

Groton Daily Independent

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OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

JUNE 2, 2019

SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER



By Franklin Graham
President,
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association & Samaritan's Purse

Along with 250+ Christian leaders, I am asking followers of Christ across our nation to set aside next Sunday, June 2, as a special day of prayer for the president, Donald J. Trump.

President Trump's enemies continue to try everything to destroy him, his family, and the presidency. In the history of our country, no president has been attacked as he has. I believe the only hope for him, and this nation, is God.

This is a critical time for America. We're on the edge of a precipice. Time is short. We need to pray for God to intervene. We need to ask God to protect, strengthen, encourage, and guide the President.

We know that God hears and answers prayer. He can soften hearts and change minds. He is all-powerful, and He rules over the affairs of nations. The Bible instructs us to pray for those in authority, "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior" (1 Timothy 2:2-3).

On June 2, we ask that pastors would lead their congregations in praying for the president, that Sunday schools and other groups would join together and pray, and that individuals and families across the country would have a special focus on praying for the president that day.

Would you let me know in the comments below if you commit to pray with us? And will you share this on your social media platforms so that we can have as many people as possible praying?

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Beauty Is Only Skin Deep

Remember the Greek myth of Narcissus, a vain and handsome young man who was punished by a goddess for rejecting the innocent love of another. Narcissus was made to fall in love with his own reflection in a pool and he wasted the rest of his life staring at his own image.

It's easy to criticize our society's obsession with beauty. We all know "beauty is only skin-deep" and people's outward appearance sometimes does not reflect their inner goodness (or lack of it). We also know that the cover-up of the wrinkles of aging, with faces pulled tight from surgery or injections of tissue expanders into lips usually make movie stars appear even more artificial and unreal.

Naturally, we all want to make a good first impression. In the wild, it's the bird with the most colorful feathers that successfully woos the most healthy and finest specimen of the opposite sex in order to advance the species. Looking good is important for getting a job, selling a product or even making a convincing argument. To dress and appear well groomed, and to look clean and healthy, provides the appearance that someone has their act together. It is human nature and practical to want to look nice.

Our epidemic of obesity, alongside society's definition that thin is desirable, is a disheartening paradox. More troubling is that, short of radical and dangerous surgery, weight loss programs do not last. After five years, most programs and efforts show only one in 100 are able to keep weight off. We would be healthier if we emphasized eating right rather than weight loss.

Besides, what is true beauty? Does it really matter the measure of the waist, the turn of the nose, or the color of the hair? Are we most charmed by the impression of youth or that of experience; the look of innocence, or that of confidence; the appearance of cool, or that of compassion? Certainly, what seems beautiful today will be different tomorrow.

Looking nice can be important, but, in my opinion, it's valuable to recognize that it is a golden heart and a healthy lifestyle which makes one beautiful. Exercising well, eating a balanced reasonable diet, connecting with and caring for friends and family and, finally, loving ourselves are the elements which bring on real and lasting beauty. Narcissus wasted his life above a calm pool looking at himself. We can do better.

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By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

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SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM

JUNE 2019

month/year

SITE: GROTON / CONDE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 DRI-64 Lasagna Rotini Tossed Salad/Dressing Peaches Cookie Whole Wheat Bread	4 Honey-Glazed Chicken Breast Parsley Buttered Potatoes California Blend Vegetables Ambrosia Salad Whole Wheat Bread	5 DRI-66 Sloppy Joe on Wheat Bun Oven Roasted Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Crunchy Cranberry Salad	6 DRI-3 Turkey & Dressing Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Broccoli Carrot Bar Whole Wheat Bread	7 Baked Pork Chop Baked Potato / S. Cream Carrots Applesauce Whole Wheat Bread
10 DRI-23 Meatballs Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Carrots & Peas Fruit Cocktail Whole Wheat Bread	11 DRI-43 Lemon Chicken Breast Creamy Noodles Spinach Salad Baked Apple Slices Dinner Roll	12 Taco Salad Mexican Rice Seasonal Fresh Fruit Breadstick	13 DRI-52 Roast Pork Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Green Beans Applesauce Whole Wheat Bread	14 DRI-41 Turkey Sub Sandwich Creamy Potato Salad Fruit Ice Cream Sundae
17 DRI-65 Chicken Alfredo Cabbage Fruit Dessert French Bread	18 DRI-14 Tater Tot Hotdish Green Beans Grape Juice Sour Cream Apple Pie Square Whole Wheat Bread	19 DRI-35 BBQ Beef Sandwich Potato Salad Carrots Seasonal Fresh Fruit	20 DRI-8 Ham/Raisin Sauce Sweet Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Apricots Dinner Roll	21 DRI-51 Creamed Chicken Buttermilk Biscuit Peas Mandarin Oranges Peanut Butter Cookie
24 DRI-17 Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Broccoli Fruit Garlic Toast Orange Sherbet	25 DRI-44 Swiss Steak w/Mushroom Gravy/Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Rice and Raisins Whole Wheat Bread	26 DRI-4 Oven Fried Chicken Potato Salad Carrots/Broccoli Medley Peaches Whole Wheat Bread	27 DRI-7 Herbed Roast Pork Baked Potato/S.Cream Peas Cinnamon Applesauce Whole Wheat Bread	28 DRI-39 Tuna Noodle Casserole Beets Swedish Apple Pie Square Whole Wheat Bread

MEALS APPROVED BY: REGISTERED DIETITIAN

All meals include milk

South Dakota Farm Income Shows Increase in 2018

Mitchell— In 2018, farms and ranches enrolled in the South Dakota Center for Farm/Ranch Management program experienced a rise in net farm income from 2017, according to data compiled for analysis. The median net farm income of farms in the program in 2018 was \$53,888 compared to \$26,209 in 2017. The data is compiled through a statewide educational program that assists producers with their recordkeeping and management offered through Mitchell Technical Institute.

The net farm income in 2018 is the highest since 2014 when the median net farm income was \$115,564. The farms in the 2018 report are certainly not all the same that were represented in 2014, but the data indicates that the farms with a very low or negative net farm income in recent years may be trending upward. Farms and ranches are continuing on the right track to controlling costs and enhancing income from what resources are available. This information is based on averages and, as always, there are farms and ranches with higher and lower returns.

2018's average farm gross cash income of \$933,184 less \$842,789 average cash expense, equals a net cash farm income of \$90,395. That is a drop from \$117,287 in 2017. Net cash farm income does not factor in changes in inventory, depreciation, or capital sales and purchases; rather, it is simply the cash farm income less cash farm expenses. The program farms in 2018 had inventory changes amounting to an increase of \$55,396 contrary to the 2017 average of just \$5,693 in inventory changes. This is what propelled the net farm income rise. Net farm income is the number used to measure a farm or ranch's true profitability by including the above accrual adjustments. "When looking at the inventory changes, the crop and feed inventory value provided the 'push' upward. In the group summary, corn, soybeans, and alfalfa all yielded more than in 2017," states instructor Will Walter, MTI. This measure was as of January 1, 2018. Whatever price is received for that inventory since that time will affect the cash income for 2019.

The average age of participating operators was 44.5 years old, with an average of 20.3 years farming experience. Cash family living expenses for a family size of 3.7 members on average was \$64,351. In 2017 that average was \$63,409. Farm families in the program showed an average of \$36,065 in non-farm income, up from \$30,845 in 2017. Since cash family living expenses and debt service must come from the net farm income amount, it can be assumed that off-farm income and/or a draw of equity is supporting many farm/ranch households.

The increase in average net worth in 2018 was \$53,980. This equates to only 3%, but anything positive is welcome for many operators after the past few years. The liquidity measures show a slight decline from an already low perch a year ago with an average working capital of \$160,884 and a 1.32 current ratio on December 31, 2018. Working capital to gross income decreased from 21.2% in 2017 to 16.4% in 2018. The liquidity measures are in the cautionary status for the "average" net income group. This would indicate that there are several in the vulnerable status which is not a secret. The term debt coverage ratio of 1.38 is an improvement from 1.11 in 2017.

More information on the 2018 South Dakota Annual Report will be released soon and is available on the South Dakota Center for Farm/Ranch Management's website at www.sdfrm.com or by contacting the Center at (605) 995-7191 or sdfrm@mitchelltech.edu.

SDDVA Secretary Whitlock's May Column A Resting Place for Heroes

It's a few years into the future and as I drive past a grand entry that reads "South Dakota Veterans Cemetery" American flags line the drive as I pull into the cortege lane and exit my vehicle. I survey the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery as we prepare for the first internment of a hero who has opted to spend eternity here at this place of honor.

Looking back on this project I'm reminded how the work of many was vital to seeing this special resting place come to reality. Many people believe the discussions about a state veterans cemetery are only about three years old, which in fact, is not the case. Advocates for a state veterans cemetery will remind you that this has been an ongoing passionate push for over a decade.

Prior to the 2018 Legislative Session, members of the South Dakota Veterans Council began working to determine if a suitable piece of property could be obtained for establishing a state veterans cemetery. Working with the City of Sioux Falls, the South Dakota Veterans Council identified approximately 60 acres of property just north of the I-90 and I-229 Interchange that would be suitable for establishing a resting place for our heroes and their spouses.

During the 2018 Legislative Session Senate Bill 91 unanimously passed the House and Senate. This legislation instructed the State Department of Veterans Affairs to begin the application process through the National Cemetery Administration to obtain a grant to establish a state veterans cemetery. Our Department submitted a pre-application for this purpose in April 2018, and was notified in October 2018 that South Dakota was selected for a grant opportunity to establish a state veterans cemetery.

Concurrently, a team comprised of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of State Engineering, Bureau of Finance Management, Bureau of Administration, Stockwell Engineers, Journey Construction and the National Cemetery Administration was formed and tasked with all aspects of the design and establishment of your state veterans cemetery.

The other piece of Senate Bill 91 was the establishment of an endowment fund to cover the expense for the on-going operations of the state veterans cemetery. The South Dakota Veterans Council, and their partners, are working diligently to raise over three million dollars. You can learn more about the foundation at: <https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-state-veterans-cemetery-fund/>.

Eligibility for burial at our state veterans cemetery will be consistent with the eligibility criteria set forth by the National Cemetery Administration as it relates to veteran burials at Federal National Veterans' Cemeteries.

Fast forward to now, and the state veterans cemetery design is over 95 percent complete and could be sent for bid soon. I do not want to be dismissive of the amount of work that every entity, and individual, involved has done during this time. This worthy project has required countless hours of attention from everyone involved.

Most importantly, the Department wishes to thank each individual and entity that has had a hand in seeing this project through. There is much work to come, but we stand ready to accomplish our goals in seeing this project to completion and beyond.

Watch for updates on the cemetery on our webpage: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>.

Greg Whitlock, Secretary

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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Northeast Conference Junior High Track Meet

May 13 at Webster

Red = first place. Green = second place. Blue = third place.

100m Hurdles: 7th Grade Girls: 2, Jayla Jones, 19.19. 8th Grade Girls: 7, Marlee Tollifson, 20.38; 10, Ashtyn Bahr, 21.91.

110m Hurdles: 8th Grade Boys: 3, Andrew Marzahn, 19.00.

100m Dash: 7th Grade Girls: 3, Jayla Jones, 14.34; 17, Ashlyn Sperry, 15.98; 21, Lydia Meier, 16.07. 8th Grade Girls: 16, Aspen Johnson, 15.55; 19, Ashtyn Bahr, 15.98. 9th Grade Girls: 13, Alyssa Locke, 15.21; 15, Riley Leicht, 15.48. 7th Grade Boys: 2, Lane Tietz, 12.99; 4, Brandin Althoff, 12.99; 12, Braxton Imrie, 14.45. 8th Grade Boys: 1, Andrew Marzahn, 12.29. 9th Grade Boys: 4, Kaden Kurtz, 12.27.

200m Dash: 7th Grade Girls: 14, Kamryn Kurtz, 34.21; 16, Ashly Sperry, 34.86. 8th Grade Girls: 12, Marlee Tollifson, 33.66. 7th Grade Boys: 5, Colby Dunker, 27.91; 6, Bradin Althoff, 28.07; 7, Lane Tietz, 28.32. 8th Grade Boys: 3, Andrew Marzahn, 26.29; 11, Ethan Gengerke, 29.09.

400m Dash: 7th Grade Girls: 8, Karsyn Jangula, 1:19.71; 9, Sydney Leicht, 1:21.30. 7th Grade Boys: 2, Colby Dunker, 1:02.04. 8th Grade Boys: 5, Ethan Gengerke, 1:02.98; 7, Andrew Marzahn, 1:03.32; 14, Cole Bisbee, 1:13.75. 9th Grade Boys: 2, Kaden Kurtz, 57.51; 5, Jackson Cogley, 1:00.44; 6, Wyatt Hearnen, 1:04.70.

800m Run: 7th Grade Girls: 11, Anna Fjeldheim, 3:05.04. 7th Grade Boys: 5, Jacob Zak, 2:41.28; 7, Dillon Abeln, 2:50.46. 8th Grade Boys: 3, Jacob Lewandowski, 2:29.39; 5, Cole Simon, 2:37.34; 17, Cole Bisbee, 3:13.06.

1600m Run: 7th Grade Boys: 4, Dillon Abeln, 6:10.97. 8th Grade Boys: 2, Jacob Lewandowski, 5:26.38.

4x100m Relay: 7th Grade Girls: 4th place, 1:02.67. 8th Grade Girls: 4th place, 1:02.34. 9th Grade Girls: 4th place, 1:01.65. 7th Grade Boys: 4th place, 59.25.

4x200m Relay: 7th Grade Girls: 3rd place, 2:13.89. 9th Grade Girls: 3rd place, 2:13.93. 7th Grade Boys: 1st place, 1:53.30.

800m Sprint Medley Relay: 7th Grade Girls: 6th place, 2:24.95. 8th Grade Girls: 4th place, 2:19.85. 7th Grade Boys: 2nd place, 1:59.40. 8th Grade Boys: 2nd place, 1:57.53.

High Jump: 9th Grade Boys: 2, Jackson Cogley, 5-02.

Long Jump: 7th Grade Girls: 9, Lydia Meier, 10-08.75; 16, Karsyn Jangula, 9-02; 19, Sydney Leicht, 8-11.50; 20, Kamryn Kurtz, 8-10.75. 8th Grade Girls: 7, Aspen Johnson, 10-05. 9th Grade Girls: 4, Trista Keith, 12-09; 8, Alyssa Locke, 11-09.50.

Triple Jump: 9th Grade Boys: 4, Jackson Cogley, 34-11.

Shot Put: 7th Grade Girls: 3, Faith Fliehs, 27-05.50. 8th Grade Girls: 16, Cadence Tullis, 19-02; 17, Ava Kramer, 18-09. 9th Grade Girls: 1, Maddie Bjerke, 29-02.75. 7th Grade Boys: 3, Logan Ringgenberg, 31-04; 4, Holden Sippel, 29-04. 8th Grade Boys: 4, Danny Feist, 33-08.50; 5, Tate Larson, 32-03; 9, Kaleb Antonson, 29-04; 18, Caleb Hanten, 22-02.

Discus: 7th Grade Girls: 9, Faith Fliehs, 50-05. 8th Grade Girls: 13, Cadence Tullis, 51-05; 16, Ava Kramer, 45-01. 9th Grade Girls: 3, Maddie Bjerke, 74-01. 7th Grade Boys: 2, Logan Ringgenberg, 78-00; 8, Holden Sippel, 62-10. 8th Grade Boys: 4, Danny Feist, 93-09; 5, Tate Larson, 93-04; 9, Kaleb Antonson, 81-06; 13, Caleb Hanten, 75-02.

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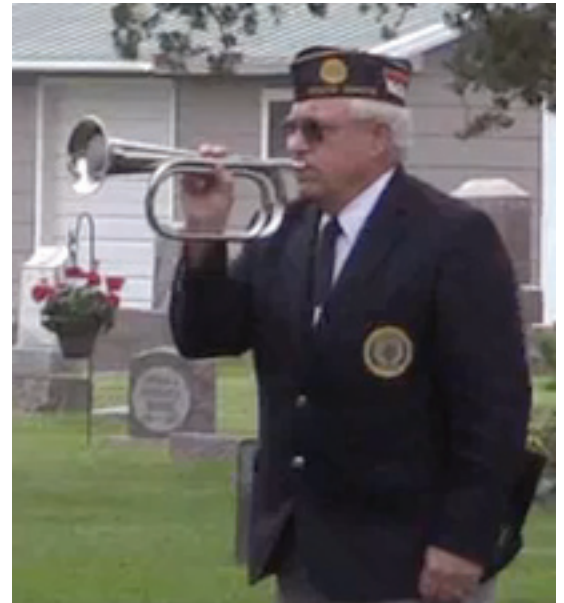
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The members of the Honor Guard did the gun salute at the Groton Union Cemetery. Pictured left to right are Ron Falk, Dale Wolter, Bruce Babcock, Doug Hamilton, Roger Overacker, Ben Schaller, Spencer Locke, Bud Bell and Dale Kurth. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Doug Hamilton spearheaded the redoing of the Veteran's Circle at the Union Cemetery with new vases this year and the planting of new grass. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Groton Legion Post #39 Commander Robert Wegner played taps. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

Click Below for Videos
Cemetery Service
Program Service

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Legion Commander Robert Wegner raises the flag from half mast to full mast at the Union Cemetery. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Legion Commander Robert Wegner gave the opening remarks at the program held at the Groton Legion Post #39 home in downtown Groton. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Lieutenant Colonel Arden L. Dohman was the guest speaker. Tammi Zimney and Deb Fredrickson read the honor roll. It was mentioned that over 300 flags were placed at the Union Cemetery marking the veterans. (Photos lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

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Today in Weather History

May 27, 1942: A short estimated F2 touchdown uprooted 27 trees on the western edge of Bryant in Hamlin County. One barn was destroyed.

May 27, 1996: On May 26th, anywhere from 4 to 6 inches of rain fell in a 24 hour period over the lower Bad River Basin. Also, 3 to 5 inches of rain fell over much of Western South Dakota. This runoff caused the Bad River at Fort Pierre to crest at 26.25 feet or about 5 feet above flood stage late on the 27th before falling back below flood stage on the 30th. The entire length of the Bad River Road from U.S. Highway 83 near Fort Pierre to U.S. Highway 14 near Midland was closed to all except local traffic on the 27th. Twenty-five to 35 volunteers were filling sandbags all day on the 27th around two homes along the river. Most of the damage was associated with flooding of agricultural land and some county roads. One resident along the river said the river was the highest it has been in 32 years.

1771: In Virginia, a wall of water came roaring down the James River Valley following ten to twelve days of intense rain. As water swept through Richmond, buildings, boats, animals, and vegetation were lost. About one hundred fifty people were killed as the River reached a flood stage of forty-five feet above normal. A monument to the flood was inscribed by Ryland Randolph, of Curles, in 1771-72: " ... all the great rivers of this country were swept by inundations never before experienced which changed the face of nature and left traces of violence that will remain for ages."

1896: A massive tornado struck Saint Louis, Missouri killing 306 persons and causing thirteen million dollars damage. The tornado path was short but cut across a densely populated area. It touched down six miles west of Eads Bridge in Saint Louis and widened to a mile as it crossed into East Saint Louis. The tornado was the most destructive of record in the U.S. at that time. It pierced a five-eighths inch thick iron sheet with a two by four-inch pine plank. A brilliant display of lightning accompanied the storm.

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in West Texas produced baseball size hail at Crane, hail up to three and a half inches in diameter at Post, and grapefruit size hail south of Midland. Five days of flooding commenced in Oklahoma. Thunderstorms produced 7 to 9 inches of rain in central Oklahoma. Oklahoma City reported 4.33 inches of rain in six hours. Up to six inches of rain caused flooding in north central Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Sunny and warm weather prevailed across much of the nation to kick off the Memorial Day weekend. Afternoon thunderstorms in southern Florida caused the mercury at Miami to dip to a record low reading of 69 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)




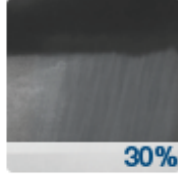

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Ten cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 90s. Lakeland, FL, reported a record high of 99 degrees, and Biloxi, MS, reported a temperature of 90 degrees along with a relative humidity of 75 percent. (The National Weather Summary)

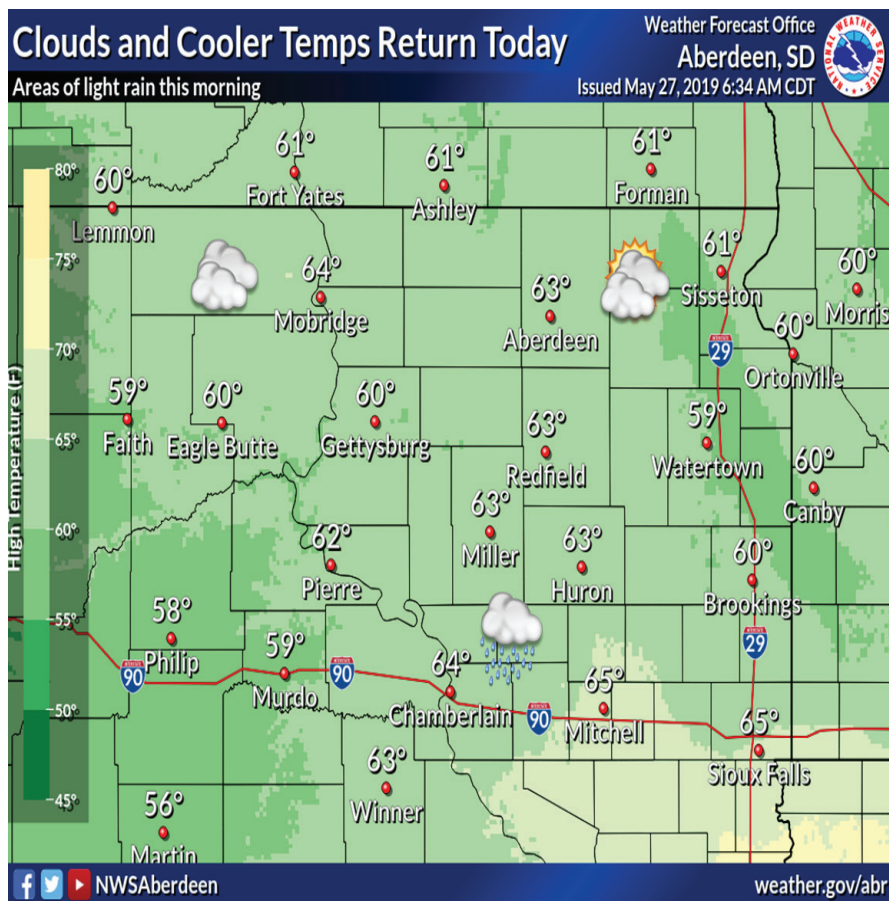
1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from north central Texas to the Central Gulf Coast Region. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, and there were eighty-one reports of large hail or damaging winds. Late afternoon thunderstorms over southeast Louisiana produced high winds which injured twenty-seven persons at an outdoor music concert in Baton Rouge, and high winds which gusted to 78 mph at the Lake Ponchartrain Causeway. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1997: An F5 tornado killed 27 people in Jarrell, Texas. Although tornado warnings were issued 30 minutes in advance and local sirens were sounded, there were few places to go for safety. Most homes were on slabs, with no basements. Houses were swept clean off their foundations, with little debris left behind. Total damage was \$20 million. The same thunderstorm complex produced a wind gust to 122 mph at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio.

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Memorial Day	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
Cloudy and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Showers	Chance Showers
High: 63 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 65 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 70 °F



A bit of a setback today and tomorrow as clouds and cooler temperatures move back into the region. We'll also see a few periods of rainfall, one being this morning into early afternoon, although amounts will be rather light. The next storm system moves in on Tuesday and lingers over the area into Wednesday. Moderate to heavy rainfall is possible over portions of the region.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 75 °F at 4:43 PM

Low Temp: 46 °F at 6:07 AM

Wind: 14 mph at 3:32 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 101° in 2018

Record Low: 28° in 1907

Average High: 72°F

Average Low: 48°F

Average Precip in May.: 2.62

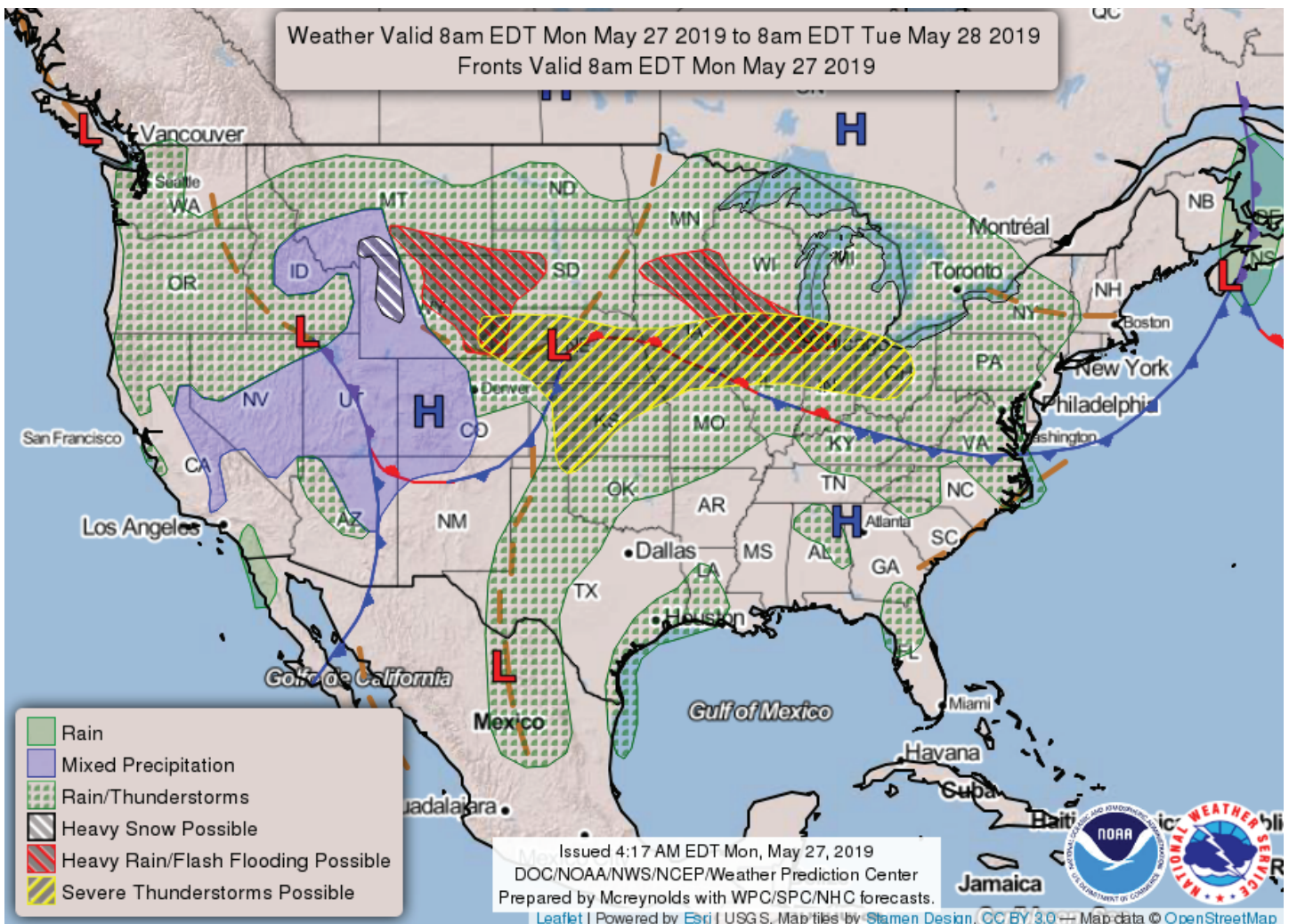
Precip to date in May.: 3.26

Average Precip to date: 6.65

Precip Year to Date: 7.97

Sunset Tonight: 9:10 p.m.

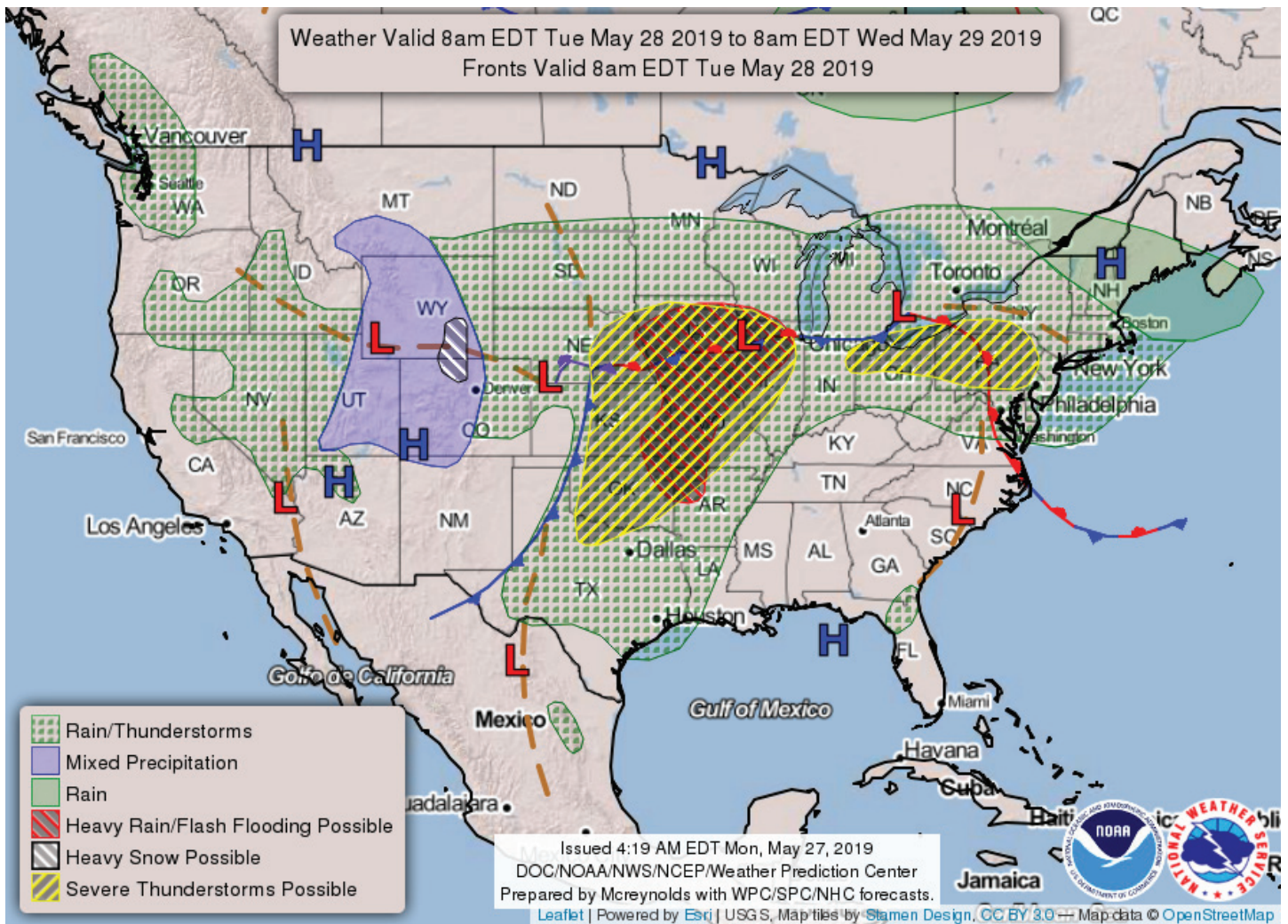
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.



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Tomorrow's Weather Map



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HARD TO BELIEVE!

My brother-in-law, Wayne, was a people person. He enjoyed being with people and making them laugh. People also enjoyed being with him too, because he always brought smiles and encouragement wherever he went.

Wayne also had some unusual habits. One was brushing his tongue repeatedly. During a conversation he would often say, Excuse me, please and walk away. After a few moments he would return and begin the conversation precisely where it had ended. People were puzzled and did not feel comfortable asking where he went or what he did.

Finally, the suspense got the best of one of his friends and he asked, Wayne, why do you walk off in the middle of a conversation? Where do you go and what do you do?

Oh, he replied with a smile. I go to the bathroom and brush my tongue. The tongue, you know, has more germs than our teeth, and if not brushed carefully and repeatedly, can cause a stink. But, the story of the tongue does not end there.

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit, wrote Solomon. I am rather certain that each of us have experienced both parts of that verse. We all need words of encouragement and healing from hearts that are caring and kind. But, a deceitful tongue coupled with intent to harm others, does indeed squeeze the life from a person - often when a persons spirit is threatened. We need to be healers, not harmers!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to speak words of hope, help and healing from hearts that are clean, kind and caring. May we bless others with the words of Your hope. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 15:4 The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

2 men killed in separate SD crashes

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two men have died in separate one-vehicle crashes in South Dakota. The South Dakota Highway Patrol says both were thrown from their vehicles in crashes in Butte and Meade counties Saturday. A 35-year-old man was killed when his pickup left a road near Rapid City in Meade County and crashed on an embankment. He died at the scene. The patrol says a 31-year-old man died later Saturday when he lost control of his vehicle on a gravel road near Nisland in Butte County. He hit a ditch and rolled several times. The men have not yet been identified.

Police: Pedestrian dies after intentionally hit at Walmart

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police say an intoxicated driver intentionally struck and killed a pedestrian in a Walmart parking lot in Rapid City. The 48-year-old woman is being held on possible charges of first-degree murder and driving under the influence. Authorities say the crash happened shortly before 1 p.m. Sunday. First responders found the victim unresponsive in the parking lot. The victim was taken to Rapid City Regional Hospital and pronounced dead. Police say the driver struck a tree after hitting the pedestrian. Witnesses told investigators say the woman intentionally struck the victim.

Bowdle woman gifts graduates with special handmade quilts

By SHANNON MARVEL Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — For the last 39 years, high school and college graduates in the Bowdle area have received a special gift — a handmade quilt from Jeanne Bieber. "It's a good gift. It's something they can use, and it's something I do out of love," Bieber said to the Aberdeen American News. "It's a handmade gift. Giving something handmade is special. So that's why I do it."

Bieber, 67, has been making quilts for area graduates since 1980, she said. In one year, she made as many as 24 quilts, but on average makes about 10 a year. This year, she'll give out nine quilts, which were freshly completed recently.

"I do them really simple — I take two sheets then put bedding in between and tie them. But everybody seems to like them," Bieber humbly explained. "I've had people tell me 'I still have mine' all the time," she added.

"Back when I first started, it was one of the cheaper gifts you could give. They're getting more expensive every year, of course. I started giving them to all the kids that graduated with my kids. Now I give them to anyone I get a graduation announcement from," she said.

"I don't think the kids really know me, but it's OK. Some of my great-nieces and nephews, they can't wait to get my gift because they know they're going to get a quilt. I had a fella tell me a couple years ago, 'You know that was the best gift I ever got.'"

"Last year I did 14, then I had 11 just about done when my house started on fire. So I had to redo all of them. I figured they don't need them until they go off to school," Bieber said.

The tragic fire claimed so much more than just the quilts.

Her husband of 49 years, Dennis Bieber, lost his life in the May 11, 2018, house fire.

"I just feel like God must've said it was time. Because there was really no reason why he didn't walk out. That's the only way I can feel. You know? Because if you don't — you know?" Bieber said.

Bieber lost most of her belongings in the fire as well, but was able to save a handmade cedar chest that

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sports a drawing of her homestead and picture of her and her husband on their wedding day.

"It's amazing how that ugly smoke got into everything. The upstairs in the back closet, the last box was full of smoke. It wasn't just a few boxes in there. It was piled to the ceiling."

"I think some of my kids probably thought, 'Why did you let him go down there? Why did you do that?' Well, if they would've lived with him, they would've known he was not known to be stopped," Bieber explained of her husband's death. "He was a 75-year-old German — he did what he wanted to do. I'm still grieving. I look out the window and I see where my house was. People always say 'I know how you feel, things will get better,' and I hope it will. But I put up a good front."

Her trailer home sits right next to the site of the fire. In the middle of the upturned dirt sits a white cross.

But the loss hasn't stopped Bieber from continuing to do what she loves to do and is a testament to her dedication to still enjoy life.

"My house burned down a year ago, and I lost my husband in the fire, so last year I didn't put in a garden and stuff because I was at my daughter's house," Bieber explained. "So I didn't put in a garden last year. But I intend to put one in this year. Putting a garden in is my stress reliever. I like to work out in my garden. I also like to be able to go out in the garden and pick my stuff. If I need an onion, I can go out and get it."

Bieber also was bound and determined to get back on the farm after the fire.

"I've been raised on a farm all my life, and I like my privacy. I spent until October in town living with my daughter for most of the time not knowing when I was finally going to get this trailer house out here," she said.

"It just wasn't me. This is where I want to be."

Bieber said she also makes lap quilts for folks who are retiring or celebrating an anniversary.

"The people like them, and it's something that they can use," Bieber said of the lap quilts. "I just gave one to my neighbor lady for her 85th birthday. She tells me, 'Oh, this is going on my bed.' I just keep going. I don't mind doing it. People can use them and they enjoy them."

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

CBD oil taken from South Dakota store after THC found

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police in a South Dakota city say they have seized hemp-derived CBD oil from a health store because the products contained trace amounts of THC, the psychoactive component in marijuana that causes a high.

Rapid City police spokeswoman Brendyn Medina told the Rapid City Journal Friday the department got a tip that some of the CBD oil at Staple and Spice Market may have THC. Store owner Carol Pugh said authorities took about \$3,000 worth of products Thursday afternoon after an officer bought some and tested them.

Pugh said she thought the CBD oil was safe to sell.

"I did what I thought was my due diligence as a retailer of 28 years," she said.

Pugh acknowledged that what police seized — 16 individual or bundled packages — have a "trace amount" of THC, about .03%. But she noted that the recently passed federal farm bill allows industrial hemp to contain up to .3%.

"I think I'm in a gray area," she said.

Pugh's store sells other CBD products without any THC and those weren't seized.

South Dakota prosecutors have reached different conclusions about CBD oil. Pennington County State's Attorney Mark Vargo previously said he won't prosecute hemp-derived CBD oil cases if there's no marijuana. But state Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg said he considers all hemp and CBD oil illegal.

Vargo said he hasn't seen documents related to the authorities' search of Pugh's store so he doesn't know whether he'll file charges.

"The bottom line is I believe CBD, in and of itself, is not illegal," Vargo said. But he added that CBD with

THC is "clearly illegal."

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

Students ask Rapid City for gender identity protections

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A student group wants the Rapid City Area Schools Board of Education to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

High school students from a group called Working to Initiate Societal Equality told board members last week that the district's anti-discrimination policy should be updated because it doesn't include gender identity.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the current policy forbids harassment and discrimination based on "age, citizenship, color, creed, disability, ethnic background, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex," sexual orientation or veteran status. However, there's no language directly addressing gender.

The students brought the board a petition signed by about 240 of their peers. One student, Noelle Schendzielos, said after the meeting that her group wants to support their peers who identify as transgender or non-binary.

"I know that some of them feel like they have to hide it, because otherwise they get treated differently," Schendzielos said.

School Board President Ron Riherd said board members have yet to discuss the proposal and administrators first need to determine whether gender identity is already encompassed in school policy as it stands. But, he said, "I understand where they're coming from."

In October, the Western Dakota Technical Institute included gender identity in its anti-discrimination policy. Administrators had said transgender people already were protected from discrimination because sex-based discrimination is prohibited in the institute's policy, but that adding gender identity made the policy clearer.

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

Abortion debate highlights divide in Democrat-led states

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT and DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A bill seeking to preserve abortion protections in state law fails to pass a key committee. Lawmakers cite God, church and faith in proclaiming their opposition to it. Abortion-rights groups protest outside a gathering of lawmakers.

What sounds like a legislative fight in a state controlled by anti-abortion Republicans is actually quite different.

The bill seeking to protect abortion rights is in Rhode Island, a state controlled by Democrats at all levels of political power, and it's stalled.

"This is an issue, I think, where it's very difficult to draw a line down party lines," said Democratic state Sen. Erin Lynch Prata, a committee chairwoman who voted in favor of the bill. "It's a very personal issue to a lot of people."

Rhode Island is not the only state led politically by Democrats where abortion-rights legislation has either died or stalled this year. A bill to remove a dormant criminal ban on abortion in New Mexico was voted down in March by the Democrat-led state Senate, despite a push to shore up abortion rights by Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. In Hawaii, where all but six of the 76 lawmakers are Democrats, a bill allowing advanced-practice registered nurses to perform some abortions passed the Senate but died in a House committee.

To be sure, some Democratic-led states are taking steps to enshrine the right to an abortion should the U.S. Supreme Court ever overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Among them are Nevada, New York

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and Vermont.

But the enthusiasm and recent success of anti-abortion activists to pass near total bans on the procedure in about a half-dozen Republican-dominated states provides a stark contrast to the more muted response in states controlled by Democrats.

In those states, the legislative records and personal views of Democratic lawmakers are mixed, much to the disappointment of abortion-rights supporters.

Jocelyn Foye, co-director of The Womxn Project in Rhode Island, said she thinks that while many politicians run as Democrats in the state to win, they don't always vote like Democrats, particularly on abortion rights. She said she is frustrated that the abortion-protection bill has not progressed.

"At the same time, it has empowered me, as well as the community we have working with us, to really just not let up," Foye said. "We're going to keep fighting."

Members of The Womxn Project staged a protest last week outside a fundraiser for the Rhode Island Senate Democrats political action committee, intended to pressure the legislative leaders to bring the bill to a floor vote. Foye said it also was a way to hold the senators accountable for taking care of the women of Rhode Island.

"The only thing standing in the way of this bill is Democrats, and they need to know that," said Liz Gledhill, a member of the Rhode Island Democratic Party Women's Caucus who was among roughly 150 people attending the protest. "You can't call yourself a Democrat and vote against a bill like this."

The Rhode Island bill says the state will not restrict the right to an abortion prior to fetal viability or afterward if an abortion is necessary for the health or life of the mother. It also would repeal older state abortion laws deemed unconstitutional by the courts.

Passage is far from assured in a heavily Catholic state where many lawmakers cite their faith as a guide to their political decisions.

Democratic Sen. Harold Metts, a Baptist deacon whose statehouse office is decorated with crosses, said he would never vote for an abortion-rights bill because "abortion robs God of his glory by substituting man and government in God's place to determine life and death."

Similar sentiments doomed the abortion-rights legislation in New Mexico earlier this year.

Eight Senate Democrats joined with Republicans to defeat the bill, which would have overturned a 1969 statute making it a felony for an abortion provider to terminate a pregnancy. Opponents, including the local Roman Catholic Church, highlighted provisions that would allow late-term abortions to continue.

The outcome caught many of the bill's supporters by surprise and makes it likely that the state's dormant abortion ban will stand at least through the 2020 election, in a state where Democrats control the Legislature and every elected statewide office.

During the floor debate on the bill in March, Democratic state Sen. Gabriel Ramos held aloft letters of opposition from three Catholic dioceses and urged colleagues to follow their advice.

"To me, I was just doing what's right in my mind and for my district," said Ramos, who voted against the bill and rejects the notion that abortion is a partisan topic. "This is a life issue; this is a moral issue."

State Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, a practicing Catholic who supports abortion rights, said the Senate vote should be a wake-up call to abortion-rights advocacy groups in New Mexico. He noted that there are just eight women in the 42-member Senate.

"We lost; there is no way of getting around that," he said. "If activists want to get a different result, they're going to have to get more women in the Senate or they're going to have to explain to more men in the Senate that they want a women's right to choose to be honored."

In Hawaii, state Rep. John Mizuno, a Democrat, said lawmakers on the health committee he chairs believed a Senate bill expanding the ranks of those who can perform abortions needed further discussion.

The committee amended the bill to create a task force and two other House committees deferred it, effectively killing it for the session. Mizuno said the bill could be taken up next year.

Abortion-rights activists have taken heart in the actions of other states controlled by Democrats.

New York adopted an abortion-rights measure in January that, among other things, codifies many court-

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granted rights. Vermont's Democratic-led Legislature this month passed both a bill and constitutional amendment that would guarantee the right to abortion. Republican Gov. Phil Scott has said the bill will become law, but the amendment must be approved again by the Legislature elected in 2020 for it to appear on the 2022 ballot.

The Democratic-led Nevada Legislature, which has the nation's first overall female majority, voted this past week to relax abortion laws. The measure would repeal criminal penalties for people who perform or supply medications to induce abortion without the advice of a physician. It also would repeal requirements to document the woman's marital status and inform her about the "emotional implications" of abortion.

Andrea Miller, president of the National Institute for Reproductive Health, a New York-based nonprofit advocacy group, said abortion opponents sensed an opportunity to challenge *Roe v. Wade* before a more conservative Supreme Court and used that to make a major legislative push in Republican-dominated states this spring.

"At the same time, though, we really are seeing momentum in these other states that are seeking to do anything and everything they need to protect abortion rights and advance access to abortion care," Miller said. "We have a lot of confidence that those are going to continue to move forward in the coming weeks."

The fight will not necessarily play out along neat partisan lines, however. The fate of bills this year seeking to expand or codify abortion rights is uncertain in a number of states where Democrats are in control, including Illinois and Maine.

In Rhode Island, abortion-rights supporters are working on compromise language for the stalled bill in hopes they can persuade enough Senate Democrats to eventually approve it; the House passed its version of the legislation in March. Democratic state Sen. Dawn Euer said tensions are high around the issue and that lawmakers' conversations are "under a microscope."

Barth Bracy, executive director of Rhode Island Right to Life, said he thinks some Democrats are pushing back against being stereotyped on the issue.

"There are a lot of John F. Kennedy Democrats in Rhode Island who feel betrayed by the suggestion that in order to be a good Democrat, they must be pro-abortion," he said.

— Lieb reported from Jefferson City, Missouri. Associated Press writers Morgan Lee in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Audrey McAvoy in Honolulu contributed to this report.

Macron vs. Salvini: Two leaders face off over EU's future

By LORI HINNANT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — France's pro-EU president and the leader of Italy's euroskeptic, far-right movement jockeyed for the role of chief powerbroker on the continent Monday after elections to the European Parliament hollowed out the traditional political middle.

The four days of balloting that drew to a close Sunday across the European Union's 28 countries ended the domination of the main center-right and center-left parties in Parliament and established the anti-EU forces on the right and the environmentalists on the left as forces to be reckoned with.

Voters delivered the highest turnout in 20 years, rejecting mainstream politics in France, Germany, Britain and Italy.

The results could make the business of governing Europe even trickier, leaving the Parliament deadlocked over key issues to come, including immigration, a major trade agreement with the United States, global warming, regulation of the tech industry and, of course, Brexit.

The outcome of the election is already setting off a power struggle.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron's party narrowly lost to the French far-right, led by Marine Le Pen. Macron, whose party was poised to secure 21 seats to 22 for Le Pen's National Rally, spent Monday busily amassing allies ahead of a summit Tuesday in Brussels, hoping to build a durable pro-EU coalition.

In Italy, Matteo Salvini's right-wing League party won a third of the country's vote and is poised to become one of the biggest parties in the European Parliament with 28 seats in the 751-seat legislature. But

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his ambitions reached higher.

By midday, he had already spoken to Le Pen, Hungary's hardline anti-immigrant prime minister, Viktor Orban, and Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage and was promising to singlehandedly bring together a contradiction in terms — an international group of nationalists.

"We want to be a group that has at least 100 members and has the ambition to be at least 150, if everyone can overcome jealousies, sympathies, antipathies. To create an alternative, you play. You don't do it by turning up your nose," he said.

The center-right European People's Party and the center-left Socialists & Democrats have dominated the parliament with a combined majority since direct elections were first held in 1979. With results still coming in, the EPP was on track to secure 180 seats, down from 217 five years ago. The Socialists were slated to win 145, down from 187.

Riding what they called Europe's "green wave," environmentalist parties seeking action on climate change made strong gains, notably in Germany. Another mainstream formation, the free-market ALDE group backed by Macron, saw its stake in the Parliament rise to 109 seats, from 68 in 2014.

For the Parliament to choose a European Commission president and ultimately to pass legislation, new and uncomfortable alliances must be forged, and nearly all will require some combination of ALDE and the Greens.

Well aware of the far-right's potential to turn against itself, Macron launched a flurry of meetings ahead of the dinner summit Tuesday where the EU countries' presidents and prime ministers will take stock of the election results.

He started with Spain and was due to hold talks with the leaders of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

"The future majority of the European Parliament goes through us, without question. There isn't one without us," Pascal Canfin, one of the leading candidates from Macron's party, told France Inter radio.

In Germany, where Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right movement also lost ground, leaders of the country's governing parties met to weigh the fallout from their worst post-World War II showing in a nationwide election.

"We are facing a shrinking center," a subdued EPP candidate Manfred Weber said. "From now on, those who want to have a strong European Union have to join forces."

Senior figures from the EPP hold the top posts in the EU's three main institutions: Parliament president; head of the EU's powerful executive commission; and European Council president, who chairs summits of European presidents and prime ministers.

Just over 50 percent of the EU's more than 400 million voters cast ballots.

While real power in Europe remains in the hands of the 28 member states, the Parliament's influence has grown. It has helped improve air flight safety in Europe, cut down on plastics use, end mobile telephone roaming charges inside the bloc, boost data privacy, and cut carbon dioxide emissions from cars.

Steve Bannon, who helped propel Donald Trump's populist campaign to the White House, was in Paris on Monday to celebrate the victories of like-minded parties in Europe and gird for the battle ahead.

"You see the trend, and it's definitely nationalist-versus-globalist," he said. He predicted the far-right will prevail by grinding the European Parliament to a halt: "Every day will be like Stalingrad."

Associated Press writers Lorne Cook and Mike Corder contributed to this story, along with Colleen Barry in Milan, Sylvie Corbet in Paris, Jill Lawless in London, and Geir Moulson in Berlin.

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

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EU elections: Gutted center, high turnout, rising right

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union prides itself on being a brilliant mosaic of nations, but its parliamentary elections produced a hodgepodge of sometimes contradictory results that complicates the future of both the 28-country EU and the domestic politics of several members.

While issues like climate change, immigration and global trade dominated the campaign, voters' motivations were plainly parochial.

And the domestic effect of the continent-wide elections was there for all to see, including at least one government coming apart at the seams.

VOTE EU, THINK LOCAL

No name is bigger than that of Germany's Angela Merkel, and her recipe for conservative, stable government suffered a blow when both her Christian Democrats CDU/CSU and her Socialist coalition partner lost big in the elections. Climate has been a big theme in Germany, and despite windmills dotting the landscape, industry continues to rely heavily on coal and other polluting energy sources. A government plan to close coal mines by 2038 only put it among the climate laggards. Disregard the issue at your peril in these days of climate marches and student protests, the surging Greens showed. The Christian Democrats and Socialists sank to historic lows amid talk their coalition could be in peril.

In Greece, the shock was even bigger, and climate change was not to blame. In Athens, voters lashed out against the hangover from the austerity imposed by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to avoid bankruptcy and a perilous exit from the euro currency four years ago. That was compounded by another national flashpoint: Tsipras lost appeal in northern Greece over his willingness to recognize the name of neighboring North Macedonia. His losses forced him to call for early elections.

Yet nowhere is a domestic issue bigger than in the United Kingdom, where an inability to deliver on Brexit, the 2016 referendum to leave the EU, caused the Conservatives of Prime Minister Theresa May and Labour to sink to historic lows.

YOU VOTE, THE EU LOVES YOU

Even if you voted for an anti-EU party, the EU still loves you because you took part in the election.

Every five years, the EU feared that fewer voters would show up. And every time, since the first direct elections in 1979, turnout was worse, dropping from 61.8% in 1979 to 42.6% five years ago. It went to their core business: How could the EU prove it was relevant if fewer people showed up to vote every time?

So even if the euroskeptic vote rose to unprecedented heights this year, there was still a certain giddiness around EU institutions as turnout figures kept on rising through the night. They finally reached 50.9%, the highest in two decades.

Socialist chief candidate Frans Timmermans gave "a big shout-out to the millions and millions of Europeans who took the trouble in the last couple of days to go out and vote," even though his group suffered major losses.

By comparison, turnout in the U.S. midterms last November stood at 53%, a four-decade high.

THE CENTER GUTTED

Western Europe's postwar system of free-market economies backed by strong social protections has largely been built by the Christian Democrat and Socialist families.

And together they have controlled the European Parliament, combining for a majority in the legislature since the first elections in 1979. Now, in line with increasing fragmentation and polarization on the continent, those days are over.

Together they are slated to have only 325 seats in the 751-seat legislature: 180 for the EPP Christian Democrats and 145 for the S&D Socialists, well short of the majority they have grown used to.

It will be a sea change that will complicate the already complicated decision-making in the EU. First up

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will be the appointment of top jobs.

Currently the EPP has the top three jobs, with Donald Tusk heading summit meetings, Jean-Claude Juncker the executive Commission and Antonio Tajani the Parliament.

There is no way they will be this lucky twice. The ALDE and Green groups already consider themselves kingmakers, ready to get in on the act. "The monopoly of power is broken," said Margrethe Vestager, an ALDE candidate for a top job.

FAR RIGHT RISING

It was not the big breakthrough they were hoping for, but the roots of the far-right and populist groups are extending deeper into Europe's democratic soil.

Italy's Matteo Salvini is already seeking to bring the many disparate parties under his umbrella with the goal of breaking the EU from within.

"Not only is the League the first party in Italy, but also Marine Le Pen is the first party in France, Nigel Farage is the first party in the UK," Salvini said, looking at the bright spots in the results. "It is the sign of a Europe that is changing."

Don't count on a smooth ride. The far-right and populist members of Parliament have proved abrasive and divided among themselves.

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

Trump in Japan: Pomp and tense circumstance

By JILL COLVIN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — All the pomp and pageantry in the world couldn't paper over the tensions between President Donald Trump and Japan's Shinzo Abe on two of their most pressing issues: North Korea and trade.

The president and prime minister tried mightily to minimize their differences during Trump's four-day state visit to Tokyo, while playing up their close personal friendship and their countries' long-held ties. But tension abounded, with Trump on Monday brushing off the significance of North Korean short-range missile tests that have rattled Japan and reasserting his threats to hit Abe with potentially devastating auto import tariffs.

Asked if he was bothered by the missile tests, Trump said: "No, I'm not. I am personally not." Abe, in contrast, said the missile tests were "of great regret."

The conflict demonstrates the limits of Abe's long-term strategy of showering Trump with affection in hopes of extracting benefits. Trump appeared uninterested in concessions despite a program tailor-made for the president that included a showy visit with the new Japanese emperor, a round of golf and prime seats at a sumo tournament where Trump got to present a "President's Cup" to the winner,

Trump also demonstrated again that he is willing turn his back on long-held norms as he assailed Joe Biden, the 2020 Democratic hopeful whom North Korean leader Kim Jon Un recently criticized as having a low IQ.

"I don't take sides as to who I'm in favor of or who I'm not," Trump said when asked whether he was favoring a violent dictator over the former vice president. "But I can tell you that Joe Biden was a disaster."

Indeed, Trump also sided with Kim on the question of whether the short-term missile launches violated U.N. Security Council resolutions, as both Abe and Trump's own national security adviser, John Bolton, had stated.

"My people think it could have been a violation," said Trump. "I view it differently. I view it as a man — perhaps he wants to get attention and perhaps not. Who knows?"

Japan has long voiced concern about short-range missiles because of the threat they pose to its security. Kim's decision to lift the pause in ballistic missile launches that began in late 2017 alarmed North Korea's neighbors.

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Most analysts believe the missiles were ballistic missiles, which are not allowed under U.N. resolutions.

Trump's visit to Japan was designed to highlight the U.S.-Japan alliance and showcase the warm relations between the two leaders. Trump said he and Abe deliberated over trade, Iran and more during hours of talks at Akasaka Palace.

Trump was invited to Japan to be the first world leader to meet the country's new emperor. But despite being far from Washington, Trump didn't hold back in his criticism of Biden, telling the world he agreed with the North Korean leader's assessment and declaring himself "not a fan."

"Kim Jong Un made a statement that Joe Biden is a low-IQ individual," Trump said. "He probably is, based on his record. I think I agree with him on that."

Pressed on whether he was supporting a dictator over a former U.S. vice president, Trump recited a host of complaints about the Obama-Biden administration.

U.S. officeholders have in the past generally avoided engaging in politics while on foreign soil, hewing to the adage that politics stops at the water's edge. But Trump's sharp attack on Biden, through his declaration of agreement with Kim, cast aside that tradition.

Biden, during a recent campaign event, accused Trump of cozying up to "dictators and tyrants" like Kim.

Trump continues to hold out hope of getting Kim to agree to give up his nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, even though the two summits he's had with the North Korean leader have produced no concrete pledge to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

Trump nonetheless praised Kim, calling him a "smart man" who was intent on making his country better.

"All I know is there have been no nuclear tests, no ballistic missiles going out, no long-range missiles going out, and I think that someday we'll have a deal," Trump said, adding that he is in "no rush."

Trump is correct that North Korea has not recently tested a long-range missile that could reach the U.S. But this month, North Korea fired off a series of short-range missiles.

"This is violating the Security Council resolution," Abe said, adding that, as North Korea's neighbor, Japan feels threatened. "It is of great regret."

Still, Trump and Abe pledged to work closer together as they attend to North Korea and move forward with trade talks.

Earlier Monday, Trump said he backed Abe's interest in leveraging his country's good relations with Iran to help broker a possible dialogue between the U.S. and its nemesis in the Middle East. Abe said he is willing to do whatever he can to help to reduce tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

"Peace and stability of (the) Middle East is very important for Japan and the United States and also for the international community as a whole," Abe said.

Abe could visit Iran next month.

Trump also said his only aim is to prevent the country from obtaining nuclear weapons.

"We're not looking for regime change," he said. "I just want to make that clear. We're looking for no nuclear weapons."

Trump and Abe held hours of talks Monday after Trump became the first world leader to meet Japan's new emperor, Naruhito, who ascended to the throne May 1.

Trump's meeting with the new emperor and his wife, Empress Masako, was preceded by a grand outdoor welcome ceremony at Japan's Imperial Palace, where Trump walked solo across red carpets, reviewing Japanese troops as the guest of honor.

Trump's official visit also made time for golf with Abe, presentation of a trophy he created to a sumo wrestling champion and a black-tie banquet at the palace — as well as hours of one-on-one time with Abe, who has been trying to remain on Trump's good side, especially on trade.

Trump and Abe largely glossed over their differences, despite the auto tariffs that Trump is threatening to impose on Japan and the European Union. Trump declined to say what Japan would have to do to avoid those tariffs but complained of an "unbelievably large" trade imbalance with the nation.

Still, he said he expects to reach trade deals with Japan and China "sometime into the future."

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to meet during a world leaders' summit next

month in Osaka.

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In mostly white Iowa, black Dems poised to play a 2020 role

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — In Iowa, one of the whitest states in the nation, more than 100 black Democrats who expect to attend the 2020 caucuses crammed into a tiny community center in the capital city to position themselves as a force in the most wide-open presidential campaign in a generation.

"There is hope! There is hope, I tell you, the same hope that Barack Obama brought us," Jamie Woods, former chairwoman of the Iowa Democratic Black Caucus, implored the cheering group last month.

In the state where Obama's 2008 candidacy cleared its first important hurdle, black Democrats are energized as seldom seen, in part motivated by overwhelming dissatisfaction with President Donald Trump. That enthusiasm could make a difference in a state that holds a presidential caucus, which, unlike an open primary, attracts only the most motivated voters. That means a candidate who can rally more black voters in the caucuses can gain an outsized advantage, even though African Americans make up only 2% of Iowa's population.

Iowa's caucus, coming next February as the first event in the Democratic Party's presidential nominating contest, is an early test of how voters are going to respond to two dozen candidates and could be a harbinger of the primary a few weeks later in South Carolina, where African Americans comprise most of the Democratic primary electorate.

"They're realizing that their voice needs to be heard," said Deidre DeJear, the first African American to win a primary for statewide office in Iowa and now state chairwoman for Sen. Kamala Harris' 2020 presidential campaign. "And they are using the platform they have whether they're elected or whether just a regular voter."

Stacey Walker, the first black county board chairman in Iowa's second-most-populous metro area, said she hasn't seen this kind of energy among black operatives, activists and officeholders in Iowa in years.

"Not since the Obama coalition have we seen so many persons of color actively engaged and inspired by our politics," Walker said. "It hasn't always been this way, and certainly not in Iowa."

Giving an early indication of the energy within this small but influential segment of the caucus electorate, more than 200 black Democrats braved a driving ice storm in February to attend the Iowa Democratic Black Caucus winter fundraiser at a north Des Moines union hall.

Candidates are looking to harness that energy. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, a 2020 presidential candidate and former mayor of Newark, has convened city leaders, including Quentin Hart, the first black mayor of Iowa's most densely African American city, Waterloo. Booker met Saturday with Shane McCampbell, the first black mayor of Burlington, along the Mississippi River in southeast Iowa.

Harris met privately with state Rep. Phyllis Thede, who is African American, before the four-term lawmaker moderated a campaign event for the California Democrat in eastern Iowa earlier this year.

In 2008, when Obama became the first African American to win the Iowa caucuses, 4% of caucus participants were black, double the percentage of the state's overall black population. Obama received 76% of the black vote on caucus night.

Non-black candidates are working to attract influential black supporters, who can help make the difference in a close race, especially given the crowded field.

Amy Klobuchar, for instance, last month hired Woods, the former Iowa Black Democratic Caucus chairwoman, as her caucus campaign's Iowa political director, giving the Minnesota senator a key ally in the competition for black votes.

Entrepreneur Andrew Yang hired Al Womble, a black Des Moines-area businessman known for his behind-the-scenes organizing, as his Iowa campaign chairman.

Multiple black candidates in the race and the outreach by others in the crowded field create a different

scenario than in 2008, when Obama was the only black candidate.

What's more, most of the candidates put ending racial disparity in income and criminal justice atop their agendas.

"Even though we're talking about racial disparity and white supremacy, and all this is bad, that this isn't who we are. No one single candidate is leading the charge," said Guy Nave, a Democrat from Decorah who is black and plans to attend the caucus.

Iowa Democrats are predicting turnout in the 2020 caucuses will beat the record 237,000 set in 2008, as Trump's approval in Iowa has struggled to top 50 percent. Meanwhile, candidates themselves are working to attract first-time caucus participants to eke out any advantage in a field that now numbers 23.

That means even a narrow edge of support from African Americans, in combination with a coalition of other voters, could make the difference for the winner in Iowa next February, said former Iowa Democratic Party executive director Norm Sterzenbach.

"If you can find a candidate that has a stronghold in a particular demographic and is able to turn them out, that could turn into something extraordinary on caucus night," said Sterzenbach, who is advising former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke's presidential campaign.

Wozniacki exits French Open; Nadal, Djokovic win easily

By **HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer**

PARIS (AP) — Caroline Wozniacki went from playing a perfect set to start the French Open to quickly fading away against an opponent who had never previously won a Grand Slam match.

In a performance emblematic of a difficult season, Wozniacki, a former No. 1 and last year's Australian Open champion, lost Monday in the first round at Roland Garros 0-6, 6-3, 6-3 to 68th-ranked Veronika Kudermetova of Russia.

"Definitely wasn't the best match I've ever played," said the 13th-seeded Wozniacki, who had only 15 winners to Kudermetova's 40.

The way-up-then-way-down showing by Wozniacki stretched her losing streak to four matches and dropped her 2019 record to 9-8.

Another past Grand Slam champion dropped out of the field Monday when two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova withdrew because of an injured left forearm.

The left-hander said the arm had been bothering her for some time and during practice Sunday, "suddenly I felt the pain."

"I went to have an MRI, and, yeah, unfortunately I have a tear in my forearm, which is not great," said Kvitova, who hopes to be ready for the start of Wimbledon on July 1.

In other action, Rafael Nadal began his bid for a record 12th championship in Paris and Novak Djokovic got started on his quest for a fourth consecutive major trophy with easy wins.

Nadal was a bit shaky in the very first game against 184th-ranked German qualifier Yannick Hanfmann, facing four break points, but he saved them all — and didn't face another the rest of the way for a 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 victory.

Nadal's feared forehand was not at its dangerous best, accounting for more unforced errors (11) than winners (nine).

"I had my match plan and, yeah, some of the things, they didn't work out well," said Hanfmann, who played college tennis at Southern California. "But, I mean, that's why he's as good as he is."

Djokovic also needed under two hours to reach the second round, running his Grand Slam winning streak to 22 matches by getting past 44th-ranked Hubert Hurkacz of Poland 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

But No. 32 seed Frances Tiafoe of the U.S., a quarterfinalist at the Australian Open in January, threw up a couple of times and his game came apart late in a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 loss to Filip Krajinovic of Serbia.

"Obviously very depleted and had nothing really in me," said Tiafoe, now 0-4 at Roland Garros.

Other seeded players on the way home included No. 12 Daniil Medvedev, who was eliminated 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 by Pierre-Hugues Herbert and No. 15 Nikoloz Basilashvili on the men's side, along with No.

18 Julia Goerges on the women's.

Wozniacki's preparation for Paris had been hampered by an injured left calf, which was heavily wrapped Monday, but she said that was not an issue against her 22-year-old opponent. The Danish player also said she was not bothered by her rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune condition that can cause pain and swelling in the wrist and other joints.

"I played really well in the first set. I played aggressive. I played the way I wanted to play. And then I think she got very lucky at the start of the second set and took advantage of the opportunities she got," Wozniacki said, her chin resting on her left hand. "And then I think I just lost a little steam in the end."

She made only three unforced errors in that opening set, but 18 over the last two.

Wozniacki's results have not been the sort she is accustomed to. She made it to the quarterfinals and the fourth round in Paris in the last two years.

"You want to win, you're competitive, you work hard and you want to see results. So, it hasn't been a great year for me so far. And I'm just going to try and work hard and try to turn that around. Right now, there's not much I can do about the first six months of the season. I had some good weeks where I felt great, and then I've had some weeks where I've been sick and some weeks where I've been injured," Wozniacki said.

"I just have to try and stay positive, and obviously it's not as easy to stay positive when things aren't going your way," she added. "But I think that's when you really need to — and you need to just keep grinding."

More AP Tennis: <https://apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

North Korea calls Bolton 'war monger' over missile comment

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Monday called U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton a "war monger" and "human defect" after he described its recent tests of short-range missiles as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The statement by an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson came as President Donald Trump visited Japan for meetings with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at which the nuclear standoff with North Korea was expected to be high on the agenda.

Bolton told reporters in Tokyo on Saturday that there was "no doubt" that North Korea's recent missile launches violated U.N. resolutions, and that sanctions against the North must be kept in place. Trump later downplayed the missile tests, tweeting, "North Korea fired off some small weapons, which disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me."

North Korea tested short-range ballistic missiles on May 4 and 9, ending a pause in launches that began in late 2017. The tests were seen as a way for North Korea to pressure Washington to soften its stance on easing sanctions against it without actually causing negotiations to collapse.

In the statement carried by the North's Korean Central News Agency, the North Korean spokesperson said the North was exercising its right of self-defense with the launches. North Korea has never recognized the U.N. Security Council resolutions, which it views as denying its "rights to existence and development of a sovereign state," the statement said.

"If any object is launched, it is bound to fly in trajectory," the statement said. It said a demand that North Korea ban all launches that use ballistic technology regardless of the range is the same as asking it to relinquish its right to self-defense.

The spokesperson said Bolton was an "ignorant" hard-liner who throughout different U.S. administrations pushed provocative policies against North Korea including endorsements of pre-emptive strikes and regime change.

The spokesperson also said that Bolton's "hammer act" was responsible for the collapse of a major nuclear deal between the countries reached in 1994, when North Korea agreed to halt its nuclear program in exchange for U.S. fuel aid. The deal broke down in 2002 after U.S. intelligence agencies said North

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Korea was continuing its pursuit of bombs with a secret uranium enrichment program.

"It will be fit to call Bolton not a security adviser striving for security but a security-destroying adviser who is wrecking peace and security," the spokesperson said. "It is not at all strange that perverse words always come out from the mouth of a structurally defective guy, and such a human defect deserves an earlier vanishing."

Experts say the weapons North Korea tested this month are new solid-fuel missiles that are potentially nuclear capable and would strengthen the North's ability to strike targets throughout South Korea.

South Korea has expressed concern that the launches may run against the spirit of an inter-Korean military agreement reached last year to reduce tensions, but has been eager to downplay the significance of the tests as it tries to keep a positive atmosphere for dialogue alive. South Korea's presidential office and military have refused to call the launches outright provocations, and have yet to confirm that the missiles were ballistic weapons, although most experts say they clearly were.

"There's no way for us to know why National Security Adviser Bolton made such comments," said a South Korean presidential official, who asked not to be named during a background briefing of reporters on Monday. "There's no change in our official stance that the South Korean and U.S. militaries under coordination are continuing to analyze the missiles."

Negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea have been at a standstill since February, when a summit between Trump and leader Kim Jong Un broke down over what the United States described as excessive North Korean demands for sanctions relief in exchange for only a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities. Kim since then has said the United States has until the end of the year to come up with mutually acceptable terms for a deal to salvage the negotiations.

Bolton acknowledged that the United States has not been "hearing much from North Korea" since the summit in Hanoi, Vietnam. The U.S. special envoy to North Korea, Stephen Biegun, "can't wait to talk to his North Korean counterpart, but they haven't responded," Bolton said, adding that Biegun was "ready at any point to get on a plane and go anywhere."

The North Korean comments on Bolton came as South Korea began annual summertime defense drills involving thousands of civilians and troops. Although the drills have been modified to exclude large-scale military exercises with the United States that were suspended to create space for diplomacy with the North, KCNA described them as "provocative" in a separate statement Monday.

The four-day Ulchi Taeguk exercises will include massive civilian evacuation drills and a South Korea-only military drill aimed at preparing for war situations and disasters.

A hefty donation to Trump's inaugural comes under scrutiny

By **RICHARD LARDNER Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Real estate mogul Franklin Haney contributed \$1 million to President Donald Trump's inaugural committee and all he's got to show for the money is the glare of a federal investigation.

The contribution from Haney, a prolific political donor, came as he was seeking regulatory approval and financial support from the government for his long-shot bid to acquire the mothballed Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant in northeastern Alabama. More than two years later, he still hasn't closed the deal.

His tale is a familiar one in Washington, where lobbyists and wealthy donors use their checkbooks to try to sway politicians. It's a world Haney is accustomed to operating in and one that Trump came into office pledging to upend. Yet Trump has left in place many of the familiar ways to wield influence.

Haney's hefty donation to Trump's inaugural committee is being scrutinized by federal prosecutors in New York who are investigating the committee's finances. Their probe is focused in part on whether donors received benefits after making contributions.

Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, has given prosecutors information regarding Haney, his son and business associate, Frank Haney Jr., and the nuclear plant project, according to a person familiar with what Cohen told the authorities. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

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Haney had briefly hired Cohen to help obtain money for the Bellefonte project from potential investors, including the Middle Eastern country of Qatar. Cohen is now serving a three-year prison sentence for tax evasion, lying to Congress and campaign finance violations.

Haney and his attorney did not respond to interview requests.

Prosecutors also are examining whether foreigners unlawfully contributed to the committee. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan issued a subpoena last year seeking a wide range of financial records from the committee, including any "communications regarding or relating to the possibility of donations by foreign nationals."

The inaugural committee has denied wrongdoing and said its funds were fully accounted for.

Haney, 79, has previously faced accusations that his political gift giving is aimed at cultivating influence. An investigation by House Republicans in the late 1990s alleged that Haney's money and his political pull with senior Clinton administration officials helped him to get the Federal Communications Commission to move into an office building that he had a major stake in. Haney denied any wrongdoing and the Justice Department declined to pursue the matter.

But he was charged in 1999 with funneling about \$100,000 in illegal contributions to President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and other politicians, then acquitted. A federal prosecutor described Haney as a sophisticated fundraiser who hoped to impress potential business clients with his access to elected officials, like Clinton and Gore.

Haney's family-owned real estate business donated thousands of dollars in 2013 and 2015 to political action committees that supported Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley, who later recommended that the nuclear plant Haney wanted to buy be put up for sale. Haney also contributed to a nonprofit created to promote Bentley's agenda. The Republican governor resigned in 2017 as he faced impeachment proceedings after an alleged affair with an aide.

In addition to the investigation into Haney's contribution to the Trump inaugural committee, Haney is in an unrelated legal battle with the nuclear plant's owner, the Tennessee Valley Authority. Another Haney company, Nuclear Development LLC, has filed a lawsuit in federal court accusing the TVA, the nation's largest public utility, of illegally blocking the plant's sale to him at the last minute. The utility has argued it couldn't complete the transaction because Haney failed to get the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval for transfer of the construction permits.

A tentative Bellefonte sale in November 2016 involved two partially constructed nuclear reactors and the supporting cooling towers, several other buildings and more than 1,000 acres of land on the Tennessee River. Haney put down \$22 million and had until November 2018 to complete the \$111-million sale.

On Nov. 29, the day before the sale was to be closed, the TVA scrapped the deal, declaring that Haney's company had not yet secured regulatory approval as required by the Atomic Energy Act. Haney filed a breach of contract lawsuit.

In early April, about five months after Nuclear Development submitted its application for transfer of the construction permits, the regulatory commission's staff told the company it needed to submit more technical details before it could proceed.

Edwin Lyman, a nuclear power expert at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the response reflected skepticism about whether Haney's company "is serious about or capable of actually undertaking this project or just wants to put the license in its pocket for purposes unknown."

But Lyman added the five-member nuclear regulatory board is dominated by Trump appointees and may not want to be seen by Congress and the Trump administration as throwing up roadblocks to a nuclear power expansion.

Haney's Nuclear Development company also has applied to the U.S. Energy Department for financing assistance on the project. The department said it considers the loan application process to be "business sensitive" and declined to comment.

Stephen Smith, executive director of the nonprofit Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, said Haney faces too many technical and financial hurdles to overcome.

For example, Bellefonte's never-completed nuclear reactors are decades old and are of a unique design

that has never received an operating license in the U.S. before. He compared Bellefonte to a Ford Pinto, a 1970s-era vehicle with serious engineering flaws. Smith said it's "extraordinarily unlikely" Bellefonte will be allowed to operate.

Associated Press writer Jim Mustian in New York and researchers Rhonda Shafner and Jennifer Farrar in New York contributed to this report.

Bart Starr, QB who led Packers to greatness, dies at 85

By ARNIE STAPLETON AP Pro Football Writer

Bart Starr was an ordinary quarterback until teaming with Vince Lombardi on the powerhouse Green Bay Packers teams that ruled the 1960s and ushered in the NFL as America's most popular sport.

The quarterback's graceful throws helped turn a run-heavy league into a passing spectacle, yet it's a run for which he's most famous: the sneak that won the famed "Ice Bowl" in 1967.

Starr died Sunday at age 85 in Birmingham, Alabama, the Packers said. He had been in failing health since suffering two strokes and a heart attack in 2014.

Starr is the third of Lombardi's dozen Hall of Famers to die in the past eight months. Fullback Jim Taylor died in October and offensive tackle Forrest Gregg died last month.

"A champion on and off the field, Bart epitomized class and was beloved by generations of Packers fans," Packers President Mark Murphy said in a statement. "A clutch player who led his team to five NFL titles, Bart could still fill Lambeau Field with electricity decades later during his many visits."

The Packers selected Starr out of the University of Alabama with the 200th pick in the 1956 draft. He led Green Bay to six division titles, five NFL championships and wins in the first two Super Bowls.

"Bart Starr was one of the most genuine, sincere people I knew," NFL Commissioner Roger Godell said in a statement. "He personified the values of our league as a football player, a family man, and a tireless philanthropist who cared deeply about helping at-risk kids. Above all, he was a wonderful human being who will be remembered for his kindness and compassion."

Until Brett Favre came along, Starr was known as the best Packer ever. The team retired his No. 15 jersey in 1973, making him just the third player to receive that honor. Four years later, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

After losing the 1960 NFL title game in his first playoff appearance, the Packers never lost another playoff game under Starr, going 9-0, including wins over the Kansas City Chiefs and Oakland Raiders in the first two Super Bowls.

Starr's college career wasn't very noteworthy and it wasn't until Lombardi's arrival in Green Bay in 1959 that Starr, living by his motto "desire and dedication are everything," began to blossom.

Lombardi liked Starr's mechanics, his arm strength and especially his decision-making abilities. Under Lombardi's nurturing, Starr became one of the league's top quarterbacks.

"If you work harder than somebody else, chances are you'll beat him though he has more talent than you," Starr once said. He credited Lombardi for showing him "that by working hard and using my mind, I could overcome my weakness to the point where I could be one of the best."

The gentlemanly quarterback's status as a Packers icon was tested by his struggles as the team's head coach. In nine seasons from 1975-83, he won just 41 percent of his games, going 53-77-3, including 1-1 in the playoffs, part of three decades of futility that followed the glory years.

After football, Starr, became a successful businessman in Birmingham, not far from his hometown of Montgomery, where he was born on Jan. 9, 1934.

Starr was a four-time Pro Bowl selection and two-time All-Pro. He won NFL titles in 1961, '62, '65, '67 and '68. He was the 1966 NFL MVP and was named to the 1960s All-Decade team. He also was named MVP of the first two Super Bowls.

"Bart was a true gentleman, a great player and a great pioneer for the NFL," fellow Hall of Famer John Elway tweeted. "He set a tremendous example for all QBs to emulate."

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When Starr retired following the 1971 season, his career completion rate of 57.4 percent was tops in the run-heavy NFL, and his passer rating of 80.5 was second-best ever, behind only Otto Graham.

But the play he was most famous for was a run.

In the NFL championship on Dec. 31, 1967, Starr knifed into the end zone behind guard Jerry Kramer and center Ken Bowman with 16 seconds left to lift the Packers over the Dallas Cowboys 21-17 in what became known as the "Ice Bowl."

The Packers had spent \$80,000 for a heating coil system that was to have kept the field soft and warm, and forecasters said not to worry because the approaching cold front wouldn't arrive until after the game.

"It was 20 degrees the day before," the late Tom Landry once recalled. "It was great. Vince and I were together that night and we talked about how good the conditions were and what a great game it would be."

They were half-right. When the grounds crew rolled up the tarpaulin, a layer of condensation had formed underneath and, with 40 mph wind, the field promptly froze like an ice rink. Packers running back Chuck Mercein would later compare the ground to "jagged concrete."

With a temperature of minus-14 and a wind chill of minus-49, it was the coldest NFL game ever recorded. The wind chill had dipped another 20 degrees by the time the Packers got the ball at their 32 trailing 17-14 with five minutes left.

With one last chance for an aging dynasty to win a fifth NFL title in seven seasons, Starr took the field as linebacker Ray Nitschke hollered, "Don't let me down!"

Starr wouldn't, completing all five of his passes and directing one of the most memorable drives in NFL history.

"We all have a capacity to focus and to concentrate to a unique degree when we're called upon to do it," Starr said on the 30th anniversary of that game. "That's exactly what I did that day. And I think the same was true of the Cowboys. Let's face it, they obviously were not accustomed to something like that and yet they were the team which had surged and come back in the second half and were in a position to win it."

With 1:11 remaining, tackle Bob Skoronski opened a hole and Mercein charged through the middle for 8 yards to the Dallas 3.

Halfback Donny Anderson slipped twice on handoffs, so Starr called timeout, went to the sideline and suggested a sneak because of the poor traction.

"Then run it and let's get the hell out of here," Lombardi barked.

The play worked perfectly, a flawless finish to that coldest of games so frozen in time.

"I've never been in a huddle where there was greater composure and where there was a higher level of intensity and concentration," Mercein once told The Associated Press.

Mercein is the one in the famous photograph of the play diving into the end zone behind Starr with his hands held high, as though he's signaling "Touchdown!"

"But what I'm actually doing is I'm showing the officials that I'm not assisting or aiding Bart into the end zone," Mercein said.

That would have been a penalty and it would have negated history's most famous quarterback sneak.

Mercein and the rest of his teammates thought he was going to get the handoff on the play. Nobody knew but Starr and Lombardi that it was to be a quarterback sneak. So, Mercein dug in, thinking he was getting the ball, and he got a great takeoff on the frozen field.

"As a matter of fact too good because after a couple of steps I realized I wasn't going to get the ball. But I couldn't really pull up because it was so icy," Mercein said. "So that's why I dive over the play and I have my arms upraised, which appears to everyone in that famous picture that I'm signaling touchdown."

Two weeks later in sunny Miami, the Packers defeated the AFL champion Raiders 33-14 in Lombardi's final game as head coach of the Packers.

Starr replaced Dan Devine as Packers head coach in 1975 and would be replaced himself by former teammate Forrest Gregg in 1984 after failing to lead the franchise to the kind of success he did as a player.

In 1965, Starr and his wife, Cherry, helped co-found Rawhide Boys Ranch in New London, Wisconsin, a facility designed to help at-risk and troubled boys throughout the state.

The couple dealt with tragedy in 1988 when their son Brett died at 24 due to complications from cocaine addiction. They also had another son, Bart Jr.

"While he may always be best known for his success as the Packers quarterback for 16 years, his true legacy will always be the respectful manner in which he treated every person he met, his humble demeanor and his generous spirit," Starr's family said in a statement.

"His love for all of humanity is well known, and his affection toward the residents of Alabama and of Wisconsin filled him with gratitude. He had hoped to make one last trip to Green Bay to watch the Packers this fall, but he shall forever be there in spirit."

Starr has an NFL award named after him, given annually to a player of outstanding character.

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Overturing Roe v. Wade wouldn't turn back the clock to 1973

By DAVID CRARY and CARLA K. JOHNSON Associated Press

A wave of state abortion bans has set off speculation: What would happen if Roe v. Wade, the ruling establishing abortion rights nationwide, were overturned?

Although far from a certainty, even with increased conservative clout on the Supreme Court, a reversal of Roe would mean abortion policy would revert to the states, and many would be eager to impose bans.

What would not happen is a full-fledged turning back of the clock to 1973.

Women now have far more methods to avoid unwanted pregnancies, as well as safer, easier options for abortion. Many abortions are induced at home with a two-drug combination, and advocacy groups are spreading the word about home abortions using one of the drugs that can be done without a medical professional's involvement.

"I don't think you can put all those different genies back in the bottle," said medical historian Andrea Tone at McGill University in Montreal. "Women are in charge of their procreative destiny. I don't think women will put up with the absence of privacy and discretion that birth control and abortion provide."

Here's a look at some of the abortion-related changes that have unfolded since 1973:

At the time of Roe, abortion was broadly legal in four states, allowed under limited circumstances in 16 others, and outlawed under nearly all circumstances in the rest. A reversal of Roe would produce a patchwork map where perhaps 15 or so states would continue to make abortion easily accessible, a dozen or more would ban virtually all abortions unless the mother's life is at stake, and the rest would thrash out their response in the public arena and the legislatures.

In 1974, a year after Roe, there were about 899,000 abortions in the U.S., according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion rights.

The number of abortions rose steadily, peaking at 1.61 million in 1990, before starting a steady decline — falling to 926,200 in Guttmacher's latest national survey, covering 2014. Close to 90 percent of the abortions occur in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

The decline is attributed to increased availability of effective contraception and a sharp decrease in unintended pregnancies, notably among teens. In 1974, teens accounted for 32.5% of abortions in the U.S.; in 2014 that dropped to 12%.

Technology and science have given women unprecedented options and control over fertility since 1973. Back then, single women had only recently gained nationwide access to birth control, thanks to a 1972 Supreme Court ruling, said Dr. Sarah Prager, who directs the University of Washington School of Medicine's family planning fellowship.

"This is recent history," Prager said. "Now we have these incredibly effective contraceptive methods

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available.”

A woman can get the morning-after pill without a prescription and keep some in her medicine cabinet for emergencies. Her smartphone sends birth control reminders. Or, if she prefers, a matchstick-size implant gives her no-hassle contraception for years at a time.

Surgical abortion has become safer, employing tools that use vacuum pressure rather than scraping. There’s increasing use of the medication alternative: Ending a pregnancy with mifepristone and misoprostol now accounts for about 30% of U.S. abortions.

“It’s safe and comfortable,” said Missouri resident Lexi Moore, 30, who ended a pregnancy in September with a prescription from Planned Parenthood. “You get to sit in the comfort of your home instead of doing it in a clinic or in a back alley. ... You will have cramps, like a heavy period. But it’s worth it in the end, and you have control over that.”

Moore had to drive 70 miles to pick up her prescription and, lacking insurance, paid \$800 out of pocket. But she welcomed the outcome, and wrote thank-you cards to the clinic.

Her experience contrasts with that of Vikki Wachtel, who as an 18-year-old attending school in Connecticut had an abortion in New York City’s Bellevue Hospital in October 1970. That was just a few months after New York became a pioneer in broadly legalizing abortion.

“The staff made us feel like we were about to commit a crime,” Wachtel said, recalling how she and other young women were treated callously.

That ordeal was followed by post-abortion complications, yet Wachtel has steadfastly supported abortion rights.

“It was MY CHOICE to not have a child in 1970 and it must remain a woman’s choice to do so on a national level,” she said in an email. “These overreaching and restrictive laws will only make abortions more dangerous, not eliminate them.”

For women today, there’s even abortion by mail.

It’s still under study, but early results show women can manage their medical abortions safely at home. A doctor first confirms the woman’s pregnancy is less than 10 weeks, then mails the pills. About 300 U.S. women have ended pregnancies in the TelAbortion study .

“Women are really grateful not to have to travel three or four hours to a clinic,” said researcher Dr. Beverly Winikoff of Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. “But there are also people within walking distance from a clinic who prefer to do it this way because it’s more private.”

Abortion-rights activists, at rallies supporting *Roe v. Wade*, often display images of coat hangers that were sometimes used in illegal abortions many decades ago.

However, warnings that large numbers of women would die from unsafe abortions if *Roe* were overturned don’t reflect the fact that abortion-related deaths — which numbered as high as 2,700 in 1930 — fell to under 200 a year by the mid-1960s thanks to the development of antibiotics and other medical advances.

To the extent that women can get and use misoprostol to end pregnancies at home, women even in states with bans would have a relatively safe option. It’s available only by prescription in the U.S. but is available online from some countries where it is sold over the counter.

Among the leading advocates of this do-it-yourself option is attorney Jill E. Adams, executive director of If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice. Amid the wave of abortion bans, she said her group’s hotline has received a surge of calls from worried women.

“If the recent events have shown us anything, it’s that self-managed abortion is vital to current and future reproductive rights in the United States,” Adams said.

One crucial change since 1973 is the development of ultrasound technology. For many Americans, the first image they now see of a son, daughter or grandchild is often a sound wave scan of the fetus.

The images change minds about abortion, said Dr. Donna Harrison, executive director of the American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

“Ultrasound opens the window on the womb,” Harrison said. “That has changed since 1973. We couldn’t

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see who was in there. Now we can.”

But seeing an ultrasound image doesn't change the biology of fetal development, said Dr. Anne Davis, consulting medical director for Physicians for Reproductive Health. She disputed the idea that the threshold of viability for a fetus, a concept important in *Roe v. Wade*, is pushing ever closer to the moment of conception.

“If someone is six weeks pregnant, that's not a viable pregnancy,” Davis said. “And some fetuses will never be viable because they have a lethal abnormality and will die after birth.”

In the aftermath of *Roe*, it took years for supporters and opponents of abortion rights to entrench themselves in the polarized camps of today.

Anti-abortion violence didn't erupt immediately after the decision, but it has been a constant since the 1990s, when three abortion providers and three clinic employees were killed in attacks. More recently, Dr. George Tiller, an abortion provider in Wichita, Kansas, was shot to death by an anti-abortion activist in 2009, and a gunman killed three people at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado in 2015.

There have been major shifts in anti-abortion tactics. Compared with the 1990s, there are fewer mass demonstrations and clinic blockades, and there is far more success passing anti-abortion laws in Republican-controlled state legislatures. In the five years preceding this year's sweeping bans, scores of other laws have been passed to restrict abortion access.

Julie Burkhart, a former colleague of Tiller's who now runs an abortion clinic in Wichita, said Kansas — like many GOP-controlled states — now has an array of restrictions that make obtaining abortions more expensive, time-consuming and stressful.

The anti-abortion movement's clout in many state legislatures has now been amplified by Donald Trump's election as president after he promised to support the movement's key goals.

“They don't need to go to the streets anymore, because they really do have a lot of power,” Burkhart said.

Professor Michael New, an abortion opponent who teaches social research at Catholic University of America, said the debate is far more polarized now than in 1973, with fewer Republicans favoring abortion rights and fewer Democrats opposing them.

“Pro-lifers are having an easier time enacting pro-life laws in conservative parts of the country, but for the first time in a long time they have to play defense in blue states,” said New, citing bills passed in New York and Vermont this year expanding access to abortion.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump takes credit for Obama's gains for vets

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Boastful on the occasion of Memorial Day, President Donald Trump and his Veterans Affairs secretary are claiming full credit for health care improvements that were underway before they took office.

Trump said he passed a private-sector health care program, Veterans Choice, after failed attempts by past presidents for the last “45 years.” That's not true. The Choice program, which allows veterans to see doctors outside the government-run VA system at taxpayer expense, was first passed in 2014 under President Barack Obama.

Trump's VA secretary, Robert Wilkie, also is distorting the facts. Faulting previous “bad leadership” at VA, Wilkie suggested it was his own efforts that improved waiting times at VA medical centers and brought new offerings of same-day mental health service. The problem: The study cited by Wilkie on wait times covers the period from 2014 to 2017, before Wilkie took the helm as VA secretary. Same-day mental health services at VA were started during the Obama administration under Wilkie's predecessor, David Shulkin.

The half-truths and exaggerations came in a week when selective accounting was a norm in Trump's rhetoric, extending into his trip to Japan, where he inflated the drop in the U.S. unemployment rate for women.

A look at the claims, about the Russia investigation, the border, drug prices and more:

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VETERANS

TRUMP: "We passed VA Choice and VA Accountability to give our veterans the care that they deserve and they have been trying to pass these things for 45 years." — Montoursville, Pennsylvania, rally on May 20.

THE FACTS: Wrong. Trump is not the first president in 45 years to get Congress to pass Veterans Choice; Obama did it in the wake of a scandal at VA's medical center in Phoenix, where some veterans died while waiting months for appointments. The program currently allows veterans to see doctors outside the VA system if they must wait more than 30 days for an appointment or drive more than 40 miles (65 kilometers) to a VA facility.

Trump did expand eligibility for the program. Now, starting June 6, veterans are to have that option for a private doctor if their VA wait is only 20 days (28 for specialty care) or their drive is only 30 minutes.

Still, VA's top health official, Dr. Richard Stone, described the new program's start to "almost be a non-event" in testimony to Congress. That's in part because wait times in the private sector are typically longer than at VA. In 2018, 34 percent of all VA appointments were with outside physicians, down from 36 percent in 2017.

Also key to the Choice program's success is an overhaul of VA's electronic medical records to allow seamless sharing of them with private physicians, a process expected to take up to 10 years. Wilkie has said full implementation of the expanded Choice program is "years" away.

WILKIE: "The first thing I did was change out the leadership at VA. ... (The president) also allowed me to change out leadership in the VA centers. If someone wasn't walking the post, getting to know the people who work for her or him, or getting to know those veterans, they had to leave. And, as a result, the Journal of the American Medical Association this year said that our waiting times are now as good or better than any in the private sector." — interview Thursday with Fox News.

THE FACTS: It's true that a study by the medical association came out in January that found wait times at VA medical centers on average were better than the private sector. But the improvement wasn't a "result" of anything that Wilkie did: The study involved a period largely covering the Obama administration — and before Wilkie became acting VA secretary in late March 2018.

In fact, in a VA press release in January announcing the study's results, Wilkie credits the department's "concerted" effort to improve access to care "since 2014."

The study covered four specialties, primary care, dermatology, cardiology and orthopedics.

It found that in 2014, the average wait time at VA medical centers was 22.5 days, compared with 18.7 days in the private sector, which was not statistically different. By 2017, the wait time at VA improved to 17.7 days, while increasing to 29.8 days for private doctors. Wait times at VA medical centers were shorter in all specialties except orthopedics.

According to the study, the number of patients seen yearly in VA increased slightly between 2014 and 2017, to about 5.1 million. VA patient satisfaction also rose, according to patient surveys cited in the study.

WILKIE: The VA "had suffered from bad leadership. And that's a bipartisan comment. And the second thing I had to do was make sure that as we approach our veteran population that we make sure that they are at the center, their needs are at the center of what we do ... I think we've had it backwards at VA for many years. ... One of the things that we're doing at VA is that we have same-day mental health service. ... It is huge." — interview with Fox News.

THE FACTS: Same-day mental health service started at VA before Trump took office in January 2017, let alone Wilkie.

VA's effort to provide same-day primary and mental-health care when medically necessary at every VA medical center was publicized in April 2016 under the Obama administration. At the time, Shulkin was helping lead the effort as VA's top health official. By late 2016, the department's blog announced that the goal of same-day mental health services would be achieved by year's end.

A Dec. 23, 2016, article in the Harvard Business Review cites new same-day services at all VA hospitals

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as evidence of notable progress at the department. Shulkin, who was then named by Trump to be his VA secretary, told Congress in late January 2017 the services already were fully in place.

Trump selected Wilkie to be his VA secretary after firing Shulkin in March 2018 because of ethics charges and internal rebellion at the department over the role of private care for veterans. Trump's initial replacement choice, White House doctor Ronny Jackson, withdrew after allegations of workplace misconduct surfaced. While Wilkie has been credited by both parties in Congress for bringing stability to the department, the VA improvements he attributes to himself this past week are misplaced.

ECONOMY

TRUMP, on the unemployment rate: "With women, we have the best numbers we've had in now 71 years. That's going to be, very soon, a historic number, meaning the best ever." — remarks Saturday with Japanese business leaders in Tokyo.

THE FACTS: The unemployment rate for women is not the best in 71 years.

According to the Labor Department, the women's unemployment rate fell last month to 3.1%. That's just the lowest since October 1953, or 66 years ago, when it also was 3.1%. The lowest on record was 2.4% in May 1953.

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 many times he asserts it. Trump is also claiming full credit for an economic expansion that began under 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 on May 20.

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%.

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.

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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.

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: "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.

TRUMP ON 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." — Pennsylvania rally on May 20.

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.

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, [%href_on\(file:](#)

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

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq offered 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 Sunday during a joint news conference in

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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 the U.S. 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.

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."

Meanwhile, Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthi rebels launched a bomb-carrying drone Sunday targeting another airport in Saudi Arabia. Col. Turki al-Maliki, a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition fighting against the Houthis, said that the military intercepted and destroyed the drone targeting its Jizan Regional Airport. Saudi state TV published images of debris it said belonged to the drone.

The rebels have attacked another airport multiple times and a critical Saudi oil pipeline in recent days amid the heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

Karimi reported from Tehran, Iran. Associated Press writers Bassem Mroue in Baghdad and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report

Impeach Trump? Most 2020 Democrats tiptoe past the question

By ELANA SCHOR and JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic leaders in Congress have argued that impeaching President Donald Trump is a political mistake as the 2020 election nears. Most of the candidates running to succeed him seem to agree, for now.

Fewer than one-third of the 23 Democrats vying for the nomination are issuing calls to start the impeachment process, citing evidence in special counsel Robert Mueller's report they believe shows Trump obstructed justice. Most others, including leading contenders Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, have found a way to hedge or search for middle ground, supporting investigations that could lead to impeachment or saying Trump's conduct warrants impeachment but stopping short of any call for such a proceeding.

The candidates' reluctance, even as more congressional Democrats start pushing their leaders in the direction, underscores the risky politics of investigating the president for "high crimes and misdemeanors." Impeachment matters deeply to the party's base but remains unpopular with most Americans.

White House hopefuls may win praise from liberal activists by pressing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., for an impeachment inquiry, but those who fall short of insisting are unlikely to take heat from early-state primary voters more focused on other issues.

"People talk about it and people have opinions about it, but health care is much more salient to them," Sue Dvorsky, a former head of the Iowa Democratic Party, said in an interview. "I just don't see Democratic activists here all worked up about impeachment. They trust Pelosi."

The 2020 candidates are facing pressure from the left to take a harder line on impeachment as the Trump administration's stiff-arming of subpoenas leaves House Democrats fuming and a growing number of lawmakers urge Pelosi to initiate an inquiry constitutionally required to remove Trump from office. Leah Greenberg, co-founder of the progressive group Indivisible, described the absence of louder calls for impeachment from the candidates as "a real gap in leadership."

"What we're seeing is, some Democrats would prefer to keep the topic focused on places where they're most comfortable and some Democrats would prefer to play pundits on this," Greenberg said in an interview.

Tom Steyer, a California billionaire, has run television ads and held town halls across the country as part of a campaign calling for Trump's impeachment. He suggested that candidates who haven't yet endorsed impeachment "have a political problem telling the truth about this."

Steyer said that if the public saw televised, unfiltered hearings that showed "exactly how bad this president is and exactly who he's surrounded himself with and how corrupt he really is," Democrats and Republicans alike would "reject that kind of behavior." Steyer declined to enter the 2020 presidential race himself.

The administration's blockade of congressional investigations and Mueller's report detailing possible obstruction action have yet to push any new Democratic candidates off the fence.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the current front-runner, said last month there is "no alternative" but impeachment if the administration keeps stonewalling congressional investigations. But Biden has notably

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stopped short of urging Pelosi to move forward.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who's running second in most polls, told CNN this past week "it may be time to at least begin the process" which could result in impeachment. But he warned in the same interview that Trump could try to exact political gains from any impeachment effort.

Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, said in an interview Sunday that it makes sense for House Democrats to start taking the first steps toward impeachment but added, "I'm also mindful that people like me don't have a lot of business giving advice to Nancy Pelosi."

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker told The Associated Press on Friday that Trump's refusal to cooperate with Congress amounts to "undermining the Article I branch of the government's ability to conduct its constitutional mandates." But he gave Pelosi wide leeway. He acknowledged that "she's feeling the frustration from Democrats in the House" and said that "should getting cooperation from the administration not work, I know she'll increasingly be considering her options."

Even California Sen. Kamala Harris, who said after the release of Mueller's report last month that "Congress should take the steps towards impeachment," is emphasizing her pessimism that Senate Republicans would act on impeachment if the matter came before them.

The most vocal pro-impeachment candidates are Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke and former Obama housing chief Julian Castro. Two others, Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton and California Rep. Eric Swalwell, also have supported the start of the impeachment process.

Moulton and Swalwell are among four candidates could vote on impeachment, as current House members. Pelosi and other House leaders have signaled clearly that they want to pursue investigations into Trump, including two lawsuits where they scored victories this past week, rather than start a consuming and politically uncertain impeachment process. If the House did vote to impeach Trump, the Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of the Senate to support conviction in order to remove the president from office.

Given the slim likelihood of that, it's no surprise to Democrats outside the nation's capital that impeachment isn't gaining steam among the candidates.

"The people I talk seem to be more interested in what the next president is going to do to make their lives better rather than what they think about impeachment," New Hampshire state Rep. David Morrill said in an interview.

Associated Press writers Thomas Beaumont in Newton, Iowa, and Hunter Woodall in Manchester, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

Europe-wide vote fragments center as far right, Greens gain

By LORI HINNANT, RAF CASERT and LORNE COOK Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's traditional center splintered in the hardest-fought European Parliament elections in decades, with the far right and pro-environment Greens gaining ground on Sunday after four days of a polarized vote.

Turnout was at a two-decade high over the balloting across the 28 European Union countries. The elections were seen as a test of the influence of the nationalist, populist and hard-right movements that have swept the continent in recent years and impelled Britain to quit the EU altogether. Both supporters of closer European unity and those who consider the EU a meddlesome and bureaucratic presence portrayed the vote as crucial for the future of the bloc.

In Britain, voters went for the extremes, with the strongest showing for Nigel Farage's the newly formed Brexit party and a surge for the staunchly pro-European Liberal Democrats, versus a near wipeout for Conservatives. In France, an electorate that voted Emmanuel Macron into presidential office in 2017 did an about-face and the party of his defeated opponent, Marine Le Pen, drew into first place. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling coalition saw a drastic loss in support to the Greens and, to a lesser extent, the far right. Italy's League party, led by Matteo Salvini, claimed 32% of the vote in early projec-

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tions, compared with around 6% five years ago.

"Not only is the League the first party in Italy, but Marine Le Pen is first in France, Nigel Farage is first in Great Britain. Therefore, Italy, France and England: the sign of a Europe that is changing, that is fed up," Salvini said.

Despite gains, the vote was hardly the watershed anticipated by Europe's far-right populists, who have vowed to dilute the European Union from within in favor of national sovereignty. Pro-EU parties still were expected to win about two-thirds of the 751-seat legislature that sits in Brussels and Strasbourg, according to the projections released by the parliament and based on the results rolling in overnight.

The continent-wide voting had major implications not just for the functioning of the bloc but also for the internal politics in many countries. Le Pen exulted that the expected result "confirms the new nationalist-globalist division" in France and beyond; Greece's governing party called for snap elections after its loss; and Salvini was expected to capitalize on the outcome to boost his power at home.

"The monopoly of power is broken," Margrethe Vestager, of the pro-EU ALDE grouping that includes Macron's party. Vestager declared herself a candidate to lead the European commission for ALDE, which gained seats in large part because Macron's party is itself a newcomer.

Le Pen's far-right, anti-immigrant National Rally party came out on top in France with 24% in an astonishing rebuke of Macron, who has made EU integration the heart of his presidency. His party drew just over 21%, according to government results.

Exit polls in Germany, the EU's biggest country, likewise indicated Merkel's party and its center-left coalition partner also suffered losses, while the Greens were set for big gains and the far right was expected to pick up slightly more support.

Turnout across the bloc was put at 50.5%, a 20-year high. An estimated 426 million people were eligible to vote.

The results will likely leave Parliament's two main parties, the European People's Party and the Socialists & Democrats, without a majority for the first time since 1979, opening the way for complicated talks to form a working coalition. The Greens and the ALDE free-market liberals were jockeying to become decisive in the body.

A subdued Esther de Lange, vice chair of the European People's Party, conceded that the results indicate "fragmentation and a shrinking center."

The Greens did well not just in Germany but in France and Ireland. "The Green wave has really spread all over Europe, and for us that is a fantastic result," said Ska Keller, the group's co-leader in the Parliament.

Germany's Manfred Weber, the candidate of the EPP, the biggest party in Parliament, said that now it is "most necessary for the forces that believe in this Europe, that want to lead this Europe to a good future, that have ambitions for this Europe" to work together.

The EU and its Parliament set trade policy on the continent, regulate agriculture, oversee antitrust enforcement and set monetary policy for 19 of the 28 nations sharing the euro currency. Britain voted, even though it is planning to leave the EU. Its EU lawmakers will lose their jobs as soon as Brexit happens.

Europe has been roiled in the past few years by immigration from the Mideast and Africa and deadly attacks by Islamic extremists. It has also seen rising tensions over economic inequality and growing hostility toward the political establishment — sentiments not unlike those that got Donald Trump elected in the U.S.

Hungary's increasingly authoritarian prime minister Viktor Orban, a possible ally of Italy's Salvini, said he hopes the election will bring a shift toward political parties that want to stop migration. The migration issue "will reorganize the political spectrum in the European Union," he said.

Proponents of stronger EU integration, led by Macron, argue that issues like climate change and immigration are too big for any one country to tackle alone. His lead candidate, Nathalie Loiseau, said she would continue the fight against nationalists in the European Parliament.

With the elections over, European leaders are jockeying over the top jobs in the EU's headquarters in Brussels. The leaders meet for a summit over dinner Tuesday. Current European lawmakers' terms end July 1, and the new parliament will be seated the following day.

Associated Press writers Mike Corder, Veselin Toshkov in Sofia, Bulgaria; Joseph Wilson in Barcelona, Spain; Pablo Gorondi in Budapest; Sylvie Corbet in Paris; Colleen Barry in Milan; Jill Lawless in London; 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>

Tornadoes rake 2 Oklahoma cities, killing 2 and injuring 29

By **TIM TALLEY** and **SUE OGROCKI** Associated Press

EL RENO, Okla. (AP) — A tornado leveled a motel and tore through a mobile home park near Oklahoma City overnight, killing two people and injuring at least 29 others before a second twister raked a suburb of Tulsa more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) away, authorities said Sunday.

The first tornado touched down in El Reno, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Oklahoma City, late Saturday night. It crossed an interstate and walloped the American Budget Value Inn before ripping through the Skyview Estates trailer park, flipping and leveling homes, Mayor Matt White said at a news conference.

"It's a tragic scene out there," White said, adding later that, "People have absolutely lost everything." He said the city established a GoFundMe site, the City of El Reno Tornado Relief Fund, for affected families. Several other businesses were also damaged, though not to the same extent as the motel.

The two people who were killed were in the mobile home park, White said. He did not provide additional details about them. The 29 people who were injured were taken to hospitals, where some were undergoing surgery. Some of the injuries were deemed critical, he said.

The National Weather Service gave the tornado an EF3 rating, meaning it had wind speeds of 136-165 mph (219-266 kph). Personnel who investigated the damage said the tornado began around 10:28 p.m. Saturday and lasted for four minutes. The tornado was about 75 yards wide at its widest point and was on the ground for 2.2 miles (3.5 kilometers).

The tornado was spawned by a powerful storm system that rolled through the state — the latest in a week of violent storms to hit the flood-weary Plains and Midwest that have been blamed for at least 11 deaths, including the two killed in El Reno.

Early Sunday, another tornado destroyed several buildings and downed trees and power lines in the Tulsa suburb of Sapulpa, which is 110 miles (177 kilometers) northeast of El Reno. Pete Snyder, a hydrometeorological technician with the weather service in Tulsa, said crews were assessing damage to determine the tornado's rating. The area also experienced damage from strong straight-line winds, he said.

The Sapulpa Police Department said on its Facebook page that it hadn't heard of any deaths and that only a few minor injuries had been reported.

Residents wandered around after sunrise to survey the damage, carefully avoiding fallen utility poles that blocked some streets. Among the buildings that were destroyed was a historic railroad building built in the early 1900s that the Farmers Feed Store had been using for storage. A furniture store's warehouse was also destroyed.

In El Reno, emergency crews sifted through the rubble at the trailer park and motel, where the second story collapsed into a pile of debris strewn about the first floor and parking lot.

Tweety Garrison, 63, told The Associated Press that she was in her mobile home with her husband, two young grandchildren and a family friend when she heard the storm coming and immediately hit the ground. Moments later, she heard her neighbor's mobile home slam into hers before it flipped over and landed on her roof.

Garrison said the incident lasted five to 10 minutes and that she received a tornado warning on her phone but the sirens didn't go off until after the twister hit.

Her 32-year-old son, Elton Garrison, said he heard the wailing tornado sirens and had just laid down at home about a half-mile (1 kilometer) away when his phone rang. He recognized his mother's number, but

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there was no voice on the other end when he answered. "I thought, 'That's weird,'" he said.

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

He said when he arrived at his parents' home, he found it blocked by debris and sitting with another trailer on top of it. He 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," said Elton Garrison, who has lived in El Reno for about 26 years. "I couldn't get them out of there quick enough."

He said he wasn't 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 kind of got calm all of a sudden, that's when it didn't feel right."

He 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, he added: "Items can be replaced. Lives can't."

The storm is the latest to hit the flood-weary central U.S. and dumped yet more rain in the region's already bloated waterways. In Tulsa, authorities advised residents of some neighborhoods on Sunday to consider leaving for higher ground because the Arkansas River is stressing the city's old levee system.

Downriver and about 100 miles (161 kilometers) southeast of Tulsa in Arkansas' second-largest city, Fort Smith, residents were preparing for what meteorologists are predicting will be the worst flooding in recorded history.

Associated Press writers David Aguilar in Detroit and Jamie Stengle in Dallas contributed to this report.

Key countries to watch after high-stakes Europe-wide vote

BRUSSELS (AP) — After voters in all 28 European Union countries elected a new shared parliament, here are results in some key countries that will help determine Europe's direction:

ITALY

Italy's anti-migrant, anti-Islam interior minister, Matteo Salvini, boosted his right-wing League party to become the No. 1 party in Italy, with more than 30 percent of the vote, according to early projections.

Salvini has been using his hard-line credentials to expand a parliamentary group of European populists that already includes far-right politicians in France, Germany and Austria. Salvini is promising to restore sovereignty over key issues like immigration to national capitals, thwarting the EU's drive toward closer integration of its members.

In Europe, the populists will find it difficult to deliver on their transformation promises. But Salvini also is looking to capitalize on the outcome of the European elections to boost his power at home in the League's uneasy populist ruling coalition with the left-wing 5-Star Movement.

Salvini could use European electoral gains to leverage his position in the government and pass policies important to his base of northern Italian entrepreneurs, like a flat tax or the high-speed train connecting Lyon, France, with Turin.

Most analysts believe that Salvini is unlikely to seek an early election in Italy even with a big victory on the European stage.

But the government's future seems to be at play, with the surprise results of the Democratic Party, which was in second place in the voting ahead of the League's government coalition partner, the 5-Star Movement.

FRANCE

Anti-immigration, far-right flagbearer Marine Le Pen looks set for victory over pro-EU centrist President Emmanuel Macron in their epic battle over Europe's direction.

That's bad news not just for Macron — but also for the French leader's grand ambitions for a more united Europe.

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It's sweet revenge for Le Pen, runner-up to Macron in France's 2017 presidential race. And it's a boost for her efforts to spread her anti-EU message beyond France's borders. For Le Pen, the race was a battle to preserve European civilization from the threat of "massive immigration" and uncontrolled globalization.

Macron wants EU countries to share budgets and soldiers and work even more closely together to keep Europe globally relevant and prevent conflict.

Official results Sunday night showed Le Pen's National Rally party in the lead in France's voting, with Macron's governing Republic on the Move party in second place.

France's Greens party was projected to come in a surprisingly strong third place — easily beating the traditional conservative party the Republicans, far-left Defiant France and once-dominant Socialist Party.

As far-right parties courted the youth vote, Le Pen turned to 23-year-old Jordan Bardella to lead her National Rally party to victory.

Le Pen's party, then called the National Front, already won France's European parliamentary elections in 2014.

GERMANY

Germany's governing parties are headed for their worst post-World War II results in a nationwide election, with the environmentalist Greens emerging as the big winner.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right Union bloc was easily the biggest party, exit polls indicated, but with support of less than 30%. The picture looks disastrous for their center-left partners in an often-fractious "grand coalition," the Social Democrats, who are set to score well under 20%.

It remains to be seen what effect those results will have on the governing coalition, which took office in March last year after months of wrangling and has since been marred by infighting; and on the future of their leaders.

The Greens appeared set to confirm a surge in support in recent polls amid concern over climate change, finishing second. The far-right Alternative for Germany, though, was set for an indifferent performance. It was seen scoring a bit over 10%. That allows it to increase its presence in the European Parliament, but it's a weaker performance than in Germany's 2017 national election.

HUNGARY

The party of Hungary's anti-migrant firebrand Prime Minister Viktor Orbán won 13 of the country's 21 seats in the European Parliament, according to official results.

Orbán told supporters Sunday night that the outcome showed that "people in Hungary believe change is needed in Brussels."

Orbán, who has made anti-immigration policies the main focus of his government since early 2015 even though hardly any migrants pass through Hungary anymore, said that his Fidesz party "will cooperate with everyone who wants to stop immigration."

He did not however directly address the possibility of joining up in the EU parliament with like-minded leaders such as Italy's Salvini.

Fidesz's membership in the center-right European People's Party, which should remain the largest group in the European Parliament, has been suspended because of concerns about democracy in Hungary.

András Bíró-Nagy, director of the Policy Solutions research institute, said that since euroskeptical parties failed to achieve the big breakthrough across the continent Orbán dreamed of, joining them would "totally marginalize" the Hungarian leader at the EU level.

"It would be in Orbán's interest to try to somehow beg himself back into the People's Party," Bíró-Nagy said. "But I believe he may have gone far beyond the point where Fidesz's fate can be changed."

Still, the continued fragmentation of Hungary's opposition will ensure Fidesz's domination on the domestic level.

Municipal elections will be held in October, but at the national level Orbán is just a year into his third consecutive, four-year term.

BRITAIN

Britain wasn't supposed to take part in the European Parliament elections at all, but had to organize a

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last-minute campaign when its planned March exit from the EU was postponed.

And the winner appeared to be the Brexit Party led by anti-EU figurehead Nigel Farage, according to early projections. They also showed a big surge for the strongly pro-European Liberal Democrats.

Both the governing Conservatives and main opposition Labour Party are braced for a drubbing as U.K. voters use the election to protest at Britain's Brexit deadlock.

The results reflect an electorate deeply divided over Britain's delayed departure from the European Union, but united in anger at the two long-dominant parties, Conservatives and Labour.

The Conservatives look likely to be punished for failing to take the country out of the EU as promised, a failure that led May to announce Friday that she is stepping down.

Farage's Brexit Party has only one policy: for Britain to leave the EU as soon as possible, even without a divorce agreement in place.

In the last EU election in 2014, Farage's former UKIP party won 27% of the vote, helping build momentum in the push to get Britain out of the EU.

The U.K. has 73 seats at the European Parliament, and its lawmakers would lose their jobs when their country leaves the EU.

AUSTRIA

Provisional results point to a big win for Chancellor Sebastian Kurz's center-right party in the European Parliament election, days after a scandal involving the far-right Freedom Party brought down his governing coalition.

That is a big boost for Kurz before a national election expected in September. The early results show the Freedom Party finishing far behind in third place.

Heinz-Christian Strache quit last weekend as vice chancellor and Freedom Party leader after a leaked video showed him appearing to offer favors to a purported Russian investor during a boozy meeting on the Spanish island of Ibiza two years ago. Kurz then called for a new election and is now running an interim government with experts replacing the Freedom Party's ministers.

Kurz is expected to face a small opposition party's no-confidence motion in parliament on Monday, and it's unclear whether he will keep his job. But a big win would make his People's Party firm favorite to retain power in September.

The projection also points to a comeback for the Greens, who lost their seats in Germany's national parliament in 2017.

Colleen Barry in Milan, Italy; Geir Moulson in Berlin; Pablo Gorondi in Budapest, Hungary; and Elaine Ganley and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

Magnitude 8 earthquake strikes Amazon jungle in Peru

By FRANKLIN BRICENO Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A powerful magnitude 8.0 earthquake struck a remote part of the Amazon jungle in Peru early Sunday, collapsing buildings and knocking out power to some areas but causing only one reported death.

The quake struck at 2:41 a.m. and was centered in a vast nature preserve 57 miles (92 kilometers) east of the small town of Yurimaguas. Helping limit damage was the earthquake's depth, at 70 miles (114 kilometers) below the surface, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Earthquakes that are close to the surface generally cause more destruction.

President Martín Vizcarra called for calm before traveling to the zone with members of his cabinet to survey the damage. He said first reports indicate a bridge had collapsed and several homes and roads had been affected.

"It's a quake that was felt throughout the Peruvian jungle," said Vizcarra, who was scheduled to host a regional summit Sunday in the capital with the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador.

Ricardo Seijas, chief of the National Emergency Operations Center, said one person died when a rock

fell on a house in the Huarango district.

A preliminary survey by authorities found that six people were injured and 27 homes damaged across seven provinces. Three schools, three hospitals and two churches were also affected

In Yurimaguas, a bridge and several old houses collapsed, and the electricity was cut, according to the National Emergency Operations Center.

Images circulating on social media showed residents in several parts of the country panicked as the quake shook buildings.

The quake also awoke people in Lima, who ran out of their homes in fear.

"It was a really long quake," said Maria Brito, who lives on the fifth floor of an apartment building in the capital. "It could've been worse, and luckily it's over."

Earthquakes are frequent in Peru, which lies on the Pacific's so-called Ring of Fire. On August 15, 2007, a similarly sized quake struck near Lima, killing more than 500 people.

Hawaii woman rescued from forest told self not to give up

WAILUKU, Hawaii (AP) — A Hawaii woman who was found alive in a forest on Maui island after going missing more than two weeks ago said she at times struggled not to give up.

Amanda Eller told the New York Times that despite these moments, she told herself "the only option I had was life or death."

"I heard this voice that said, 'If you want to live, keep going.' And as soon as I would doubt my intuition and try to go another way than where it was telling me, something would stop me, a branch would fall on me, I'd stub my toe, or I'd trip," said Eller, 35, a physical therapist and yoga instructor. "So I was like, 'OK, there is only one way to go.'"

Eller was found injured Friday in the Makawao Forest Reserve.

Eller, who is from the Maui town of Haiku, went missing on May 8. Her white Toyota RAV4 was found in the forest parking lot with her phone and wallet inside.

Hundreds of volunteers searched for her. Eller's parents offered a \$10,000 reward to encourage people to find her.

Eller told the Times that she had intended to go on a short trail walk. She went off the path at one point to rest, and when she resumed hiking, she got turned around.

"I wanted to go back the way I'd come, but my gut was leading me another way — and I have a very strong gut instinct," Eller said. "So, I said, my car is this way and I'm just going to keep going until I reach it."

She said she kept trying to get back to her car but wound up going deeper into the jungle.

During her ordeal, she fell off a cliff, which led her to fracture her leg and tear the meniscus in her knee, a friend, Katie York, told the Times.

After the fall, she struggled to walk, Eller said. She also had trouble finding food.

"I was getting so skinny that I was really starting to doubt if I could survive," Eller said.

Finally, after 17 days of wandering, she saw a helicopter that had been sent to find her.

"I looked up and they were right on top of me," Eller told the Times. "I was like, 'Oh my God,' and I just broke down and started bawling."

Javier Cantellops said he was searching for Eller from a helicopter along with Chris Berquist and Troy Helmers when they spotted her about 3:45 p.m. Friday near the Kailua reservoir, according to Maui Police Department spokesman Lt. Gregg Okamoto and the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

Cantellops told the newspaper that she was in the bed of a creek with waterfalls on either side.

He told CNN he saw Eller waving her hands at the helicopter.

"It was unbelievable, dude," Cantellops said. "Seeing her for the first time in a long time was just unbelievable. It was nothing short of elation."

Eller was in an area with thick vegetation, he said. "That vegetation is so thick, it's a miracle that we saw her," Cantellops told CNN.

The Maui Fire Department brought Eller to a hospital for evaluation, Okamoto said in a statement.

Her mother, Julia, told the Maui News that Amanda Eller survived by staying near a water source and eating wild raspberries and strawberry guavas. She even ate a couple of moths, Julia Eller said.

Her daughter tried to catch some crawfish, but she was "not very successful," Julia Eller said.

"She lost quite a bit of weight, as you can imagine, being lost for that amount of time," Julia Eller said. "But she was able to survive it. She had the right skills and did the right things to buy time so that we had a chance to find her."

Amanda Eller suffered a leg fracture, abrasions on her ankles and a severe sunburn, but Julia Eller told the Maui News that her daughter's spirits were good.

"And all of those things are treatable," Julia Eller said.

Information from: The Maui News, <http://www.mauinews.com>

Discipline or treatment? Schools rethinking vaping response

By PAT EATON-ROBB Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A glimpse of student athletes in peak physical condition vaping just moments after competing in a football game led Stamford High School Principal Raymond Manka to reconsider his approach to the epidemic.

His school traditionally has emphasized discipline for those caught with e-cigarettes. Punishments become increasingly severe with each offense, from in-school suspensions to out-of-school suspensions and, eventually, notification of law enforcement.

But Manka began thinking about it more as an addiction problem, and less of a behavior issue, after seeing the two players from another school vaping near their bus. "It broke my heart," said Manka, whose school is now exploring how to offer cessation programs for students caught vaping or with vaping paraphernalia.

"We've got to figure out how we can help these kids wean away from bad habits that might hurt their body or their mind or otherwise create behaviors that can create habits that will be harmful for the remainder of their lives," he said.

Schools elsewhere have been wrestling with how to balance discipline with prevention and treatment in their response to the soaring numbers of vaping students.

Using e-cigarettes, often called vaping, has now overtaken smoking traditional cigarettes in popularity among students, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last year, one in five U.S. high school students reported vaping the previous month, according to a CDC survey.

E-cigarettes produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains high levels of nicotine — the addictive drug in regular cigarettes and other tobacco products — flavorings and other chemicals. Users inhale this aerosol into their lungs; when they exhale, bystanders often breathe it in too.

Compared with regular cigarettes, the research on the health effects of e-cigarettes is painfully thin. Experts say that although using e-cigarettes appears less harmful over the long run than smoking regular cigarettes, that doesn't mean they're safe — particularly for youth, young adults, pregnant women or adults who do not currently use tobacco products.

"Studies have shown that e-cigarette use among young people is potentially associated with an increased risk of progressing on to cigarette use and to vaping cannabis, which has become increasingly common in recent years," said Dr. Renee Goodwin, a researcher and professor of epidemiology at the City University of New York and Columbia University who studies tobacco and cannabis use.

Besides nicotine, e-cigarettes can include other harmful substances, including heavy metals like lead and cancer-causing agents. The vaping liquid is often offered in a variety of flavors that appeal to youth and is packaged in a way that makes them attractive to children. And the long-term health effects, Goodwin noted, are unknown.

Experts say the CDC classifies e-cigarettes as a tobacco product, and many schools lump vaping in with tobacco use in applying codes of conduct, treating offenses similarly.

In Connecticut alone, administrators dealt with 2,160 incidents in which students were caught vaping or

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with vaping paraphernalia in violation of school policies during the 2017-18 school year, up from 349 two years earlier. The schools issued 1,465 in-school suspensions and 334 out-of-school suspensions, according to the state Education Department.

Nationwide, some schools have removed bathroom stall doors or placed monitors outside of restrooms to check students in and out. Others have installed humidity detectors that sound an alarm when vapor clouds are detected.

Lawmakers are beginning to show similar concerns. Oklahoma has passed legislation to ban vaping on school property, and a dozen states have passed legislation to increase the age for smoking and vaping to 21.

Nevertheless, some school districts have begun taking a more comprehensive approach by emphasizing treatment and prevention.

The Conejo Valley Unified School District in southern California recently shifted from suspending students for a first offense to sending them to a four-hour Saturday class on the marketing and health dangers of vaping. A second offense results in a one-or-two-day suspension coupled with several weeks of a more intensive six-week counseling program that includes parents.

"I think we are seeing quite a bit of success, basing it on the reduction this year in both the number of incidents reported on campus and the number of suspensions," said Luis Lichtl, the district's assistant superintendent.

"The schools that seem to be most effective are those that are of course enforcing their disciplinary code — they can't do otherwise — but are using that as the floor and not the ceiling," said Bob Farrace, a spokesman for the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Linda Richter, an expert on vaping and adolescent substance use who works at the New York-based Center on Addiction, suggests that schools provide information about the health consequences and how companies have manipulated students to use vaping products by making it appear fun and cool. She said that two-pronged approach led to a successful decrease in the use of traditional cigarettes.

"To expect a 13, 14 or 15-year-old to break an addiction by yelling at them or suspending them, it's just not going to happen," she said. "They need help, treatment, counseling, support, education and understanding."

Dr. J. Craig Allen, medical director at Rushford, a mental health treatment center in Meriden, said suspending teens for vaping may be counterproductive.

"If your solution is to send these kids home, what do you think they are going to be doing at home," he said. "They are going to be taking rips off their Juul all day long to kill the time."

Thomas Aberli, the principal at Atherton High School in Louisville, Kentucky, said it began an intensive anti-vaping education program this year with the help of the American Association of Pediatrics. Teaching teens about how vaping companies have been courting them with flavored products seems to be having an effect.

"You could tell how angry they were getting with this sense of manipulation," he said. "That was really a turning point for us in knowing the best way to approach this problem."

Other schools have continued to emphasize discipline in crackdowns on teen vaping.

At the Mattawan Consolidated School District just outside of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Principal Tim Eastman recently wrote to parents that students found congregating in bathrooms or parking lots will be taken to the office and searched.

"Anyone found with vaping equipment will face suspensions," Eastman wrote. "Although this may seem extreme, the health and safety of our students is too important to ignore."

Eastman said the school is not currently providing those caught vaping with any additional education or medical intervention, but is considering it.

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Sumo diplomacy: Abe courts Trump with burgers, golf, more

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — It was a day of sumo-sized diplomacy.

Plenty of world leaders have tried to butter up President Donald Trump with flattery and favors. Japan's Shinzo Abe on Sunday raised the bar for all of them.

First Abe treated his friend to a round of golf (with tweeted selfie). Then the prime minister allowed Trump to take center stage at a sumo wrestling match, where he spent the better part of the day watching large men in loin cloths and bare feet brawl inside a ring.

When it was over, Trump did what no other American president has done. Climbing into the elevated dirt ring, or "dohyo," in ceremonial slippers, Trump presented a hulking 60-pound (27-kilogram) trophy to the tournament champion — a cup that Trump said he hoped would be used for "many hundreds of years."

"I hereby award you the United States President's Cup," Trump told Asanoyama, the sumo champion, as he read from a scroll.

From there, it was off to a "couple's dinner" for the Trumps and Abes.

The golf, sumo, dinner — with a cheeseburger lunch wedged in — were part of a diplomatic package designed by Abe to stay on Trump's good side amid tensions between their governments over trade and other issues.

Sunday was all about keeping Trump happy. An effusive Abe described their buddy time as "cozy."

It began with 16 holes of golf at Mobarra Country Club, where they were joined by Japanese pro Isao Aoki. On the lunch menu: double cheeseburgers, made with U.S. beef.

Abe next introduced Trump to Japan's ancient sport of sumo wrestling, which Trump had previously said he finds "fascinating." Even so, at times he appeared somewhat bored at Ryogoku Kokugikan Stadium.

Loud applause greeted Trump as he entered the arena and took his seat a few rows behind the ring, in a break from the custom of sitting cross-legged on cushions. Trump, Abe and their wives were among an estimated 11,500 fans there to see who would claim the title.

The Japan Sumo Association put in place special safety precautions because of Trump's presence, including selling fewer same-day tickets and banning the ritual of the tossing of seat cushions by those disappointed with the outcome.

Match over, Trump walked onto the stage in dark slippers — shoes are banned from the ring — to present the cup.

The president praised Asanoyama's "outstanding achievement" and then hoisted the trophy, which the White House said was 54 inches (137 centimeters) tall, into Asanoyama's arms with assistance from an official. Asanoyama also received trophies from Abe and on behalf of the emperor.

It was fitting entertainment for the businessman president who in past times helped promote the World Wrestling Federation back home. Trump sponsored major events, appeared in bits and was inducted into the World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2013.

He tweeted after the match that it was his "great honor to present the first-ever President's Cup."

Another honor awaited Trump on Monday when was set to become, at Abe's invitation, the first head of state to meet Japan's new emperor, Naruhito, who succeeded his father on May 1. Trump also was to be the guest of honor at a banquet hosted by the emperor at Japan's Imperial Palace.

Beyond all the pageantry, Trump and Abe scheduled talks Monday and planned to hold a joint news conference. But Trump set measured expectations for what would be accomplished, tweeting that serious trade negotiations with the Japanese "will wait until after their July elections," referring to upcoming parliamentary elections.

As for Sunday, Trump summed it up thus just before a hibachi dinner with Abe and their wives: "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. It's over 200 years since something like this has happened so it's a great honor to be representing the United States."

Abe sought quickly after the 2016 U.S. election to build a rapport with Trump, rushing to New York so

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the two could get acquainted before Trump took office. Japan relies on the U.S. for security and Abe has encouraged Trump to maintain international agreements and keep pressure on North Korea.

A mutual love of golf has helped the friendship flourish.

"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 after the golf game. He tweeted a selfie of him and Trump smiling widely on the greens.

Trump tweeted that he'd had "Great fun and meeting with Prime Minister @AbeShinzo."

For all of the over-the-top camaraderie of the day, the two countries have serious differences to work through.

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

Trump is also playing down North Korea's recent series of short-range missile tests, which are of particular concern to neighboring Japan.

Even in the thick of a four-day state visit in which Trump is the center of attention in Japan, the president continued to stew about politics back home.

He claimed in a tweet that "numerous" Japanese officials had told him that Democrats would rather see the U.S. fail than see Trump or his Republican Party succeed.

Tradition holds that American presidents and political candidates avoid politicking while on foreign soil, but Trump frequently disregards such norms. He tweeted fresh digs about Democratic presidential rival Joe Biden, a former vice president.

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Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 27, the 147th day of 2019. There are 218 days left in the year. This is the Memorial Day observance.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 27, 1941, the British Royal Navy sank the German battleship Bismarck off France with a loss of some 2,000 lives, three days after the Bismarck sank the HMS Hood with the loss of more than 1,400 lives. Amid rising world tensions, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed an "unlimited national emergency" during a radio address from the White House.

On this date:

In 1199, King John of England was crowned in Westminster Abbey nearly two months after the death of his brother, Richard I ("The Lion-Hearted").

In 1861, Chief Justice Roger Taney, sitting as a federal circuit court judge in Baltimore, ruled that President Abraham Lincoln lacked the authority to suspend the writ of habeas corpus (Lincoln disregarded the ruling).

In 1933, the Chicago World's Fair, celebrating "A Century of Progress," officially opened. Walt Disney's Academy Award-winning animated short "The Three Little Pigs" was first released.

In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States*, unanimously struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act, a key component of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" legislative program.

In 1942, Doris "Dorie" Miller, a cook aboard the USS West Virginia, became the first African-American to receive the Navy Cross for displaying "extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety" during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1957, the single "That'll Be the Day" by Buddy Holly's group The Crickets was released by Brunswick Records.

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In 1962, a dump fire in Centralia, Pennsylvania, ignited a blaze in underground coal deposits that continues to burn to this day.

In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. O'Brien*, upheld the conviction of David O'Brien for destroying his draft card outside a Boston courthouse, ruling that the act was not protected by freedom of speech.

In 1985, in Beijing, representatives of Britain and China exchanged instruments of ratification for an accord returning Hong Kong to Chinese control in 1997.

In 1993, five people were killed in a bombing at the Uffizi museum of art in Florence, Italy; some three dozen paintings were ruined or damaged.

In 1995, actor Christopher Reeve was left paralyzed when he was thrown from his horse during a jumping event in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In 1998, Michael Fortier (FOR'-tee-ur), the government's star witness in the Oklahoma City bombing case, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after apologizing for not warning anyone about the deadly plot. (Fortier was freed in January 2006.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama announced more spending for renewable energy after touring a large field of solar panels at Nellis Air Force Base, near Las Vegas. Gunmen detonated a car bomb in Lahore, Pakistan, killing about 30 people and wounding at least 250.

Five years ago: Charting an end to America's longest war, President Barack Obama announced plans for keeping nearly 10,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014 but then withdrawing virtually all by the close of 2016 and the conclusion of his presidency. Michelle Obama struck back at House Republicans trying to weaken healthier school meal standards as she met with school nutrition officials who said the guidelines were working at their schools; the first lady called any effort to roll back the guidelines "unacceptable."

One year ago: LeBron James reached his eighth straight NBA Finals as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Boston Celtics 87-79 in Game 7 of the semifinals. Danica Patrick ended her auto racing career at the track that made her famous, losing traction on a slippery surface and crashing out of the Indianapolis 500; the race was won by Will Power.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is 96. Former FBI Director William Sessions is 89. Author John Barth is 89. Actress Lee Meriwether is 84. Musician Ramsey Lewis is 84. Actor Louis Gossett Jr. is 83. Rhythm and blues singer Raymond Sanders (The Persuasions) is 80. Actor Bruce Weitz is 76. Former Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) is 75. Singer Bruce Cockburn (KOH'-burn) is 74. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster is 72. Singer-actress Dee Dee Bridgewater is 69. Actor Richard Schiff is 64. Singer Siouxsie Sioux (The Creatures, Siouxsie and the Banshees) is 62. Rock singer-musician Neil Finn (The Finn Brothers) is 61. Actress Peri Gilpin is 58. Actress Cathy Silvers is 58. Comedian Adam Carolla is 55. Actor Todd Bridges is 54. Rock musician Sean Kinney (Alice In Chains) is 53. Actor Dondre Whitfield is 50. Actor Paul Bettany is 48. Rock singer-musician Brian Desveaux (Nine Days) is 48. Country singer Jace Everett is 47. Actor Jack McBrayer is 46. Rapper Andre 3000 (Outkast) is 44. Rapper Jadakiss is 44. TV chef Jamie Oliver is 44. Alt-country singer-songwriter Shane Nicholson is 43. Actor Ben Feldman is 39. Actor Michael Steger is 39. Actor Darin Brooks is 35. Actor-singer Chris Colfer is 29. Actor Ethan Dampf is 25. Actress Desiree Ross (TV: "Greenleaf") is 20.

Thought for Today: "A man who limits his interests limits his life." — Vincent Price, American actor (born this date in 1911, died 1993).