

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**

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.

5 - Thursday

10 a.m.: Cross Country at Redfield
6 p.m.: Volleyball hosts Britton-Hecla (JH Matches at 4 p.m., JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity)
James Valley Threshing Show, Andover
Emmanuel: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
Breakfast: Ham Egg and Cheese Pockets
Lunch: Fish Nuggets, Batter Bite Potatoes
Senior Menu: Sweet and sour pork, steamed rice, carrot and broccoli medley, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

6 - Friday

7 p.m.: Football at Webster
James Valley Threshing Show, Andover
C&MA: Men's Bible Study at Dairy Queen, 6:30 a.m.
Breakfast: Cereal
Lunch: Cheese Sticks with Marinara, Corn
Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, Fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

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It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Britton-Hecla
Braves VS**



Groton Area Tigers

Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019
7:00 p.m. at Groton

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Webster Area
Bearcats VS**



Groton Area Tigers

Friday, Sept. 6, 2019
7:00 p.m. at Webster

Sponsored By

Allied Climate Professionals
Bahr Spray Foam
BaseKamp Lodge
DeHoet Trucking
Groton Auto Works
Hanlon Brothers
John Sieh Agency
Milbrandt Enterprises
Professional Management Services

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Abeln Seed
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Allied Climate Professionals
Bahr Spray Foam
BaseKamp Lodge
DeHoet Trucking
Groton Auto Works
Hanlon Brothers
John Sieh Agency
Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass
Milbrandt Enterprises
Olson Development
Professional Management Services
Touchdown Sponsor: Patios Plus

Lady Netters hand Ipswich first loss

Groton Area's volleyball team handed Ipswich its first loss of the season while upping its record to 2-0 with a 3-0 win. The match was played Tuesday at Ipswich and was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dakota Risk Management.

Groton won the first game, 25-19. After the game was tied at one, Groton took control and led by as many as 10 points at 19-9. Ipswich started to rally at the end of the game but Eliza Wanner hit the game winning kill for the win. Nicole Marzahn had three kills and two assisted blocks to lead the Tigers in that game. Other adding to the score were Wanner with two kills, Indigo Rogers had a kill, Kaylin Kucker had a kill

The second game was tied five times with Groton holding the edge throughout most of the game. It was tied at 15 before Groton went on a four point run to take a 19-15 lead. Groton led, 23-18, when once again, Ipswich cut the lead down and it was a one-point game at 24-23. Eliza Wanner, once again, hit the game winning kill for the 25-23 win. Marzahn had five kills while Madeline Fliehs and Eliza Wanner each had two kills, Indigo Rogers had two kills and an ace serve and adding one kill each were Payton Colestock, Madeline Fliehs and Kaylin Kucker, Tady Glover had an ace serve and assisting on blocks were Fliehs and Stella Meier.

Ipswich had the early lead in the third set and Groton was not able to tie the game until the score hit 13. It was tied twice before Groton captured the lead, 15-14. Groton opened up a six point lead, 22-18, and Stella Meier had the game winning kill. Indigo Rogers and Stella Meier each had two kills, Marzahn, Wanner and Kucker each had a kill, Fliehs had a block and Colestock had two ace serves in the third game.

Ipswich had more ace serves, 7-4, with Chesney Olivier and Halle Heinz of Ipswich and Payton Colestock of Groton each having three and Tady Glover added one ace serve.

Groton Area had more assists, 28-21, with Kucker having 20 for Groton and Heinz 11 for Ipswich.

Groton had 32 kills compared to 21 for Ipswich with Marzahn having 12, Fliehs seven and Wanner five. Heinz led Ipswich with six. In blocks, Groton Area had more more, 5-4, with Fliehs having three assisted blocks and Marzahn having two. Groton Area led in digs, 87-74, with Wanner having 27 for Groton and Colestock 19 while Ipswich was led by Olivier with 25 and Lindsey Grabowski with 11.

Groton won the junior varsity match, 26-16 and 25-16, and Groton also won the C match, 25-23 and 25-12. Groton Area won both junior high matches.

Groton, now 2-0 on the season, will host Britton-Hecla on Thursday.

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Follow Us For Updates

45th Annual James Valley Threshing & Tractor Club Show

www.jamesvalleythreshers.com
jvthreshers@gmail.com

Andover, SD

September 5, 6, 7 & 8th 2019



HOME OF THE WORLD'S ONLY CASE ROAD LOCOMOTIVE

Kevin Anderson [General Info]
(605) 281-5663
Tim Olson [Vendors]
(605) 881-5978

Charlene Voss [Golf Cart Rentals]
(605) 881-2920
Alan Dixon [Tractor Pull]
(605) 228-1823

2019 Feature: Lettered John Deere Tractors

Moonlight Steamride



Women Teaching Women Steam



Honoring Bob & Charlene Voss and Family



Women's Activities



Steam Powered Sawmill



Spark Show

Daily Parade 1:30 pm
 Moonlight Steam Ride - Friday Evening
 Antique Tractor Pull Saturday @ 10:30 am
 Heritage Craft Program - Saturday @ 10:30 am
 Women Teaching Women Saturday @ 11:30 am
 Spark Show Saturday @ Dusk
 Church Service Sunday @ 9:30 am
 Steam Engine & Gas Tractor Threshing and Plowing Daily after Parade
 Lumber Sawing Daily
 Kid's Tractor Pull after the Parade Sat. & Sun.
 Stationary Gas Engines • Quilt Show • Spinning & Weaving
 Flea Markets • Food Concessions Daily
 Antique Cars • Blacksmith Shop • Souvenir Store
 Old Time Accordion Melodies by Robert Witt

2019 Carl M. Johnson Memorial Free Tractor Giveaway: Oliver 60

Corn shelling demonstration
Massey Harris equipment is featured in the Toy Chest Building
Quilt program Saturday at 10:30am



We need our farmers.

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

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

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

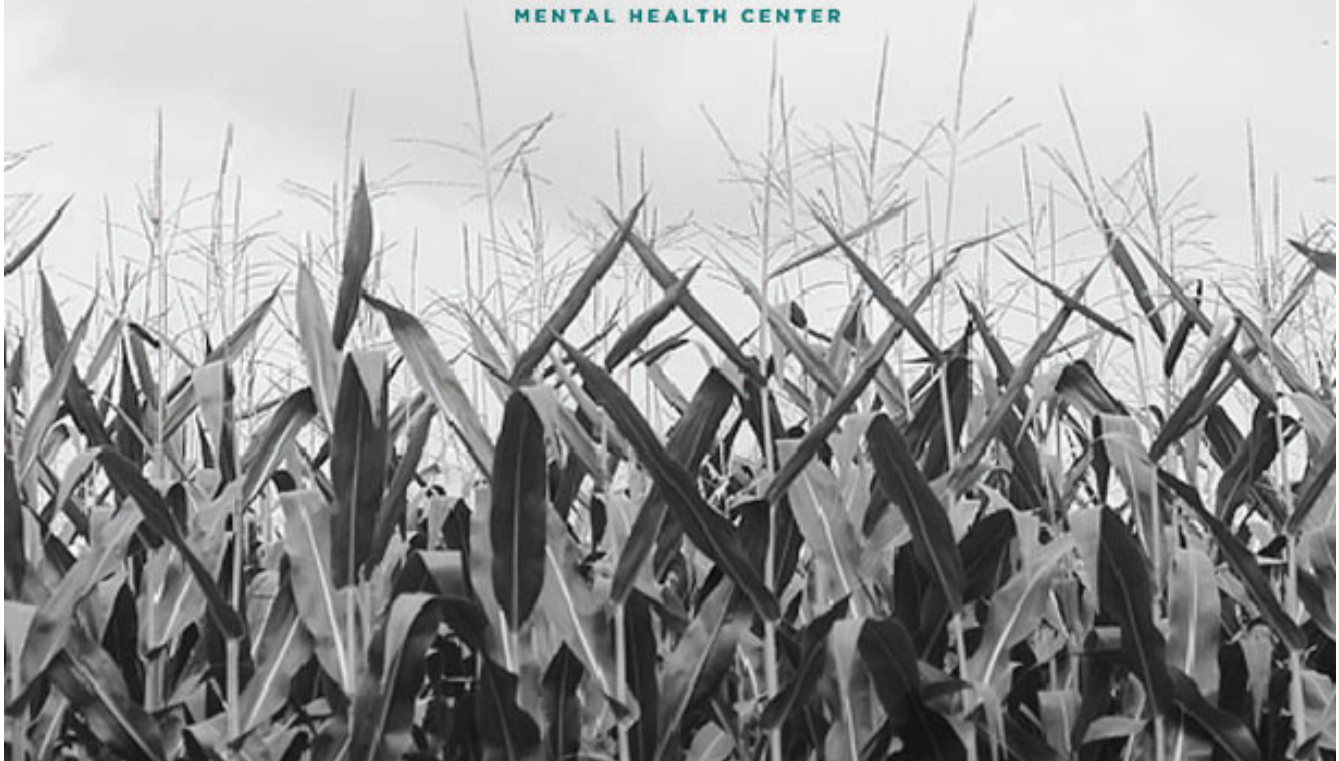
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

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



Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER





*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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Tonight



Clear

Thursday



Sunny

Thursday
Night



Mostly Clear

Friday



Sunny

NWS ABERDEEN

Turning Warmer/Breezy

TODAY

Patchy early morning fog,
then mostly sunny/breezy.

Warmest over Missouri
River valley

HIGHS: 70-90°

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy & very warm.
Slight chance showers
early in the morning far
northeast.

HIGHS: 80-93°

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Aberdeen, SD 9/4/2019 3:15 AM  

WEATHER.GOV/ABR

Published on: 09/03/2019 at 11:18PM

Southerly breezes will usher in warmer temperatures to the region through Thursday. A few late night showers are possible over the far northeast part of South Dakota and west central Minnesota tonight, otherwise dry conditions are expected through Thursday.

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Today in Weather History

September 4, 2001: Near record or record heat hit central and north-central South Dakota on this day in 2001. High temperatures during the afternoon were in the upper 90s to around 105 degrees. Pierre and Kennebec set record highs of 105 and 106, respectively. Mobridge rose to a high of 96, and Timber Lake topped out at 98 degrees on this day in 2001.

1766: A hurricane made landfall at modern-day Galveston, Texas. The following is from David Roth of the Weather Prediction Center. "A mission, named San Augustine de Ahumado was located in what is now-days known as Chambers County. This mission was destroyed and subsequently abandoned. A seven-foot storm surge put the area under water. A richly-laden treasure fleet of 5 galleons en route from Vera Cruz to Havana was driven ashore and had to wait many weeks for assistance to come. La Caraqueña wrecked on Galveston Island while El Nuevo de Constante sank along the western Louisiana coast. Fortunately, much of the treasure and people aboard were saved."

1941: A violent tornado ripped through Northeast and North Minneapolis shortly afternoon on this day. The hardest-hit location was the Soo Line Railroad's Shoreham Yards where four people died, and at least 50 were injured. The death toll at Soo Line could have been higher, but the tornado struck five minutes after the lunch bell went off, meaning 100 men left the shops.

2000: Houston and College Station, Texas recorded their hottest day on record when highs reached 109° and 112° respectively. Houston has tied their record on August 27th, 2011. Other daily record highs included: Wichita Falls, TX: 111°, Waco, TX: 111°, Dallas, (DFW), TX: 111°, Austin, (Bergstrom), TX: 110°, Austin (Camp Mabry), TX: 110°, Dallas, TX: 110°, Victoria, TX: 110°, San Antonio, TX: 109°, Shreveport, LA: 108°, Corpus Christi, TX: 107 °F.

2007: Hurricane Felix came ashore in the pre-dawn hours as a Category 5 storm on the northeastern coast of Nicaragua. At the time of its landfall, the maximum sustained surface winds were approximately 160 mph. Felix killed at least 130 people along the coast, with damage in Nicaragua totaling \$46.7 million.

2011: The center of Tropical Storm Lee moved ashore around sunrise. However, it would be a while before Lee would weaken to a depression as it remained nearly stationary while the southern half of the circulation was over water where it could continue to derive additional energy from the warm ocean. Lee brought torrential rains to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

2016: An EF1 tornado developed in the open country area north of Merna, Wyoming. The tornado caused tree damage along its 2.45-mile path. At its widest, the tornado produced sporadic tree damage approximately 300 yards across. The trees fell on some fence line but otherwise caused no property damage.

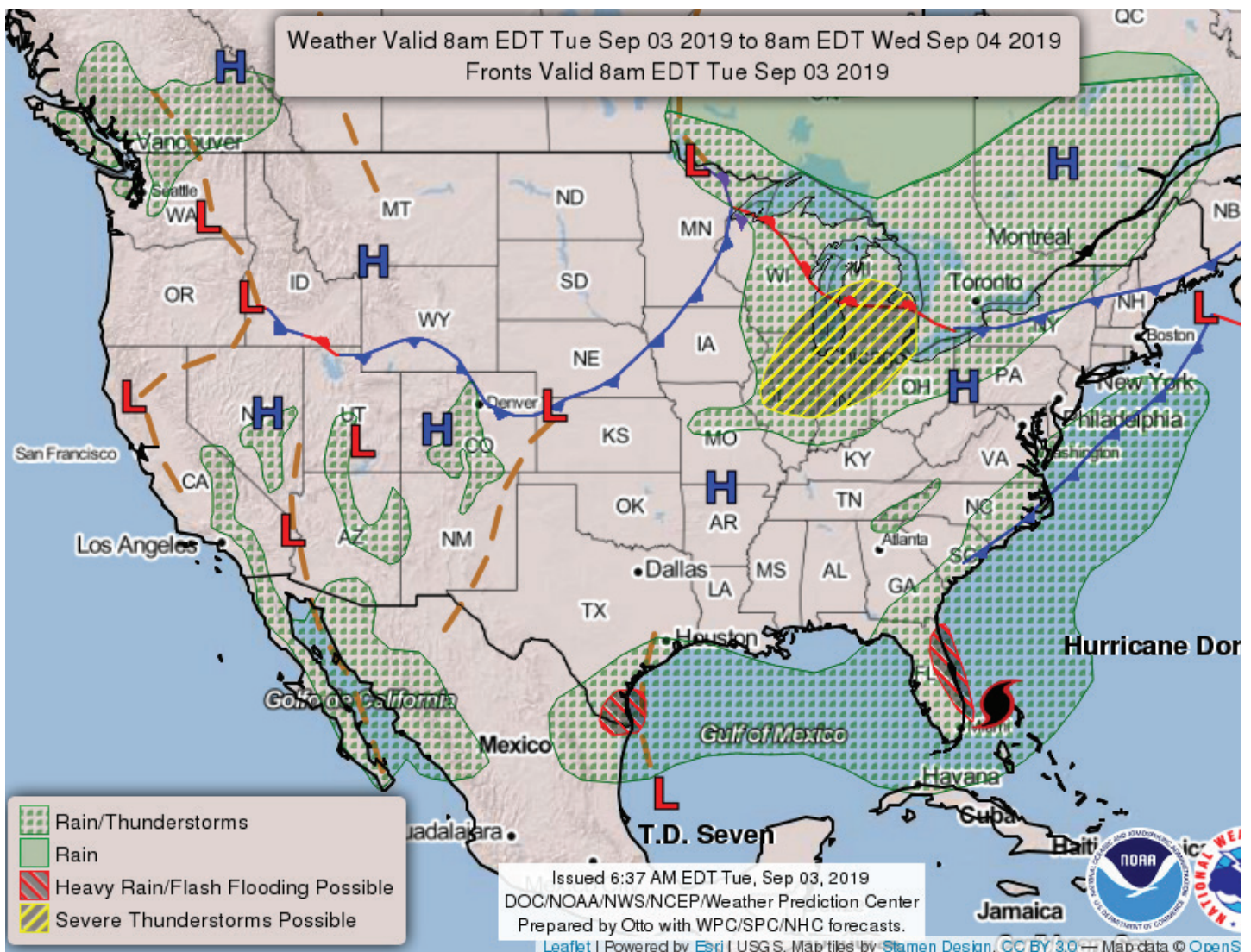
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 72 °F at 3:41 PM
Low Temp: 58 °F at 10:26 PM
Wind: 26 mph at 11:57 AM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 100° in 1931, 1922
Record Low: 30° in 1961
Average High: 77°F
Average Low: 51°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.22
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 16.51
Precip Year to Date: 19.76
Sunset Tonight: 8:06 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:00 a.m.



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AN INSIDE JOB

Why is it, the little girl asked the botanist, that when I open a marigold it dies, but when God opens it, its beautiful?

Because, came the answer, God works from the inside out, while you work from the outside in.

What a beautiful description of the new birth. Its not something that happens on the outside, but something God does on the inside that will eventually be seen on the outside.

A Christian becomes a completely new person. Although we cannot see the change on the inside, we know that there is a change when others see it on the outside the new behaviors that come with the new birth. When Christ fills our heart on the inside, others will see it on the outside: we will no longer be the same and therefore do the same as we did in the past.

People often speak of being rehabilitated. This means that one has been restored to good health, a useful life, ones former condition. But, that is not true of those of us who have been born again. We have, in and through Christ, been recreated - we become completely new beings or actually new people! The old life is gone. A new life has begun, said Paul.

When we are converted to faith in Christ, we do not turn over a new leaf. We begin living a new life under a new Leader that results in a new way of living. Now we begin living a new life by a new set of standards Gods standards. We must now ask, Do others see Jesus in me?

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to examine our lives carefully and completely to be sure we are living this new life. May we allow Your Holy Spirit to work within us to change us, for Jesus sake, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 2 Corinthians 5:11-19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbyterian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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News from the Associated Press

Noem appoints human resources commissioner

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem has appointed a new leader of the state Bureau of Human Resources.

Darin Seeley will begin his job as commissioner Oct. 14. Seeley has been the director of human resources at Harms Oil Company and CC&F Retail in Brookings. From 2009 to 2016, Seeley was a human resources leader at Black Hills Corporation.

Noem said in a statement that she's confident Seeley will make the state a "premier place to work."

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Bon Homme, 25-17, 27-25, 20-25, 26-24
Beresford def. Baltic, 25-17, 23-25, 29-27, 17-25, 15-11
Bridgewater-Emery def. Howard, 25-13, 25-15, 25-11
Burke def. Winner, 25-21, 25-19, 25-23
Chamberlain def. Stanley County, 25-22, 25-15, 24-26, 25-10
Colman-Egan def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-15, 25-16, 21-25, 25-17
Colome def. Crow Creek, 26-24, 25-13, 23-25, 14-25, 15-11
Corsica/Stickney def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-11, 25-12, 25-16
Dakota Valley def. Tri-Valley, 25-13, 25-23, 25-18
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. DeSmet, 28-26, 25-21, 25-20
Deubrook def. Arlington, 25-17, 20-25, 25-19, 23-25, 17-15
Douglas def. Custer, 25-17, 16-25, 15-25, 25-23, 16-14
Dupree def. McLaughlin, 25-15, 25-19, 25-19
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Dell Rapids, 27-25, 25-18, 25-18
Ethan def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-16, 25-21, 25-22
Faith def. Bison, 25-20, 25-14, 25-13
Faulkton def. Sully Buttes, 25-5, 25-17, 25-13
Freeman def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-22, 25-21, 25-19
Gayville-Volin def. Canistota, 22-25, 27-25, 25-13, 25-20
Great Plains Lutheran def. Hamlin, 25-21, 25-20, 25-23
Gregory def. St. Francis Indian, 25-14, 24-26, 25-12, 25-11
Groton Area def. Ipswich, 25-19, 25-23, 25-21
Hanson def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-23, 25-15, 14-25, 25-21
Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. def. Lemmon, 25-10, 25-15, 30-28
Highmore-Harold def. James Valley Christian, 15-25, 25-17, 21-25, 25-17, 15-10
Hill City def. Edgemont, 25-13, 25-13, 25-15
Huron def. Brookings, 25-15, 25-13, 25-8
Jones County def. Wall, 25-23, 25-19, 25-15
Langford def. Leola/Frederick, 25-9, 25-15, 25-17
Lead-Deadwood def. Hot Springs, 25-15, 25-12, 25-13
Madison def. Canton, 25-23, 25-23, 25-18
McCook Central/Montrose def. Chester, 25-19, 25-17, 25-21
Milbank Area def. Deuel, 25-15, 25-13, 25-11

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Mitchell Christian def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-21, 25-23, 16-25, 25-18
Mobridge-Pollock def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-21, 25-16, 25-20
New England, N.D. def. Harding County, 25-18, 25-18, 17-25, 25-16
Parker def. Sioux Valley, 25-7, 25-21, 25-15
Parkston def. Avon, 28-26, 25-17, 25-11
Pierre def. Mitchell, 25-14, 25-16, 31-33, 25-20
Platte-Geddes def. Todd County, 25-6, 25-17, 25-15
Redfield def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 16-25, 25-20, 26-28, 25-17, 15-10
Scotland def. Alcester-Hudson, 23-25, 24-26, 27-25, 25-19, 15-12
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Yankton, 25-15, 25-20, 25-19
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-23, 25-20, 25-27, 25-23
South Border, N.D. def. North Central, 25-10, 25-16, 25-20
Spearfish def. Red Cloud, 25-19, 27-25, 25-20
St. Thomas More def. Sturgis Brown, 22-25, 22-25, 25-20, 25-17, 15-13
Tea Area def. West Central, 25-17, 25-21, 24-26, 25-19
Timber Lake def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 21-25, 25-19, 25-19, 26-24
Tri-State, N.D. def. Florence/Henry, 25-12, 24-26, 25-14, 25-23
Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Menno, 25-21, 25-21, 25-22
Vermillion def. Lennox, 10-25, 25-23, 25-23, 17-25, 15-13
Warner def. Webster, 25-21, 26-24, 25-13
Watertown def. Harrisburg, 25-22, 25-14, 25-15
Waubay/Summit def. Wilmot, 25-12, 25-18, 25-12
Wessington Springs def. Iroquois/Doland (VB), 25-11, 17-25, 27-25, 25-6
Wheaton/Herman-Norcross, Minn. def. Sisseton, 26-28, 16-25, 25-18, 25-22, 15-4
White River def. Lyman, 25-17, 25-19, 25-20

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

13-20-27-61-62, Mega Ball: 5, Megaplier: 2

(thirteen, twenty, twenty-seven, sixty-one, sixty-two; Mega Ball: five; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$127 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$80 million

Hurts' rushing performance in opener tops Oklahoma greats

By CLIFF BRUNT AP Sports Writer

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Most of Oklahoma's great running quarterbacks never put up numbers like Jalen Hurts did in his Sooners' debut.

Jack Mildren? Steve Davis? J.C. Watts, Jamelle Holieway or Charles Thompson?

Nope.

Not even last year's Heisman Trophy winner, Kyler Murray, came close, at least in terms of single-game production. Hurts ran for 176 yards and three touchdowns to help No. 4 Oklahoma defeat Houston 49-31. Only Thomas Lott ever ran for more yards in a game from the quarterback position at Oklahoma than Hurts did in his very first game since transferring from Alabama.

That's a major accomplishment at a program that ran the wishbone for two decades.

"He played with a chip on, and he wants everyone to know he still has it," Oklahoma receiver CeeDee Lamb said.

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Lott set the single-game record for an Oklahoma quarterback with 195 yards against Kansas State in 1976. Hurts just edged out Holieway's 170-yard performance against North Carolina in 1987 for second place. Murray never ran for more than 114 yards in a game during his Heisman season.

Hurts' running style is different from many of the quarterbacks who have put up big numbers for the Sooners in the past. He has adequate speed, but at 219 pounds, his best asset is his ability to move the pile. He doesn't think about how he runs and shook his head when asked whether he embraces contact.

"I just try and go forward," he said. "I just try and go forward. I don't know. I just try and go forward. Positive plays."

It's a mentality Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley appreciates as the Sooners prepare to host South Dakota on Saturday.

"Several examples the other night where he takes some contact and carries guys three, five, six more yards," Riley said. "And those add up through the course of a game."

Hurts had 128 yards at halftime against Houston, matching the record Holieway set in 1985 for the most yards rushing by a Sooner quarterback in a first half. He also took a lot of hits, something Riley is concerned about.

"He is built a little bit different than some of the guys we've had in the past," Riley said. "He's got a body to be able to withstand some, but at the same time, we don't want him taking a bunch of unnecessary ones, either. That will be an ongoing conversation with Jalen and I, trying to find that kind of middle ground, where he can still be an effective runner, because he is."

It's nothing new for Hurts to put up big rushing numbers. He piled up 1,976 yards and 23 touchdowns rushing in his three-year career at Alabama. But he topped his career rushing high in his first game in Riley's offense. He posted 508 yards of total offense — the fifth-highest total in school history.

"I got out there and try to execute what's called and prepare every day throughout the week," Hurts said. "Game plan's great. Regardless of what it is, we have to execute. That's what I do, that's my intent."

The dynamic performance already has reporters asking him about the Heisman Trophy — a fair question since he's following the past two winners, Baker Mayfield and Murray. When asked if the Heisman Trophy is a goal for him, Hurts replied: "Winning football games is a goal for me."

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

South Dakota Prep Polls By The Associated Press

The South Dakota Prep Media football polls for the week of Sept. 3 are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class, record, total points and last week's ranking. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.

Class 11AAA

1. SF Roosevelt (22) 1-0 114 3
 2. SF O'Gorman (1) 1-0 88 2
 3. SF Washington 1-0 56 4
 4. Brandon Valley 0-1 55 1
 5. SF Lincoln 1-0 29 5
- Receiving votes: Harrisburg 3.

Class 11AA

1. Pierre (23) 1-0 115 1
2. Yankton 1-0 90 2
3. Brookings 1-0 71 3
4. Mitchell 1-0 44 5

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5. Huron 0-1 18 4

Receiving votes: Sturgis 4, Douglas 3.

Class 11A

1. Tea Area (22) 1-0 114 1

2. Madison (1) 1-0 91 3

3. SF Christian 1-0 53 4

4. Dakota Valley 0-1 40 2

5. West Central 1-0 32 5

Receiving votes: Dell Rapids 11, Canton 4.

Class 11B

1. Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan (22) 2-0 114 1

2. Winner (1) 2-0 91 3

3. Mount Vernon-Plankinton 1-0 67 4

T-4. St. Thomas More 1-1 26 2

T-4. Webster Area 2-0 26 RV

Receiving votes: Groton Area 15, Sioux Valley 4, McCook Central/Montrose 2.

Class 9AA

1. Bon Homme (22) 2-0 113 1

2. Viborg-Hurley (1) 1-0 86 3

3. Baltic 1-0 60 4

4. Parker 2-0 46 5

5. Deuel 1-0 37 RV

Receiving votes: Hamlin 3.

Class 9A

T-1. Sully Buttes (14) 2-0 100 1

T-1. Canistota/Freeman (8) 2-0 100 2

3. Britton-Hecla (1) 1-0 69 3

4. Howard 2-0 49 4

5. Kimball/White Lake 2-0 17 5

Receiving votes: Gregory 8, De Smet 1, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 1.

Class 9B

1. Colman-Egan (15) 2-0 104 2

2. Faulkton Area (4) 1-0 81 3

3. Wolsey-Wessington (1) 2-0 67 4

4. Dell Rapids St. Mary (3) 2-0 62 5

5. Colome 1-1 24 1

Receiving votes: Corsica-Stickney 3, Harding County 2, Alcester-Hudson 1, Herreid/Selby Area 1.

South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press

Here is the South Dakota media volleyball poll for the week of Sept. 3, 2019. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

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Class AA

1. Watertown (15)	5-0	83	4	
2. O'Gorman	4-1	51	3	
3. S.F. Washington (2)	4-1	50	1	
4. Brandon Valley	4-2	20	RV	
5. Aberdeen Central	2-0	19	RV	

Receiving Votes: Huron (4-1) 17, R.C. Stevens (1-1) 15.

Class A

1. S.F. Christian (17)	3-1	85	1	
2. Miller	1-0	64	2	
3. McCook Central-Montrose	4-1	48	3	
4. Elk Point-Jefferson	1-0	29	4	
5. Parker	2-0	21	5	

Receiving Votes: Dakota Valley (1-0) 6, Winner (1-1) 1, Aberdeen Roncalli (1-1) 1

Class B

1. Northwestern (16)	7-0	84	1	
2. Warner (1)	0-0	63	2	
3. Chester Area	2-0	55	3	
4. Faulkton Area	1-0	32	4	
5. Faith	1-0	19	5	

Receiving Votes: Burke (1-0) 1, Philip (1-0) 1.

Trial in 1981 infant death postponed to April

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Trial for a South Dakota woman charged with murder in the death of her newborn 38 years ago has been postponed.

Jury selection in Theresa Bentaas' trial was scheduled to begin Tuesday, but the trial has now been moved to April. The Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office says the trial has been delayed because all parties are trying to find a time when witnesses are all available.

Bentaas was arrested in March after investigators say they used advances in DNA evidence and genealogy sites to determine she was the mother of an infant found abandoned in a cornfield ditch in Sioux Falls in 1981. The baby died of exposure.

Bentaas is charged with first- and second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter.

Woman survives 80-foot cliff fall in South Dakota state park

GARRETSON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Minnesota woman has escaped with minor injuries after falling more than 80 feet (24 meters) from a cliff at a state park in South Dakota.

Minnehaha County sheriff's Sgt. Scott Dubbe says the fall happened Monday evening at the Palisades State Park, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast of Sioux Falls.

Dubbe tells the Argus Leader that witnesses saw the 28-year-old woman strike the side of the cliff several times before she landed in Split Rock Creek.

Rescue crews pulled her from the water and took her to a hospital.

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

Midwest economy: August state-by-state glance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult

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supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates growth in that factor over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for August:

Arkansas: The overall August index for Arkansas fell to 48.2 from July's 51.0. Index components were new orders at 45.9, production or sales at 52.4, delivery lead time at 58.8, inventories at 41.6 and employment at 42.3. Manufacturers in the state experienced solid growth over the past 12 months. "However, the state's manufacturing sector lost jobs in August, according to Creighton's survey," said Goss.

Iowa: Iowa's overall index sank below the 50.0 threshold to hit 49.7 last month, compared with 52.6 in July. Index components were new orders at 51.8, production or sales at 49.4, delivery lead time at 59.4, employment at 45.7 and inventories at 42.1. Manufacturers experienced slightly positive growth over the past 12 months.

Kansas: The overall index for Kansas sank to 49.9 in August from July's 52.1. Index components were new orders at 49.8, production or sales at 59.9, delivery lead time at 51.4, employment at 46.1 and inventories at 42.1. The state's manufacturing sector lost jobs in August, the survey said.

Minnesota: The overall index for Minnesota fell to 48.6 last month from 51.7 in July. Index components were new orders at 52.2, production or sales at 49.0, delivery lead time at 58.9, inventories at 41.7 and employment at 41.1. Durable-goods manufacturers in the state experienced slight growth over the past 12 months, while nondurable-goods producers suffered job losses. The state's manufacturing sector lost jobs in August, according to the survey.

Missouri: Missouri's overall index slumped to 50.1 in August from July's 51.9. Index components were new orders at 50.1, production or sales at 51.1, delivery lead time at 60.2, inventories at 42.6, and employment at 46.3. Missouri's manufacturers experienced solid growth over the past 12 months, the survey said, but the sector lost jobs in August.

Nebraska: After two straight months with above growth neutral readings, Nebraska's overall index fell into negative territory. The index tumbled to 49.3 last month from July's 52.9. Index components were new orders at 49.6, production or sales at 51.6, delivery lead time at 59.7, inventories at 42.3, and employment at 43.4. Job growth over the past 12 months was flat for durable-goods producers, Goss said, while nondurable-goods manufacturers experienced solid growth. However, the survey showed the state's manufacturing sector lost jobs in August, he said.

North Dakota: North Dakota's overall index dropped to 51.2 from 55.4 in August. Index components were new orders at 49.7, production or sales at 52.7, delivery lead time at 59.5, employment at 45.9 and inventories at 47.8. "U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data indicate that North Dakota manufacturing workers ranked tops in the nine-state region with a 6.9% increase in hourly earnings over the past year," Goss said. However, the survey showed the state's manufacturing sector lost jobs in August, he said.

Oklahoma: After two straight months with above growth neutral readings, Oklahoma's overall index dipped into negative territory. It dropped to 49.6 in August from 52.8 in July. Index components were new orders at 51.8, production or sales at 49.5, delivery lead time at 47.8, inventories at 45.8 and employment at 59.5. The survey said durable- and nondurable-goods producers experienced job losses over the past year, but Oklahoma was the only state to add manufacturing jobs in August.

South Dakota: South Dakota's overall index fell to 48.3 last month from July's 52.5. Index components were new orders at 51.7, production or sales at 49.5, delivery lead time at 52.1, inventories at 42.1 and employment at 45.8. Job growth was solid for South Dakota manufacturers over the past 12 months, the survey said, but the sector lost jobs in August.

Survey suggests little or no Midwest economic growth in view

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An August survey of business supply managers suggested slow or no economic growth over the next several months in nine Midwest and Plains states, in part because of trade skirmishes, a report said Tuesday.

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The Mid-America Business Conditions index dropped below growth neutral in August to hit 49.3, compared with 52.0 in July. The index had remained above growth neutral for 32 straight months, the report said.

"Weakness in the region's farm and manufacturing sectors produced by tariffs and a global economic slowdown pulled regional growth below that of the nation," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey. "Based on our manufacturing survey over the past several months, I expect overall growth to slow and potentially move into negative territory in the months ahead."

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The August employment index plummeted to 45.1, its lowest level in 34 months, from 56.3 in July.

"For the last 12 months, Mid-America employment growth has been 0.7%, compared to a much higher 1.5% for the U.S.," Goss said. "This month, as in July, approximately 40% of supply managers (who responded) reported that the shortage of qualified workers was the greatest economic challenge for their company for the next 12 months."

The regional trade numbers were down again with both export orders and imports falling in the August survey. The index for new export orders sank to 39.6 from July's 44.7, and the import index dropped to 42.3 from 43.8 in July.

Two-thirds of the supply managers who responded in August indicated that the trade war and tariffs were harming their companies.

The business confidence index plunged to 45.0 last month from 51.4 in July — a 35-month low.

"I expect business confidence to depend heavily on trade talks with China, the Federal Reserve's interest rate actions in the weeks and months ahead, and recession signals from the nation's financial markets," Goss said.

Wharf to conduct exploratory drilling for gold

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — The operator of the only large-scale, active gold mine in the Black Hills will be conducting exploratory drilling.

Wharf Resources has notified South Dakota regulators it will drill 125 holes near the Richmond Hill Mine in search of gold. The mine was closed 26 years ago because of environmental pollution caused by acid-rock drainage.

The company produced nearly 77,000 ounces of gold and more than 50,000 ounces of silver last year at its Wharf Mine near Lead. Sales of the gold and silver generated \$96.5 million in 2018. The Rapid City Journal says the remaining life of the Wharf mine is estimated to be seven years.

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

Global stocks rise on hope for Hong Kong calm

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Global stocks rose Wednesday as Hong Kong's government withdrew a proposed extradition law that sparked three months of protests in the Chinese territory.

Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng index jumped 3.9% on news of plans for the withdrawal, which Chief Executive Carrie Lam confirmed after markets closed. The protests have disrupted travel, adding to pressure from weakening global trade.

Elsewhere, benchmarks in London, Frankfurt, Shanghai and Tokyo rose as Britain's Parliament fought over plans to leave the European Union and the U.S.-China trade dispute remained unresolved.

In midday trading, London's FTSE 100 gained 0.3% to 7,292 and Frankfurt's DAX added 1% to 12,026. France's CAC 40 also picked up about 1% to 5,523. On Wall Street, futures for the S&P 500 index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.8%.

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The Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.9% to 2,957.41 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 advanced 0.1% to 20,649.76. The Hang Seng closed at 26,523.23.

The proposed Hong Kong law prompted complaints it would allow crime suspects to be sent to mainland China, where courts are controlled by the ruling Communist Party. Protesters complained Lam's government and Beijing were eroding the "high degree of autonomy" promised when the former British colony returned to China in 1997.

The protests have broadened to include demands for universal democracy and for Lam to resign.

"Violence might ease in Hong Kong, but the protests are likely to continue" until other demands are met, said Edward Moya of Oanda in a report.

Seoul's Kospi rose 1.2% to 1,988.53 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 lost 0.3% to 6,553.00. India's Sensex gained 0.3% to 36,669.76.

The global economic backdrop remains dark, however. On Tuesday, an index of U.S. manufacturing issued by the Institute for Supply Management, an association of purchasing managers, slid to a 3½-year low of 49.1 last month from July's 51.2. Softer global demand, aggravated by the U.S.-Chinese tariff war, appears to be hurting American manufacturers.

In London, Parliament was preparing to defy Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plans to leave the European common market even if the two sides fail to agree on future trade and other terms.

The House of Commons planned to confront Johnson over his insistence Britain leave the EU on Oct. 31. Parliament agreed to allow Johnson's opponents to propose a law that would try to block a departure without a deal.

Johnson has said he will call an election to reinforce his position if the lawmakers succeed.

That "could again induce more volatility," said Mizuho Bank in a report.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 78 cents to \$54.72 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.16 on Tuesday to close at \$53.94. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 71 cents to \$58.97 per barrel in London. It lost 40 cents the previous session to \$58.26.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 106.21 yen from Tuesday's 105.95 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1009 from \$1.0976.

Miami's Bahamian ties inspire relief effort after Dorian

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Spared from the wrath of Hurricane Dorian, people in South Florida are donating water, food and household supplies in a relief effort spearheaded by descendants of some of Miami's earliest settlers from the Bahamas.

Floridians showed up in droves Tuesday to give cans of food, bottles of water and boxes of diapers to members of two historically black churches who were sorting them before they were to be flown to the devastated islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama.

"We have to channel all that anxiety into something positive," relief coordinator Jonathan Archer said. Archer is the former head of a parish in Long Island, Bahamas, and current rector of the Christ Episcopal Church in Miami's historic Coconut Grove neighborhood, some of whose first settlers hailed from the Bahamas.

Some of the volunteers were frantically trying to text cousins, uncles, aunts and nieces who braved the powerful storm in their island homes. Few had any luck Tuesday.

"I am grateful that we weren't hit but the severity of the damage in Abaco and Freeport just breaks my heart," said Diane Alexander, a 57-year-old retired teacher who has cousins in Nassau. Alexander bought provisions for Dorian then decided to donate them when the storm no longer threatened a direct hit on Florida.

Practically parking over a portion of the Bahamas for a day and a half, Dorian pounded Abaco and Grand Bahama with winds up to 185 mph (295 kph) and torrential rain, ripping apart homes and trapping people

in their attics on the island nation. The government on Tuesday had reported five deaths but the full extent of the damage wasn't yet clear.

The storm finally moved into open waters Tuesday, but was still centered not far from the western tip of the Bahamas as it crawled northwest toward the southeastern U.S. Its winds were down to a still-dangerous 110 mph (175 kph).

Florida state Rep. Shevrin Jones, who was asking people to donate, said one of his extended relatives is an officer with the Bahamas immigration agency and had been working as a first responder. Jones tweeted a screen shot of a WhatsApp message he received from the relative, who said she and her rescue team had found family members curled up together, all of them dead.

Helping to collect supplies was Elvrern Ross, a native of Nassau, Bahamas, and now a member of the Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Coconut Grove, one of the institutions seeking donations. Ross said she has an uncle and aunt with young children who did not want to evacuate their home in Marsh Harbour, where storm surge was reported at 18 to 23 feet (5.5 to 7 meters). She has not been able to reach them.

Ross arranged boxes of toothpaste and soap bars on a table Tuesday, working alongside the great-granddaughter of one of the Bahamian worshippers who founded St. Paul in 1896.

"I wanted to volunteer to take my mind off all that stuff that is going on there," she said.

Hong Kong withdraws extradition bill that sparked protests

By KATIE TAM Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced Wednesday the government will formally withdraw an extradition bill that sparked months of demonstrations, bowing to one of the protesters' demands in the hope of ending the increasingly violent unrest.

But lawmakers warned that the bill's withdrawal was not enough to end the turmoil, which has increasingly focused on alleged police brutality against protesters and democratic reforms.

The bill would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China for trials. It has prompted massive protests since June that disrupted transport links and caused the airport to shut down earlier this month.

Lam said the government would not accept other demands including an independent inquiry into alleged police misconduct and the unconditional release of those detained. Instead, she named two new members to a police watchdog agency investigating the matter.

"The government will formally withdraw the bill in order to fully allay public concerns," she said in a recorded television message.

She said the persistent violence is damaging the rule of law and that moves to vandalize the national flag and emblem were a direct challenge to the "one country, two systems" policy and had put Hong Kong in a "highly vulnerable and dangerous situation."

"Our foremost priority now is to end violence, to safeguard the rule of law and to restore order and safety in society," she added, vowing to "strictly enforce the law against all violent and illegal acts."

Lam said it was clear that public frustration has gone far beyond the bill and that her government will seek a dialogue with aggrieved groups to "address the discontent in society and to look for solutions."

She said she will also invite community leaders, professionals and academics to examine deep-seated problems in the society and advise the government on solutions.

"Let's replace conflicts with conversations, and let's look for solutions," she said.

Lam made the announcement after meeting with pro-government lawmakers and members of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Lawmaker Michael Tien, who was at the meeting, said the move would not change public sentiment if it isn't accompanied by other concessions.

"It is too little, too late. The focus now has completely shifted. Most people do not remember what the bill is about but are more concerned about the escalating violence and alleged police heavy-handedness

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against protesters," he said.

He said Lam rejected his call during the meeting for an independent inquiry which would have the power to summon witnesses, on the ground that it would overlap with the police watchdog probe.

Pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo said the protesters are adamant that all their demands, including calls for direct elections, are fulfilled. She mocked Lam's bid to seek dialogue to address public grievances.

"She has been fast asleep these three months, this is just absurd," Mo said. "The scars and wounds are still bleeding, and she thinks she can just use some garden hose to put out the hill fire. That is not acceptable."

Pro-establishment lawmaker Starry Lee, however, urged protesters to accept the government's olive branch so the city can move forward.

The Hong Kong stock market soared 4%, boosted by reports of the bill's withdrawal.

Lam has come under withering criticism for pushing the extradition bill, which many in Hong Kong see as an example of the city's eroding autonomy since the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997.

She 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 protests.

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.

The mostly young protesters say that a degree of violence is necessary to get the government's attention after peaceful rallies were futile. In Beijing, the mainland office responsible for Hong Kong has warned that China will "not sit idly by" if the situation worsens.

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

Hong Kong and foreign companies have also been under intense pressure to support China's ruling Communist Party against the protesters.

The chairman of Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways resigned Wednesday, becoming the second top figure to leave the airline since the protests erupted.

Cathay said John Slosar was retiring from the airline, one of Hong Kong's most prominent businesses. It comes less than one month after Cathay's CEO, Rupert Hogg, resigned following pressure by Beijing over participation by some of the carrier's employees in protests.

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

Democrats propose spending trillions fighting climate change

By JUANA SUMMERS and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidates are releasing their plans to address climate change ahead of a series of town halls on the issue as the party's base increasingly demands aggressive action.

California Sen. Kamala Harris unveiled her plans on Wednesday. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former Obama Cabinet member Julián Castro laid out theirs on Tuesday. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar released hers over the weekend.

The release of the competing plans comes as issues of climate and the environment have become a central focus of the Democratic primary. On Wednesday, 10 Democrats seeking the White House will participate in back-to-back climate town halls hosted by CNN in New York. A second set of climate-focused town halls will be televised by MSNBC later in the month. Liberals had demanded that the Democratic Party focus at least one debate on climate change, but a climate debate resolution was defeated at the

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Democratic National Committee's summer meeting last month.

The issue is so urgent among Democratic voters that Washington Gov. Jay Inslee made action to limit the worst extremes of climate change the core of his presidential bid. But Inslee dropped out of the presidential race in August after failing to earn a spot in the September primary debate. Warren says Inslee's ideas "should remain at the center of the agenda," and she met with him in Seattle when she visited the state for a rally before Labor Day, according to two people familiar with the meeting who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

Warren's clean energy proposal builds on Inslee's 10-year clean energy plan in seeking to implement 100% clean energy standards in three key sectors of the American economy. Warren says she will increase her planned spending on research and investment to cut carbon emissions to \$3 trillion. She embraces tough deadlines for sharply cutting or eliminating the use of fossil fuels by the U.S. electrical grid, highways and air transit systems, and by cities and towns. That includes making sure that new cars, buses and many trucks run on clean energy — instead of gasoline or diesel — by 2030 and that all the country's electricity comes from solar, wind and other renewable, carbon-free sources by 2035.

Harris' \$10 trillion plan includes proposals supported by her Democratic rivals. She calls on the United States to achieve a clean economy by 2045 and to reach the goal of 100% carbon-neutral electricity by 2030. She says she will end fossil fuel production on public lands and end federal subsidies for fossil fuels.

Harris says she supports a "climate pollution fee," designed to drive down pollution while increasing government revenue.

Harris also calls for the passage of the Climate Equity Act, a bill she introduced with New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, which would require Congress to measure how potential environmental legislation would impact poorer communities.

Booker's \$3 trillion plan includes nearly a dozen executive actions to reverse Trump administration moves. He says that by no later than 2045, he wants to get the U.S. economy to carbon neutral — a point at which carbon emissions are supposedly canceled out by carbon-cutting measures, such as planting new forests to suck up carbon from the atmosphere. Booker also urges massive restoration of forests and coastal wetlands as carbon sponges and as buffers against rising seas. He sets a 2030 deadline for getting natural gas and coal out of the electrical grid. He would get there partly by scrapping all subsidies for fossil fuels, banning new oil and gas leases, phasing out fracking and introducing a carbon fee.

If elected, Booker says, he will propose legislation creating a "United States Environmental Justice Fund," which, among its areas of focus, will replace all home, school and day care drinking water lines by the end of his second term.

Castro's \$10 trillion plan aims to have all electricity in the United States be clean and renewable by 2035. He wants to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 and at least a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. And, like Booker, he focuses on environmental racism, in which people of color are disproportionately affected by environmental hazards. Castro says that within the first 100 days of his presidency he would propose new legislation to address the impact of environmental discrimination.

Among Democrats seeking the presidency, there is little disagreement that climate change is a building disaster. Candidates' primary differences are over how aggressively the U.S. should move now to cut fossil fuel emissions to stave off the worst of the coming climate extremes.

Last month, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders toured a California mobile home park ravaged by wildfires as he introduced his \$16 trillion plan to fight global warming, the costliest among the Democratic field. His plan declares climate change a national emergency, calls for the United States to eliminate fossil fuel use by 2050 and commits \$200 billion to help poorer nations reckon with climate change.

Former Vice President Joe Biden has proposed \$1.7 trillion in spending over 10 years, on clean energy and other initiatives with the goal of eliminating the country's net carbon emissions by 2050. Biden has been less absolute than some other Democratic candidates on stamping out consumption of oil, natural gas and coal, calling for eliminating subsidies for the fossil fuels rather than pledging to eliminate all use of them.

The relatively minor differences among Democrats on climate change come in sharp contrast to President

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Donald Trump, who has dismissed and mocked the science of climate change and has reversed course on U.S. climate policy. Trump made pulling the country out of the Paris climate accord one of his administration's first priorities, and his wholehearted support of the petroleum and coal industries has been one of the enduring themes of his presidency.

Nationally, 72% of Democratic midterm voters said they were very concerned about the effects of climate change, and 20% were somewhat concerned. That's according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 115,000 midterm voters nationwide.

Associated Press writer Michelle L. Price in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

Bahamians begin rescues as Dorian moves on toward US coast

By RAMON ESPINOSA, DÁNICA COTO and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN Associated Press

FREEPORT, Bahamas (AP) — Bahamians rescued victims of Hurricane Dorian with jet skis and a bulldozer as the U.S. Coast Guard, Britain's Royal Navy and a handful of aid groups tried to get food and medicine to survivors and take the most desperate people to safety.

Airports were flooded and roads impassable after the most powerful storm to hit the Bahamas in recorded history parked over Abaco and Grand Bahama islands, pounding them with winds up to 185 mph (295 kph) and torrential rain before finally moving into open waters Tuesday on a course toward Florida.

People on the U.S. coast made final preparations for a storm with winds at a still-dangerous 105 mph (168 kph), making it a Category 2 storm.

At least seven deaths were reported in the Bahamas, with the full scope of the disaster still unknown.

The storm's punishing winds and muddy brown floodwaters destroyed or severely damaged thousands of homes, crippled hospitals and trapped people in attics.

"It's total devastation. It's decimated. Apocalyptic," said Lia Head-Rigby, who helps run a local hurricane relief group and flew over the Bahamas' hard-hit Abaco Islands. "It's not rebuilding something that was there; we have to start again."

She said her representative on Abaco told her there were "a lot more dead," though she had no numbers as bodies being gathered.

The Bahamas' prime minister also expected more deaths and predicted that rebuilding would require "a massive, coordinated effort."

"We are in the midst of one of the greatest national crises in our country's history," Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said at a news conference. "No effort or resources will be held back."

Five Coast Guard helicopters ran near-hourly flights to the stricken Abaco, flying more than 20 injured people to the capital's main hospital. British sailors were also rushing in aid. A few private aid groups also tried to reach the battered islands in the northern Bahamas.

"We don't want people thinking we've forgotten them. ... We know what your conditions are," Tammy Mitchell of the Bahamas' National Emergency Management Agency told ZNS Bahamas radio station.

With their heads bowed against heavy wind and rain, rescuers began evacuating people from the storm's aftermath across Grand Bahama island late Tuesday, using jet skis, boats and even a huge bulldozer that cradled children and adults in its digger as it churned through deep waters and carried them to safety.

One rescuer gently scooped up an elderly man in his arms and walked toward a pickup truck waiting to evacuate him and others to higher ground.

Over 2 million people along the coast in Florida, Georgia and North and South Carolina were warned to evacuate. While the threat of a direct hit on Florida had all but evaporated, Dorian was expected to pass dangerously close to Georgia and South Carolina — and perhaps strike North Carolina — on Thursday or Friday. The hurricane's eye passed to the east of Cape Canaveral, Florida, early Wednesday.

Even if landfall does not occur, the system is likely to cause storm surge and severe flooding, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

"Don't tough it out. Get out," said U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency official Carlos Castillo.

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In the Bahamas, Red Cross spokesman Matthew Cochrane said more than 13,000 houses, or about 45% of the homes on Grand Bahama and Abaco, were believed to be severely damaged or destroyed. U.N. officials said more than 60,000 people on the hard-hit islands will need food, and the Red Cross said some 62,000 will need clean drinking water.

"What we are hearing lends credence to the fact that this has been a catastrophic storm and a catastrophic impact," Cochrane said.

Lawson Bates, a staffer for Arkansas-based MedicCorps, flew over Abaco and said: "It looks completely flattened. There's boats way inland that are flipped over. It's total devastation."

The Red Cross authorized \$500,000 for the first wave of disaster relief, Cochrane said. U.N. humanitarian teams stood ready to go into the stricken areas to help assess damage and the country's needs, U.N. spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said. The U.S. government also sent a disaster response team.

Abaco and Grand Bahama islands, with a combined population of about 70,000, are known for their marinas, golf courses and all-inclusive resorts. To the south, the Bahamas' most populous island, New Providence, which includes the capital city of Nassau and has over a quarter-million people, had little damage.

The U.S. Coast Guard airlifted at least 21 people injured on Abaco. Choppy, coffee-colored floodwaters reached roofs and the tops of palm trees.

"We will confirm what the real situation is on the ground," Health Minister Duane Sands said. "We are hoping and praying that the loss of life is limited."

Sands said Dorian rendered the main hospital on Grand Bahama unusable, while the hospital at Marsh Harbor on Abaco was in need of food, water, medicine and surgical supplies. He said crews were trying to fly out five to seven kidney failure patients from Abaco who had not received dialysis since Friday.

The Grand Bahama airport was under 6 feet (2 meters) of water.

Early Wednesday, Dorian was centered about 90 miles (144 kilometers) east of Daytona Beach, Florida, and it was moving north northwest at 8 mph (12 kph). Hurricane-force winds extended up to 60 miles (95 kilometers) from its center, while tropical storm-force winds could be felt up to 175 miles (280 kilometers) from the core.

The U.S. coast from north of West Palm Beach, Florida, through Georgia was expected to get 3 to 6 inches of rain, with 9 inches in places, while the Carolinas could get 5 to 10 inches and 15 in spots, the National Hurricane Center said.

Forecasters also tracked Tropical Storm Fernand as it closed in on the northeast Mexican coast south of the U.S. border, predicting landfall Wednesday and up to 18 inches of rainfall that could unleash flash floods and mudslides Wednesday below the eastern "Sierra Madre" range.

NASA satellite imagery through Monday night showed some places in the Bahamas had gotten as much as 35 inches (89 centimeters) of rain, said private meteorologist Ryan Maue.

Parliament member Iram Lewis said he feared waters would keep rising and stranded people would lose contact with officials as their cellphone batteries died.

Dorian also left one person dead in its wake in Puerto Rico before slamming into the Bahamas on Sunday. It tied the record for the strongest Atlantic storm ever to hit land, matching the Labor Day hurricane that struck Florida's Gulf Coast in 1935, before storms were given names.

Across the Southeast, interstate highways leading away from beaches in South Carolina and Georgia were turned into one-way evacuation routes. Several airports announced closings, and hundreds of flights were canceled. Walt Disney World in Orlando closed in the afternoon, and SeaWorld shut down.

Police in coastal Savannah, Georgia, announced an overnight curfew. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper ordered a mandatory evacuation of the dangerously exposed barrier islands along the state's entire coast.

Having seen storms swamp his home on the Georgia coast in 2016 and 2017, Joey Spalding of Tybee Island decided to empty his house and stay at a friend's apartment nearby rather than take any chances with Dorian.

He packed a U-Haul truck with tables, chairs, a chest of drawers, tools — virtually all of his furnishings except for his mattress and a large TV — and planned to park it on higher ground. He also planned to

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shroud his house in plastic wrap up to shoulder height and pile sandbags in front of the doors.

"In this case, I don't have to come into a house full of junk," he said. "I'm learning a little as I go."

Associated Press journalist Ramon Espinosa reported this story in Freeport, AP writer Danica Coto reported from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and AP writer Michael Weissenstein reported from Nassau, Bahamas. AP writers Tim Ayles in Freeport, Russ Bynum in Georgia and Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed to this report.

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. BAHAMIANS BEGIN RESCUES AS DORIAN MOVES ON TOWARD US COAST

Bahamians rescue hurricane victims with jet skis and a bulldozer as the U.S., Britain and aid groups try to get food and medicine to survivors and take the most desperate people to safety.

2. HONG KONG EXTRADITION BILL WITHDRAWN

The territory's embattled leader Carrie Lam announces the withdrawal of the bill that sparked months of protests.

3. DEFIANT UK LAWMAKERS MOVE TO BAR 'NO DEAL' BREXIT

Parliament will attempt to defy Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit plans as lawmakers seek a way out of the impasse.

4. BURNING BOAT TAKES CLUES OF FATAL FIRE DOWN TO WATERY GRAVE

Officials vow to find what sparked the inferno aboard the dive boat that killed 34 people in California, but evidence may have gone down with the ship or drifted out to sea.

5. PENTAGON SIDELINES BUILDING PROJECTS TO FUND WALL

The Defense Department approves the use of \$3.6 billion in funding from military construction projects to build 175 miles of Trump's wall along the Mexican border.

6. STUDY: CARVING UP SCHOOL DISTRICTS WORSENS SEGREGATION

A new study finds that carving out new school districts in the South is reinforcing racial segregation in the larger districts left behind.

7. PONTIFF EMBARKS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA PILGRIMAGE

Pope Francis begins with a visit to Mozambique, just weeks after the country signed a new peace deal and weeks before national elections.

8. HOW WALMART WON PRAISE

Gun control advocates laud the retailer's decision to discontinue sales of certain ammunition and request that customers no longer openly carry firearms in its stores.

9. DEMOCRATS PROPOSE SPENDING TRILLIONS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Democrats are releasing plans to battle global warming ahead of town halls on the issue, a sharp contrast to Trump's dismissal of climate science.

10. NEW TROVE OF EPSTEIN COURT PAPERS MAY BE UNSEALED

A federal judge will discuss plans for unsealing a new trove of court records involving sexual abuse allegations against the financier who took his own life last month.

Brexit breathes life back into Scottish independence push

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

STIRLING, Scotland (AP) — When Scotland voted in 2014 against independence, that seemed to settle the issue: The hauntingly rugged region where Britain's royal family spends its holidays at its vast Balmoral estate would remain with England, Wales and Northern Ireland in a United Kingdom governed from London.

But less than two years later came the Brexit referendum, and while the U.K. voted to leave the European Union, Scots distinguished themselves as the biggest dissenters. Not only did Scotland vote overwhelmingly

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to stay in the EU, it was the only one of the U.K.'s four parts where not a single constituency delivered a "Yes" vote to leave.

Simply put: Scotland is being dragged largely unwillingly toward what many of its people fear will be economic suffering on Oct. 31, when the messy divorce is scheduled to take effect, quite possibly without an agreement to cushion expected blows to businesses and households.

Disgruntlement with Brexit and machinations in Westminster that have pushed the U.K. ever closer to a no-deal departure is so keenly felt in Scotland's glens and weather-beaten towns that independence is back as an issue. In the aftermath of Brexit, Scotland could again become a headache for whoever is in power in London.

Rather than be shackled to what they suspect could become a diminished and isolated U.K., advocates of Scottish independence are clamoring for another referendum to allow it to strike out on its own and perhaps even rejoin the EU.

Even some of those who voted against independence, betting that Scotland would be better off in the U.K., are having second thoughts.

Chris Deerin, director of the Reform Scotland think-tank, was a firm "No" in 2014, describing the idea of a breakup of the union with Britain as "utterly bizarre" and "almost unthinkable" in his political commentaries at the time.

As Brexit looms, Deerin's tune is changing.

"I'm not at the stage where I'd say I'd vote 'Yes' yet, but it's definitely not unthinkable," he says. "And, anecdotally, there are lots of people I know who also voted 'No' in 2014 who, if not now committed to voting 'Yes,' are open to a discussion."

He adds: "If Scotland is independent in 2025, 2030, I think Brexit will pretty obviously be the main reason for that. ... It has set Scotland against England."

But Scots wanting a second shot at independence won't automatically get one. The U.K. government has repeatedly ruled out the possibility, saying Scots had their say and that a second vote could heap further division on the country already riven by generational, regional, political and economic divides over Brexit.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's hardball negotiating tactics since he took office in July, replacing Theresa May after she failed to get Parliament's backing for her Brexit deal with the EU, suggest to some Scots that he's especially unlikely to yield.

Johnson has taken steps to suspend Parliament for part of the remaining weeks before the Oct. 31 departure, shrinking options and time for lawmakers who want to stop a chaotic no-deal departure. Johnson's critics have likened him to a dictator and his maneuverings to a coup.

"Are you a democrat or not? Do you respect the will of the Scottish people or not?" said Ian Blackford, a lawmaker with the pro-EU Scottish National Party, addressing Johnson as the U.K. Parliament reconvened Tuesday in London.

"The Scottish people did not vote for Brexit. The people of Scotland did not vote for a no-deal Brexit. They did not vote for the Tory party and they certainly did not vote for this prime minister," Blackford added during the raucous debate.

Such charges resonate among independence supporters north of the seamless, open border with England noticeable only because of road signs that declare "Welcome to Scotland" in English and "Failte gu Alba" in Scottish Gaelic.

Edinburgh-based actor Gilchrist Muir says he's always felt Scottish rather than British and has long viewed the U.K.'s Union Jack flag as "a symbol of oppression."

For one of his more regular acting jobs, Muir dresses up in chain mail and leather as Sir William Wallace, recounting to tourists how the 13th century Scottish independence hero defeated English invaders in the 1297 Battle of Stirling Bridge. Wallace was later executed in London in 1305 — hanged, disemboweled and beheaded as a traitor to England's King Edward I.

Mel Gibson played Wallace in the 1995 movie "Braveheart." Posing for tourists' photos with his long sword, Muir borrows Gibson's signature cry from the film, howling: "Freedom!"

But out of costume, chatting in an Edinburgh pub over a beer, he's deeply pessimistic about any shift in Westminster's stance.

"It's like I'm a passenger in a car that's out of control, and the driver's left, and you have no say over where the car's going. That's what it feels like right now. The Parliament has been hijacked. We have no say. Scotland has no voice," he says. "In any other normal democratic country or context, I would think yes, there's a good chance of getting some sort of movement in that direction, but in the current state of affairs, even if it was the will of the people, I don't have much faith."

But others are gearing up for a renewed push, cheered by polling that suggests Brexit, and especially a no-deal departure, may be strengthening the independence cause. The resignation in August of Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson, who cited family reasons, deprived the anti-independence camp of one of its most popular leaders.

Scottish flags, with a white cross on a blue background, hang inside and outside the distillery where Dale McQueen brews gin. Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon, who champions calls for a second independence referendum by 2021, opened his new factory this year in Callander, with spectacular views of surrounding crags.

McQueen says he hopes to be able to plow profits from his fast-growing business into a second referendum campaign.

"I'm very optimistic that Scotland will be an independent country," he says. "I hope and pray for that. I think it (Brexit) has been helpful to the independent cause, simply because we're having something imposed on the country. We didn't vote for it."

Associated Press reporter Danica Kirka in London contributed to this report.

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

Family, teenagers among 34 presumed dead in boat fire

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — High school students, a science teacher and his daughter, an adventurous marine biologist and a family of five celebrating a birthday are among those presumed to have died when fire tore through a scuba diving boat off the Southern California coast, trapping dozens of sleeping people below deck.

Authorities on Tuesday ended the search for survivors of Monday's pre-dawn fire aboard the Conception. It was presumed that 34 people were dead.

The search for other survivors ended Tuesday. At least 20 bodies had been recovered and officials continued efforts to bring in others spotted on the ocean bed. Some may be inside the sunken boat.

The only survivors were believed to be the captain and four crew members who were awake on the upper decks. They jumped off the front of the vessel, swam to an inflatable boat at the back and steered it to a ship anchored nearby.

But flames moved so quickly through the 75-foot vessel that it blocked both a narrow stairway and an escape hatch leading to the upper decks, giving those below virtually no chance of escaping, authorities said.

DNA will be needed to identify all the victims, and authorities will be using the same rapid analysis tool that identified victims of the deadly wildfire that devastated the Northern California town of Paradise last year, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said.

Brown said he had heard anecdotally that those who died ranged from teenagers to people in their 60s. He said most appear to have been from Northern California, including Santa Cruz, San Jose and the San Francisco Bay Area.

A broken-hearted mother posted on her Facebook page Tuesday that her three daughters, their father and his wife were among those presumed dead.

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Susana Rosas of Stockton, California, posted that her three daughters — Evan, Nicole and Angela Quitasol — were with their father Michael Quitasol and stepmother Fernisa Sison.

Evan Quitasol was a nurse at St. Joseph's Medical Center of Stockton, where her father and Sison had worked after attending nursing school at San Joaquin Delta College.

Sison also worked at the college teaching first-year nursing students full-time in 2005 and 2006 and later as an adjunct instructor, according to the school's spokesman, Alex Breitler.

"Everybody's devastated. It's a totally unexpected thing that happened," said Dominic Selga, Sison's ex-husband. "What caused the fire, that's the big question, that's what we all want to know."

A team from the National Transportation Safety Board arrived Tuesday to investigate the cause of the tragedy.

"I am 100% confident that our investigators will determine the cause of this fire, why it occurred, how it occurred and what is needed to prevent it from happening again," NTSB member Jennifer Homendy told reporters.

Rosas' husband, Chris, told the Los Angeles Times that Nicole Quitasol worked as a bartender in Coronado near San Diego and her sister, Angela, was a science teacher at a middle school in Stockton.

The sisters were on the trip to celebrate their dad's birthday, Chris Rosas said. He described them as "the most kind, most loving people I've ever met — and I'm not just saying that because they're family."

Nicole worked for a Coronado restaurant called Nicky Rottens. A GoFundMe page the restaurant started to help the family described Nicole as "an adventurous & loving soul."

The fire broke out shortly after 3 a.m. Monday as the boat sat anchored in Platt's Harbor off Santa Cruz Island. The 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.

Among those on board were some students from Pacific Collegiate School in Santa Cruz, a public charter school for grades 7 through 12, the school said.

Scott Chan, a physics teacher at American High School in Fremont, also was on board with his daughter, said Brian Killgore, a spokesman for the Fremont Unified School District.

The district said in a statement that Chan taught Advance Placement physics classes for the past three years at the school and was well liked.

"His students knew him to be an innovative and inspiring teacher who developed a passion for physics among his students," the district said in a statement. "His loss is a tremendous tragedy for our school district."

Chan said on his LinkedIn page that his teaching was fed by his "passion and wealth of real-world experience from research laboratories, and the electronics, computer, and high-performance automotive industries."

ABC affiliate KNXV-TV in Phoenix reported that an Arizona couple, Patricia Beitzinger and Neal Baltz, were also on the trip.

"They went to heaven doing something they loved together," Neal's father, John Baltz, told the station.

Also below decks was Kristy Finstad, a marine biologist and co-owner of Worldwide Diving Adventures in Santa Cruz, which chartered the boat. Finstad was leading the scuba tour.

Finstad knew the area well, having done hundreds of dives in the Channel Islands, where she first swam with her father as a toddler. She first dove with a tank off Mexico at age 9, according to her company's website.

Finstad was described by her brother, Brett Harmeling of Houston, as strong-willed and adventurous.

"If there was a one percent chance of her making it, she would have made it," he told the Los Angeles Times.

Finstad studied damselfish and corals in the Tahitian Islands, dove for black pearls in the French Polynesian Tuamotus Islands and counted salmonids for the city of Santa Cruz, where she lived. She also did research for the Australian Institute of Marine Science and wrote a restoration guidebook for the California Coastal Commission.

"My mission is to inspire appreciation for our underwater world," she wrote on her company's website.

She and her husband had just returned from sailing across the South Pacific.

The Conception, based in Santa Barbara Harbor, was owned by Santa Barbara-based Truth Aquatics, founded in 1974. A memorial at the harbor quickly grew as mourners came to pay their respects.

Actor Rob Lowe tweeted that he had been aboard the vessel many times. Dave Reid, who runs an underwater camera manufacturing business with his wife, Terry Schuller, also has traveled on the Conception and two other boats in Truth Aquatics' fleet and said he considered all three among the best and safest.

Schuller said the company's 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," Schuller said.

Coast Guard records show the boat's owners quickly addressed all safety violations from the last five years.

Associated Press writers John Antczak and John Rogers in Los Angeles, Julie Watson in San Diego and Janie Har in San Francisco contributed to this story.

Pentagon defers 127 building projects to fund border wall

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Mark Esper approved the use of \$3.6 billion in funding from military construction projects to build 175 miles (282 kilometers) of President Donald Trump's wall along the Mexican border.

Pentagon officials would not say which 127 projects will be affected but said details will be available Wednesday after members of Congress are notified. They said half the money will come from military projects in the U.S. and the rest will come from projects in other countries.

Esper's decision Tuesday fuels what has been a persistent controversy between the Trump administration and Congress over immigration policies and the funding of the border wall. And it sets up a difficult debate for lawmakers who refused earlier this year to approve nearly \$6 billion for the wall but now must decide if they will refund the projects that are being used to provide the money.

Elaine McCusker, the Pentagon comptroller, said the now-unfunded projects are not being canceled. Instead, the Pentagon is saying the military projects are being "deferred." The Defense Department, however, has no guarantee from Congress that any of the money will be replaced, and a number of lawmakers made it clear during the debate earlier this year that they would not fall for budget trickery and sleight of hand to build the wall.

"It is a slap in the face to the members of the Armed Forces who serve our country that President Trump is willing to cannibalize already allocated military funding to boost his own ego and for a wall he promised Mexico would pay to build," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York. He said the funding shift will affect the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Congress approved \$1.375 billion for wall construction in this year's budget, same as the previous year and far less than the \$5.7 billion that the White House sought. Trump grudgingly accepted the money to end a 35-day government shutdown in February but simultaneously declared a national emergency to take money from other government accounts, identifying up to \$8.1 billion for wall construction.

The transferred funds include \$600 million from the Treasury Department's asset forfeiture fund, \$2.5 billion from Defense Department counterdrug activities and now the \$3.6 billion pot for military housing construction announced Tuesday.

The Pentagon reviewed the list of military projects and said none that provided housing or critical infrastructure for troops would be affected, in the wake of recent scandals over poor living quarters for service members in several parts of the country. Defense officials also said they would focus on projects set to begin in 2020 and beyond, with the hope that the money could eventually be restored by Congress.

"Canceling military construction projects at home and abroad will undermine our national security and the quality of life and morale of our troops, making America less secure," said House Speaker Nancy

Pelosi, a California Democrat.

The government will spend the military housing money on 11 wall projects in California, Arizona and Texas, the administration said in a filing Tuesday in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union. The most expensive is for 52 miles (84 kilometers) in Laredo, Texas, at a cost of \$1.27 billion.

The Laredo project and one in El Centro, California, are on private property, which would require purchase or confiscation, according to the court filing. Two projects in Arizona are on land overseen by the Navy and will be the first to be built, no earlier than Oct. 3. Seven are at least partly on federal land overseen by the Interior Department.

The 175 miles (282 kilometers) covered by the Pentagon funding represents just a small fraction of the 1,954-mile (3,145-kilometer) U.S.-Mexico border.

Army Lt. Gen. Andrew W. Poppas, director of operations for the Joint Staff, told reporters that shoring up the wall could eventually lead to a reduction in the number of troops who are deployed along the border. About 3,000 active-duty troops and 2,000 members of the National Guard are being used along the border to support Homeland Security and border patrol efforts. About 1,200 of the active-duty troops are conducting surveillance in mobile truck units.

Pappas and other officials couldn't say how soon or by how many the troop numbers could go down. Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said the troops would remain at the border for as long as they are needed. It could depend in part on the number of attempted border crossings by migrants and other issues.

The ACLU said Tuesday that it would seek a court order to block spending the military money. It sued earlier over the use of Defense Department counterdrug money, but the Supreme Court lifted a spending freeze on that money in July, allowing the first Pentagon-funded wall project to break ground last month in Arizona.

ACLU attorney Dror Ladin said, "We'll be back in court very soon to block Trump's latest effort to raid military funds for his xenophobic wall."

Associated Press writer Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

Study finds carving up school districts worsens segregation

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

PIKE ROAD, Ala. (AP) — Pike Road High School graduates its first senior class this school year, and leaders of this sprawling, semi-rural suburb of Alabama's capital city extol the young community's focus on education as one of its defining elements.

"We are extremely proud of where we are," said Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone. "We're competing well in every area that you measure from academics to athletics."

Pike Road pulled out of the Montgomery County school district in August 2015, leaving the much larger district even more heavily African American than it was before. And Pike Road is not alone. A new study finds that the carving out of new school districts in the South is increasingly dividing white students from their black and Latino peers, reinforcing segregation.

"It can help draw boundaries around white spaces," said Erica Frankenberg, a Penn State University professor who is one of three authors of the study, published Wednesday in *AERA Open*, a journal of the American Educational Research Association.

Those who study the creation of new school districts call the exits secession, conscious of the Civil War overtones that has for districts in the South. The issue is particularly important, Frankenberg says, because the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1974 that courts couldn't order desegregation across district lines. That means that while an individual district may be able to find ways to more effectively integrate students, district lines usually pose fatal obstacles to such efforts.

The study examines 18 districts created since 2000 across Alabama, around Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and around Memphis, Tennessee. The study found that an increasing share of segregation between black and

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white students was caused by district lines as opposed to clustering at specific schools within a district. In Pike Road, just over half of students were white last year, while about 30% were African American. The remainder were Asian, Hispanic or multiracial. That's a higher share of black students than other suburban districts around Montgomery seen as alternatives to Pike Road. The system's leaders point to that diversity, which roughly mirrors schools statewide across Alabama, to argue they're not a white-flight suburb. Superintendent Chuck Ledbetter said some students came to Pike Road from private schools that were much more likely to be overwhelmingly white.

"They had essentially self-segregated by going to the private school and have made a choice that leads to integration, to be part of a more integrated system than most of the private schools are," Ledbetter said. "For those parents I don't think it was about segregation or integration. I think it was about looking for quality schooling."

Karla Webb's two children are too young for school, but she said her daughter will start kindergarten at Pike Road's elementary school next fall. Webb, who is white, said the school system has "brought the community together in a way no other aspect of Pike Road has" and that if the town hadn't created a school system, her children would have probably been bound for private school. She said some friends teach in Montgomery County, and she hears good things about elementary school but is worried about middle and high school and uncertainty after the state took over some district affairs because of financial problems and poor academic achievement.

"Montgomery Public Schools needs some intervention and we can't tell whether it's getting it or not," Webb said.

In the Montgomery County district nearly 80% of its 28,000 students last year were black, in large measure due to the population within the district. But the study finds that Pike Road, with 2,000 students, also is contributing to segregation in the larger system. The share of white students has fallen significantly in the Montgomery County schools where Pike Road students formerly attended. Park Crossing High School was 17% white before Pike Road seceded and only 5% white last year. Blount Elementary School was 47% white, while last year it was 37%.

Dawn Chapman, a former teacher in the Montgomery County schools, said she considered sending her son to the larger county system but was worried about its fit in terms of learning style. Chapman, who is African American, also said she didn't want her child to attend an overwhelmingly black school.

"I wanted him to go somewhere that was more diverse," said Chapman, who enrolled her son at Pike Road's elementary school. She said she worries about how students in the county school system will fare without exposure to children of other races.

"It has a huge effect, knowing how to interact with people from different races," she said.

Beyond racial overtones, those who study secessions say there's also a resource disparity. Voters in Pike Road agreed to a property tax increase, and the school is spending \$10 million to renovate its high school, a historically black campus that it bought from Montgomery County for another \$10 million.

"We saw in a single year, that these secession areas as a whole were overwhelmingly whiter and wealthier," said Rebecca Sibia, the executive director of EdBuild, a school funding advocacy group that has studied the fragmentation of districts.

In Alabama, any city with more than 5,000 residents can walk out of its countywide school system with a vote of the city council. But in Tennessee, constituents had to persuade lawmakers to lift a ban to allow school systems to separate from a district that temporarily included Memphis and its surrounding county. In Louisiana, voters statewide must approve a constitutional amendment for each system.

Ledbetter acknowledges that white parents have long been fleeing the Montgomery County system, followed in some cases by African American parents with the means to move. He argues that Pike Road, especially as new as it is, isn't responsible for that flight.

"People are making choices," Ledbetter said. "Pike Road is not the reason people are making a choice. Pike Road is another choice."

Follow Jeff Amy on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jeffamy>.

Walmart introduces new gun restrictions but will they help?

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart has won praise from gun control advocates for its decision to discontinue sales of certain gun ammunition and request that customers no longer openly carry firearms in its stores. But whether the moves will translate into fewer guns on the street remains an open question.

The announcement Tuesday follows similar steps by other retailers responding to public pressure to restrict gun and ammunition sales. In March, Dick's Sporting Goods said it would stop selling firearms and ammunition at 125 of its 700-plus locations. Meanwhile, Starbucks, Target, Wendy's and most recently Kroger have also asked customers not to openly carry guns when visiting their stores.

Supporters of stricter gun laws say that as the nation's largest retailer, Walmart will have outsized influence on the gun debate, sending a strong message to Congress as well as other corporations to also take action.

"Walmart deserves enormous credit for joining the strong and growing majority of Americans who know that we have too many guns in our country and they are too easy to get," said Igor Volsky, executive director and founder of Guns Down America, in a statement. "That work doesn't end with Walmart's decision today. As Congress comes back to consider gun violence, Walmart should make it clear that it stands with Americans who are demanding real change."

Still, most firearms sales come from thousands of unaffiliated gun shops or gun shows, not big retail chains, so it's not clear how much difference Walmart's moves will make. About half of its more than 4,750 U.S. stores sell firearms, or only around 2% of all U.S. firearms.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based discounter said Tuesday it will stop selling handgun ammunition as well as short-barrel rifle ammunition, such as the .223 caliber and 5.56 caliber used in military style weapons, after it runs out of its current inventory. That in turn will reduce Walmart's market share of ammunition from around 20% to a range of about 6% to 9%, according to a memo by the company CEO Doug McMillon.

Walmart will also discontinue handgun sales in Alaska. Walmart stopped selling handguns in the mid-1990s in every state but Alaska. The latest move marks its complete exit from that business and allows it to focus on hunting rifles and related ammunition only.

The retailer is further requesting that customers refrain from openly carrying firearms at its Walmart and Sam's Club stores unless they are law enforcement officers. However, it said that it won't be changing its policy for customers who have permits for concealed carry. Walmart says it will be adding signage in stores to inform customers of those changes.

Walmart's announcement comes just days after a mass shooting claimed seven lives in Odessa, Texas and follows two other back-to-back shootings last month, one of them at a Walmart store.

Last month, a gunman entered a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, and killed 22 people with an AK-style firearm that the retailer already bans the sale of, marking the deadliest shooting in Walmart's history. A second unrelated shooting that same day in Dayton, Ohio killed nine people. A few days before that, two Walmart workers were killed by another worker at a store in Southaven, Mississippi.

"In a complex situation lacking a simple solution, we are trying to take constructive steps to reduce the risk that events like these will happen again," according to McMillon's memo. "The status quo is unacceptable."

The National Rifle Association posted a tweet attacking Walmart's announcement Tuesday.

"It is shameful to see Walmart succumb to the pressure of the anti-gun elites. Lines at Walmart will soon be replaced by lines at other retailers who are more supportive of America's fundamental freedoms," it said.

In the aftermath of the El Paso shooting, Walmart took an initial step of ordering workers in stores nationwide to remove video game signs and displays that depict violence. But that fell well short of demands for the retailer to stop selling firearms entirely. Critics have also wanted Walmart to stop supporting politicians backed by the NRA.

The retailer has long found itself in an awkward spot with its customers and gun enthusiasts. Many of

its stores are located in rural areas where hunters depend on Walmart to get their equipment. Walmart is trying to walk a fine line by trying to embrace its hunting heritage while being a more responsible retailer.

With its new policy on "open carry," McMillon noted in his memo that individuals have tried to make a statement by carrying weapons into its stores just to frighten workers and customers. But there are well-intentioned customers acting lawfully who have also inadvertently caused a store to be evacuated and local law enforcement to be called to respond. Like other companies, Walmart is not enforcing an outright ban because they don't want to put their employees in confrontational situations.

Walmart says it hopes to help other retailers by sharing its best practices in background checks. And the company, which in 2015 stopped selling assault rifles like the AR-rifles used in several mass shootings, urged more debate on the reauthorization of the assault weapons ban while also calling for the government to strengthen background checks. Walmart sent letters Tuesday to the White House and the Congressional leadership seeking action on these "common sense" measures.

Over the last 15 years, Walmart had expanded beyond its hunting and fishing roots, carrying items like assault rifles in response to increasing demand. But particularly since 2015, often coinciding with major public mass shootings, the company has made moves to curb the sale of ammunition and guns.

Walmart announced in February 2018 that it would no longer sell firearms and ammunition to people younger than 21 and also removed items resembling assault-style rifles from its website. Those moves were prompted by the mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people.

In 2015, Walmart stopped selling semi-automatic weapons like the AR-15 style rifle, the type used in the Dayton shooting. The retailer also doesn't sell large-capacity magazines. Dick's Sporting Good stopped selling assault-style weapons in 2018.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

California city tests buzzy campaign idea for income

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

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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 live in census tracts 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. 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

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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.”

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 4, the 247th day of 2019. There are 118 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Sept. 4, 1998, Internet services company Google filed for incorporation in California.

On this date:

In 1781, Los Angeles was founded by Spanish settlers under the leadership of Governor Felipe de Neve.

In 1944, during World War II, British troops liberated Antwerp, Belgium.

In 1951, President Harry S. Truman addressed the nation from the Japanese peace treaty conference in San Francisco in the first live, coast-to-coast television broadcast.

In 1957, Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus used Arkansas National Guardsmen to prevent nine black students from entering all-white Central High School in Little Rock. Ford Motor Co. began selling its ill-fated Edsel.

In 1969, the Food and Drug Administration issued a report calling birth control pills “safe,” despite a slight risk of fatal blood-clotting disorders linked to the pills.

In 1971, an Alaska Airlines jet crashed near Juneau, killing all 111 people on board.

In 1972, “The New Price Is Right,” hosted by Bob Barker, premiered on CBS. (The game show later dropped the “New” from its title and expanded from a half-hour to an hour.)

In 1987, a Soviet court convicted West German pilot Mathias Rust of charges stemming from his daring flight to Moscow’s Red Square, and sentenced him to four years in a labor camp. (Rust was released in August 1988.)

In 1999, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat signed a breakthrough land-for-security agreement during a ceremony in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

In 2006, “Crocodile Hunter” Steve Irwin, 44, died after a stingray’s barb pierced his chest.

In 2008, with a pledge that “change is coming,” Sen. John McCain accepted the Republican presidential nomination at the party’s convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, vowing to vanquish what he called the “constant partisan rancor” gripping Washington. Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice in a sex scandal, forcing the Democrat out of office after months of defiantly holding onto his job.

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In 2017, Texas emergency management officials said at least 60 deaths were attributed to Hurricane Harvey.

Ten years ago: A German army colonel called in a U.S. airstrike on a pair of hijacked tanker trucks in northern Afghanistan, resulting in civilian casualties. (German officials said up to 142 people were believed to have died or been injured; Afghan leaders estimated 30 to 40 civilians were killed.)

Five years ago: Comedian Joan Rivers died at a New York hospital at age 81, a week after going into cardiac arrest in a doctor's office during a routine medical procedure.

One year ago: The Senate Judiciary Committee began confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on a day that saw rancorous exchanges between Democrats and Republicans on the panel, and a declaration by Kavanaugh that the high court must "never be viewed as a partisan institution." (Kavanaugh would be confirmed in October on a near-party-line vote of 50-48.) Amazon became the second publicly-traded company to reach \$1 trillion in market value, following closely behind Apple. Former Arizona Republican Sen. Jon Kyl was named to temporarily fill the Senate seat left open by the death of John McCain. Comic actor Bill Daily, the sidekick to leading men on TV's "I Dream of Jeannie" and "The Bob Newhart Show," died in New Mexico at the age of 91.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Mitzi Gaynor is 88. Soul singer Sonny Charles is 79. Actor Kenneth Kimmins is 78. Singer Merald "Bubba" Knight (Gladys Knight & The Pips) is 77. TV personality and veterinarian Dr. Jan (yahn) Pol (TV: "The Incredible Dr. Pol") is 77. World Golf Hall of Famer Raymond Floyd is 77. Actress Jennifer Salt is 75. World Golf Hall of Famer Tom Watson is 70. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ronald LaPread is 69. Actress Judith Ivey is 68. Rock musician Martin Chambers (The Pretenders) is 68. Actor Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs is 66. Actress Khandi Alexander is 62. Actor-comedian Damon Wayans Sr. is 59. Rock musician Kim Thayil is 59. Actor Richard Speight Jr. is 50. Actor Noah Taylor is 50. Actress Ione (eye-OH'-nee) Skye is 49. Actor-singer James Monroe Iglehart is 45. Pop-rock singer-DJ-musician-producer Mark Ronson is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Richard Wingo (Jagged Edge) is 44. Rock musician Ian Grushka (New Found Glory) is 42. Actor Wes Bentley is 41. Actor Max Greenfield is 40. Country singer Granger Smith is 40. Singer Dan Miller (O Town) is 39. Singer Beyonce (bee-AHN'-say) Knowles is 38. Country singer-musician Tom Gossin (Gloriana) is 38. Actress-comedian Whitney Cummings is 37. Actor-comedian Kyle Mooney (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 35. Folk-rock musician Neyla Pekarek (NEE'-lah peh-KAYR'-ehk) (formerly with The Lumineers) is 33. Pop-rock singer-songwriter James Bay is 29. Actor Carter Jenkins is 28. Actor Trevor Gagnon is 24.

Thought for Today: "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God's gift, that's why we call it the present." — Joan Rivers (1933-2014).

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