

Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup
for the Soul

“Age is an issue
of mind
over
matter.”
↓
If you don't
mind, it doesn't
matter.”

-Mark Twain

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➤ Develop monthly recreation program calendars that reflect and meet the needs of facility residents

➤ Communicate facility programs to residents, staff, family and volunteers

➤ Manage facility Volunteer Program

➤ Maintain departmental documentation that reflects services provided and resident progress towards goals

➤ In coordination with social services facilitate the residents in the organization and continued development of a Resident's Council

➤ Make job assignments and set priorities

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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thursday, May 16, 2019

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Siseton Golf Course

12:00pm: Track: Varsity Regions @ Redfield High School

Friday, May 17, 2019

12:30pm- 3:00pm: Elementary Track and Field Day at Doney Field

Sunday, May 19, 2019

2:00pm: Graduation at Groton Area High School

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

2:00pm: DARE Graduation at GHS Gymnasium

7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at the Groton Community Center

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

End of 4th Quarter - Final Day of School
12:00pm: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Milbank Golf Course

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Faculty Inservice
10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Regions @ Milbank Golf Course

Friday, May 24, 2019

Faculty Inservice
STATE TRACK MEET @ TEA AREA

Saturday, May 25, 2019

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Wanner resigns as GBB coach; Donley resigns as Yearbook Advisor

Two resignations were accepted at the school board meeting Monday evening. Shaun Wanner turned in his resignation as head girls' basketball coach after coaching for eight years in that position. The board accepted the resignation pending suitable replacement. JoAnn Donley turned in her resignation as the yearbook advisor. Since she is an auxiliary staff member, the board could not attach the suitable replacement clause on her resignation.

Brian Dolan was hired as the head boys' basketball coach and athletic director for the 2019-20 school year. He will have no teaching position in the district. The vote for approval was 4-1 with Merle Harder voting. Harder would not elaborate as to why he voted no.

Seth Erickson was hired as the assistant football coach for the 2019 season.

Off-staff coaching agreements were issued to Chance Strom, head boys soccer coach; Chris Kucker, head girls soccer coach; Chelsea Hanson, head volleyball coach; Jenna Strom, assistant volleyball coach; Aubray Harry and Joellen Miller as cheer coaches; Darin Zoellner as head wrestling coach and Ryan Scepaniak as assistant wrestling coach. Those agreements need to be turned in by May 24.

Adjustments have been made to the adopted 2019-20 school year due to conflicts. The spring music concerts have all been moved back one week. The Elementary Spring Concert was moved from April 21 to April 28. The Middle School Spring Concert was moved from April 28 to May 5. The High School Spring Concert was moved from April 30 to May 7.

The elementary tuck pointing project had some good news, according to Superintendent Joe Schwan. A bid of \$102,000 was submitted by a Dell Rapids firm. The school's architect had some misgivings about the cost after he reviewed the project. Then a walk-through with Midwest Masonry of Groton also revealed that the bid amount was too high for the work that needed to be done. The reviews showed that the building is in sound condition and that only a few areas needed attention; thus, reducing the cost significantly. "It's a lot smaller project than what was realized," Schwan said. Schwan suggested negotiating a contract with Midwest Masonry and have the work done locally. He said it would be well under the \$50,000 amount which is the bid limit.

The high school boiler project will be taking its next step. The board approved to proceed with bid of the project.

Every five years, the district has to do a waiver for allowing high school credit for eighth graders completing Algebra I. Schwan said that only 10 to 20 percent of the students take that route, but it is beneficial for those that do it. There are 30 districts around the state that take the waiver and the board decided to take the waiver for the next five years.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported on the OST fees. He said he is not proposing any increases for the summer, but said that the district should revisit the rates before school starts. Groton Area is charging \$2.50 and Schwan said the rates have not been increased since he has been here, except when the district discontinued the multiple child discount. Other districts are charging \$3 an hour for OST. "More information will be coming," he said.

Business Manager Mike Weber talked about the Trust and Agency Accounts. He said that starting in 2021, Trust and Agency Fund will need a board of four people in order to keep it as a T&A account. Some will be transferred to an Enterprise Fund.

Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke reported about the sixth grade orientation that will be held this fall on August 16. She said that the MS/HS PAC will be available in the library at the end of the orientation and they will be providing the different colored book covers to all sixth graders. "That will be a great thing," she said.

The board reviewed the graduation requirements that the district currently has, what is the new state requirement and what is proposed for the new Groton Area graduation requirements. Superintendent Schwan said that the changes will not greatly affect the students at GHS. The bottom line is that 22 total credits will still be required.

Photos from the School Play "Into the Woods"



Pictured are Micah Poor (narrator), Hailey Monson (Cinderella's stepmother), Camryn Kurtz (Lucinda), AnneMarie Smith (Cinderella), Alyssa Fordham (Florinda), Kayla Jensen (Jack's Mother) and Carter Barse (Jack). (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Baker (Tylan Glover) talks with the Mysterious Man (James Brooks). (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Pictured here is the Mysterious Man (James Brooks), the Steward (Braden Freeman), Cinderella's Prince (Steven Paulson), the Baker's Wife (Alexis Hanten) and the Baker (Tylan Glover). (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The witch (Madeline Schuelke) wants to protect Rapunzel (Julianna Kosel). (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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The Baker (Tylan Glover) holds the goose that laid the golden egg. On the left is the Baker's Wife (Alexis Hanten) and on the right is Jack (Carter Barse). (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Rapunzel (Julianna Kosel) is holding a set of twins as she stands beside her Prince (James Cranford). The witch (Madeline Schuelke) has lost her power. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Little Red Riding Hood (Anna Bisbee) had the duty to protect the Baker's child as the Baker's Wife (Alexis Hanten) hands the child over to Riding Hood. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Granny (Trinity Smith), the wolf (Steven Paulson) and Little Red Riding Hood (Anna Bisbee) are pictured here. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

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Today in Weather History

May 14, 1982: Torrential rains pushed the Bad River over the banks at Fort Pierre. One house four miles outside of Fort Pierre had to sandbag. Rainfall amount of 3.83 inches was recorded in Pierre.

1923: An early morning violent estimated F5 tornado cut a 45-mile path of destruction through Howard and Mitchell counties in Texas. 23 people lost their lives and 250 sustained injuries. The path width of the tornado reached 1.5 miles at one point, and entire farms were "wiped off the face of the earth." The First Baptist Church in Colorado City, Texas became an emergency hospital for tornado victims.

1990: Thunderstorms developed ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northwest Texas to western Missouri. Severe thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes including nine in Texas. Four tornadoes in Texas injured a total of nine persons. Thunderstorms in Texas also produced hail four inches in diameter at Shamrock and four and a half inches in diameter near Guthrie. Thunderstorms over northeastern Kansas produced more than seven inches of rain in Chautauqua County between 9 PM and midnight.

1896 - The mercury plunged to 10 degrees below zero at Climax, CO. It was the lowest reading of record for the U.S. during the month of May. (David Ludlum)

1898 - A severe thunderstorm, with some hailstones up to 9.5 inches in circumference, pounded a four mile wide path across Kansas City MO. South-facing windows were broken in nearly every house in central and eastern parts of the city, and several persons were injured. An even larger hailstone was thought to have been found, but it turned out to be a chunk of ice tossed out the window of a building by a prankster. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Seven cities across the western U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as unseasonably hot weather made a comeback. The record high of 103 degrees at Sacramento CA was their ninth in eleven days, and also marked a record seven days of 100 degree heat for the month. Their previous record was two days of 100 degree heat in May. (The National Weather Summary)

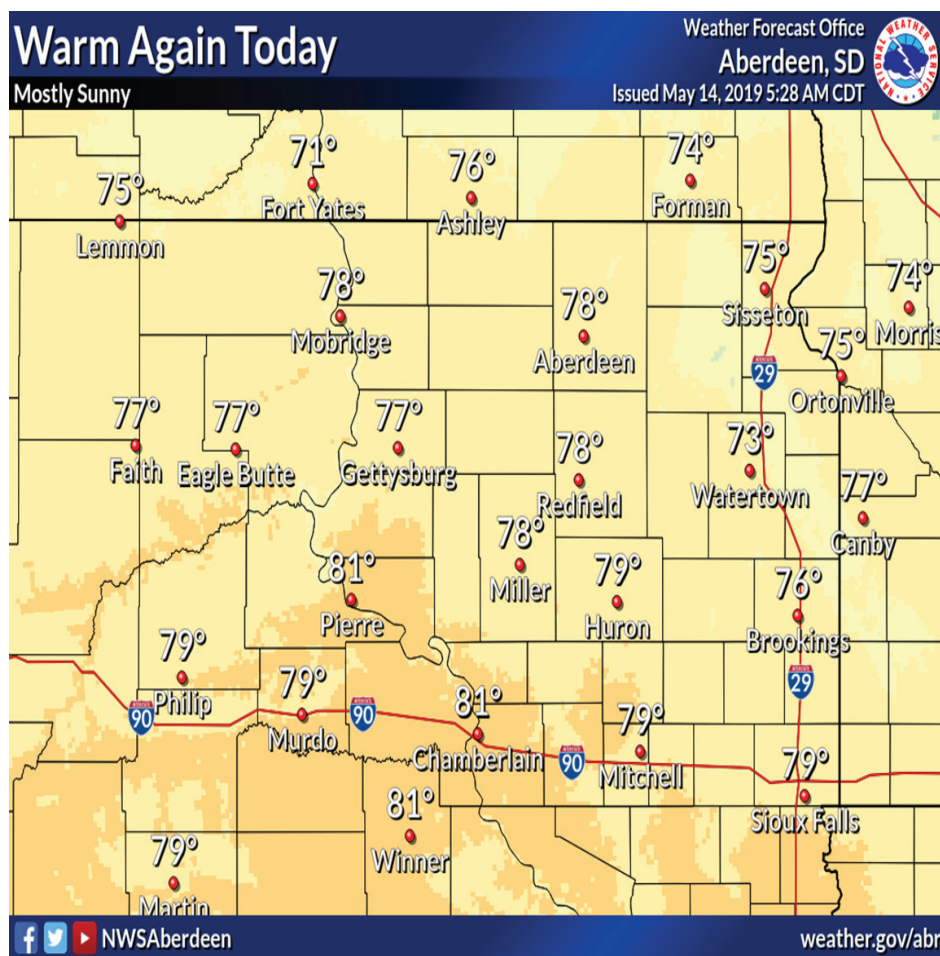
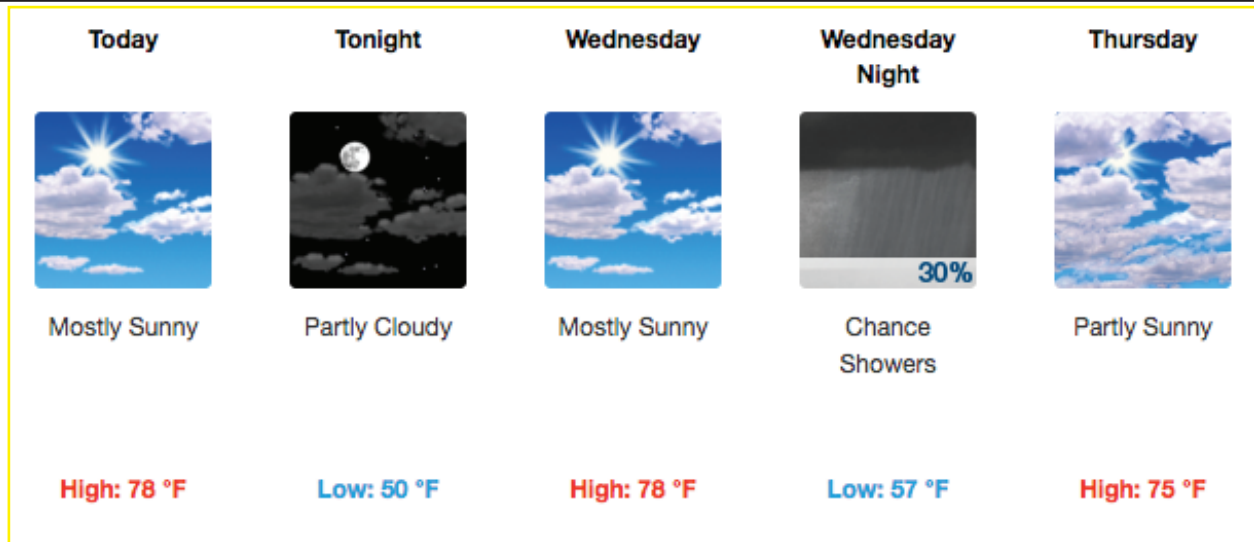
1988 - Sunny and dry weather prevailed across the nation. Temperatures warmed into the 80s and lower 90s in the Great Plains Region and the Mississippi Valley. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced severe weather in south central Texas and the Southern High Plains Region during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms produced softball size hail at Spearman and Hitchcock, TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northwest Texas to western Missouri. Severe thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes, including nine in Texas. Four tornadoes in Texas injured a total of nine persons. Thunderstorms in Texas also produced hail four inches in diameter at Shamrock, and hail four and a half inches in diameter near Guthrie. Thunderstorms over northeastern Kansas produced more than seven inches of rain in Chautauqua County between 9 PM and midnight. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Expect above normal temperatures today with mostly sunny skies. Highs will be in the mid 70s to the lower 80s.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 72 °F at 4:59 PM

Low Temp: 44 °F at 6:04 AM

Wind: 22 mph at 3:58 PM

Day Rain: 0.00 in

Record High: 94° in 2001, 1932

Record Low: 24° in 2004

Average High: 68°F

Average Low: 44°F

Average Precip in May.: 1.33

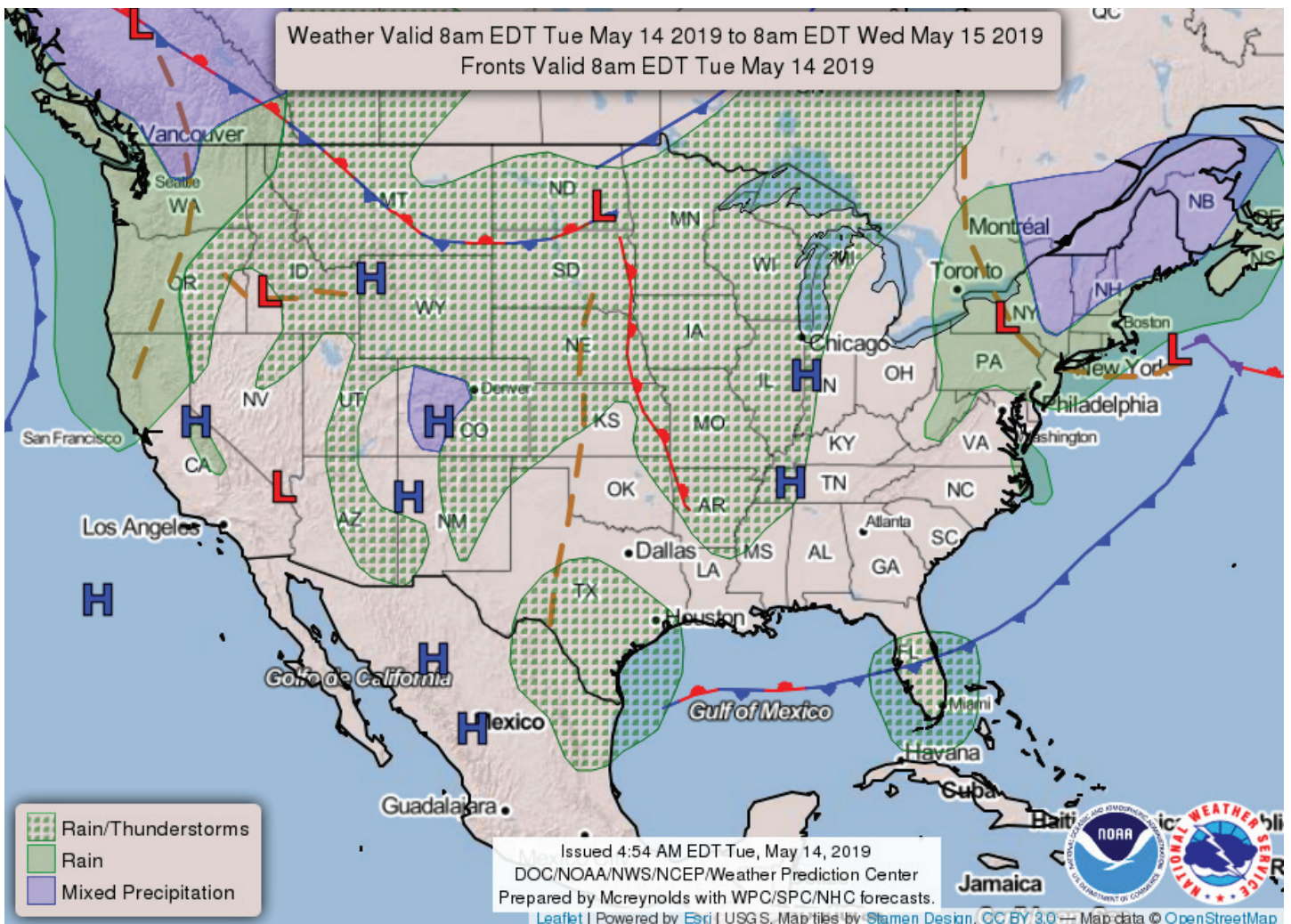
Precip to date in May.: 0.49

Average Precip to date: 5.36

Precip Year to Date: 5.18

Sunset Tonight: 8:56 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:04 a.m.





WATCH WHERE YOU WALK

One of my mothers most quoted sayings was, Birds of a feather flock together. When I first heard her say it, I had no idea what she was talking about. However, she did. She realized that one of her most important obligations, as a parent, was to guard me from friends who might lead me away from God. She knew each of my playmates, and as I grew older, my friends, personally.

When I became a parent, that quotation grew in its importance. I came to realize that my choice of friends always flows from the values I hold dearest and live before others. People who enjoy softball or golf, cooking or gardening, worshiping God and studying His Word, form relationships with others because they hold things in common - their values.

Solomon said, He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools will be harmed. The advice contained in this proverb is significant because it focuses our attention on the informal learning process - not what is taught in classrooms or churches. Much of our learning is absorbed through watching others, being with others, and having a desire to imitate or be like others, especially those whom we admire or hold up as heroes.

Someone once asked John Rockefeller what he did to become so successful. I only associate with people who are successful, he replied. While that might sound trite and an over simplified way of becoming successful, it is profoundly true. The most life shaping and longest lasting lessons of our lives come from those that have had the greatest impact on us- lessons that have been caught rather than taught. Beware of your associates!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to choose friends who honor and worship You, love Your Word and walk with You daily. May we seek to be with friends who honor You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 13:20 Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 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

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

News from the Associated Press

Air Force holding exercise in Northern Plains training area

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Air Force is holding a training session this week in the massive Powder River Training Complex over the Northern Plains.

The three-day Combat Raider exercise runs through Thursday. It involves several different types of military aircraft, including bombers, fighters and cargo planes.

The 35,000-square-mile complex over the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming is the largest over the continental U.S. It's been in use for four years. Large-scale exercises are limited to 10 days per year.

South Dakota Highway Patrol gets new superintendent

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An assistant superintendent with the South Dakota Highway Patrol has been named the agency's next leader.

Forty-three-year-old Maj. Rick Miller, of Pierre, is currently in charge of administrative services and special operations. He'll succeed Col. Craig Price as superintendent. Gov. Kristi Noem named Price secretary of the state Department of Public Safety.

Miller is a Watertown native and former U.S. Marine. He has been with the Highway Patrol for almost 18 years, serving as a trooper and as a police dog handler.

An official transfer-of-command ceremony will be held later. Miller will be promoted to the rank of colonel and will become the 14th superintendent in the history of the Highway Patrol, which was established in 1937. The agency has 193 troopers and 85 civilian staff.

Park Service names acting superintendent for Mount Rushmore

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — The National Park Service has named an acting superintendent for Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota.

Denice Swanke is currently deputy superintendent of Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. She assumes her new role on June 2.

Current Mount Rushmore Superintendent Cheryl Schreier is retiring at the end of May. The Park Service says it has started the process of finding a permanent replacement.

Federal hearing to review South Dakota uranium mine dispute

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Federal regulatory officials have scheduled a hearing on a South Dakota uranium mine proposal that is intended as a step toward resolving a decade-old dispute over the potential presence of Native American cultural resources at the planned site.

The federal Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will hold a hearing on the proposed mine near Edgemont from August 28-30, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Powertech's plans to drill for uranium have stalled for years over the Oglala Sioux Tribe's concerns that the area could potentially hold Native American burial sites, artifacts and other cultural resources.

The subsidiary of Canada-based Azarga Uranium has been trying to develop a mine along the southwest edge of the Black Hills since 2009. The tribe's Pine Ridge reservation is about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the proposed mine, but the site is part of the tribe's traditional homelands.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission granted Powertech a license to mine uranium for use in nuclear power plants in 2014, even though a dispute over the lack of an adequate cultural resources survey was still pending before the commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

The board directed the commission to fix the issue in 2015, and they left the company's license in effect during the process. The tribe petitioned for a review of the permit decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 2017.

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Powertech, the tribe and the commission have been in disagreement about the methodology and scope of the site survey for the past several years. Talks broke down last summer and the commission abandoned plans to conduct the survey. Days later, the appeals court ruled in the tribe's favor, saying the commission violated the National Environmental Policy Act by leaving the company's license in effect without a site survey.

The board announced last month that the commission and the tribe have reached a "firm impasse" about the survey's methodology.

The August hearing, which will be held in Rapid City, is intended to resolve the survey issue. The board will order a course of action to settle the dispute once the review is complete.

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

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Rapid City Journal, May 12

Respect critical for state-tribal relations today

Treaty disputes, historical aggression, poverty and cultural differences impede every inch of headway toward racial reconciliation in South Dakota. The ongoing fight over Keystone XL pipeline construction further complicates progress.

In recent weeks, state and tribal governments have entrenched themselves in ways that erode even the modest gains made since Gov. George Mickelson declared a Year of Reconciliation 30 years ago, since Gov. Mike Rounds declared a Year of Unity 10 years ago.

It's time to hit pause. Is there a better path forward?

Racial disputes in South Dakota naturally tend toward confrontation. They did so in 1890 in the frozen valley of Wounded Knee and again in 1973 after the American Indian Movement took over Wounded Knee for 71 days. The damage spreads quickly, but it takes so much time and cautious effort to reverse.

Today, two proud cultures gird themselves to win a fair share of respect and demonstrate strength. It's potentially explosive.

Gov. Kristi Noem must show real leadership to prevent further damage. It must start with a public and respectful acknowledgment of the legitimate interests that Native Americans have in the Keystone XL pipeline debate.

Respect does not mean surrender. Parties can respectfully disagree. Respect means listening and accommodating.

Last week, the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council informed Noem she is unwelcome on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation unless she rescinds legislation establishing civil penalties for "riot boosting."

Obvious to almost everyone is that Noem will not back down. South Dakota has a legitimate interest in protecting state and county budgets from the high costs of pipeline protests.

The tribal gesture was an act of anger, of defiance. It was a stand made by those who feel they have no alternative, who feel wronged.

The legal issues underlying Noem's legislation matter greatly, but it's a perception of dismissiveness that enrages tribal leaders. Noem's defensive posture since gaining legislative approval only deepens tribal umbrage.

Tribes were informed they lacked standing in the legislative discussions because the proposed route for TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline does not cross reservation boundaries. Tribal members and interests will be prominent among any pipeline protests. Everyone knows that. They're a major part of this. Consider what happened in North Dakota.

It seems more likely the tribes were excluded because no legislation easing the way for Keystone XL would be acceptable to them. It may be true.

Exclusion, however, has left the tribes believing they were intentionally dismissed and circumvented.

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Noem later doubled down with additional defensiveness: "Tribal leadership had the opportunity to influence the legislation once it was introduced, just like every other South Dakotan."

Technically true, but the emergency rules used to speed legislative approval meant no South Dakota citizen had much of a say. It's one thing to weigh in as legislation is formulated. It's another to be an early reviewer. And it's another altogether to be allowed to voice objections as a surprise package barrels across the finish line.

Noem recently called the tribe's threat of banishment "unfortunate" and "quite a surprise." In effect, she told tribes they were overreacting. Try that some time during a spousal argument. The results won't be pretty.

It's a bad look for South Dakota.

There are two paths forward. One path will lead to escalating words and increasing anger. Hotheads will react, and there will be repercussions. Fear and distrust will fester for another generation.

Or, Noem can publicly acknowledge that respect was overlooked.

The tribes, meanwhile, must be willing to consider the position of state and county governments. Resentment that has accumulated over 130 years cannot be undone at once and especially not during an emotionally charged dispute.

We must pick our ways carefully during these difficult times. Divorce will not end well for anyone. We're stronger together.

Now is the time for both sides to swallow pride, set aside matters of right and wrong and of who started what. We must reach across the table, acknowledge the other, and listen.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, May 6

A tribe takes a stand on new laws

South Dakota's Oglala Sioux Tribe took an unfortunate step last week when it announced that Gov. Kristi Noem was no longer welcome on the reservation.

But this move was likely seen as one of the only courses of action left to the tribe after the Legislature and the governor orchestrated the passage of a pair of unfortunate bills passed by the Legislature in March. These bills, which were introduced at the tail end of the session and had little overall scrutiny, basically target people — especially Native Americans — who may oppose (or even support those who oppose) the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

Last week's announcement came after the Oglala Sioux tribal council unanimously approved a measure that declared that Noem was "not welcomed" on the land until she withdraws support from the Senate bills 189 and 190.

Senate Bill (SB) 189 creates a fund to recover damages from identified third parties "to offset costs incurred by riot boosting," which apparently refers not only to protesters who riot but also to people who in some way give aid to protesters who are eventually involved in rioting.

SB 190 creates something called the Pipeline Engagement Activity Coordination Expenses (PEACE) fund, which would help pay for costs incurred by "opposition to a project that would not have been incurred but for pipeline construction"

Both bills were products of the Dakota Access Pipeline protests in North Dakota two years ago, and both bills, albeit generally vague, are clearly designed to discourage and undercut any protests during construction of TransCanada's controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

Despite explanations by the governor to the contrary, the two bills clearly appear to place economic development over the right of free speech, even though protesting is a constitutionally protected form of speech. To be sure, it is unfortunate when violence erupts, but by passing preemptive laws that could punish, say, someone who simply provides a room and board to an individual who may be involved in a peaceful protest that eventually turns violent, the state is aiming to squelch any resistance to the pipeline. The range of criminality could be broad, even if the intent of that help was not to promote violence but to simply support a point of view that diverges from the state's economic line. The message here could be

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seen as this: In order to not risk violating this law, don't support the protests in any way.

Oglala Sioux officials are also "particularly offended," they claim, because Noem consulted with TransCanada but not the tribes before the legislation was introduced.

The tribal leaders were also upset that Noem, who had visited the reservation in the wake of the March storms, had twice since then been to the reservation without contacting the leaders.

But the laws appear to be the big sticking point, as well they should be. These two pieces of legislation bend the constitutional boundaries of free expression, seemingly subordinating them to TransCanada's plans and the state's economic priorities.

As the Sioux Falls Argus Leader noted in an editorial in March, these bills are an "effort to suppress opposition in favor of powerful interests, a far cry from the constitutional freedoms that our country's founders had in mind."

What the state has in mind is to squelch opposition to a controversial pipeline project. And on constitutional principle, that's wrong.

What the Oglala Sioux decided to do last week was indeed unfortunate, but given what they are up against, it may be their only recourse and perhaps the only way to get the attention that their grievances merit.

Madison Daily Leader, Madison, May 6 **River's Master Manual needs some revision**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Master Manual for operating the series of dams on the Missouri River is a complex document, balancing the needs of several constituencies, but we think some modifications are due.

The Corps is tasked with managing waterflows from the dams to assist in electricity generation, transportation, recreation, flood control, wildlife preservation and irrigation. The Corps also must predict the weather, from snow accumulation throughout the region, melting rates and rainfall impacts. It is not an easy job.

Even so, that doesn't mean it can't be done better. Flooding along the Missouri has taken a huge toll on people and the resources of the region, and in our opinion, must be raised on the priority list. While all river constituencies are important, we believe flood control should be increased in relative importance.

South Dakota, of course, is right in the center of the action. Four of the six dams in the system are in South Dakota, and we have strong connections to almost all the interests involving: A large portion of our state's electric power comes from the dams, river recreation affects tourism, one of our largest industries, and when flooding occurs, it hits us hard.

The operating manual itself is rarely amended, although there are some operational decisions within the manual's framework that can be changed more quickly.

Besides the effects on the Missouri River, the operation of the dams affects the Mississippi to a very large degree. The Missouri's flow averages about 45 percent of the Mississippi's flow, and in certain drought conditions, can be up to 70 percent. So flooding downstream in states like Mississippi and Louisiana is affected by what happens at the South Dakota dams.

The actual revision of the manual and the decisions it mandates is extremely complex and arduous, something we can't address in an editorial. But we can confidently say that we believe flood control should be raised in importance among priorities.

Aberdeen man going on trial on murder, arson charges

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — An Aberdeen man accused of shooting and killing an Andover woman and setting her apartment on fire is going on trial.

The American News reports that opening statements are scheduled Monday in the bench trial of 37-year-old Jose Quinones-Rodriguez. He requested a trial by judge rather than by jury.

Prosecutors say Quinones-Rodriguez killed 25-year-old Tawny Rockwood in February 2018. Court docu-

ments say she was shot twice in the back of the head.

Quinones-Rodriguez has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, arson and burglary, among other charges. The murder charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of life in prison.

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

Saudi Arabia says its oil infrastructure attacked by drones

By AYA BATRAWY and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia said drones attacked one of its oil pipelines as other assaults targeted energy infrastructure elsewhere in the kingdom on Tuesday, shortly after Yemen's rebels claimed a coordinated drone attack on the Sunni power.

The assaults marked the latest incidents challenging Mideast security after the alleged sabotage of oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates earlier this week amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

Yemen's Houthi rebels, whom Saudi Arabia has been fighting against since March 2015, said they launched a series of drone attacks on the kingdom, across the border from Yemen. The spokesman of the rebels, Mohammed Abdel-Salam, told The Associated Press: "This is a message to Saudi Arabia, stop your aggression."

"Our goal is to respond to the crimes they are committing everyday against the Yemeni people," he added.

In a statement carried on the state-run Saudi Press Agency, Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said that drones attacked a petroleum pumping station supplying a pipeline running from its oil-rich Eastern Province to the Yanbu Port on the Red Sea.

A fire broke out and firefighters later brought it under control, though the state-run Saudi Aramco stopped pumping oil through the pipeline.

The kingdom's state security body also said two petroleum pumping stations in the greater region of Riyadh, the landlocked capital, were targeted at the same time. The statement described it as a "limited targeting" of petroleum stations in areas al-Duadmi and Afif in the Riyadh region, without elaborating.

Al-Falih called the attack "cowardly," saying that recent sabotage acts against the kingdom's vital installations not only target Saudi Arabia, but the safety of the world's energy supply and global economy. He said this reaffirms the need of the international community to confront the activities of groups like the Houthis. He also promised the production and export of Saudi oil would not be interrupted.

Benchmark Brent crude traded at \$71 a barrel Tuesday, up \$1.27 on the day.

The attack on Saudi oil targets comes after four oil tankers anchored in the Mideast were damaged by what Gulf officials described as sabotage, though satellite images obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday showed no major visible damage to the vessels.

Details of the alleged sabotage to two Saudi, one Norwegian and one Emirati oil tanker on Sunday remained unclear, and Gulf officials have declined to say who they suspected was responsible. But it demonstrated the raised risks for shippers in a region vital to global energy supplies as tensions are increasing between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal with world powers.

The U.S. has warned sailors of the potential for attacks on commercial sea traffic, and regional allies of the United Arab Emirates condemned the alleged sabotage as the tankers were off the coast of the UAE port city of Fujairah.

A U.S. official in Washington, without offering any evidence, told the AP that an American military team's initial assessment indicated Iran or Iranian allies used explosives to blow holes in the ships. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the investigation, agreed to reveal the findings only if not quoted by name. The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which patrols the Mideast and operates from a base in Fujairah, has repeatedly declined to comment.

The U.S. already had warned ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region. America is deploying an aircraft carrier, USS Abraham Lincoln, and B-52 bombers to the Persian

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Gulf to counter alleged, still-unspecified threats from Tehran.

On Tuesday, Spain temporarily pulled one of its frigates that was part of a U.S.-led combat fleet from near the Persian Gulf because of mounting U.S.-Iran tensions. The Ministry of Defense said the Méndez Núñez, with 215 sailors on board, will not cross the Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf together with the USS Abraham Lincoln. The Spanish frigate was the only non-U.S. vessel in the fleet.

Citing heightened tensions in the region, the United Nations called on "all concerned parties to exercise restraint for the sake of regional peace, including by ensuring maritime security" and freedom of navigation, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

Tensions in the region have risen since Trump withdrew America from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and restored U.S. sanctions that have pushed Iran's economy into crisis. Last week, Iran warned it would begin enriching uranium at higher levels in 60 days if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal.

The oil tankers were visible in satellite images provided Tuesday to the AP by Colorado-based Maxar Technologies. A boom surrounded the Emirati oil tanker A. Michel, indicating the possibility of an oil leak. The other three showed no visible major damage from above.

Yemen plunged into civil war in 2014 when Iran-backed rebels captured the capital, Sanaa. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015 to help government troops facing the Houthi advance. The U.S. supported the coalition for years despite its airstrikes killing civilians, and is only recently beginning to step back after the October killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul by Saudi agents.

This isn't the first time Yemen's Houthis have used drones as weapons — a bomb-laden drone launched by the rebels exploded over a military parade in January for the Saudi-led coalition, killing at least six people.

The use of drones also raises new concerns over Iran's influence in the conflict. Coalition officials have recently displayed a series of drones they claim show a growing sophistication of the Houthis, starting first with plastic foam models that could be built by a hobby kit, to one captured in April that closely resembled an Iranian-made drone.

Those drones have been flown into the radar arrays of Saudi Arabia's Patriot missile batteries, according to the research group Conflict Armament Research, disabling them and allowing the Houthis to fire ballistic missiles into the kingdom unchallenged.

Iran has been accused by the U.S. and the U.N. of supplying ballistic missile technology and arms to the Houthis, which Tehran denies.

Such drones remain difficult to shoot down with either light or heavy weapons. Iraqi forces learned this from driving out the Islamic State group from northern Iraq, where the extremists would load drones with grenades or simple explosives to target their forces.

Associated Press writers Maggie Michael and Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed to this report.

Democratic contenders face economic challenge in Wisconsin

By SARA BURNETT Associated Press

NEW BERLIN, Wis. (AP) — Business was good at the merchandise table as Republicans meeting at a suburban Milwaukee bowling alley picked out their Trump 2020 "Keep America Great" hats, now available in pink, blue and camouflage in addition to the trademark red. Bruce Kudick, a proud Donald Trump supporter with a little extra money in his pocket these days, bought two.

The 60-year-old says he hoped to retire and move to Florida in 2014 after he sold the bar and bowling alley he owned. But health insurance got too expensive and his insurer pulled out of the individual market "because of Obamacare," so Kudick got a job with a Wisconsin blood center setting up blood drives.

He just got a \$3.75-per-hour raise — an example, he says, of how the economy is booming with a businessman in the White House.

"You can't tell me if you walked up to anybody and asked, 'Is your life better?' they can say anything

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other than 'yes,'" Kudick said.

The economy already is at the center of the 2020 fight for president, particularly in Midwestern states that supported Trump in 2016 and that Democrats are determined to recapture next year. The Democrats' challenge may be especially difficult in Wisconsin, a toss-up state that has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

Trump boasted of the job numbers during a rally in Green Bay last month, also noting the U.S. economy's better-than-expected 3.2% growth in the first quarter. Nationally, unemployment is at 3.6% — a 50-year low. Wisconsin's is 2.9%.

Democrats insist that Wisconsin families should still be aggrieved: that they should be seeing more of the economy's benefits, but wealthy people and corporations are taking too much.

The Democratic group Priorities USA launched ads ahead of Trump's visit — part of a \$100 million early investment planned for Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida and Michigan. The group noted Wisconsin's average annual wage was more than \$4,000 below the national average.

How people feel is the key question. In AP VoteCast, a national survey of voters in last year's midterm election, 68% of Wisconsin voters rated the economy as good or excellent and about as many said their family was holding steady financially.

Rita Lock, a 54-year-old Democrat from Milwaukee, said she's dissatisfied and was happy to see former Vice President Joe Biden get into the 2020 presidential race. She believes that former President Barack Obama, who took office during the Great Recession, deserves credit for the turnaround and that too many people still are struggling.

"People have to work two or three jobs to make ends meet. Everything will be better when a person can just work one job," said Lock, who runs an organization that advocates for criminal justice reform.

The state's economy is driven largely by manufacturing, health care and agriculture, with Wisconsin — known as "America's Dairyland" — the country's largest cheese producer.

Democratic Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes said Trump's trade policies have contributed to falling milk prices. Mexico, Canada, Europe and China imposed retaliatory tariffs on American dairy products after Trump placed tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum.

"Donald Trump has been a disaster — for our state, for our country, for our dairy farmers," Barnes said at a Democratic gathering before Trump's Green Bay event.

Barnes and Gov. Tony Evers defeated Republican Gov. Scott Walker last fall in a victory that energized Wisconsin Democrats. Barnes said he hopes their campaign can serve as a lesson for Democrats in 2020 to be bold.

"People didn't always want to talk about criminal justice reform. They didn't want to talk about immigration. They said 'don't mention it. You're going to lose people,'" Barnes said. "But when we talked about it we found out that we gained people."

They've also pressed for expanding Medicaid and spending more on education.

Democratic Party of Wisconsin leader Martha Laning said the win was aided by more than 200 grassroots teams formed across the state after Hillary Clinton's 2016 loss. Those teams, knocking on doors in both urban and rural areas, will be back in action in 2020, Laning said.

But just a few months after the 2018 midterms — when Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin also easily won reelection — a conservative Republican won a statewide seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, again prompting questions about which way the state leans politically.

Terry Dittrich, GOP chair in reliably Republican Waukesha County, west of Milwaukee, says the party may have been complacent in 2018, but not now.

"Our grassroots will be out in force," Dittrich said. "This state is going to be a razor-thin race."

Tight races are not unfamiliar in Wisconsin. Three of the last five presidential races have been decided by less than 1 percent of the vote, with the exception being Obama's wins in 2008 and 2012. Obama picked up support in traditionally conservative areas that had lost thousands of industrial jobs, but those areas swung heavily to Trump in 2016.

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Charles Franklin, director of the Marquette Law School Poll, said the state's party balance has moved from 3 to 5 percentage points pro-Democratic a few years ago to a dead-even split.

He noted Trump's favorability rating here has been in the low- to mid-40s since he became president — which is higher than before the 2016 election.

"Trump has a more unified Republican Party behind him now than he had going into November of 2016," Franklin said. "He has a Democratic Party that's very opposed, but they were already opposed. ... And with independents he did make some improvements."

Franklin also said the economy is "absolutely" a plus for an incumbent who has the numbers Trump is seeing in Gross Domestic Product, earnings and unemployment.

Nik Rettinger, the 28-year-old first vice chairman of Waukesha County GOP, said he knows several people who were Trump skeptics but have come around to him in no small part because of the economy.

"We want people moving out of their parents' basements," he said. "A lot of people said, 'I don't know if he can do it.' Now they think: He's done it."

Associated Press writer Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report from Washington.

US targets \$300B of Chinese goods for new tariff hikes

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. officials listed \$300 billion more of Chinese goods for possible tariff hikes while Beijing vowed Tuesday to "fight to the finish" in an escalating trade battle that is fueling fears about damage to global economic growth.

The U.S. Trade Representative's Office issued its target list after Beijing announced tariff hikes Monday on \$60 billion of American goods in their spiraling dispute over Chinese technology ambitions and other irritants. Chinese authorities were reacting to President Donald Trump's surprise decision last week to impose punitive duties on \$200 billion of imports from China.

"China will fight to the finish," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang.

"We have the determination and capacity to safeguard our interests," Geng said. "China's countermeasures have shown our determination to safeguard the multilateral trade system."

The latest U.S. list of 3,805 product categories is a step toward carrying out Trump's May 5 threat to extend punitive 25% duties to all Chinese imports, the USTR said. It said a June 17 hearing would be held before Washington decides how to proceed.

The list "covers essentially all products" not already affected by punitive tariffs, the USTR said.

It includes laptop computers, saw blades, turbine parts, tuna and garlic. The USTR noted it excludes pharmaceuticals and rare earths minerals used in electronics and batteries.

"The risk of further escalation is far from over," said Timme Spakman of ING in a report.

Also Tuesday, China's tightly controlled social media were filled with comments lambasting Washington following weeks of little online discussion of the dispute. That suggested official censors might have blocked earlier comments but started allowing those that favor Beijing to deflect potential criticism of President Xi Jinping's government.

The United States is "sucking the blood of the Chinese," said a comment left on the "Strong Country" blog of the ruling Communist Party's newspaper People's Daily. Another comment on the site said, "Why are Chinese people bullied? Because our hearts are too soft!"

Trump started raising tariffs last July over complaints China steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology and unfairly subsidizes businesses Beijing is trying to build into global leaders in robotics and other fields.

A stumbling block has been U.S. insistence on an enforcement mechanism with penalties to ensure Beijing carries out its commitments.

Odds of a settlement "remain high," said Mark Zandi of Moody's Analytics in a report. "But suddenly a number of other scenarios seem possible, even one in which the U.S., China and the global economy

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suffer a recession.”

Asian stock markets fell Tuesday as the fight, with no negotiated settlement in sight, fed investor anxiety about the impact on global economic growth. China main market index lost 0.7 percent while Tokyo's benchmark declined 0.6%. Hong Kong, Australia and Taiwan fell.

But shares in Europe rebounded and the future contracts for the Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 were up 0.5% and 0.6%, respectively.

On Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 2.4% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq lost 3.4% for its biggest drop of the year.

That came after China's Finance Ministry announced duties of 5% to 25% on about 5,200 American products, including batteries, spinach and coffee. Details of what the duties were before the increases were unclear.

Also Monday, Trump said he still was considering whether to go ahead with penalties on the additional \$300 billion of Chinese goods. He told reporters, "I have not made that decision yet."

Trump warned Xi on Twitter that China "will be hurt very badly" if it doesn't agree to a trade deal. Trump wrote that Beijing "had a great deal, almost completed, & you backed out!"

The last round of negotiations ended Friday in Washington with no word of progress. Both governments indicated more talks are likely but set no date.

Trump said Monday he would meet Xi during the Group of 20 meeting of major economies six weeks from now on June 28 and 29 in Osaka, Japan.

The time before then will be "highly volatile" for financial markets, said Macquarie Bank analysts in a report.

"Both sides have the incentive to act half-crazy and unpredictable before that in order to cut a better deal," they said.

The two governments have given themselves a few more days to make peace before their latest tariff hikes hit.

Chinese tariffs announced Monday don't take effect until June 1, 2½ weeks from now. The U.S. increases apply to Chinese goods shipped starting Friday, which will take about three weeks to cross the Pacific and arrive at U.S. ports.

Tariff increases already in place have disrupted trade in American soybeans and Chinese medical equipment. That has sent shockwaves through other Asian economies that supply Chinese factories.

Beijing is running out of U.S. imports to penalize because of their lopsided trade balance. Chinese regulators have instead targeted American companies in China by slowing down the clearing of shipments through customs and the processing of business licenses.

Report links vast online disinformation campaign to Iran

By RAPHAEL SATTER AP Cybersecurity Writer

LONDON (AP) — When an attractive young Middle Eastern woman contacted Saudi dissident Ali AlAhmed over Twitter last November, he was immediately suspicious.

The Associated Press was on the verge of publishing a story about how AlAhmed, who is based in the Washington area, had been targeted by hackers posing as a female journalist. Now, just two days before the article was set to go live, another young woman had sidled up to him over the internet, trying to entice him to read an article and share it online.

"They will never stop," AlAhmed wrote in a Nov. 6 message to the AP. "They think a hot girl can lure me."

The AP flagged the exchange to Canadian internet watchdog Citizen Lab, which was already helping AlAhmed deal with the hackers. Citizen Lab quickly determined that the Twitter account, purportedly belonging to an Egyptian writer named Mona A.Rahman, was part of a separate operation. In fact, she wasn't even trying to hack AlAhmed — she was trying to enlist him in an ambitious global disinformation effort linked to Tehran.

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In a report published Tuesday, Citizen Lab said A.Rahman was but a small piece of a years-old, multilingual campaign aimed at seeding anti-Saudi, anti-Israel and anti-American stories across the internet. Citizen Lab, which is based at the University of Toronto's Munk School, said it believes "with moderate confidence" that the operation is aligned with Iran. The campaign is another indication of how online disinformation is being tested by countries well beyond Russia, whose interference into the 2016 U.S. presidential election was laid out in vivid detail in special prosecutor Robert Mueller's report .

"What this shows is that more and more parties are entering the disinformation game," said John Scott-Railton, a Citizen Lab researcher, "and they're constantly learning."

In London, Iranian Embassy press secretary Mohammad Mohammadi denied that his government had anything to do with digital disinformation, saying that Iran was "the biggest victim" of such campaigns and had called for international regulations to curb them. He referred further questions to the Iran's Communications Ministry, whose deputy minister did not immediately return a message Tuesday.

Scott-Railton and his colleagues ended up identifying 135 fake articles that were published as part of the campaign, which they dubbed "Endless Mayfly" because, like the short-lived insect, the bogus stories tended to disappear soon after they began to spread.

The article A.Rahman was trying to get AIAhmed to share — a claim that Israel's then-defense minister, Avigdor Lieberman, had been fired for being a Russian spy — was typical: The article had startling news, it was hosted on a fake version of a Harvard University website and had a host of spelling and grammatical mistakes. Articles shared by other fake personas followed a similar pattern. They made inflammatory claims about Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United States presented on lookalike versions of respected news sites.

"Ivanka Trump says its unbelievable that women cannot drive in saudi arabia," said one article posted to a site dressed up to look Foreign Policy magazine. "Saudi Arabia funds the US Mexico border Wall," said another, hosted on a site imitating The Atlantic.

The campaign seems to have been largely ineffectual — Scott-Railton noted that "most of their stories got almost no organic buzz" — but a couple did break through.

In March 2017 a fake Belgian newspaper article claiming that then-French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron's campaign was being one-third funded by Saudi money was widely shared in French ultra-nationalist circles, including by Marion Marechal, the granddaughter of French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen. A few months later another site mimicking a Swiss publication tricked the Reuters news agency and other outlets into publishing a false report that Saudi Arabia had written a letter to FIFA, soccer's governing body, demanding that archrival Qatar be barred from hosting the 2012 World Cup. The report was later withdrawn .

Citizen Lab said it first got wind of the suspected Iranian disinformation campaign when a British web developer debunked one of the fake articles on Reddit two years ago. The developer pointed out that the story — which suggested that British Prime Minister Theresa May was "dancing to the tune" of Saudi Arabia — had been published on a website using the URL "indepnedent," imitating the legitimate British news site, The Independent, and was linked to a network of other suspicious sites, including "bloombergq," a clone of the news agency Bloomberg. A third site, "daylisabah," was a fake version of the Turkish publication Daily Sabah.

"Did we just get an insight into a fake news operation?" the developer asked at the time.

Citizen Lab confirmed his hunch, later connecting the sites to an incident in which another Twitter user, Bina Melamed, tried to persuade Israeli journalists to share the same fake Harvard article that AIAhmed received.

When one of the reporters privately confronted Melamed about why she was pushing nonsense, the answer was unusually straightforward.

"I like challenging and controversial stories," Melamed said. "Sometimes they are fake and sometimes they are not."

Outside experts who reviewed Citizen Lab's report gave a qualified verdict. Both FireEye and ClearSky Cyber Security, U.S. and Israeli companies respectively, said they recognized elements of the digital infrastructure flagged by Citizen Lab from their own reporting, but ClearSky researcher Ohad Zaidenberg said

he wanted to see more evidence before attributing the social media personas to Iran.

Speaking generally, he said the apparent clumsiness of the online disinformation should not be a reason to dismiss it.

"It gets better each day," he said.

Most of the personas mentioned in Citizen Lab's report — such as A.Rahman and Melamed — have been suspended. Messages left with a handful of surviving accounts — sent via Twitter and Reddit — elicited no response. Emails sent to half a dozen addresses used to register several bogus websites — including bloomberq, daylisabah, foriegnpolicy, theatlatnic and indepnedent — either weren't returned or bounced back as undeliverable.

AlAhmed said he was intrigued to hear that A.Rahman had been tied to the Iranian government. Despite knowing from the start that the whole thing was a charade, AlAhmed struck a wistful note in a recent interview about his interactions with the attractive-looking A.Rahman. At one point, she had written to him inviting him to stay at an apartment she claimed to have in London.

"A small part of me thought, 'I hope this is real,'" AlAhmed said.

He quickly made clear that he was kidding.

"I told my wife," he said.

Online:

Citizen Lab's report: <https://citizenlab.ca/2019/05/burned-after-reading-endless-mayflies-ephemeral-disinformation-campaign>

Raphael Satter can be reached at: <https://raphaelsatter.com>

AP source: Barr launches new look at origins of Russia probe

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr has appointed a U.S. attorney to examine the origins of the Russia investigation and determine if intelligence collection involving the Trump campaign was "lawful and appropriate," a person familiar with the issue told The Associated Press on Monday.

Barr appointed John Durham, the U.S. attorney in Connecticut, to conduct the inquiry, the person said. The person could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Durham's appointment comes about a month after Barr told members of Congress he believed "spying did occur" on the Trump campaign in 2016. He later said he didn't mean anything pejorative and was gathering a team to look into the origins of the special counsel's investigation.

Barr provided no details about what "spying" may have taken place but appeared to be alluding to a surveillance warrant the FBI obtained on a former Trump associate, Carter Page, and the FBI's use of an informant while the bureau was investigating former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos.

Trump and his supporters have seized on both to accuse the Justice Department and the FBI of unlawfully spying on his campaign.

The inquiry, which will focus on whether the government's methods to collect intelligence relating to the Trump campaign were lawful and appropriate, is separate from an investigation by the Justice Department's inspector general. The agency's watchdog is also examining the Russia probe's origins and Barr has said he expects the watchdog report to be done in May or June.

Congressional Republicans have also indicated they intend to examine how the investigation that shadowed Trump's presidency for nearly two years began and whether there are any legal concerns.

The recently concluded investigation from special counsel Robert Mueller did not find a criminal conspiracy between the campaign and the Kremlin to tip the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

Durham is a career prosecutor who was nominated for his post as U.S. attorney in Connecticut by Trump. He has previously investigated law enforcement corruption, the destruction of CIA videotapes and the

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Boston FBI office's relationship with mobsters.

In nominating him, the White House said Durham and other nominees for U.S. attorney jobs share Trump's vision for "making America safe again."

Durham was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in 2018. At the time, Connecticut's two Democratic senators, Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, called Durham a "fierce, fair prosecutor" who knows how to try tough cases.

In addition to conducting the inquiry, Durham will continue to serve as the chief federal prosecutor in Connecticut.

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. WHAT TANKER SATELLITE IMAGES SHOW

The pictures obtained by the AP show no major visible damage to the four oil tankers anchored off the United Arab Emirates that were damaged by what Gulf officials described as "sabotage."

2. US TARGETS MORE CHINESE GOODS FOR NEW TARIFF HIKES

Washington issues a \$300 billion target list of Chinese imports including laptop computers for more tariff hikes, ratcheting up tensions with Beijing.

3. BARR OPENS 2ND INVESTIGATION OF RUSSIA PROBE

The attorney general appoints a U.S. attorney to examine the origins of the Russia investigation and determine if intelligence collection involving the Trump campaign was "lawful and appropriate," a source tells AP.

4. REPORT LINKS ONLINE DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO IRAN

An internet watchdog says a fake Twitter account unmasked by the AP was but one piece of a vast campaign aimed at seeding anti-Saudi, anti-Israel and anti-American stories across the internet.

5. TRUMP OFFICIALS DISCUSSED DEPORTING FAMILIES

But the idea was tabled as the Trump administration grappled with straining resources and an influx of Central Americans crossing the border, sources tell AP.

6. NTSB TO INVESTIGATE DEADLY MIDAIR COLLISION IN ALASKA

A team of federal accident investigators will try to piece together what caused a collision between two sightseeing planes that killed at least four people.

7. DATA SHOWS ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS BOOSTED AFTER TRUMP ELECTION

Israel's government went on a spending binge in its West Bank settlements following Trump's victory in 2016, official data obtained by the AP finds.

8. WHERE 'STATELESS' IS AN ISSUE

A growing number of children are essentially without country after being born in other nations to Venezuelans who have fled the crisis in their homeland.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE HITTING REAL ESTATE MARKET

Some research suggests rising sea levels and flooding brought by global warming are harming coastal property values, but how much is an open question.

10. WHATSAPP DISCOVERS SPYWARE THAT INFECTED WITH A CALL ALONE

Spyware crafted by a sophisticated group of hackers-for-hire took advantage of a flaw in the WhatsApp communications program to remotely hijack dozens of phones, the company says.

Trump's election boosted Israeli settlement construction

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's government went on a spending binge in its West Bank settlements following the election of President Donald Trump, according to official data obtained by The Associated Press.

Both supporters and detractors of the settlement movement have previously referred to a "Trump effect," claiming the president's friendlier approach to the settlements is leading to additional West Bank construction.

While the new Israeli figures obtained in a freedom of information request do not prove a direct connection, they indicate this process may already be underway, showing a 39% increase in 2017 spending on roads, schools and public buildings across the West Bank.

Hagit Ofran, a researcher with the anti-settlement monitoring group Peace Now, said it appears that Trump's election has emboldened Israel's pro-settler government.

"They are not shy anymore with what they are doing," she said. "They feel more free to do whatever they want."

Nabil Abu Rdeneh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, offered even sharper criticism. "This proves that the current U.S. administration encouraged settlement activities," he said.

Since capturing the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, Israel has settled some 700,000 of its citizens in the two areas, which are considered occupied territory by most of the world. The international community has objected to Israel's moving people into settlements in those territories as both illegal and a deliberate obstacle to any future Palestinian state.

The Palestinians, who claim both the West Bank and east Jerusalem as parts of their future state, consider the settlements illegal land grabs. Scores of fast-growing settlements control strategic hilltops and swaths of the West Bank, making it increasingly difficult to partition the territory.

For decades, the international community and the U.S. have expressed concern over the settlements while doing little to halt their construction. But since taking office, Trump, whose inner circle of Mideast advisers have longstanding ties to the settler movement, has taken a different approach. The White House has urged restraint but refrained from the blanket condemnations of its Republican and Democratic predecessors.

"The Trump administration is undoubtedly the most friendly American administration of all time," said Oded Revivi, the chief foreign envoy of the Yesha settlers' council. "In contrast, the Obama years were extremely hard for Israel. Now we are making up for lost ground."

The government statistics, released by Israel's Finance Ministry, showed Israeli spending in the West Bank in 2017, Trump's first year in office, rose to 1.65 billion shekels, or \$459.8 million, from 1.19 billion shekels in 2016.

The 2017 figures were the highest in the 15 years of data provided by the Finance Ministry, though spending also climbed in 2016. At the time, President Barack Obama, a vocal critic of the settlements, was a lame duck, and relations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were cool.

In contrast, the lowest year of Israeli spending was 2009, when both Netanyahu and Obama took office, when it was 760.7 million shekels. The data included only the first half of 2018, so full-year comparisons were not available.

The ministry released the data after two years of requests from the AP, which received backing early this year from "The Movement for Freedom of Information," a legal advocacy group that assists journalists.

The figures include only government spending, so construction and purchases of private homes are not included. Israel also does not include items like police, education, health and military spending, saying such services are provided to all Israelis regardless of where they live.

In addition, spending in east Jerusalem is excluded. Israel considers the area part of its capital, although the vast majority of the world does not recognize its annexation.

But even with these caveats, the data provide a valuable snapshot of Israel's priorities. The figures include spending on public construction projects, such as roads, schools, social centers, synagogues,

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shopping malls and industrial parks. They also include special development grants for local governments and mortgage subsidies.

The areas with the strongest growth in 2017 were in school construction, which jumped 68%, and road construction, which rose 54%.

Revivi, who is also mayor of the Efrat settlement near Jerusalem, said the spending was badly needed. He said that school spending was legally required because of the fast-growing population. He also said that roads in the West Bank have been in "dire condition" for years, and there is a drastic need for improvements.

Netivei Yisrael, the public company that oversees road construction, said it carries out its projects at the instruction of the Transportation Ministry. In the West Bank, these projects often allow settlers to bypass Palestinian villages to minimize friction.

In a statement, the company said it is "proud to lead a long line of projects throughout Israel, including Judea and Samaria, with the goal of improving safety for travelers and saving lives."

Israel's Education Minister Naftali Bennett declined to comment, while Transportation Minister Israel Katz did not respond to a query. Both men are strong supporters of the settlements. Netanyahu's office also did not answer a request for comment.

But Peace Now's Ofran said that road construction has deeper implications. She said new roads bring easier commutes and a better quality of life for settlers, drawing more people.

"We see it very immediately, after the opening of a road, a big boom in construction along the road," she said. "I think the investments we have these years in the roads are dramatic and will allow the expansion of settlements dramatically. That is very much worrying."

After winning re-election last month, Netanyahu is in the process of forming a new coalition that also is expected to have close ties with the settlers.

In recent months, both Peace Now and settler advocates have released reports claiming that Trump's policies have laid the groundwork for a settlement boom in the near future.

In a statement, the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem repeated the White House policy. "While the existence of settlements is not in itself an impediment to peace, further unrestrained settlement activity doesn't help peace," it said.

The new data added to Palestinian distrust of the U.S., boding poorly for a new peace plan the administration says it is preparing.

The Palestinian Authority cut off ties with the White House after Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 and subsequently moved the American Embassy to the contested city. U.S. cuts of hundreds of millions of dollars of aid for the Palestinians have further poisoned the atmosphere.

Claiming the Trump administration is unfairly biased, the Palestinians already have said they will reject any U.S. peace plan.

Abu Rdeneh, the Palestinian spokesman, said the numbers are "another reason why we think that the U.S. plan is unfair."

The Finance Ministry data is collected each year and shared with the U.S., which under a policy going back to President George H.W. Bush deducts the sum from loan guarantees for Israel.

It also includes a small, but unspecified sum spent in the Golan Heights. Just a few thousand Israeli settlers live in the Golan, and Peace Now said the sums spent there were "not significant."

Is sea rise wrecking coastal home values? The answer: Maybe

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

SALISBURY, Mass. (AP) — For sale: waterfront property with sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean. Waves erode beach regularly. Flooding gets worse every year. Saltwater damage to lawn.

Asking price: anyone's guess.

Some research suggests rising sea levels and flooding brought by global warming are harming coastal property values. But other climate scientists note shortcomings in the studies, and real estate experts say

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they simply haven't seen any ebb in demand for coastal homes.

So how much homeowners and communities should worry — and how much they should invest in remedies — remains an open question.

Nancy Meehan, 71, is considering putting her coastal condo in Salisbury up for sale this year, but she worries buyers will be turned off by the winter storms that churn the seas beside the summer resort town. Her home has been largely spared in the nearly 20 years she's lived there, she said, but the flooding appears to be worsening along roads and lower properties.

"All my life savings is in my home," Meehan said of the four-bedroom, two-bathroom condo, which she bought for \$135,000. "I can't lose that equity."

Nearby, Denis Champagne can't be sure that rising seas are hurting his waterfront home's value. The three-story, four-bedroom home has views of a scenic marsh, has been renovated and is blocks from the ocean — yet was assessed at only around \$420,000.

"Do I feel that it should be worth more than that?" Champagne said recently in his sun-soaked living room. "I mean, I'm biased, but where can you find this for that price — anywhere?"

A drop in home values could shatter a community like Salisbury, which relies almost exclusively on beachfront real estate taxes to fund schools, police and other basic services, researchers warn. And, they say, families could face financial ruin if they've been banking on their home's value to help foot the bill for pricey college tuitions or even retirement.

"People are looking at losing tens of thousands of dollars of relative value on their homes," said Jeremy Porter, a data scientist for the First Street Foundation, an advocacy group that seeks to raise awareness about sea level rise. "Not everyone can sustain that."

Still, home prices in coastal cities have been rising faster than those of their landlocked counterparts since 2010, according to data provided by the National Association of Realtors.

And waterfront homes are still generally more expensive than their peers just one block inland, said Lawrence Yun, the association's chief economist.

"The price differential is still there," he said. "Consumers are clearly mindful that these climate change impacts could be within the window of a 30-year mortgage, but their current behavior still implies that to have a view of the ocean is more desirable."

A nationwide study by the First Street Foundation suggests climate change concerns have caused nearly \$16 billion in lost appreciation of property values along the Eastern Seaboard and Gulf Coast since 2005.

The study singles out Salisbury as the hardest-hit community in Massachusetts. Coastal homes there would be worth \$200,000 to \$300,000 more if not for frequent tidal flooding and powerful coastal storms, the study suggests. Champagne's property, for example, would be worth about \$123,000 more, according to Flood IQ, a property database the group has developed.

In another recent study, researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder's School of Business found coastal properties most exposed to sea level rise sold, on average, for 7 percent less than equivalent properties the same distance from shore but not as threatened by the sea.

And in Florida's Miami-Dade County, higher-elevation properties are appreciating faster than lower ones as companies and deep-pocketed buyers increasingly consider climate change risks, a study in the publication Environmental Research Letters found last year.

The three studies are laudable because they attempt to quantify what the insurance industry and federal government had long suspected: that climate change is having tangible harm on home values, said S. Jeffress Williams, a scientist emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, who wasn't involved with any of the research.

But Williams and other researchers note the First Street Foundation study uses sea-level rise predictions from the Army Corps of Engineers that are more dire than figures from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which usually provides the go-to numbers for such studies.

The other two studies largely rely on data from Florida, which is so low and highly developed that in many ways it is an outlier, unaffiliated researchers point out. They also focus only on single-family homes,

leaving out huge numbers of condos, high-rises and other multi-family properties.

In Salisbury, real estate broker Thomas Saab insists something is happening with home prices but is not sure whether climate change is behind it.

Two clients in the otherwise strong real estate market, he said, were recently forced to lower their asking prices by tens of thousands of dollars when prospective buyers voiced concerns about storm damage and risks.

"Do I worry prices are coming down? Sure," Saab said. "Fewer buyers are willing to take the risk. People don't want to live through nor'easter after nor'easter with no protection."

He argues there's a simple solution: Invest in sturdy seawalls as Hampton Beach, the lively resort town just over the border in New Hampshire, did generations ago.

"We can overcome any kind of rising seas if you just let us protect our properties," Saab said. "Who cares about the climate change? You build a seawall and this whole discussion goes away."

Follow Philip Marcelo at twitter.com/philmarcelo.

NTSB to investigate in Alaska after deadly midair collision

By RACHEL D'ORO and MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A team of federal accident investigators is expected to arrive in Alaska Tuesday to try to piece together what caused a deadly midair collision between two sightseeing planes.

Four people were killed after the floatplanes carrying cruise ship tourists collided Monday near the southeast Alaska town of Ketchikan, the Coast Guard said. Two others were missing, said Petty Officer Jon-Paul Rios, a Coast Guard spokesman.

The Washington, D.C.-based investigative team from the National Transportation Safety Board is expected to arrive in Ketchikan Tuesday afternoon, agency spokesman Peter Knudson said. He said board member Jennifer Homendy also is traveling with the so-called "Go Team," which investigates major accidents.

The floatplanes collided under unknown circumstances, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said in an email to The Associated Press. Floatplanes have pontoons mounted under the fuselage so they can land on water.

The passengers were from the cruise ship Royal Princess and were on sightseeing flights, one of which was operated by flightseeing company Taquan Air.

Eleven people were inside Taquan's single-engine de Havilland Otter DHC-3 when it went down as it returned from Misty Fjords National Monument, which is part of the Tongass National Forest, the nation's largest. Ten people were taken to a Ketchikan hospital.

All patients were in fair or good condition, according to Marty West, a spokeswoman for PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center.

Three people who died were among five people aboard the second plane, a single-engine de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver, according to Coast Guard Lt. Brian Dykens. It's unclear which plane carried the fourth victim, whose body was recovered during a Monday night search, Rios said.

Local emergency responders worked with state and federal agencies and good Samaritan vessels to help rescue and recover victims.

"It's been a long day and the crews have been working really hard to rescue people and recover the deceased," Deanna Thomas, a spokeswoman for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the local government, said Monday evening.

A spokeswoman for Taquan Air, operator of the Otter, said the company had suspended operations while federal authorities investigate the deadly crash.

"We are devastated by today's incident and our hearts go out to our passengers and their families," Taquan said in a statement.

Cindy Cicchetti, a passenger on the Royal Princess cruise ship told the AP that the ship captain announced that two planes were in an accident Monday. She said the ship is not leaving as scheduled and

there weren't any details as to how the accident will affect the rest of the trip.

The ship left Vancouver, British Columbia, on May 11 and is scheduled to arrive in Anchorage on Saturday. "Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost their lives and the families of those impacted by today's accident. Princess Cruises is extending its full support to traveling companions of the guests involved," Princess Cruises said in a statement.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

Weather conditions in the area on Monday included high overcast skies with 9 mph (14 kph) southeast winds.

It's not the first time a major plane crash has occurred near Ketchikan, a popular tourist destination.

In June 2015, a pilot and eight passengers died when a de Havilland DHC-3 Otter operated by Promech Air Inc. crashed into mountainous terrain about 24 miles (39 kilometers) from Ketchikan. The NTSB later determined that pilot error and lack of a formal safety program were behind the crash.

Associated Press journalist Michelle A. Monroe in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Venezuela exodus raises worries of babies being stateless

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO** Associated Press

CÚCUTA, Colombia (AP) — Arelys Pulido had already lost one baby in a neglected Venezuelan hospital where doctors and medical gear are in increasingly short supply, so when she got pregnant again she decided to give birth in a foreign land.

She packed suitcases filled with clothes and a few prized ceramic statues of saints that she hoped would grant her and her unborn child protection as they passed through one of the perilous illegal crossings into Colombia.

Earlier this year, Zuleidys Antonella Primera was born, a lively girl with dark hair and eyes bearing no hint of the odyssey her mother went through so she could deliver her in a hospital across the border in the city of Cúcuta.

Yet little Zuleidys so far has neither the citizenship of the country her parents fled nor that of the nation where she was born. She is one of a growing number of children who have been left essentially stateless.

"It's one more thing to worry about," said José Antonio Primera, the baby's father, a former military officer who now paints motorcycles for a living.

While the children born to migrants qualify for Venezuelan citizenship, they would need to formally register at a consulate or travel to Venezuela to obtain it. Both options are out of the question for many families. They do not want to return until conditions improve and consulates are closed after President Nicolás Maduro severed diplomatic relations with Colombia in February.

Colombia's government grants the newborns full health care during the first year of life and allows them to enroll in school, but experts on statelessness fear that if Venezuela's crisis drags on for years, they could approach adulthood without key rights such as the ability to travel legally, buy property or get married.

Colombia's National Civil Registry counts at least 3,290 children born since December 2017 who have been unable to obtain citizenship. Rights groups contend the numbers could be as high as 25,000.

Even by the lowest count, advocates say, the number of children at risk of statelessness now living in Colombia is worrisome.

"It is a significant number when you think of it being created out of one crisis," said Amal de Chickera, co-director of the Netherlands-based Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. "And if it is prolonged and if it's not nipped in the bud it can become much bigger."

Nearly 1.3 million Venezuelans now reside in Colombia, about 40% of whom are in the country without any legal status. Colombia has received more Venezuelan migrants than any other nation, and the numbers are not expected to dip any time soon. Even with the border between the neighboring countries officially closed, thousands stream into Colombia each day using the same dirt roads that Pulido crossed while pregnant.

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Colombia's constitution only offers birthright citizenship to children who have at least one Colombian parent or a mother or father who can prove legal residency based on visa status.

Many Venezuelan arrivals do not have a passport, let alone a visa. A temporary, two-year visa that Colombia's government has provided as a stopgap measure to nearly 600,000 Venezuelans does not qualify babies for citizenship.

That has left many babies in a legal limbo.

Colombian officials say it is Venezuela's fault that a new generation of children born abroad are virtually statelessness, but they are working on finding a remedy.

"We're all in agreement that exceptional measures need to be taken," said Alfredo Posada, a spokesman for Colombia's National Civil Registry.

A government proposal in the works would allow any Venezuelan child born in Colombia since the current exodus began in August 2015 to qualify for citizenship and is expected to be approved in the weeks ahead while legislators are considering a similar bill in congress.

Statelessness first became an international concern between World War I and World War II as the population of those fleeing persecution or excluded from nationality laws rose, said David Baluarte, an expert on statelessness at Washington and Lee University.

The issue caused heightened alarm during World War II when Jews were stripped of their citizenship in Nazi Germany before being sent to concentration camps.

Two United Nations treaties were created protecting the right to citizenship, but today an estimated 10 to 15 million people around the globe are considered stateless.

Statelessness experts say the onus is on Colombia to rectify the status of Venezuelan children born on its territory.

"In the present moment, these children would be stateless in Colombia, so the obligation is on them to grant citizenship," de Chickera said. "That would be a really strict reading of the law, but I think it's important to take into consideration that this is quite an extraordinary moment."

When born in Colombia, the children are given a birth certificate, but it clearly states at the bottom, "Not valid for nationality."

"The fact that the parent is an undocumented migrant shouldn't mean that the child is born an undocumented migrant," lawyer Xiomara Rauseo said.

At the present moment, Venezuelan parents can try going through the courts to get Colombian citizenship for their children, but few have succeeded. Two cases are currently being considered by the constitutional court, said Lucía Ramírez, a coordinator for investigations and migration issues at the human rights non-profit Dejusticia.

Others have tried going through the Ministry of Foreign Relations, which must consider any cases in which a foreign consulate does not provide citizenship within three months. Ramírez said Dejusticia is only aware of one case that has succeeded to date. That child, however, was not born to Venezuelan migrants.

"It's not a pathway that people are using," she said.

At the Erasmo Meoz University Hospital in the border city of Cúcuta, parents clutching newborns stand outside a registry office, eager to ink their children's feet and obtain their official birth record, only to find out the country isn't granting them citizenship.

"The normal thing to do would be for them to all get Colombian citizenship," said Eduardo Bravo, a former police officer, while bouncing his infant daughter in his arms. "We aren't here in Colombia because we want to be. It's out of necessity."

Pulido, 44, first crossed the border into Colombia four months into her pregnancy for ultrasounds she couldn't get in her home country. The journey on foot and over a river on a makeshift canoe wore on her, as did painful memories of her last pregnancy: The child died during childbirth after a usually minor complication. Pulido blames that on Venezuela's worsening humanitarian crisis.

"Several friends died giving birth there," she said. "I had to come."

At eight months pregnant, she packed her bags and left for good.

On a recent afternoon, Pulido and her husband Primera examined the piece of white paper with their

daughter's tiny black footprints provided by the hospital. They were at a loss of how to interpret it, at once happy but also confused.

The couple said they didn't care so much about whether Zuleidys grows up Colombian or Venezuelan so long as one of those two countries recognizes her.

"As long as she has rights like any other human being, as a citizen," Primera said.

In the meantime, the family is struggling with a host of equally or more pressing concerns as they try to build a new life abroad. Work has been hard to come by for Primera. The couple sleeps with the baby on a mattress on the floor in an apartment with three rooms that house 13 people. And they still don't have a refrigerator.

The statues of saints that Pulido lugged across the border sit on a concrete cement shelf below reused Pepsi bottles storing water.

"We're in the hands of God," Primera said.

Christine Armario on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/cearmario>

Apps cost too much? Court allows suit adding to Apple's woes

By MARK SHERMAN and MICHAEL LIEDTKE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers can pursue a lawsuit complaining that iPhone apps cost too much, the Supreme Court ruled on Monday, adding to Apple's woes that already include falling iPhone sales and a European investigation.

The lawsuit could have major implications for the tech giant's handling of the more than 2 million apps in Apple's App Store, where users get much of the software for their smartphones. While most of those apps are free to download, some impose fees for people to use the software and subscribe to the services.

In those cases, Apple charges a commission of 30%, a practice that the lawsuit contends unfairly drives up the price for the apps. Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote the majority opinion that agreed the antitrust lawsuit can move forward in a lower court.

The court's four liberal justices joined Kavanaugh, one of President Donald Trump's two high court appointees, to reject a plea from Apple to end the lawsuit at this early stage. The decision did not involve the merits of the suit.

Apple argues it's merely a pipeline between app developers and consumers, and that iPhone users have no claims against Apple under antitrust law and a 1977 Supreme Court decision. Tens of thousands of developers create the software and set the price, Apple says.

"We're confident we will prevail when the facts are presented and that the App Store is not a monopoly by any metric," Apple said in statement issued in response to Monday's ruling. The lawsuit could take years to wind to its conclusion.

But Kavanaugh stressed in his opinion that Apple's commissions also may affect consumers, as well as app developers.

"The iPhone owners purchase apps directly from the retailer Apple," he said, describing a relationship sufficient to allow the lawsuit to go forward.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, Trump's other high court pick, wrote a dissent for four conservative justices, saying that the consumers' complaint against Apple is the kind of case that a 42-year-old decision, in *Illinois Brick Co. v. Illinois*, was intended to prevent. The court in that case "held that an antitrust plaintiff can't sue a defendant for overcharging someone else who might (or might not) have passed on all (or some) of the overcharge to him," Gorsuch wrote. "Yet today the court lets a pass-on case proceed."

The ruling threatens to throw another monkey wrench in Apple's efforts to increase the revenue generated from its app store at a time that its iPhone sales have plunged into their deepest slump since that revolutionary product hit the market 12 years ago.

To counter the iPhone sales drop, Apple is trying to make more money from selling services such as its music subscription service, as well as a forthcoming Netflix-like video service while also taking a cut from

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the subscriptions and other transactions done on apps downloaded on iPhones and iPads.

The effort has been largely successful, helping to transform the Apple services division that includes the app store into the fastest growing part of the company. Apple's most recent quarter highlight the ongoing transformation as its services division revenue surged 16% percent from the previous year to \$11.5 billion while iPhone sales plunged 17% to \$31 billion.

Meanwhile, Apple is under scrutiny in Europe because of claims of unfair business practices. The Dutch anti-trust agency opened an investigation in April into allegations by companies including the Sweden-based online music service Spotify over commissions and other issues.

The Financial Times reported this month that the European Commission planned to begin a formal probe based on a separate complaint from Spotify.

Even before Spotify filed its complaint in Europe, Netflix magnified the attention on the issue late last year when it decided to stop accepting new subscribers through Apple's app store.

Now the Supreme Court decision raises the specter of the legal dominoes falling in a way that could require Apple to slash its commissions or even abandon them.

The commissions are unlikely to disappear completely because it's reasonable for apps to pay a fee for distributing their software just as manufacturers pay brick-and-mortar retailers to get the products on store shelves, said Danielle Levitas, executive vice president of market insights for App Annie, a firm that tracks the app market.

But even a reduction in the commission rate could deliver a financial blow that would even damage a company as profitable as Apple.

If Apple can maintain the current commissions in its app store at its recent rate of growth, it will produce revenue of about \$17 billion in 2020, estimates Macquarie Securities analyst Ben Schachter. But if the average commission rate were to fall to 12 percent, the projected revenue from the app store would shrivel to \$7.6 billion next year, Schachter predicts.

That possibility rattled investors already jittery about how the escalating trade war with China might make it even more difficult for Apple to sell more iPhones. Apple's stock dropped nearly 6 percent Monday to close at \$185.72. With the China tariffs causing even more pressing concerns, Apple's stock has fallen by about 11% percent in the past week alone to erase \$100 billion in shareholder wealth.

There has been exponential growth in the availability of apps since Apple created the App Store in 2008 with 500 choices.

"There's an app for that' has become part of the 21st-century American lexicon," Kavanaugh said.

The case is Apple Inc. v Pepper, 17-204.

Liedtke reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Frank Bajak in Boston and Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

Jury: Monsanto to pay \$2 billion in weed killer cancer case

By PAUL ELIAS Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A jury on Monday ordered agribusiness giant Monsanto Co. to pay a combined \$2.055 billion to a couple claiming that the company's popular weed killer Roundup Ready caused their cancers.

The jury's verdict is the third such courtroom loss for Monsanto in California since August, but a San Francisco law professor said it's likely a trial judge or appellate court will significantly reduce the punitive damage award.

The state court jury in Oakland concluded that Monsanto's weed killer caused the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma Alva Pilliod and Alberta Pilliod each contracted. Jurors awarded them each \$1 billion in punitive damages in addition to a combined \$55 million in compensatory damages.

Alberta Pilliod, 76, said after the verdict that she and her husband, Alva, have each been battling cancer

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for the last nine years. She says they are unable to enjoy the same activities they participated in before their cancer diagnosis.

"It changed our lives forever," she said. "We couldn't do things we used to be able to do, and we really resent them for that."

One of the Pilliods lawyers, Michael Miller, conceded that the \$2 billion punitive damage award was likely to be reduced on appeal, but said they are prepared for a long legal battle.

A federal jury in San Francisco ordered the weed killer maker in March to pay a Sonoma County man \$80 million. A San Francisco jury last August awarded \$289 million to a former golf course greens keeper who blamed his cancer on Monsanto's Roundup Ready herbicide. A judge later reduced the award by \$200 million.

The three California trials were the first of an estimated 13,000 plaintiffs with pending lawsuits against Monsanto across the country to go to trial. St. Louis-based Monsanto is owned by the German chemical giant Bayer A.G.

Bayer said Monday that it would appeal the verdict.

"The verdict in this trial has no impact on future cases and trials, as each one has its own factual and legal circumstances," the company said.

The company noted that none of the California verdicts has been considered by an appeals court and that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers the weed killer safe.

The EPA reaffirmed its position in April, saying that the active ingredient glyphosate found in the weed killer posed "no risks of concern" for people exposed to it by any means — on farms, in yards and along roadsides, or as residue left on food crops.

"There is zero chance it will stand," said University of California, Hastings School of Law professor David Levine. He said the ratio between the \$2 billion in punitive damages and \$55 million in compensatory damages is too high. He said judges rarely allow punitive damages to exceed four times actual damages awarded.

The California Supreme Court ruled in 2016 that any punitive damages exceeding 10 times the compensatory damages are likely unconstitutionally high. The court didn't propose a ratio it felt correct, but said punitive damages should almost never exceed nine times actual damages, it said.

The punitive damages awarded Monday are 36 times the actual damages.

The lawsuits have battered Bayer's stock since it purchased Monsanto for \$63 billion last year and Bayer's top managers are facing shareholder discontent.

Chairman Werner Wenning told shareholders at Bayer's annual general meeting in Bonn last month that company leaders "very much regret" falls in its share price. At the same time, CEO Werner Baumann insisted that "the acquisition of Monsanto was and remains the right move for Bayer."

Bayer's stock price closed Monday at \$15.91 a share, down 45 cents or 2.76 percent per share, in trading on the New York Stock Exchange. The verdict was announced after the trading session closed.

Bayer's share price has lost half its value since it reached a 52-week high of \$32.80 a share.

¹This item has been corrected to say there are more than 13,000 plaintiffs suing Monsanto, not 13,000 lawsuits.

Tankers reported damaged off UAE on major oil trade route

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

FUJAIRAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — As many as four oil tankers anchored in the Mideast were damaged in what Gulf officials described Monday as a "sabotage" attack off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

While details of the incident remained unclear, it raised risks for shippers in a region vital to global energy supplies at a time of increasing tensions between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal with world powers.

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The U.S. issued a new warning to sailors as the UAE's regional allies condemned Sunday's alleged attack, which the UAE said targeted vessels off the coast of its port city of Fujairah.

Gulf officials declined to say who they suspected was responsible, but the incident came after a pro-Iran satellite channel in Lebanon and Iranian media earlier falsely claimed Fujairah's port had been hit by mysterious explosions.

A U.S. official in Washington, without offering any evidence, told The Associated Press that an American military team's initial assessment indicated Iran or Iranian allies used explosives to blow holes in the ships, including two Saudi, one Norwegian and one Emirati oil tanker. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the investigation, agreed to reveal the findings only if not quoted by name. The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which patrols the Mideast and operates from a base in Fujairah, has repeatedly declined to comment on the incident.

The U.S. already had warned ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region. America is deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf to counter alleged, still-unspecified threats from Tehran.

Citing heightened tensions in the region, the United Nations called on "all concerned parties to exercise restraint for the sake of regional peace, including by ensuring maritime security" and freedom of navigation, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

The scale of the alleged sabotage also remained unclear. A statement from Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said two of the kingdom's oil tankers, including one due to later carry crude to the U.S., sustained "significant damage." However, a report from Sky News Arabia, a satellite channel owned by an Abu Dhabi ruling family member, showed the allegedly targeted Saudi tanker Al Marzoqah afloat without any apparent damage. Satellite images obtained by the AP early Tuesday showed no visible major damage to any of the vessels.

The MT Andrea Victory, one of the allegedly targeted ships, sustained a hole in its hull just above its waterline from "an unknown object," its owner Thome Ship Management said in a statement. Images Monday of the Norwegian-flagged Andrea Victory, which the company said was "not in any danger of sinking," showed damage similar to what the firm described.

Emirati officials identified the third ship as the Saudi-flagged oil tanker Amjad. Ship-tracking data showed the vessel still anchored off Fujairah, apparently not in immediate distress. The fourth ship was the A. Michel, a bunkering tanker flagged in Sharjah, one of the UAE's seven emirates.

The U.S. official said each ship sustained a 5- to 10-foot (1.5- to 3-meter) hole in it, near or just below the water line, suspected to have been caused by explosive charges. Emirati officials had requested a team of U.S. military investigators aid them in their probe.

Authorities in Fujairah, also a UAE emirate, also declined to speak to the AP. Emirati officials stopped AP journalists from traveling by boat to see the ships.

The incident raised questions about maritime security in the UAE, home to Dubai's Jebel Ali port, the largest man-made deep-water harbor in the world that is also the U.S. Navy's busiest port of call outside of America. From the coast, AP journalists saw an Emirati coast guard vessel patrolling near the area of one of the Saudi ships in Fujairah, some 130 miles (210 kilometers) northeast of Dubai on the Gulf of Oman.

Fujairah also is about 140 kilometers (85 miles) south of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a third of all oil at sea is traded. The alleged sabotage caused jitters in global oil markets, as benchmark Brent crude rose in trading to over \$71.50 a barrel Monday, a change of 1.3%.

Al-Falih, the Saudi energy minister, said the attacks on the two Saudi tankers happened at 6 a.m. Sunday. He said "the attack didn't lead to any casualties or oil spill," though he acknowledged it affected "the security of oil supplies to consumers all over the world."

It is "the joint responsibility of the international community to protect the safety of maritime navigation and the security of oil tankers, to mitigate against the adverse consequences of such incidents on energy markets, and the danger they pose to the global economy," he said, according to the statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency.

The U.S. Energy Department later said it was "monitoring the oil markets, and is confident they remain

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well-supplied.”

Shortly after the Saudi announcement, Iran’s Foreign Ministry called for further clarification about what exactly happened with the vessels. The ministry’s spokesman, Abbas Mousavi, was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying there should be more information about the incident.

Mousavi also warned against any “conspiracy orchestrated by ill-wishers” and “adventurism by foreigners” to undermine the maritime region’s stability and security. Both the UAE and Saudi Arabia are staunch opponents of Iran’s government.

Asked at the White House about the incident, President Donald Trump responded: “It’s going to be a bad problem for Iran if something happens.”

Tensions have risen since Trump withdrew America from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and restored U.S. sanctions that have pushed Iran’s economy into crisis. Last week, Iran warned it would begin enriching uranium at higher levels in 60 days if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal.

European Union officials met Monday in Brussels to thrash out ways to keep the Iran nuclear deal afloat. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had traveled there for talks.

“We’re not going to miscalculate. Our aim is not war,” Pompeo told CNBC in an interview. “Our aim is a change in the behavior of the Iranian leadership.”

Underlining the regional risk, the general-secretary of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council described the incident as a “serious escalation.”

“Such irresponsible acts will increase tension and conflicts in the region and expose its peoples to great danger,” Abdullatif bin Rashid al-Zayani said. Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen’s internationally recognized government similarly condemned the alleged sabotage, as did the Arab League.

The U.S. Maritime Administration, a division of the U.S. Transportation Department, warned Thursday that “Iran and/or its regional proxies” could target commercial sea traffic.

The agency issued a new warning Sunday to sailors about the alleged sabotage and urged shippers to exercise caution in the area for the next week.

It remained unclear if the previous warning from the U.S. Maritime Administration is the same perceived threat that prompted the White House on May 4 to order the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group and the B-52 bombers to the region. In a statement then, national security adviser John Bolton had warned Iran that “that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force.”

Associated Press writers Aya Batrawy in Dubai; Bassem Mroue in Beirut; Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran; Malak Harb in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates; and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

China retaliates on tariffs, stock markets go into a slide

By **JOE McDONALD** and **PAUL WISEMAN** AP Business Writers

BEIJING (AP) — Sending Wall Street into a slide, China announced higher tariffs Monday on \$60 billion worth of American goods in retaliation for President Donald Trump’s latest penalties on Chinese products.

Duties of 5% to 25% will take effect on June 1 on about 5,200 American products, including batteries, spinach and coffee, China’s Finance Ministry said.

With investors worried about the potential economic damage on all sides from the escalating trade war, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 617 points, or 2.4%, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq plunged 270 points, or 3.4%, its biggest drop of the year. Earlier, stocks fell in Europe and Asia.

“We appear to be in a slow-motion train wreck, with both sides sticking to their positions,” said William Reinsch, a trade analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former U.S. trade official. “As is often the case, however, the losers will not be the negotiators or presidents, but the people.”

Beijing’s move came after the U.S. raised duties Friday on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to 25%, up from 10%. In doing so, American officials accused China of backtracking on commitments it made in ear-

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lier negotiations. The same day, trade talks between the two countries broke up without an agreement.

On Twitter, Trump warned Xi that China "will be hurt very badly" if it doesn't agree to a trade deal. Trump tweeted that Beijing "had a great deal, almost completed, & you backed out!"

The rising trade hostilities could damage the economies of both countries. The tariff increases already in place have disrupted trade in such American products as soybeans and medical equipment and sent shockwaves through other Asian economies that supply Chinese factories.

Still, the two countries have given themselves something of an escape hatch: The higher Chinese tariffs don't kick in for 2½ weeks. The U.S. increases apply to Chinese goods shipped since Friday, and those shipments will take about three weeks to arrive at U.S. seaports and become subject to the higher charges.

Also, both countries have indicated more talks are likely. Top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said Sunday that China has invited U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to Beijing. But nothing has been scheduled. And Trump said Monday that he expects to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in late June at the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan.

The president has repeatedly insisted that increased tariffs on Chinese goods don't hurt American consumers. But Kudlow, head of the president's National Economic Council, acknowledged over the weekend that U.S. consumers and businesses will bear some of the costs.

"Both sides will pay," he told Fox News.

In the U.S., prices of soybeans, targeted by Chinese tariffs last year, fell Monday to a 10-year low on fears of a protracted trade war.

In a statement, American Soybean Association President Davie Stevens, a soybean farmer from Clinton, Kentucky, expressed frustration that "the U.S. has been at the table with China 11 times now and still has not closed the deal. What that means for soybean growers is that we're losing. Losing a valuable market, losing stable pricing, losing an opportunity to support our families and our communities."

Trump told reporters Monday that a new program to relieve U.S. farmers' pain is "being devised right now" and predicted that they will be "very happy." The administration last year handed farmers aid worth \$11 billion to offset losses from trade conflicts.

Trump seemed to suggest that the aid will make up for or partially cover the \$15 billion that he said represented "the biggest purchase that China has ever made with our farmers." In fact, U.S. farm exports to China approached \$26 billion in both 2012 and 2013 and came in at \$19.5 billion in 2017 before his trade war began taking a toll on agricultural sales to China.

The president's allies in Congress scrambled to limit the damage to farm country.

Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa said it is time for U.S. allies to "get in the game" to push China to the negotiating table. "China needs to get with it," he said. "You can't move these goalposts like they're moving them and expect to be respected."

The highest tariffs announced by China will apply to industrial chemicals, electronic equipment, precision machinery and hundreds of food products.

Beijing is running out of U.S. imports to penalize because of the lopsided trade balance between the world's two largest economies. Chinese regulators have instead targeted American companies in China by slowing down the clearing of shipments through customs and the processing of business licenses.

Oxford Economics calculated that the higher tariffs will reduce the U.S. economy by 0.3% in 2020, a loss of \$490 per American household.

Similarly, forecasters have warned that the U.S. tariff increases could set back a Chinese recovery that had appeared to be gaining traction. Growth in the world's second-largest economy during the January-through-March period held steady at 6.4% compared with a year earlier, supported by higher government spending and bank lending.

The tensions "raise fresh doubts about this recovery path," Morgan Stanley economists said.

The latest U.S. duties could knock 0.5 percentage points off annual Chinese economic growth, and that could widen to 1 percentage point if both sides extend penalties to all of each other's exports, economists say. That would pull annual growth below 6%, raising the risk of politically dangerous job losses.

China's state media tried to reassure businesses and consumers that the ruling Communist Party has

the means to respond.

"There is nothing to be afraid of," said the party newspaper People's Daily. "The U.S.-instigated trade war against China is just a hurdle in China's development process. It is no big deal."

Trump has threatened to extend tariffs to the remaining \$300 billion or so in Chinese tariffs that haven't been targeted yet, but told reporters Monday: "I have not made that decision yet."

The president started raising tariffs last July over complaints China steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology and unfairly subsidizes Chinese businesses that are striving to become global leaders in robotics and other technology.

A stumbling block has been U.S. insistence on an enforcement mechanism with penalties to ensure Beijing carries out its commitments.

Wiseman reported from Washington.

Jill Colvin and Catherine Lucey in Washington contributed to this story.

'Empire' to get 1 more season on Fox amid schedule shake-up

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Empire" will return for its final season this fall on Fox — with Jussie Smollett a question mark — and should count itself lucky.

Fox, the lowest-rated network among the big four broadcasters, is hitting the reset button for the 2019-20 season by canceling eight shows and adding 10 new ones.

"Empire" companion drama "Star" is among the goners as the network makes room for an eclectic mix of wrestling, three new animated comedies and a "9-1-1" spinoff starring Rob Lowe.

"We are turning the final season of 'Empire' into a large television event," Fox Entertainment CEO Charlie Collier told a teleconference Monday. "One of the great benefits of announcing a final season is that you actually allow the fans to lean in and have the ending they deserve."

Collier dodged questions about Smollett's future with the show. The actor was accused of staging an attack last January in which he said two masked men beat him, hurled racist and homophobic slurs at him, doused him with a chemical substance and put a rope around his neck. Criminal charges were dropped but the uproar has yet to subside, making Smollett a continued publicity liability for Fox.

When pressed, Collier said there is an option to include him in the series "but at this point we have no plans for that."

A spokesman for Smollett didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.

As for "Star," which had been paired on the schedule with "Empire," it fell victim to Fox's prime-time schedule, which is an hour shorter per night than the other networks, Collier said. The network also wanted to give "Empire" a strong send-off by pairing it with returning medical drama "The Resident," he said.

Fox was split from sibling studio 20th Century Fox Television after Walt Disney Co. purchased the studio and other major assets of Rupert Murdoch's media empire. But Collier, in a strenuously upbeat statement, said today "marks a beginning for Fox Entertainment" as it works with a variety of studios for its new shows.

"Fox is not only open for business but we feel like we're stronger than ever," Collier said.

He gave much the same pep talk later Monday to a theater filled with ad buyers, then asked stars from the new series to take a bow and required that they describe their projects in five words, apparently Fox's version of haiku poetry.

"This time, there's no virgins," Tori Spelling offered for the "Beverly Hills, 90210" reboot, titled "BH90210" and set to debut this summer.

While the network is emphasizing it's still in the series game, the presentation went heavy on sports: A succession of analysts and hosts, including Terry Bradshaw and Michael Strahan, touted upcoming game coverage. The network even worked a football legend into a mini-performance of "The Masked Singer."

Hidden inside a deer costume, he gamely tackled "Luck Be a Lady Tonight," and the show's panelists were asked to guess his identity.

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After speculating that the mystery man wasn't really a singer and mulling the clues provided, Jenny McCarthy proved her detective skills: It was Joe Namath.

THE VOICES ARE FAMILIAR

Fox has long been known for its animated comedies, most notably "The Simpsons," and is betting viewers want more. To sweeten the deal, three shows will include actors known for their on-screen work.

"Bless the Harts," about a Southern family that's poor but rich in friends and relations, will debut this fall with Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph and Mary Steenburgen in its voice cast. It's created by Emily Spivey, whose credits include "The Last Man on Earth."

Later-season entries include "The Great North," from "Bob's Burgers" creator Loren Bouchard and featuring the voices of Nick Offerman, Megan Mullally, Jenny Slate and Will Forte in the tale of a single Alaska dad and his kids. "Duncanville," about an imaginative teenage boy and his father, includes Amy Poehler, Ty Burrell and Rashida Jones in its voice cast.

Asked why Fox isn't fielding a live-action sitcom this fall, Fox Entertainment President Michael Thorn said it does have a "signature" comedy in "Bless the Harts."

There will be a new multi-camera comedy in midseason, "Outmatched," starring Jason Biggs and Maggie Lawson as a blue-collar couple raising four kids, three of them genius-level, and "Last Man Standing" with Tim Allen will be back then as well.

I KNOW THAT FACE

Television veteran Rob Lowe will star in a new iteration of "9-1-1," the drama whose producers include the prolific Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk ("American Horror Story" and more). In the midseason "9-1-1: Lone Star," Lowe plays a New York City police officer who re-locates to Austin, Texas, with his son.

Fellow TV stalwart Kim Cattrall ("Sex and the City") stars in "Filthy Rich," described as a gothic Southern family drama that mixes wealth, power and religion with "outrageously soapy results," while John Slattery ("Mad Men") headlines "neXt" as a Silicon Valley pioneer trying to stop his dangerous A.I. creation. Both are midseason entries, along with "Deputy," starring Stephen Dorff as a fifth-generation lawman.

Two new dramas will debut this fall. "Not Just Me," from producer Jason Katims ("Friday Night Lights," "Parenthood") stars Timothy Hutton as a fertility doctor run amok, with Brittany Snow playing a daughter who deals with the aftermath. "Prodigal Son" stars Tom Payne ("The Walking Dead") as a crimebuster with a dark family history, courtesy of his dad (Michael Sheen, "Masters of Sex").

SO LONG, PAL

If misery loves company, then the makers and cast of "Star," including Jude Demorest and Queen Latifah, and "Lethal Weapon" and star Damon Wayans are far from alone.

Other series canceled by Fox: Kelsey Grammer's "Proven Innocent"; comedy "The Cool Kids," which starred veterans including David Alan Grier and Vicki Lawrence; "The Gifted," set in Marvel's "X-Men" universe; reality series "Love Connection" with host Andy Cohen; sci-fi drama "The Passage," and sitcom "Rel" with Lil Rel Howery.

GOOD SPORTS

Murdoch himself has rejected predictions that Fox will evolve into a news and sports outlet, minus series. But any network is happy to air the Super Bowl, TV's biggest audience draw, and it belongs to Fox in 2020.

Eric Shanks, Fox Sports CEO and executive producer, said they're aiming for an early ad-sales kickoff. A previously announced decision to reduce commercial breaks by tightening up the inventory of the more valuable ad spots should help, he said.

"We're having constant communication with the people who are returning from the last time we had the Super Bowl, and I would say that the early conversations are really encouraging for the market to get started," he said.

Fox also is touting the arrival of "WWE's Smackdown Live," a weekly two-hour program that will air year-round beginning Oct. 4.

This story corrects the title of Tim Allen's sitcom to "Last Man Standing."

Victims of clergy abuse to sue Vatican, seek abusers' names

By AMY FORLITI and MICHAEL REZENDES Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Five men who say they were sexually abused by Roman Catholic priests when they were minors are planning to sue the Vatican and are demanding the names of thousands of predator priests they claim have been kept secret by the Holy See.

In a Monday news release announcing the lawsuit, Minnesota attorney Jeff Anderson said he wants to show that the Vatican tried to cover up actions by top church officials including former St. Paul-Minneapolis Archbishop John Nienstedt. The lawsuit being filed Tuesday seeks the release of 3,400 names of priests who were referred to the Vatican for "credible cases of abuse." That number was released by the Vatican in 2014.

The lawsuit comes less than a week after Pope Francis issued a groundbreaking new church law requiring all Catholic priests and nuns worldwide to report clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities. The law is part of a new effort to hold the Catholic hierarchy accountable.

But the new law stops short of requiring the crimes to be reported to police, and abuse victims and their advocates say it's not enough since it essentially tasks discredited bishops who have mishandled abuse for decades with policing their own.

The plaintiffs in the new lawsuit include three brothers who were abused by former priest Curtis Wehmeyer as recently as 2012 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Wehmeyer pleaded guilty to criminal sexual conduct and child pornography in connection with his contact with two of the boys, who were 12 and 14. The brothers are not named in the press release.

Internal church documents show that church leaders knew Wehmeyer had engaged in sexual misconduct when they promoted him in 2009. The behavior included at least two occasions when Wehmeyer solicited men for sex. Yet, church leaders did not warn Wehmeyer's parishioners about his past, and a July 2014 church memo raised concerns that Nienstedt's "social relationship" with Wehmeyer had clouded his judgment.

Wehmeyer's arrest led prosecutors to file criminal charges against the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for failing to protect children. It also led to the resignation of Nienstedt, who came under fire for his handling of Wehmeyer's case at a time when his own sexual behavior was under scrutiny. Nienstedt was investigated following credible allegations that he engaged in misconduct and harassment, then retaliated when his advances were rejected. Nienstedt has denied the allegations, calling them "entirely false."

His successor, Archbishop Bernard Hebda, said last December that the Vatican suspended the investigation when Nienstedt resigned in 2015. And while Nienstedt remains in good standing with the Vatican, Hebda has forbidden him from exercising public ministry in his archdiocese.

Messages left with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the papal nuncio in Washington, D.C. were not returned Monday. An email sent to Nienstedt went unanswered.

The other plaintiffs are, Manuel Vega, a California man who says he was abused by a priest in Los Angeles, and James Keenan, who says he was sexually abused by a priest in Minnesota.

Rezendes reported from Winthrop, Massachusetts.

US farmers who sell to China feel pain of Beijing's tariffs

By DAVID PITT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — China's announcement Monday of higher tariffs on \$60 billion of American exports — retaliation for President Donald Trump's latest penalties on Chinese goods — hit particularly hard in the farm belt. China's vast consumer market has been a vital source of revenue for American farmers.

Since December, when U.S. and China negotiators called a truce to tariffs and began signaling that an

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agreement might be reached, soybean farmers had been holding out hope that sales to China would resume, said Todd Hultman, an Omaha-based grain market analyst with agriculture market data provider DTN. In the meantime, the farmers had been storing a record stockpile of nearly 1 billion bushels.

The latest news of a new round of tariffs, with no agreement in sight, spooked the financial markets and some farmers who had been tentatively optimistic.

"This is hitting the market at a very emotionally distressful time," Hultman said. "The rug of hope was pulled out from under us and especially with the announcement this morning that China is going to retaliate with higher tariffs of their own."

In a statement Monday, the American Soybean Association reacted with frustration edged with anxiety.

"The sentiment out in farm country is getting grimmer by the day," said John Heisdorffer, a soybean farmer in Keota, Iowa, who is chairman of the ASA. "Our patience is waning, our finances are suffering and the stress from months of living with the consequences of these tariffs is mounting."

A slowdown in soybean sales, and the huge stockpiles that result, has a ripple effect. Farmers in many parts of the corn belt have suffered from a wet and cooler spring, which has prevented them from planting corn. Typically when it becomes too late to plant corn, farmers will instead plant soybeans, which can grow later into the fall before harvest is required. Yet now, planting soybeans with the overabundance already in bins and scant hope for sales to one of the biggest buyers in China, could raise the risk of a financial disaster.

"This is the fifth year of low prices, basically, for crops," Hultman said. "I think time is just wearing us out."

To Brent Gloy of Grant, Nebraska, many farmers like him appear to be facing only bleak alternatives for planting.

"There's just not a lot people can do," Gloy said. "You're looking at late corn planting through part of the corn belt. They would normally go to soybeans. Man it's just a mess."

On Monday, Trump told reporters that a new program to relieve U.S. farmers' pain is being devised and predicted that they will be "very happy." The administration last year handed farmers aid worth \$11 billion to offset losses from trade conflicts.

Trump seemed to suggest that the aid will make up for, or partially cover, the \$15 billion that he said represented "the biggest purchase that China has ever made with our farmers." In fact, U.S. farm exports to China approached \$26 billion in both 2012 and 2013 and equaled \$19.5 billion in 2017 — before his trade war began taking a toll on agricultural sales to China.

Gloy, an agriculture economist and a partner in the online research website Agriculture Economic Insights, said he fears there may be no end in sight to the Trump administration's trade dispute with China. And he noted that most crops that farmers could plant aren't profitable right now.

He also said that some fellow farmers he speaks with are beginning to sound notes of discontent with the Trump administration.

"Farmers I talk to, I've been surprised they're supportive as they are, but I think it's starting to wane," he said. "I've personally been very frustrated with it. I think it's just a lack of a coherent plan."

He said worries that the entire agriculture sector could face severe trouble if the dispute lasts indefinitely.

"It's going to get louder and louder because there's going to be severe financial distress in agriculture," he said. "We've been getting teaser deals for six months, and everybody kind of thought it's going to happen and now I just think the reality of the situation is that's not in the cards."

Public safety, civil rights groups battle over face ID tech

By MATT O'BRIEN and JANIE HAR Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco is on track to become the first U.S. city to ban the use of facial recognition by police and other city agencies, reflecting a growing backlash against a technology that's creeping into airports, motor vehicle departments, stores, stadiums and home security cameras.

Government agencies around the U.S. have used the technology for more than a decade to scan databases for suspects and prevent identity fraud.

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But recent advances in artificial intelligence have created more sophisticated computer vision tools, making it easier for police to pinpoint a missing child or protester in a moving crowd or for retailers to analyze shoppers' facial expressions as they peruse store shelves.

Efforts to restrict its use are getting pushback from law enforcement groups and the tech industry, though it's far from a united front. Microsoft, while opposed to an outright ban, has urged lawmakers to set limits on the technology, warning that leaving it unchecked could enable an oppressive dystopia reminiscent of George Orwell's novel "1984."

"Face recognition is one of those technologies that people get how creepy it is," said Alvaro Bedoya, who directs Georgetown University's Center on Privacy and Technology. "It's not like cookies on a browser. There's something about this technology that really sets the hairs on the back of people's heads up."

Without regulations barring law enforcement from accessing driver's license databases, people who have never been arrested could be part of virtual police line-ups without their knowledge, skeptics of the technology say.

They worry people will one day not be able to go to a park, store or school without being identified and tracked.

Already, a handful of big box stores across the U.S. are trying out cameras with facial recognition that can guess their customers' age, gender or mood as they walk by, with the goal of showing them targeted, real-time ads on in-store video screens.

If San Francisco adopts a ban, other cities, states or even Congress could follow, with lawmakers from both parties looking to curtail government surveillance and others hoping to restrict how businesses analyze the faces, emotions and gaits of an unsuspecting public.

The California Legislature is considering a proposal prohibiting the use of facial ID technology on body cameras. A bipartisan bill in the U.S. Senate would exempt police applications but set limits on businesses analyzing people's faces without their consent.

Legislation similar to San Francisco's is pending in Oakland, California, and on Thursday another proposed ban was introduced in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Bedoya said a ban in San Francisco, the "most technologically advanced city in our country," would send a warning to other police departments thinking of trying out the imperfect technology. But Daniel Castro, vice president of the industry-backed Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, said the ordinance is too extreme to serve as a model.

"It might find success in San Francisco, but I will be surprised if it finds success in a lot of other cities," he said.

San Francisco is home to tech innovators such as Uber, Airbnb and Twitter, but the city's relationship with the industry is testy. Some supervisors in City Hall are calling for a tax on stock-based compensation in response to a wave of San Francisco companies going public, including Lyft and Pinterest.

At the same time, San Francisco is big on protecting immigrants, civil liberties and privacy. In November, nearly 60% of voters approved a proposition to strengthen data privacy guidelines.

The city's proposed face-recognition ban is part of broader legislation aimed at regulating the use of surveillance by city departments. The legislation applies only to San Francisco government and would not affect companies or people who want to use the technology. It also would not affect the use of facial recognition at San Francisco International Airport, where security is mostly overseen by federal agencies.

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on the bill Tuesday.

San Francisco police say they stopped testing face recognition in 2017. Spokesman David Stevenson said in a statement the department looks forward to "developing legislation that addresses the privacy concerns of technology while balancing the public safety concerns of our growing, international city."

Supervisor Aaron Peskin acknowledges his legislation, called the "Stop Secret Surveillance Ordinance," isn't very tech-friendly. But public oversight is critical given the potential for abuse, he said.

The technology often misfires. Studies have shown error rates in facial-analysis systems built by Amazon, IBM and Microsoft were far higher for darker-skinned women than lighter-skinned men.

Even if facial recognition were perfectly accurate, its use would pose a severe threat to civil rights, especially in a city with a rich history of protest and expression, said Matt Cagle, attorney at the ACLU of Northern California.

"If facial recognition were added to body cameras or public-facing surveillance feeds, it would threaten the ability of people to go to a protest or hang out in Dolores Park without having their identity tracked by the city," he said, referring to a popular park in San Francisco's Mission District.

Local critics of San Francisco's legislation, however, worry about hampering police investigations in a city with a high number of vehicle break-ins and several high-profile annual parades. They want to make sure police can keep using merchants and residents' video surveillance in investigations without bureaucratic hassles.

Joel Engardio, vice president of grassroots group Stop Crime SF, wants the city to be flexible.

"Our point of view is, rather than a blanket ban forever, why not a moratorium so we're not using problematic technology, but we open the door for when technology improves?" he said.

Such a moratorium is under consideration in the Massachusetts Legislature, where it has the backing of Republican and Democratic senators.

Often, a government's facial recognition efforts happen in secret or go unnoticed. In Massachusetts, the motor vehicle registry has used the technology since 2006 to prevent driver's license fraud, and some police agencies have used it as a tool for detectives.

"It is technology we use," said Massachusetts State Police Lt. Tom Ryan, adding that "we tend not to get too involved in publicizing" that fact. Ryan and the agency declined to answer further questions about how it's used.

Massachusetts Sen. Cynthia Creem, a Democrat and sponsor of the moratorium bill, said she worries about a lack of standards protecting the public from inaccurate or biased facial recognition technology. Until better guidelines exist, she said, "it shouldn't be used" by government.

The California Highway Patrol does not use face recognition technology, spokeswoman Fran Clader said.

California Department of Motor Vehicles spokesman Marty Greenstein says facial recognition technology "is specifically not allowed on DMV photos." State Justice Department spokeswoman Jennifer Molina said her agency does not use face ID technology, and policy states "DOJ and requesters shall not maintain DMV images for the purpose of creating a database" unless authorized.

Legislators also sought a face recognition moratorium this year in Washington, the home state of Microsoft and Amazon, but it was gutted following industry and police opposition. Microsoft instead backed a lighter-touch proposal as part of a broader data privacy bill, but deliberations stalled before lawmakers adjourned late last month.

O'Brien reported from Providence, Rhode Island.

Stronach Group at center of best and worst of horse racing

By **STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer**

The Stronach Group isn't well known outside horse racing.

In the public eye, the big players are the likes of recent Triple Crown winners American Pharoah and Justify, trainer Bob Baffert and legendary horses Secretariat and Seattle Slew.

But few — if any — have had a bigger impact on the sport of late than the Stronach Group, led by Frank Stronach, Belinda Stronach and Tim Ritvo. They're the movers and shakers of the Canadian company that has been at the center of much of the good, the bad and the ugly of horse racing.

"No question the Stronach Group and the Stronach family invest in horse racing," National Thoroughbred Racing Association president and CEO Alex Waldrop said. "They do invest heavily in the business, and you've got to acknowledge that and thank them for that."

And blame them at times.

They own seven U.S. tracks, are credited for saving the industry in Maryland, boosted the sport in

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Florida and raised the bar with the richest horse race in the world. They're also the subject of multiple family lawsuits, an ongoing quarrel over the future of the Preakness that's again the conversation with the race coming up this week, and own Santa Anita Park, which was the site of 23 horse deaths over a span of three months.

But love them or loathe them, it's fair to say horse racing wouldn't be where it is right now without the Stronach Group.

Before the disqualification of Maximum Security in the Kentucky Derby, the fatalities at Santa Anita dealt another blow to horse racing's reputation and put the Stronach Group under the microscope. East Coast officials criticized the Stronach Group for being slow to react and institute reforms.

Waldrop praised the Stronach Group and horsemen in California for getting the situation under control. There's considerable debate over how the aftermath was handled and changes implemented, but Stronach Group executives did it their way.

"The long term of thoroughbred racing, whether it be in Maryland, California or Florida or anywhere in the U.S. is reliant on having healthy horses, healthy trainers, healthy jockeys and all of the above," CEO Bill Hecht said. "We will continue to work very closely with the breeders and the trainers and the horsemen to affect the very best solution for the health of all of those groups."

Long before the fatalities at Santa Anita forced the Stronach Group to find a solution to that problem, it has been fighting with Maryland lawmakers over the Preakness. The argument over whether the Preakness will continue to be run at Baltimore's aging Pimlico Race Course or the company's favored Laurel Park, 30 miles down the road, has become a tiresome mid-May tradition.

The Stronach Group's fingerprints are all over the sport.

Austrian-Canadian billionaire Frank Stronach made his money in auto parts and wanted to put it into horse racing. It was his idea in 2016 to launch the Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park in Florida, which had a \$16 million purse last year is now made up of two races totaling that amount.

"Frank is the only man that's invested his life earnings in racing," longtime Maryland-based owner and trainer Linda Gaudet said. "Nobody can criticize him for that because nobody else wants to do that. There's nobody out there that will do that. Nobody's going to fix a racetrack, build a racetrack."

Gaudet still remembers Dec. 4, 2015, when Ritvo came into Maryland and "saved" the industry there after some rough years. She said Stronach, Ritvo and Maryland Jockey Club president and general manager Sal Sintra took the state's racing operation from "the bottom of the rung" back to respectability.

"The stuff (Ritvo) got done in a short amount of time was amazing," Gaudet said. "He has a tough management style, but he's effective. And if somebody's not doing their job, move on to the next one."

That's not limited to Maryland. Even though his name isn't on the company, Ritvo has plenty of influence and has become something of a fixer when problems arise.

"Tim Ritvo, he's a dynamo," Waldrop said. "He's a force to be reckoned with. Not everyone likes that approach, but I take my hat off to him for working with all the parties involved in the situation and getting it right now at Santa Anita."

Not everyone in the Stronach family likes each other all that much right now, at least from a business standpoint. Frank in September sued his daughter, two grandchildren and former business associate Alon Ossip for over \$500 million in Ontario Superior Court alleging they mismanaged the family's assets and conspired to take control of them.

Belinda Stronach countersued her father in January, saying in a statement of defense that he lost vast sums of money on pet projects.

Hecht said whether its family infighting, safety at Santa Anita or problems at Pimlico, the horse racing spotlight — rightly or wrongly — will continue to shine on the Stronach Group.

"They can't blow their nose without somebody seeing something wrong," Gaudet said. "All the optics are on them right now."

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contributed to report.

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Beneath wholesome image, Doris Day was an actor of depth

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The very name “Doris Day,” cheerful as a sunrise on a studio lot, was an invention. The beloved singer and actress, who died Monday at 97, was a contemporary of Marilyn Monroe but seemed to exist in a lost and parallel world of sexless sex comedies and the carefree ways of “Que Sera, Sera” (“Whatever Will Be, Will Be”). She helped embody the manufactured innocence of the 1950s, a product even she didn’t believe in.

“I’m tired of being thought of as Miss Goody Twoshoes I’m not the All-American Virgin Queen, and I’d like to deal with the true, honest story of who I really am,” she said in 1976, when her tell-all memoir “Doris Day: Her Own Story” chronicled her money troubles and failed marriages.

There was more to her, and to her career, than not sleeping with the leading man. She gave acclaimed performances in “Love Me or Leave Me,” the story of songstress Ruth Etting, and in the Alfred Hitchcock thriller “The Man Who Knew Too Much.” Longing ballads such as “Blame My Absent Minded Heart” led critic Gary Giddins to call her “the coolest and sexiest female singer of slow-ballads in movie history.”

But millions loved her for her wholesome, blond beauty, and for her string of slick, stylish comedies, beginning with her Oscar-nominated role in “Pillow Talk” in 1959. She and Rock Hudson were two New Yorkers who shared a telephone party line. She followed with “The Thrill of It All,” playing a housewife who gains fame as a TV pitchwoman to the chagrin of husband James Garner.

Her on-screen chastity was a gag for comedians, but not audiences. The nation’s theater owners voted her the top moneymaking star in 1960, 1962, 1963 and 1964.

It was an easy punchline which would unjustly overwhelm her name and legacy for younger generations who would come to know her only through jokes at the inherent un-coolness of having such a pure image. As with Monroe’s reductive labeling, it denied, or at least dismissed, the talent behind it all.

In reality, Day was one of the most natural born movie stars ever to grace the screen, beloved by co-stars and directors for her raw gift, honesty and charisma. Director Michael Curtiz advised her against taking acting lessons. Garner told Vanity Fair that she was the “Fred Astaire of comedy.”

“Whether it was Rock Hudson or Rod Taylor or me or whoever,” Garner said, “We all looked good because we were dancing with Clara Bixby,” using one of the actress’ nicknames.

Her last film was “With Six You Get Eggroll,” a 1968 comedy about a widow and a widower and the problems they have when blending their families. It was that year that her third husband, Martin Melcher, who was as widely disliked as she was liked, died, and she retired from movies and turned to television. “The Doris Day Show” was a moderate success in its 1968-1973 run on CBS.

Melcher, who she married in 1951, left her deeply in debt. During their time together, he became her manager and often received producing credits on her movies, much to the irritation of her co-stars, like Garner, who thought of him as a no-talent hustler.

In her autobiography, Day recalled her son Terry Melcher, telling her that the \$20 million she had earned had vanished and she owed around \$450,000, mostly for taxes. In 1974, Day won a \$22.8 million judgment against her lawyer and business manager for mishandling of her and Melcher’s assets.

She turned her attentions wholly to the welfare of animals, which would occupy her for the rest of her life. There were a few would-be comebacks in the early 80s that never came to be, including a “Pillow Talk” sequel. She was also offered “Murder, She Wrote,” and fielded many other requests too only to ultimately withdraw.

Day briefly returned to television in 1985 for the short-lived, animal-focused show “Doris Day’s Best Friends,” which aired on the Christian Broadcast Network. It is remembered mostly for her first guest, her old friend and oft-co-star Rock Hudson. It was the first time that the world had seen his much-altered

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appearance, and days later he became the one of the first celebrities to publicly acknowledge that he had AIDS. He died that year.

"I still miss him," she told People Magazine in 2015. "I think the reason people liked our movies is because they could tell how much we liked each other. It came across that way on screen. He was a good friend."

Although Day was absent from the screen for decades, she was not forgotten. In 2004 she was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom, which she said she was grateful for but didn't accept in person because she "didn't fly." That unwillingness to travel also prevented her from getting a Kennedy Center Honor and others.

She still had enough of a following that a 2011 collection of previously unreleased songs, "My Heart" hit the top 10 in the United Kingdom. The same year, she received a lifetime achievement honor from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. Friends and supporters lobbied for years to get her an honorary Oscar.

Born Doris von Kappelhoff, her dreams of a dance career ended at age 12 when a car she was in was hit by a train and her leg was badly broken. Listening to the radio while recuperating, she began singing along with Ella Fitzgerald to try to learn the subtleties of her voice.

Day began singing in a Cincinnati radio station, then a local nightclub, then in New York. A bandleader changed her name to Day, after the song "Day after Day," to fit it on a marquee.

A marriage at 17 to trombonist Al Jordan ended when, she said, he beat her when she was eight months pregnant. She gave birth to son Terry, who later took his stepfather's name, in 1942.

Her first musical hit was the 1945 smash "Sentimental Journey," when she was barely in her 20s, singing with Les Brown's band.

She played a singer in her first film, Curtiz's "Romance on the High Seas," in 1948.

Day married a fourth time at age 52, to Barry Comden, who was a maitre d' in Beverly Hills, in 1976. They divorced in 1981. She lived in Monterey, California, devoting much of her time to the Doris Day Animal Foundation, and battling sensational reports that she'd become a broke recluse and a "bag lady."

"Considering Doris Day" author Tom Santopietro told The Hollywood Reporter in 2017 that the tabloid speculations weren't at all true, however.

"I think Doris Day has been happier in retirement than at any other point of her life," he said.

___ The late Associated Press writer Bob Thomas contributed biographical material to this report.

2020 hopeful Biden says he's open to breaking up Facebook

By HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

HAMPTON, N.H. (AP) — Joe Biden said Monday that he would be open to breaking up Facebook, a sign of the deep skepticism among many Democratic presidential contenders about the power of massive technology firms.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the former vice president, who is now running for the White House, said that dismantling large technology companies including Facebook is "something we should take a really hard look at."

His 2020 rival, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, has been the most outspoken Democratic presidential candidate to press for greater regulation of Silicon Valley's most prominent companies. While Biden didn't fully embrace her proposal — saying it's "premature" to make a final judgment — he praised Warren and said she "has a very strong case to be made" for cracking down on tech giants.

The comments demonstrate how Facebook is increasingly a flashpoint in the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, with some candidates arguing the influence of such companies is unchecked, allowing misinformation to poison the public debate. Sen. Kamala Harris of California said this weekend that she was open to revamping Facebook, telling CNN the company is essentially a public utility. But Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey told ABC that such calls aren't very different from the tough tactics President Donald Trump takes against his enemies.

Regardless of whether Facebook is ultimately broken up, Biden told the AP, the Trump administration hasn't done enough to enforce antitrust laws in a variety of industries.

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The former vice president is making his first trip to New Hampshire this week as a declared candidate for the 2020 Democratic nomination. He's dominating the early polls but faces questions about whether he can keep the momentum going after two previous presidential campaigns faltered.

The New Hampshire swing comes amid a rapidly escalating trade war between the U.S. and China that has left financial markets spinning and many observers uncertain about what will happen next. Biden's past support for free trade deals such as the North American Free Trade Agreement could prove to be a vulnerability among the blue-collar union workers he's targeting, especially in the upper Midwest, where such pacts have become unpopular.

Biden said he didn't regret voting for NAFTA during his time in the Senate.

"Fair trade is important," Biden said. "Not free trade. Fair trade. And I think that back in the time during the Clinton administration, it made sense at the moment."

Biden is competing in a field that's been celebrated for its historic gender and racial diversity. He said there are women currently running for president who would be qualified to lead the presidential ticket next year, but he wouldn't fully commit to selecting a woman as his running mate if he becomes the Democratic presidential nominee.

"I wouldn't hesitate to pick a woman if that person is the most qualified person available," Biden said. "I would place no restriction, were I the nominee, on anyone I'd pick, assuming they had the same basic philosophic view of the world as I do."

It's important, Biden said, for the nominee to pick a running mate "in line with what they believe ... so you can work as a team."

And if he doesn't get the nomination, Biden didn't dismiss the idea of working in a future Democratic administration.

"I learned a long time ago, don't rule out anything," Biden said. "If I can be helpful if I weren't the nominee, I would do whatever I could."

Biden also addressed questions about a potential conflict of interest stemming from his son's work for a Ukrainian gas company while Biden was vice president. The New York Times has reported Biden pressured Ukraine's government to dismiss a top prosecutor believed to be tolerating corruption. The prosecutor was looking into the firm, Burisma Holdings. Biden denied Hunter Biden's work for the company had anything to do with the effort.

"We never once discussed it when he was there," the former vice president said of his son. "There's not a single bit of evidence that's been shown in any reporting that's been done that he ever talked about it with me or asked any government official for a favor. ... I have great confidence in my son. He's a man of great integrity."

Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, scrapped plans this week to visit Ukraine in part to find information that could damage political rivals, including Biden. The former vice president dismissed such efforts.

"When folks like the president and Rudy Giuliani roll through one time selling snake oil, maybe people buy it," he said. "Second time around, they kind of catch on."

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 14, the 134th day of 2019. There are 231 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 14, 1955, representatives from eight Communist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, signed the Warsaw Pact in Poland. (The Pact was dissolved in 1991.)

On this date:

In 1643, Louis XIV became King of France at age 4 upon the death of his father, Louis XIII.

In 1796, English physician Edward Jenner inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps against smallpox by using cowpox matter.

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In 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the Louisiana Territory as well as the Pacific Northwest left camp near present-day Hartford, Illinois.

In 1925, the Virginia Woolf novel "Mrs Dalloway" was first published in England and the United States.

In 1940, the Netherlands surrendered to invading German forces during World War II.

In 1948, according to the current-era calendar, the independent state of Israel was proclaimed in Tel Aviv by David Ben-Gurion, who became its first prime minister; U.S. President Harry S. Truman immediately recognized the new nation.

In 1961, Freedom Riders were attacked by violent mobs in Anniston and Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1968, John Lennon and Paul McCartney held a news conference in New York to announce the creation of the Beatles' latest business venture, Apple Corps.

In 1973, the United States launched Skylab 1, its first manned space station. (Skylab 1 remained in orbit for six years before burning up during re-entry in 1979.) The National Right to Life Committee was incorporated.

In 2001, the Supreme Court ruled 8-0 that there is no exception in federal law for people to use marijuana for medical purposes.

In 2004, Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper published a front-page apology after photographs supposedly showing British forces abusing Iraqi prisoners turned out to be fakes. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to step in and block gay marriages in Massachusetts.

In 2008, the Interior Department declared the polar bear a threatened species because of the loss of Arctic sea ice. Justine Henin (EH'-nen), 25, became the first woman to retire from tennis while atop the WTA rankings.

Ten years ago: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi accused the CIA of misleading her and other lawmakers about the waterboarding of detainees during the Bush administration, disputing Republican charges that she'd been complicit in its use. Chrysler announced plans to eliminate 789 dealerships as part of its restructuring. A pair of spacewalking astronauts installed a new piano-sized camera in the Hubble Space Telescope.

Five years ago: A wildfire erupted in the north San Diego suburb of Carlsbad, destroying eight houses, two businesses and an apartment complex. Canadian-born U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz officially renounced his birth country's citizenship amid speculation he could make a run at the White House in 2016.

One year ago: Israel and the U.S. held a festive inauguration ceremony for the new American Embassy in Jerusalem; just a few miles away, Israeli forces shot and killed nearly 60 Palestinians and wounded hundreds of others during mass protests along the Gaza border that were the culmination of weekly demonstrations aimed at breaking a border blockade. The Supreme Court cleared the way for states coast to coast to legalize betting on sports. Writer Tom Wolfe, who chronicled the space race in "The Right Stuff" before turning his satiric wit to such novels as "The Bonfire of the Vanities," died in New York at the age of 88.

Today's Birthdays: Photo-realist artist Richard Estes is 87. Actress Dame Sian Phillips is 86. Former Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., is 77. Movie producer George Lucas is 75. Guitarist Gene Cornish is 75. Actress Meg Foster is 71. Movie director Robert Zemeckis is 68. Rock singer David Byrne is 67. Actor Tim Roth is 58. Rock singer Ian Astbury (The Cult) is 57. Rock musician C.C. (aka Cecil) DeVille is 57. Actor Danny Huston is 57. Rock musician Mike Inez (Alice In Chains) is 53. Fabrice Morvan (ex-Milli Vanilli) is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Raphael Saadiq is 53. Actress Cate Blanchett is 50. Singer Danny Wood (New Kids on the Block) is 50. Movie writer-director Sofia Coppola (KOH'-pah-lah) is 48. Former Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen is 47. Actor Gabriel Mann is 47. Singer Natalie Appleton (All Saints) is 46. Singer Shanice is 46. Actress Carla Jimenez is 45. Rock musician Henry Garza (Los Lonely Boys) is 41. Alt-country musician-singer Ketch Secor is 41. Rock singer-musician Dan Auerbach is 40. Rock musician Mike Retondo (Plain White T's) is 38. Actress Amber Tamblyn is 36. Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg is 35. Actress Lina Esco is 34. Retired NFL player Rob Gronkowski is 30. Actress Miranda Cosgrove is 26.

Thought for Today: "The family you come from isn't as important as the family you're going to have."
— Ring Lardner, American humorist (1885-1933).

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