

# Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup  
for the Soul.

"Writing is an  
act of faith,  
not a trick of  
grammar."

-E.B.White

## 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.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

Coming Up on GDILIVE.COM

## 2019 Graduation

2 p.m., May 19th

**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

### ALL-AROUND STRENGTH



#### SC 100 HW PUSH WALK-BEHIND MOWER

- 159cc Cub Cadet® performance-tuned OHV engine
- 21" Cub Cadet Signature Cut™
- High rear wheels to maneuver with ease

STARTING AT:  
**\$269\***

#### XT1™ LT42" LAWN TRACTOR

- 18 HP\*\* Cub Cadet-certified Kohler® 5400 Series single OHV engine
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#### RT 65 H REAR-TINE TILLER

- 187cc Cub Cadet® -certified Honda® GC OHV engine
- 13" dual-direction rotating tines
- 18" tilling width
- 16" pneumatic, ag tread wheels

STARTING AT:  
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FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS **Cub Cadet** VISIT [CUBCADET.COM](http://CUBCADET.COM)

**HARRY IMPLEMENT INC.**  
109 CENTER ST  
FERNEY, SD 57439  
[www.harrysinc.com](http://www.harrysinc.com)  
605-395-6421

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Sunday, May 19, 2019

2:00pm: Graduation at Groton Area High School

### Tuesday, May 21, 2019

2:00pm: DARE Graduation at GHS Gymnasium

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

### Wednesday, May 22, 2019

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

### Thursday, May 23, 2019

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

### Friday, May 24, 2019

Faculty Inservice  
STATE TRACK MEET @ TEA AREA

### Saturday, May 25, 2019

STATE TRACK MEET @ SIOUX FALLS

\*Product Price - Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or specifications. \*\*As rated by Kohler. All power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3600 RPM per SAE J1940 as tested by engine manufacturer. \*\*See your local Cub Cadet Independent Dealer for warranty details. © 2018 Cub Cadet LP, an ECOMMERCIAL

# NOW HIRING!

## Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts

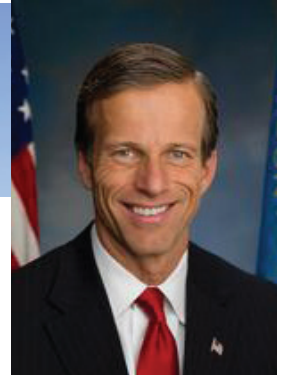
- \* New Starting Wage - \$15/hr day shift and \$16/hr night shift
- Overtime Available

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
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- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit [www.uslbn.com/careers](http://www.uslbn.com/careers) or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## To Those Who Serve

May is National Military Appreciation Month, a time to recognize, honor, and thank all of the men and women in uniform who selflessly serve our state and nation. When I reflect on their service and sacrifice, it's hard not to think about my dad and personal hero, Harold, and all of the men and women who today fill the ranks at Ellsworth Air Force Base and the South Dakota National Guard. As any South Dakotan can attest, these soldiers and airmen are the best of the best, and we're glad they call South Dakota home.

My dad is a humble guy, so it would take some bragging from those around him before you'd ever know he was a war hero – a guy who, as a young man, didn't think twice before piloting one of the many Hellcats that buzzed off the deck of the U.S.S. Intrepid during World War II. He embodies everything that it means to be part of the Greatest Generation: humility, quiet service, patriotism, and dedication to the cause of freedom.

I can tell you, there are few things more humbling than welcoming members of the Greatest Generation who are in Washington to visit the war memorials that have been created in their honor. I recently met a group of South Dakota veterans who served in World War II, the Korean War, or Vietnam, and it was an awe-inspiring experience to see firsthand how meaningful a quick visit to the National Mall can be for them.

Today's military men and women share a lot of the same qualities as those of previous generations, and I've been fortunate to get to know many of them through Ellsworth and the South Dakota National Guard.

Ellsworth has dominated the headlines lately, and the base deserves the praise. It's been an amazing 14-year journey from first being placed on the Department of Defense's chopping block to today being chosen as the future home to the first B-21 bombers to enter the fleet. It was a team effort, but we worked hard to convince the Pentagon that Ellsworth was a vital national security asset and that moving the existing B-1 fleet would actually cost money and strategic value.

Between then and now, Ellsworth's resume has only grown stronger. In 2007, the Air Force Financial Services Center opened at the base. In 2011, it welcomed the 89th Attack Squadron and command and control stations for MQ-9 Reapers. And in 2015, after nearly a decade of work, Ellsworth found itself firmly planted in the expanded Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) – the largest training air space in the continental United States.

Utilizing the PRTC and additional altitude waivers, the base just completed its ninth large force exercise, its first since solidifying its place in the future of the nation's new bomber fleet. It featured nearly a dozen different kinds of aircraft, including B-1s, F-16s, and, for the first time, F-35s, and it hosted personnel from around the country. Ellsworth continues to shine, but it's the men and women at the base – and their families and the community – who truly deserve the credit.

National Police Week also falls in May, and I recently welcomed a group of officers from Sioux Falls to my office in Washington, D.C., who were in town for some of the week's events. Like the men and women of the military, police officers consider danger to be just another part of the job and are always willing to confront it when necessary. I interact with law enforcement officers on nearly a daily basis, whether I'm in South Dakota or in Washington. I have a deep respect for everything they do in order to carry out their 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year mission.

There are many ways to serve one's community, state, and nation, but I'm particularly humbled by the fact that South Dakota is home to so many men and women who are constantly willing to go above and beyond and put themselves ahead of others. On behalf of a grateful state, whether you serve in the military, in law enforcement, or as a first responder, thank you.

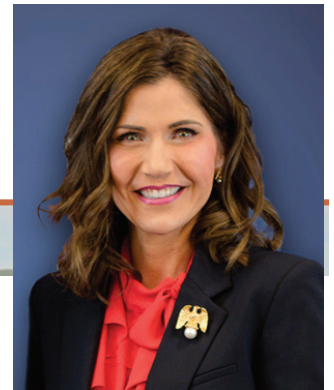


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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## Don't Move Firewood

Not much beats sitting around the campfire on a cool summer night or roasting a s'more over a smoking bonfire. For many folks, these are signs of summer, but it's easy to forget the extreme impact to our state's natural resources if we are not careful about where we get our firewood.

Many non-native insects and diseases can hitchhike inside of firewood when it is moved to new locations. These insects and diseases can't move far on their own, but when people move firewood, they can jump hundreds of miles, spreading unique diseases to new areas. This can have a devastating effect on our trees and other wildlife.

We have already seen this impacting our state. Last May, state officials discovered the emerald ash borer in Sioux Falls. Since then, this exotic, destructive beetle has killed hundreds of ash trees, clearing them from city parks, neighborhoods, and homes. The cold temperatures earlier this year killed a portion of the emerald ash borer larvae, but now more than ever, it's imperative that South Dakotans buy or collect firewood where they plan to burn it or buy certified heat-treated firewood.

When you bring firewood camping with you or gather non-local firewood for your home, you run the risk of transporting invasive species that lurk in the wood, waiting to find a new healthy tree to become their host. These pests and diseases have caused millions of dollars of damage to communities and forests across the nation.

Due to the incredible importance of not moving firewood in South Dakota, the Department of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks have partnered together to develop a pledge for everyone to protect South Dakota's natural resources by not moving firewood.

Trees are an important part of our state. Not only do they add shade and beauty to our communities and protection for our land and cattle, they also provide much-needed oxygen and absorb more than ten pounds of carbon dioxide each year. Let's work together to protect them from non-native insects and diseases.

As we enter the summer months, let's work together to protect our trees from non-native insects and diseases. I'm committed to doing my part to reduce the risk by signing the Don't Move Firewood pledge. I encourage you to do the same. You can take the pledge and learn more about protecting our outdoor resources at -

- <https://sdda.sd.gov/Firewood/Pledge.aspx>.

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## Today in Weather History

May 19, 1982: With the ground in the Black Hills already saturated from heavy rains the previous week, developing thunderstorms were not a welcome sight. The thunderstorms produced additional heavy rains including 3.58 inches at Spearfish, 3.32 inches at Cheyenne Crossing, and 0.82 of an inch in twelve minutes at Hot Springs. With Flash Flood Warnings in effect for much of the area water came out of the banks of many streams causing widespread damage in the Hills. A diversion Dam broke at Spearfish causing a mudslide to cover some roads. In Deadwood, the main water line broke leaving the city temporarily without water. Homes were evacuated at Nisland, Hot Springs, and Bridger. Damage throughout the Black Hills included washed out bridges, flooded basements, several breached dams, and roads completely washed away.

1780 - The infamous "dark day" in New England tradition. At noon it was nearly as dark as night. Chickens went to roost, and many persons were fearful of divine wrath. The phenomena was caused by forest fires to the west of New England. (David Ludlum)

1915: A spring storm came to an end after producing widespread snow. Total snowfall from the storm included: 17.6 inches in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, 8 inches at Cheyenne, Wyoming, 7 inches at Chadron and 3.9 inches in North Platte, Nebraska.

1955 - Lake Maloya NM received 11.28 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - Thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 110 mph in Minnesota, between Fridley and Hugo. Fifty persons were injured. The hail and high winds destroyed fifty mobile homes, and a dozen aircraft, and also destroyed a third of the Brighton Elementary School. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Texas produced thirteen inches of rain northwest of Lavernia. The heavy rain, along with golf ball size hail, destroyed eighty percent of the crops in the area, while high winds toppled trees. Golf ball size hail was also reported south of Dallas and around San Antonio. Up to eight inches of rain drenched Guadalupe County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


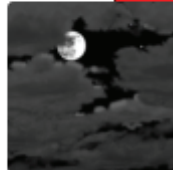



1988 - Severe thunderstorms in southwest Texas produced hail as large as tennis balls around Midland, with the hail accumulating up to a foot deep. Showers and thunderstorms in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region produced 3.5 inches of rain near Schuylkill PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front spawned ten tornadoes from Illinois to Tennessee during the afternoon and night. Snow, wind and cold prevailed in the Northern Plateau Region and the Northern Rockies. Dixie, ID, was blanketed with nine inches of snow, winds gusted to 87 mph at Choteau MT, and the temperature at Crater Lake, OR, dipped to 11 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms deluged Hot Springs AR with thirteen inches of rain in nine hours resulting in a devastating flood. Two waves of water, four to six feet deep, swept down Central Avenue flooding stores and the famous bathhouses on Bathhouse Row. Water released from Lake Hamilton devastated the area between it and Remmel Dam. The 500 foot Carpenter Dam Bridge across Lake Catherine was completely washed away, as were cabins and mobile homes near the lake, many of which flowed right over the top of Remmel Dam. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Shows Likely and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy then Frost	Frost then Mostly Sunny	Chance Showers	Showers Likely and Breezy
High: 49 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 54 °F

**Potential Record Cold Highs May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Location	Forecast and (Record) Cold Highs for May 19th
Aberdeen	49° (50° in 1949)
Watertown	45° (42° in 1929)
Pierre	48° (46° in 1968)
Mobridge	50° (44° in 1968)
Sisseton	48° (49° in 1949)
Timber Lake	49° (40° in 1913)
Kennebec	47° (47° in 1968)
Wheaton, MN	50° (37° in 2015)

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen National Weather Service Aberdeen @NWSAberdeen Updated: 5/19/2019 3:49 AM Central

Published on: 05/19/2019 at 4:54AM

Clouds will linger through the day with fog and drizzle, keeping temperatures from warming very much. Readings this morning are only in the low 40s, which means it will be a struggle to get past 50 despite the time of year. We do anticipate clearing to some extent tonight, which means some areas will also see temperatures bottom out near the freezing mark.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 49 °F at 12:00 AM

Low Temp: 43 °F at 10:27 PM

Wind: 29 mph at 4:14 AM

Day Rain: 0.30 in

Record High: 97° in 1932

Record Low: 28° in 2002

Average High: 70°F

Average Low: 45°F

Average Precip in May.: 1.85

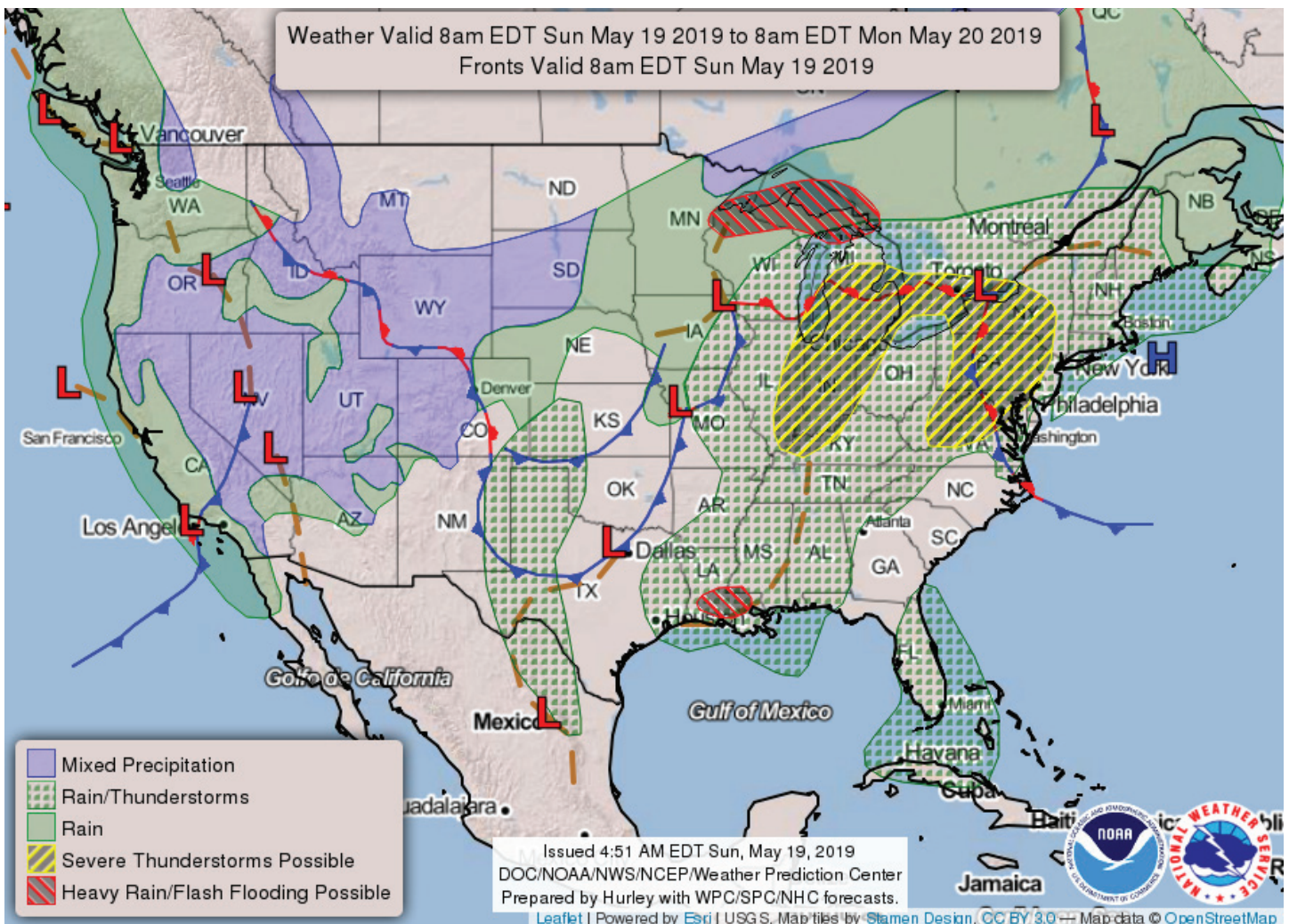
Precip to date in May.: 2.79

Average Precip to date: 5.88

Precip Year to Date: 7.48

Sunset Tonight: 9:02 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:58 a.m.





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## THE STRENGTH IN TIMIDITY

Entertaining young children often provides moments of enduring joy and memories that last a life time. I often think of those days when I played Whos afraid of the big bad wolf? with my sons. We made noises and faces and even built homes out of blankets and chairs. The big bad wolf tried to create problems for the three little pigs but was never able to harm those inside their home. They were prepared to face the threats of the big bad wolf.

We often do the same - making preparation to face the threats and uncertainties of life. We feel strong in our own strength and believe without a doubt that we can, no matter what, withstand any temptation in life.

Solomon, however, presents another way of responding to the threat of evil: be cautious or timid! When temptation threatens us and we feel incapable of rejecting it by ourselves, we are to shun evil. Looking deeper into these two little words we find that those who shun evil or are timid because they feel weak or are unable to reject it in their own strength, have a built-in alarm: the fear of the Lord! When they realize that they must face God or what could destroy them, they respond in fear and turn to God for His strength.

I often marvel at the countless alarm systems that are available to protect our lives, homes and identities from fraud and theft, danger and destruction. Some provide constant surveillance through an electronic monitoring system. Others can be self-installed and are battery operated. Both are designed to warn of impending danger. We have something better, stronger, more certain, and always available: Gods wisdom, strength, and power.

Prayer: Lord, help us to be so fearful of evil that we flee from it in fear rather than standing, fighting and failing. May we look to You to save us by calling on You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 14:16 The wise fear the Lord and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure.

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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)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

04-13-21-23-33

(four, thirteen, twenty-one, twenty-three, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$400,000

Lotto America

02-22-26-28-40, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 2

(two, twenty-two, twenty-six, twenty-eight, forty; Star Ball: seven; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$19.87 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$367 million

Powerball

02-10-25-66-67, Powerball: 26, Power Play: 4

(two, ten, twenty-five, sixty-six, sixty-seven; Powerball: twenty-six; Power Play: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$270 million

## Plea deal eliminates death penalty for man who killed child

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Dell Rapids man accused of killing his 18-month-old stepson has agreed to a plea deal that takes the death penalty off the table.

The Argus Leader reports that 39-year-old Keith Cornett pleaded guilty Friday to second-degree murder in the December 2016 beating death. Several charges will be dropped, including one for first-degree murder that made Cornett eligible for the death penalty.

Cornett entered an Alford Plea, meaning he doesn't admit to causing the child's injuries but acknowledging he could be found guilty at trial.

An autopsy found six blows to the child's head, as well as bite marks. Cornett said he was "heavily intoxicated" and maintains he doesn't remember what happened the day the child was killed.

Cornett faces life in prison without parole. Sentencing is scheduled May 30.

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

## For Iranians, economic crisis looms larger than US tensions

By MEHDI FATTAHI and NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Across Iran's capital, the talk always seems to come back to how things may get worse.

Battered by U.S. sanctions and its depreciating rial currency, Iran's 80 million people struggle to buy meat, medicine and other staples of daily life. Now they wonder aloud about America's intentions as it rushes an aircraft carrier and other forces to the region over a still-unexplained threat it perceives from Iran.

The Associated Press spoke to a variety of people on Tehran's streets recently, ranging from young and old, women wearing the all-encompassing black chador to those loosely covering their hair.

Most say they believe a war will not come to the region, though they remain willing to defend their country. They think Iran should try to talk to the U.S. to help its anemic economy, even as they see President Donald Trump as an erratic and untrustworthy adversary.

"Trump is not predictable at all and one doesn't know how to react to him and what is the right thing

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to do against him," said Afra Hamedzadeh, a 20-year-old civil servant and university student. "Since he controls the global economy we are somehow left with few options."

But opinions vary across Iran's capital, Tehran, depending on whether you speak to someone coming out of Friday prayers, in the back of a shared taxi cab, or exiting the coffee shops popular with young people.

"If America could do anything, it would have done many things by now," said the chador-wearing Zoherh Sadeghi, a 51-year-old housewife coming out of prayers. "It can't do anything. It can't do a damn thing."

That's an opinion shared by 35-year-old office worker Massumeh Izadpanah.

"When someone keeps trying to scare you it means that they think they are not yet ready for war. When someone really wants war it starts the war right away. Like when Iraq attacked us, all of a sudden bombs were dropped," she said. "But right now America just says, 'I'm coming,' to scare Iran."

A young nation, many across Iran were alive for its bloody 1980s war with Iraq, a conflict that began when dictator Saddam Hussein invaded and dragged on for eight years. That war, in which Saddam used chemical weapons and Iran launched human wave attacks, killed 1 million people.

Since Trump withdrew the U.S. from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers last year, state television increasingly has focused attention on that war's wounded.

In Tehran's southern Javadieh neighborhood, veteran Mohammad Ali Moghaddam said he was ready to fight again.

"I would encourage my three sons and grandsons to go to defend Iran too," said Moghaddam, a 58-year-old welder.

Arezou Mirzaei, a 37-year-old mother of two in central Tehran, is more worried.

"I think the government should do something to avoid war," Mirzaei said. "If war was good, then Afghanistan and Iraq would not be the mess that we see on TV."

Taxi driver Jafar Hadavand, 34, agrees.

"I think both sides will be losers if they fight each other," Hadavand said. "I think there are wise people on both sides to advocate peace, not war."

Still, many pointed to the economy, not the possible outbreak of war, as Iran's major concern. Iran's rial currency traded at 32,000 to \$1 at the time of the 2015 nuclear deal. Now it is at 148,000, and many have seen their life's savings wiped out.

Nationwide, the unemployment rate is 12 percent. For youth it's even worse, with a quarter of all young people unemployed, according to Iran's statistic center.

"The economic situation is very bad, very bad. Unemployment is very high, and those who had jobs have lost theirs," said Sadeghi, the housewife. "Young people can't find good jobs, or get married, or become independent."

Sores Maleki, a 62-year-old retired accountant, said talks with the U.S. to loosen sanctions would help jumpstart Iran's economy.

"We should go and talk to America with courage and strength. We are able to do that, others have done it," Maleki said. "We can make concessions and win concessions. We have no other choice."

But such negotiations will be difficult, said Reza Forghani, a 51-year-old civil servant. He said Iran needed to get the U.S. to "sign a very firm contract that they can't escape and have to honor." Otherwise, Iran should drop out of the nuclear deal.

"When someone refuses to keep promises and commitments, you can tolerate it a couple of times, but then certainly you can't remain committed forever. You will react," Forghani said. "So I don't think we should remain committed to the deal until the end."

Yet for Iran's youth, many of whom celebrated the signing of the 2015 nuclear deal in the streets, the situation now feels more akin to a funeral. Many openly discuss their options to obtain a visa — any visa — to get abroad.

"Young people have a lot of stress and the future is unknown," said Hamedzadeh, the 20-year-old civil servant. "The future is so unknown that you can't plan. The only thing they can do is to somehow leave Iran and build a life abroad."



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## **AP sources: Former CIA chief Brennan to brief Dems on Iran**

**By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats will hear from former CIA Director John Brennan about the situation in Iran, inviting him to speak next week amid heightened concerns over the Trump administration's sudden moves in the region.

Brennan, an outspoken critic of President Donald Trump, is scheduled to talk to House Democrats at a private weekly caucus meeting Tuesday, according to a Democratic aide and another person familiar with the private meeting. Both were granted anonymity to discuss the meeting.

The invitation to Brennan and Wendy Sherman, a former State Department official and top negotiator of the Iran nuclear deal, offers counterprogramming to the Trump administration's closed-door briefing for lawmakers also planned for Tuesday on Capitol Hill. Democratic lawmakers are likely to attend both sessions.

The Trump administration recently sent an aircraft carrier and other military resources to the Persian Gulf region, and withdrew nonessential personnel from Iraq, raising alarm among Democrats and some Republicans on Capitol Hill over the possibility of a confrontation with Iran.

Trump in recent days has downplayed any potential for conflict. But questions remain about what prompted the actions, and many lawmakers have demanded more information.

Trump and Brennan have clashed openly, particularly over the issues surrounding the special counsel's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election. Brennan stepped down from the CIA in 2017.

The president last year said he was revoking the former spy chief's security credentials after Brennan was critical of Trump's interactions with Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit in Helsinki. Top national security officials often retain their clearance after they have left an agency as a way to provide counsel to their successors. It's unclear if Brennan actually lost his clearance.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had been asking the administration for a briefing for all lawmakers on the situation in Iran, but she said the request was initially rebuffed. The administration provided a classified briefing for leaders of both parties last week.

## **Trump's 'great patriot' farmers follow him into a trade war**

**By SARA BURNETT and SCOTT McFETRIDGE Associated Press**

MADRID, Iowa (AP) — Iowa farmer Tim Bardole survived years of low crop prices and rising costs by cutting back on fertilizer and herbicides and fixing broken-down equipment rather than buying new. When President Donald Trump's trade war with China made a miserable situation worse, Bardole used up any equity his operation had and started investing in hogs in hopes they'll do better than crops.

A year later, the dispute is still raging and soybeans hit a 10-year-low. But Bardole says he supports his president more today than he did when he cast a ballot for Trump in 2016, skeptical he would follow through on his promises.

"He does really seem to be fighting for us," Bardole says, "even if it feels like the two sides are throwing punches and we're in the middle, taking most of the hits."

Trump won the presidency by winning rural America, in part by pledging to use his business savvy and tough negotiating skills to take on China and put an end to trade practices that have hurt farmers for years. While the prolonged fight has been devastating to an already-struggling agriculture industry, there's little indication Trump is paying a political price. But there's a big potential upside if he can get a better deal — and little downside if he continues to get credit for trying for the farmers caught in the middle. It's a calculation Trump recognizes heading into a reelection bid where he needs to hold on to farm states like Iowa and Wisconsin and is looking to flip others, like Minnesota.

A March CNN/Des Moines Register poll of registered Republicans in Iowa found 81% approved of how Trump is handling his job, and 82% had a favorable view of the president, an increase of 5 points since December. About two-thirds said they'd definitely vote to re-elect him. The poll had a margin of error of 4.9 percentage points.

A February poll by the same organizations found 46% of Iowans approved of the job Trump was doing

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— his highest approval rating since taking office — while 50% said they disapprove. The margin of error was 3.5 percentage points.

Many farmers are lifelong Republicans who like other things Trump has done, such as reining in the EPA and tackling illegal immigration, and believe he's better for their interests than most Democrats even on his worst day. They give him credit for doing something previous presidents of both parties mostly talked about. And now that they've struggled for this long, they want to see him finish the job — and soon.

"We are the frontline soldiers getting killed as this trade war goes on," said Paul Jeschke, who grows corn and soybeans in northern Illinois, where he's about to plant his 45th crop.

"I'm unhappy and I think most of us are unhappy with the situation. But most of us understand the merits," he added. "And it's not like anyone else would be better. The smooth-talking presidents we've had recently - they certainly didn't get anything done."

When the trade war started last summer, China targeted its first round of tariffs on producers in agricultural and manufacturing states that were crucial to Trump's 2016 victory, such as Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. Particularly hard hit were producers of soybeans, the country's largest farm export.

The most recent round of trade talks between the Trump administration and China broke up earlier this month without an agreement, after Trump accused China of backing out on agreed-to parts of a deal and hiked tariffs on \$200 billion of imports from China. China imposed retaliatory tariff hikes on \$60 billion of American goods, and in the U.S. the price of soybeans fell to a 10-year low on fears of a protracted trade war. U.S. officials then listed \$300 billion more of Chinese goods for possible tariff hikes.

As China vowed to "fight to the finish," Trump used Twitter to rally the farming community.

"Our great Patriot Farmers will be one of the biggest beneficiaries of what is happening now," Trump tweeted. "Hopefully China will do us the honor of continuing to buy our great farm product, the best, but if not your Country will be making up the difference based on a very high China buy."

He added: "The Farmers have been 'forgotten' for many years. Their time is now!"

Trump has promised an aid package, some \$15 billion for farmers and ranchers, following \$11 billion in relief payments last year.

It's been six years since farmers did better than break even on corn, and five years since they made money off soybeans.

U.S. net farm income, a commonly used measure of profits, has plunged 45 percent since a high of \$123.4 billion in 2013, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, reflecting American farmers' struggle to return to the profitability seen earlier in the decade. Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings for farm operations in the upper Midwest have doubled since June 2014, when commodity prices began to drop. The hardest hit were farms and dairy operations in Wisconsin, a state that supported Democrats for president for most of recent history before backing Trump and that will be a fierce 2020 battleground.

"It's awful expensive to put a crop in," said Morie Hill, looking over countless green shoots peeking up from his fields in central Iowa. He isn't sure why more farmers haven't been forced out.

"Everyone I know is squeezing and doing everything they can, trying to go further with less," he said.

Brent Renner, who farms with his father in northern Iowa, said while there's strong support for Trump in their area, frustration is growing. Farming friends regularly check Twitter to see what Trump is saying, and how it might move the market.

"I don't know how many farming friends I've had who've said 'Why can't someone just take his phone away?'" Renner said. "It's impossible to think he hasn't lost support at some level, but what that level is nobody knows."

Patty Judge, a Democratic former Iowa lieutenant governor and state agriculture secretary, agreed people in Iowa haven't rushed to move away from Trump. But she thinks voters will be ready for a change in 2020 — and a president who better understands the country's role in international trade.

"It's very important to us and to have gone into a trade war without a plan, without an exit strategy, is dangerous and wrong and I think Iowans are going to understand that before the next election," she said.

The 2018 midterms showed Democrats' difficulties outside metro areas. AP VoteCast, a national survey

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of more than 115,000 voters, found rural and small-town residents cast 35% of midterm ballots; 56% of those voted for Republican House candidates, compared with 41% for Democrats. Among small-town and rural white voters the advantage was greater, tilting 63-35 for Republicans.

Jeshke said he gives Trump credit for rolling back regulations that have made it tougher and more expensive for new herbicides to be approved, and for his proposed changes to the Waters of the U.S., an Obama-era environmental measure. Under the act, Jeshke said he needed government approval to mow some areas of his property or make changes to manmade lakes where kids go fishing.

"And I dug them!" he said.

Jeshke says most farmers are more concerned about getting the situation solved than pointing fingers. But if they were to place blame, most of it would be on China, and the rest would be on previous presidents who could have solved the trade imbalances more easily 15 or 20 years ago.

One thing he knows for sure about Trump: "If he rolls over now, we'll never be able to hold them accountable."

Renner says farmers are used to having things happen that aren't in their control — the weather, for example — but finding a way through. It's a quality he says is clearly on display now.

"We're an optimistic people," he said. "We'll keep our chins up and keep moving ahead."

Burnett reported from Chicago.

## Jimmy Carter finds a renaissance in 2020 Democratic scramble

By **BILL BARROW** Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter carved an unlikely path to the White House in 1976 and endured humbling defeat after one term. Now, six administrations later, the longest-living chief executive in American history is re-emerging from political obscurity at age 94 to win over his fellow Democrats once again.

A peanut farmer turned politician then worldwide humanitarian, Carter is taking on a special role as several Democratic candidates look to his family-run campaign after the Watergate scandal as the road map for toppling President Donald Trump in 2020.

"Jimmy Carter is a decent, well-meaning person, someone who people are talking about again given the time that we are in," Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar said in an interview. "He won because he worked so hard, and he had a message of truth and honesty. I think about him all the time."

Klobuchar is one of at least three presidential hopefuls who've ventured to the tiny town of Plains, Georgia, to meet with Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, who is 91. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, also have visited with the Carters, including attending the former president's Sunday School lesson in Plains.

Carter had planned to teach at Maranatha Baptist Church again Sunday, but he is still recuperating at home days after hip replacement surgery following a fall as he was preparing for a turkey hunt.

"An extraordinary person," Buttigieg told reporters after meeting Carter. "A guiding light and inspiration," Booker said in a statement. Klobuchar has attended Carter's church lesson, as well, and says she emails with him occasionally. "He signs them 'JC,'" she said with a laugh.

It's quite a turnabout for a man who largely receded from party politics after his presidency, often without being missed by his party's leaders in Washington, where he was an outsider even as a White House resident.

To be sure, more 2020 candidates have quietly sought counsel from Trump's predecessor, former President Barack Obama. Several have talked with former President Bill Clinton, who left office in 2001. But those huddles have been more hush-hush, disclosed through aides dishing anonymously. Sessions with Carter, on the other hand, are trumpeted on social media and discussed freely, suggesting an appeal that Obama and Clinton may not have.

Unlike Clinton, impeached after an affair with a White House intern, Carter has no #MeToo demerits; he

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and Rosalynn, married since the end of World War II, didn't even like to dance with other people at state dinners. And unlike Obama, popular among Democrats but polarizing for conservatives and GOP-leaning independents, Carter is difficult to define by current political fault lines.

He's an outspoken evangelical Christian who criticizes Trump's serial falsehoods, yet praises Trump for attempting a relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Carter touts his own personal relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, another Trump favorite. "I have his email address," Carter said last September.

For years, Carter has irked the foreign policy establishment with forthright criticism of Israel and its treatment of Palestinians.

He confirms that he voted for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a democratic socialist, over Hillary Clinton in Georgia's 2016 presidential primary. In 2017, Carter welcomed Sanders, who's running again this year, to the Carter Center for a program in which the two men lambasted money in politics. Carter called the United States "an oligarchy."

Yet Carter has since warned Democrats against "too liberal a program," lest they ensure Trump's reelection.

Klobuchar credited Carter with being "ahead of his time" on several issues, including the environment and climate change (he put solar panels on the White House), health care (a major step toward universal coverage failed mostly because party liberals thought it didn't go far enough) and government streamlining (an effort that angered some Democrats at the time). But she also alluded to how his presidency ended: a landslide loss after gas lines, inflation-then-unemployment, and a 14-month-long hostage crisis in Iran. "Their administration was not perfect," she said.

It's enough of an enigma that Carter is the only living president not to draw Trump's ire or mockery, even if Republicans have lambasted Carter for decades as a liberal incompetent. Trump and Carter chatted by phone earlier this spring after Carter sent Trump a letter on China and trade. Both men said they had an amiable conversation.

Nonetheless, 2020 candidates cite Carter's juxtaposition with Trump.

"There was a feeling that people had been betrayed in our democracy by someone who wasn't telling the truth," she said, referring to President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974.

Buttigieg said he and Carter "talked about being viewed as coming out of nowhere" and how Carter ran two general election campaigns entirely on the public financing system that now sits unused as candidates collectively raise money into the billions.

Klobuchar recalled Carter telling her that "family members would disperse to different states and then they would all come back on Friday, go back through the questions they had gotten." Then "he would talk about how he would answer them" so they'd all be prepared on their next trips, she said.

It was "a different era," Klobuchar added, recalling that Carter said he felt "hi-tech because they had a fax machine on his plane." Indeed, Klobuchar, born in 1960, wasn't old enough to vote for Carter until he sought a second term. Booker, 50, recalls voting for Carter, but in a grade-school mock election. Buttigieg, 37, wasn't even born when Carter left office.

Nonetheless, Klobuchar said she regularly meets Iowans who remember Carter and his family members campaigning in 1975 before his rivals and national media recognized his strength, and she said she sometimes references on the campaign trail how her fellow Minnesotan and Carter's vice president, Walter Mondale, remembers their term: "We obeyed the law. We told the truth. We kept the peace."

Whatever the reasons for the renewed attention, Carter allies say they hope the 2020 campaign is part of bolstering his reputation as a president.

"People are tired of hearing that he was a better ex-president than president," said DuBose Porter, a former Georgia Democratic chairman who has known the Carters for decades. "Of course he's done amazing things at the Carter Center, but he did great things for the country, and we're proud of it."



## Female lawmakers speak about rapes as abortion bills advance

By **JULIE CARR SMYTH** and **CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY** Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — For more than two decades, Nancy Mace did not speak publicly about her rape. In April, when she finally broke her silence, she chose the most public of forums — before her colleagues in South Carolina's legislature.

A bill was being debated that would ban all abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected; Mace, a Republican lawmaker, wanted to add an exception for rape and incest. When some of her colleagues in the House dismissed her amendment — some women invent rapes to justify seeking an abortion, they claimed — she could not restrain herself.

"For some of us who have been raped, it can take 25 years to get up the courage and talk about being a victim of rape," Mace said, gripping the lectern so hard she thought she might pull it up from the floor. "My mother and my best friend in high school were the only two people who knew."

As one Republican legislature after another has pressed ahead with restrictive abortion bills in recent months, they have been confronted with raw and emotional testimony about the consequences of such laws. Female lawmakers and other women have stepped forward to tell searing, personal stories — in some cases speaking about attacks for the first time to anyone but a loved one or their closest friend.

Mace is against abortion in most cases and supported the fetal heartbeat bill as long as it contained the exception for rape and incest. She said her decision to reveal an attack that has haunted her for so long was intended to help male lawmakers understand the experience of those victims.

"It doesn't matter what side of the aisle you are on, there are so many of us who share this trauma and this experience," Mace said in an interview. "Rape and incest are not partisan issues."

Personal horror stories have done little to slow passage of bills in Georgia, where a lawmaker told about having an abortion after being raped, or Alabama, where the governor this week signed a law that bans all abortions unless they are necessary to save the life of the mother.

In Ohio, a fetal heartbeat bill passed even after three lawmakers spoke out on the floor about their rapes — among them State Rep. Lisa Sobecki, who argued for a rape exemption by recounting her own assault and subsequent abortion.

It was gut-wrenching, the Navy veteran said, but her decision to speak out was validated the next day when she was approached in the grocery store by a man in his 70s, whose wife of 41 years had read of her account that morning in the local newspaper. The story prompted his wife to tell him for the first time that she also had been raped.

"It's not just our stories," Sobecki said. "It's giving voice to the voiceless, those that haven't felt for a very long time that they could tell their stories and be heard."

Four years ago, when a previous fetal heartbeat bill was being debated, state Sen. Teresa Fedor, then a state representative, surprised colleagues with her story of being raped while in the military and having an abortion. She felt compelled to share the story again this year when the issue resurfaced.

"It's not something you like to focus on," the Toledo Democrat said. "And it didn't seem to have an impact in stopping the effort, so that's the sad part."

The governor signed the bill, without exceptions for rape or incest.

Ohio state Rep. Erica Crawley, a Democrat representing Columbus, said she didn't intend to share the story of her sexual assault when floor debate on the heartbeat bill began. But she said she was motivated by a Republican colleague who alleged that witnesses at committee hearings on the bill had exaggerated or fabricated their stories.

"I wanted them to know that I'm someone you have respect for, and this has happened to me," she said.

Crawley felt she had no choice but to speak out: "Because if I stay silent, I feel like I'm complicit."

Kelly Dittmar, an expert on women and politics at Rutgers University, said she would not be surprised if even more female lawmakers begin to speak out about their rapes and abortions. More women feel empowered by the #MeToo movement, she said, and the record number of women who won seats in state legislatures last year gives them a greater voice.

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"For some women who have healed enough in their own personal battles with this type of abuse, they might be comfortable speaking about this publicly because they see a higher purpose for it," she said.

One such woman is Gretchen Whitmer. In 2013, she was minority leader in the Michigan state Senate when she spoke against a Republican-backed effort to require separate health insurance to cover abortion.

Seven minutes into her floor speech, a visibly upset Whitmer put down her notes and told her colleagues that she had been raped more than 20 years earlier and that the memory of the attack continued to haunt her. She thanked God that she had not become pregnant by her attacker.

In an interview this week, the Democrat said her decision to share her story was the right one. After her testimony, her office received thousands of emails from people thanking her.

"That was the thing that bolstered me the most and convinced me that I had to continue speaking out and running for office and taking action," she said. "There are a lot of victims and survivors out there who care, who need to be heard, who need to be represented and who need the law to reflect what we want and need to see in our country."

Earlier this week, Michigan's Republican-led Legislature passed two bills to restrict abortions and sent them to the governor.

That governor is now Whitmer. She said she will veto both of them.

Cassidy reported from Atlanta.

Follow Julie Carr Smyth at <http://www.twitter.com/jcarrsmyth> and Christina Cassidy at [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Christina](http://twitter.com/AP_Christina)

## France's Macron forced to curb his ambitions for Europe

By SYLVIE CORBET and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron sees himself as Europe's savior and this week's European Parliament elections as a make-or-break moment for the beleaguered European Union.

But Macron is no longer the fresh-faced force who marched into a surprising presidential victory to the rousing EU anthem two years ago. His pro-Europe vision has collided with populists and national interests across the continent. And at home, his political vision has given rise to France's raucous yellow vest uprising over his government's pro-business policies.

Macron wanted the May 23-26 European Parliament elections to be the key moment that he could push his ambitions for a stronger Europe — but instead, nationalists and populists who criticized the 28-nation bloc could achieve unprecedented success.

They argue that EU leaders have failed to manage migration into the continent and remain out of touch with ordinary workers' concerns.

"We have a crisis of the European Union. This is a matter of fact. Everywhere in Europe, when you look at the past five to six years, in our country but in a lot of countries, all the extremes, extreme-rights, are increasing," Macron said Thursday, making an unexpected appeal for European unity on the sidelines of a technology trade show.

"On currency, on digital, on climate action, we need more Europe," he said. "I want the EU to be more protective of our borders regarding migration, terrorism and so on, but I think if you fragment Europe, there is no chance you have a stronger Europe."

In person, the 41-year-old Macron comes across as strikingly, sincerely European. A political centrist, he's at ease quoting Greek playwrights, German thinkers or British economists. France's youngest president grew up with the EU and has been using the shared European euro currency his whole adult life, and sees it as Europe's only chance to stay in the global economic game.

Macron has already visited 20 of the EU's 28 countries in his two years in office, and while he acknowledges the EU's problems, he wants to fix the bloc — not disassemble it.

Macron won the 2017 presidential election over France's far-right, anti-immigration party leader Marine

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Le Pen on a pledge to make Europe stronger to face global competition against the United States and China. Since then, he's had to make compromises with other EU leaders — and clashed with some nations where populist parties govern, from Poland to neighboring Italy.

Four months after his election, Macron outlined his vision for Europe in a sweeping speech at Paris' Sorbonne university, calling for a joint EU budget, shared military forces and harmonized taxes.

But with Brexit looming and nationalism rising, Macron has had to reconsider his ambitions. He called his political tactics with other EU leaders a "productive confrontation."

"In Europe, what is expected from France is to clearly say what it wants, its goals, its ambitions, and then be able to build a compromise with Germany to move forward" with other European countries, Macron said last week.

Macron stressed that despite her initial reluctance, German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed last year to create a eurozone budget they hope will boost investment and provide a safety mechanism for the 19 nations using the euro currency.

In March, Macron sought to draw support for a Europe of "freedom, protection and progress" with a written call to voters in 28 countries to reject nationalist parties that "offer nothing."

And he proposed to define a roadmap for the EU by the end of this year in a discussion with all member nations and a panel of European citizens.

"There will be disagreement, but is it better to have a static Europe or a Europe that advances, sometimes at different paces, and that is open to all?" he asked.

France and Germany are the two heavyweights in Europe, and Macron can also count on cooperation from pro-European governments of Belgium, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and others.

He has made a point, however, of not yet visiting Hungary or Poland, two nations led by populist leaders whom Macron accused last year of "lying" to their people about the EU.

France has also been entangled in a serious diplomatic crisis with Italy over migration into Europe. Italy's anti-migrant Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has repeatedly criticized Macron and is backing his rival Le Pen's National Rally party in the election this week that aims to fill the European parliament's 751 seats.

Macron has little chance to repeat Europe-wide what he did in France: rip up the political map by building a powerful centrist movement that weakened the traditional left and right.

The campaign for Macron's Republic on the Move party is being led by former European Affairs Minister Nathalie Loiseau under a banner called "Renaissance." The party wants to associate with the pro-market ALDE alliance to create new centrist group at the European Parliament.

But across the continent, the centrists are not expected to come out remotely on top but rank third or even lower behind the parliament's traditional two biggest groups, the right-wing European People's Party and the left-wing Socialists and Democrats group.

Even at home, Macron is far from certain of being able to claim victory in the European vote. Polls suggest his party will be among France's top two vote-getters in the election, which takes place in France on May 26.

But its main rival, the far-right National Rally party, is determined to take revenge on Macron beating Le Pen so decisively in 2017.

Macron's political opponents across the spectrum are calling on French voters to seize the European vote to reject his government's policies.

While he won 64% of the presidential vote in 2017, French polls show that Macron's popularity has been around half that for the past year.

It reached record lows when France's yellow vest movement broke out last fall, demanding relief from high taxes and stagnant wages for French workers, then slightly rose as extensive violence during yellow vest protests, especially in Paris, dampened support for the movement's cause.

Still, the yellow vests are not going away. New protests against Macron and his government are planned for the EU election day.

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Catherine Gaschka in Paris contributed to the story

For more news from The Associated Press on the European Parliament elections, go to <https://www.apnews.com/EuropeanParliament>

## Van passenger impaled by tripod on California freeway

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Authorities say somebody stole a tripod from a California Department of Transportation crew and then dropped it from an overpass onto a Sacramento freeway, impaling the lung of a passenger in a van.

The driver of the van, Tim Page, tells KCRA-TV that he was on Interstate 5 Thursday morning when the yellow-and-red tripod smashed through the glass. He says it went through his passenger's lung and popped out.

The man survived but with broken ribs and a partially punctured lung.

Authorities say a 32-year-old man they suspect threw the tripod was arrested on a warrant but may face a charge of attempted murder.

Page volunteers with El Dorado Veteran Resources and had picked up his passenger, another veteran, from the airport.

## Police ID teen tackled after bringing gun to Oregon school

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Police released the identity Saturday of an 18-year-old student who was tackled after reportedly bringing a gun into classroom at an Oregon high school.

Angel Granados Dias had been booked into the Multnomah County Detention Center on suspicion of possessing a firearm in a public building, attempting to shoot a gun at a school and reckless endangerment, the Portland Police Bureau said.

He is a student at Parkrose High School, where he brought the shotgun Friday, authorities said. Witnesses told The Oregonian/OregonLive that he appeared distraught when he appeared at the door to their government class and pulled the weapon from beneath a long black trench coat, and that a football and track coach who also works security at the school, Keanon Lowe, tackled him before anyone got hurt. Lowe is a former football standout at the University of Oregon.

It wasn't immediately clear if Granados Dias had a lawyer. He was being held on \$500,000 bail and was scheduled to appear in Multnomah County Circuit Court on Monday. There were no other suspects.

In a letter to families Friday evening, Parkrose School District Superintendent Michael Lopes Serrao said two students had informed a staff member of "concerning behavior" by the student who brought the gun. Security staff then responded, found him and quickly disarmed him, he said.

"Thanks to their heroic efforts all students and staff are safe," Lopes Serrao wrote.

Lowe posted on Twitter Saturday that he was thankful the students were safe, and that he hopes to be part of the solution to gun violence in schools.

"When confronted with the test the universe presented me with, I didn't see any other choice but to act," Lowe wrote. "Thank God, I passed. I've spent the last 24 hours being more appreciative of my family and realizing we have a serious problem."

Police spokesman Sgt. Brad Yakots declined to confirm Lowe's reported involvement.

Yakots said the first responding officers found the gunman being detained by the staff member in the hallway. A firearm was recovered at the school, he added.

Parkrose was evacuated, and a nearby middle school was on lockdown for several hours as the investigation unfolded. The high school students were bused to a nearby parking lot where they were reunited with their parents.

The outcome was "the best-case scenario, absolutely," Yakots said. "The staff member did an excellent job by all accounts, (and) our officers arrived within minutes and went right in."



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Students recounted how the student entered their government class in the school's fine arts building — separate from the main building — just before noon. Lowe had been in the classroom earlier looking for the student.

About 10 minutes before the end of class, the student appeared in the doorway in a black trench coat and pulled out a long gun from beneath his coat, senior Justyn Wilcox, who also was in the room, told The Oregonian/OregonLive.

The student didn't point the gun at anyone, senior Alexa Pope said.

Students fled out the back door because the gunman was blocking the main doorway.

"As I was running, I was just like, 'Lord don't let this be it,'" Pope told the newspaper.

In college, Lowe was a star wide receiver at the University of Oregon, playing from 2011 to 2014. He caught 10 touchdown passes in his college career and had nearly 900 receiving yards. He also saw playing time on special teams.

After college, he worked as an offensive analyst for the San Francisco 49ers and as an analyst for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Lowe began working at Parkrose last year as the school's head football and track and field coach, according to his LinkedIn profile. Before that, he worked for his high school alma mater, Jesuit High, where he earned state defensive player of the year as a defensive back and was a standout sprinter.

Students, parents and co-workers lauded Lowe's actions on Twitter. Several also noted that the school's prom, scheduled for Saturday, was still on.

Olivia Katbi Smith wrote on Twitter that she coaches track with Lowe at Parkrose and wasn't surprised to learn what he did.

"As soon as I heard what happened I knew it was him because he would do anything for these kids. It was surreal to be waiting for my athletes behind caution tape today, but might have been much worse if not for Keanon," she wrote.

Lopes Serrao said the student with the gun will not be returning to school and that school will resume on Monday as usual with an enhanced security presence.

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/gflaccus>

## War of Will wins Preakness featuring riderless running horse

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Mark Casse completed a lifelong quest two weeks after the scare of a lifetime. And he did so in a race featuring a riderless horse that threw his jockey out of the gate and kept running.

Since he was a child, Casse wanted to win a Triple Crown race, and the well-respected trainer got that victory when War of Will bounced back from a bumpy ride in the Kentucky Derby to win the Preakness on Saturday.

Casse, 58, was more relieved than anything that his prized 3-year-old colt didn't go down in the Derby, which could've been a multihorse catastrophe, and could finally take a deep breath following the Preakness.

"This is even I think probably more special given everything that we've been through," Casse said. "I'm not even calling it redemption. I didn't feel like he got his fair shot, and that's all I wanted — a fair shot. And he showed what he had today."

War of Will was unfazed starting from the inside No. 1 post position for the second consecutive race, even though that contributed to his rough run at Churchill Downs. Rising star jockey Tyler Gaffalione guided the horse along the rail in the Preakness and made a move into the lead around the final curve, holding off hard-charging late addition Everfast, who was a nose ahead of Owendale for second.

All the while, Bodexpress — after ejecting Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez — kept running around the Pimlico track and did an extra lap. An outrider tried to swoop in at the top of the stretch and corral Bodexpress, but the horse sped up and passed a few competitors near the finish line and kept going. Technically, Bodexpress gets a did-not-finish.

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"He wasn't behaving well," said Velazquez, who added he's fine and would not seek medical attention. "When the doors opened, I was off right from the start and he kind of jumped sideways, and I had my feet out sideways and I lost my balance and went out."

It was yet another bizarre scene in a Triple Crown season full of it.

Two weeks ago at the Kentucky Derby, apparent winner Maximum Security was disqualified for interfering with War of Will, and Country House elevated to first in the only on-track disqualification in the race's 145-year history. Casse was just thankful War of Will was healthy and decided to take his shot in the Preakness even though Maximum Security and Country House didn't run.

It was the first Preakness run without the Kentucky Derby winner since 1996, but the 13-horse field was the largest since 2011. Go back to 1951 for the last time the Preakness was run without the top four finishers from the Derby.

"This is the Preakness," Casse said. "We just won the Preakness. I really don't care who was in it."

Bob Baffert-trained Improbable was in it as the 5-2 favorite and finished a disappointing sixth. The Kentucky Derby and Preakness are the only races of Improbable's career that he didn't finish first or second.

"He just got mad and reared up," Baffert said of Improbable's antics in the starting gate. "After that, he was in a good spot. He just didn't kick."

War of Will had plenty of kick and put himself in position to become the first horse since Afleet Alex in 2005 and 19th all-time to fall short in the Derby but win the Preakness and Belmont. Winning the \$1.5 million Preakness by a 1¼ length over Everfast, who wasn't entered until Wednesday, was another illustration of War of Will's mix of talent and grit.

"He's got so much heart," Gaffalione said. "We always knew he had the ability. We just had to get a little bit lucky, and today was our day."

It's a breakthrough for Gaffalione, who has become something of a rising star since being named top apprentice rider in 2015. Gaffalione, 24, was aboard War of Will for the colt's sixth consecutive race and came away with the biggest victory of his young career.

"It really hasn't even hit me yet," said Gaffalione, who got advice Saturday morning from idol Jerry Bailey. "I can't even put it into words."

Casse had plenty of words after the contentious situation at the Kentucky Derby that spurred a lawsuit from Maximum Security owners Gary West and a 15-day suspension handed down to jockey Luis Saez. He took issue with West blaming War of Will and Gaffalione.

West took Maximum Security off the Triple Crown trail, but Casse was eager to get War of Will back on the track two years after Classic Empire finished second in the Preakness. With the sport in turmoil after the deaths of 24 horses at Santa Anita Park since Dec. 26 and an ongoing quarrel over the future site of the Preakness, Casse's first Triple Crown victory is a tale of redemption for him and the horse even if he doesn't want to call it that.

"I'm just very happy for Mark to get his first Classic win," Gaffalione said. "Very happy for the horse. He deserved it more than anything. He's so special."

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## Michigan GOP congressman says Trump conduct is 'impeachable'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican congressman from Michigan on Saturday became the first member of President Donald Trump's party on Capitol Hill to accuse him of engaging in "impeachable conduct" stemming from special counsel Robert Mueller's lengthy investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

But Rep. Justin Amash stopped short of calling on Congress to begin impeachment proceedings against

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Trump, which many Democrats have been agitating for.

Often a lone GOP voice in Congress, Amash sent a series of tweets Saturday faulting both Trump and Attorney General William Barr over Mueller's report. Mueller wrapped the investigation and submitted his report to Barr in late March. Barr then released a summary of Mueller's "principal conclusions" and released a redacted version of the report in April.

Mueller found no criminal conspiracy between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia, but left open the question of whether Trump acted in ways that were meant to obstruct the investigation. Barr later said there was insufficient evidence to bring obstruction charges against Trump.

Trump, who has compared the investigation to a "witch hunt," claimed complete exoneration from Mueller's report.

Amash said he reached four conclusions after carefully reading the redacted version of Mueller's report, including that "President Trump has engaged in impeachable conduct."

"Contrary to Barr's portrayal, Mueller's report reveals that President Trump engaged in specific actions and a pattern of behavior that meet the threshold for impeachment," the congressman tweeted. He said the report "identifies multiple examples of conduct satisfying all the elements of obstruction of justice, and undoubtedly any person who is not the president of the United States would be indicted based on such evidence."

The Justice Department, which Barr leads, operates under guidelines that discourage the indictment of a sitting president.

A representative for Amash did not immediately respond to an email request to speak with the congressman.

Trump and Republican lawmakers generally view the matter as "case closed," as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., recently declared on the floor of the Senate.

On the other hand, Democrats who control the House are locked in a bitter standoff with the White House as it ignores lawmakers' requests for the more complete version of Mueller's report, the underlying evidence and witness testimony. Some Democrats want the House to open impeachment hearings, but Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has resisted, saying impeachment must be bipartisan.

Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., a freshman who opened her term by profanely calling for Trump to be impeached, applauded Amash.

"You are putting country first, and that is to be commended," Tlaib tweeted. Tlaib is seeking support for a resolution she's circulating calling on the House to start impeachment proceedings.

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## **Attorney: Ex-Ohio State football players among those abused**

**By MARK GILLISPIE Associated Press**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An attorney preparing a lawsuit against Ohio State University on behalf of more than 50 former athletes who claim they were sexually abused by a team physician told The Associated Press on Saturday that most of those clients were football players from the school's storied program, including some who went on to play in the NFL.

The proposed lawsuit suggests there were far more victims of Dr. Richard Strauss than investigators detailed in a 232-page report made public Friday by a law firm hired by the university. The report found that Strauss sexually abused at least 177 male students but made only one specific reference to football players while listing how many athletes from each team were abused.

Dayton attorney Michael Wright said Strauss' abuse of football players and other athletes he's representing occurred during required physical examinations at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center and during treatment for injuries and ailments at Strauss' off-campus clinic and at his home, where he insisted they be seen.

The firm's report said three football players were interviewed. Wright said he was not aware that any of his clients were interviewed by investigators from the Seattle-based Perkins Coie law firm.

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Strauss, a physician at Ohio State for nearly 20 years, killed himself in 2005 nearly a decade after he was allowed to retire with honors.

An Ohio State spokesman declined to comment.

Investigators found that Strauss' abuse went on from 1979 to 1997 and took place at various locations across campus, including examining rooms, locker rooms, showers and saunas. Strauss contrived, among other things, to get young men to strip naked and he groped them sexually.

The report concluded that scores of Ohio State personnel knew of complaints and concerns about Strauss' conduct as early as 1979 but failed for years to investigate or take meaningful action.

"It was known he was seeing these athletes and there were issues," Wright said.

Wright said he plans to file the lawsuit late next week and, for now, that his clients prefer to remain anonymous.

"Clearly they had good relationships with the university, and they believe the university will either retaliate or significantly distance themselves from these athletes," Wright said.

Some of Strauss' victims remain angry in the aftermath of the report's release about how Ohio State has treated them in the decades after he ogled and groped them during physical examinations and medical treatment.

Former nursing student Brian Garrett said he worked for a short time at an off-campus clinic Strauss opened after he was ousted at Ohio State in the late 1990s. But Garrett quit after witnessing abuse by Strauss and then experiencing it himself.

The investigation, he said, left him angrier than before.

"We knew that it was systemic and it had been reported," Garrett said Friday. "It's even more widespread than we knew."

Garrett compared the abuse carried out by Strauss to that of ex-Michigan State University sports doctor Larry Nassar, who was accused of molesting at least 250 women and girls and is serving what amounts to a life sentence in prison.

"We did not get to put him on trial. The police did not get to investigate. That's why it's worse than the MSU case," Garrett said. "He took the easy way out."

No one has publicly defended Strauss, though family members have said they were shocked by the allegations.

The whistleblower credited with prompting the investigation said in a statement he feels "vindicated" but has mixed feelings about the law firm's findings.

Mike DiSabato, a former Ohio State wrestler, met with school officials in March 2018 to discuss the abuse that he and other athletes suffered at the hands of Strauss, prompting the school to hire Perkins Coie to conduct an investigation.

"Although a weight has been lifted off my back, I am deeply saddened to hear and relive the stories of so many others who suffered similar abuse by Dr. Strauss while Ohio State turned a blind eye," DiSabato's statement said.

He says the Perkins Coie report gives him "courage and strength to keep fighting to ensure Ohio State is held accountable for the damage and trauma they caused me and my family."

Steven Snyder-Hill, who is "Student B" in the report, remains angry about the lack of cooperation he has received from Ohio State in obtaining records he finally received Friday. The report details how Strauss molested him during a student health center visit in 1995, prompting him to file a complaint with university medical officials.

"It feels like to me that the No. 1 concern (of Ohio State) is not the kids they're supposed to protect there," Snyder-Hill said. "Their No. 1 concern is their reputation. They need to convince us now that they're going to do the right thing in 2019."

Ohio State President Michael Drake said there was a "consistent institutional failure" at the school, the nation's third-largest university. He apologized and commended victims for their courage.

Nick Nutter, an All-American wrestler at Ohio State in the mid-1990s, said he hasn't had a chance to read the entire report, but said based on what he knows that Perkins Coie "did their homework well."



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"I was glad Drake didn't sugar coat it and took responsibility," Nutter said. "He's bearing the cross for past mistakes and that's admirable."

Nutter said Strauss molested him virtually every time he saw him for physical exams and treatment for the various injuries he received during his five years on the wrestling team.

He said he was taught to be respectful to authority figures like coaches and doctors, which made him the "perfect victim" for an abuser skilled at using his authority to abuse young men who didn't know any better.

Nutter said he knew what would happen when he needed treatment.

"Your co-pay is fondling," Nutter said. "I viewed every single injury like that."

Three federal lawsuits have been filed thus far against the university. Two of those suits are headed for mediation. A third was filed last week with five plaintiffs. They seek unspecified damages.

Drake said the investigation alone has cost the school \$6.2 million.

Separately, the U.S. Education Department's Office for Civil Rights is examining whether Ohio State responded promptly and fairly to students' complaints. The department could cut the university's federal funding if it is found to have violated civil rights protections.

## In clash with Congress, weak legal case may still help Trump

By JESSICA GRESKO and MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For all of President Donald Trump's talk of winning, his lawyers are using a legal argument that many scholars say is a pretty sure loser as his team tries to defy congressional attempts to investigate him. Yet they may end up delaying the investigations with their argument, and that could be a win in itself.

In courts in New York and Washington, Trump is attempting to beat back subpoenas by Congress to get financial records from accountants and banks Trump and his family do business with. His argument is that congressional Democrats are out to get him and that they have no "legitimate legislative purpose" in seeking his personal records.

Congressional investigations are legitimate only if there is legislation that might result from them, the lawsuits say in identical terms. "There is no possible legislation at the end of this tunnel," both suits claim.

So far a federal judge in Washington has seemed unimpressed with Trump's attempt to prevent Mazars USA, an accountant for the president and Trump Organization, from turning over subpoenaed records to Congress. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta held a hearing in the case Tuesday and could rule anytime on Trump's request.

Separately, a hearing is set for Wednesday in federal court in New York in a lawsuit Trump, his business and family have filed against Deutsche Bank and Capital One to prevent them from complying with subpoenas from the House Financial Services and intelligence panels for banking and financial records.

The court argument is part of a broader White House strategy to resist all congressional oversight following special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. "Congressional investigations are intended to obtain information to aid in evaluating potential legislation, not to harass political opponents," White House counsel Pat Cipollone wrote in a letter to House members Wednesday.

On Friday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he won't comply with a congressional subpoena for six years of Trump's tax returns. He cited the absence of a "legitimate legislative purpose" as his reason.

The White House approach finds little support among scholars who say Congress' authority to investigate is broad and that in the past century the Supreme Court has never found a problem with a congressional investigation for lack of legislative purpose. A 2017 report from the policy research arm of Congress found that "courts today generally will presume that there is a legislative purpose for an investigation."

Charles Tiefer, who served as a lawyer for Congress for 15 years, said lawyers have given up on making the kind of argument Trump's lawyers are making. Tiefer, now a University of Baltimore School of Law professor, described the argument as "one of those medieval notions that are not taken very seriously now."

But even if judges in both cases rule against Trump, he won't go down without a fight that might take

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months or even years of appeals to resolve. Ohio State law professor Peter M. Shane, who studies the separation of powers, described it as Trump's lawyers "trying to run out the clock until the election."

"Why should this misleading argument be any different from any other misleading argument?" Shane said, adding: "The reason they're not making stronger arguments is because stronger arguments aren't available to them."

Other legal fights over congressional attempts to obtain unredacted copies of Mueller's report and have administration officials testify also could get hung up in the courts long enough to spill over into the next presidential administration, whether it's Trump's second term or his successor's first. Past impasses between Congress and the executive branch that led to lawsuits that lasted for years.

Trump's defenders say his legal arguments are genuine and should be taken seriously. They chastise Congress for what they see as politically motivated investigations. Hans von Spakovsky of the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank likened the actions of House Democrats to hearings held by the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee in the 1950s that targeted people suspected of being Communists.

He pointed out that the Supreme Court has recognized limits on Congress' investigative power. The high court held in a 1957 case that Congress "doesn't have the constitutional power to expose for the sake of exposure," von Spakovsky said. The case, *Watkins v. U.S.*, was a criminal appeal in which the justices threw out a conviction against labor organizer John Watkins for refusing identify Communist Party members to lawmakers.

Elaine Kamarck, a scholar at the liberal Brookings Institution who worked in the Clinton White House, said the House subpoenas of Trump's banks and accountants are a world away from the McCarthy era's hunt for Communists.

Congress "is seeking information from a private party about the president of the United States and the possibility of some form of conflict of interest, to say it mildly, or corruption," Kamarck said.

## Austrian leader calls an early election amid video scandal

By DAVID McHUGH and KAMILA JAFARU Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz called Saturday for an early election after his vice chancellor resigned over a covertly shot video that showed him apparently promising government contracts to a prospective Russian investor.

Kurz said he would ask President Alexander Van der Bellen to set a date for a new election "as soon as possible."

Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache, head of the far-right, anti-immigrant Freedom Party which is in Austria's ruling coalition with Kurz's People's Party, had resigned earlier Saturday, a day after the video was published.

The video hit a nerve amid broader concerns about ties between Russia and right-wing populist parties critical of the European Union, the more so because the Freedom Party is part of a Western government. In 2016, Strache went to Moscow to sign a "cooperation pact" with the United Russia party, which is loyal to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Strache's resignation was also a black eye for the populist and nationalist forces who favor tighter European immigration policies. It came only a few days before the May 23-26 elections in 28 European Union nations to fill the 751-seat European Parliament. Nationalists and populists across Europe are competing to achieve a strong showing in that vote.

At a news conference late Saturday, Kurz said talks with other officials from the Freedom Party showed they were not willing to make the changes that Kurz felt were necessary to continue the current coalition. Kurz also said a possible coalition with the center-left Social Democrats would derail the government's program of limiting debt and taxes.

No date was immediately given for a new vote. Austria's public ORF television reported analysts saying the vote could take place in September.

Two German publications, the daily *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* and the weekly *Der Spiegel*, published extracts

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Friday of a covert video purportedly showing Strache during an alcohol-fueled evening on the Spanish resort island of Ibiza offering Austrian government contracts to a Russian woman, purportedly the niece of a Russian oligarch and interested in investing large amounts of money in Austria.

In his resignation statement Saturday, Strache apologized but said he was set up in a "political assassination" that illegally used surveillance equipment. He conceded his behavior in the video was "stupid, irresponsible and a mistake."

The publications declined to say where they got the video. In it, Strache and party colleague Johann Gudenus are heard telling the unnamed woman she could expect lucrative construction work if she bought Austria's Kronen Zeitung newspaper and supported the Freedom Party.

The 49-year-old politician said he had been in a state of "increasing alcohol intoxication" and had "behaved like a teenager" in an attempt to "impress the attractive host." He said he had had no further contact with the woman and she did not donate to his party.

Key topics in the EU elections have been debates over immigration, democracy and human rights after Europe faced an influx in 2015 of migrants and asylum-seekers from war-torn areas in the Mideast and Asia.

On one side are nationalist, anti-immigrant movements critical of the EU such as Austria's Freedom Party, the Alternative for Germany party, France's far-right National Rally and Italy's League party. They want to halt most immigration into Europe, especially from Muslim areas, and give more control back to national governments from EU headquarters in Brussels.

On the other side, pro-European movements such as continent's mainstream center-right and center-left parties see the EU parliament vote as a chance to reject populism and support European cooperation and integration.

In the video, Strache also appeared to suggest ways of funneling money to his party via an unconnected foundation to circumvent Austrian rules on political donations.

A spokesman for the opposition Social Democratic Party, Hannes Jarolim, has asked prosecutors to look into the video, the APA news agency reported. Jarolim reportedly claimed the statements in the video could constitute offenses or attempted offenses such as misuse of office, bribery and money laundering.

McHugh reported from Frankfurt, Germany.

## US: Iran military could misidentify airliners amid tension

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Commercial airliners flying over the Persian Gulf risk being targeted by "miscalculation or misidentification" from the Iranian military amid heightened tensions between the Islamic Republic and the U.S., American diplomats warned Saturday, even as both Washington and Tehran say they don't seek war.

The warning relayed by U.S. diplomatic posts from the Federal Aviation Administration, though dismissed by Iran, underscored the risks the current tensions pose to a region critical to both global air travel and trade. Oil tankers allegedly have faced sabotage and Yemen rebel drones attacked a crucial Saudi oil pipeline over the last week.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Iraqi officials said ExxonMobil Corp. began evacuating staff from Basra, and the island nation of Bahrain ordered its citizens out of Iraq and Iran over "the recent escalations and threats."

However, U.S. officials have yet to publicly explain the threats they perceive coming from Iran, some two weeks after the White House ordered an aircraft carrier and B-52s bombers into the region. The U.S. also has ordered nonessential staff out of its diplomatic posts in Iraq.

President Donald Trump since has sought to soften his tone on Iran. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also stressed Saturday that Iran is "not seeking war," comments seemingly contradicted by the head of the Revolutionary Guard, who declared an ongoing "intelligence war" between the nations.

This all takes root in Trump's decision last year to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers and impose wide-reaching sanctions. Iran just announced it would begin

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backing away from terms of the deal, setting a 60-day deadline for Europe to come up with new terms or it would begin enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels. Tehran long has insisted it does not seek nuclear weapons, though the West fears its program could allow it to build atomic bombs.

The order relayed Saturday by U.S. diplomats in Kuwait and the UAE came from an FAA Notice to Airmen published late Thursday in the U.S. It said that all commercial aircraft flying over the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman needed to be aware of Iran's fighter jets and weaponry.

"Although Iran likely has no intention to target civil aircraft, the presence of multiple long-range, advanced anti-aircraft-capable weapons in a tense environment poses a possible risk of miscalculation or misidentification, especially during periods of heightened political tension and rhetoric," the warning said.

It also said aircraft could experience interference with its navigation instruments and communications jamming "with little to no warning."

The warning comes 30 years after the USS Vincennes mistook an Iran Air commercial jetliner for an Iranian F-14, shooting it down and killing all 290 people onboard. That was not lost on Iran's mission to the United Nations, which dismissed the warning as America's "psychological war against Iran."

"There has never been a threat or risk to civilian air traffic in the Persian Gulf from Iran," mission spokesman Alireza Miryousefi told The Associated Press. "One cannot forget the fact that it was indeed a U.S. warship that wantonly targeted an Iranian civilian passenger aircraft. ... The U.S. has yet to apologize for that act of terrorism against Iranian civilians."

The Persian Gulf has since become a major gateway for East-West travel in the aviation industry. Dubai International Airport in the United Arab Emirates, home to Emirates, is the world's busiest for international travel, while long-haul carriers Etihad and Qatar Airways also operate in the region.

Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways all said they were aware of the notice and their operations were unaffected. Oman Air did not respond to a request for comment.

Speaking in China, where he finished a tour of Asian nations who rely on Mideast oil, Zarif told the state-run IRNA news agency that war is not what Iran wants.

"No war will occur as neither are we seeking a war nor anyone else has the illusion of being able to fight with Iran in the region," Zarif said.

Meanwhile, the head of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard reportedly said the U.S. and Iran already were in a "full-fledged intelligence war." The semi-official Fars news agency also quoted Gen. Hossein Salami using 9/11 as a metaphor for America's political system, describing it Saturday "like the World Trade Building that collapses with a sudden hit."

It isn't just air traffic affected. Lloyd's Market Association Joint War Committee added the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the United Arab Emirates on Friday to its list of areas posing higher risk to insurers. It also expanded its list to include the Saudi coast as a risk area.

In Iraq, ExxonMobil began evacuating staff from Basra amid the tensions with Iran, two Iraqi officials told The Associated Press. ExxonMobil works in Basra at its West Qurna I oil field, which had been shut off for years from Western oil firms over sanctions levied on Iraq during dictator Saddam Hussein's time in power.

The U.S. Consulate in Basra has been closed since September after American officials blamed Iran-aligned Shiite militias for a rocket attack on the post, which is inside Basra's airport compound. Basra as a whole has been shaken by violent protests in recent months over entrenched corruption and poor public services, which earlier saw Iran's Consulate there overrun and set ablaze.

ExxonMobil, based in Irving, Texas, said it declined to discuss "operational staffing."

Iraq is OPEC's second-largest Arab producer, pumping some 4.5 million barrels of crude oil a day.

Separately, the State Department acknowledged an unidentified drone flew over the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Thursday and the facility briefly went on alert, though it said the aircraft posed no threat.

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Associated Press writers Qassem Abdul-Zahra and Bassem Mroue in Baghdad, Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran, and Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

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## No longer in the dark: Navajo Nation homes get electricity

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

KAIBETO, Ariz. (AP) — Miranda Haskie sits amid the glow of candles at her kitchen table as the sun sinks into a deep blue horizon silhouetting juniper trees and a nearby mesa.

Her husband, Jimmie Long, Jr., fishes for the wick to light a kerosene lamp as the couple and their 13-year-old son prepare to spend a final night without electricity.

They're waiting for morning, when utility workers who recently installed four electric poles outside their double-wide house trailer will connect it to the power grid, meaning they will no longer be among the tens of thousands of people without power on the Navajo Nation, the country's largest American Indian reservation.

Haskie and Long are getting their electricity this month thanks to a project to connect 300 homes with the help of volunteer utility crews from across the U.S.

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority typically connects from 400 to 450 homes a year, chipping away at the 15,000 scattered, rural homes without power on the 27,000-square-mile (43,000-square-kilometer) reservation that lies in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

At that rate, it will take the tribal utility about 35 more years to get electricity to the 60,000 of the reservation's 180,000 residents who don't have it.

The couple's home at the end of rutted dirt roads outside the small town of Kaibeto was about a quarter-mile (0.4 kilometers) from the closest power line. Life disconnected from the grid in the high desert town dotted with canyons and mesas was simple and joyful but also inconvenient, they said.

"It's not that bad. Growing up, you get used to it, being raised like that," Long said.

The family's weekday routine included showering, cooking and charging cellphones, battery packs and flashlights at Haskie's mother's house 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) away, down dirt roads that turn treacherous in stormy weather.

Navajos without electricity also pack food or medication in coolers with ice or leave it outside in the wintertime. Children use dome lights in cars or kerosene lamps to do their homework at night. Some tribal members have small solar systems that deliver intermittent power.

No electricity typically means no running water and a lack of overall economic development. Creating the infrastructure to reach the far-flung homes on the reservation is extremely costly.

Hooking up a single home can cost up to \$40,000 on the reservation where the annual, per-capita income is around \$10,700 and half the workforce is unemployed, said Walter Haase, general manager of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

For the recent power hookup project called LightUpNavajo, the utility raised funds from an online campaign, collected donations from employees, businesses and communities, and used revenue from solar farms on the reservation to cover the utility's \$3 million cost. Money that isn't raised will be borrowed and the repayment passed on to customers via their rates, Haase said. The project started in March and ends this month.

The volunteer crews spent days on the reservation, learning about Navajo culture, the language and the landscape before setting out to job sites often hours away from their hotel rooms. Tribal utility crews had already performed much of the prep work, removing trees or stumps so the volunteers could focus on installing power poles and miles of electric line to connect homes.

A four-man crew from Piqua, Ohio, weathered rain, dust storms and sandy terrain that threatened to bury their equipment as they traveled through the western part of the reservation in Arizona earlier this month. They heard from families who have waited months, years and a lifetime to get power. Navajos showed their appreciation to the crews with feasts of fry bread, steaks and steamed corn.

"It's kind of crazy to think about the different things you take for granted on a daily basis," said Ken Wagner, a journeyman lineman for Piqua Power System. At an appreciation dinner, his crew received gifts of posters with traditional Navajo sayings, turquoise jewelry, shirts and mugs.

Among those getting electricity hookups were Vernon Smith and his wife, Bertha. They live in Salt Lake

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City but are preparing their home in Tuba City on the reservation for a move back. They became set on getting electricity when a kerosene lamp tipped over while she was napping and she feared the house would burn down.

The wait for electricity took three years, but Vernon Smith called that "a miracle."

"I couldn't believe it," he said in an interview, his face lighting up as he recalled seeing the whirling blades of a ceiling fan in his reservation home for the first time. "I didn't think I was going to get electricity that fast."

Haskie said she could live without electricity but that it's also exciting getting it.

"I can walk in, turn the light on without my son turning on the generator," she said.

She's crafted a wish list that includes a blender, a coffee maker, a juice maker, a stand-up mixer and an espresso machine. Eventually, she'll subscribe to cable TV.

The couple's son, Jayden, said he managed fine without power — using portable chargers for his cell-phone. Some days, he fired up a gas generator that was hooked up to the home's electric panel to watch TV or turn on the light in his bedroom.

But the generator's 5-gallon (19-liter) tank lasted less than a day and the cost of fuel meant it was used sparingly and mostly on the weekends.

He's looked forward to taking eggs, bacon, steak, pork chops and hamburgers out of a refrigerator to cook whenever he wants.

As of Thursday, the LightUpNavajo project hooked up 208 homes. Crews from 26 utilities in 12 states traveled to the reservation to help, installing 1,500 power line poles and more than 35 miles (56 kilometers) of electric lines.

The project was designed with a \$125,000 grant from the American Public Power Association. Mark Hyland, an association senior vice president, said the group and the tribal utility will consider repeating it on the Navajo Nation, or using it as a model for other reservations or rural areas.

On the morning that Haskie's and Long's home got power, journeyman lineman Justin Foutz with the Piqua utility slipped on a pair of gloves and grabbed an extendable, yellow tool to close a switch atop the utility pole and send power to the home.

"Coming in hot," he said.

A few minutes later, electrician Delbert Graham knocked on the trailer's door.

"Hey, you're energized," he said. "Go ahead and turn on your main breaker."

Using a flashlight inside the darkened house, Long flipped on the breaker, turned on the home's porch light and opened the door with a smile.

Then the crew loaded up their utility trucks and headed toward the small community of Coppermine, about an hour's drive down the next dirt road, to connect more homes.

## China's ban on scrap imports a boon to US recycling plants

By MARY ESCH Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The halt on China's imports of wastepaper and plastic that has disrupted U.S. recycling programs has also spurred investment in American plants that process recyclables.

U.S. paper mills are expanding capacity to take advantage of a glut of cheap scrap. Some facilities that previously exported plastic or metal to China have retooled so they can process it themselves.

And in a twist, the investors include Chinese companies that are still interested in having access to wastepaper or flattened bottles as raw material for manufacturing.

"It's a very good moment for recycling in the United States," said Neil Seldman, co-founder of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a Washington-based organization that helps cities improve recycling programs.

China, which had long been the world's largest destination for paper, plastic and other recyclables, phased in import restrictions in January 2018.

Global scrap prices plummeted, prompting waste-hauling companies to pass the cost of sorting and

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balancing recyclables on to municipalities. With no market for the wastepaper and plastic in their blue bins, some communities scaled back or suspended curbside recycling programs.

New domestic markets offer a glimmer of hope.

About \$1 billion in investment in U.S. paper processing plants has been announced in the past six months, according to Dylan de Thomas, a vice president at The Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization that tracks and works with the industry.

Hong Kong-based Nine Dragons, one of the world's largest producers of cardboard boxes, has invested \$500 million over the past year to buy and expand or restart production at paper mills in Maine, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

In addition to making paper from wood fiber, the mills will add production lines turning more than a million tons of scrap into pulp to make boxes, said Brian Boland, vice president of government affairs and corporate initiatives for ND Paper, Nine Dragons' U.S. affiliate.

"The paper industry has been in contraction since the early 2000s," Boland said. "To see this kind of change is frankly amazing. Even though it's a Chinese-owned company, it's creating U.S. jobs and revitalizing communities like Old Town, Maine, where the old mill was shuttered."

The Northeast Recycling Council said in a report last fall that 17 North American paper mills had announced increased capacity to handle recyclable paper since the Chinese cutoff.

Another Chinese company, Global Win Wickliffe, is reopening a shuttered paper mill in Kentucky. Georgia-based Pratt Industries is constructing a mill in Wapakoneta, Ohio that will turn 425,000 tons of recycled paper per year into shipping boxes.

Plastics also has a lot of capacity coming online, de Thomas said, noting new or expanded plants in Texas, Pennsylvania, California and North Carolina that turn recycled plastic bottles into new bottles.

Chinese companies are investing in plastic and scrap metal recycling plants in Georgia, Indiana and North Carolina to make feedstocks for manufacturers in China, he said.

In New Brunswick, New Jersey, the recycling company GDB International exported bales of scrap plastic film such as pallet wrap and grocery bags for years. But when China started restricting imports, company president Sunil Bagaria installed new machinery to process it into pellets he sells profitably to manufacturers of garbage bags and plastic pipe.

He said the imports cutoff that China calls "National Sword" was a much-needed wake-up call to his industry.

"The export of plastic scrap played a big role in facilitating recycling in our country," Bagaria said. "The downside is that infrastructure to do our own domestic recycling didn't develop."

Now that is changing, though he said far more domestic processing capacity will be needed as a growing number of countries restrict scrap imports.

"Ultimately, sooner or later, the society that produces plastic scrap will become responsible for recycling it," he said.

It has also yet to be seen whether the new plants coming on line can quickly fix the problems for municipal recycling programs that relied heavily on sales to China to get rid of piles of scrap.

"Chinese companies are investing in mills, but until we see what the demand is going to be at those mills, we're stuck in this rut," said Ben Harvey, whose company in Westborough, Massachusetts, collects trash and recyclables for about 30 communities.

He had a parking lot filled with stockpiled paper a year ago after China closed its doors, but eventually found buyers in India, Korea and Indonesia.

Keith Ristau, CEO of Far West Recycling in Portland, Oregon, said most of the recyclable plastic his company collects used to go to China. Now most goes to processors in Canada or California.

To meet their standards, Far West invested in better equipment and more workers at its material recovery facility to reduce contamination.

In Sarepta, Louisiana, IntegriCo Composites is turning bales of hard-to-recycle mixed plastics into railroad ties. It expanded operations in 2017 with funding from New York-based Closed Loop Partners.

"As investors in domestic recycling and circular economy infrastructure in the U.S., we see what China

has decided to do as very positive," said Closed Loop founder Ron Gonen.

## Flooding disrupts farm shipments on the Mississippi River

By MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Normally this time of year, huge barges can be seen chugging up the Mississippi River, carrying millions of tons of grain to market and bringing agriculture-related products to farmers in the Midwest for the new growing season. But there's not much barge traffic this year.

That's because historic spring flooding that swamped and tainted farmland, also left parts of the Mississippi closed for business.

The river, which runs nearly 2,350 miles (3,782 kilometers) from Minnesota's Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico, is a main conduit of shipping everything from agriculture products and construction material to petroleum and coal. The troubles on the Mississippi also have affected shipping on the waterways that feed into it, including the Missouri River.

The interruption is hitting an agriculture industry that's already suffering from a plethora of ills, including the Trump administration's trade disputes that have helped drive down commodity prices.

"You've got a perfect storm here," said Kenneth Hartman Jr., who grows corn, soybeans and wheat just south of Waterloo, Illinois. "It looks bad for us."

Like other farmers in more than a dozen states in the Mississippi River basin, Hartman would normally be sending soybeans, corn and other grain harvested last fall down the river, where it would eventually be exported — likely to China. Meanwhile, shipments of fertilizer that normally travel up the river to communities from St. Louis to St. Paul, Minnesota, haven't made it through.

The inability to get the grain down the river has exacerbated a shortage of space for those products.

"You have elevators that aren't even taking grain right now," Hartman said. "So that's causing issues as far as selling our grain in a timely manner."

Many of the locks and dams on the Mississippi that closed due to flooding that started in March have reopened, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers doesn't expect the river to be fully unimpeded until possibly June.

Even if the locks were open, "many of these barges wouldn't be able to get here anyway," said Sam Heilig, a Corps spokeswoman at Rock Island, Illinois. "Because the water's so high, there's not enough clearance to get under some of the bridges."

For now, it's impossible to put a number on how much the interruption has cost shippers, farmers and manufacturers. But Debra Calhoun, spokeswoman for the Washington-based advocacy group Waterways Council, said there's no doubt it's having an impact.

On average, nearly 31 tons (28 metric tons) of goods and commodities are shipped on the upper Mississippi River from March through May, according to a five-year average gauged by the Corps' Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center. The biggest slice of that, at nearly 11 million tons (10 million metric tons), is grain, followed by coal, sand and gravel and chemicals and petroleum products. Annually, about \$250 million in domestic goods are shipped on the Mississippi, according to the center.

The Missouri River has remained mostly navigable right up until it meets the Mississippi River at St. Louis, said James Rudy with the Corps' Kansas City office. While that allows shipping from point-to-point, it still disrupts shipments from farmers in South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri seeking to get their grain to exporters in the Gulf of Mexico, he said.

The Missouri River has far less barge traffic than the Mississippi, but it still sees on average more than 1.3 million tons worth nearly \$63 million shipped from March through May, according to the Corps.

The interruption in river traffic has a domino effect on other industries, particularly in transportation. The National Waterways Foundation estimates that one 15-barge tow on the Mississippi River can ship as much as six locomotives pulling 216 railcars, or as much as 1,050 large semitrailers. It also costs less to ship via the river, because barges can hold so much more and be moved using less fuel.

"One of our Missouri River navigators notes that his business on the Missouri alone removes somewhere



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from 60,000 to 80,000 tractor-trailers off of I-70 every year," Rudy said.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 19, the 139th day of 2019. There are 226 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 19, 1649, England was declared a republic by Parliament following the execution of King Charles I. (The monarchy was restored in 1660.)

On this date:

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded after being convicted of adultery.

In 1913, California Gov. Hiram Johnson signed the Webb-Hartley Law prohibiting "aliens ineligible to citizenship" from owning farm land, a measure targeting Asian immigrants, particularly Japanese.

In 1921, Congress passed, and President Warren G. Harding signed, the Emergency Quota Act, which established national quotas for immigrants.

In 1935, T.E. Lawrence, also known as "Lawrence of Arabia," died in Dorset, England, six days after being injured in a motorcycle crash.

In 1943, in his second wartime address to the U.S. Congress, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged his country's full support in the fight against Japan; that evening, Churchill met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House, where the two leaders agreed on May 1, 1944 as the date for the D-Day invasion of France (the operation ended up being launched more than a month later).

In 1962, actress Marilyn Monroe sang "Happy Birthday to You" to President John F. Kennedy during a Democratic fundraiser at New York's Madison Square Garden.

In 1981, five British soldiers were killed by an Irish Republican Army land mine in County Armagh, Northern Ireland.

In 1992, in a case that drew much notoriety, Mary Jo Buttafuoco of Massapequa, New York, was shot and seriously wounded by her husband Joey's teenage lover, Amy Fisher.

In 1993, the Clinton White House set off a political storm by abruptly firing the entire staff of its travel office; five of the seven staffers were later reinstated and assigned to other duties.

In 1994, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis died in New York at age 64.

In 2006, A key U.N. panel joined European and United Nations leaders in urging the Bush administration to close its prison in Guantanamo Bay, saying the indefinite detention of terror suspects there violated the world's ban on torture.

In 2017, former U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., whose penchant for sexting strangers ended his political career, pleaded guilty in Manhattan to a sex charge, tearfully apologizing for communications with a 15-year-old girl. (Weiner received a 21-month prison sentence.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama asked consumers to back his plan for higher efficiency standards for cars and trucks, saying drivers would make up the higher cost of cleaner vehicles at the gas pump.

Five years ago: The U.S. charged five Chinese military officials with hacking into U.S. companies' computers to steal vital trade secrets, intensifying already rising tensions. A federal judge threw out Oregon's same-sex marriage ban that had been approved by voters. Lucy Li, at age 11, became the youngest player to qualify for the U.S. Women's Open by winning the sectional qualifier at Half Moon Bay in California.

One year ago: Britain's Prince Harry wed American actress Meghan Markle in a service that reflected Harry's royal heritage and his bride's biracial roots, as well as their shared commitment to put a more diverse, modern face on the monarchy. Justify won the Preakness in foggy Baltimore, on the way to a Triple Crown sweep. Starbucks announced a new policy allowing anyone to sit in its cafes or use its restrooms, even if they don't buy anything; the policy came five weeks after two black men who hadn't bought anything were arrested at a Philadelphia Starbucks. First lady Melania Trump returned to the white House

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following a weeklong hospitalization for kidney treatment.

Today's Birthdays: PBS newscaster Jim Lehrer is 85. TV personality David Hartman is 84. Actor James Fox is 80. Actress Nancy Kwan is 80. Rock singer-composer Pete Townshend (The Who) is 74. Concert pianist David Helfgott is 72. Rock singer-musician Dusty Hill (ZZ Top) is 70. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Archie Manning is 70. Singer-actress Grace Jones is 68. Rock musician Phil Rudd is 65. Actor Steven Ford is 63. Actress Toni Lewis is 59. Rock musician Iain Harvie (Del Amitri) is 57. Actress Polly Walker is 53. Actor Jason Gray-Stanford is 49. Gospel singer Israel Houghton is 48. Rock singer Jenny Berggren (Ace of Base) is 47. Race car driver Dario Franchitti is 46. TV personality Kim Zolciak Biermann (TV: "Real Housewives of Atlanta") is 41. Country/rock singer Shooter Jennings is 40. Actor Drew Fuller is 39. Actor-comedian Michael Che (chay) (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 36. Christian rock musician Tim McTague (Underoath) is 36. Rock musician James Richardson (MGMT) is 36. Actor Eric Lloyd is 33. Pop singer Sam Smith is 27. Actor Nolan Lyons is 18.

Thought for Today: "The most exciting happiness is the happiness generated by forces beyond your control." — Ogden Nash, American poet (born in 1902, died this date in 1971).