd a taste of Hendrix with song selection — "We played 'Foxy Lady'" — and attire.

"I had my tie-dyed headband on, with my bell-bottom blue jeans and my tie-dyed shirt," Moore said. Clad in what is now his customary performance garb — jacket, tie, short-brimmed hat — he beamed at the memory of the festival, showing off a poster and program and pictures of himself in the '60s, sporting an Afro and mutton-chop sideburns.

One archived news account says a dozen people were arrested for sale and possession of marijuana and that doctors reported treating about 30 for bad LSD trips.

Nobody could say that anyone who wound up in jail or ill hadn't been warned. The program urged abstention from drugs from uncertain sources that might be "improperly manufactured." And a poster prominently warned of plainclothes detectives in the crowd.

Festival promoters explained in the program that they went to great lengths to persuade speedway owners and local authorities to let the festival happen. "Festival staff would like to remind you that there are people outside of this stadium who don't dig the sounds you'll hear this weekend, who don't like our hair, or our clothes, or our ideas, and they are waiting for us to blow our cool," the program said.

There were similar festivals that weekend in Lewiston, Texas, and Tenino, Washington, and all three went off with no reports of major incidents. Traffic backups were reported near the Prairieville site, but, an Associated Press story following the festival's close was largely positive. Among those pleased: "The area merchants ... who reaped a harvest from the flower children and were astonished at their unexpected good behavior."

Subsequent festivals have had their ups and downs. Months later, a festival at Altamont Speedway in California would be marked by violence, including a stabbing death. In 1971, another attempt to produce a Woodstock-inspired fest in the community of McCrea, Louisiana, was deemed a chaotic, drug-infused

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failure, linked to at least two drowning deaths in the Atchafalaya River. The travails were chronicled in news accounts and a documentary, McCrae 1971, made by two Southeastern Louisiana University Students.

But, 50 years later, the New Orleans Pop Festival appears to have been a peaceful, hippie-era success. "We wanted to show that a sizeable portion of the Southern population, in the Deep South, could get together with peace and love and brotherhood," Moore said, later adding, "It did go off pretty well."

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 3, the 246th day of 2019. There are 119 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 3, 1943, Allied forces invaded Italy during World War II, the same day Italian officials signed a secret armistice with the Allies.

On this date:

In 1783, representatives of the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War.

In 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; in a radio address, Britain's King George VI said, "With God's help, we shall prevail." The same day, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner SS Athenia some 250 miles off the Irish coast, killing more than 100 out of the 1,400 or so people on board.

In 1962, poet E.E. Cummings died in North Conway, N.H., at age 67.

In 1967, Nguyen Van Thieu (nwen van too) was elected president of South Vietnam under a new constitution.

In 1970, legendary football coach Vince Lombardi, 57, died in Washington, D.C.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the red planet's surface.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was installed as the 264th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1994, China and Russia proclaimed an end to any lingering hostilities, pledging they would no longer target nuclear missiles or use force against each other.

In 1995, the online auction site eBay was founded in San Jose, California, by Pierre Omidyar under the name "AuctionWeb."

In 1999, a French judge closed a two-year inquiry into the car crash that killed Princess Diana, dismissing all charges against nine photographers and a press motorcyclist, and concluding the accident was caused by an inebriated driver.

In 2003, Paul Hill, a former minister who said he murdered an abortion doctor and his bodyguard to save the lives of unborn babies, was executed in Florida by injection, becoming the first person put to death in the United States for anti-abortion violence.

In 2005, President George W. Bush ordered more than 7,000 active duty forces to the Gulf Coast as his administration intensified efforts to rescue Katrina survivors and send aid to the hurricane-ravaged region in the face of criticism it did not act quickly enough. U.S. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist died in Arlington, Virginia, at age 80, after more than three decades on the Supreme Court.

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden told a Brookings Institution gathering that the Obama administration was fiercely determined to get a health care overhaul, although he conceded it likely wouldn't happen without "an awful lot of screaming and hollering." A private funeral service was held in Glendale, California, for pop superstar Michael Jackson, whose body was entombed in a mausoleum more than two months after his death.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, during a visit to Estonia, harshly condemned Russian aggression in Ukraine as a threat to peace. President Obama also said the United States would not be intimidated

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by Islamic State militants after the beheading of American journalist Steven Sotloff. A judge sentenced Theodore Wafer, a suburban Detroit man who'd killed an unarmed woman on his porch instead of calling police, to at least 17 years in prison.

One year ago: A court in Myanmar sentenced two Reuters journalists to seven years in prison on charges of illegal possession of official documents, a ruling that was met with international condemnation. (The two were freed as part of a mass presidential pardon in May 2019.) President Donald Trump escalated his attacks on Attorney General Jeff Sessions, suggesting that the Justice Department had hurt the chances of Republicans in midterm elections with the recent indictments of two GOP congressmen.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Pauline Collins is 79. Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 77. Actress Valerie Perrine is 76. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 71. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 64. Actor Steve Schirripa is 62. Actor Holt McCallany is 55. Rock singer-musician Todd Lewis is 54. Actor Costas Mandylor is 54. Actor Charlie Sheen is 54. Singer Jennifer Paige is 46. Dance-rock musician Redfoo is 44. Actress Ashley Jones is 43. Actress Nichole Hiltz is 41. Actor Joel Johnstone is 41. Actor Nick Wechsler is 41. Rock musician Tomo Milicevic (30 Seconds to Mars) is 40. Bluegrass musician Darren Nicholson (Balsam Range) is 36. Actress Christine Woods is 36. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 35. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 33. Hip-hop singer August Alsina is 27.

Thought for Today: "In the arts, the critic is the only independent source of information. The rest is advertising." — Pauline Kael, American movie critic (1919-2001).

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