

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 1 of 35

- 1- Memorial Day Services
- 1- Community Events
- 2- Doeden wins state 110m Hurdles
- 3- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column
- 4- Truss Pros Ad
- 5- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column
- 6- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 8- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 9- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 11- Today in Weather History
- 12- Weather Pages
- 15- Daily Devotional
- 16- 2019 Groton Events
- 17- News from the Associated Press



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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



Groton Post #39 2019 Memorial Day Services



The Groton Post #39 Legion will perform Military Rites on Memorial Day, May 27th 2019 as follows:

Huffton	7:30 am	The speaker at the Groton ceremony
James	8:15 am	will be Retired Air Force LTC Arden
Verdon	8:45 am	Dohman.
Bates/Scotland	9:15 am	A meal will be provided at the Groton
Ferney	10:00 am	Legion Post #39 immediately following
Groton	11:00 am	the cemetery ceremony.

In the case of inclement weather the rites will be performed by the honor Guard at the cemetery and the speaker will be at the Post building.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 2 of 35



Jonathan Doeden is the state champion in 110m Hurdles

Groton Area's Jonathan Doeden won the 110m hurdles at the state track and field meet held Saturday in Sioux Falls. We know there is more information out there, but we have not found it nor has it been given to us yet. (Photos by Jennifer Gustafson)



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 3 of 35



CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



The Weekly Windup

In my ongoing effort to make myself and my office as open and accessible as possible, I wanted to give you an update of my work in D.C. and in South Dakota. I hope you'll take the time to give me feedback on this new format by reaching out to one of my offices (<https://dustyjohnson.house.gov/>) or by finding me on social media @RepDustyJohnson!

It's Not Perfect – Washington is far from perfect, that's well known. Last week I was frustrated when the Speaker took three bipartisan bills that would lower drug pricing and paired them with three bills that bailout the failing portions of Obamacare. I voted against the package because Washington should stop pairing good legislation with poison pills that have no chance of becoming law.

Working Together – I've said this several times since coming to Congress – most members don't have horns and scales like I thought they would. If we are going to get things done, both parties must work together and work with President Trump, which is why I introduced multiple bills this week with my colleagues across the aisle. Along with Agriculture Committee Chairman Peterson, I introduced the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Integrity Act. The EPA has let oil refiners off the hook by circumventing congressional intent, putting ethanol producers and our agriculture communities at a disadvantage. This bipartisan bill ensures that moving forward, the EPA's waiver process will be fair, timely and transparent.

Constituent Spotlight – Meeting with South Dakotans is the best part of my job. This week the South Dakota Emergency Nurses Association came by and we discussed the amount of violence that nurses endure in the work place. The numbers of violent incidents are truly staggering, and we need to find a better way.

Weekly Windup – This week I teamed up with my colleague in the upper chamber, Senator Marco Rubio. We introduced the Rewarding Achievement and Incentivizing Successful Employees (RAISE) Act, which would allow employers to give merit-based compensation increases to their employees, even if those increases are not part of a collective bargaining agreement.

The RAISE Act would make wages set in union contracts a minimum floor, while giving employers the flexibility to reward employees for their hard work.

Great workers make businesses successful. When employers want to share profits with their hardest-working employees, regulations and union requirements shouldn't be allowed to stand in the way. The RAISE Act will provide employers flexibility to give hard-working employees a raise. Hard work should be rewarded, not discouraged.

Back Home – I spent last weekend honoring the heroic men and women who serve in our nation's military at the Sioux Falls Armed Forces Day ceremony – and even had the honor of sitting next to a Medal of Honor recipient. Later that afternoon, I spoke at the Disabled American Veterans annual convention and had a good conversation about how our nation's veterans serve as constant reminders of the importance of putting country first.

As I head back to South Dakota for an in-state work week, I'll be spending time with our state's high school athletes at the State Track Meet and will also be traveling to Vermillion, Milbank, Sisseton and Aberdeen. I hope you all take time to remember Americans who showed the truest measure of devotion to our country this Memorial Day. I look forward with sharing my thoughts with you in next week's update! You can find the very latest updates by following me on social media - @RepDustyJohnson.

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

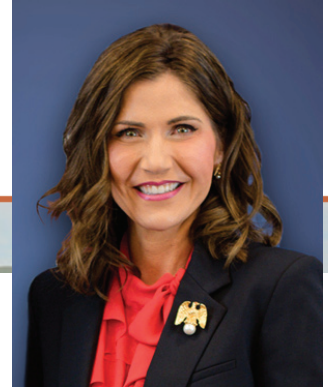
BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- Short-term Disability and Long-term Disability
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit www.uslbn.com/careers or call Diane at 605-448-2929.



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR **KRISTI NOEM**



Honoring Heroes

For many South Dakota families, Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start to summer as we wrap up graduation activities, attend the state track meet, or camp in one of our great State Parks.

While I am a big advocate for spending time with family, over the years, I think we have lost sight of why we celebrate Memorial Day, a day set aside to remember those who sacrificed everything to preserve our life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. It is because of this sacrifice that we get to spend quality time with our families.

I don't know what it's like to lose a family member to the trauma of war, but I do know how devastating it is for a child to lose a father. That is where my mind ultimately goes each Memorial Day: to the military children, spouses, parents, and friends who remind us that the price for freedom is high.

Last December, I was in Yankton for an activation ceremony. As I looked around that room, I saw little girls sitting on their daddy's laps. I saw parents holding their kids tight – some of them with tears rolling down their faces – as they sat there knowing that they would miss birthdays, or dance recitals. That they wouldn't be there when their little one scraped a knee or lost a tooth. But they answered the call anyway. They knew that freedom wasn't free, but still they answered the call to serve. To defend freedom. To protect liberty.

In a few months, I'll be there to welcome the Yankton Bravo Battery back to South Dakota. I look forward to that. But those ceremonies are always bittersweet, too, because they remind us of the soldiers who don't come home.

As governor, I'm committed to doing everything I can to honor our patriots – the ones who return to their families, and the ones who give their lives for freedom.

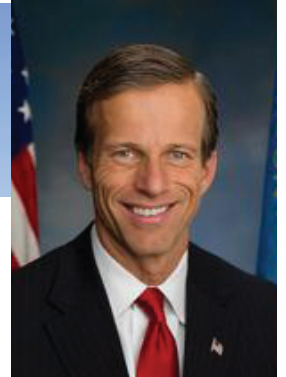
One way I'm doing that is through the construction of an East River Veterans Cemetery. I'm grateful for the groundwork Governor Dugaard did on this project, and I'm working closely with the City of Sioux Falls and the Legislature to push this across the finish line. The VA approved our bid design in mid-May, and if all goes well, we're hoping to break ground this Fall.

To me, this project isn't just about building another cemetery. This is a tribute to heroes. A place that will immortalize the sacrifices that have been made for our freedoms. A resting place for the ones who have sacrificed the most.

It is because of this sacrifice that we can wake up every single day in a free America. It is because of these brave men and women that our country continues to be a beacon of freedom to the world. These are true heroes who have dedicated their lives to something bigger than themselves: freedom, patriotism, and American values.

This Memorial Day, between the barbecues and campfires, take a moment to reflect on those who have given so much so we can be free.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



The Senate is Working for America

During his 1980 debate with then-President Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan famously asked Americans whether they were better off than they'd been four years earlier. That question has been a measuring stick for elected officials ever since. Republicans in Congress are committed to making life better for Americans. We've made great strides over the past two years, and there's more on the horizon.

After a historically slow economic recovery from the Great Recession, too many Americans were struggling. That's why Republicans passed a comprehensive reform of our outdated tax code to put more money in Americans' pockets and get our economy going again. We cut tax rates for families and doubled the child tax credit, and in 2018 the average family of four saw a tax cut of more than \$2,000.

The new tax law also made it easier for employers to grow and create jobs, and now we're seeing the results. The economy is thriving. Job creation is up. Wages are growing at the fastest pace in a decade. Personal income is up. Business investment is up. Tax reform is bringing workers more opportunities, bigger paychecks, and a better quality of life.

But that's not all we achieved. We expanded access to potentially life-saving experimental treatments for terminally ill patients. We passed the longest extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program in the program's history. And we passed multibillion-dollar, bipartisan legislation to combat the nationwide opioid epidemic and to bring hope to families and communities that have been devastated by this crisis.

We also enacted legislation to provide better education and training to workers. We passed bipartisan legislation to support clean energy technologies. And we passed a farm bill to support our nation's farmers and ranchers and protect our environment.

We're not done. Republicans are working right now to develop and pass policies that will continue to grow the economy, including the struggling agriculture economy, help address the cost of living, and improve quality of life.

We're committed to making tax relief for American families permanent. We're also working to open new markets for American goods and services so that American workers, American companies, and American agricultural producers can prosper. One big priority is passing the United States-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement, which would grow our economy and support 176,000 new U.S. jobs.

One burden that nearly every family has struggled with at some point is the high cost of health care. That's why Senate Republicans, led by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Chuck Grassley, are currently working on a number of measures to make health care more affordable, including legislation to reduce the cost of prescription drugs, increase access to lower-cost generic drugs, and address so-called surprise billing, those unexpected bills in the mail when it wasn't disclosed to you that, for example, your emergency room physician was not in your insurance network.

Another burden facing families is the cost of education. Republicans on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee are focused on passing legislation this year to make it easier to apply for federal student aid and to pay back student loans. We will also continue to support career and technical education and will work to further increase the usefulness of popular 529 savings plans.

Still another pressure facing families is the cost of retirement, and Republicans are currently working on legislation to make it easier to enroll in retirement plans, easier for small businesses to offer plans to their employees, and easier to move plans from job to job.

One bright spot for family budgets in recent years has been energy costs. Republicans are committed to making sure that energy bills stay affordable by supporting responsible energy development. We're also

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 7 of 35

committed to keeping our air clean and our environment healthy by investing in clean energy. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, under the leadership of Sen. John Barrasso, recently passed bipartisan legislation to increase the use of carbon capture technologies to reduce emissions. Senate Energy Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski recently introduced bipartisan legislation to support the development of next-generation reactors to boost the use of nuclear power, America's most significant source of clean energy.

Not all of these measures Republicans are working on get a lot of attention in the news. Many of our proposals don't have catchy names, and they certainly don't make unrealistic, pie-in-the-sky promises to the public. But what our proposals do have is the potential to continue to make life better for American families — to make paychecks bigger, the cost of living more reasonable, the air cleaner, retirement easier, and college more affordable.

Thanks to tax reform and other legislation we've enacted, families are doing better than they have in a long time. Republicans are going to keep working to ensure families do even better in the future.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 8 of 35



Honoring Those Who Wear the Uniform of the United States

Memorial Day is an opportunity for all of us to honor the brave Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. We are forever grateful to them for defending our freedoms and way of life in the United States. Our fallen service members deserve to be remembered and honored every day, and especially on Memorial Day.

Countless South Dakotans have served in the military since our state joined the nation, and we have a proud history of honoring their service and thanking their families for their sacrifice as well. Still to this day, when service members are deployed, communities join together to send them off. They also organize welcome home ceremonies to greet them upon their return.

Nearly every county in the state has at least one memorial honoring local veterans. In our state's capital city of Pierre, we have memorials honoring veterans from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War. The Capital Journal published a story recently about members of the Pierre/Fort Pierre Vietnam Era Veterans Association organizing a clean-up day to take care of the veterans' memorials near the State Capitol Building. I'm grateful for their efforts to keep the memorials in good shape for years to come. Their continued service to their community, their country and to the memories of their fellow service members is inspiring.

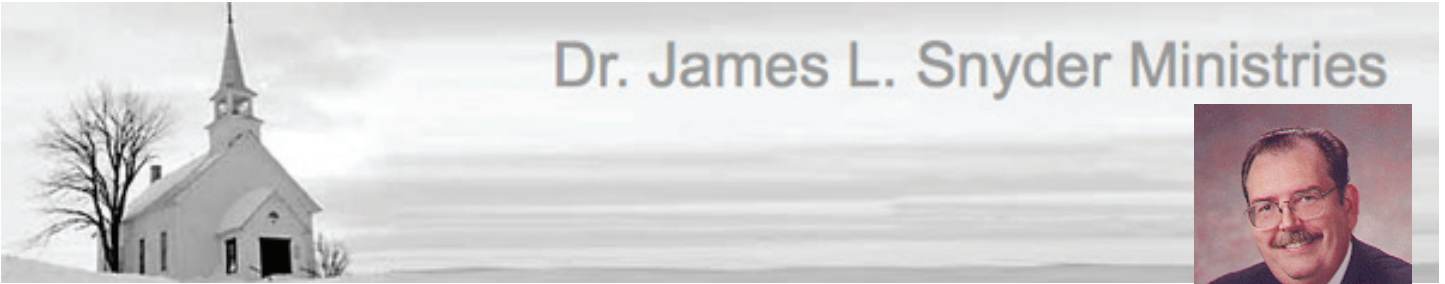
A new Vietnam veterans memorial was dedicated this April at the Black Hills National Cemetery, and I was honored to participate. It was a cold day and there was snow on the ground, but hundreds of veterans and their family members showed up to support their fellow veterans and fallen military members.

The Black Hills National Cemetery is a resting place for area veterans who have served. It was dedicated by the Army in 1948. Last year, Sen. John Thune, then-Rep. Kristi Noem and I worked to get legislation signed into law to permanently expand the cemetery. Now, the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota will be a resting place for veterans for many years to come. It was a small way for us to show our gratitude to the men and women who have served our country in the armed forces.

While Memorial Day honors those who paid the ultimate price serving our nation, we can also honor their sacrifice by taking proper care of our current military personnel. I have the honor of serving on both the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees in the Senate. On the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I continue working to make sure our veterans receive the care and benefits they have been promised following their service to our country. The Armed Services Committee focuses on making sure current military members have all the tools and resources they need to fulfill their duties and return home safely.

The Senate Armed Services Committee recently passed this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which included \$750 billion in defense spending to help our military continue to rebuild and modernize the force. We also included a pay raise for troops—the largest in a decade. The NDAA is one of the bills we work on each year that is consistently done on time and with strong bipartisan support. I look forward to continuing that tradition again this year.

It's so important we honor and recognize the lives of the military members we have lost. Our country would not be free if not for their sacrifices, and the sacrifices of all the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. Memorial Day is a special day to remember them.



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Eating Out Of My Comfort Zone

One pleasure the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and myself enjoy is going out for a quiet dinner together. It does not happen often, at least not often enough. When it does, it is always a delightful time and we try to take advantage of it.

The delight on my wife's side is that she does not have to cook the meal and then clean up afterwards. I have offered to help clean up, but only once and I am now forbidden to get anywhere near the dishwasher. And, for good reason.

Once in the early days of our marriage, I decided to surprise her by cooking supper for her. She spent the afternoon shopping with some friends and so I thought it was the proper time for me to do this.

Up until that time, I did not know how difficult cooking was. I've seen my grandmother do it and my mother and now my wife, so I thought it was a rather easy thing to do.

I must confess I have never studied these ladies while they were preparing the meal. I enjoyed the meal when it was done and that satisfied me.

I spent all afternoon that day preparing a very romantic dinner for us to enjoy together. The kids were at camp or somewhere so we had the house to ourselves. I worked very hard doing what I thought was cooking a nice meal.

As soon as my wife walked in the door, she stopped and said, "What is that awful smell? What are you burning?"

I must confess that the kitchen was filled with smoke and I am not sure the source. What I was cooking that night escapes me at this point, but I thought I put enough time, thought, and it to do it properly.

The whole meal that night was a complete and perfect disaster. I know there is nothing perfect, but this came as close to perfect as I have ever seen.

I must confess there was a nice balance to that meal. Some was undercooked and some overcooked. If you balance them together, maybe something comes out right, I am not sure. Nothing, however, met the standard that my wife upholds in the culinary department. All the appliances in the kitchen were shocked by a disaster they had never seen before. And, never since, because I am banned from cooking in the kitchen.

The only thing I can do in the morning his turn the coffee pot on, that is the limit to my kitchen activities.

As we were sitting at our table at the restaurant, I was smiling. My wife looked at me and said, "Okay, what are you smiling about?"

I have never brought it up since that time and I was very hesitant about doing it now. Upon her insistence, I told her I was thinking about the time I cooked her dinner.

She stared at me for a few moments and then burst out in hilarious laughter.

"I don't think," she said between laughter, "you cooked anything that night except your goose."

That is the only expertise I have, I suppose, cooking my own goose.

We chuckled about that as we looked at the menu to see what we were going to order. Everything on the menu sounded delicious. Of course, we had worked all day and so were quite hungry and I suppose anything would look delicious at that point.

The waitress brought us our drinks, I had coffee and she had lemon tea, and we went back to studying the menu.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 10 of 35

It was then that I noticed something. It had never crossed my mind until this point. I'm rather observant in life, particularly noticing the little things. But this night I was shocked.

Staring at the menu my mouth dropped open, my eyes expanded to their limit. At that moment, my wife looked at me and said, "What's wrong?"

I finally was able to say something and conveyed to her nothing was wrong and I was okay. She knew better. My mouth was still open and my eyes were still bulging.

Then I heard some laughter across the table. I looked up and she was laughing one of her laughs that I knew had to do with me.

"Have you decided what you going to order yet?"

I muttered, stuttered and said nothing at that point.

"I know what's wrong," she giggled.

"Nothing's wrong," I tried to convince her.

"You mean to tell me," she said between giggles, "that you have not noticed the prices on this menu?"

Finally, putting the menu down I confessed I had noticed the prices and could not believe how expensive everything was. I did not know what to do, we were out to enjoy the evening together and I was in a predicament.

"You know," she said quietly, "there's a pizza shop around the corner. Maybe we could go there tonight."

If anybody can read my mind, it is my wife. We paid for the coffee and tea, went to the pizza shop around the corner, and really, I mean really, enjoyed ourselves.

Driving home that night I thought of what the apostle Paul said. "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

The best part of a night out is not how much the meal costs, but who you are sharing it with.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 11 of 35

Today in Weather History

May 26, 1983: Unofficial rainfall of up to 5 inches caused widespread flooding of basements and streets in and near Aberdeen. Only 1.72 inches of rain was reported at the Aberdeen airport.

May 26, 1985: Hail of unknown diameter was five inches deep, 1 mile north of Rosholt. Some hail remained on the ground until the following morning.

May 26, 1992: A widespread frost and hard freeze hit most of South Dakota except portions of the south-east causing up to \$14 million in potential crop losses to growing corn, soybeans, wheat, and other crops. Some low temperatures include; 23 degrees 12 miles SSW of Harrold; 26 at one mile west of Highmore and 23 north of Highmore; 27 in Kennebec; and 28 degrees 1 NW of Faulkton and at Redfield.

1771: Thomas Jefferson recorded the greatest flood ever known in Virginia. The great Virginia flood occurred as torrential rains in the mountains brought all rivers in the state to record high levels. Click [HERE](#) to read Jefferson's entry in his Garden Book.


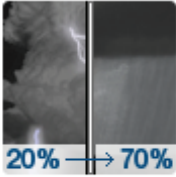
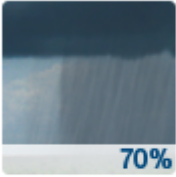
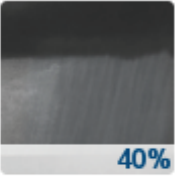

1917: A major tornadic thunderstorm took a 293-mile track across parts of central Illinois and Indiana. Once believed to be a single tornado, the later study indicated it was likely at least eight separate tornadoes. The first touchdown was about 50 miles south-southeast of Quincy, Illinois. The tornadic storm tracked due east, before beginning a northeast curve near Charleston; separate tornadic storms then curved southeast from Charleston. The towns of Mattoon and Charleston bore the brunt of the tornado. Damage from this severe tornado in Mattoon was about 2.5 blocks wide and 2.5 miles long, with over 700 houses destroyed, while the Charleston portion was 600 yards wide and 1.5 miles long, with 220 homes damaged. Dozens of farms were hit along the path, and at least three farm homes were swept away between Manhattan and Monee. Another estimated F4 tornado touched down 6 miles south of Crown Point and devastated a dozen farms. A total of 7 people died, and 120 were injured. 53 people were killed in Mattoon, and 38 were killed in Charleston. Overall, 101 people in Illinois were killed during the tornado outbreak, with 638 injured.

2003: A BMI Airbus bound for Cyprus from Manchester, England encountered a violent thunderstorm over Germany. The plane bounced and twisted violently as it ran into severe turbulence with huge hailstones pounding the exterior. A football-sized hole was punched in the aircraft's surface. None of the 213 passengers or eight crew members was seriously hurt.

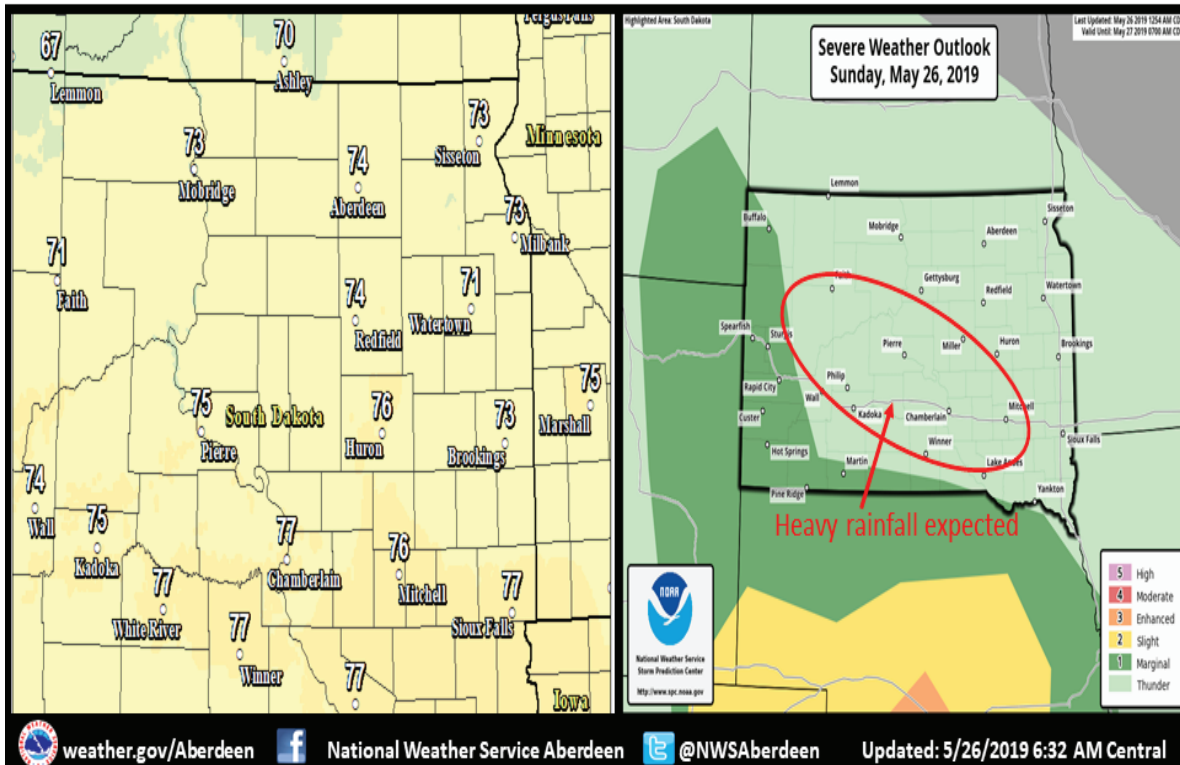
2009: Northeast of Anchorage, Alaska, two hikers climbed a ridge to see a developing storm better. Lightning knocked the couple unconscious. Regaining consciousness, they called emergency services as the woman was unable to walk. The man's shoes looked as though they had melted.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 12 of 35

Today	Tonight	Memorial Day	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Mostly Sunny	20% → 70%	70%	40%	40%
	Slight Chance T-storms then Showers Likely	Showers Likely and Breezy	Chance Showers	Chance Showers
High: 73 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 63 °F

Another Mild Day – Showers And Storms Sunday Night



Sunday starts out mild, with temps reaching the mid-70s this afternoon. Storms are expected to move into the region later Sunday evening and continue through Tuesday evening. The potential for severe remains low for our region, however heavy rain will still be a concern with this system. Some areas in central SD can expect 2-3 inches over the 48 hour period.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 13 of 35

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 67 °F at 5:48 PM

Low Temp: 46 °F at 5:41 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 10:31 AM

Day Rain: Trace

Today's Info

Record High: 97° in 2018

Record Low: 30° in 1992

Average High: 71°F

Average Low: 48°F

Average Precip in May.: 2.53

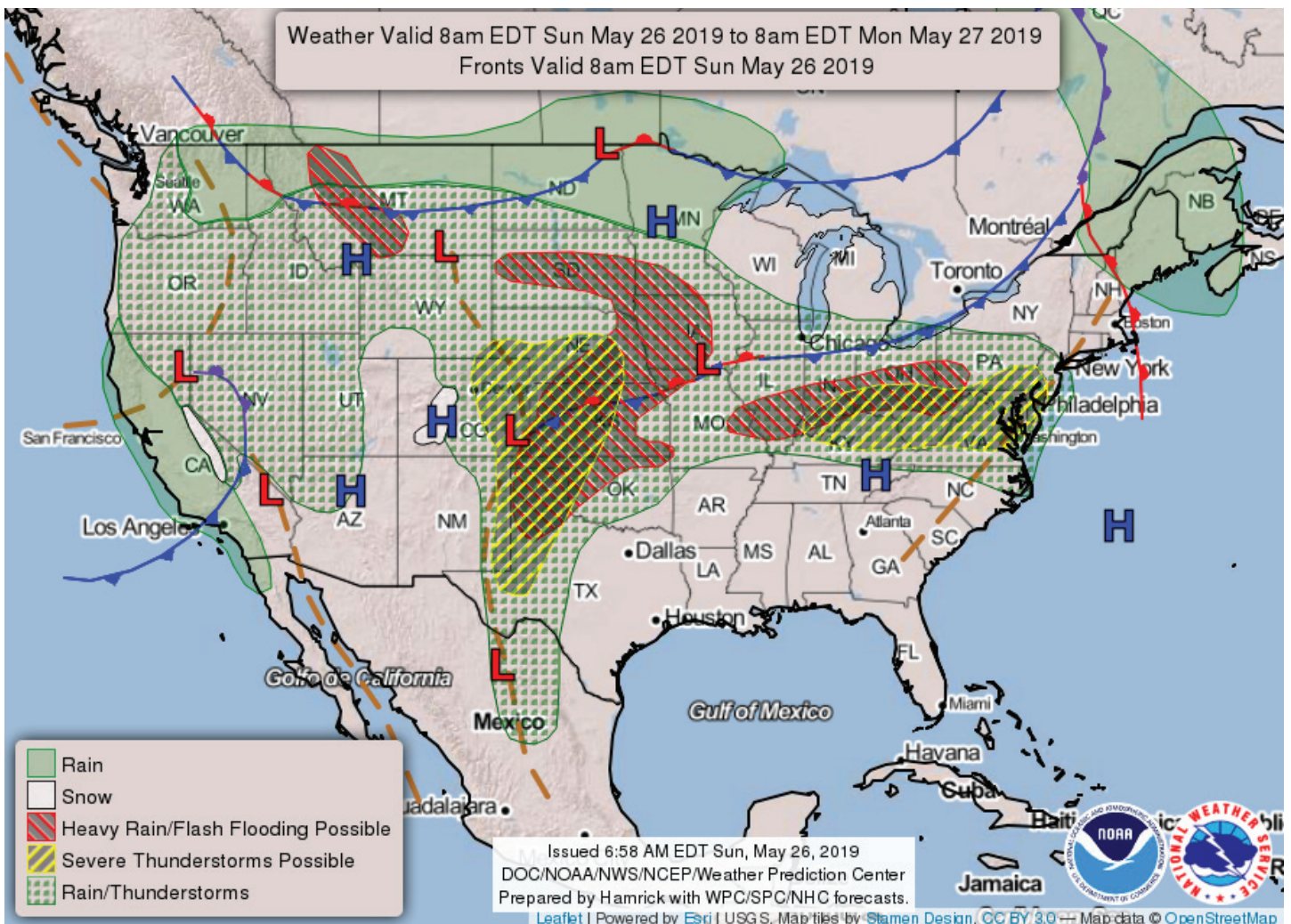
Precip to date in May.: 3.26

Average Precip to date: 6.56

Precip Year to Date: 7.97

Sunset Tonight: 9:09 p.m.

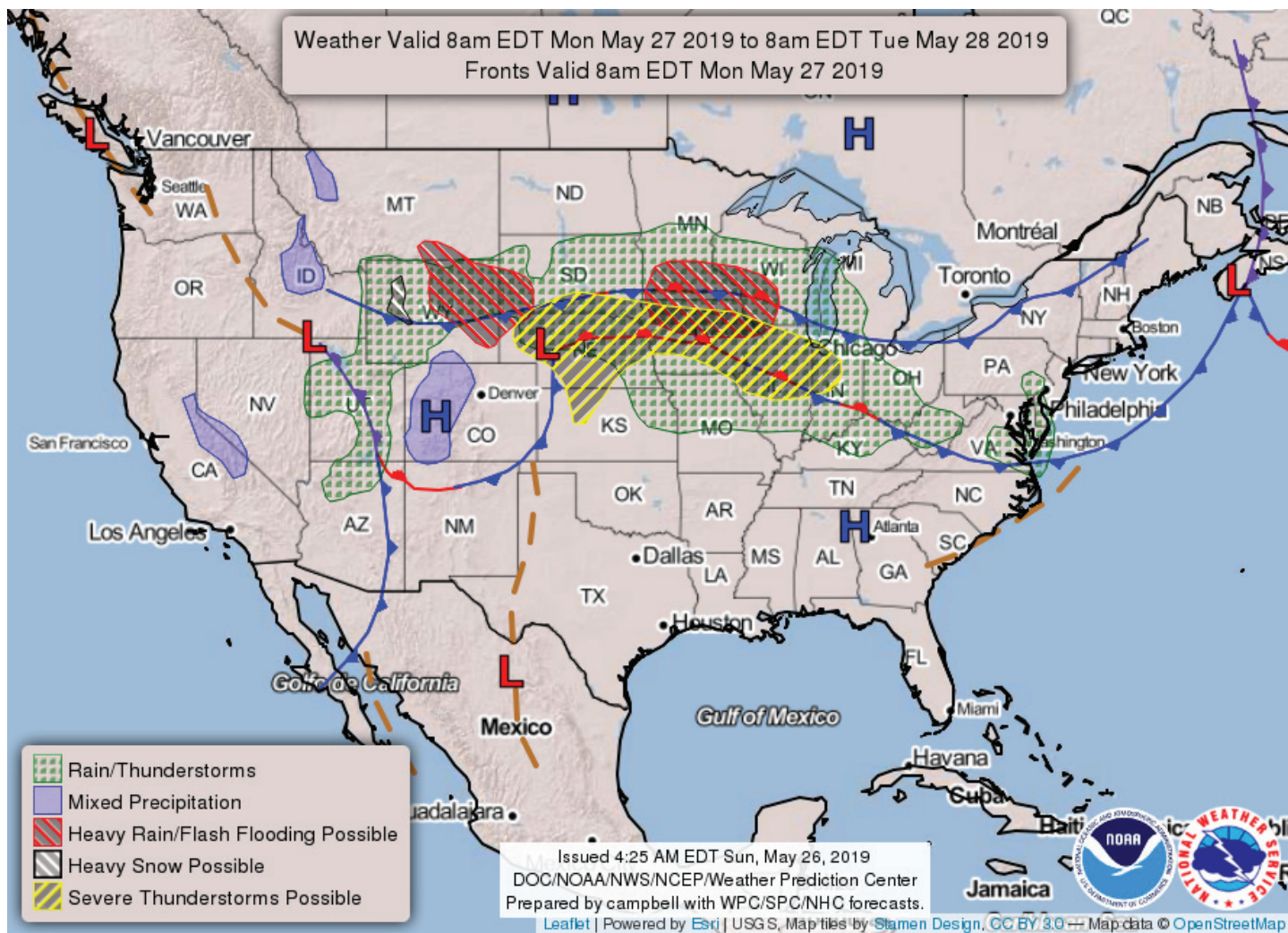
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:52 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 14 of 35

Tomorrow's Weather Map



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 15 of 35



NO ONE CAN ESCAPE

Proverbs 15 contains fifteen references to the tongue. Between two of the references, verses two and four, we come across another word that is important in the process of communication: eyes. Although we do not ordinarily think of the eyes as part of the communication process, but in this verse it is: The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

One of the words we use to describe the nature of God is omniscient. It means that God is all knowing, all wise, and all seeing. Used in this verse, the eyes of the Lord, implies that God sees what we say. Scripture, very clearly and frequently, teaches us that God knows everything. His Word emphasizes this fact. So, we need not wonder if He can actually see what we say.

It is almost frightening to reflect on keeping watch on the wicked and the good. Keeping watch made me think of the stories my brother and sisters often told me: Be careful! Mom has eyes in the back of her head. In other words, her face may be looking in one direction, but that does not mean she cannot see what is going on when she is not looking.

The author of Hebrews reminds us that Nothing in all creation is hidden from Gods sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

We must never fool ourselves because we are His children and expect favors if we are disobedient to His Word. Everyone is accountable to Him for everything and anything!

Prayer: Lord, may we be mindful that You watch us closely and do our best to please You. Empower us to be obedient to Your Word and expectations. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 16 of 35

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)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 17 of 35

News from the  Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

01-06-07-14-32

(one, six, seven, fourteen, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$430,000

Lotto America

04-16-28-45-51, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 5

(four, sixteen, twenty-eight, forty-five, fifty-one; Star Ball: eight; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$20.21 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$418 million

Powerball

01-02-39-43-66, Powerball: 2, Power Play: 3

(one, two, thirty-nine, forty-three, sixty-six; Powerball: two; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$308 million

Rapid City man missing since March found dead

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police say a Rapid City man missing for more than two months has been found dead of an apparent suicide.

The Rapid City Journal reports the body of 56-year-old Dale Vann was found in a field by a property owner on Thursday.

Police spokesman Brendyn Medina say Vann appears to have killed himself soon after he went missing on March 5.

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

South Dakota gopher trapper says caught 22,000 in 22 years

HOUGHTON, S.D. (AP) — An 88-year-old man has made his mark on a farming community in northeastern South Dakota as a prolific gopher killer.

Clayton Sanderson of Houghton estimates he has caught 22,000 of the varmints since he started hunting them down in 1997.

Sanderson told the Aberdeen News that he doesn't poison the animals, because poison is expensive and he can't reach their bodies if they go deep into their gopher holes to die, making it harder for him to turn them into profit. So he widens the top of the hole and sets a trap with two pressure-triggered arms.

"Find the last hole they made, open the hole, set the trap in. They don't like the hole open so they come back to close that hole, and that's when you catch them," Sanderson said.

He said he has been bitten only once in 22 years.

Farmers hate gophers, he said, "with a passion," because of the damage wrought on their farm equipment when they hit the mounds at the entrance of the gopher holes.

Sanderson said he earns \$3 for every set of gopher front paws that he hands over to Shelby or Lansing township officials — \$1.50 from the officials and the same again from the grateful landowner.

And the gophers' bodies?

"I feed them to the cats," Sanderson said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 18 of 35

The retired farmer started catching gophers with his son, Jackie, who suffered brain damage during an illness when he was very young. Jackie Sanderson has lived in an assisted-care facility since September, so his father soldiers on alone. He refers to his role as both a hobby and a full-time job.

Sanderson admits he is slowing down. He has trapped 27 gophers this year after 125 in 2018.

"My get up and go got up and left me, so I don't last very long," Sanderson said. "Then I just get back in my car and go home. That's all."

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

SculptureWalk in Sioux Falls debuts Arc of Dreams structure

By MAKENZIE L HUBER Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A small neon-vest-clad group was clustered in the Raven Industries parking lot in downtown Sioux Falls on May 18, waiting for the first installment of Sioux Falls' newest sculpture, the Arc of Dreams.

The Arc is a centerpiece and celebration of SculptureWalk, which is entering its 16th year. The 2019 slate featured 59 pieces from artists across the country and Canada, the Argus Leader reported.

The sculpture was six years in the making. Although 45 minutes to transport the sculpture pieces from the north side of town to its new home was a relatively short time to wait, the anticipation for its arrival was palpable.

Semi trucks carried three pieces of the structure that will stand on the west bank of the Big Sioux River. The morning sun glinted off the woven stainless steel pieces, which when constructed will represent the risk and uncertainty that must be overcome when chasing dreams, ambitions and goals, according to its designers.

Koni Schiller cried at the sight of it.

"It's going to be for generations to come," Schiller said. "It'll promote the new and the young to make Sioux Falls better than before and take that leap of faith."

The Arc is the culmination of six years of work, six different designs, three wind studies and hours of effort through a network of people, said Dale Lamphere, the sculpture's artist. It's essentially the culmination of his 50 years of work as an artist, said Lamphere, who is South Dakota's artist laureate and also created Dignity, placed near Chamberlain.

"I hope it'll exceed expectations, but I'll feel relief," Lamphere said. He's yet to see the structure in its entirety, since it's been sitting in pieces outside his studio. "The SculptureWalk is doing something truly world class for Sioux Falls."

Construction of the Arc of Dreams itself is a perfect example of the work it takes to achieve a dream, Lamphere said.

A network of people in Sioux Falls came up with the idea of the Arc of Dreams to celebrate the SculptureWalk and Sioux Falls. Hundreds of hands have been involved in the project through making the sculpture, fundraising for the structure and arranging its fruition.

"It honors past and present dreamers," Lamphere said.

It'll take two weeks to assemble the west bank's structure, and another two weeks to complete the east bank near Cherapa Place. The assembly is similar to puzzle pieces. Construction and installation is difficult because of the bedrock under the structure, along with its size and 57-ton weight.

It's expected to be finished by mid June.

Downtown Sioux Falls 16 years ago would be unrecognizable now, according to Lynne Byrne, a selection judge for SculptureWalk and chair of the South Dakota State Art Council.

The downtown area was struggling economically, and SculptureWalk was created to revitalize the area by getting people out and walking downtown, drawing them to businesses.

"It's been part of why our downtown is so vibrant now," Byrne said.

Since 2004, 836 sculptures have been displayed across downtown.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 19 of 35

"Over the years Sioux Falls has grown to be a national leader in the arts," SculptureWalk director Jim Clark said. "SculptureWalk is honored to be a part of the renaissance that has made downtown Sioux Falls a visitor destination and a great place to live, work and play."

The construction of the Arc of Dreams structure, towering 70 feet above the Big Sioux rapids, will immediately alter the Sioux Falls skyline.

"I think it will be a point of pride for the entire city. Everybody will be able to identify with the leap. It'll be right up there with the (St. Joseph) cathedral representing Sioux Falls," Byrne said.

It will also change the landscape of South Dakota, establishing the state as the "Sculpture State," Byrne said. The South Dakota Department of Tourism has coined the "Sculpture Trail" across the state, including the Arc of Dreams, the Sioux Falls SculptureWalk, Dignity, the Badlands (a natural work of art), the Rapid City president walk, Crazy Horse Monument, and Mount Rushmore.

The construction of the Arc of Dreams makes Sioux Falls an even bigger part of the landscape, according to Clark.

"If we did something big, we really wanted to do something that represented the community," he said.

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

Man retires after 43 years in South Dakota National Guard

By **KELDA J.L. PHARRIS** Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — It was a privilege.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Croymans didn't speak the phrase.

He didn't have to. With a slight flush in his skin, he averts his eyes and wipes at invisible particles on his meeting table in his office. His voice holds steady.

"It went quick," Croymans told the Aberdeen American News.

Croymans, 60, retired from the South Dakota National Guard after 43 years. He was officially honored May 4 during a retirement ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid.

He's quick to call attention to the sacrifice his family and employers have made and the support they've shown him and every guard member. He never anticipated being at this stage when he signed on at 17. He's 60 now and continues working in his civilian job as a highway engineer with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Central Office.

He joined the Guard in October 1975. He would graduate high school in Wilmot the following spring. His father had been a first sergeant with the National Guard's 740th in Milbank. There was a little pressure, but Croymans was also excited.

"When I first signed up, I wasn't thinking about anything long term. It was more fun; just to do something different. Once a weekend get out, go do drill. It was a lot of fun in the beginning. So that put the hook in a while. I had a good time when I first got in," Croymans said.

The first 10 years went by quickly so he decided he'd continue to the 20-year mark for full benefits.

"After a while, one opportunity after another came along. Each time I got a new job, there was a new set of challenges there. I kind of liked doing that kind of thing," Croymans said.

Each advancement was spurred by different things — sometimes luck, sometimes timing. With each rise in rank, Croymans could count on more responsibility and bigger decisions with bigger consequences.

"All those things happened, especially in a career that's this long, but it doesn't always work the way you think it will," he said.

When he joined the Guard, the U.S. was enjoying a peaceful respite after the Vietnam War. The Guard's first active duty was during Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991. It tested the Guard's mettle in a way it hadn't been for some time, Croymans said. This was after his time as a soldier, so he fulfilled his duties stateside.

"The last time the Guard was really utilized was in World War II. We had to up our game a bit, and we did. It was something that we had an integral part of," Croymans said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 20 of 35

His career took him to Milbank, Brookings, Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Rapid City and Aberdeen. His first 14 years were as an enlisted soldier. The moving became more frequent, about every two years, when he got his commission and rose to second lieutenant. The Guard, run at the state level, sent Croymans and his compatriots to a number of disasters and incidents.

"Watertown floods in spring of '98, coordination for fighting forest fires, search and rescue, those kinds of civil support activities," he said. "It's pretty rewarding work because you get to do something for the citizens of the state."

In 1992, he married his wife, Vicki. He was 32, which he called "a little later in life." His Guard duty was already ingrained and his family was understanding. It was just a mindset. Family activities, games, recitals and reunions all took a backseat to Croymans' duty. That's the shadow he hasn't quite shaken — that automatic priority response.

This June, a big Guard month, will be the first time he can attend a Fathers Day fishing tournament, if he wants. For 43 years, there was no choice.

His wife likes to joke that he still may need to get away one weekend a month to keep for a happy home. He laughs that he wouldn't know what to do if his hair touched his ears. He hadn't considered modifying the regimental cut, now that he can.

At the thought, Croymans laughs heartily, wipes away another imaginary crumb and folds his hands humbly in service well spent.

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

Trump's trophy day of sumo, golf and cheeseburgers in Japan

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — President Donald Trump presented a special U.S.-made trophy to the winner of a sumo tournament Sunday as he got a taste of one of Japan's most treasured cultural institutions.

The honor given to Trump was part of a charm offensive by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as he courted Trump with three things close to the American leader's heart: wrestling, cheeseburgers and golf.

Sumo diplomacy, to sum it up.

The president, first lady Melania Trump, Abe and his wife, Akie, joined an estimated 11,500 fans at Ryogoku Kokugikan Stadium to watch massive and muscular men, in bare feet and loin cloths, battle for supremacy in a small ring of dirt.

At the match's end, Trump stepped into the ring and presented the eagle-topped "President's Cup" to the champion, Asanoyama. Trump, the first American president to participate in such a ceremony, said later it was an "incredible evening."

"That was something to see these great athletes," Trump said before having dinner with the Abes at a hibachi restaurant.

Trump's four-day state visit to Japan is designed to demonstrate the strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance. Earlier Sunday, Abe warmly welcomed Trump to Mobarra Country Club, south of Tokyo, for a round of golf, their fifth since Trump became president.

Abe is trying to placate Trump amid growing U.S.-Japan trade tensions and the threat of auto tariffs. Japan also is contending with the continued military threat from North Korea, a concern seemingly heightened by Trump's apparent dismissal of the North's recent tests of short-range missiles that could strike Japan.

Despite several antagonistic presidential tweets, the day was all about keeping Trump happy.

First it was golf. Trump and Abe played 16 holes, joined by Japanese pro Isao Aoki. On the lunch menu: Double cheeseburgers made with U.S. beef.

Then Abe introduced Trump to Japan's ancient sport of sumo wrestling, which Trump has said he finds "fascinating."

Loud applause greeted Trump as he entered the arena and took his seat a few rows behind the ring. It was a break from the custom of sitting cross-legged on a mat.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 21 of 35

The Japan Sumo Association instituted some safety precautions due to Trump's participation, including selling fewer same-day tickets and banning the ritual of throwing seat cushions as an expression of disappointment.

Trump sat with his arms crossed over his chest for much of the time, and when the match ended, he walked onto the stage wearing dark slippers — shoes are banned from the ring — to present the cup to Asanoyama.

Trump read from a scroll, praising Asanoyama's "outstanding achievement." He hoisted the hefty cup, which the White House said was 54 inches (137 centimeters) tall and weighed 60 pounds to 70 pounds (27 kilograms to 32 kilograms), into Asanoyama's arms with the help of an official. Asanoyama also received trophies from Abe and the emperor.

Trump had the trophy made for the sumo winner, and Japanese media informally called it the "Trump Cup."

Trump's attendance at the annual sumo tournament recalled the time he spent promoting the World Wrestling Federation in the United States. Trump sponsored major events, appeared in bits and was inducted into the World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2013.

Trump awaited another honor Monday when he was to become the first foreign leader to meet with Japan's new emperor, Naruhito, since he ascended to the throne on May 1. Trump and Abe planned more formal talks and scheduled a joint news conference. Trump also was to be the guest of honor at a banquet hosted by the emperor at Japan's Imperial Palace.

"We've had a great time, a great day, and tomorrow is really the big event, a very important event in the history of Japan," Trump said just before enjoying a dinner of grilled chicken, Wagyu beef and vanilla ice cream at a hibachi restaurant with Abe and their wives. "It's over 200 years since something like this has happened so it's a great honor to be representing the United States."

The Abe-Trump alliance began even before Trump took office in January 2017, when Abe rushed to New York to greet the president-elect at Trump Tower after Trump's election two months earlier. Japan is deeply dependent on the U.S. for security, and Abe has tried to encourage Trump to maintain international agreements and keep pressure on North Korea.

Golf has been a bonding activity for two leaders who love the game.

"We were able to exchange our views frankly in a cozy atmosphere. It was wonderful," Abe told reporters as he returned to his official residence from the country club. He tweeted a selfie photo of him and Trump smiling widely on the greens.

Trump tweeted that he'd had "Great fun and meeting with Prime Minister @AbeShinzo." But Trump continued to stew about politics back home, claiming that "Numerous Japanese officials told me that the Democrats would rather see the United States fail than see me or the Republican Party succeed - Death Wish!"

Tradition holds that American presidents and candidates avoid politicking while on foreign soil, but Trump is not one to abide by such norms. He also tweeted negatively about Democratic presidential rival Joe Biden, a former vice president.

Trump played down North Korea's recent series of short-range missile tests and tried to lower expectations that he and Abe will make significant headway on trade issues at their Monday meeting.

Trump has sought a bilateral deal with Tokyo since he pulled the U.S. from the multinational Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement two years ago, though analysts expect no breakthroughs during the trip.

"Great progress being made in our Trade Negotiations with Japan. Agriculture and beef heavily in play. Much will wait until after their July elections where I anticipate big numbers!" he wrote, referring to Japan's upcoming parliamentary elections.

Trump has threatened Japan with new tariffs on imports of autos and auto parts, citing national security grounds. He has suggested he will impose levies if the U.S. cannot win concessions from Japan and the European Union. In April, Japan's trade surplus surged almost 18% to 723 billion yen (\$6.6 billion).

'We're trapped': Likely tornado rips through Oklahoma town

By SUE OGROCKI Associated Press

EL RENO, Okla. (AP) — A likely tornado destroyed a motel, swept through a nearby mobile home park and caused significant damage in the Oklahoma City area, according to the National Weather Service.

Meteorologist Rick Smith in Norman told The Associated Press that the suspected twister hit El Reno on Saturday night as a powerful storm system rolled through the state. Crews were expected to arrive on the scene Sunday to determine the severity of the damage to the town located just west of Oklahoma City. No information was immediately available about possible fatalities.

The American Budget Value Inn was destroyed by the storm. Images from the scene showed emergency crews sifting through rubble after part of the motel's second story collapsed into a pile of debris strewn about the first floor and parking lot. Elsewhere, overturned cars and twisted metal could be seen briefly as intermittent lightning flashed across the sky and the wailing sirens of approaching emergency vehicles were heard in the distance.

Trailers at the Skyview Estates mobile home park adjacent to the motel also were damaged, as was part of a nearby car dealership.

"We have absolutely experienced a traumatic event," El Reno Mayor Matt White said during a news conference early Sunday.

White said several people were transported to hospitals in Oklahoma City, but did not give an exact number.

"We're doing a search and rescue right now ... we have all hands on deck," White said.

Saturday night's storm in El Reno comes after a week of tornados, severe rain and flooding in the Southern Plains and Midwest, including a tornado that hit Jefferson City, Missouri. The region's most recent spate of bad weather and flooding has been blamed for at least nine deaths.

Tweety Garrison, 63, told The Associated Press early Sunday that she was inside her mobile home — along with her husband, two young grandchildren and a family friend — when the storm hit. Garrison said when she heard the storm coming she immediately hit the ground. Moments later, she said, she heard the mobile home next door slam into hers, before it flipped over and landed on her roof.

Garrison said the incident lasted five to 10 minutes. She said there was a tornado warning on her phone but the sirens did not go off until after tornado hit.

Garrison's 32-year-old son, Elton, said he'd heard the wailing tornado sirens and had just laid down at home about a half-mile (.8 kilometer) away when his phone rang. He recognized his mother's number, but there was no voice on the other end when he answered. "I thought, 'That's weird,'" Elton Garrison said.

Then his mother called back, and delivered a chilling message: "We're trapped."

Elton said when he arrived at his parent's home, he found it blocked by debris and sitting with another trailer on top of it. He immediately began clearing a path to the home so that he could eventually lift a portion of an outside wall just enough so that all five occupants could slip beneath it and escape.

"My parents were in there and two of my kids, one 9 and the other 12 ... my main emotion was fear," Garrison said, who has lived in El Reno for about 26 years. "I couldn't get them out of there quick enough."

Garrison said he was not alarmed by the warning sirens when he first heard them at home. "We hear them all the time here, so it didn't seem like a big deal ... I heard a lot of rain with the wind. But when it kinda got calm all of a sudden, that's when it didn't feel right."

Garrison, whose sport utility vehicle remained at the mobile park early Sunday because the area had since been cordoned off by authorities, said his parents had only recently recovered after losing their previous home to a fire a few years ago.

"Now this," he said, before expressing gratitude that everyone inside his parents' home had emerged without serious injury.

In the next breath, Garrison added: "Items can be replaced. Lives can't."

Iraq offers to mediate in crisis between its allies Iran, US

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq offered Sunday to mediate in the crisis between its two key allies, the United States and Iran, amid escalating Middle East tensions and as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers steadily unravels.

Iraqi foreign minister, Mohammed al-Hakim, made the offer during a joint news conference in Baghdad with visiting Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif.

"We are trying to help and to be mediators," said al-Hakim, adding that Baghdad "will work to reach a satisfactory solution" while stressing that Iraq stands against unilateral steps taken by Washington.

In recent weeks, tensions between Washington and Tehran soared over America deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf over a still-unexplained threat it perceives from Tehran. The U.S. also plans to send 900 additional troops to the 600 already in the Mideast and extending their stay.

The crisis takes root in President Donald Trump's withdrawal last year of America from the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers that capped Iran's uranium enrichment activities in return to lifting sanctions. Washington subsequently re-imposed sanctions on Iran, sending its economy into freefall.

Trump has argued that the deal failed to sufficiently curb Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons or halt its support for militias throughout the Middle East that the U.S. says destabilize the region, as well as address the issue of Tehran's missiles, which can reach both U.S. regional bases and Israel.

Zarif, who was been on a whirlwind diplomatic offensive to preserve the rest of the accord, insisted that Iran "did not violate the nuclear deal" and urged European nations to exert efforts to preserve the deal following the U.S. pullout.

Speaking about the rising tensions with the U.S., Zarif said Iran will be able to "face the war, whether it is economic or military through steadfastness and its forces." He also urged for a non-aggression agreement between Iran and Arab countries in the Gulf.

The Shiite-majority Iraq has been trying to maintain a fine line as allies Tehran and Washington descended into verbal vitriol. The country also lies on the fault line between Shiite Iran and the mostly Sunni Arab world, led by powerhouse Saudi Arabia, and has long been a battlefield in which the Saudi-Iran rivalry for regional supremacy played out.

The mediation offer by al-Hakim, Iraq's foreign minister, echoed one made Saturday by Mohamad al-Halbousi, the Iraqi parliament speaker. Al-Hakim also expressed concern for Iran's spiraling economy.

Iranians make up the bulk of millions of Shiites from around the world who come to Iraq every year to visit its many Shiite shrines and holy places and their purchasing power has slumped after Trump re-imposed the sanctions.

"The sanctions against sisterly Iran are ineffective and we stand by its side," al-Hakim said.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani suggested the Islamic Republic could hold a referendum over its nuclear program. The official IRNA news agency said Rouhani, who was last week publicly chastised by the country's supreme leader, made the suggestion in a meeting with editors of major Iranian news outlets on Saturday evening.

Rouhani said he had previously suggested a referendum to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in 2004, when Rouhani was a senior nuclear negotiator for Iran.

At the time, Khamenei approved of the idea and though there was no referendum, such a vote "can be a solution at any time," Rouhani was quoted as saying.

A referendum could provide political cover for the Iranian government if it chooses to increase its enrichment of uranium, prohibited under the 2015 nuclear deal.

Earlier last week, Iran said it quadrupled its uranium-enrichment production capacity though Iranian officials made a point to stress that the uranium would be enriched only to the 3.67% limit set under the deal, making it usable for a power plant but far below what's needed for an atomic weapon.

Rouhani's remarks could also be seen as a defense of his stance following the rare public chastising by the supreme leader.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 24 of 35

Khamenei last week named Rouhani and Zarif — relative moderates within Iran's Shiite theocracy who had struck the nuclear deal — as failing to implement his orders over the accord, saying it had "numerous ambiguities and structural weaknesses" that could damage Iran.

Khamenei, who has final say on all matters of state in Iran, did not immediately respond to Rouhani's proposal of a referendum. The Islamic Republic has seen only three referendums since it was established in 1979 — one on regime change from monarchy to Islamic republic and two on its constitution and its amendments.

Also in Tehran, acting commander of the country's powerful Revolutionary Guard said any negotiations with the U.S. would be fruitless. Gen. Ali Fadavi said it would be like having "negotiations with Satan."

Karimi reported from Tehran, Iran. Associated Press writer Bassem Mroue in Baghdad contributed to this report

Hate makes a comeback in the Pacific Northwest

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS** Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Nearly two decades after the Aryan Nations' Idaho compound was demolished, far-right extremists are maintaining a presence in the Pacific Northwest.

White nationalism has been on the rise across the U.S., but it has particular resonance along the Idaho-Washington border, where the Aryans espoused hate and violence for years.

The neo-Nazi group was based near Hayden Lake, Idaho, starting in the 1970s, and eventually was bankrupted in a lawsuit brought by local activists and the Southern Poverty Law Center. Its compound was seized, and supporters dispersed.

But a series of incidents in recent weeks show far-right sentiments never really left the conservative region. In the county that is home to Hayden Lake, for instance, Republicans last month passed a measure expressing support for U.S. entry of a prominent Austrian far-right activist who was investigated for ties to the suspected New Zealand mosque gunman.

In 2018, at least nine hate groups operated in the region of Spokane and northern Idaho, including Identity Evropa, Proud Boys, ACT for America and America's Promise Ministries, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. The center does not track how many members belong to each group.

Keegan Hanks, a researcher for the Southern Poverty Law Center, said the number of hate groups is growing across the U.S., driven in part by a toxic political culture. The human rights group counted 784 active hate groups in the U.S. in 2014 and 1,020 in 2018.

In particular, white supremacist groups are growing because of fears that the country's racial makeup is changing. "That drives a ton of anxiety," Hanks said.

These new far-right activists are more scattered than the ones who used to gather at the Aryan Nations by the dozens, experts say.

"It is no longer necessary to go to a compound in Hayden Lake, Idaho," said Kristine Hoover, director of the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies in Spokane.

With the proliferation of social media, groups "form in dispersed locations" and gatherings are "more covert," she said.

In late April, a self-described "American Nationalist" named Brittany Pettibone appeared at a meeting of Kootenai County, Idaho, Republicans to ask for help to bring her boyfriend, Martin Sellner, to the country from Austria. Pettibone, 26, said Sellner wants to marry her and live in Post Falls, Idaho.

Pettibone was a big promoter of the hoax known as "Pizzagate," telling her online followers Hillary Clinton and other high-profile Democrats were involved in satanic rituals and child sex trafficking tied to a Washington, D.C., pizza restaurant.

Sellner is a leading figure in the extremist "identitarian" movement, which espouses a white nationalist ideology and has swept over Europe amid an influx of migrants and refugees. He has confirmed he exchanged emails with the suspected New Zealand shooter, who donated money to Sellner's group. But

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 25 of 35

Sellner denies involvement in the attack.

Despite his background, the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee passed a resolution urging the federal government to allow Sellner into the United States. The resolution said the government revoked Sellner's travel privileges "for political reasons," and demanded those privileges be reinstated.

Faced with criticism for giving Pettibone a platform, Kootenai County GOP Chair Brent Regan blamed the press. "In its lust for scandal, the media has stretched the committee's simple act of kindness into headlines that are too bizarre to be fiction," he wrote in a recent op-ed.

Also last month, The Guardian published internet chats from 2017 in which a Washington state legislator and three other men discussed confronting "leftists" with a variety of tactics, including violence, surveillance and intimidation.

The messages prompted Washington House Democrats to demand that the Republican lawmaker, Rep. Matt Shea of Spokane Valley, be reprimanded for a history of far-right speech and activities. While Shea did not propose violence, he did not speak up when violence was proposed, Democrats said.

House Republican Leader J.T. Wilcox of Yelm responded that Shea should not be punished before investigations are completed. The House, led by Democrats, will conduct an independent investigation of the lawmaker.

Shea, who rarely speaks to reporters, did not return numerous messages from The Associated Press.

He has served in the state House since 2008, introducing bills to criminalize abortion and roll back gun laws and pushing for eastern Washington to secede from the rest of the state. The military veteran attracted international attention in 2018 after a document he wrote laid out a "biblical basis for war" against people who practiced same-sex marriage and abortion, and instructed: "If they do not yield, kill all males."

In a third case, a nationwide arrest warrant was issued in May for a Stevens County, Washington, man who allegedly tried to extort members of his right-wing militia group through anonymous written threats backed by insinuations they came from a Mexican drug cartel.

James "Russell" Bolton, 51, faces at least six charges of extortion and attempted theft after he was arrested recently in West Virginia.

Bolton has led a militia group called the Stevens County Assembly.

Stevens County detectives believe he was responsible for a series of anonymous threatening letters delivered to members of the group. The letters purported to come from a Mexican cartel and demanded large sums of cash in exchange for protection.

Hoover, the Gonzaga professor, said it is a mistake to consider all of the above as separate incidents.

"These are movements," Hoover said, noting participants are not doing this alone. "They have interconnectedness over the internet."

Venezuela negotiators return to Norway for crisis talks

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Representatives of the Venezuelan government and opposition have returned to Norway for talks aimed at resolving the political crisis in the South American country, the Norwegian government said Saturday.

Norway said it will mediate discussions next week in Oslo, in an indication that the negotiation track is gaining momentum after months of escalating tension between Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and Juan Guaidó, the U.S.-backed opposition leader.

Top Maduro aide Jorge Rodríguez and Héctor Rodríguez, the governor of Miranda state, both of whom were in Oslo earlier this month for an earlier round of exploratory talks, will once again lead the government delegation. They will be joined this time by Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, said Maduro, who thanked Norway for promoting "peace and stability" in Venezuela through the mediation effort.

Larry Devoe, the government's top human rights official, is also a delegate member, said a Venezuelan official who was not authorized to discuss the talks and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 26 of 35

The opposition delegation is being led by Stalin González, a senior member of the opposition-controlled congress, former Caracas area Mayor Gerardo Blyde and former Transport Minister Fernando Martínez Mottola, according to an opposition statement. They will be joined by Vicente Diaz, a supporter of past negotiations with the government who previously served on the nation's electoral council.

Both delegations traveled Saturday for the meetings, according to officials.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Soreide praised both sides for their involvement.

Representatives of Venezuela's political factions traveled to the European country earlier this month for talks, but it had been unclear if they would continue to engage with one another amid increased tensions over the opposition's call for a military uprising on April 30.

The opposition had previously ruled out talks, accusing Maduro of using negotiations between 2016 and 2018 to play for time, and has demanded Maduro's resignation and early elections. Maduro, in turn, alleges the opposition tried to seize power by force.

Addressing supporters on a visit to Venezuela's Lara state, Guaidó said the opposition would not be subjected to "false dialogue" as in the past.

"That is why we are on the streets, aware that we can't believe anything the dictatorship says," said the leader of the opposition-led National Assembly.

The U.S. State Department noted the arrests of key opposition figures in Venezuela and said the only thing to negotiate with Maduro is "the conditions of his departure" from office.

"We hope the talks in Oslo will focus on that objective, and if they do, we hope progress will be possible," spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said.

The diplomatic effort reflects recognition in Venezuela that neither side has been able to prevail in the struggle for power, leaving the country in a state of political paralysis after years of hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicine. Several million Venezuelans have left the country, creating Latin America's biggest migration crisis.

The United States and more than 50 other countries support Guaidó's claim to be Venezuela's rightful leader. The U.S. has imposed oil sanctions to try to force out Maduro, whose key allies are Cuba, Russia and China.

Norway has a long, successful history of foreign mediation: The country hosted peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians in September 1993 and Maoist rebels and the government in the Philippines in 2011. The government also brokered a 2002 cease-fire between Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebel negotiators. Seven years ago, mediators from the Colombian government and left-wing FARC rebels held their first direct talks in a decade in Norway.

Associated Press journalist Joshua Goodman contributed from Bogota, Colombia.

Europe's voters elect new parliament as nationalism mounts

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Pivotal elections for the European Union parliament reached their climax Sunday as the last 21 nations went to the polls, with results to be announced in the evening in a vote that boils down to a continent-wide battle between euroskeptic populists and proponents of closer EU unity.

Right-wing nationalists who want to slash immigration into Europe and return power to national governments are expected to make gains, though mainstream parties are tipped to hold onto power in the 751-seat legislature that sits in both Brussels and Strasbourg.

Leading the challenge to the established order is Italy's hard-line interior minister, Matteo Salvini, head of the League party, who is assembling a group of like-minded parties from across Europe.

"We need to do everything that is right to free this country, this continent, from the illegal occupation organized by Brussels," Salvini told a rally in Milan last weekend that was attended by the leaders of 11 nationalist parties.

As he voted in Budapest on Sunday, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said he hopes the election

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 27 of 35

will bring a shift toward political parties that want to stop migration.

The migration issue “will reorganize the political spectrum in the European Union,” said Orban, who recently met with Salvini but has not yet committed to joining the Italian’s group.

Projections released by the European Parliament last month show the center-right European People’s Party bloc losing 37 of its 217 seats and the center-left S&D group dropping from 186 seats to 149. On the far right flank, the Europe of Nations and Freedom group is predicted to increase its bloc from 37 to 62 seats.

Proponents of stronger EU integration, led by French President Emmanuel Macron , argue that issues like climate change and reining in immigration are simply too big for any one country to tackle alone.

Macron, whose country has been rocked in recent months by the populist yellow vest movement, has called the elections “the most important since 1979 because the (European) Union is facing an existential risk” from nationalists seeking to divide the bloc.

In Austria, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said Sunday that he hopes the elections will strengthen the center rather than parties on the far right and left.

Austria is one of the countries where the vote has increasing importance to national politics, serving as a first test of support ahead of a national election in September following the collapse of Kurz’s governing coalition a week ago.

Spanish caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who is currently trying to form a government at home, said as he voted in Madrid that he hopes the outcome of the vote will lead to stability in his country.

He added that the elections are “to decide the future of progress and wellbeing for the entirety of our country and Europe.”

In Belgium, a general election is taking place alongside the European vote, while Lithuanians will vote in the second round of their presidential election.

Sunday promises to be a long day and night for election watchers — the last polls close at 11 p.m. (2100 GMT) in Italy but the European Parliament plans to begin issuing estimates and projections hours earlier with the first official projection of the makeup of the new parliament at 11:15 p.m. (2115 GMT).

As the dust settles on four days of elections, European leaders will begin the task of selecting candidates for the top jobs in the EU’s headquarters in Brussels. The leaders meet for a summit over dinner Tuesday night.

Current European lawmakers’ terms end July 1 and the new parliament will take their seats in Strasbourg the following day.

Associated Press writers Veselin Toshkov in Sofia, Bulgaria, Joseph Wilson in Barcelona, Spain, Pablo Gorondi in Budapest and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this report.

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

High-stakes European Parliament vote shifts to 4 nations

By KAREL JANICEK Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — The European Parliament elections shifted to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Malta and Latvia on Saturday as voters in those European Union nations took part in a landmark ballot in which resurgent nationalists are challenging traditional parties over the future of Europe.

The stakes for the EU are especially high in this year’s vote, which is taking place in all of its 28 nations from Thursday to Sunday. Voters are electing 751 lawmakers, with each nation apportioned a number of seats based on its population, for a legislature that increasingly affects the everyday lives of ordinary Europeans.

Anti-immigrant and far-right groups are hoping to gain ground in the European Parliament and use it to claw back power from the EU for their national governments. Moderate parties, on the other hand, want to cement closer ties among countries in the EU, which was created in the wake of World War II to

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 28 of 35

prevent renewed conflict.

"We stand at a crossroads — that is, whether the EU is going to be stronger and more integrated or, quite the contrary, a process of its weakening is to begin," Zuzana Caputova, Slovakia's president-elect, told reporters after voting in the town of Pezinok.

A Slovak far-right party that openly admires the country's wartime Nazi puppet state could win seats in the European Parliament for the first time. Its members use Nazi salutes, blame the Roma minority for crime, consider NATO a terror group and want the country to leave the western military alliance and the EU.

Polls in Slovakia favor the leftist Smer-Social Democracy party, the senior member of Slovakia's current coalition government, to win the most votes. But the polls also suggest that the far-right People's Party Our Slovakia will win seats in the European legislature for the first time.

In neighboring Czech Republic, a centrist party led by populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis expected to win the most votes, despite the fact that Babis is facing fraud charges involving the use of EU funds. Babis wants his country to remain in the bloc but is calling for EU reforms.

Meanwhile the Czech Republic's most ardent anti-EU group, the Freedom and Direct Democracy party, is predicted to capture its first seats in the EU legislature.

Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands have already voted this week, and the rest of the EU nations will vote Sunday. Official results will only be released Sunday night after all polls close.

The legislature affects Europeans' daily lives in many ways: cutting smartphone roaming charges, imposing safety and health rules for industries ranging from chemicals and energy to autos and food, supporting farming and protecting the environment.

Voting in the Netherlands may have already produced a surprise. An Ipsos exit poll forecast a win for the Dutch Labor Party, and predicted that pro-European parties would win most of the Netherlands' seats instead of right-wing populist opponents.

In Ireland, early vote counts and an exit poll suggest that the Green Party is gaining strength as it challenges three larger parties in both local and European Parliament elections.

In the Irish votes on Friday, an exit poll of more than 3,000 voters showed that Ireland's top two parties — the governing party Fine Gael and the more conservative opposition party Fianna Fail — are running neck and neck, followed by the nationalist Sinn Fein party and the pro-environment Greens. Early vote counts on Saturday in Ireland's local election confirmed these trends.

Vote counting in the European Parliament races will begin Sunday morning.

Overall, the European Parliament's traditional political powerhouses are expected to come out with the most votes. But the center-right European People's Party and the center-left Socialists & Democrats look set to lose some clout and face their strongest challenge yet from an array of populist, nationalist and far-right parties.

Those upstart parties hope to emulate what President Donald Trump did in the 2016 U.S. election and what Brexiteers achieved in the U.K.: to disrupt what they see as an out-of-touch elite and gain power by warning about migrants massing at Europe's borders ready to rob the continent of its jobs and culture.

The traditional parties warn that this strategy is worryingly reminiscent of pre-war tensions, and argue that unity is the best buffer against the challenges posed by a world in which China, the U.S. and Russia are all flexing their economic and military prowess.

Raf Casert in Brussels and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

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

State abortion bans may hand Democrats a political weapon

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A flood of laws banning abortions in Republican-run states has handed Demo-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 29 of 35

crats a political weapon heading into next year's elections, helping them paint the GOP as extreme and court centrist voters who could decide congressional races in swing states, members of both parties say.

The Alabama law outlawing virtually all abortions, even in cases of rape or incest, is the strictest so far. Besides animating Democrats, the law has prompted President Donald Trump, other Republican leaders and lawmakers seeking reelection next year to distance themselves from the measure.

Their reaction underscores that Republicans have risked overplaying their hand with severe state laws that they hope will prod the Supreme Court, with its ascendant conservative majority, to strike down *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision that legalized abortion. It also illustrates the way that those statutes are forcing the GOP to struggle over how to satisfy its core anti-abortion supporters without alienating the vast majority of voters averse to strictly curbing abortion.

The Alabama law is "a loser for Republican candidates in Colorado, without question, and in many other swing parts of the country, because it's extreme," David Flaherty, a Colorado-based Republican consultant who's worked on congressional races around the country. "It's only going to widen the gender gap."

Brian Fitzpatrick, a Vanderbilt Law School professor and former aide to Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said there are many "women, moderate women who are going to be scared that this right that they thought they had for the last 40-some years is going to be shelved" and they will be motivated to vote.

GOP Sens. Joni Ernst of Iowa and Susan Collins of Maine, both seeking reelection next year, said the Alabama ban goes too far by eliminating exceptions for pregnancies involving rape or incest. A 2005 survey by the Guttmacher Institute, which backs abortion rights, found about 1% of women said they had abortions because of rape or incest.

Democrats see the statutes as a way to weave a broader message about Republicans.

"You use it as an example of what they do when they're unchecked," said Rep. A. Donald McEachin, D-Va., a leader of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, House Democrats' campaign organization. "I think it drives moderate Republicans away from their party."

Democratic presidential contenders are competing to lambast the Alabama law, which allows exceptions when the mother's health is endangered. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., called it an "existential threat to the human rights of women," while former Vice President Joe Biden said GOP hopes of striking down *Roe v. Wade* are "pernicious and we have to stop it."

Campaign Facebook and Twitter accounts of Democrats seeking reelection next year, such as Sens. Doug Jones of Alabama and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, are littered with posts attacking the harsh restrictions. "The people of Alabama deserve to be on the #rightsideofhistory — not the side of extremists," Jones tweeted.

Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Ohio have enacted or neared approval of measures barring abortion once there's a detectable fetal heartbeat, which can occur in the sixth week of pregnancy, before a woman may know she is pregnant. Missouri lawmakers approved an eight-week ban.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that of the 638,000 abortions it tallied in 2015, almost two-thirds were performed within the first eight weeks of pregnancy. About 1% were performed during or after the 21st week.

Spotlighting the perilous political territory Republicans are navigating, an April poll by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation found that Americans support *Roe v. Wade* by 2-1. A Gallup poll last year found that 57% of adults who described themselves "pro-life" nonetheless said abortion should be legal if the pregnancy results from rape or incest.

The focus on the state measures has also stolen GOP momentum on abortion. Until now, congressional Republicans had spent much of this year forcing Democrats onto the defensive, goading them into blocking bills aimed at curbing the rare abortions performed late in pregnancies and misleadingly accusing them of supporting infanticide.

"Obviously, the attention has shifted," said Sarah Chamberlain, president of the Republican Main Street Partnership, which represents dozens of moderate GOP lawmakers. She said while her group doesn't think Democrats' focus on the harsh laws has gained traction, "We are talking about that and how it's going to

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 30 of 35

play in our districts.”

Some Republicans say the Democratic drive will have minimal impact because the abortion issue drives relatively few voters from each party. Others say GOP candidates should accuse Democrats of extremism by opposing bills restricting abortions late in pregnancy and, if they wish, cite their support for exempting rape and incest victims.

Democrats have “never seen an abortion they don’t like,” said David O’Steen, executive director of the National Right to Life Committee.

Added Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., who heads the National Republican Senatorial Committee, the Senate GOP campaign arm: “We’re not Alabama state representatives, we’re United States senators. And each of us has to make our positions known.”

Yet the laws have generated energy among abortion-rights groups, which held more than 500 demonstrations and other events this past week. “We will power this movement into 2020. There will be political consequences,” said Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Trump and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., distanced themselves early last week from the Alabama statute. They were joined Wednesday by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who told The Associated Press, “My position remains unchanged for 25 years. I’m opposed to abortion except in cases of rape, incest and the life of the mother” being in jeopardy.

Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Elana Schor contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump and a tale of 2 sheets of paper

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump held up and read from a sheet of paper in the Rose Garden this past week as he argued he’s been hounded by investigators in the Russia probe for no reason. “Nearly 500 search warrants,” says the page, from an ABC News graphic. “More than 2,500 subpoenas.” And: “19 special counsel lawyers & 40 FBI agents worked the case.”

If that sounds like overkill by the Robert Mueller inquiry, it’s only half the story.

Trump did not show or quote from a second page that goes with the graphic, laying out the results of the investigation. Among them: “37 total indicted ... 26 Russians indicted ... 4 people sent to prison ... 7 guilty pleas.” In Trump’s telling, it’s all a hoax.

Selective accounting like that has been a constant in Trump’s rhetoric.

A look at some of his recent statements, on the Russia investigation, the border, the economy and more:
TRUMP INVESTIGATIONS

TRUMP: “I don’t do cover-ups.” — Rose Garden remarks Wednesday to reporters.

THE FACTS: Federal prosecutors may not agree with that assertion, which he made in response to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s accusation that the president was engaged in a cover-up. Trump spoke after breaking off an infrastructure meeting when Pelosi and Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., came to the White House for it.

Prosecutors’ court filings in December said Trump directed his former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, to make payments to buy the silence of porn actress Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal during the 2016 presidential campaign. Both women alleged they had extramarital affairs with Trump, which the White House denies.

In particular, the Justice Department says the hush money payments were unreported campaign contributions meant to influence the outcome of the election. That assertion makes the payments subject to campaign finance laws, which restrict how much people can donate to a campaign and bar corporations from making direct contributions.

Trump has said the payments were “a simple private transaction,” not a campaign contribution.

Separately, the Mueller report found that Trump dictated his son Trump Jr.’s misleading statement about a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower to cloak its purpose.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 31 of 35

Cohen, who pleaded guilty last year to campaign finance crimes in connection with those payments, had previously implicated Trump. The department's filings backed up Cohen's claims.

The Mueller report said Trump learned in summer of 2017 that the news media planned to report on the meeting at Trump Tower between senior campaign officials and Russians offering derogatory information about Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee.

Trump directed aides not to disclose the emails setting up the meeting. Before the emails became public, the president also edited a press statement for Donald Trump Jr. by deleting a line that acknowledged that the meeting was "with an individual who (Trump Jr.) was told might have information helpful to the campaign" and instead said only that the meeting was about adoptions.

That episode was among 10 identified by the Mueller investigation of possible obstruction of justice by Trump. Mueller said in his report that he could not conclusively determine that Trump had committed a crime or that he hadn't.

TRUMP: "ILLEGAL Witch Hunt." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump is wrong to suggest, as he has done before, that the FBI acted illegally by investigating him. The FBI does not need to know if or have evidence that a crime occurred before the bureau begins an investigation.

Many investigations that are properly conducted ultimately don't find evidence of any crime. The FBI is empowered to open an investigation if there's information it has received or uncovered that leads the bureau to think it might encounter a crime. Apart from that, the investigation into the Trump campaign was initially a counterintelligence investigation rather than a strictly criminal one, as agents sought to understand whether and why Russia was meddling in the 2016 election.

TRUMP: "The greatest Hoax in American History." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: A two-year investigation that produced guilty pleas, convictions and criminal charges against Russian intelligence officers and others with ties to the Kremlin, as well as Trump associates, is not a hoax.

Mueller charged 34 people, including the president's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, his first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, and three Russian companies. Twenty-five Russians were indicted on charges related to election interference, accused either of hacking Democratic email accounts during the campaign or of orchestrating a social media campaign that spread disinformation on the internet.

Five Trump aides pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate with Mueller, and a sixth, longtime confidant Roger Stone, is awaiting trial on charges he lied to Congress and engaged in witness tampering.

Mueller's report concluded that Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election was "sweeping and systematic." Ultimately, Mueller did not find a criminal conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign. But the special counsel didn't render judgment on whether Trump obstructed justice, saying his investigators found evidence on both sides.

BIDEN

TRUMP, on Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden: "He's not from Pennsylvania. I guess he was born here but he left you, folks. ... He left you for another state and he didn't take care of you because he didn't take care of your jobs. He let other countries come in and rip off America." — Montoursville, Pennsylvania, rally Monday.

THE FACTS: It's true that Pennsylvania-born Biden left the state without taking care of jobs for the people he left behind. He was a boy, 10 or 11, when his family moved to Delaware in 1953.

TRADE

TRUMP on his trade dispute with China: "I'll be honest, we are getting hundreds of millions of dollars brought into our country. We've never gotten 10 cents. We are getting hundreds of billions of dollars coming into our country." — remarks to reporters Thursday.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 32 of 35

THE FACTS: This is not true. The tariffs he's raised on imports from China are primarily if not entirely a tax on U.S. consumers and businesses, not a source of significant revenue coming into the country.

A study in March by economists from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Columbia University and Princeton University, before the latest escalation, found that the public and U.S. companies were paying \$3 billion a month in higher taxes from the trade dispute with China, suffering \$1.4 billion a month in lost efficiency and absorbing the entire impact.

It's also false that the U.S. never collected a dime in tariffs before he took action. Tariffs on goods from China are not remotely new. They are simply higher in some cases than they were before. Tariffs go back to the beginning of the U.S. and were once a leading source of revenue for the government. Not in modern times. They equate to less than 1% of federal spending.

BORDER

TRUMP: "Our country is full. We don't want people coming up here. Our country is full. We want Mexico to stop. We want all of them to stop. Our country is packed to the gills. We don't want them coming up." — Pennsylvania rally Monday.

THE FACTS: Trump's declaration that the U.S. is too "full" to accept migrants due to an overwhelmed southern border is his latest flip-flop. It turns out the U.S. is only "full" in terms of the people Trump doesn't want.

Just last month, the president had made clear that more migrants are needed due to an improving economy.

"We have companies pouring in. The problem is we need workers," he told Fox Business Network on April 28.

"We need people to come in," Trump said at a Wisconsin rally on April 27.

Immigrants as a whole make up a greater percentage of the total U.S. population than they did back in 1970, having grown from less than 5 percent of the population to more than 13 percent now. In 2030, it's projected that immigrants will become the primary driver for U.S. population growth, overtaking U.S. births.

TRUMP: "The wall is being built as we speak. We'll have almost 500 miles of wall by the end of next year." — Pennsylvania rally Monday.

THE FACTS: It's unclear how Trump arrives at 500 miles (800 km), but he would have to prevail in legal challenges to his declaration of a national emergency or get Congress to cough up more money to get anywhere close. Those are big assumptions.

So far, the administration has awarded contracts for 244 miles (390 km) of wall construction, but more than half comes from Defense Department money available under Trump's Feb. 15 emergency declaration. On Friday, a federal judge in California blocked Trump from building key sections of the wall with that money; a separate challenge is before a judge in New York.

Nearly all of what Trump has awarded so far is for replacement barriers and fencing, not new miles of wall. Even if Trump prevails in court, all but 14 miles (22 km) of those awarded contracts replace existing barriers.

The White House says it has identified up to \$8.1 billion in potential money under the national emergency, mostly from the Defense Department.

Customs and Border Protection officials say the administration wants Congress to finance 206 miles (330 km) next year. The chances of the Democratic-controlled House backing that are between slim and none.

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "My Administration is achieving things that have never been done before, including unleashing perhaps the Greatest Economy in our Country's history." — tweet Wednesday.

TRUMP: "Most successful economy, perhaps, in our country's history." — remarks to reporters Wednesday.

THE FACTS: The economy is solid but it's not one of the best in our country's history, no matter how

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 33 of 35

many times he asserts it. Trump is also claiming full credit for an economic expansion that began under President Barack Obama in mid-2009.

The economy expanded at an annual rate of 3.2 percent in the first quarter of this year. That growth was the highest in just four years for the first quarter.

In the late 1990s, growth topped 4 percent for four straight years, a level it has not yet reached on an annual basis under Trump. Growth even reached 7.2 percent in 1984.

While the economy has shown strength, it grew 2.9% in 2018 - the same pace it reached in 2015 — and simply hasn't hit historically high growth rates.

TRUMP claims "the best unemployment numbers in history." — Pennsylvania rally.

THE FACTS: The 3.6% unemployment rate in the latest report is not the best in history. It's the lowest since 1969, when it was 3.5%. The U.S. also had lower rates than now in the early 1950s. And during three years of World War II, the annual rate was under 2%.

HEALTH CARE

TRUMP: "Drug prices are coming down, first time in 51 years, because of my administration." — remarks Wednesday to reporters.

THE FACTS: Trump continues to ignore an increase in drug prices.

The Labor Department's Consumer Price Index for prescription drug prices shows an increase of 0.3% in April compared with the same month last year. The index tracks a set of medications, both brand names and generics, and Trump has frequently made his boast since the updated numbers showing higher costs came out.

Other independent studies point to increasing prices for brand-name drugs as well and more overall spending on medications.

An analysis of brand-name drug prices by The Associated Press showed 2,712 price increases in the first half of January, compared with 3,327 increases during the same period last year. However, the size of this year's increases was not as pronounced.

Both this year and last, the number of price cuts was minuscule. The information for the analysis was provided by the health data firm Elsevier.

An analysis by Altarum, a nonprofit research and consulting firm, found that in 2018, spending on prescription drugs was one of the main factors behind a 4.5% increase in U.S. health spending. Spending on prescription drugs grew much faster than in 2017, according to the study.

TRUMP: "We will always protect pre-existing conditions." — Pennsylvania rally.

THE FACTS: He's not protecting health coverage for patients with pre-existing medical conditions. His Trump administration instead is pressing in court for full repeal of the Affordable Care Act, including provisions that protect people with pre-existing conditions from health insurance discrimination.

Trump and other Republicans say they'll have a plan to preserve those safeguards, but the White House has provided no details.

Obama's health care law requires insurers to take all applicants, regardless of medical history, and patients with health problems pay the same standard premiums as healthy ones. Bills supported in 2017 by Trump and congressional Republicans to repeal the law could undermine protections by pushing up costs for people with pre-existing conditions.

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

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kx8bd>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 34 of 35

Damage at Noah's Ark attraction

WILLIAMSTOWN, Ky. (AP) —

In the Bible, the ark survived an epic flood. Yet the owners of Kentucky's Noah's ark attraction are demanding their insurance company bail them out after heavy rains caused nearly \$1 million in property damage.

The Ark Encounter says in a federal lawsuit that rains in 2017 and 2018 caused a landslide on its access road. The Courier Journal reports the attraction's insurance carriers refused to cover the damage.

The 510-foot-long wooden ark has been a popular northern Kentucky attraction since its 2016 opening. The lawsuit says the road has been rebuilt. The ark was not damaged.

The suit names Allied World Assurance Co. Holdings of Switzerland, its use company and three other insurance carriers.

Ark Encounter seeks compensatory and punitive damages. The Swiss company hasn't responded in court filings.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 26, the 146th day of 2019. There are 219 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 26, 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

On this date:

In 1647, Else (Alice) Young was hanged in Hartford, Connecticut, in the first recorded execution of a "witch" in the American colonies.

In 1865, Confederate forces west of the Mississippi surrendered in New Orleans.

In 1868, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson ended with his acquittal on the remaining charges.

In 1897, the Gothic horror novel "Dracula" by Bram Stoker was first published in London.

In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

In 1954, explosions rocked the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off Rhode Island, killing 103 sailors. (The initial blast was blamed on leaking catapult fluid ignited by the flames of a jet.)

In 1969, the Apollo 10 astronauts returned to Earth after a successful eight-day dress rehearsal for the first manned moon landing.

In 1978, Resorts Casino Hotel, the first legal U.S. casino outside Nevada, opened in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court made it far more difficult for police to be sued by people hurt during high-speed chases. The Supreme Court also ruled that Ellis Island, historic gateway for millions of immigrants, was mainly in New Jersey, not New York.

In 2005, President George W. Bush received Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas at the White House; Bush called Abbas a courageous democratic reformer and bolstered his standing at home with \$50 million in assistance.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama nominated federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. California's Supreme Court upheld the Proposition 8 gay marriage ban but said the 18,000 same-sex weddings that had taken place before the prohibition passed were still valid.

Five years ago: Pope Francis honored Jews killed in the Holocaust and in terrorist attacks during a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem as he wrapped up his Mideast pilgrimage. Egypt

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 320 ~ 35 of 35

began holding a three-day presidential election (former military chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi emerged the landslide winner).

One year ago: Joshua Holt, who traveled to Venezuela from Utah in 2016 to marry a Spanish-speaking Mormon woman, but was jailed and labeled as the CIA's top spy in Latin America, was set free by Venezuela's anti-American government and returned to the United States with his wife. The leaders of North and South Korea met for the second time in a month in a surprise summit at a border village to discuss Kim Jong Un's potential meeting with President Donald Trump.

Today's Birthdays: Sportscaster Brent Musberger is 80. Rock musician Garry Peterson (Guess Who) is 74. Singer Stevie Nicks is 71. Actress Pam Grier is 70. Actor Philip Michael Thomas is 70. Country singer Hank Williams Jr. is 70. British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is 70. Actress Margaret Colin is 61. Country singer-songwriter Dave Robbins is 60. Actor Doug Hutchison is 59. Actress Genie Francis is 57. Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is 57. Singer-actor Lenny Kravitz is 55. Actress Helena Bonham Carter is 53. Distance runner Zola Budd is 53. Rock musician Phillip Rhodes is 51. Actor Joseph Fiennes (FYNZ) is 49. Singer Joey Kibble (Take 6) is 48. Actor-producer-writer Matt Stone is 48. Singer Lauryn Hill is 44. Contemporary Christian musician Nathan Cochran is 41. Actress Elisabeth Harnois is 40. Actor Hrach Titizian is 40.

Thought for Today: "Courage is being scared to death — and saddling up anyway." — John Wayne, American actor (born this date in 1907, died 1979).