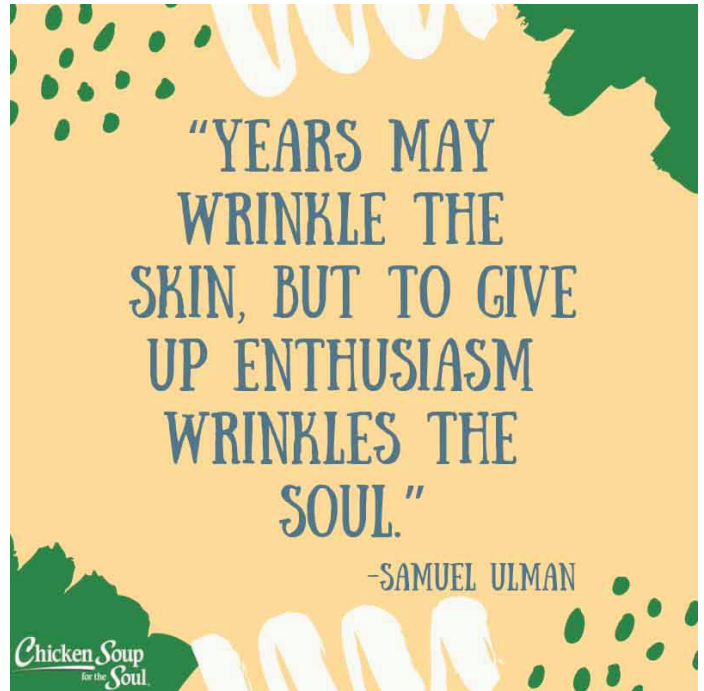


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## ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR WANTED

**We are looking for someone with a creative mind and a passion for the elderly. If that is you, here is a great opportunity for YOU!**

➤ Interview and assess all residents prior to the initial Care Plan Conference; document this information in the medical record, develop an individual recreation plan based on the assessment and participate in Interdisciplinary Care Plan meetings

➤ Update assessments and plans as needed and required by state or federal regulations

➤ 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

➤ Serve as member of QAA committee

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



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

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

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*Cub Cadet*

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## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Thursday, May 16, 2019**

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Sis-ton Golf Course

12:00pm: Track: Varsity Regions @ Red-field 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 Gym-nasium

7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at the Gro-ton 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**

STATE TRACK MEET @ SIOUX FALLS

# NOW HIRING!

## Truss Pros

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Looking for assemblers - both shifts

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## Flooding damage and repair costs could linger in SD for years

By: Nick Lowrey

The recent blizzards and rainstorms that have flooded farm fields and decimated roads across South Dakota have exposed major weaknesses in the state's rural transportation network and created repair bills that may strain budgets of small-town and county governments for years to come.

Some local officials say the heavy flooding highlights the need for fundamental changes to how rural roads are maintained and paid for. They say the future of the state's agricultural economy and the safety of isolated rural residents could be hampered if rural infrastructure is not improved.

South Dakota is facing recovery costs that could reach into the tens of millions of dollars as a result of back-to-back winter and spring storms and the flooding they caused, most of it east of the Missouri River. Much of the expense burden will fall to sparsely populated counties and townships, entities charged with maintaining critical farm-to-market roads and rural infrastructure.

Local officials worry they may not be able to get things fixed quickly or at all. Many governments were struggling to maintain roads and bridges long before the blizzards and heavy rains of 2019. In Turner County, southwest of Sioux Falls, the cost to repair road damage this spring is expected to exceed the county's total annual road improvement budget.

Rural roads, many of which are gravel or dirt and highly susceptible to water damage, form critical infrastructure for farmers, ranchers and rural residents whose work forms the backbone of the South Dakota economy. Without solid roads that can support multi-ton farm equipment, farmers can't plant, fertilize, spray for pests or move crops and livestock to market. Rural residents cannot rely on those roads to connect them with paved roads, and emergency service providers also face challenges in accessing people in crisis.

"It really is a very serious economic problem," said farmer Jim Schmidt, a Lincoln County commissioner.

"The public and the people in Pierre are going to have to ask how they're going to pay for this."

The problem is being compounded by an increase in extreme weather events. On average, the state is about two degrees Fahrenheit warmer now than it was 1900. That means the atmosphere can hold more water vapor, which allows more rain or snow to fall during a single storm. Since 1991, South Dakota has averaged 14 percent more 1-inch or greater rain events than it did between 1900 and 1990, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

State officials are working on a request for a federal disaster declaration related to the flooding. The declaration would provide for federal assistance but will not pay the entire repair bill. That is bad news for rural governments — and residents — because some roads are likely to remain closed until money is found to fix them.

Counties and townships had 30 days to collect and submit damage estimates to state officials following the emergency



**This rural road in Lincoln County has travel restrictions caused by recent flooding. Officials of rural governments say farm-to-market roads in eastern South Dakota may not be fully repaired anytime soon.** Photo: Nick Lowrey

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declaration by Gov. Kristi Noem last month. The state's total damage estimate will be available later this month, Department of Public Safety Spokesman Tony Mangan said.

## Money woes will slow repairs

Part of the problem is that counties and townships have few options for raising new money when needed. Instead, they must wait for the value of the property in their county to increase either through economic development or higher commodity prices.

Since 1997, townships and counties have been restricted from raising property tax rates as they deem necessary. That year, then-Gov. Bill Janklow froze the property tax rate and restricted annual rate increases to 3% or the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lower. Some years, that resulted in no increase at all in the property tax rate. Meanwhile, the cost of services has increased in necessary expenses such as employee health insurance and maintenance of gravel roads.

The idea behind the 1997 tax reform package was to slow the growth of the property tax rate by giving the public K-12 school system more money from the state's general fund.

The plan worked. According to the state Department of Revenue, in 2018, property owners paid nearly \$1 billion less in taxes than they would have paid without the property tax limit.

Schools still get the lion's share, about 56 percent, of all property tax revenue. Statewide, counties get about 27 percent and townships only about 2 percent. Counties, with voter consent, also can charge a wheel tax of up to \$5 per wheel. The tax can't be more than \$60 per vehicle. Counties get a portion of vehicle registration fees collected by the state and recently were given a portion of the fees collected on heavy non-commercial vehicles. If they charge a wheel tax, counties also can apply for competitive state grants from the annual \$15 million Bridge Improvement Grant fund.

Townships can levy up to \$.50 per \$1,000 of the property value within their boundaries. Some counties, such as Hughes County in the middle of the state, don't have organized townships and instead fund all road maintenance on their own.

Rural counties and townships are struggling financially because the value of property isn't growing fast enough to cover the increased costs of doing business. Spending on public safety and criminal prosecution, mental health and employee health insurance all have outpaced the growth in property tax collections, a 2015 study by the Department of Legislative Audit found.

The result, in places such as Hughes County, is that projects have to be delayed. Former Hughes County Commissioner Tom Tveit said at least one paved road in the county, Grey Goose Road, hasn't been resurfaced in almost 50 years. By state standards, he said, the road would be resurfaced every 30 years.

"It's equivalent to a homeowner buying a house and not replacing the roof for 50 years," Tveit said.

In 2015, revenue shortfalls led the Hughes County Commission to cut funding for the youth agricultural group 4-H. Two years later, the commission cut funding to the local library, which used the money to give free library cards to rural residents.

Several efforts have been made to give counties more options for raising revenue, most of them unsuccessful. During the 2019 legislative session, a bill to allow counties to charge a half-cent sales tax to fund courthouse and jail construction and maintenance was narrowly defeated twice on the state Senate floor.

Tveit, no longer a county commissioner, has pushed to reform the county revenue process. Meanwhile, counties will continue having trouble with roads because farmers are improving production.

"Yields have increased," he said. "That means more traffic and heavier traffic."



**Gravel and dirt roads, including this one in Lincoln County, are critical transportation routes for agricultural producers and residents of rural areas in southeastern South Dakota. Recent flooding has left many either washed out or impassable due to soft, rutted conditions..** Photo: Nick Lowrey

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## Warmer, wetter and more extreme

State Climatologist Laura Edwards lives in rural Brown County, on the western edge of the Prairie Pothole Region, a slice of glaciated geography defined by rolling hills and depressions that fill with water during wet cycles that can last decades. The area has been locked in a wet cycle for much of the last 30 years.

Lately, the rest of the state has started getting wetter, she said.

"We have seen a wetter trend all over the state," Edwards said. "We're getting wetter faster than most other parts of the lower 48 states."

At least part of the wetter trend is due to an increase in the state's average temperature. The temperature increase has mostly been seen in warmer evenings in spring and winter. Warmer air tends to hold more moisture than cold air. "It's kind of like you're loading the dice," she said.

Being a little warmer and a little wetter has provided some advantages for South Dakota's farmers. They've been able to get higher yields on corn and soybeans and more of them are planting those two high-dollar crops.

"Farmers are adapting to changes they see on the landscape," Edwards said.

As the spring of 2019 has illustrated, there are also drawbacks to a warmer, wetter climate. The use of tile drainage in farm fields is one example of added expenses and creating access to fields can also get expensive.

While the number and severity of rain events can vary wildly year to year, there is a consistent trend of larger events over the past 30 years.

"What we see going forward is precipitation coming in big, extreme events," Edwards said.

Overall, NOAA projects that South Dakota will keep getting wetter and warmer as the 21st century continues. The number of heavy rain and snow events also is predicted to increase, especially in the spring and winter, which long have accounted for much of the damage done to rural roads.

**"What we see going forward is precipitation coming in big, extreme events ... we're getting wetter faster than most other parts of the lower 48 states."**

-- State Climatologist Laura Edwards

## Counties face uphill climb

Turner County Commission Chairman Lyle Van Hove said he'd seen estimates as high as \$3 million for the county's share of repairs related to recent flooding. "We've got more damage than our total budget," Van Hove said.

The east and west forks of the Vermillion River converge in the north end of Turner County near the town of Parker. The river is a typical prairie stream that generally flows slowly as it meanders through a mostly flat, grassy landscape. But in the spring, when snow melts and heavy rains fall, the river floods. This year the floods were particularly bad. Seven bridges are still closed.

"We've got more bridges than just about any county in the state," Van Hove said.

Bridges are expensive to maintain and, in the case of Turner County, most of them are the county's responsibility.

In Lincoln County this spring, there are four or five culverts on county roads washed out and four bridges that need repairs. One bridge, a historic truss bridge, was nearly destroyed by ice. Another bridge's abutment, the piece that anchors it to the ground on either side, was scoured out.

Together, those bridge projects could cost well over \$200,000, said Terry Fluit, county highway superintendent. All told, Fluit said, storm damage on Lincoln County roads is expected to reach \$600,000.

"We haven't seen anything like this for years," he said.

Still, Fluit said, Lincoln County is more fortunate than others. There's a rapidly growing residential and commercial property tax base in the northern end of the county, Fluit said, so there's money to go around at least for county roads.

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There is no way Turner County can get its roads back to pre-storm condition anytime soon without state and federal assistance, said county Emergency Manager Brad Georgeson.

"Some township roads are going to be closed indefinitely," he said.

## Townships, farmers left in limbo

In Brantford Township in northwestern Hamlin County, rain and snow caused \$78,000 worth of damage and officials hope they can get some state and federal money to help make repairs.

The township board has a 2019 budget of about \$106,000. The \$78,000 in storm damage represents nearly three-quarters of the township's yearly budget. A dozen or so culverts that were damaged but already scheduled for regular maintenance this year are ineligible for state or federal disaster assistance. Brantford Township Clerk Dustin Leiseth said he expects the township will get between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in disaster aid.

There are 13 townships in Hamlin County and each one was assessing storm damage to their roads through March and April. Leiseth said he expects the townships to ask for more than \$1 million in disaster aid. The county government, he said, likely will ask for another million.

Leiseth said his township isn't as bad off as others. A farmer by trade, Leiseth has served on his local township board for a decade and currently is president of the South Dakota Association of Towns and Townships. While the Brantford township is in pretty good financial shape, there are many townships that aren't.

"There's a huge disparity in finances township to township," Leiseth said.

Some townships don't have money on hand to repair roads and culverts suddenly washed out by flooding or any natural disaster. Many townships and a few counties are then forced to delay scheduled maintenance to pay for repairs from storm damage.

State disaster declarations allow state agencies such as the South Dakota National Guard and Department of Corrections to help clear snow or build flood barriers. The declaration also opens up the state's emergency fund for disaster recovery efforts such as road repairs. For a month after the emergency declaration, counties and townships assessed their storm-related damages and submitted information to the state to get reimbursements for repairs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Another township that submitted a request for assistance was Pleasant Township in southwestern Lincoln County. Pete Fahlberg, a township supervisor, said his township is doing OK financially because it had some money set aside for emergencies. But the rain keeps falling and the township's roads haven't dried out.

"We've just been kind of spinning our wheels," Fahlberg said.

Meanwhile, farmers still need to get cattle and pigs fed or moved to market. They're driving on soggy, weak roads causing more damage and sometimes getting stuck. Fahlberg said he's shifted one of his farm tractors to use as a tow truck. He hasn't been able to get any farm work done and hasn't risked trying to take any of his stored grain to market.

"A lot of the activity in the township can't wait," Fahlberg said. "You can't just call a halt."

The county-maintained paved roads are in better shape, mostly. County Highway 103 on the west side of Lennox in Lincoln County was closed May 6 because a culvert washed out. It cut a 3-foot gash through the road, one of the few rated for heavy trucks that deliver steel to Koyker Manufacturing, a Lennox company that builds tractor accessories.

In neighboring Turner County, more county and township roads are closed to heavy traffic than are open. Georgeson said he's been working with the county's 18 townships to assess flood and snowmelt



**Small towns like Lennox, shown here, may have difficulty paying for road repairs related to flooding after already setting annual budgets.** Photo: Nick Lowrey

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damage for the last two months. The situation is bleak.

"It's been nearly impossible for farmers to access and evaluate their fields," Georgeson said.

The wet spring is bad enough said Terry Sestak, who raises corn, soybeans and alfalfa in addition to finishing cattle near the town of Tabor in southeast South Dakota a few miles north of Lewis and Clark Lake. His feedlot is a knee-deep morass of mud and water, which slows the weight gain of his 50 to 60 cattle. Each animal can be worth more than \$1,000. Delaying their arrival to the market is costly, he said.

All of his fields are too saturated for farm work, Sestak said.

"I should have been planting a week ago," He said.

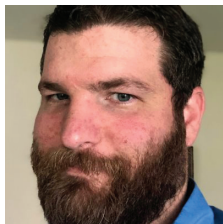
Sestak said he's got until May 20 to get corn in the ground. If he can't plant on time, he may have to do some preventive planting with an eye toward collecting on crop insurance.

"It's great when you have it," Sestak said of crop insurance. "But you don't want to use it."

According to the USDA, the week ending May 5 had 1.6 days suitable for field work. Last year, during roughly the same week, there were 5.3 days suitable for field work. On the bright side, as of May 2, no part of South Dakota was found to be in drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Large swaths of the state, about 37 percent in all, have an overabundance of water in the topsoil, according to the drought monitor. Subsurface moisture was in surplus across 27 percent of the state at the beginning of May. Just about every creek and river along Highway 14 between the James River Valley and the Minnesota border was out of its banks May 7 and showing no sign of receding anytime soon.

In 2018, about 5 percent of the state's corn crop had been planted by May 5. This year, though, the USDA hasn't been able to survey any farmers who have planted corn. The story isn't much different for soybeans, though they are usually planted later in the spring.



## ABOUT NICK LOWREY

Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.

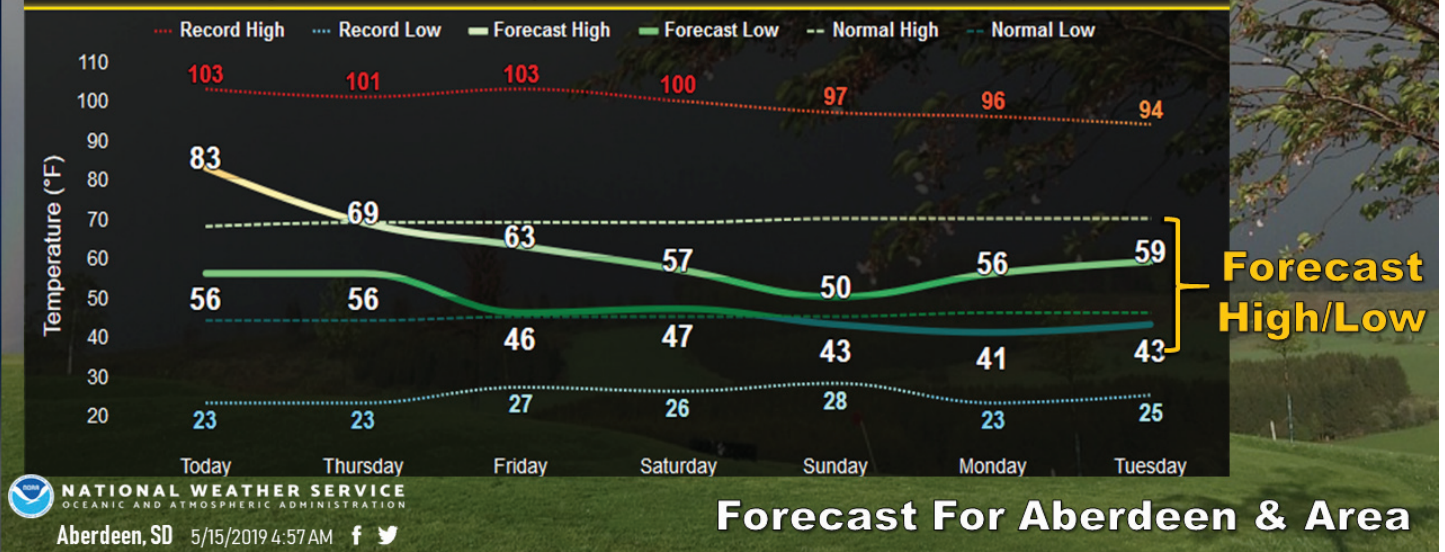


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## TURNING COOLER & UNSETTLED LATE WEEK-WEEKEND-NEXT WEEK

### 7 Day Forecast Temperature vs Normal/Record (°F)



Published on: 05/15/2019 at 6:02AM

Enjoy the warm temperatures today - because we're looking at the return of cool and unsettled conditions late this week, through the weekend and into next week. Our example here is Aberdeen but similar conditions can be expected across the whole of the Dakotas and western Minnesota. Temperatures on average look to be some 10 to 20 degrees below normal for a good part of this cool down. Additionally, much of the area can expect an additional inch or two of moisture.

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## 2019-2020 Groton Area School District

Amended 05/13/2019

August 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

2  
4

August
20 - Faculty Inservice
20 - Open House/Picnic (5:00-7:30)
21 - Faculty Inservice
22 - 1st Day of School
30 - NO SCHOOL
<b>Student Contact: 6 ; Inservice: 2</b>

September 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

4  
5  
5  
5  
1

September
2 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
16 - Homecoming Coronation (7:30)
20 - Homecoming FB vs. Milbank
<b>Student Contact: 20; Inservice: 0</b>

October 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

4  
5  
4  
5  
4

October
11 - Lake Region Marching Festival
17 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:30 - 8:30)
18 - Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL
22 - End of 1st Quarter (41)
<b>Student Contact: 22 ; Inservice: 2</b>

November 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1  
5  
5  
5  
2

November
11 - Veterans Day Program
27-29 - Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL
<b>Student Contact: 18 ; Inservice: 0</b>

December 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

5  
5  
5  
0  
0  
81

December
5 - MS/HS Christmas Concert (7:00)
20 - Elementary Christmas Concert (1:00)
20 - Early Dismissal (2:00)
20 - End of 1st Semester (40/81)
23-31 - Christmas Break - NO SCHOOL
<b>Student Contact: 15 ; Inservice: 0</b>

All make-up days will be added to the end of the school calendar.

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January 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January	
1-3	Christmas Break - NO SCHOOL
6	School Resumes
17	NCSEC Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL
5	
4	
5	
5	
<b>Student Contact: 19 ; Inservice: 1</b>	

February 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

February	
13	Parent/Teacher Conferences - (1:30 - 8:30)
14	Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL
17	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
5	
4	
4	
5	
<b>Student Contact: 18; Inservice: 2</b>	

March 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March	
10	End of 3rd Quarter (44)
19-20	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
5	
5	
3	
5	
2	
<b>Student Contact: 20; Inservice: 0</b>	

April 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

April	
5	Pops Concert (2:00 & 7:00)
10	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
13	Easter Monday - NO SCHOOL
25	PROM
28	Elementary Spring Concert (7:00)
4	
<b>Student Contact: 20; Inservice: 0</b>	

May 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May	
1	FFA Banquet (7:00)
5	Middle School Spring Concert (7:00)
7	HS Concert/Awards Night (7:00)
15	End of 2nd Semester (44/88)
17	Graduation (2:00)
18	Faculty Inservice
25	Memorial Day
88	
<b>Student Contact: 11 ; Inservice: 1</b>	

	Faculty Inservice
	No School
	Important Dates
	End of Quarter/Semester
	Early Dismissal

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## Today in Weather History

May 15, 1964: A two-day rainfall event ended with 3.57 inches at Rapid City. Damage to roads and bridges was reported in the northern Black Hills.

1896: An estimated F5 tornado struck Sherman, Texas, killing 73 people; 60 of them in downtown. Tornado victims were found as far as 400 yards away from their original location. A trunk lid was carried 35 miles by the twister.

1957: An F4 tornado killed 20 people in Silverton, Texas. A 5,000-pound gasoline storage tank was reportedly carried 1.5 miles and dropped into a lake. Residents said the tornado "looked like red sand, boiling and rumbling."

1968: Also, an F5 tornado moved through Butler, Chickasaw, Floyd, Franklin, and Howard Counties in northeast Iowa. The tornado touched down northeast from north of Hansell, passing east of Aredale and Marble Rock, before devastating Charles City. The tornado grew more massive and intense as it approached Charles City. The huge funnel passed directly through town, destroying 337 homes, and causing about \$30 million in damage. The tornado continued to the northeast hitting Elma. From there the tornado turned to the north and dissipated south of Chester, 4 miles south of the Minnesota border. Nearly 2000 homes were damaged or destroyed. All 13 deaths occurred in Floyd County. 450 injuries were reported in Floyd County and 12 injuries in Howard County. Another F5 tornado moved north-northeast from southwest of Oelwein to Maynard and east of Randalia in Fayette County, IA. Homes were leveled and swept away in both Oelwein and Maynard. The warning sirens had sounded for only 15 seconds before the power failed in Oelwein. Nearly 1000 homes were damaged or destroyed along the path, and 34 people had to be hospitalized. Almost 1,000 families were affected. In addition to these F5 tornadoes, an F2 tornado touched down 6 miles south of Cresco, IA and two weak F1 tornadoes touched down in Dodge County, MN. Also, baseball size hail fell in Fayette County, IA.

1972: The worst ice jam flooding of memory for long-time residents took place along the Kuskokwim River and Yukon River in Alaska. It was the first time since 1890 that the two rivers "flowed as one." The towns of Oscarville and Napaskiak have been entirely inundated.

1834 - The Northern Atlantic Coast States were in the midst of their greatest May snowstorm of record. The hills around Newbury, VT, were covered with two to three feet of snow. (David Ludlum)

1968 - A tornado touched down southwest of Anchorage, AK. It was the second of just three tornadoes reported in Alaska since 1950. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - The worst ice jam flooding of memory for long-time residents took place along the Kuskokwim River and Yukon River in Alaska. It was the first time since 1890 that the two rivers "flowed as one". The towns of Oscarville and Napaskiak were completely inundated. (15th-31st) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather returned to the north central U.S. Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Janestown, ND, with a reading of 96 degrees. Thunderstorms in Utah produced five inches of rain south of Bicknell. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






1988 - Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced wind gusts to 80 mph in Oklahoma County, and baseball size hail at Pawnee. Hail piled up to a depth of 18 inches south of Pawnee. Hail damage in Oklahoma was estimated at close to 25 million dollars. Thunderstorms in the Upper Midwest produced golf ball size hail around Cleveland, OH, and wind gusts to 83 mph at Angola, IN. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along and north of a stationary front produced severe weather in the south central U.S. Thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, and there were 145 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Softball size hail caused 2.1 million dollars damage at Sherman, TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Central Plains Region and Oklahoma to Indiana and western Kentucky. Thunderstorms spawned fifteen tornadoes, including seven in Oklahoma, and there were 165 reports of large hail or damaging winds. A tornado killed one person, injured a dozen others, and caused four million dollars damage at Stillwater, OK. Another tornado injured eight persons at Foyil, OK. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma also produced wind gusts to 92 mph at Oologah Lake, and softball size hail at Canton and north of Oakwood. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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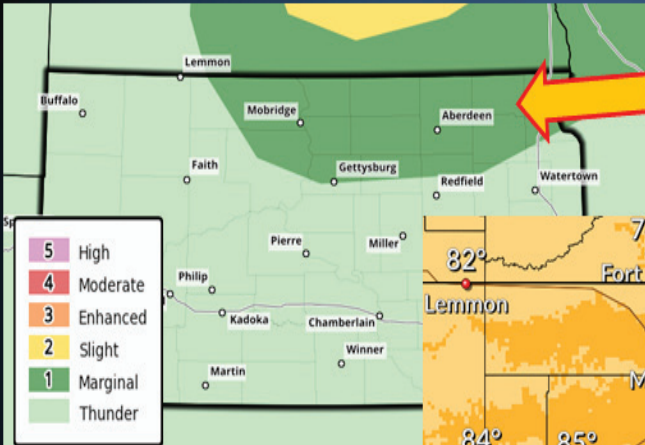
Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
				
Mostly Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance T-storms
High: 83 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 63 °F

## Severe Weather Threat This Evening

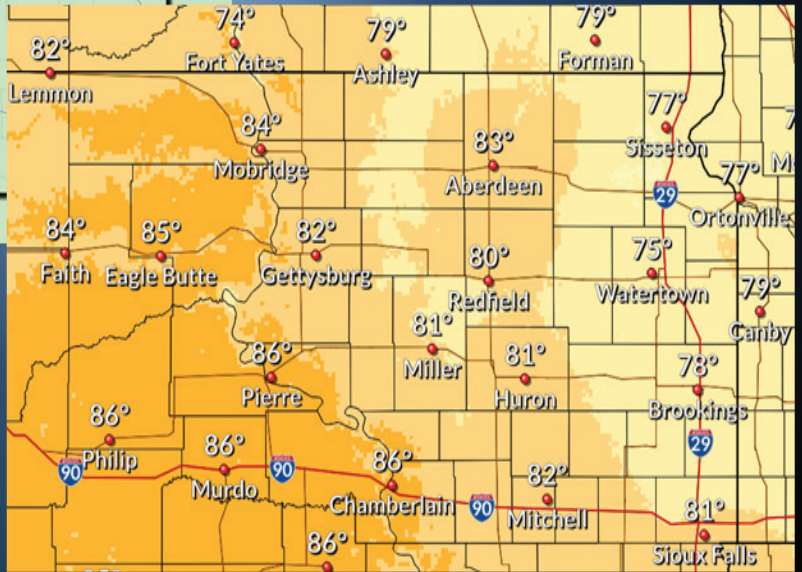
High Temperatures Wednesday

Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD  
Issued May 15, 2019 4:00 AM CDT





**Threats:**  
Isolated Strong to Severe Thunderstorms, Mostly Across The Northern Tier of the State



Updated: 5/15/2019 4:17 AM Central

Published on: 05/15/2019 at 5:23AM

Expect warm temperatures today, with just a touch of humidity. This will bring with it a severe weather risk - though storms are expected to remain mainly isolated this evening into the early overnight hours. Dry conditions are expected Thursday with conditions becoming wetter and cooler to close out the work week and through the weekend.

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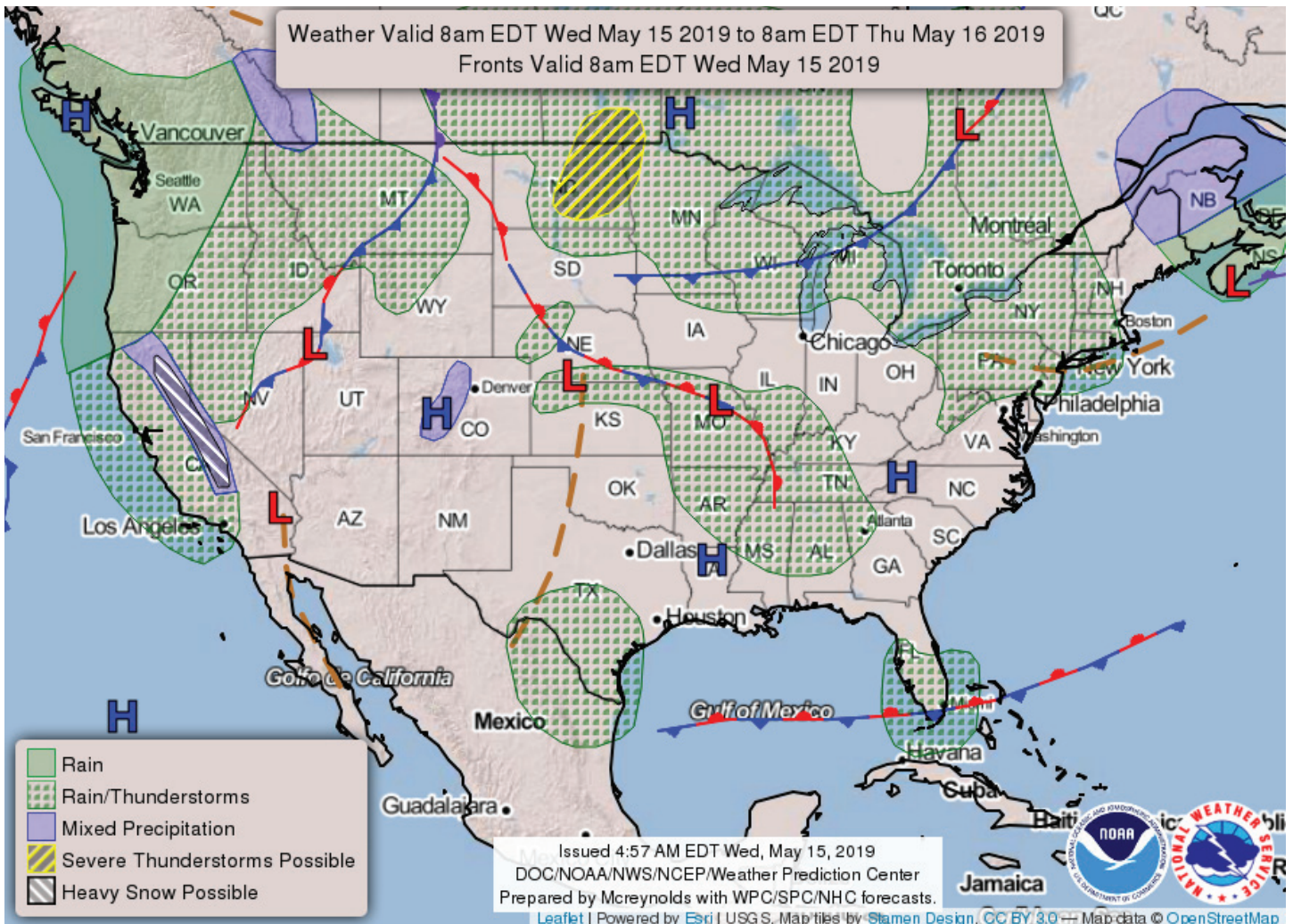
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 79 °F at 3:52 PM**  
**Low Temp: 51 °F at 4:58 AM**  
**Wind: 14 mph at 2:43 PM**  
**Day Rain: 0.00 in**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 103° in 1931**  
**Record Low: 23° in 2014**  
**Average High: 69°F**  
**Average Low: 44°F**  
**Average Precip in May.: 1.43**  
**Precip to date in May.: 0.49**  
**Average Precip to date: 5.46**  
**Precip Year to Date: 5.18**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:57 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:02 a.m.**



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## IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME...

Corporal punishment of children is not considered to be an enlightened way of disciplining children. Actually, it is in direct opposition to the majority of the theories of psychology and ways to change behavior. But God does in fact include it as part of His program of parenting skills that can lead a child to maturity. Parents who choose not to use this form of discipline do not demonstrate that they possess a higher degree of parenting skills or that they love their children more than other parents. In essence, according to Gods program of child rearing, they do not love their children as much as those who use a rod.

The words hate and love in this verse are not to be seen as comparing love and hate in an emotional sense. In other words, to withhold a spanking is not a sign that I love my child more than you do yours. It could be a sign that I am willing to sacrifice my childs future well-being because I want him to like me, or I would rather have the approval of society than God, or I know of other children who were spanked and they did not end up so good. We must always be cautious about whose approval we are seeking: our childs, mans or Gods.

Disciplining children is painful - especially corporal discipline which is clear from this passage of Scripture. But if the discipline is associated with breaking the teachings of Gods laws - lying, stealing, and being disrespectful of others - then it is appropriate. Children must be informed that If you lie to me, then you will be spanked is in keeping with Gods laws. Discipline is to bring conformity to Gods ways.

Prayer: Father, help us to discipline our children with love and respect when they disregard Your laws and willingly choose evil. But first, let us be their example. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 13:24 Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.

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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

### **8 years in prison for fatal drunken driving crash**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City woman has been sentenced to spend at least 8 years in prison for driving drunk and killing her friend in a motorcycle crash.

Prosecutors say Sophia Elbow Shield had more than three times the legal limit of alcohol in her system when she crashed in Box Elder in July 2018 and killed 62-year-old Brian Minor, a passenger.

Judge Robert Gusinsky imposed a 15-year sentence Tuesday, but suspended 7 years. The Rapid City Journal says that as part of a plea deal, two drunken driving counts, as well as charges of careless driving, driving with a suspended license and driving without a motorcycle license were dismissed.

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

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

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

Mega Millions

11-59-66-67-68, Mega Ball: 18, Megaplier: 4

(eleven, fifty-nine, sixty-six, sixty-seven, sixty-eight; Mega Ball: eighteen; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$316 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$250 million

### **Escalating trade war causing anxiety in America's heartland**

**By BLAKE NICHOLSON Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — When President Donald Trump began talking about tariffs in 2017, Upper Midwest soybean farmer Jamie Beyer suspected that her crop could become a weapon. Two years later, she and her family are watching the commodity markets on an hourly basis as an escalating trade war between the U.S. and China creates turmoil in rural America.

"It's hard to concentrate on planting when you're constantly checking your phone to see if another (Trump) tweet has prompted a dip in the market," said Beyer, of Wheaton, Minnesota. Beyer's family farms about 3,500 acres in Minnesota and South Dakota and she figures it has lost about \$230,000 because of the trade war.

These are days of "a little bit of panic" among farmers, she said, and the anxiety is spreading to the agricultural lending industry. One economist said the farm sector might face its greatest downturn in three decades.

Soybean prices plunged early this week to a 10-year low after Trump's decision late last week to impose punitive duties on \$200 billion of imports from China and China's retaliatory tariff hikes Monday on \$60 billion of American goods. U.S. officials then listed \$300 billion more of Chinese goods for possible tariff hikes, and China on Tuesday vowed to "fight to the finish."

The trade war that began last summer has already hurt farmers, despite \$11 billion in relief payments that were doled out last year by the federal government. The personal income of farmers declined by \$11.8 billion through the first three months of 2019, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. A similar pace of decline is expected in the coming months, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

"The domestic stress caused by the administration's trade policy is nowhere more evident than in the agricultural sector," said Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist at the consultant RSM. "Should the current policy pathway not be changed, the farm sector is going to experience the greatest downturn since the

late 1980s, driven by widespread bankruptcies and consolidation.”

During the farm credit crisis of the 1980s, high interest rates and falling land prices led to widespread farm foreclosures. One positive difference now is that land and farm asset values have been holding their own, and “overall, farm balance sheets look pretty good,” said Kent Thiesse, senior vice president and farm management analyst at MinnStar Bank in Lake Crystal, Minnesota.

But working capital is becoming a problem, as the trade war comes after recent poor crop years in some areas. Most farmers were able to get financing to plant a crop this spring, thanks in part to the federal relief payments, but “if there’s no government assistance this year we’re going to be looking at some serious losses by fall,” Thiesse said.

Trump said Monday that more aid is planned. U.S. Sen. John Hoeven, a North Dakota Republican who heads the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee, put the estimated amount at \$15 billion.

That could be key to some farmers. In southern Minnesota, for example, soybeans for fall delivery are bringing a price of about \$7.50 per bushel, about \$2 lower than a year ago and about \$1 lower than the break-even price.

“A lot of farmers say they’re not getting too excited to go out and plant soybeans because you’re probably guaranteeing yourself a loss when you put them in the ground,” Thiesse said.

The trade war is also affecting other crops, such as corn, as well as other industries, such as livestock and steel, from which farm equipment is made.

“Everything that I need to run my business or supply my business is going up,” said Randy Richards, who farms near Hope, North Dakota. “What I have to sell is going down.”

Bob Metz, a fifth-generation farmer from northeastern South Dakota, said he’s been talking to business owners in small towns and “they are suffering up and down Main Street. The farmers don’t have any extra cash to come to town and buy a TV or a couch or go out to dinner in the evening.”

The American Soybean Association said it supports Trump’s overall goals, but that it “cannot support continuing and escalating the use of tariffs to achieve them.”

“The soybean market in China took us more than 40 years to build, and as this confrontation continues, it will become increasingly difficult to recover,” said American Soybean Association President Davie Stevens, who farms soybeans in Kentucky. “With depressed prices and unsold stocks expected to double by the 2019 harvest, soybean farmers are not willing to be collateral damage in an endless tariff war.”

Soybean prices rose a bit on Tuesday, and Beyer, the Upper Midwest farmer, said “it’s a bit of a roller coaster.”

However, “Yesterday I was mad,” she said. “Farm families are doing their job. They’re getting the fields planted where they can, but it just seems like the policy makers are behind the ball on all this stuff. Announcing the tariffs and not having a plan for American farmers is just not the right way to do things.”

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Associated Press writers Dave Kolpack in Fargo, North Dakota, and Doug Glass in Minneapolis contributed to this story.

## Rapid City man pleads not guilty to killing brother

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in the robbery death of his brother.

Fifty-four-year-old James Ladeaux Sr. also has pleaded not guilty to aggravated assault against law enforcement officers for allegedly threatening them with a knife.

Authorities say Ladeaux’s 53-year-old brother, Fredrick, was fatally stabbed in an alley in March.

Second-degree murder is punishable by a maximum sentence of life in prison. Defense attorney Matthew Skinner tells the Rapid City Journal that his client might argue self-defense.

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

## Augustana athlete charged after weekend incident on campus

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An Augustana University football and baseball player faces assault and burglary charges and has been suspended from athletics at the Sioux Falls school after a weekend incident.

Authorities allege 19-year-old Peyton Zabel drunkenly walked into a woman's unlocked room on campus at 4:30 a.m. Saturday and got into her bed. The 18-year-old woman told police Zabel grabbed her but let her go after a struggle. She wasn't hurt.

Police say the two know one another, and there was no forced entry to the room.

Zabel made his initial court appearance Monday. A judge set bond at \$5,000 cash or surety, which defense attorney Clint Sargent did not contest. Sargent did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment.

Zabel is a Pierre native who committed to Augustana in 2018 after turning down an opportunity to play professional baseball for the Milwaukee Brewers.

## Doctor sentenced to federal prison, fined for drug crime

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A doctor who worked in Aberdeen has been sentenced to 1 ½ years in prison and fined \$20,000 for illegally distributing a prescription painkiller.

Authorities say 47-year-old Troy Adolfson wrote prescriptions for about 1,400 oxycodone pills and had co-workers and others fill them in exchange for money and some of the pills.

The American News reports Adolfson was sentenced in federal court Monday after admitting to a felony charge of illegally distributing drugs. The government says it doesn't have enough evidence to prosecute anyone else in the case.

Adolfson was employed at Avera St. Luke's Hospital as a radiation oncologist from October 2014 through April 2017. He now works at Ottumwa Regional Health Center in Iowa.

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

## Global stocks follow Wall Street higher

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Most global stock markets followed Wall Street higher Wednesday after President Donald Trump downplayed his escalating tariff war with Beijing and said a settlement is possible.

Benchmarks in London, Shanghai and Tokyo advanced as investors tried to figure out the costs of U.S. and Chinese tariff hikes on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's goods.

Trump said on Twitter the conflict over Beijing's technology ambitions and trade surplus was a "little squabble" between friends. He said, "When the time is right we will make a deal with China."

Global equities rallied on that "positive tone," Edward Moya of OANDA said in a report.

Despite no sign of a deal or a date for more talks, "no escalation in tensions was good enough of a reason for investors to return to buying stocks," said Moya.

In early trading, London's FTSE 100 gained 0.2% to 7,254.07. The Shanghai Composite Index ended up 1.9% at 2,938.68 while Tokyo's Nikkei advanced 0.6% to 21,188.56.

On Wall Street, futures for the Standard & Poor's 500 index and Dow Jones industrial average were up less than 0.1%

France's CAC 40 shed 0.4% to 5,321.27 and Germany's DAX lost 0.2% to 11,974.15.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 0.5% to 28,268.71 and Seoul's Kospi rose 0.5% to 2,092.78. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 was 0.7% higher at 6,284.20 while India's Sensex gained 0.3% to 37,437.01.

Taiwan and New Zealand advanced while Southeast Asian markets retreated.

Trump threw financial markets into turmoil with his surprise May 5 announcement of plans to raise tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to 25% from 10%. When that went ahead Friday, Beijing retaliated by raising duties on \$60 billion of American goods.

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Investors worry that in addition to depressing trade, the fight sparked by U.S. complaints about China's technology ambitions might hurt consumer and business confidence, depressing spending and investment.

On Wall Street, tech stocks led the way higher Tuesday after suffering a beating the previous day. Qualcomm and Cisco both rose, along with Oracle, Adobe and others. Banks also rose. JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and others moved higher.

The benchmark S&P 500 rose 0.8%. It recovered nearly a third of Monday's loss and would now need to rise 3.9% to regain the record it set a couple weeks ago.

The Dow rose 0.8% and the Nasdaq composite index jumped 1.1%.

**CHINA ECONOMY:** China's April factory output and consumer spending weakened as a tariff war with Washington intensified. The data prompted suggestions Beijing will need to prop up economic growth with more government spending. Growth in factory output decelerated to 5.4% over a year earlier from March's 8.5% growth. Growth in retail sales declined to 7.2% over a year ago from the previous month's 8.7%.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude lost 64 cents to \$61.13 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 74 cents on Tuesday to close at \$61.78. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed 56 cents per barrel in London to \$70.68. It jumped \$1.01 the previous session to \$71.24.

**CURRENCY:** The dollar edged up to 109.63 yen from Tuesday's 109.61 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1209 from \$1.1208.

## Allies fear US-Iran tensions could spark accidental conflict

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **LOLITA C. BALDOR** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — International worries that the Trump administration is sliding toward war with Iran flared into the open amid skepticism about its claims that the Islamic Republic poses a growing threat to the U.S. and its allies in the Persian Gulf and beyond.

The U.S. military on Tuesday rebutted doubts expressed by a British general about such a threat. President Donald Trump denied a report that the administration has updated plans to send more than 100,000 troops to counter Iran if necessary. But Trump then stirred the controversy further by saying: "Would I do that? Absolutely."

Underscoring what the U.S. says is heightened risk to U.S. personnel, the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Wednesday ordered all non-essential, non-emergency government staff to leave Iraq immediately.

Still, the general's remarks exposed international skepticism over the American military buildup in the Middle East, a legacy of the 2003 invasion of Iraq that was predicated on false intelligence. U.S. officials have not publicly provided any evidence to back up claims of an increased Iranian threat amid other signs of allied unease.

As tensions in the region started to surge, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said his nation was worried about the risk of accidental conflict "with an escalation that is unintended really on either side." Then on Tuesday, Spain temporarily pulled one of its frigates from the U.S.-led combat fleet heading toward the Strait of Hormuz. That was followed by the unusual public challenge to the Trump administration by the general.

"No, there's been no increased threat from Iranian-backed forces in Iraq and Syria," said Maj. Gen. Chris Ghika, a senior officer in the U.S.-backed coalition fighting the Islamic State group. Ghika, speaking in a video conference from coalition headquarters in Baghdad, told reporters at the Pentagon that the coalition monitors the presence of Iranian-backed forces "along with a whole range of others because that's the environment we're in."

But he added, "There are a substantial number of militia groups in Iraq and Syria, and we don't see any increased threat from any of them at this stage."

Late in the day, in a rare public rebuttal of an allied military officer, U.S. Central Command said Ghika's remarks "run counter to the identified credible threats" from Iranian-backed forces in the Mideast. In a written statement, Central Command said the coalition in Baghdad has increased the alert level for all

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service members in Iraq and Syria.

"As a result, (the coalition) is now at a high level of alert as we continue to closely monitor credible and possibly imminent threats to U.S. forces in Iraq," the statement said.

Trump, who has repeatedly argued for avoiding long-term conflicts in the Mideast, discounted a New York Times report that the U.S. has updated plans that could send up to 120,000 troops to counter Iran if it attacked American forces.

"Would I do that? Absolutely," he told reporters Tuesday at the White House. "But we have not planned for that. Hopefully we're not going to have to plan for that. If we did that, we'd send a hell of a lot more troops than that."

Reinforcing Trump's denial, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said at a joint news conference in Sochi with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, "We fundamentally do not seek war with Iran."

A Trump administration official said a recent small meeting of national security officials was not focused on a military response to Iran, but instead concentrated on a range of other policy options, including diplomacy and economic sanctions. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Lavrov said Pompeo told him that a potential deployment of 120,000 U.S. troops to the Mideast was only a "rumor." Lavrov said the international community needs to focus on diplomacy with Iran, including on the potentially explosive issue of Iran's nuclear program, which is constrained by a U.S.-brokered deal in 2015 that Trump has abandoned.

U.S. Iran envoy Brian Hook told reporters traveling with Pompeo in Brussels that the secretary of state shared intelligence on Iran with allies since "Europe shares our concerns about stability in the Gulf and the Middle East." What the Europeans do not share, however, is Washington's more aggressive approach to Iran.

"We are very worried about the risk of a conflict happening by accident, with an escalation that is unintended really on either side but ends with some kind of conflict," British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told reporters in Brussels.

"What we need is a period of calm to make sure that everyone understands what the other side is thinking," Hunt said.

Last week, U.S. officials said they had detected signs of Iranian preparations for potential attacks on U.S. forces and interests in the Mideast, but Washington has not spelled out that threat.

The U.S. has about 5,000 troops in Iraq and about 2,000 in Syria as part of the coalition campaign to defeat the Islamic State group there. It also has long had a variety of air and naval forces stationed in Bahrain, Qatar and elsewhere in the Gulf, partly to support military operations against IS and partly as a counter to Iranian influence.

Gen. Ghika's comments came amid dramatically heightened tensions in the Middle East. The U.S. in recent days has ordered the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to the Gulf region, plus four B-52 bombers. It also is moving a Patriot air-defense missile battery to an undisclosed country in the area. As of Tuesday, the Lincoln and its strike group had passed through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea, but officials would not disclose their exact location.

Tensions rose another notch with reports Sunday that four commercial vessels anchored off the United Arab Emirates had been damaged by sabotage.

A U.S. military team was sent to the UAE to investigate, and one U.S. official said the initial assessment is that each ship has a 5- to 10-foot hole in it, near or just below the water line. The official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigation, said the early interpretation is that the holes were caused by explosive charges.

An initial assessment is that the damage was done by Iranian or Iranian-backed proxies, but they are still going through the evidence and have not yet reached a final conclusion, the official said.

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AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee and Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## Bernie Sanders zeros in on Joe Biden as his favorite foil

By JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders is quick to slam Joe Biden's past support of free trade deals and the Iraq War. He is warning him against a "middle ground" approach to addressing climate change. His campaign sends fundraising appeals with a simple, foreboding subject line: "Joe Biden."

In his nearly three weeks as a presidential candidate, Biden has become Sanders' favorite foil.

No one seeking the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination has been as aggressive as the Vermont senator in highlighting episodes from the former vice president's past to sow skepticism in the party's progressive base.

The strategy is reminiscent of Sanders' approach to the 2016 Democratic primary, when he relentlessly slammed Hillary Clinton as an establishment pawn. And it's a reminder that, even when Sanders lags in the polls, he is often most comfortable when he's taking on top Democrats, hoping that such attacks will energize his most loyal supporters.

That was easy to do in 2016 when he was the sole outsider candidate taking on one of the most recognizable names in Democratic politics. It could be tougher now that he's a leading contender for the nomination who has spent the past several years building an organization to support his candidacy.

"Bernie is trying to rekindle the magic of 2016, where he was the outsider running against a longtime member of the establishment," said Dan Pfeiffer, a former senior adviser to President Barack Obama. "The challenge is that this year there are no candidates with a claim to outsider status."

A Sanders representative declined to comment. Mark Longabaugh, an adviser to Sanders' 2016 campaign, said the senator ran then by pitting himself first and foremost against Wall Street, pharmaceutical drug companies and the billionaire Koch brothers, who fund conservative causes and campaigns.

Sanders' critiques of Biden come as the former vice president is taking the lead in many polls, displacing Sanders from the top.

For his part, Biden only nods at the tensions without mentioning Sanders by name.

Campaigning in New Hampshire this week, Biden defended his record as progressive, particularly on environmental and health care policies. He pushed back at a news report that he was considering a "middle ground" on climate policy that prompted stinging criticism from Sanders and Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

"I was in this area long before most anybody else was, and I have a record," he said, calling himself "a leader in climate change" and referring to a 1987 Senate floor speech during which he referred to a warming Earth as an "existential threat."

He said he'll deliver a major speech on climate issues later this month, and he called for an "environmental revolution." But he also doubled down on his overall pragmatic political brand, arguing that "we do need to finish this green revolution in a way that is rational" and in a way the nation "can afford."

For now at least, Biden is keeping his singular focus on President Donald Trump, a posture that also gives him the air of Democratic front-runner.

"You will never hear me speak ill of another Democratic candidate for president," Biden said Tuesday.

How long he can do that, though, is uncertain. With the first debates set for June, the race will soon move into another phase in which nearly two dozen candidates seeking the party's nomination will try to create breakout moments.

Zac Petkanas, a Democratic strategist who served as an adviser to Clinton's 2016 campaign, said Biden has the luxury of ignoring Sanders' attacks as the race right now appears to be "Joe Biden versus about 20 other candidates."

"It makes sense that he's trying to do it as long as he can, but we're in May of 2019. It's going to get rough, which is a good thing because we want a nominee to emerge battle tested," Petkanas said.

In New Hampshire, which Sanders captured by 22 percentage points in 2016 and his campaign views as vital this year, voters said they were wary of the campaign devolving into political mudslinging.

Lori Backman, 55, bemoaned the ideological tug-of-war, worrying that it will ensure Trump's reelection. "We can't have the splintering," she said, arguing that any Democrat is better on policy than the current

administration. "We need a strong message of unity up front. That's how you win."

While Sanders benefited from running behind Clinton in 2016, 73-year-old Marilyn Learner said she didn't think Sanders would have that same advantage this time if Biden filled the Clinton role.

"Bernie's ideas were novel," the retired teacher said. "And they're not novel now."

Mike Ward, a 62-year-old retired postal worker, said Democrats should lay off one another for the time being but that he understands Sanders' approach.

"He's starting to slip in the polls," Ward said. "And it's due to Biden jumping in the race. That's obvious. So, he's just kind of scrambling to maintain his standing."

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Associated Press writers Elana Schor in Washington and Bill Barrow and Hunter Woodall in Nashua, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

## **New Congressional caucus to address needs of female veterans**

**By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congresswomen with military service in their past, some of them forged on post-Sept. 11 wars, are hoping to create their own caucus to drive an agenda to support the nation's growing ranks of female service members.

Such a caucus — bipartisan and including men — would be a first, too. There are more than a dozen military and veteran-related caucuses in the House, but none dedicated to the specific needs of women who serve. The still-forming Congressional Servicewomen & Women Veterans Caucus is part of this group's growing network of influence in national politics that includes efforts to recruit more female veterans to Congress.

"It's a long time coming," said Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., an Air Force veteran and third-generation service member who is also among the historic class of House freshmen that delivered a Democratic majority in last year's elections. She recalls leaving the military in 1991 after she and her husband had a baby because she could not afford child care in Boston, the city where they were living. "What I've learned nearly 30 years later is that it hasn't changed."

But child care isn't the only concern of the group, which Houlahan hopes will eventually include senators who have served. Educating women on the veterans' health care and other services that are available to them also is on the agenda, as well as delivering and expanding on those services.

So is urgency: In the next 25 years, female former service members are expected to nearly double their population and will account for nearly 1 in 5 living veterans. That's because the number of enlisted women serving is eight times more than it was when the draft ended, in 1973, according to statistics released from Houlahan's group. Women now account for 18 percent of the officer corps, up from 8 percent.

Female veterans face different health-related challenges compared to their male counterparts, according to letters the future caucus members have sent to Army Secretary Mark T. Esper and Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer. The caucus wants all the services to follow the model of an Air Force pilot program that offers four hours of training on the health services offered by the VA to women leaving the military.

Joining Houlahan for a news conference Wednesday are Reps. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii; Elaine Luria, D-Va.; Mikie Sherrill, D-N.J.; Don Bacon, R-Neb.; and Gil Cisneros, D-Calif.

Houlahan, Luria, Sherrill and Reps. Abigail Spanberger, D-Va., and Elissa Slotkin of Michigan were part of a record number of female veterans with military or intelligence experience who ran for Congress last year. They're raising money together for potential candidates in 2020 with military experience through Service First Women's Victory Fund and New Politics, a bipartisan organization.

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Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

## Alabama ban on nearly all abortions in GOP governor's hands

By KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama legislators have given final approval to a ban on nearly all abortions, and if the Republican governor signs the measure, the state will have the strictest abortion law in the country.

The legislation would make performing an abortion a felony at any stage of pregnancy with almost no exceptions. The passage Tuesday by a wide margin in the GOP-led Senate shifts the spotlight to Gov. Kay Ivey, a fixture in Alabama politics who's long identified as anti-abortion.

Ivey has not said whether she'll sign the bill. Sponsor Rep. Terri Collins says she expects the governor to support the ban. And the lopsided vote suggests a veto could be easily overcome. But an Ivey spokeswoman said before Tuesday's vote that "the governor intends to withhold comment until she has had a chance to thoroughly review the final version of the bill that passed."

In Alabama and other conservative states, anti-abortion politicians and activists emboldened by the addition of conservative justices to the U.S. Supreme Court hope to ignite legal fights and eventually overturn the landmark 1973 decision *Roe v. Wade*, putting an end to the constitutional right to abortion.

"*Roe v. Wade* has ended the lives of millions of children," Alabama Republican Sen. Clyde Chambliss said in a statement. "While we cannot undo the damage that decades of legal precedence under *Roe* have caused, this bill has the opportunity to save the lives of millions of unborn children."

Democrats didn't shy away from blasting their GOP counterparts.

"The state of Alabama ought to be ashamed of herself. You ought to be ashamed. Go look in the mirror," Sen. Bobby Singleton said "Women in this state didn't deserve this. This is all about political grandstanding."

The bill would make performing an abortion a felony punishable by up to 99 years or life in prison for the abortion provider. The only exception would be when the woman's health is at serious risk. Under the bill, women seeking or undergoing abortions wouldn't be punished.

Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia have approved bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can occur in about the sixth week of pregnancy. The Alabama bill goes further by seeking to outlaw abortion outright.

Alabama senators rejected an attempt to add an exception for rape and incest. The amendment was voted down 21-11, with four Republicans joining Democrats in seeking the amendment.

Supporters had argued that exceptions would weaken their hope of creating a vehicle to challenge *Roe*. Collins said that the law isn't meant to be a long-term measure and that lawmakers could add a rape exception if states regain control of abortion access.

"It's to address the issue that *Roe v. Wade* was decided on. Is that baby in the womb a person?" Collins said.

Democrats criticized the ban as a mixture of political grandstanding, an attempt to control women and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

During debate, Singleton pointed out and named rape victims watching from the Senate viewing gallery. He said that under the ban, doctors who perform abortions could serve more prison time than the women's rapists.

In a statement, Staci Fox of Planned Parenthood Southeast said, "Today is a dark day for women in Alabama and across this country. ... Alabama politicians will forever live in infamy for this vote and we will make sure that every woman knows who to hold accountable."

Outside the Statehouse, about 50 people rallied and chanted, "Whose choice? Our choice." Several women dressed as characters from the "The Handmaid's Tale," which depicts a dystopian future where fertile women are forced to breed.

If the bill becomes law, it would take effect in six months. Critics have promised a swift lawsuit. Randall Marshall, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama, said a complaint is being drafted.

\_\_\_\_\_ Associated Press writer Blake Paterson in Montgomery, Alabama contributed to this report.



## US birth rate continues to fall

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

America's baby bust isn't over. The nation's birth rates last year reached record lows for women in their teens and 20s, a government report shows, leading to the fewest babies in 32 years.

The provisional report, released Wednesday and based on more than 99% of U.S. birth records, found 3.788 million births last year. It was the fourth year the number of births has fallen, the lowest since 1986 and a surprise to some experts given the improving economy.

The fertility rate of 1.7 births per U.S. woman also fell 2%, meaning the current generation isn't making enough babies to replace itself. The fertility rate is a hypothetical estimate based on lifetime projections of age-specific birth rates.

Whether more U.S. women are postponing motherhood or forgoing it entirely isn't yet clear.

If trends continue, experts said, the U.S. can expect labor shortages including in elder care when aging baby boomers need the most support.

"I keep expecting to see the birth rates go up and then they don't," said demographer Kenneth M. Johnson of University of New Hampshire's Carsey School of Public Policy.

He estimates 5.7 million babies would have been born in the past decade if fertility rates hadn't fallen from pre-recession levels.

"That's a lot of empty kindergarten rooms," said Johnson, who wasn't involved in the report.

Other experts are not concerned, predicting today's young women will catch up with childbearing later in their lives. The only two groups with slightly higher birth rates in 2018 were women in their late 30s and those in their early 40s.

"Our fertility rates are still quite high for a wealthy nation," said Caroline Sten Hartnett, a demographer at the University of South Carolina.

American women are starting families sooner than most other developed nations, according to other research. Other countries are seeing similar declines in birth rates.

Young Americans still want to have children, but they don't feel stable enough to have them yet, said Karen Benjamin Guzzo, who studies families at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

The U.S. could do more to encourage childbearing with parental leave, preschool expansion and child care subsidies and other policies aimed at helping young adults struggling with student loan debt and housing costs, Guzzo said.

Births were down across racial groups, with small declines for Hispanics, whites, blacks and Asians. The number of babies born to native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders was stable.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report also found:

—Overall, the U.S. birth rate for women ages 15 to 44 was 59 births per 1,000 women, an all-time low.

—Last year, there were 2% fewer births than in 2017.

—Births to teenagers again reached a record low. The number of births to mothers ages 15 through 19 was 179,607, down 8%.

—The rate for premature births — delivery at less than 37 weeks — rose for the fourth straight year to just over 10%, from 9.9%.

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Follow AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson on Twitter: @CarlaKJohnson

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The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## 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. ALABAMA BANS NEARLY ALL ABORTIONS

The state's Republican-dominated Senate voted to make performing an abortion at any stage of pregnancy a felony punishable by up to 99 years or life in prison for the abortion provider.

### 2. IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER MAKES VEILED THREAT

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says it wouldn't be difficult for the Islamic Republic to enrich uranium to weapons-grade levels amid rising tensions with the U.S.

### 3. A 'LITTLE SQUABBLE'

Most global stock markets follow Wall Street higher after Trump downplays his escalating tariff war with China and says a settlement is possible.

### 4. 'A PRETTY SCARY TOPIC'

Teachers across the country describe struggles finding trustworthy materials to help them teach climate change.

### 5. WHO SANDERS' NEW FOIL IS

Former Vice President Joe Biden has been a declared candidate for fewer than three weeks and already the Vermont senator has emerged as one of his most ardent critics.

### 6. WHAT CONGRESSWOMEN ARE FORMING

Female military veterans serving in the House say they're setting up a caucus that advocates for women service members and veterans.

### 7. SHAREHOLDERS THINKING GREEN MORE THAN EVER

As the Earth gets warmer, investors are increasingly targeting consumer-oriented businesses, internet companies and other businesses that don't first come to mind as big polluters.

### 8. AMERICA'S BABY BUST ISN'T OVER

The nation's birth rates last year reached record lows for women in their teens and 20s, leading to the fewest babies in 32 years.

### 9. WARRIORS TAKE GAME 1 OF WEST FINALS

Stephen Curry makes nine 3-pointers and scores 36 points, and Golden State beats Portland 116-94 while playing without injured star Kevin Durant again.

### 10. MONET MAKES MONEY

One of Claude Monet's haystack paintings fetches \$110.7 million at Sotheby's auction in New York.

## Teachers grapple with climate change: 'A pretty scary topic'

By MICHAEL MELIA Associated Press

When science teacher Diana Allen set out to teach climate change, a subject she'd never learned in school, she fell into a rabbit's hole of misinformation: Many resources presented online as educational material were actually junk.

"It is a pretty scary topic to take on," said Allen, a teacher at Sanford Junior High School, in southern Maine. "There are some pretty tricky websites out there. You kind of have to be an expert to be able to see through that like, 'Oh, no, these guys aren't telling you the truth.'"

There are materials produced by climate change doubters, lesson plans developed by the oil industry, and countless other sites with misleading or outdated information. The Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network, funded by federal grants, reviewed more than 30,000 free online resources and found only 700 acceptable for use in schools.

"There's a lot of information that's out there that is broken, old, misleading, not scientifically sound, not sound technically," said Frank Niepold, a climate education coordinator at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Heartland Institute, an Illinois-based group that dismisses climate change, in 2017 sent thousands

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of science teachers copies of a book titled "Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming" The book, attributed to the group's Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, misrepresents the near-universal consensus of scientists and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that global warming is real and man-made.

Another resource, a set of six lesson plans on understanding climate change, is available online from the Canada-based Fraser Institute, which counts the Charles Koch Foundation among its financial supporters. The lessons claim that mainstream climate scientists have made selective use of data and that it's a matter of debate whether human-generated carbon dioxide emissions have contributed to climate change, saying "the issues are far from settled."

"Our history is full of examples where 'common knowledge' was discarded in favor of more correct hypotheses," the lesson plans say. Among them, it lists, "Are diseases caused by evil spirits? Are natural disasters caused by angry gods?"

And: "Does smoking pose a threat to your health?"

Also vying for educators' attention are classroom-ready materials made available by the oil companies. ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell and other companies have invested heavily in promoting science, technology, engineering and math education in K-12 schools. Such materials are used widely to teach topics related to energy, but critics say they can mislead by not addressing the role of burning fossil fuels in global warming.

For teachers in cash-strapped schools, it can be hard to pass up the free handout materials.

Melissa Lau, a sixth-grade teacher in Piedmont, Oklahoma, attended one of the training sessions put on regularly for teachers by the Oklahoma Energy Resource Bureau, which is funded by the oil and gas companies. She kept the \$50 stipend and the tub full of science equipment she got from the group but she tossed its illustrated lesson plans featuring the character "Petro Pete."

In a book available online, Petro Pete has a nightmare about everything that would be missing from his life if there were no petroleum products, from his toothbrush to his school bus.

"I get free beakers and cool things like that," Lau said. "But the curriculum itself is borderline propaganda."

A spokeswoman for the industry group, Dara McBee, said their materials align with Oklahoma standards, which do not reference climate change, and they are intended to supplement what students learn in school.

Kevin Leineweber, a science teacher at Cascade High School in Clayton, Indiana, said he is skeptical about resources sent to him, including oil industry materials, but some colleagues are less so. At a district-wide science meeting a couple months ago one elementary school teacher expressed excitement about receiving unsolicited materials on climate change in the mail, to help introduce the topic to students. After talking it over with Leineweber, the teacher tossed the mailing of unknown origin.

"I'm just like, 'Oh, jeez,'" Leineweber said.

The oil industry materials have the effect of pushing climate change to the periphery, Charles Anderson, a professor of science education at Michigan State University.

"The school systems of the country are so fragmented and under-resourced that they have no choice but to turn to people like the oil industry who offer them free stuff," he said.

Climate change education varies across states, and often from one classroom to the next. The Next Generation Science Standards, which emphasize climate change and how humans are altering the planet, have been adopted by or served as a model for most states. But many teachers report that they shy away from the topic not only because of issues with materials but also the political sensitivities, and uncertainty over where to introduce an issue that crosses so many disciplines.

Diana Allen, 48, said she began to see it as her duty to teach climate change even though it's not required under Maine's science education standards.

For her lesson plans on climate change, she turns primarily to other teachers, pulling resources they have vetted and shared on an email thread overseen by the National Association of Science Teachers. Other teachers have turned to the National Center for Science Education, which posts free climate change lessons and has a "scientist in the classroom" program.

Many educators say that climate change as an area of instruction is still so new that textbook publishers

have not caught up enough to provide useful materials.

"I have a Ph.D. from Stanford in biochemistry, and it's still hard for me to source stuff that works in my classroom right," said Kirstin Milks, an Earth science teacher at Bloomington High School South in Indiana.

Milks helps train educators on how to teach climate change. In their applications, many teachers display a sense of urgency in their applications, she said.

"I think we all are in that same boat of understanding that this might be one of the most important social justice issues of our time, one of the most important environmental issues of our time, one of the most important political issues of our time," she said.

Sometimes educators have to push back against what their students are taught in other classrooms.

Leigh Foy, a science teacher at York Suburban High School in Pennsylvania, said a social studies teacher at her school has told students for years that climate change is a hoax and he could prove it with an experiment. He would fill a cup in the classroom with ice and water, mark the water level, and show students it didn't rise as the ice melted. The problem, Foy said, is his lack of accounting for the difference between sea ice and land ice or the expansion of water as it gets warmer.

"This is just an example of what we're up against," Foy said.

Teachers who have gotten themselves up to speed on climate change often say they make it a primary goal to help their students identify untrustworthy materials.

Sarah Ott, who teaches physical science to eighth-graders in Dalton, Georgia, dedicates a section of her class to climate literacy. In one April class, she discussed how to identify misinformation, highlighting materials including a petition signed by more than 30,000 purported scientists that dismisses the dangers of global warming.

"These people are fake experts and this is being used to mislead people," she told her students. "So we're going to be learning about misinformation and ways for you to spot misinformation. And this is a great skill because you're not just going to use this for science. You're going to use this for all of your subjects."

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Associated Press writer Sarah Blake Morgan contributed to this report from Dalton, Georgia.

## **Saudi Arabia says its oil pipeline was hit by drones**

**By AYA BATRAWY and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An oil pipeline that runs across Saudi Arabia was hit Tuesday by drones, the Saudi energy minister said, as regional tensions flared just days after what the kingdom called an attack on two of its oil tankers near the Persian Gulf.

While both U.S. President Donald Trump and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said they were not planning for conflict, the volatility was felt in oil markets with benchmark Brent crude trading over \$71 a barrel, up more than \$1 on the day.

The pipeline that runs from the kingdom's oil-rich Eastern Province to a Red Sea port was shut down, but Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih Al-Falih vowed that the production and export of Saudi oil would not be interrupted.

The Houthis, who are at war with Saudi Arabia, said earlier Tuesday they launched seven drones targeting vital Saudi installations, without elaborating. They later claimed responsibility for the pipeline attack in comments broadcast by Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Sari.

In a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, al-Falih called the pipeline attack "cowardly," saying recent acts of sabotage against the kingdom were targeting not only Saudi Arabia but also the safety of the world's energy supply and global economy.

The attacks demonstrated the increased risks in a region vital to global energy supplies amid heightened tensions following the Trump administration's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and the subsequent re-imposition of U.S. sanctions to cripple the Iranian economy. Iran has since said it would begin enriching uranium at higher levels by July 7 if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal.

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The Saudis did not immediately assign blame for the drone assaults, which targeted two oil pumping stations west of the capital supplying the pipeline that runs from the east of Saudi Arabia to the Yanbu Port on its western coast.

Still, al-Falih in his statement named Yemeni rebel Houthis as a group that must be internationally confronted and accused them of being backed by Iran, Saudi Arabia's regional rival.

Saudi Arabia has been at war with the Houthis and their allies in Yemen since March 2015, targeting the Iranian-allied rebels with near daily airstrikes.

"This is a message to Saudi Arabia: Stop your aggression," Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Salam told The Associated Press. "Our goal is to respond to the crimes they are committing everyday against the Yemeni people."

Saudi Aramco, the government-controlled oil company, said that as a precaution, it temporarily shut down the East-West Pipeline and contained a fire, which caused minor damage to one pumping station. It added that Saudi Aramco's oil and gas supplies were not affected.

Saudi Arabia said the two petroleum pumping stations that were struck by drones are located in the greater region of Riyadh, home to the landlocked capital. The stations, targeted around the same time early Tuesday, are located in al-Duadmi and Afif, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) west and 400 kilometers (250 miles) west of Riyadh city, respectively.

Saudi Arabia built its pipeline in the 1980s amid fears that the Iran-Iraq war would cut off shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The 1,200-kilometer (746-mile) pipeline is actually two pipes that have a total capacity of 4.8 million barrels of crude oil a day, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The two oil pumping stations are over 800 kilometers (500 miles) from Yemen's northern border with the kingdom.

The drone strikes reflect how the Houthis have tried to expand their capabilities during the four-year war. The rebels have targeted Riyadh with missiles and used drones to disrupt air traffic at Saudi airports near the Yemen border. 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.

In Washington, Trump told reporters he would "absolutely" be willing to send troops to the Middle East, but that he's not planned for that and hopefully won't have to plan for that.

While Trump dismissed a report in The New York Times that the White House is reviewing military plans against Iran that could result in sending 120,000 U.S. troops to the Middle East if Iran attacks American forces or steps up work on nuclear weapons, he said if the U.S. was going to get into a military conflict with Iran, "we'd send a hell of a lot more" troops.

Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader who has final say on all state matters, was quoted by state TV as telling senior officials that his country won't negotiate with the United States, calling such talks "poison." But he also said, "Neither we, nor them is seeking war. They know that it is not to their benefit."

At a Tuesday evening gathering, he reportedly added: "This is not a military confrontation, because no war is going to happen."

Washington recently deployed an aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf to counter alleged, still-unspecified threats from Tehran. The U.S. has recently warned ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region.

Meanwhile, the details around alleged acts of sabotage to four oil tankers, including two belonging to Saudi Arabia, off the coast of the UAE's port of Fujairah remain unclear. Satellite images obtained Tuesday by the AP showed no visible damage to the vessels, and Gulf officials have refused to say who they suspected was responsible.

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

Satellite images provided to the AP by Colorado-based Maxar Technologies showed a boom surrounding

the Emirati oil tanker A. Michel, indicating the possibility of an oil leak. The other three showed no visible damage from above.

A U.S. official in Washington, without offering any evidence, told AP that a U.S. military team's initial assessment indicated Iran or Iranian allies used explosives to blow holes in the ships. The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation and thus spoke on condition of anonymity.

Speaking in New Delhi, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad said he spoke with Indian officials about concerns of "suspicious activities and sabotage in the region."

"We announced that we had previously predicted these sorts of activities aimed at escalating tension in the region," he said.

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

Associated Press writers Maggie Michael and Samy Magdy in Cairo and Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, contributed.

## Coast Guard: 2 more bodies found after Alaska planes crash

By RACHEL D'ORO and MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — The bodies of two more people have been found after small sightseeing planes crashed in Alaska, the Coast Guard says.

Coast Guard Lt. Brian Dykens said six people have died in the collision Monday afternoon near Ketchikan, a popular destination for cruise ships in Alaska. Dykens said his agency and the Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad found the two bodies near the crash site of the smaller plane involved in the collision, a single-engine de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver.

Ten people, all Americans, were injured, with three of them released from a hospital Tuesday. The missing passengers were from Canada and Australia, Princess Cruises said.

The Royal Princess, which can carry up to 3,600 people, was among four city-sized cruise ships in the tiny coastal community on Monday.

During port stops, visitors can shop in tourist stores or take part in several excursions, such as visiting an Alaska Native village, tour the backcountry, or visit a raptor center.

Another popular trip is flightseeing in Misty Fjords National Monument. Visitors marvel at the lakes, snowcapped peaks and glacier valleys in the wilderness area. Trips cost about \$260 each.

The larger plane, a de Havilland Otter DHC-3 with 10 passengers and the pilot, was returning from Misty Fjords when it collided with a smaller sightseeing plane, a de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver carrying four passengers from the same cruise ship and a pilot.

The cause of the crash in relatively good weather, high overcast skies with light southeast winds was not known. The crash occurred about 8 miles (13 kilometers) from Ketchikan, near George Inlet. The planes came down about a mile and a half apart with some of the debris field on land.

The Otter, operated by Taquan Air, was initially traveling at an altitude of about 3,800 feet (1,158 meters), according to Peter Knudson, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board, whose investigators arrived in Ketchikan Tuesday afternoon. He said the Otter had descended to an altitude of around 3,300 feet (over 1,000 meters) when it collided with the Beaver as both headed to Ketchikan.

The smaller plane was partially submerged in the shore of George Inlet after the single-engine plane overturned and hit some trees before crashing, according to Coast Guard Lt. Brian Dykens. The larger Otter landed in water and sank, he said.

Three of the four who died were among the five people aboard the Beaver, according to Coast Guard Lt. Brian Dykens. Princess Cruises in its release said two passengers and the pilot were among those killed in this plane.

Canadian officials said Tuesday that one of its citizens was among the dead. Global Affairs Canada expressed condolences but did not identify the person because of privacy reasons.

The smaller plane, which operated independently and not as an official excursion flight booked through the cruise ship, was owned by Mountain Air Service of Ketchikan, which didn't immediately return a call Tuesday.

The Beaver appears to have broken apart in midair, according to Jerry Kiffer, duty incident commander of the Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad. He said the plane's tail and section of the fuselage were 900 feet (275 meters) from the aircraft's floats, which landed near shore.

After the crash, the 10 injured people were initially taken to a hospital in Ketchikan. Four patients were later transferred to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, suffering various broken bones, spokeswoman Susan Gregg said.

Three survivors were released from PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center in Ketchikan on Tuesday. Hospital spokeswoman Marty West says the remaining three are in fair condition.

Last summer, all 11 on board another Taquan Air flight survived when the 72-year-old pilot confused snow on a mountain with a body of water and crashed on a rocky mountainside on Prince of Wales Island near the southern tip of the Alaska Peninsula.

A pilot and eight cruise ship passengers died June 25, 2015, when a de Havilland DHC-3 Otter operated by Promech Air Inc. crashed into mountainous terrain about 24 miles (38 kilometers) from Ketchikan, also as it was returning from Misty Fjords.

The NTSB later determined that pilot error, the company's culture and lack of a formal safety program were among the causes of that crash. Taquan Air purchased the assets of Promech a year after the crash, and currently employs three pilots who worked for Promech, a company spokeswoman said.

The Royal Princess left Vancouver, British Columbia, on May 11 and was scheduled to arrive in Anchorage on Saturday.

"We are extending our full support to the investigating authorities as well as the traveling companions of the guests involved," the company said in a statement.

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Associated Press journalists Martha Bellisle in Seattle, Rob Gillies in Toronto and Michelle A. Monroe in Phoenix contributed to this report.

## **Border wall to go up in national monument, wildlife refuge**

**By ASTRID GALVAN and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press**

PHOENIX (AP) — The U.S. government plans on replacing barriers through 100 miles (161 kilometers) of the southern border in California and Arizona, including through a national monument and a wildlife refuge, according to documents and environmental advocates.

The Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday again waived environmental and dozens of other laws to build more barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Funding will come from the Defense Department following the emergency declaration that President Donald Trump signed this year after Congress refused to approve the amount of border wall funding he requested.

Barriers will go up at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, a vast park named after the unique cactus breed that decorates it, and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, which is largely a designed wilderness home to 275 wildlife species. The government will also build new roads and lighting in those areas in Arizona.

Environmental advocates who have sued to stop the construction of the wall say this latest plan will be detrimental to the wildlife and habitat in those areas.

"The Trump administration just ignored bedrock environmental and public health laws to plow a disastrous border wall through protected, spectacular wildlands," said Laiken Jordahl, who works on border issues at the Center for Biological Diversity.

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The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment but has typically not said much about construction plans.

At Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, row after row of cactuses decorate 516 square miles (1,336-square kilometers) of land that once saw so much drug smuggling that over half the park was closed to the public. But illegal crossings in that area dropped off significantly in the past several years, and the government in 2015 reopened the entire monument for the first time in 12 years.

While Arizona has seen an increase in border crossers over the last year, most are families who turn themselves in to Border Patrol agents. The number of drugs that agents seize in the state has also dropped significantly.

But the government is moving forward with more border infrastructure.

The waivers the department issued Tuesday are vague in their description of where and how many miles of fencing will be installed. The Center for Biological Diversity says the plans total about 100 miles (160 kilometers) of southern border in both Arizona and California, near Calexico and Tecate.

In Arizona, construction will focus on four areas of the border and will include the replacement of waist-high fencing meant to stop cars with 18- to 30-foot (9-meter) barriers that will be more efficient at stopping illegal crossings.

The government has already demolished refuge land in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and construction is set to begin any day. On one section of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, crews have used heavy construction equipment to destroy a mix of trees, including mesquite, mulberry and hackberry. Those trees protect birds during the ongoing nesting season.

According to plans published last year, the cleared land will be filled in and a concrete wall will be installed, with bollards measuring 18 feet (5.5 meters) installed on top.

After months of public outcry, Congress forbade U.S. Customs and Border Protection from building in the nearby Santa Ana wildlife refuge or the nonprofit National Butterfly Center. But it didn't stop money from going to wall construction in other refuge lands, nor did it stop the government from building in otherwise exempted land due to the emergency declaration, said Marianna Trevino Wright, the butterfly center's director.

"They're going to have to protect us in every single spending bill going forward, and they have to protect us against the state of emergency," Wright said. "And this administration has made it clear ... that they don't want any exemptions."

Merchant reported from Houston.

## San Francisco bans police use of face recognition technology

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco supervisors voted Tuesday to ban the use of facial recognition software by police and other city departments, becoming the first U.S. city to outlaw a rapidly developing technology that has alarmed privacy and civil liberties advocates.

The ban is part of broader legislation that requires city departments to establish use policies and obtain board approval for surveillance technology they want to purchase or are using at present. Several other local governments require departments to disclose and seek approval for surveillance technology.

"This is really about saying: 'We can have security without being a security state. We can have good policing without being a police state.' And part of that is building trust with the community based on good community information, not on Big Brother technology," said Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who championed the legislation.

The ban applies to San Francisco police and other municipal departments. It does not affect use of the technology by the federal government at airports and ports, nor does it limit personal or business use.

The San Francisco board did not spend time Tuesday debating the outright ban on facial recognition technology, focusing instead on the possible burdens placed on police, the transit system and other city



agencies that need to maintain public safety.

"I worry about politicizing these decisions," said Supervisor Catherine Stefani, a former prosecutor who was the sole no vote.

The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a nonprofit think tank based in Washington, D.C., issued a statement chiding San Francisco for considering the facial recognition ban. It said advanced technology makes it cheaper and faster for police to find suspects and identify missing people.

Critics were silly to compare surveillance usage in the United States with China, given that one country has strong constitutional protections and the other does not, said Daniel Castro, the foundation's vice president.

"In reality, San Francisco is more at risk of becoming Cuba than China—a ban on facial recognition will make it frozen in time with outdated technology," he said.

It's unclear how many San Francisco departments are using surveillance and for what purposes, said Peskin. There are valid reasons for license-plate readers, body cameras, and security cameras, he said, but the public should know how the tools are being used or if they are being abused.

San Francisco's police department stopped testing face ID technology in 2017. A representative at Tuesday's board meeting said the department would need two to four additional employees to comply with the legislation.

Privacy advocates have squared off with public safety proponents at several heated hearings in San Francisco, a city teeming with tech innovation and the home of Twitter, Airbnb and Uber.

Those who support the ban say the technology is flawed and a serious threat to civil liberties, especially in a city that cherishes public protest and privacy. They worry people will one day not be able to go to a mall, the park or a school without being identified and tracked.

But critics say police need all the help they can get, especially in a city with high-profile events and high rates of property crime. That people expect privacy in public space is unreasonable given the proliferation of cellphones and surveillance cameras, said Meredith Serra, a member of a resident public safety group Stop Crime SF.

"To me, the ordinance seems to be a costly additional layer of bureaucracy that really does nothing to improve the safety of our citizens," she said at a hearing.

The city of Oakland is considering similar legislation.

## Montana Gov. Bullock joins 2020 Democratic presidential race

By **BILL BARROW** and **MATT VOLZ** Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Montana Gov. Steve Bullock announced Tuesday that he is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, distinguishing himself among nearly two dozen candidates as the field's only statewide elected official to win a state that President Donald Trump carried in 2016.

The 53-year-old governor is running as a centrist Democrat who has advanced party values while navigating a Republican legislature and a GOP-leaning electorate. Bullock made his candidacy official in a video that capped months of speculation fueled by his political activity in Iowa, which hosts the nation's first presidential caucus next February.

"What we need to do is get the country back on track, make sure everybody has a fair shot at success," he told The Associated Press in an interview. "I've been able to get meaningful things done that impact the people of my state. I believe there'll be a strong reception for that."

His immediate challenge is corraling enough donors and support in the polls to qualify for the first Democratic debate in June. He told reporters during an appearance at the high school from which he graduated that he hopes to do that over the next month, but he'll still be out campaigning even if he doesn't make the cut.

"The debate stage would be lacking a bit if they didn't have somebody who actually got reelected in a state where Donald Trump won," he said. "I'll do the best I can to get there."

More broadly, as a white Trump-state Democrat, Bullock could face an uphill battle to break through

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in a primary that has been defined by former Vice President Joe Biden's dominance and the progressive energy of a diverse party base.

Bullock plans a two-tiered argument.

He pitches himself as the rare Democrat who can win over rural and small-town voters — a constituency that helped Trump flip key battleground states in 2016. Bullock has done it three times in Montana, where Democrat Hillary Clinton got just 36 percent of the vote against Trump.

"We need somebody who can win back some of these places we lost in '16," Bullock said, adding, "Voters want somebody that they believe can win, that will fight for them."

Yet Bullock emphasizes that he governs with mainstream Democratic priorities. He has expanded Medicaid insurance coverage to nearly a tenth of Montana's 1.06 million residents as part of the 2010 Affordable Care Act and embraced marriage equality for same-sex couples. He's used executive orders to extend LGBTQ rights and protect net neutrality, and he's vetoed gun bills backed by the National Rifle Association and measures that would have severely limited abortion access.

He also has spent years advocating for tighter regulation of money in politics, unsuccessfully challenging the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling as attorney general and then, as governor, signing a law that requires dark-money groups operating in the state to disclose their donors. Last year, he sued the Internal Revenue Service over a Trump administration rule change to stop requiring the disclosure of donor information from certain nonprofit organizations.

He's aligned himself with conservationists, environmental activists and outdoorsmen by prioritizing public land use and conservation — a key issue in many Western states. But he's also been at odds with them at times as the leader of an energy-producing state, such as when he criticized the Obama administration for "moving the goalposts" by proposing stringent carbon dioxide emission reductions under the now-defunct Clean Power Plan.

His time in office has largely been scandal-free, with the occasional hiccup. Earlier this year, Bullock apologized for not doing enough to warn others about a longtime aide who was accused of sexually harassing women while working first for the Democratic Governors Association while Bullock was chairman and later for New York Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration.

Bullock's attendance at a Paul McCartney concert in Missoula in 2014 also opened the door for critics to scrutinize his use of a state plane that resulted in his having to reimburse \$7,000 for flights that mixed official business and campaign trips. The state's campaign regulator determined Bullock's 2016 reelection campaign violated state law by failing to make timely expense reports related to use of the plane.

Bullock joins Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper as the only state executives vying for the nomination.

The Montana governor is likely among the final Democrats to join one of the biggest presidential fields in modern memory. De Blasio is expected to announce his decision this week on whether to run for the White House. And Stacey Abrams of Georgia continues to indulge speculation that she could scramble the field with a late launch this summer or fall.

Although he is not a household name, Bullock is well known and well regarded in Democratic circles beyond Montana. He currently chairs the bipartisan National Governors Association.

Some Democrats had hoped he'd challenge Republican U.S. Sen. Steve Daines in 2020, but Bullock insisted Tuesday that he is focused solely on the presidential race.

"This isn't for me a vanity project," Bullock said. "I wouldn't be getting into it if I didn't think I had something really significant to offer."

Bullock and his wife, Lisa, have three children, ages 16, 14 and 12, who attend the same Helena public schools where the governor was educated. Steve Bullock graduated from Claremont McKenna College in California and Columbia Law School. He spent part of his legal career in Montana state government and had stints at law firms in Washington, D.C., and New York, and his own private practice in Helena, before being elected attorney general in 2008. He won the governor's race with 48 percent of the vote in 2012 and was reelected with 50.2 percent of the vote the same day that Trump won 56.2 percent of presidential ballots.

Barrow reported from Hampton, N.H.

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

## Suit seeks to hold Vatican at fault for abuse by US priests

By MICHAEL REZENDES and AMY FORLITI Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Three brothers who were sexually abused by a priest from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday against the Vatican, claiming the Holy See bears responsibility because the case was mishandled by former Archbishop John Nienstedt and the Vatican's former ambassador to the United States.

The lawsuit attempts to trace a direct line from clergy sex abuse victims to the Vatican, through Minnesota church officials. Luke, Stephen and Ben Hoffman were abused by former priest Curtis Wehmeyer, roughly between 2009 and 2012.

"I have too many nieces and nephews to let something like this happen to anybody else," Stephen Hoffman said about his decision to come forward.

Nienstedt and the former ambassador, Carlo Maria Viganò, have previously denied the allegations raised in the lawsuit. The Vatican's U.S. lawyer, Jeffrey Lena, had no immediate comment. In the past Lena has described sex abuse lawsuits against the Vatican as publicity stunts.

The lawsuit's plaintiffs include two other men who say they were molested by Catholic priests, one in Minnesota and one in California. Those two men sued the Vatican separately within the last year, but attorney Jeff Anderson withdrew their cases in anticipation of Tuesday's lawsuit. Anderson had also sued the Vatican on two prior occasions without success.

Anderson said he believes the new lawsuit is stronger because he's made a more complete effort to document Vatican authority over Catholic clerics and to portray the church as a commercial enterprise. The Hoffman brothers' involvement also allowed him to bring in issues surrounding Nienstedt, which he says are emblematic of how church leaders have covered up abuse.

"The body of evidence and the scope of the complaint is much broader and much more developed than the first time we litigated this," Anderson said.

Because it has the status of a foreign nation, the Vatican is generally exempt from lawsuits in the United States. Exceptions to the U.S. Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act include wrongful acts committed against U.S. citizens and commercial activities undertaken by foreign nations.

The new lawsuit seeks monetary damages, but the plaintiffs said truth is the goal. The lawsuit asks for court orders requiring the Vatican to turn over names of "credibly accused" priests whose cases have been referred to the Holy See, along with related records. It also seeks names of church leaders who have been implicit in covering up abuse.

Ben Hoffman said the church needs to be more transparent and "live in the truth."

"I'm still Catholic. I have a deep love for the church. I have a deep love for my faith, it means the world to me. But the Vatican — we have to fix this," he said, his eyes watering.

Before the Hoffman brothers were abused, church officials received complaints about Wehmeyer's inappropriate sexual activities. In 2004, he was cited for loitering in a Minnesota park known as a place to meet for anonymous sex, and he lied to police about his identity, the lawsuit says.

Wehmeyer was later evaluated at a treatment center for troubled priests and diagnosed with a sexual disorder. The archbishop at the time, Harry Flynn, moved him from West St. Paul to the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Paul and assigned him to administrative duties.

But in 2009, about the time Wehmeyer started abusing the Hoffman brothers, Nienstedt promoted Wehmeyer to pastor. According to the lawsuit, another archdiocesan official cautioned Nienstedt — then newly installed as archbishop — about the promotion and informed him of Wehmeyer's record, to no avail.

Over the next three years, Wehmeyer abused the Hoffman brothers, who were in their mid-teens, during camping trips. After the boys' mother reported the abuse of at least two of her sons to police, Wehmeyer

was arrested and pleaded guilty to criminal sexual conduct and possession of child pornography.

The AP does not routinely name victims of sexual abuse, but the plaintiffs have chosen to speak publicly.

Wehmeyer's arrest led local prosecutors to file criminal charges against the archdiocese for failing to protect children. The charges were dropped in 2016 when the archdiocese admitted wrongdoing and agreed to meet with victims and adopt stronger measures to prevent clergy abuse.

Wehmeyer's arrest also triggered the resignation of Nienstedt after the archdiocese retained a law firm to look into his supervision of Wehmeyer. The investigation alleged Nienstedt had sexually harassed priests and seminarians and had a "social relationship" with Wehmeyer.

Controversy surrounding Nienstedt escalated when a priest involved in the investigation wrote a memo saying that Viganò ordered church officials to end the inquiry and instructed them to destroy a letter they wrote to him objecting to his directive.

Viganò flatly denied those allegations in a statement last year. "I never told anyone that (the law firm) should stop the inquiry, and I never ordered any document be destroyed," he said. "Any statement to the contrary is false."

Nienstedt, who is not a defendant in the case, also denies the allegations. In a response to emailed questions from the AP on Tuesday, Nienstedt said his interaction with Wehmeyer was in the context of archbishop to priest.

"During my time as Archbishop, I was made aware of some challenges Wehmeyer was facing, but was not made aware that he may be inappropriately or illegally involved with minors," Nienstedt wrote. He said that as archbishop, he ensured Wehmeyer was complying with conditions placed on him, including attending counseling.

Nienstedt wrote that Wehmeyer was being supervised and doing what was asked of him, and the decision to promote him was made in consultation with others.

"I would never knowingly cover up clergy sexual abuse," Nienstedt wrote.

Nienstedt also said he's unaware of a final report that came out of the investigation into him, but he reiterated that even though the allegations are false, he directed that the investigation be carried out, as he would have done for any other priest.

Rezendes reported from Boston.

## Texas officer shoots and kills woman after stun-gun struggle

By JOHN L. MONE and JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

BAYTOWN, Texas (AP) — A police officer shot and killed a woman at a Houston-area apartment complex after she hit him with his Taser during a struggle, shocking him, police said.

In a video recorded by a witness and posted on social media, the officer can be seen standing over Pamela Turner and reaching down to try to grab her arms. Turner, who is lying on the ground outside the apartments in Baytown, yells "I'm pregnant." Moments later, something flashes as she reaches her arm out toward the officer. Suddenly, the officer pulls away from Turner, steps back and fires five gunshots.

Police Lt. Steve Dorris said Tuesday that the officer shot at Turner after she hit him in the groin with the Taser. Turner did not fire the stun gun but it shocked the officer when it struck him, Dorris said.

The lieutenant said police have since learned from the medical examiner's office in Harris County that Turner, who was 44 and black, was not pregnant. She was pronounced dead at the scene, he said. A spokeswoman with the medical examiner's office declined to comment.

The officer, who police have not identified by name, has been placed on paid administrative leave, Dorris said. The department is reviewing whether the shooting was in line with its policy on the use of deadly force, he said.

Before the shooting, the officer, who is Hispanic and an 11-year veteran of the police force, was patrolling the apartment complex and tried to arrest Turner because he knew she had outstanding warrants, Dorris

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said. The two had previous dealings, but Dorris did not provide further details about the interactions or Turner's warrants.

Turner had three outstanding misdemeanor warrants for two separate incidents, according to Harris County court records. She was accused of criminal mischief and assault on April 25 after a manager at her apartment complex told police that Turner scratched her face and broke her glasses during a confrontation over an eviction notice.

On May 2, court records show, Turner was again accused of criminal mischief for damaging the back window of a woman's car.

Following her May 2 arrest, Turner was ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation, according to court records.

The video of what happened Monday night shows the officer and Turner engaged in a struggle after he tried to arrest her. In the video, Turner is heard saying "You're actually harassing me" and "I'm actually walking to my house" before falling to the ground. While on her back, she appears to scuffle with the officer, saying "Why? Why?" and then "I'm pregnant."

Investigators are trying to contact whoever recorded the video, because the person was a witness to the shooting, the lieutenant said.

"It's a tragic event for everybody involved," Dorris said. "Of course, our hearts go out to the family of the deceased as well as our officer."

On Tuesday afternoon, Turner's neighbors gathered not far from an orange ring painted on the apartment complex parking lot to mark where she was shot. Standing amid the modest brick and aluminum homes, one of Turner's neighbors said the incident frightened her.

"It's just sad — very sad — when you see somebody for the past six months walking around," Jennifer Sims said. "Even though you don't talk to them, you keep an eye on them, you know. And then you wake up and realize, 'Oh, my God. She was shot so close to home.' That's scary, and very sad."

Baytown, a city of more than 75,000 people, is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Houston. Its population is 35 percent white, 46 percent Hispanic and 16 percent black, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Outside the city's police station Tuesday, about a dozen protesters gathered carrying signs with "No Justice. No Peace" and "Black Lives Matter" written on them.

"This is another black woman who has lost her life," said Ashton P. Woods, an activist with Black Lives Matter Houston. "Another black person who has lost their life, for senseless violence. Five shots. Unarmed."

Kevin Davis, a police detective and the author of a book on investigating police use of force, said it is impossible to make a proper assessment of Turner's shooting based only on the video and facts released so far.

Davis, who is not connected to the case, said the smartphone videos that have become common in police shootings can lead people to rush to judgment. "We owe it to everyone involved, including the decedent, to do a professional investigation," he said.

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This story has been corrected to show that police now say the woman who was shot and killed by an officer was 44, not 45 as police initially said.

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Bleiberg reported from Dallas. Associated Press writer Adam Kealoha Causey contributed reporting from Oklahoma City.

## AP sources: Panel reaches deal with Trump Jr. for interview

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Intelligence Committee has struck a deal with Donald Trump Jr. to appear for a closed-door interview next month, pulling the two sides back, for now, from a confrontation over a subpoena as part of the panel's Russia investigation.

Under the terms of the deal, according to two people familiar with the agreement, Trump Jr. will talk to

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the committee in mid-June for up to four hours. The people spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday to discuss the confidential terms.

The deal comes after the panel subpoenaed President Donald Trump's eldest son to discuss answers he gave the panel's staff in a 2017 interview. Trump Jr. had backed out of interviews twice, prompting the subpoena, according to people familiar with Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr's remarks to a GOP luncheon last week. Those people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Burr's remarks in the private senators' meeting.

The deadline for Trump Jr. to respond was Monday, according to one of the people familiar with the terms. His lawyers drafted a letter to the committee declining an appearance and the president's son expected to be held in contempt for declining to be interviewed.

But before the letter was sent, the committee reached out Monday evening and extended the deadline. The deal was then struck.

A spokeswoman for Burr declined to comment. The North Carolina Republican has weathered fierce criticism for the subpoena from the president and his GOP colleagues.

Trump said Tuesday he believed that his son was being treated poorly.

"It's really a tough situation because my son spent, I guess, over 20 hours testifying about something that Mueller said was 100 percent OK and now they want him to testify again," Trump told reporters at the White House before traveling to Louisiana. "I don't know why. I have no idea why. But it seems very unfair to me."

It's the first known subpoena of a member of the president's immediate family, and some Republicans went as far as to say they thought Trump Jr. shouldn't comply.

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., tweeted, "It's time to move on & start focusing on issues that matter to Americans." Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, a GOP member of the panel, said he understood Trump Jr.'s frustration. Cornyn's Texas colleague, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, said there was "no need" for the subpoena.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said on "Fox News Sunday" that if he were Trump Jr.'s lawyer, "I would tell him, 'You don't need to go back into this environment anymore.'"

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has defended Burr, telling his colleagues during the private GOP luncheon last week that he trusted the intelligence committee chairman. On Tuesday, McConnell told reporters that "none of us tell Chairman Burr how to run his committee."

Still, McConnell made it clear that he is eager to be finished with the probe, which has now gone on for more than two years.

Burr has "indicated publicly he believes they will find no collusion" with Russia, McConnell said. "We're hoping we will get a report on that subject sometime soon."

It's uncertain when the panel will issue a final report. Burr told The Associated Press earlier this month that he hopes to be finished with the investigation by the end of the year.

The subpoena has highlighted a delicate bind facing Burr, a third-term senator who has said he is not running for reelection in 2022. He has been adamant that the panel's Russia probe be bipartisan and fair and has worked closely with the panel's top Democrat, Virginia Sen. Mark Warner.

Burr's committee had renewed interest in talking to Trump Jr. after Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, told a House committee in February that he had briefed Trump Jr. approximately 10 times about a plan to build a Trump Tower in Moscow before the presidential election. Trump Jr. told the Senate Judiciary Committee in a separate interview in 2017 he was only "peripherally aware" of the proposal.

The panel is also interested in talking to the president's eldest son about other topics, including a campaign meeting in Trump Tower with a Russian lawyer.

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Associated Press writer Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## At odds on many fronts, US and Russia hope for better ties

By JIM HEINTZ and FRANCESCA EBEL Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Russia and the United States voiced hope Tuesday that badly strained relations could begin to improve despite wide differences on multiple fronts and deep mutual suspicion deepened by Russian meddling in American elections.

With tensions running high over Iran, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela, Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed vindication from the investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and said he thought it was time to move on. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo conveyed President Donald Trump's interest in restoring better ties.

In the highest-level face-to-face contact between the two countries since special counsel Robert Mueller's report was released last month, Putin told Pompeo he hoped relations with the U.S. would now improve.

Still, his claim of vindication covered only allegations that Russia and the Trump campaign colluded to hurt Hillary Clinton's candidacy. Putin did not address Mueller's conclusion that Russia actively interfered in the election.

"However exotic the work of special counsel Mueller was, I have to say that on the whole he has had a very objective investigation and he confirmed that there were no traces whatsoever of collusion between Russia and the incumbent administration, which we said was absolutely fake," Putin said as he opened the meeting with Pompeo in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

"As we said before there was no collusion from our government officials and it could not be there. Still, that was one of the reasons for the certain break in our inter-state ties," he said. "I'm hoping today that the situation is changing."

Though Putin said the Mueller report did not find collusion, the report explicitly notes that collusion is not a legal term and that prosecutors instead searched for evidence of a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia. Mueller's team ultimately concluded that the evidence did not establish such a conspiracy.

Pompeo did not specifically mention election meddling in his brief reply to Putin, although he did say the Trump administration would "protect our nation's interest." Earlier, though, Pompeo made clear that any repeat of the 2016 meddling would not be tolerated.

"Interference in American elections is unacceptable," Pompeo told reporters at a news conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. "If Russia were to engage in that in 2020, it would put our relationship in an even worse place than it is. We have encouraged them not to. We wouldn't tolerate that. Our elections are important and sacred and they must be free and fair."

After meeting with Putin, Pompeo told reporters: "So it's not about moving on. It's about trying to find solutions, compromises, places where there are overlapping interests you can make progress unlocking some of the most difficult problems that are facing us."

Putin told Pompeo his recent telephone conversation with Trump raised hopes for an improvement in relations.

"As you know, not long ago, a few days ago, I had the pleasure of talking with the president of the United States by telephone," he said. "For me, it created the impression that the president intends to restore Russian-American connections and contacts to resolve joint issues that present mutual interests."

Pompeo spoke of "truly overlapping interests" that the two countries "can build on, and most importantly, President Trump very much wants to do that." He cited cooperation in Afghanistan and counterterrorism more broadly, but also a shared goal of getting North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons. But he also told Putin that "just as you will, we'll protect our nation's interest."

Venezuela was a key point of discussion and difference, with the U.S. firm in its commitment to support opposition figure Juan Guaidó as the country's legitimate leader and Russia equally firm in its backing of embattled President Nicolas Maduro.

Pompeo and Trump's national security adviser John Bolton have repeatedly accused Russia, along with Cuba, of propping up Maduro and demanded that Russian and other foreign troops, intelligence officers

and security forces leave the country.

"On Venezuela, we have disagreement," Pompeo said. "We want every country that's interfering in Venezuela to cease doing that."

Lavrov defended Russia's position and said the threats Maduro's government is receiving from U.S. officials, coupled with Guaidó's seeming support for a foreign military intervention, "bear no relation to democracy."

Iran was another critical agenda item amid spiraling tension between Washington and Tehran that some fear could lead to conflict. The U.S. has accused Iran of threatening to attack American interests in the Middle East and suggested that Iran or Iranian proxies are behind incidents of alleged sabotage on Emirati, Norwegian and Saudi tankers in the Persian Gulf.

To deter those threats and counter any possible attack, the U.S. sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Middle East, heightening already high levels of unease caused by the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions on Tehran following Trump's withdrawal of the U.S. from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal last year.

Pompeo sought to alleviate some of the concern but made clear the U.S. would respond to attacks.

"We fundamentally don't seek war with Iran," Pompeo said. "But we've also made clear to the Iranians that if American interests are attacked, we will most certainly respond in an appropriate fashion."

Lavrov said Russia is hoping for a positive response from the United States about extending the New START arms control treaty, which is due to expire in 2021, "but we really have some concerns which are related to the re-equipping of launchers of Trident submarines and heavy bombers announced by the United States."

A day after Trump said he would meet with Putin at the Group of 20 summit of leaders in Japan in June, Lavrov said Russia has not received a formal proposal.

"If such a proposal is received, we will respond to it in a positive way," he said.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said later that the Kremlin is prepared to agree to any format for a Putin-Trump meeting.

Heintz reported from Moscow. Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow and Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

## Powerful quake rattles Papua New Guinea, no injury reports

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A powerful earthquake rattled coastal townships in Papua New Guinea late Tuesday and authorities say there have been no initial reports of major damage or injuries.

The magnitude 7.5 quake struck in the ocean about 45 kilometers (28 miles) northeast of Kokopo, a town with a population of about 26,000, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It was followed by several large aftershocks.

Chris McKee, the acting director of geohazards management, said there was some damage in Kokopo as items were shaken from shelves and the power had been cut. He said there had been a small tsunami although it was dark at the time and information about it remained sketchy.

McKee said the earthquake was a strike-slip event along a fault line, a type of quake that doesn't usually trigger major tsunamis.

The quake struck at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), according to the USGS. Shallow earthquakes tend to cause more damage on the Earth's surface, but the USGS estimated that damage and injuries would be low because of the area's sparse population.

Garfield Tarabu, a spokesman at the National Disaster Centre, said a disaster coordinator was on the ground assessing the situation in and around Kokopo but they hadn't yet gotten an update on the extent of the damage.

The U.S. Pacific Tsunami Warning Center had said tsunami waves of up to 1 meter (3.3 feet) were possible along coastal areas up to 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the epicenter, including Papua New Guinea and the nearby Solomon Islands.



Papua New Guinea is located on the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, to the east of Indonesia. It sits on the Pacific's "Ring of Fire," the arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where much of the world's earthquakes and volcanic activity occurs.

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake in February 2018 in the nation's central region killed at least 125 people and forced another 35,000 from their homes. That quake hit areas that are remote and undeveloped, and assessments about the scale of the damage and injuries were slow to filter out.

## **GOP scrambles to ease blow from Trump's trade war**

**By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's allies on Capitol Hill are scrambling to soften the blow from his trade war with China amid mounting anxiety from farm-state lawmakers that the protracted battle and escalating tariffs could irreparably damage their local economies.

Vice President Mike Pence met privately Tuesday with Senate Republicans for a second week in a row and urged them to stick with the White House. Senators were working with the administration to craft a relief package for farmers and ranchers, some \$15 billion that Trump announced this week would be coming soon. Details of the package remained in flux.

"One thing I think we all agree on is that nobody wins a trade war," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said after the private lunch meeting.

McConnell said there was hope that the tough negotiating tactics being used by the administration "get us into a better position, vis-à-vis China, which has been our worst and most unfair trading relationship for a very long time."

Pence heard an earful from senators last week as uncertainty mounted.

The administration on Friday launched a fresh round of tariffs on some \$250 billion of Chinese goods; China retaliated this week with tariffs on \$60 billion on American goods on top of those already hurting U.S. markets.

The tariffs risk spiking prices for U.S. consumers while leaving growers with commodities they cannot sell to the Chinese markets. Already soybean and hog farmers are among those home-state interests senators say are struggling under Trump's trade policies. With China talks stalled, senators pushed the White House to wrap up the negotiations and resolve the standoff.

"There's a lot of concern," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a member of GOP leadership.

"If this is what it takes to get a good deal, I think people will hang in there, but at some point we've got to get it resolved," Cornyn said. "If this goes on for a long time, everybody realizes it's playing with a live hand grenade."

On Tuesday, though, senators appeared more reserved, and largely held their fire as they tried not to undermine the president's negotiating hand and worked to shore up their home-state communities with a new round of federal aid.

Pence told them that talks on another trade front, a new U.S.-Mexico-Canada deal to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, were progressing. Senators said they were hopeful those talks were at the finish line and would open new markets for commerce, but the deal would need approval from Congress, which remained uncertain.

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., the chairman of the agriculture appropriations subcommittee, is working with the administration on the latest aid package. Last year, Congress gave the Agriculture Department some \$30 billion annually that can be tapped to provide up to \$15 billion Trump wants to offer as aid. Congress could advance some of the money by tucking it into a disaster aid package that's expected to be voted on next week.

The federal aid could go toward existing government programs, including those that provide market payments for certain agricultural producers or that fight hunger in poorer or war-torn countries abroad. Last year, the Trump administration made some \$12 billion available to domestic producers of soy, corn, dairy, hogs and others hit hard by the retaliatory tariffs.

"We're stepping forward with more assistance," Hoeven said. "The goal is to get a trade agreement."

Senators said they were hopeful that talks would resume before the latest Chinese tariffs kick in on June 1. Trump is expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in late June at the G-20 summit in Japan.

Trade is the rare issue in Congress that cuts across party lines. Several top Democrats, including Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader, want the president to stay tough on China.

Schumer said that while Trump's tariff fights with other countries "make no sense," he thinks the president should work with U.S. allies to confront China. "We have to have tough, strong policies on China," he said.

Other Democrats, though, doubt Trump's ability to negotiate a good deal for Americans. "The president is essentially betting the farm — somebody else's farm," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.

GOP Sen. Ron Johnson said agricultural and business interests back home in Wisconsin "really feel a lot of short-term pain." But he said they also "really want the president to succeed on this."

Associated Press writer Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

## Synagogue shooting suspect pleads not guilty to hate crimes

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The man suspected of killing a woman in a shooting at a Southern California synagogue pleaded not guilty to federal hate crime charges Tuesday.

John T. Earnest spoke twice during the brief hearing — to acknowledge his name and to say he agreed with his court-appointed attorney's decision against seeking bail.

Earnest, 19, is charged with bursting into the Chabad of Poway synagogue on April 27 and opening fire with an assault rifle, killing one and injuring three.

Peter Ko, an assistant U.S. attorney, told the judge that the government had not decided whether to seek the death penalty. He reaffirmed plans to try Earnest separately and simultaneously with a state charge of murder that is classified as a hate crime, which also exposes Earnest to a potential death sentence.

Earnest had a buzz haircut and didn't wear glasses, unlike his first appearance in state court two weeks ago, when he had a full head of hair. He looked blankly at Magistrate Judge Michael Berg as the judge explained the proceedings and followed along with his attorney, Kathryn Nester, as she flipped pages of the charging document that the judge read aloud. Earnest's wrists and ankles were shackled.

A federal affidavit detailing the hate crime charges that was filed last week describes a deeply disturbed man filled with hatred toward Jews and Muslims, which are detailed in a manifesto he allegedly published online. Earnest claimed to be inspired by the attacks on the mosques in New Zealand and the shooting at the Pittsburgh Tree of Life synagogue last fall, the affidavit said.

Court documents said Earnest dialed 911 after fleeing the synagogue in his car and said: "I just shot up a synagogue." He went on to tell the dispatcher he did it "because Jewish people are destroying the white race," according to the affidavit. He was quickly arrested without a struggle.

Earnest has pleaded not guilty to state murder charges in the death of 60-year-old Lori Kaye, who was hit twice as she prayed in the synagogue foyer. Wounded were Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, who was leading the service, an 8-year-old girl and her uncle.

He also pleaded not guilty to state and federal charges of trying to burn a mosque in the nearby city of Escondido.

Outside the mosque was the scrawled name of the man suspected of carrying out shootings at two mosques in New Zealand that killed 50 people.

## Consumers could be collateral damage if US expands tariffs

By PAUL WISEMAN and JOYCE M. ROSENBERG AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — For many Americans, President Donald Trump's trade war may soon get very real. His administration is preparing to extend 25% tariffs to practically all Chinese imports not already hit

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with duties, including toys, sneakers, shirts, alarm clocks, toasters and coffeemakers. That's roughly \$300 billion worth of products on top of the \$250 billion targeted earlier.

"The administration's decision to announce a tax on every product coming from China puts America's entire economy at risk," the Retail Industry Leaders Association said in a statement. "Americans' entire shopping cart will get more expensive."

Trump's tariffs are meant to put pressure on China in trade negotiations. The two countries have held 11 rounds of talks over American allegations that China steals technology, forces foreign companies to hand over trade secrets and unfairly subsidizes its own companies in a push to challenge U.S. technological dominance.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative on Monday published a list of 3,805 products that could be hit for the first time with 25% tariffs. The list includes things like tuna, pacifiers, saw blades, flashlights, door chimes, billiard balls and golf carts. It excludes pharmaceuticals and rare-earth minerals used in electronics and batteries.

The agency will take public comments and hold a hearing on the proposed tariffs June 17.

In its earlier rounds of tariffs on Chinese products, the administration tried to limit the effect on American consumers by focusing on so-called intermediate goods — imported components that U.S. companies use to make finished products.

That is about to change. Companies are already bracing for the fallout.

E-Blox, an educational toy company in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, imports toys from China and assembles and packages them in the U.S.

"We are keeping a close eye on this next round," said E-Blox Chief Operating Officer Joe Seymour. "That would be devastating."

If he tries to pass along the higher costs from the new tariff on toys to customers, he said, he will lose sales. And the company's profit margins aren't big enough for it to simply absorb the tariffs, he said.

Could E-Blox move manufacturing back to the U.S. — as Trump has suggested — to dodge the taxes on imports? Seymour said that would be hard because the Trump administration has slapped import taxes on the Chinese plastic injection molding machines he would need to produce toys in this country.

China, for its part, has punched back by imposing tariffs on \$110 billion in U.S. products.

Trump on Tuesday shrugged off the tariff war. "We're having a little squabble with China," he said at the White House.

Mary Lovely, an economist at Syracuse University, said it is unclear whether the expanded tariffs will pressure Beijing to give in to U.S. demands.

Chinese leaders have been trying to shift their economy away from the low-margin consumer goods that make up a big share of the new \$300 billion hit list and toward more expensive high-tech products. They might not want to sacrifice their technological aspirations to save jobs in industries that aren't part of their plan, Lovely said.

Some U.S. importers might try to switch to suppliers outside China, in countries like Vietnam and Indonesia. But the transition won't be easy. Costs could rise and quality slip as new suppliers replace experienced Chinese contractors.

"We've all worked for more than 20 years to get the manufacturing safety standards to the highest levels ever from vendors from China," said Jay Foreman, CEO of Basic Fun!, a toy company in Boca Raton, Florida, that imports from China. He said the company cannot simply switch to suppliers in India or Indonesia and can't move manufacturing to the U.S. either.

"For crying out loud, unemployment is 3.6%. Who is going to want to paint the eyeballs onto a Marvel action figure or Barbie doll here?" he said. "It's just not going to happen."

Some businesses are still reeling from the earlier tariffs.

At the Luggage Shop of Lubbock in Texas, business is down 6% from the same period last year.

"People are still traveling and buying, but they're just not buying as much of the upper mid-price points and higher price points, which is our bread and butter," owner Tiffany Zarfes Williams said. She had to

drop plans to hire an extra person for the holidays.

As the trade war goes on, she said, "I don't know whether we'd be able to add any additional people."

Rosenberg reported from New York.

Associated Press writers Joe McDonald in Beijing, Anne D'Innocenzio in New York and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Comedian Tim Conway of 'The Carol Burnett Show' dies at 85

By LYNN ELBER and MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tim Conway, the impish second banana to Carol Burnett who won four Emmy Awards on her TV variety show, starred aboard "McHale's Navy" and later voiced the role of Barnacle Boy for "Spongebob Squarepants," has died. He was 85.

Conway died Tuesday morning in a Los Angeles care facility, according to Howard Bragman, who heads LaBrea Media. Conway's wife, Charlene Fusco, and a daughter, Jackie, were at his side. The cause was a disorder in which there is an excess of fluid on the brain, Bragman said.

Burnett said in a statement Tuesday that she was heartbroken. "He was one in a million, not only as a brilliant comedian but as a loving human being. I cherish the times we had together both on the screen and off. He'll be in my heart forever."

Tributes also came from across the comedy world, including from Conan O'Brien, who said "no one made me laugh harder than Tim Conway" and Kathy Griffin, who called him "a wildly talented, comedy giant." Al Roker tweeted out a link to Conway playing a hysterically incompetent dentist.

A native of Ohio, Conway credited his Midwestern roots for putting him on the right path to laughs, with his deadpan expression and innocent, simple-minded demeanor.

"I think the Midwest is the heart of comedy in this country, and a little bit of the South, too," he told the Wisconsin State Journal in 2005. "For some reason, we're just more laid-back, more understanding. ... And Midwesterners have a kinder sense of humor."

Those qualities probably contributed to his wide popularity on "The Carol Burnett Show," which he joined in 1975 after years as a frequent guest. The show aired on CBS from 1967 to 1978 and had a short summer stint on ABC in 1979.

"We really didn't attack people or politics or religion or whatever. We just made fun of, basically, ourselves," he said.

The show operated with just five writers, one producer, one director and without network interference. The ensemble cast surrounding the redheaded star included Vicki Lawrence and Lyle Waggoner.

"I don't think the network would allow a show like 'The Carol Burnett Show' now because we had such freedom," Conway said in his interview with the State Journal.

Lawrence on Tuesday mourned the passing of her co-star, saying in a statement that "the angels are laughing out loud."

"Hysterical, crazy, bold, fearless, humble, kind, adorable... all synonyms for Tim Conway. I am so lucky to ever have shared a stage with him."

While America was laughing at Conway, so were his co-stars: Burnett and Harvey Korman were often caught by the camera trying not to crack up during his performances.

The short, nondescript Conway and the tall, imposing Korman were a physical mismatch made in comedy heaven. They toured the country for years with a sketch show called "Together Again," which drew on characters from Burnett's show.

Besides the four Emmys he won with Burnett (three as a performer, one as a writer), he won Emmys for guest appearances in 1996 for "Coach" and in 2008 for "30 Rock."

Conway also had a modest but steady movie career, appearing in such films as "The Apple Dumpling Gang" (1975), "The Shaggy D.A." (1976), "Cannonball Run II" (1984), "Dear God" (1996) and "Air Bud 2" (1998).

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"The Apple Dumpling Gang" and "Cannonball Run II" allowed him to work with his comedic hero, Don Knotts, who died in 2006.

"If there's any reason at all I'm in the business, I think it's Don," Conway once said. "He's an icon in this business. He's an icon that's never going to be duplicated."

He also found success in the 1980s in a series of comedy videos based on an oddly short character named Dorf. (Carefully costumed, Conway performed the bits on his knees.) Among them were "Dorf on Golf" and "Dorf Goes Fishing."

More recently Conway voiced the role of Barnacle Boy for the hugely popular children's series "SpongeBob SquarePants."

He was born Thomas Conway in 1933 in the Cleveland suburb of Willoughby. He attended Bowling Green State University and served in the U.S. Army. He got his career start on local TV in Cleveland in the 1950s, where his duties included comedy spots on a late-night movie show.

He was spotted by Rose Marie of "The Dick Van Dyke Show," who got him an audition for "The Steve Allen Show." He became a regular on the show in the early 1960s. It was Allen who had advised him to change his name from Tom to Tim to avoid being confused with a British actor.

Following the Allen show, Conway gained attention as the incompetent Ensign Charles Parker on the Ernest Borgnine sitcom "McHale's Navy" from 1962-66. That led to series of his own, including "Rango" and "The Tim Conway Show," but they were short-lived.

"McHale's Navy" fans loved watching Ensign Parker infuriate the ever-flammable Captain Binghamton (played by Joe Flynn), but it was Conway's work on Burnett's show that would bring him lasting fame.

Conway and his wife, Mary Anne Dalton, married in 1961 and had six children. The marriage ended in divorce. He later married Charlene Fusco.

In addition to his wife and daughter Jackie, Conway is survived by children Tim Jr., Patrick, Jamie, Kelly, Corey and Seann, as well as two grandchildren, Courtney and Sophia.

Kennedy reported from New York.

## New liver transplant rules begin amid fight over fairness

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wilnelia Cruz-Ulloa spent the last months of her life in a New York City hospital, waiting for a donated liver that never came. Doctors had urged the 38-year-old to move to another state that has more organs to go around. But she couldn't afford to.

Where you live makes a difference in how sick you have to be to get a transplant, or if you'll die waiting. Now the nation's transplant system is aiming to make the wait for livers, and eventually all organs, less dependent on your ZIP code. New rules mandating wider sharing of donated livers went into effect Tuesday despite a fierce and ongoing hospital turf war in federal court.

"Whoever's sickest should have the greatest opportunity" for an organ, said Dr. Sander Florman, a transplant surgeon at New York's Mount Sinai Medical Center who helped care for Cruz-Ulloa and pushed for the change. "This woman would be alive if the new rules were in place, or if she'd lived somewhere else."

But more than a dozen hospitals in parts of the Midwest and South sued to block the change, arguing it will endanger their patients, especially in rural areas, if livers must be shipped further to areas with fewer donations. Late Monday, a judge in Atlanta denied their request to put the rules on hold until the legal challenge is decided. The next day, those hospitals appealed, still seeking to halt the rules after they began.

At a hearing last week, U.S. District Judge Amy Totenberg made clear the debate weighs heavily: "Transplant issues have this life-and-death and emotional dimension that carries over to everyone who is involved."

More than 13,000 people are awaiting a new liver, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, which runs the nation's transplant system. Just 8,250 got transplants last year, the vast majority from deceased donors. On average, three people die every day waiting.

That's just livers. Overall, UNOS' registry shows nearly 114,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant.

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## WHY DOES GEOGRAPHY MATTER?

Some parts of the country, especially the Midwest, have more donated organs than other areas, such as New York and California, where the organ shortage is most severe.

And for decades, transplant policy has been "local first" — meaning organs typically are offered first to the sickest patients in the same general area as the donation, even if someone sicker outside the local boundary is a good match. The nation's 11 transplant regions are subdivided into local areas with individual waiting lists, with wide variations in organ availability both within and between regions.

Some patients seek shorter waiting lists far from home, like the late Apple CEO Steve Jobs, who lived in California but in 2009 received a liver transplant in Tennessee, which at the time had one of the shortest waits.

For New York's Cruz-Ulloa, a dental assistant on Medicaid, that wasn't a choice. After a years-long wait, she died in October.

"They told us, 'In Florida you could get the liver faster,'" recalled Wendy Gomez, Cruz-Ulloa's wife. "I'm like, 'But how are we going to move to Florida and leave everything behind?'"

## THE CHANGE

Cruz-Ulloa was part of a lawsuit filed last summer that argued liver distribution maps violate federal law. For example, a liver could be shipped nearly 400 miles from Englewood, New Jersey, to Pittsburgh before it's offered to nearby New York City. The government told UNOS to find a solution.

The new policy: Patients near death within 500 nautical miles (575 miles) from a donor hospital will be offered a liver first. If there are no takers, it will be offered next to progressively less sick patients at different distances within that circle. Like today, doctors will use a score based on medical tests that predicts patients' risk of death over the next few months to rank those waiting.

UNOS predicts broader liver sharing will save more than 100 lives as year as people with the worst scores get a shot at transplant ahead of those whose scores suggest they can wait a little longer.

Similar sharing of lung transplants began last year; changes for other organs are in the works.

## SOME HOSPITALS FIGHT BACK

Hospitals that countersued say the new policy is unfair, too. They point to people in more rural regions who already face inequities such as less access to health care that leave them at greater risk of death from a variety of diseases.

If all organ banks recruited as many donors as the Midwest, there'd be 1,000 more liver transplants a year, said Dr. Sean Kumer of the University of Kansas Hospital, one of the plaintiffs. "We've been successful in doing this, and now people are coming to our area of the country to take organs."

Costs will rise as transplant teams travel farther to procure organs, added a recent report from Washington University in St. Louis that examined the first months of broader lung distribution. Specialists cited one time when a team from St. Louis and another from Chicago were flying to each other's city at about the same time to retrieve lungs for similarly sick recipients.

UNOS pledged Tuesday to evaluate if the new liver rules have the intended effect, acknowledging "this has been a challenging time" of strife between transplant centers.

The bigger issue: "I don't think we can solve the fairness problem until the supply of organs exceeds the demand," Kevin O'Connor, president of LifeCenter Northwest, an organ procurement organization, who also heads a UNOS geography committee, cautioned before the latest court fight.

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AP reporter Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed to this report.

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## AP sources: Trump officials discussed deporting families

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeland Security officials considered arresting thousands of migrant families who had final deportation orders and removing them from the U.S. in a flashy show of force, but the idea was tabled as the Trump administration grappled with straining resources and a growing number of Central Americans crossing the border.

Two Homeland Security officials and two other people familiar with the proposal described it to The Associated Press. They were not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

The idea was to arrest parents and children in 10 cities with large populations of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, specifically New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, they said, without naming others.

The proposal, first reported by The Washington Post, was meant to send a message and possibly deter others from coming across the border, they said.

But then-Immigrations and Customs Enforcement head Ron Vitiello and then-Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen put the proposal aside over concerns about diverting resources from the border, a lack of detention space and the possibility of renewed public outrage over treatment of families.

The Trump administration separated children from parents at the southern border last summer, a move that prompted mass outrage and criticism that the U.S. was abandoning its humanitarian role and harming children. Immigration experts say the separations, which were halted last June, did little to stop migrant crossings and, in fact, may have prompted more people to come.

President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he had not heard anything about the proposal.

The number of border crossings has risen dramatically in the past few months to more than 100,000 per month. More than half are families who cannot be easily sent back to their home countries. Border officials say they are out of resources and manpower and can't keep up.

Trump has railed against the growing numbers and is furious that he has been unable to stem the flow of migrants despite his campaign promise to clamp down on immigration. The White House recently asked Congress for \$4.5 billion in supplemental funding, mostly for humanitarian aid and shelter space for migrant children. ICE planes have been used over the past few days to fly migrants to less-crowded locations along the border for processing.

The tabled plan — it remains under consideration — included fast-tracking immigration cases to allow judges to order deportations for those who didn't show up for hearings. It also prioritized the newest cases in order to deport people faster.

A senior administration official said enforcing the judicial orders to remove nearly 1 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally remains a top priority. The official was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

Vitiello's nomination to lead the immigration agency was pulled by the White House in a move last month that caught lawmakers and even the most senior Homeland Security officials off guard. Nielsen resigned just a few days later.

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Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

## 'Zombie cells' buildup in your body may play role in aging

By MALCOLM RITTER AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Call them zombie cells — they refuse to die.

As they build up in your body, studies suggest, they promote aging and the conditions that come with it like osteoporosis and Alzheimer's disease. Researchers are studying drugs that can kill zombie cells and possibly treat the problems they bring.

Basically the goal is to fight aging itself, which hopefully will in turn delay the appearance of age-related disease and disabilities as a group, says geriatrics specialist Dr. James Kirkland of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. That's in contrast to playing a "whack-a-mole game" of treating one disease only to see

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another spring up, he said.

The research has been done chiefly in mice. Earlier this year, the first test in people was published and provided some tantalizing results.

Zombie cells are actually called senescent cells. They start out normal but then encounter a stress, like damage to their DNA or viral infection. At that point, a cell can choose to die or become a zombie, basically entering a state of suspended animation.

The problem is that zombie cells release chemicals that can harm nearby normal cells. That's where the trouble starts.

What kind of trouble? In mouse studies, drugs that eliminate zombie cells — so-called senolytics — have been shown to improve an impressive list of conditions, such as cataracts, diabetes, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease, enlargement of the heart, kidney problems, clogged arteries and age-related loss of muscle.

Mouse studies have also shown a more direct tie between zombie cells and aging. When drugs targeting those cells were given to aged mice, the animals showed better walking speed, grip strength and endurance on a treadmill. Even when the treatment was applied to very old mice, the equivalent of people ages 75 to 90, it extended lifespan by an average of 36 percent.

Researchers have also shown that transplanting zombie cells into young mice basically made them act older: their maximum walking speed slowed down, and their muscle strength and endurance decreased. Tests showed the implanted cells converted other cells to zombie status.

Kirkland and colleagues this year published the first study of a zombie-cell treatment in people. It involved 14 patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a generally fatal disease that scars the lining of the lungs. Risk rises with age, and the lungs of patients show evidence of zombie cells.

In the preliminary experiment, after three weeks of treatment, patients improved on some measures of physical fitness, like walking speed. Other measures did not show improvement.

Overall, the results are encouraging and "it really raises enthusiasm to proceed with the more rigorous studies," said Dr. Gregory Cosgrove, chief medical officer of the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, who played no role in the study.

The field of zombie cells is still young. But Kirkland estimates at least a dozen companies have formed or have launched efforts to pursue treatments. He holds shares in one.

Apart from age-related diseases, anti-zombie drugs might be useful for treating premature aging among cancer survivors that brings on the early appearance of some diseases, said Laura Niedernhofer of the University of Minnesota.

Some of these drugs have been approved for other uses or are even sold as supplements. But Niedernhofer and Kirkland stress that people should not try them on their own, nor should doctors prescribe them, for the uses now under study because more research has to be done first.

Niedernhofer said the best drugs may be yet to come. The goal is not to prevent stressed cells from turning into zombies, she said, because they may become cancerous instead. The aim is to trigger death of cells that have already transformed, or to limit the harm they do.

And what about giving them to healthy people who want to ward off aging? That's possible but a long way off, after studies have established that the drugs are safe enough, she said.

"We may not get there," Kirkland said.

In any case, experts are impressed by the research so far.

"I think this is very exciting," said Dr. George Kuchel of the University of Connecticut Center on Aging in Farmington. The results from animal studies are "very spectacular. It's very compelling data."

Nir Barzilai, a researcher of aging at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, said he believes targeting zombie cells will play a role in the overall effort to delay, stop and maybe reverse aging.

So much research suggests they promote aging that "we know that it should be true," he said.

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## What helps prevent dementia? Try exercise, not vitamin pills

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer**

If you want to save your brain, focus on keeping the rest of your body well with exercise and healthy habits rather than popping vitamin pills, new guidelines for preventing dementia advise.

About 50 million people currently have dementia, and Alzheimer's disease is the most common type. Each year brings 10 million new cases, says the report released Tuesday by the World Health Organization.

Although age is the top risk factor, "dementia is not a natural or inevitable consequence of aging," it says.

Many health conditions and behaviors affect the odds of developing it, and research suggests that a third of cases are preventable, said Maria Carrillo, chief science officer of the Alzheimer's Association, which has published similar advice .

Since dementia is currently incurable and so many experimental therapies have failed, focusing on prevention may "give us more benefit in the shorter term," Carrillo said.

Much of the WHO's advice is common sense, and echoes what the U.S. National Institute on Aging says .

That includes getting enough exercise; treating other health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol; having an active social life, and avoiding or curbing harmful habits such as smoking, overeating and drinking too much alcohol. Evidence is weak that some of these help preserve thinking skills, but they're known to aid general health, the WHO says.

Eating well, and possibly following a Mediterranean-style diet, may help prevent dementia, the guidelines say. But they take a firm stance against vitamin B or E pills, fish oil or multi-complex supplements that are promoted for brain health because there's strong research showing they don't work.

"There is currently no evidence to show that taking these supplements actually reduces the risk of cognitive decline and dementia, and in fact, we know that in high doses these can be harmful," said the WHO's Dr. Neerja Chowdhary.

"People should be looking for these nutrients through food ... not through supplements," Carrillo agreed.

The WHO also did not endorse games and other activities aimed at boosting thinking skills. These can be considered for people with normal capacities or mild impairment, but there's low to very low evidence of benefit.

There's not enough evidence to recommend antidepressants to reduce dementia risk although they may be used to treat depression, the report says. Hearing aids also may not reduce dementia risk, but older people should be screened for hearing loss and treated accordingly.

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## Trump's election has 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

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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, 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

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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."

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, May 15, the 135th day of 2019. There are 230 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 15, 1930, registered nurse Ellen Church, the first airline stewardess, went on duty aboard an Oakland-to-Chicago flight operated by Boeing Air Transport, a forerunner of United Airlines.

On this date:

In 1567, Mary, Queen of Scots, married her third husband, James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell, who had been implicated in (but acquitted of) the death of Mary's second husband, Lord Darnley.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed an act establishing the Department of Agriculture.

In 1918, U.S. airmail began service between Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York.

In 1940, DuPont began selling its nylon stockings nationally. The original McDonald's restaurant was opened in San Bernardino, California, by Richard and Maurice McDonald.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, whose members came to be known as WACs. Wartime gasoline rationing went into effect in 17 Eastern states, limiting sales to three gallons a week for non-essential vehicles.

In 1948, hours after declaring its independence, the new state of Israel was attacked by Transjordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

In 1963, Weight Watchers was incorporated in New York.

In 1968, two days of tornado outbreaks began in 10 Midwestern and Southern states; twisters were

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blamed for 72 deaths, including 45 in Arkansas and 18 in Iowa.

In 1972, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace was shot and left paralyzed while campaigning for president in Laurel, Maryland, by Arthur H. Bremer, who served 35 years for attempted murder.

In 1975, U.S. forces invaded the Cambodian island of Koh Tang and captured the American merchant ship Mayaguez, which had been seized by the Khmer Rouge. (All 39 crew members had already been released safely by Cambodia; some 40 U.S. servicemen were killed in connection with the operation.)

In 1988, the Soviet Union began the process of withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, more than eight years after Soviet forces entered the country.

In 2008, California's Supreme Court declared same-sex couples in the state could marry — a victory for the gay rights movement that was overturned the following November by the passage of Proposition 8, which was ultimately struck down by the courts.

Ten years ago: General Motors told about 1,100 dealers their franchises would be terminated. CIA Director Leon Panetta defended the agency against House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's charge that she was misled in 2002 about the use of waterboarding on detainees. Pope Benedict XVI ended his Mideast visit at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama dedicated the National Sept. 11 Memorial Museum deep beneath ground zero, calling it a symbol that says of America: "Nothing can ever break us."

One year ago: Seattle Mariners second baseman Robinson Cano was suspended for 80 games for violating baseball's drug agreement, becoming one of the most prominent players disciplined under the sport's anti-doping rules.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Anna Maria Alberghetti is 83. Counterculture icon Wavy Gravy is 83. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is 82. Singer Trini Lopez is 82. Singer Lenny Welch is 81. Actress-singer Lainie Kazan is 77. Actress Gunilla Hutton is 77. Country singer K.T. Oslin is 77. Actor Chazz Palminteri is 73. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is 71. Singer-songwriter Brian Eno is 71. Actor Nicholas Hammond (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 69. Baseball Hall of Famer George Brett is 66. Musician-composer Mike Oldfield is 66. Actor Lee Horsley is 64. TV personality Giselle Fernandez is 58. Rapper Grandmaster Melle Mel is 58. Actress Brenda Bakke is 56. Football Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith is 50. Actor Brad Rowe is 49. Actor David Charvet (shahr-VAY') is 47. Actor Russell Hornsby is 45. Rock musician Ahmet Zappa is 45. Olympic gold medal gymnast Amy Chow is 41. Actor David Krumholtz is 41. Rock musician David Hartley (The War on Drugs) is 39. Actress Jamie-Lynn Sigler is 38. Actress Alexandra Breckenridge is 37. Rock musician Brad Shultz (Cage the Elephant) is 37. Rock musician Nick Perri is 35. Tennis player Andy Murray is 32.

Thought for Today: "Behavior is what a man does, not what he thinks, feels, or believes." — Emily Dickinson, American poet (born 1830, died this date in 1886).

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