

Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup
for the Soul

*Mix a little
foolishness
with your
serious plans.
It is lovely to be silly
at the right moment.*

-Horace

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Groton Baseball/Softball Schedules

Tuesday, May 28

5:30 p.m.: Legion hosts Clark, (DH)

Wednesday, May 29

6:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Selby, (DH)

Thursday, May 30

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Warner, (DH) (B)

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Claremont, (DH)

Friday, May 31

5:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets host Backous, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Northville, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Warner, (DH) (W,B)

6:00 p.m.: Legion at Sisseton, (DH)

Saturday, June 1

U10 Pee Wees at Clark Tournament

Junior Teeners Round Robin in Groton

2:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Milbank

4:00 p.m.: Milbank vs. Redfield

6:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Redfield

Sunday, June 2

4:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Milbank, (DH)

4 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs at Redfield

Monday, June 3

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Webster, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets at Webster, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees at Webster, (DH) (R,B)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Britton, (DH)s (R,B)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Practice at Soccer Field (both)

Softball at Ipswich (U8 at 6 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)

Tuesday, June 4

5:30 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Borge (R,W)

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Borge on Nelson Field, (DH) (B)

6:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets host Borge

Wednesday, June 5

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball scrimmage at Falk Field (both)

Softball hosts Britton, U12 (DH), 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 6

5:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Sisseton, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: T-Ball hosts Doland, Nelson Field (Black)

6:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Doland (R)

7:30 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Doland (W,B)

Softball hosts Warner on Nelson Field (U8 at 7 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)

Friday, June 7

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball at Andover (Gold)

7:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees at Andover (R,W)

June 7-8

Junior Legion at Mellette Tourney

June 7-9

Legion at Milbank Tourney

Junior Teeners at Watertown Coke Tournament

U12 Midgets at Watertown Coke Tournament

Sunday, June 9

1:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs host Aberdeen

4:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs host Northville

Monday, June 10

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Clark, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Hannigan at Manor Park, (DH) (B)

6:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets at Warner, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Webster, (DH) (R,B)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Practice at Soccer Field (both)

Softball at Webster (U10, U12 (DH)s both beginning at 6 p.m.)

Tuesday, June 11

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Aberdeen, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Welke, (DH) (W,B)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Jacobson, (DH) (R)

Wednesday, June 12

6:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Redfield, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball hosts Columbia, Falk Field (Gold)

Softball hosts Sisseton, U12 at 6 p.m., Nelson Field

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Thursday, June 13

5:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Lake Norden, (DH)
5:30 p.m.: Junior Legion at Milbank, (DH)
5:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets at Warner, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Watertown, (DH)
s (R,B)
Softball at Faulkton, U14 (DH), 6 p.m.
Softball at Clark (U8 at 5 p.m. (1 game), U10 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U12 at 7 p.m. (2 games))

Friday, June 14

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage (both)
Softball at Britton, U12 (DH), 6 p.m.

June 15-16

U12 Midgets at Mitchell Have Johnston Tournament
U10 Pee Wees at Mitchell Tourney

Saturday, June 15

1:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Aberdeen, (DH)
2:00 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Mobridge, (DH)
U8 Pee Wees Tourney in Groton

Sunday, June 16

3:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs at Northville
4:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs host Redfield

Monday, June 17

5:30 p.m.: T-Ball at Doland (Black)
6:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Frederick, (DH)
6:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Doland (B)
7:30 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees at Doland (R,W)
Softball hosts Britton (U8 at 6 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)
Softball at Ellendale, (DH)s both start at 6 p.m.
(U12, U14)

Tuesday, June 18

6:00 p.m.: Legion at Milbank, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Milbank on Nelson Field (R,B)
6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Practice at Falk Field (both)
Softball at Britton (U8 at 6 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)

Wednesday, June 19

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Hamlin, (DH)
5:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets at Huron, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Wahlburg, (DH)
(W,B)

Thursday, June 20

6:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Northville, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Jacobson at Manor Park, (DH) (R)
Softball hosts Mellette (U8 at 5 p.m. (1 game), U10 at 6 p.m. (2 games), U14 at 6 p.m. (2 games))

Friday, June 21

6:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets at Britton, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees at Britton, (DH) (R,W)
6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage, Nelson Field (both)

June 21-23

Junior Teeners at Milbank Tournament

Saturday, June 22

Junior Legion Round Robin in Groton
2:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Wessington Springs
4:00 p.m.: Faulkton vs. Wessington Springs
6:00 p.m.: Faulkton vs. Lennox
8:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Lennox

Sunday, June 23

4:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs at Redfield
Junior Legion Round Robin in Groton
1:00 p.m.: Wessington Springs vs. Lennox
3:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Faulkton

Monday, June 24

5:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets vs. Backous at Manor Park, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Webster, (DH)s (R,B)
Softball at Warner (U8 at 6 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)

Tuesday, June 25

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees vs. Welke at Manor Park, (DH) (R,B)
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Watertown, (DH)s (R,B)
Softball hosts Ellendale in (DH)s (U12 at 6 p.m., U14 at 7 p.m.)

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Wednesday, June 26

5:30 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Hamlin, double header

6:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Faulkton, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage, Falk Field (both)

Softball hosts Clark in (DH) (U10 at 6 p.m.)

Thursday, June 27

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Warner, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets host Warner, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball hosts Claremont, Nelson Field (Gold)

7:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Claremont (W,B)

Friday, June 28

Noon: Legion at Aberdeen

Saturday, June 29

1:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Lake Norden, (DH)

U10 Pee Wees Tourney in Groton

Sunday, June 30

2:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Lake Norden, (DH)

U12 Midgets host Groton Tourney

6:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs vs. Groton 2 Amateurs (game to start after Legion (DH))

Monday, July 1

5:30 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Milbank, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Redfield, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets host Britton, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Britton, (DH) (R,W)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Britton, (DH)s (R,B)

Softball at Sisseton, (DH)s (U10 at 6 p.m., U12 at 6 p.m.)

Tuesday, July 2

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Claremont, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Selby, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Sisseton, (DH) (R,B)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball hosts Andover, Falk Field (Black)

7:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Andover (R,B)

Softball U12 hosts Ipswich, (DH), 6 p.m.

Softball U14 at Frankfort, (DH), 6 p.m.

Sunday, July 7

2:00 p.m.: Legion at Redfield, (DH)

2:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets vs. Backous & Pierre at Manor Park

Monday, July 8

5:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Sisseton, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Webster, (DH)s (R,B)

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Northville, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage (both)

Softball at Mellette (U8 at 5 p.m. (1 game), U10 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U14 at 7 p.m. (2 games))

Tuesday, July 9

5:30 p.m.: Legion hosts Aberdeen, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Borge at Manor Park (R)

6:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets vs. Borge at Manor Park

Softball U14 hosts Frankfort, (DH), 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Warner, (DH) (R)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Jacobson, (DH) (B)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball at Columbia (Gold)

Thursday, July 11

6:00 p.m.: Legion at Castlewood, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball at Claremont (Black)

Softball hosts Webster (U10 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U12 at 7 p.m. (2 games))

Softball hosts Faulkton, (DH), 6 p.m.

July 12-14

Legion at Clark Tourney

U12 Midgets State Tournament, TBD

U10 Pee Wees State Tournament, TBD

Saturday, July 13

1:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs at Mt. Vernon (Tentative)

Sunday, July 14

1:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs vs. Groton 2 Amateurs

Monday, July 15

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Sisseton (R,B)

Tuesday, July 16

5:30 p.m.: Junior Legion at Clark, (DH)

Softball hosts Ipswich (U8 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U10 at 7 p.m. (2 games))

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Wednesday, July 17

7:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Sisseton

Thursday, July 18

5:00 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Aberdeen, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Jacobson at Manor Park, (DH) (B)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage (both)

July 19-21

State Junior Teener Tournament in Elkton

Friday, July 19

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Faulkton, (DH)

Sunday, July 21

1:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs host Redfield

4:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs at Northville

Monday, July 22

5:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Aberdeen, (DH)

Tuesday, July 23

6:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs host Aberdeen

July 30 - Aug. 2

Amateur Districts in Groton

Thursday, Aug. 1

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Northville, (DH)

August 5-18

State "B" Amateur Tournament at Mitchell

August 9-11

State Junior Legion Tourney in Groton



JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS 63RD ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 30 @Groton Area HS Arena

11:30am-12:30pm: Registration & Lunch

*Enjoy a Chicken Corden Bleu Meal with
Entertainment by Groton Area OST*

12:30pm: Business Meeting

Many Door Prizes - including a **\$500 JVT Credit**
Free Membership Gift, Childcare & Bus Rides (call 397-2323)

JVT's office will be closed 11am-2pm



SD Crop Analysis: Profitability in 2018

Mitchell—Overall favorable growing conditions in 2018 contributed to good crops for South Dakota farmers. It certainly was a challenge to get those crops harvested in many areas due to excess moisture and lack of drying conditions. Alfalfa, though not as prevalent as corn or soybeans, was the most profitable of crops produced on farms enrolled in the SD Center for Farm/Ranch management program. A yield of 3.53 tons/acre valued at \$109/ton against total listed expenses of \$223/acre generated a net return of \$162/acre.

Soybeans averaged a net return of \$124/acre, much higher than \$38/acre in 2017. The average yield of 54.61 bushels/acre coupled with the Market Facilitation Payments (MFPs) generated a gross income of \$494/acre. The average yield in 2017 was 44 bushels/acre. The total cost of production for an acre of soybeans was \$370 up from \$323 in 2017.

On fields included in the enterprise analyses, corn averaged 175.46 bushels/acre with an average price of \$3.21 (calculated by fall sales and ending inventory values) and along with some miscellaneous income grossed \$589/acre. The total expense for corn was \$473/acre giving it a net return of \$116/acre. In 2017 the average yield was 143 bushels/acre causing a -\$7/acre net return. "Timely rainfall for many and an increase in price over last year accounted for this. Higher returns from 53 bushels more yield valued at a slightly higher price received, coupled with lower costs, made the high 20% and low 20% vary from a \$213 profit to a negative \$55/acre," stated Will Walter, instructor at Mitchell Technical Institute. The high 20% return corn fields yielded 185 bushels/acre and the low 20% return corn fields 131. On the high return 20%, the total cost per acre was \$419/acre compared to \$482 on the low 20%.

Said Walter, "It is crucial for each producer to maximize the return on investment of inputs. Comparing all of your costs and corresponding returns to what is average, high or low in each expense category can provide a valued reference. Yes, each year is different, but trends will show that maximum inputs don't always equal maximum returns."

At this writing, 2019 fall delivery bids exist at \$3.20 corn and \$8.00 soybeans. Producers can't plan on an MFP in 2019, but can certainly hope for foreign trade resolutions to support the prices received for US commodities.

With a much smaller subset of data than corn & soybeans, the average return per acre of winter wheat was just \$8/acre. The average yield was 57 bushels/acre which was similar to 2017. Oats showed a loss of \$9/acre. It seems the shortened spring season of 2018, wet early and then hot temperatures early in summer, made small grains suffer. Other crops, with lower instances, often are unique to a small group of operations.

All crops can be viewed via the SD Annual Report at www.sdcfm.com. 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.sdcfm.com or by contacting the Center at (605) 995-7191 or sdcfm@mitchelltech.edu.

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- Holiday Pay
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It's Tuesday



Heavenly Father,

Thank You for allowing us to see another day and for always making a way out of no way. We give You Praise for supplying our daily bread, and for keeping a roof over our heads. Thank You for Your Blessings!

Sometimes the road gets rough, and the going gets tough, and the hills so hard to climb, but we decided a long time ago, and there is no doubt in our minds, we decided to make JESUS our choice, and no matter how hard it gets, we are Not turning back.

Thank You for keeping us covered in the Precious Blood of Jesus. In His name, Amen.

Shalom

God's Spoken Word Ministries



AMEN!

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

For the most part, NFL teams are set. There will still be some moves made, including players being cut, players being added, and minor trades here and there – but those moves are mostly for the “end of the bench” guys and won’t move the needle much. So, I thought this would be the perfect time to do a power ranking of the teams in the NFL. We will break this down in two parts, with the top half today and the bottom half next week.

1 – New England Patriots. The Patriots just won the Super Bowl, and until Tom Brady and Bill Belichick retire, this team will still be the cream of the crop.

2 – New Orleans Saints. This one hurts, as I still hold a grudge from the 2009 bountygate scandal, but the Saints are a good team who only got better this offseason.

3 – Los Angeles Rams. The Rams are a young, exciting team with plenty of firepower on offense. They lost some talent on the defensive side of the ball, but can make up for it with their offense.

4 – Los Angeles Chargers. The Chargers have one of the best defenses in football, their offense is filled with young playmakers at wide receiver and running back. Philip Rivers is perhaps the most underrated quarterback in the league.

5 – Kansas City Chiefs. The Chiefs have the reigning NFL MVP at quarterback, but they lost their best running back last year and uncertainty hovers over their top receiver.

6 – Minnesota Vikings. Yes, I know this is higher than most power rankings have the Vikings, but I don’t care. The team has an elite defense, and hopefully the moves made along the offensive line mean the offense, which is filled with ascending superstars, can hold their own this year.

7 – Indianapolis Colts. The Colts have one of the best quarterbacks in the league, Andrew Luck, and with a better offensive line and plenty of additions on defense, this could be the year the team finally puts it all together.

8 – Philadelphia Eagles. The Eagles might have the worst fanbase in the entire league, but the team is still very good. If Carson Wentz can return to form, the team will once again be in the playoffs.

9 – Chicago Bears. The Bears didn’t do much in the draft because they sent their top picks to Oakland for Khalil Mack. The defense is steller, and if the offense can take a step forward the Bears will once again be one of the best teams in the league.

10 – Cleveland Browns. The Browns have been the laughingstock of the NFL for years now, but they have gotten much better on both sides of the ball in the last year.

11 – Green Bay Packers. The Packers upgraded their offensive line and defense this offseason, and as long as Rodgers is healthy, they will be regarded as one of the best teams.

12 – Atlanta Falcons. The Falcons are just two years removed from a Super Bowl appearance. The team has talent on both sides of the ball, the biggest question will be how their players will come back from injury.

13 – Seattle Seahawks. The Seahawks don’t have the legion of boom on defense anymore, and they lost their top receiver (Doug Baldwin) to retirement, but you can’t count out Russell Wilson.

14 – Houston Texans. The Texans’ biggest issue has been protecting their quarterback, but they spent two of their first three picks on offensive linemen. If those picks pan out, the Texans will be a playoff team in 2019.

15 – Dallas Cowboys. I am not sold on Dak Prescott at quarterback, but the Cowboys have an excellent offensive line and running back. If their defense can take a step forward, they could easily be one of the best teams in the league this season.

16 – Tennessee Titans. Marcus Mariota has a ton of talent but hasn’t been able to put it all together yet. If he can get it going, the Titans made enough improvements around him to sneak into the playoffs once again.

Do you agree with my rankings? Reach out to me on Twitter and let me know! (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

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Today in Weather History

May 28, 1934: Watertown recorded a high temperature of 102 degrees, which is the earliest yearly date when Watertown reached 100 degrees.

May 28, 1965: Low temperatures were mostly for the mid to upper 20s across a broad area. The low temperatures set back some crops and caused light damage to others. Some low temperatures around the area include; 26 degrees in Andover; 27 in Ipswich; 28 in Britton, Leola and McLaughlin; and 29 in Clear Lake, Eureka, Gettysburg, and Pierre.

1880: An estimated F4 tornado hit Savoy, Texas. The storm killed 14 people, and 60 others were injured. It leveled the entire business and northeast residential sections. The tornado was described as "a funnel blazing with balls of fire."

1877 - A "terrific" two day long sandstorm (sand) blasted Yuma, AZ. (28th-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1942 - The latest snowstorm of record for the state of Iowa left ten inches at LeMars, eight inches at Cherokee, and 7.5 inches at Waukon. Afternoon highs were in the lower 30s in parts of northwestern Iowa. (The Weather Channel)

1947 - A storm produced heavy snow across Wisconsin, with ten inches reported at Gay Mills. The snow damaged fruit and other trees, and downed power lines. The storm was followed by the coldest weather of the month for much of the High Plains Region and Missouri Valley. Williston ND reported a low of 21 degrees the morning of the 28th, and the next morning Cheyenne WY reported a morning low of 16 above zero. (David Ludlum)

1973: An F3 tornado moved east and struck the northern portion of Athens, Georgia. Destruction was massive near Athens, with losses estimated at ten million dollars. Damage from the storm included 545 homes and 17 businesses. Hundreds of large trees more than 100 years old were destroyed.

1987 - Thunderstorms produced torrential rains in Oklahoma and northern Texas. Lake Altus, OK, was deluged with nine inches of rain. Up to eight inches drenched northern Texas, and baseball size hail was reported north of Seminole and at Knickerbocker. Ten to 13 inch rains soaked central Oklahoma the last five days of May resulting in an estimated 65 million dollars damage, and forcing several thousand persons to evacuate their homes, many by boat or helicopter. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A sharp cold front began to usher cold, wet and windy weather into the western U.S. Thunderstorms in the Great Plains Region produced wind gusts to 80 mph near Brookings, SD. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)






1989 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in Florida. Five cities reported record high temperatures for the date. The record high of 98 degrees at Lakeland, FL, was their fifth in a row. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Florida late in the day, with golf ball size hail reported at Kissimmee. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Two to five inches of rain over southeastern Ohio on the 28th and 29th capped an exceptionally wet month of May, and triggered widespread flooding. Flooding which resulted claimed three lives, and caused millions of dollars damage. Numerous roads in southeast Ohio were flooded and impassable, and many other roads were blocked by landslides. (Storm Data)




2015: Some parts of Oklahoma have seen more than a foot of rain during May 2015. Storms killed at least 17 people in Texas and Oklahoma, and more than a dozen are still missing. State climatologist Gary McManus from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey calculated the May rainfall total averaged over all Sooner State reporting stations through midday May 29 - 14.18 inches - was easily outpacing the previous record wet month, set in October 1941 (10.75 inches).

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
				
Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 65 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 79 °F

Three Day Outlook

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		
<i>Rain along and south of Hwy 212</i>	<i>Rain along and south of Hwy 212</i>	<i>Mostly Sunny</i>
Highs: 55-65 F	Highs: 65-75 F	Highs: 75-80 F

R SERVICE
MINISTRATION

Updated: 5/27/2019 2:32 PM Central

Published on: 05/27/2019 at 3:33PM

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 66 °F at 5:25 PM

Low Temp: 53 °F at 8:21 AM

Wind: 24 mph at 8:48 AM

Day Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1934

Record Low: 30° in 1965

Average High: 72°F

Average Low: 48°F

Average Precip in May.: 2.71

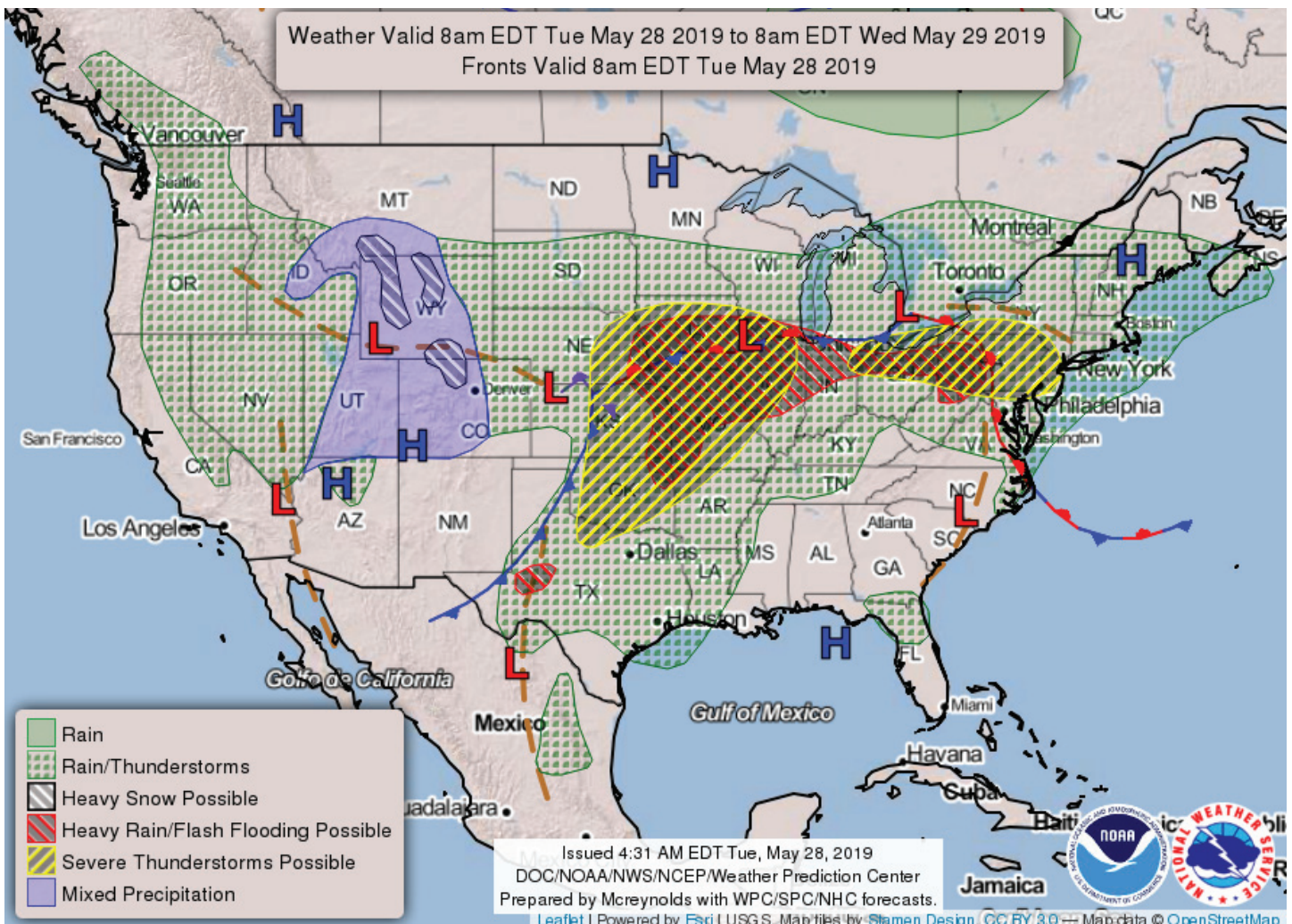
Precip to date in May.: 3.26

Average Precip to date: 6.74

Precip Year to Date: 7.97

Sunset Tonight: 9:11 p.m.

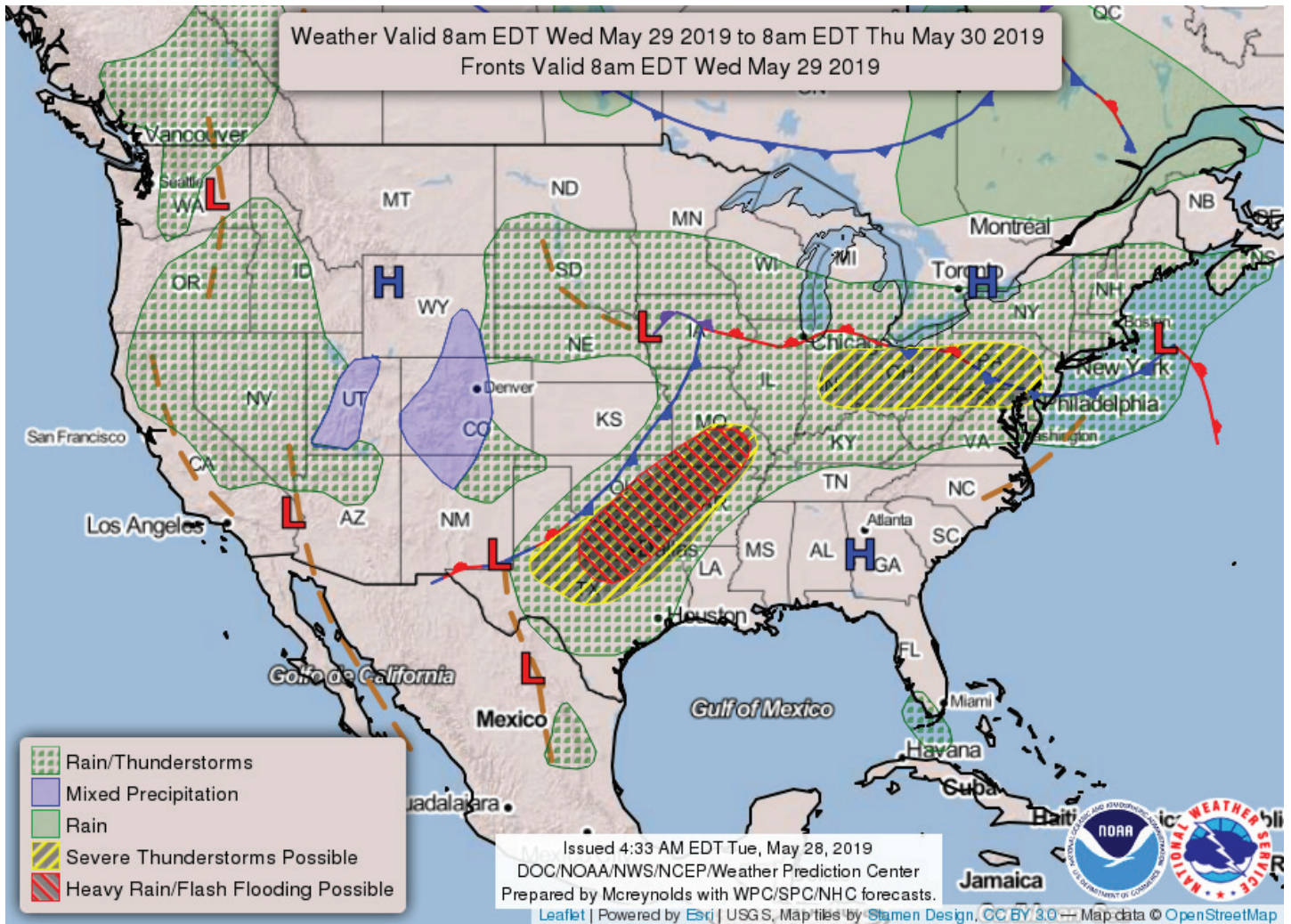
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.



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Tomorrow's Weather Map





THE DIFFERENCE

You wont find me in church! There are too many hypocrites there. So, why should I go? Hypocrites are no better than I am. So, why bother? Those of us who invite others to church have heard that phrase at one time or another. Most of us, however, dont go to church because we are hypocrites. We go to church because were trying not be one.

Many have lists that identify personal differences between being a hypocrite or not being one. For most of us it is a personal thing. We use our list to judge ourselves against others. So, our list is always correct, no matter what! We become Gods standard!

However, it was Solomon who established the difference between being righteous and wicked. He removed any doubt that we might have: Righteousness, he wrote, guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

If we love God, we will love what He loves and hate what He hates. Nothing complicated there. So, if God loves truth and honesty, pure living and obedience to His Word, the righteous will, too. But more than embrace what is righteous, we will avoid what is evil by guarding ourselves against it. Righteousness does not mean Christians live passive lives, but are active in being and doing whatever it takes to avoid behaviors that God hates.

Wickedness in Scripture has an interesting meaning. It refers to being deceptive to the point where the wicked act disgracefully and their behavior causes a stink. They see no reason to be concerned about what they are doing, understanding that what they do will finally bring disaster to them. God will not allow the wicked or wickedness to prevail!

Prayer: Father, give us courage to stand against that which is evil and harms others. Empower us to do what it right and honorable, just and fair! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 13:5 The godly hate lies; the wicked cause shame and disgrace.

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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

Death of Wyoming man investigated in Pennington County

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Sheriff's officials are investigating the death of a man found near the interstate in Pennington County.

Authorities say the body of 45-year-old Justin Johnson, from Hulett, Wyoming was found Sunday evening near some railroad tracks.

The circumstances of his death remain under investigation. An autopsy is scheduled this week to determine a cause of death.

Serbian troops placed on alert after Kosovo police arrests

By **DUSAN STOJANOVIC** Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serbia put its troops on full alert Tuesday after heavily armed police in northern Kosovo entered Serb-populated Mitrovica, firing tear gas and arresting nearly two dozen people.

It was the latest flare-up in long-simmering tensions between Serbia and its former province, which declared independence from Belgrade in 2008 after a bloody 1998-99 war that ended only with NATO intervention. Ninety percent of population in northern Kosovo are Serbs who don't want to be part of independent Kosovo. Action by Kosovo special police there is rare and always triggers Serb anger.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said Kosovo police arrested 23 Serbs and Bosnians after "bursting" into the northern area with armored vehicles. He said he had seen video of the police firing "live ammunition" over the heads of unarmed Serbs, and said the operation was designed to intimidate minority Serbs in Kosovo, whose population is mostly ethnic Albanians.

Vucic said he has ordered soldiers near the border to be on "combat alert" to protect Serbs if tensions escalate.

"Serbia will try to preserve peace and stability, but will be fully ready to protect our people at the shortest notice," Vucic told parliament.

Serbian state TV reported movements of Serb troops stationed near the border. Any Serbian armed incursion into Kosovo would mean a direct clash with NATO-led peacekeepers there.

Kosovo's prime minister, Ramush Haradinaj, confirmed on Twitter that police had carried out "an anti-smuggling and organized crime operation." President Hashim Thaci called on the ethnic Serb minority to remain calm and support the police.

"Those involved in illegal activities will go behind bars," he wrote on his Facebook page, insisting that the police operation was not targeting people from specific ethnicities.

The spokesman for the NATO peacekeeping mission, Col. Vincenzo Grasso, said the force is monitoring the situation and coordinating with authorities.

Serbia, and its allies Russia and China, do not recognize Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence. The United States and most other countries do. The dispute has stalled both countries' efforts to become members of the European Union.

The two sides had been participating in an EU-facilitated dialogue, but Serbia walked away in November after Kosovo slapped a 100% tax on Bosnian and Serbian imports, saying it will be lifted only when the two countries recognize Kosovo's sovereignty.

AP writers Jovana Gec in Belgrade and Lllazar Semini in Tirana, Albania, contributed to this report.

Knife-wielding man attacks schoolgirls in Japan, killing 2

By MARI YAMAGUCHI and JAE HONG Associated Press

KAWASAKI, Japan (AP) — A man carrying a knife in each hand and screaming “I will kill you!” attacked a group of schoolgirls near a school bus parked at a bus stop just outside Tokyo on Tuesday, killing two and injuring 17 before killing himself, officials said.

Most of the victims were students at a Catholic elementary school who were lined up at the bus stop near Noborito Park in the city of Kawasaki when a man in his 50s began slashing them with knives. City officials, quoting police, said the suspect was captured but died from a self-inflicted slash in his neck.

Witnesses described a hellish scene: children and adults falling to the ground, some with their shirts soaked with blood, dozens of children running and screaming for help, and school bags and books scattered on the ground.

“I heard a scream so I stopped and turned around to see what happened. It was not a normal tone of voice,” said Yasuko Atsukata. She said she saw one person collapse, and then another. “The color of their white shirts turned red after they collapsed, then I understood they got stabbed.”

In a nearby parking lot, a frightened-looking boy was in shock with scratches on his face, hands and legs, apparently from falling to the ground as he ran for his life.

Police wouldn’t confirm specifics about the attacker except that he died. His identity and motive weren’t immediately known.

Kawasaki city official Masami Arai said most of the injured were students at Caritas Gakuen, a local Catholic school founded by Soeurs de la Charite de Quebec, an organization of Catholic nuns in Quebec City in Canada. Arai said three of the injuries were serious.

“We have sad news that one of our students was killed in the attack,” school director Hiroaki Takamatsu said at a news conference, choked with emotion. “I don’t know what to say to our students and their parents.”

Kanagawa prefectural police confirmed 17 people were injured and three others had died, including a man “who is not a victim but linked to the case.” Police identified two of the dead as 11-year-old Hanako Kuribayashi and Satoshi Oyama, a 39-year-old government employee who was taking his child to the bus stop.

Hospital officials said both had been slashed in the head, chest and face.

Witnesses said that as the attack unfolded, the bus driver shouted at the attacker, and as he was running away he cut his own neck, collapsing in a pool of blood as police seized him.

Japanese media including public broadcaster NHK said he was a 51-year-old resident of the city and that police found two more knives in his knapsack in addition to the two he was holding.

Television footage showed emergency workers giving first aid to people inside an orange tent set up on the street, and police and other officials carrying the injured to ambulances.



Rescuers work at the scene of an attack in Kawasaki, near Tokyo Tuesday, May 28, 2019. A man wielding a knife attacked commuters waiting at a bus stop just outside Tokyo during Tuesday morning’s rush hour, Japanese authorities and media said. (Kyodo News via AP)

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he was outraged by the attack.

"Many small children were victimized, and I feel strong resentment," Abe said as he was hosting President Donald Trump on a four-day state visit, which ended Tuesday. "I will take all possible measures to protect the safety of children."

Although Japan has one of the lowest crime rates in the world, it has had a series of high-profile killings, including in 2016 when a former employee at a home for the disabled allegedly killed 19 people and injured more than 20 others.

Also in 2016, a man stabbed four people at a library in northeastern Japan, allegedly for mishandling his questions. No one was killed. In 2008, seven people were killed by a man who slammed a truck into a crowd of people in central Tokyo's Akihabara electronics district and then stabbed passers-by.

Yamaguchi reported from Tokyo.

Associated Press journalist Haruka Nuga contributed to this report.

Tornadoes leave trail of destruction across Ohio, Indiana

By **ANGIE WANG, JOHN MINCHILLO and KANTELE FRANKO** Associated Press

BROOKVILLE, Ohio (AP) — A rapid-fire line of apparent tornadoes tore across Indiana and Ohio overnight, packed so closely together that one crossed the path carved by another.

The storms strew debris so thick that at one point, highway crews had to use snowplows to clear an interstate.

At least half a dozen communities from eastern Indiana through central Ohio suffered damage, according to the National Weather Service, though authorities working through the night had reported no fatalities as of early Tuesday. Some 5 million people were without power early Tuesday in Ohio alone.

The response would require a "multi-day restoration effort," utility Dayton Power & Light said in an early morning tweet. The company said 64,000 of its customers alone were without power.

The city of Dayton urged residents to conserve water after the storms cut power to water plants and pump stations. Multiple schools in the area were closed or had delayed starts Tuesday.

Towns just outside Dayton, Ohio, took some of the heaviest hits. The National Weather Service tweeted Monday night that a "large and dangerous tornado" hit near Trotwood, Ohio, 8 miles (12 kilometers) north-west of Dayton. Several apartment buildings were damaged or destroyed.

Just before midnight, not 40 minutes after that tornado cut through, the weather service tweeted that another one was traversing its path, churning up debris densely enough to be seen on radar.



Residents walk toward their Westbrooke Village Apartment building that was heavily damaged by a tornado Tuesday morning, May 28, 2019, in Dayton, Ohio. The Ohio Department of Transportation is using snow plows to remove debris off an Ohio highway after a "large and dangerous" tornado hit the area late Monday. (Doral Chenoweth

III/Columbus Dispatch via AP)

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The aftermath left some lanes of Interstate 75 blocked north of Dayton. Trucks with plows were scraping tree branches and rubble to the side to get the major north-south route reopened, according to Matt Bruning, a spokesman for the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Trying to clear the debris in the middle of the night is a difficult task, complicated by darkness and downed power lines, Bruning said.

"We'll do a more thorough cleaning after we get lanes opened," he told The Associated Press by text early Tuesday, noting that tow trucks would have to haul off damaged vehicles along the roadway, too.

In Brookville, west of Dayton, the storm tore roofs off schools, destroyed a barn and heavily damaged houses.

Crews were also clearing debris in two other counties northwest of Dayton.

In Montgomery County, which includes Dayton, Sheriff Rob Streck said many roads were impassable. The Montgomery County sheriff's office initially said the Northridge High School gymnasium would serve as an emergency shelter in Dayton but later said it wasn't useable.

In Indiana, at least 75 homes were damaged in Pendleton and the nearby community of Huntsville, said Madison County Emergency Management spokesman Todd Harmeson. No serious injuries were reported in the area or other parts of the state.

Madison County authorities said roads in Pendleton, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) northeast of Indianapolis, are blocked with trees, downed power lines and utility poles. Pendleton High School is open as a shelter.

The National Weather Service said a survey team will investigate damage in Madison County and possibly in Henry County. Another team may survey damage in Tippecanoe County.

Associated Press writer David Runk contributed to this report from Detroit. Franko reported from Columbus, Ohio.

Thousands of US kindergartners unvaccinated without waivers

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — States are heatedly debating whether to make it more difficult for students to avoid vaccinations for religious or philosophical reasons amid the worst measles outbreak in decades, but schoolchildren using such waivers are outnumbered in many states by those who give no excuse at all for lacking their shots.

A majority of unvaccinated or undervaccinated kindergartners in at least 10 states were allowed to enroll provisionally for the last school year, without any formal exemption, according to data reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Only 27 states submitted information about the group, so the true size of the problem is unknown.

Poor access to health care keeps some of those children from getting inoculated against some of the most preventable contagious diseases, but for others the reasons are more mundane.

"It really could just be, 'I didn't have time to go to the doctor,' or 'I just don't want to do this,'" said Melissa Arnold, CEO of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Ohio chapter. "From a public health standpoint, we really don't know."

Experts say it's likely that many or even most of those children ultimately get all their vaccinations, as state laws require, but no one knows for sure. It's neither tracked nor required to be.

That leaves officials with a maddening lack of information as vaccination rates inch downward and diseases like measles, once declared eradicated, reemerge.

The CDC has called on education officials to do more to ensure that those children get vaccinated, and state health and education departments routinely issue reminders. But for school officials, complying with state mandates that require children be vaccinated in order to attend class can sometimes require choosing between educating students and safeguarding public health.

"At the heart of our purpose is to have children in school; that's our role as school nurses," said Kate

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King, a board member at the Ohio Association of School Nursing. "We don't want to exclude them. So that's our dilemma."

All 50 states allow students to receive exemptions from vaccinations for medical reasons. But formal vaccine exemptions for religious or philosophical reasons have recently come under fire as the CDC has confirmed 880 measles cases in 24 states since January, the greatest number since 1994.

But children whose vaccinations are incomplete for other reasons can't be ignored.

Of the 27 states that reported data on that group for the 2017-2018 school year, Arkansas had the highest percentage of kindergarten students enrolled without complete vaccinations and without invoking a medical, religious or philosophical exemption, according to the CDC. In Ohio, that figure was 5.3%, the second highest. Georgia and Hawaii were lowest, at 0.2%.

Neither Ohio nor Arkansas has any measles cases yet this year, but health officials say the percentages of unvaccinated children are a worry. A 95% immunization rate is considered necessary to achieve group resistance to the spread of a contagious disease, officials said.

"If it gets here, it will be bad," King said of Ohio.

In the 10 states where unvaccinated kindergartners lacking exemptions outnumbered unvaccinated kindergartners who invoked them, the figures were striking: Only about 15,000 children were using exemptions compared to almost 27,000 who weren't. Overall, the 27 states reported about 60,000 kindergartners who were unvaccinated without exemptions and about 70,000 who used them.

States provide anywhere from a few days to many months for students to get vaccinated, but officials in charge of the vaccination data for several different states said no system is in place to go back and check whether children ever get caught up.

Once a grace period expires, barring a student from attending school can be a tough call, risking the child's educational outcomes and, in some urban districts, their safety.

In Pennsylvania, officials recently shrank the state's eight-month grace period to just five days, said Cindy Findley, the state's acting deputy secretary for health promotion and disease prevention. The shorter window brings more focus and resources to the issue at the busy start of school.

"What we'd find is children would go through the entire school year and not be up-to-date with their



In this Friday, May 17, 2019 photo, Starr Roden, left, a registered nurse and immunization outreach coordinator with the Knox County Health Department, administers a vaccination to Jonathan Detweiler, 6, at the facility in Mount Vernon, Ohio. States are debating whether to make it more difficult for students to avoid vaccinations for religious or philosophical reasons amid the worst measles outbreak in decades, but children using such waivers are outnumbered in many states by those who give no excuse for lacking shots. Data reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a majority of unvaccinated or undervaccinated kindergartners in 10 of 27 states reporting were allowed to enroll in school without any exemption. (AP Photo/Paul Vernon)

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vaccinations and basically carry on to the next age group," she said.

Other states, including Arkansas and Indiana, now require public reporting of kindergarten immunization rates by schools, and Colorado has made the information easier to access. Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, medical director for immunizations at the Arkansas Department of Health, said the idea is to draw attention to the issue and to provide parents with information that might affect their choice of school.

The CDC theorizes that "vaccine hesitancy" — fueled by a vocal anti-vaccination movement that contends some shots are unsafe despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary — has contributed to rising levels of unvaccinated schoolchildren in the U.S. But in Arkansas, Dillaha said, the issue is access.

Most Arkansas children are on Medicaid, health insurance for low-income residents, and 16 of 75 Arkansas counties have only the local health department to turn to for vaccinations, she said. That means no doctor's offices, clinics or corner pharmacies to make the procedure convenient.

"We have a weak immunization infrastructure," she said. "Consequently, because there are access issues, it varies from school to school how rigidly they enforce attendance requirements for vaccinations."

In Ohio, state data show the number of unvaccinated students remains high as students go through the school system, with 10% of seventh graders last year undervaccinated without invoking an exemption.

Ohio's last measles outbreak occurred in 2014 Knox County and was traced to the local Amish community, where vaccination rates trail the general population's because their traditional lifestyle tends to eschew anything but the most vital medical care, said Pam Palm, a spokeswoman for the Knox County Health Department.

But even with that history, officials try to be flexible. Steve Larcomb, superintendent of the East Knox Local Schools in Knox County, recalled accommodating a parent who was new to the district, busy moving and awaiting a child's doctor's appointment five weeks in the future.

"We try not to draw too many lines in the sand and be too hard core, because we understand family situations," Larcomb said.

Follow Julie Carr Smyth at <https://www.twitter.com/jcarrsmyth>

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. DEADLY STABBING ASSAULT NEAR TOKYO KILLS 2

A man carrying a knife in each hand attacked a group of schoolgirls and adults at a bus stop, killing two and injuring 16 before killing himself.

2. SNOWPLOWES USED TO CLEAR STORM DEBRIS ON HIGHWAY

A rapid-fire line of apparent tornadoes tore across Indiana and Ohio overnight, packed so closely together that one crossed the path carved by another.

3. PRESIDENT ENDS 4-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN

Donald Trump and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe spent time together on a golf course, at a sumo wrestling match and discussed trade, North Korea's nuclear program, Iran and other bilateral issues.

4. ETHNIC TENSIONS SOAR IN THE BALKANS

Serbia orders its troops to full alert amid reports that heavily armed Kosovo police made arrests in Serb-populated regions of the former Serbian province.

5. DEJA VU IN DEMOCRAT'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Bernie Sanders is struggling with some of the same challenges that sunk his last bid: doubts about his electability, worries about support from minority voters and an opponent with deep ties to the party establishment.

6. INTERNET USE SPIKES DURING MUSLIM HOLY MONTH OF FASTING

Ramadan in the Mideast is being reshaped by technology, as people spend more hours on Facebook and watch more YouTube videos than at any other time of the year.

7. HIGH PRICE OF BULLETS DETERRING CRIME IN VENEZUELA

As the country descends into a state of lawlessness, many who turn to delinquency find themselves subject to the same chaos that has led to a broader political and social meltdown

8. ALLIED WWII INVASION OF NORMANDY REMEMBERED

French who owe their freedom to D-Day's fighters are more determined than ever to keep alive the memory of the battle and its significance.

9. WHOSE WINNING STREAK CONTINUES

James Holzhauer's run on "Jeopardy" may be on track to surpass Ken Jennings' record earnings in the next month.

10. MIND YOUR HEAD

Torey Krug's old-school helmetless shift in the Stanley Cup Final could be among last of its kind as an NHL rule change looms.



Women pray after offering flowers near the scene where a man wielding a knife attacked commuters in Kawasaki, near Tokyo Tuesday, May 28, 2019. A man carrying a knife in each hand and screaming "I will kill you!" attacked a group of schoolgirls and adults as he walked toward a bus stop just outside Tokyo on Tuesday, officials said(Kyodo News via AP)

Sanders 2020 looks like Sanders 2016, challenges and all

By STEVE PEOPLES, JUANA SUMMERS and HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was supposed to be different this time.

But three months into his second presidential campaign, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is struggling with some of the same challenges that sank his last bid: doubts about his electability, worries about support from minority voters and an opponent with deep ties to the party establishment.

The 77-year-old entered the Democratic race with an organized donor base, name recognition and experience earned from 2016, giving him an instant edge over his rivals. His front-runner status, however, proved short-lived.

Former Vice President Joe Biden's surge to the top of the pack has exposed Sanders' struggle to expand his appeal. Polls have shown the senator with a grip on a significant slice of Democrats, but there are few signs yet that he is building support.

Sanders is not alone in the stasis. Many in the 23-candidate field are looking for ways to break out of the pack, and Sanders, at least, appears to have an edge over all but Biden. But perhaps more than most others, Sanders and his team have signaled they will not relaunch his campaign or tweak his strategy.

As some of his frustrated rivals made changes, Sanders has stuck close to the message, stump speech and campaign style that powered his failed underdog bid in 2016. His 2020 effort may test whether Democrats are hungry for that do-over or want a new face to rally the left wing of the party against the more moderate Biden.

Plowing past such questions, Sanders projected confidence as he faced New Hampshire voters on Monday. He predicted strong showings in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Nevada and California.

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"We have a very strong path to victory," Sanders said.

He and his team vowed to run a bigger and stronger campaign this time. And, in many ways, he has — charting an aggressive national travel schedule backed by a larger and more diverse campaign team. His team also says it has modest plans to reach African American voters in key early states. He recently finished a tour of the Deep South, bringing his liberal economic message to black voters who largely backed Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Yet Sanders himself sits at the center of any campaign strategy, and the white-haired self-described democratic socialist is well past the point of reinventing himself or his approach. Example A: As he launched his bid, his campaign told reporters he would adopt a more personal tone on the campaign trail, but Sanders quickly returned to his familiar promises to transform a rigged system that favors the rich at the expense of the working class.

"One thing they can say about him across the board is he has been authentic, and he has been consistent," said Nina Turner, a co-chair for Sanders' campaign.

"This time around, the senator has more time," Turner added. "He got into the race late last time, and not only does he have more time, he has almost 100% name recognition as well. The combination of those two things gives him the synergy that he needs to win the primary."

Biden, since launching his campaign a month ago, has emerged as a problem for the entire Democratic field. Polls show that the former vice president is popular among every key demographic, including African Americans and the white working class people who defected to Donald Trump in 2016.

Sanders' advisers expect Biden to struggle under the weight of his front-runner status once debates begin next month. They view Biden's record on trade, in particular, as problematic among working-class voters in the Midwest. Biden voted to support the North American Free Trade Agreement as a senator and supported several trade deals in the Obama administration that are deeply unpopular with union workers.

Sanders, by contrast, has spent the last quarter century railing against NAFTA and consistently opposed more recent trade deals such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

At the same time, Sanders' team knows his standing with black voters could be a problem, particularly in South Carolina, the first Southern state on the presidential primary calendar and one where Clinton bested Sanders by 47 percentage points in 2016.

Armed with a more diverse staff in his downtown Washington headquarters, Sanders has quietly launched a paid media campaign in several South Carolina newspapers that target African Americans.

"You know better than I do that the system is rigged," a smiling Sanders says in a full-page ad that ran in the Carolina Panorama, the Charleston Chronicle and the Black News.

"Racism has been used to divide us up and undermine the power of our working-class majority," Sanders continues in the ad. "Let me be clear: There is no freedom without racial, social and economic equality."



FILE - In this April 15, 2019, file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks during a Fox News town-hall style event Monday April 15, 2019 in Bethlehem, Pa. A Democratic front-runner no more, Sanders is fighting off questions about electability and African-American outreach with a simple message: I am who I am.(AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

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Sanders' liabilities with black voters were clear last month at a forum in Houston dedicated to women of color, where he was booed by the overwhelming black and Hispanic audience when he offered a vague answer about what he would do for black women if elected. Later, there were audible groans when he recounted his youth activism in the civil rights movement.

Some in the audience were disappointed that Sanders offered his standard stump speech and not specific solutions aimed at the audience.

"I'm not really clear on talking point, talking point, talking point, didn't necessarily feel like it came from the heart," Cherisse Scott, 44, of Memphis, Tennessee, said after the forum. "I know that he's been in the game a long time so maybe it's just second nature, but I want to see more. ... When there is a question asked to you directly about black women, I want you to answer the question."

Meanwhile, Sanders faces new headwinds in New Hampshire, a state he dominated in 2016.

His campaign acknowledged the state is a "must win." But recent polls suggest he's trailing Biden while a handful of other Democrats, including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, are within striking distance.

Local Democrats have noticed that Sanders has paid less attention to the state than virtually all his competitors so far; his Monday visit was only his third this year. And as of Monday, he had fewer paid staff on the ground there than little-known former Maryland congressman John Delaney, although more staff announcements are expected soon.

Advisers note that Sanders has been particularly focused on the states that will host primary contests on the first Tuesday in March, so-called Super Tuesday. He heads to one of them, California, for a multiday swing late next week.

It was all about New Hampshire on Monday, however. Sanders returned to the state with an ice-cream-social-themed event in Warner, New Hampshire, where he preached for a half-hour to a crowd of hundreds from a stage at the bottom of a hill.

Not everyone in the crowd was a Sanders loyalist. Bobbi Slossar, a 47-year-old librarian, backed Sanders in 2016 and remains excited about him, though she's "also interested to see what the rest of the field holds."

"I was 100 percent committed (to Bernie) last time, and I was a little disillusioned by the process," she said. "And so we'll see what this time holds."

Others, like 55-year-old Elvena Anderson, are still wowed by Sanders despite some disappointments. "He hasn't been here enough," she said. "I think he should come more."

Woodall reported from Warner, New Hampshire.

Kuraly, Bruins rally, beat Blues 4-2 in Stanley Cup opener

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Torey Krug flew down the ice with his helmet off, like his big, bad predecessors on the Boston defense from the days of Eddie Shore and Bobby Orr.

He lined up St. Louis center Robert Thomas and knocked him off his skates, delighting the crowd and sending an unmistakable message to rest of the Blues: The Bruins had woken up from their 11-day layoff, and they were ready to fight for the Stanley Cup.

"I think it gave our team energy, and that's all you're trying to do out there," Krug said after Boston rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat St. Louis 4-2 in Game 1 on Monday night. "Hopefully it gave the guys a boost on the bench."

Sean Kuraly scored to break a third-period tie and assisted on another goal, and Tuukka Rask stopped 18 shots to help the Bruins complete their comeback from a two-goal deficit. Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night.

Forty-nine years after Bobby Orr flew through the air to beat the Blues for the 1970 NHL title, the Bruins got goals from defensemen Connor Clifton and Charlie McAvoy.

Brad Marchand added an empty netter with about three minutes left, but the unofficial clincher came

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when Krug got up off the ice after losing his helmet in a tussle with David Perron in front of the Boston net.

"You know, you don't want to mess with that guy," Clifton said. "Don't make that guy mad."

Jordan Binnington made 34 saves for the Blues, who haven't been back to the final since getting swept by Boston in 1970. But it was Boston which was struggling with a long layoff — at least early on.

Idle since May 16, when they completed their sweep of the Carolina Hurricanes, the Bruins spotted St. Louis a two-goal lead before snapping out of their slumber.

Brayden Schenn made it 1-0 lead midway through the first period on a third-chance shot. In the first minute of the second, David Pastrnak got sloppy behind the Bruins' net and Schenn was there again, this time to pass it to Vladimir Tarasenko in the slot to make it 2-0.

"I think we can be even better, and we have to be," Perron said.

Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy admitted that the long layoff since the Eastern Conference finals may have left his team rusty.

"The time off, you don't have your edge yet to battle," he said. "We weren't too happy with the way the game was going. We weren't playing our game. We weren't playing to our standard. And I think after the second goal, that kind of woke us up."

The Bruins went on to outshoot the Blues 18-3 in the second period, finishing the game with a 38-20 edge.

"I was pretty much a spectator after that," Rask said.

Just 76 seconds after Tarasenko's goal, Clifton tipped in a pass from Kuraly to cut the deficit to one. And in the middle of the second, on the Bruins' fourth power play of the game, McAvoy came right up the middle and wristed it past Binnington's glove to tie it.

It was still tied five minutes into the third when Noel Acciari, on Binnington's left, made a spin move and swept the puck across the crease to Kuraly. He steadied it with his skate and then poked it in with his stick to give the Bruins their first lead of the game.

"In the second period we stopped skating, turned it over and gave them momentum," Blues coach Craig Berube said. "I thought they were the better team after that."

Notes: Zdeno Chara had a cut on his left arm where he was hit by Tarasenko's shot. He said it required a few stitches but was not a big deal. ... Lil Nas X and Chase Rice, who performed a concert in City Hall Plaza before the game, were in attendance. They both got big cheers when shown on the video board, and the crowd erupted when Rice chugged a beer. ... Members of the Bruins' 2011 Stanley Cup championship team took part in pregame banner ceremonies. Five players on the current roster were on that team: Rask, Patrice Bergeron, Brad Marchand, David Krejci and Chara. ... The Blues scored the first goal for the 14th time in 20 playoff games. They had been 10-3 when scoring first, and 6-1 when leading after the first period. ... Blues D Vince Dunn missed his fourth straight game with an unspecified injury. ... Binnington stopped 83 of the previous 85 shots he faced through one period, dating back to Game 4 of the



Boston Bruins' Charlie McAvoy, right, celebrates his goal against the St. Louis Blues with Marcus Johansson, left, during the second period in Game 1 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Final, Monday, May 27, 2019, in Boston. (AP Photo/

Michael Dwyer)

Western Conference finals.

UP NEXT

The Bruins would be halfway to their seventh NHL title with victory on Wednesday night at home. It would be their first since 2011. They lost to Chicago in the 2013 final.

More AP NHL: <https://apnews.com/NHL> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Trump wishes 'happy Memorial Day' to US, Japanese troops

By JILL COLVIN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS WASP (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday wished "Happy Memorial Day" to U.S. service members aboard an American assault ship docked in Japan.

They shouted "U.S.A. U.S.A." Trump called them a "tough bunch of people" and dubbed them "daring and mighty warriors in the Pacific."

The president treated his appearance aboard the USS Wasp as a Memorial Day event because it was still Monday in the United States when he addressed hundreds of members of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet.

"I have to wish you all a very happy Memorial Day," Trump said. "On this Memorial Day evening in the United States, Americans are concluding a sacred day of remembrance, reflection and prayer."

Before appearing on the USS Wasp, Trump and first lady Melania Trump visited a Japanese destroyer, the J.S. Kaga, docked nearby. Standing alongside Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Trump delivered the same "happy Memorial Day" message to the Japanese forces.

Some veterans and their families don't like the phrase "Happy Memorial Day." They say they prefer that the federal holiday remain a somber occasion for the nation to honor those who gave their lives in service to the United States.

"Our republic endures because of brave men and women who are willing to lay down their lives to defend us all," Trump said. "Our freedom is earned through the blood and sweat and toil and sacrifice of great American patriots just like you."

Trump has come under sharp criticism for skipping ceremonial visits to cemeteries to honor America's war dead on designated national holidays. Since then, the White House has been careful to show the public that he is marking occasions like Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Before leaving for Japan, Trump placed small U.S. flags near headstones at Arlington National Cemetery.

Service members aboard the USS Wasp, docked at the mouth of Tokyo Bay, welcomed Trump with loud cheers and applause. Several wore round patches emblazoned with a likeness of Trump and the words: "Make Aircrew Great Again" — a play on his campaign slogan.

Trump's helicopter trips to both ships capped his four-day state visit to Japan. He became the first head of state to meet Japan's new emperor, Naruhito, since his May 1 ascension to the throne.



President Donald Trump arrives on stage to speak to troops at a Memorial Day event aboard the USS Wasp, Tuesday, May 28, 2019, in Yokosuka, Japan. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

The visit also allowed Trump and Abe to spend hours of time together on the golf course, at a sumo wrestling match and in meetings discussing trade, North Korea's nuclear program, Iran and other bilateral issues.

Trump was scheduled to return to the White House on Tuesday.

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Bill Buckner, forever known for October error, dies at 69

By **BEN WALKER AP Baseball Writer**

Bill Buckner was an All-Star and batting champion, a gritty gamer who was welcome on any team.

A reliable fielder, too.

But a little grounder forever changed his legacy.

Buckner, who made one of the biggest blunders in baseball history when he let Mookie Wilson's trickler roll through his legs in the 1986 World Series, died Monday. He was 69.

"He deserved better," former Dodgers teammate Bobby Valentine tweeted .

Buckner died after a long battle with Lewy body dementia, his family said in a statement. The disease causes Alzheimer's-like symptoms along with movement and other problems.

Buckner made his major league debut as a teenager, played until he was 40 and amassed 2,715 hits in between. Yet for all he accomplished, it was his October error at first base that fans always remembered.

Trying for their first crown since 1918, the Boston Red Sox led the New York Mets 5-3 going into the bottom of the 10th inning in Game 6 at Shea Stadium. The Mets tied it with two outs, then Wilson hit a roller up the first base line that got past a gimpy Buckner, a misplay that let Ray Knight rush home from second base with the winning run.

The Red Sox lost 8-5 in Game 7, and their World Series drought continued until they won the championship in 2004.

In the aftermath of Boston's near-miss, Buckner became a target of fans in New England and beyond, his mistake shown over and over on highlight reels.

"You can look at that Series and point fingers in a whole bunch of different directions," Buckner said a decade ago. "We did the best we could to win there and it just didn't happen and I didn't feel like I deserved" so much blame.

A curious thing happened over time, too: He became pals with Wilson.

"I was saddened to hear about Bill's death," Wilson said in a statement. "We had developed a friendship that lasted well over 30 years. I felt badly for some of the things he went through. Bill was a great, great



FILE - In this Oct. 25, 1986, file photo, Boston Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner misplays the ball during during Game 6 of the World Series against the New York Mets. Buckner, a star hitter who became known for making one of the most infamous plays in major league history, has died. He was 69. Buckner's family said in a statement that he died Monday, May 27, 2019, after a long battle with dementia. (Stan Grossfeld/The

Boston Globe via AP, File)

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baseball player whose legacy should not be defined by one play.”

But sure enough, several years ago when he made a guest appearance on the TV show “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” the main gag involved star Larry David tossing a ball autographed by Wilson toward Buckner, who lets it get past him and out the window.

A footnote: While Buckner was long criticized for the error, many in baseball contend that even if the ball had been handled cleanly, the speedy Wilson would have beaten it anyway.

At Fenway Park on Monday, video clips of Buckner’s 22-year career were shown on the scoreboard before the Red Sox hosted Cleveland. His picture was posted and there was a moment of silence, followed by applause from the crowd.

“I think it was a travesty the way he was last remembered,” said 67-year-old Red Sox fan Blaine Macinnis from Wilmington, Massachusetts, in a box seat on the first base side. “It was a great injustice of how he ended it with that last play. It’s a shame. That’s how life is.”

“Like when your own father dies, you don’t want to remember all the bad things,” he said.

Wearing a Red Sox T-shirt, 76-year-old Jim McDonnell from Littleton agreed.

“I think it’s a shame how he was treated,” he said.

Buckner was released by the Red Sox in the summer of 1987 and went on to play for the Angels and Royals. He returned to Boston for his final season in 1990, playing 22 games.

In 2008, Buckner finally accepted an invitation to throw out the first ball for the home opener at Fenway Park as the Red Sox celebrated winning another title.

Buckner drew loud cheers as he walked from the Green Monster in left field to the mound, and made his ceremonial toss to former teammate Dwight Evans.

Buckner said the moment was “probably about as emotional as it could get.”

“I really had to forgive,” he said later that day, “not the fans of Boston per se, but I would have to say, in my heart, I had to forgive the media for what they put me and my family through. So I’ve done that. I’m over that. And I’m just happy that I just try to think of the positive. The happy things.”

Cleveland manager Terry Francona was the Red Sox skipper that afternoon.

“I thought it was kind of a healing moment, it seemed, for a lot of people and for him, I hope,” Francona said before Monday’s game. “You have to be up here to understand how people take things that happen. I thought that was a really cool moment.”

That moment was played on the videoboard during the fifth inning, drawing cheers.

In a statement, Red Sox chairman Tom Werner praised “Billy Buck,” saying he “personified toughness and grit, and his determination to play through pain defines him far more than any single play ever could.”

Tweeted former Boston teammate Wade Boggs: “OMG such a sad day can’t put it in perspective with the only reason why we made it to the World Series in 86.”

Buckner lived in Boise, Idaho, after he finished playing. He was the hitting coach for the Chicago Cubs’ minor league affiliate in Boise in 2012-13 and owned three car dealerships and several commercial properties in Idaho.

Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts called Buckner a “great ballplayer and beloved member of the Cubs family.” Cubs Hall of Famer Ferguson Jenkins praised Buckner for helping his charity foundation.

Hall of Fame manager Tom Lasorda of the Dodgers called Buckner “one of the best competitors I have ever seen.”

Buckner made his big league debut with the Dodgers at 19 in 1969 and became a batting champ with the Cubs. He had a career .289 average and totaled over 100 RBIs in three seasons, twice with Boston. Buckner finished with 174 home runs and 1,208 RBIs and he was a fast outfielder, once stealing 31 bases.

An old-school player with a mustache, Buckner was eager to swing — he had 9,397 career at-bats and never struck out 40 times in a season and never walked more than 40 times in a year.

He is survived by his wife, Jodi, two daughters and one son.

___ AP freelance writer Ken Powtak in Boston contributed to this report.

___ More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

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 to 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.

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,



President Donald Trump talks with Japanese Emperor Naruhito during a State Banquet at the Imperial Palace, Monday, May 27, 2019, in Tokyo. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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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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Green parties' gains could boost climate action in Europe

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Green parties' surprisingly strong showing in elections for the 751-seat European Parliament raised hopes — particularly among young voters — that global warming and other environmental issues will get more serious consideration on the continent.

Provisional results Monday showed the left-leaning Greens coming in fourth in the balloting with 69 seats, an increase of 17 from the last election, five years ago. Perhaps more significantly, the results showed how environmental concerns can transcend the political issues that dominate most European Union elections.

"The European election was a climate election," declared Anna Kretschmar, a German in her 20s who was out in a Berlin park with her young child.

Kretschmar welcomed the lift the Greens received in Sunday's vote, saying it would give them a stronger voice to raise the alarm about global warming.

"I think we are more affected by climate change than we realize," she added.

Among other things, the Green movement has strongly backed scientists' calls for the 28-nation bloc to end all greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century, a goal that would require an epic shift in Europe's economy away from fossil fuels.

In Germany, the Greens did particularly well in large cities and among young voters, according to the Infratest dimap research institute. The gains followed months of street protests from students demanding action to stop global warming.

The German Greens' gains came at the expense of all other mainstream parties, including the center-left Social Democrats, who slumped to third place behind the Greens, and Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right Christian Democrats.

Armin Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state and a member of Merkel's party, called the outcome "a wake-up call for politics."

In France, the environmental EELV party received almost 13.5% of the vote, coming in third. Green parties also polled strongly in Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Denmark and the Netherlands. In Britain, the Greens — a largely insignificant force nationally — took 7 seats in the European Parliament vote.

"The center of gravity of European politics is shifting," said Yannick Jadot, the EELV's lead candidate.

Manuel Rivera, a Green party member in the German capital, said the European Parliament is the right place to tackle climate change: "I think people realize that there are issues you can't solve at the national level."

The suggestion that countries should set aside domestic interests in favor of European cooperation



A young boy with a balloon walks by a sign erected by climate activists outside the European Parliament in Brussels, Sunday, May 26, 2019. From Germany and France to Cyprus and Estonia, voters from 21 nations went to the polls Sunday in the final day of a crucial European Parliament election that could see major gains by the far-right, nationalist and populist movements that are on the rise across much of the continent. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

angered some nationalist parties on the continent.

Alexander Gauland, co-leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany, declared the Greens "our main enemy."

"The Greens will destroy this country, and our job must and will be to fight the Greens," said Gauland, whose party has claimed that climate change isn't a man-made phenomenon and that efforts to tackle it will harm Germany's economy.

In addition to pushing for action on climate change, the Greens have generally positioned themselves as a counterweight to anti-immigration parties such as Alternative for Germany, which have decried the influx of migrants from the Middle East.

The Green bloc in the European Parliament could now be in a position to play a key role in choosing the next head of the EU's executive Commission.

Sven Giegold, a leading candidate for the German Green party, which roughly doubled its share of the vote to 20% compared with 2014, wouldn't rule out backing one of the mainstream candidates provided environmental issues are reflected in his or her program.

Giegold's party has proposed diverting some of the bloc's huge agricultural subsidies toward eco-friendly farming and checking the climate impact of every law passed at the EU level.

"Whoever wants legitimacy from us and the legitimacy of the many who went onto the streets will need to deliver now," he said.

Associated Press writers Sylvie Corbet in Paris and Kirsten Grieshaber 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>

In some Democrat-led states, lawmakers differ on abortion

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 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

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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



In this Thursday, May 23, 2019, photo, Nancy St Germain, 71, right, of Warwick, R.I., leans forward to show her sign to a driver leaving a fundraiser for the Rhode Island Senate Democrats political action committee in Providence, R.I. Her sign reads, "This fight isn't over." Protesters gathered at the fundraiser to pressure legislative leaders to bring a bill seeking to protect abortion rights to the Senate floor for a vote. (AP Photo/Jennifer McDermott)

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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-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.

In emotional interviews, ex-Scouts open up about abuse

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sharing their stories doesn't come easily for these middle-aged men. At times, their eyes well up or their voices crack as they describe being sexually abused in the Boy Scouts and suffering from emotional damage long afterward.

Looking back, they all remember vividly how excited they were to become Scouts.

"I was real gung-ho about getting my badges — fishing and campfires and all of that," said Darrell Jackson, now a 57-year-old New Yorker. "It was good at the beginning."

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Jackson, whose unit leader was convicted of sodomy and imprisoned for about 18 months, is among hundreds of men across the U.S. who have recently contacted lawyers for help suing the Boy Scouts of America for sex abuse they say they suffered at the hands of scout leaders.

Many of the men are from New York, which this year adjusted its restrictive statute-of-limitations law. The changes allow victims of long-ago abuse to sue for damages during a one-year window starting in August. New Jersey enacted a similar law this month. California is on track to follow suit.

Some of the lawyers told The Associated Press they have evidence that the BSA was inaccurate when the organization said in recent press statements that it had never "knowingly allowed a perpetrator to work with youth."

The Boy Scouts acknowledge that sex-abuse litigation poses a financial threat and have not ruled out seeking bankruptcy protection.

Jackson joined a Cub Scout pack in Brooklyn in 1972 and the next year testified against his pack leader, Freddie Modica.

His initial fascination with the Boy Scouts was simple: He liked the uniforms. "It was like G.I. Joe dolls," he recalled.

He soon learned that some boys in the unit were making visits to the pack leader's home.

"They made it seem like it was a big thing — and I felt out of the loop," Jackson said. "When I got a chance to go, I was like 'OK.'"

The allure, Jackson recalled, was that the scoutmaster — while posing as a supportive father figure — let the boys engage in taboo pastimes such as smoking and drinking.

Jackson now refers to what ensued as "the ugliness" — repeated sexual molestation by the scoutmaster until Jackson summoned the nerve to tell his grandmother, who was raising him. Initially skeptical, she eventually went to police.

In the years after the trial, Jackson says, he was often mocked with anti-gay slurs. He responded at times with belligerence and mistrust.

"It caused me to go into crime, drugs, everything, just to block stuff out," he said. "It basically messed up my life."

Despite receiving psychological counseling over the years, his marriage broke down. His childhood dreams of becoming an oceanographer faded. He cobbled together a career in home remodeling and maintenance.

Why sue the Boy Scouts? He says the organization should be held accountable, and he wants children to be safe.

"I don't want nobody to go through what I went through," he said.



Darrell Jackson, of The Bronx, N.Y., speaks during an interview in New York, on Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Joining the Boy Scouts in 1972 at age 10, he said, "I was real gung-ho about getting my badges _ fishing and campfires and all of that. ... It was good at the beginning." (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

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Raymond Luna says he still has psychological scars from being abused as a scout in New York City in the 1970s.

"In my head, there's still anger," said Luna, 56, who now lives in Poughkeepsie, New York, and runs a fire-alarm installation company.

He recalls that the scoutmaster befriended many of the single moms — including his own — who had sons in the troop. Luna was among several boys who began visiting the scoutmaster's house. He says that's where the molestation took place.

He said he never reported the abuse to others.

"The shame was so big — like it was a secret," he said. "During my teenage years up to when I was 33, I totally blocked it out."

Even during a 26-year-marriage — which produced five children before ending in divorce — Luna says he never told his wife. He abused drugs and alcohol to keep the bad memories at bay and underwent years of therapy.

The counseling "helped me realize that I was a victim and not a participant," he said.

Luna says he's increasingly at peace. He has shared his full story with his current girlfriend. But he snapped to attention when he saw a TV ad seeking survivors of Boy Scout sex abuse to join in litigation. He and Jackson signed on with the same Seattle-based law firm.

After searching the internet for references to his former scoutmaster, he learned nothing about the man's whereabouts but found him listed in a database of the Boy Scouts' "ineligible volunteer" files, which list thousands of adults barred from scouting because of confirmed or suspected acts of molestation.

An expert hired by the Boy Scouts testified earlier this year that 7,819 suspected abusers were identified in the files, as well as 12,254 victims.

Luna's former scoutmaster was placed in the files in 1964 after an arrest for abusing a 12-year-old boy, yet he rejoined New York City's scouting ranks in the early 1970s. He remained a scoutmaster until 1975, roughly a year after Luna quit the organization in shame and anger, the paperwork showed.

"The BSA needs to know how much pain the abuse caused me and so many others," Luna said.

'IT WASN'T THEIR FAULT'

Jason Amala, one of Jackson's and Luna's lawyers, said scout officials failed to take reasonable steps to protect the boys from the foreseeable harm of being sexually abused by scout leaders. The claims will seek unspecified compensatory damages for pain and suffering and punitive damages based on an allegation that the BSA intentionally concealed their knowledge of the danger.

"We get people who call us virtually every day who still think it's their fault. And until the Scouts are fully transparent and accountable, you're going to have that problem," Amala said. "It wasn't their fault — not their parents' fault, not their moms' fault. It was the Boy Scouts' fault."

The BSA has repeatedly apologized and says it now has policies to curtail abuse, including making mandatory criminal background checks for all staff and volunteers and requiring two or more adult leaders to be present with youth at all times during scouting activities.

"We believe victims, we support them," said the BSA's chief executive, Mike Surbaugh. "We encourage them to come forward."

William Stevens, 50, came forward last year in Arkansas, filing a lawsuit alleging he was molested by his scoutmaster at least six times over a two-year period after joining the Scouts' Webelos program shortly before his 10th birthday in 1978.

The BSA's files show that the scoutmaster accused by Stevens, Samuel Otts, was caught sexually abusing a boy while a scoutmaster in Georgia in 1977. Yet Otts subsequently registered as a scout leader in Arkansas and remained active until 1980.

Rather than call police, the Scouts "allowed him to transfer and did nothing to warn the parents and scouts" in his new troop, said Peter Janci, one of Stevens' lawyers.

Last year, an Arkansas judge ruled against Stevens, saying his lawsuit was precluded by the state's statute of limitations. Janci hopes that ruling will be reconsidered if his legal team can prove the Boy Scouts

made false claims about their abuse-prevention efforts.

The Boy Scouts say they report all suspected abusers in their database to law enforcement.

But Janci and his partner, Stephen Crew, say they have identified multiple cases in the Boy Scouts' database in which adult volunteers implicated in child abuse were allowed to return to scouting assignments on a probationary basis.

Asked about the lawyers' assertion, the BSA pointed to its current anti-abuse policies, but added, "We recognize, however, that there were moments in our organization's history when certain cases were not handled the way they would be addressed today."

Stevens went on to forge a successful life. He's married, has a daughter and is human resources director for a Little Rock-based trucking company.

Yet his experience in the Scouts in Hot Springs, Arkansas, has haunted him.

"For the past 40 years, I've always felt like I was damaged goods," he said. "I've lived with the shame and embarrassment and guilt because of the abuse I suffered. I pushed people away and didn't let them get close to me."

Only in 2016, Stevens says, did he come across an online database that included the Boy Scouts' file about Otts and learn of the abuse that was documented in Georgia. Stevens reached out to Janci's Oregon-based law firm and decided to go public with his story, speaking occasionally to small groups in abuse-recovery programs.

"That was the most difficult thing I've done in my life," Stevens said, "but also the most rewarding."

Champion, queen, goddess, mother: Serena wins at French Open

By **HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer**

PARIS (AP) — This was one mistake too far for Serena Williams. Sure, the bad backhand put her behind only 15-30 at the outset of the second set of her opening match at Roland Garros on Monday. What made the miscue so bothersome? She'd already dropped the first set against 83rd-ranked Vitalia Diatchenko — and Williams' unforced error total already was at 15 on a windy evening.

So she reacted by throwing her head back and letting out a scream. Then she stepped to the baseline to serve and stomped her right foot. And simple as that, Williams righted herself: She won 11 of the next 13 points, and 12 of 13 games the rest of the way, to come back for a disappointing-to-dominant 2-6, 6-1, 6-0 victory at the French Open.

"I just was so frustrated at that point, because I have been training well. The past week and a half has been really good, and, God, it was, like, 'This isn't the Serena I have been practicing with — or that I see every day,'" Williams said afterward. "I just let out this roar, and here I am. Yeah, so maybe that helped."

She arrived on court with a black-and-white jacket bearing words such as "champion," "queen," "goddess" and "mother" in French.

"Those are things that mean a lot to me and reminders for me — and for everyone that wants to wear it," Williams explained. "Just remind everyone that they can be champions and are queens."

A reporter told Williams those four words are "a lot to carry," to which the 37-year-old American replied: "It is a lot to carry,



Serena Williams of the U.S. plays a shot against Vitalia Diatchenko of Russia during their first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday, May 27, 2019. (AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin)

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but so is being Serena Williams."

She made her return to Grand Slam competition in Paris a year ago after missing five majors because of the birth of her first child. Williams pulled out before the fourth round because of an injured chest muscle, then was the runner-up at both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

Williams came to Paris this time having withdrawn from each of her past two tournaments because of a balky left knee, and the one before that because of illness. She had played only nine matches all season, and so her pursuit of a record-tying 24th Grand Slam title — fourth at Roland Garros — seemed no sure thing.

That goal seemed even further from her grasp with the way things began in Court Philippe Chatrier against Diatchenko, a Russian who hits two-fisted shots off both sides and upset Maria Sharapova at Wimbledon last year.

"I just got nervous out there and I stopped moving my feet. And (it) was, like, concrete blocks on my feet. I was like, "You got to do something,"" Williams said. "I was just off, basically. And then instead of correcting it, I just kept getting worse."

Could the nearly impossible happen? Could Williams lose in the first round of a major? She'd only done so once before in 70 Slam appearances — and that happened at the French Open, in 2012.

But once Williams recalibrated everything, she took charge.

One of her good friends, and another former No. 1-ranked player, Caroline Wozniacki, went in the opposite direction Monday, going from playing a perfect set to quickly fading away against an opponent who never previously had won a Grand Slam match.

In a performance emblematic of a difficult season, last year's Australian Open champion bowed out in the first round 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.

Other seeded players exiting on Day 2 included No. 12 Daniil Medvedev, No. 15 Nikoloz Basilashvili, No. 20 Denis Shapovalov and No. 32 Frances Tiafoe on the men's side, along with No. 18 Julia Goerges on the women's.

Tiafoe, 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.

Before Williams took over the main stadium, 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. Both won in straight sets.

When it was Williams' turn, she needed a bit to get going.

After 14 unforced errors in the first set alone, she had six in the second, four in the third. Her winner count went the other way: from five in the first set to nine in the second to 11 in the third. After dealing with five break points in the first set, Williams never faced another.

Diatchenko sat at changeovers with a towel covering her head, as if embarrassed to be seen there.

At the beginning of the match, Diatchenko said, "I was No. 1 between us."

But as things progressed, a better version of Williams emerged.

"With Serena, you have to play not 100%. You have to play 150," Diatchenko said. "Always."

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

D-Day's 75th anniversary renews interest in some classrooms

By MARTHA WAGGONER Associated Press

CARY, N.C. (AP) — Kasey Turcol has just 75 minutes to explain to her high school students the importance of D-Day — and if this wasn't the 75th anniversary of the turning point in World War II, she wouldn't devote that much time to it. D-Day is not part of the required curriculum in North Carolina — or in many other states.

Turcol reminds her students at Crossroads FLEX High School in Cary, North Carolina, that D-Day was an Allied victory that saved Europe from Nazi tyranny and that the young men who fought and died were barely older than they are. She sprinkles her lesson with details about the number of men, ships, and planes involved in the landing at Normandy while adding a few lesser-known facts about a Spanish spy and a deadly military practice conducted six months earlier in England.

In the U.S. and other countries impacted by the events on June 6, 1944, historians and educators worry that the World War II milestone is losing its resonance with today's students.

In France, which was liberated from German occupation, D-Day isn't a stand-alone topic in schools. German schools concentrate on the Holocaust and the Nazi dictatorship. And despite having been part of the Allied Powers, in Russia, the schools avoid D-Day because they believe it was the victories on the Eastern Front that won the war.

"History has taken a back seat" in the U.S. because of the focus on science and math classes, says Cathy Gorn, executive director of National History Day in College Park, Maryland.

In the U.S., teaching about World War II varies from state to state. It's often up to the teachers to decide how much time they want to give to individual battles like D-Day.

California's History-Social Science Framework, adopted in 2016, includes for sophomores an expansive unit on World War II that includes how the conflict was "a total war," the goals of the Allied and Axis Powers and how the fighting was fought on different fronts. The unit also includes a section on the Holocaust.

In New York, school officials are using the D-Day anniversary to review the curriculum and "make recommendations on how the current average time of 90 minutes of World War II study in a school year can be strengthened, expanded and mandated."

There are special programs available to immerse select students in the history of D-Day.

For eight years, National History Day sent 15 pairs of students and teachers to Normandy to immerse them in the history of D-Day. The high school sophomores and juniors would research an individual soldier close to them — a family member or someone from their hometown — who died. On the last day, the group visited a cemetery where each student read a eulogy for their individual soldier.

Teachers also have outside resources. The National World War II Museum offers an electronic field trip



In this photo taken Tuesday, May 21, 2019, photo, Zane Taylor and other students use virtual reality technology to learn about the D-Day invasion at Normandy during a history class at Crossroads FLEX school in Cary, N.C. Its 75th anniversary brings extra classroom attention to D-Day, which has waned as a topic that's emphasized in schools across the world. In a North Carolina classroom, students learn about spies, the deadly military practice before D-Day and a general who kept his plans "on the down low."

(AP Photo/Gerry Broome)

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through D-Day and provides suggested lessons plans.

In North Carolina, history is taught through "conceptual design" with connections to themes such as geography, economics and politics, said Meghan Grant, coordinating teacher for secondary social studies in Wake County schools.

The lessons are based on a method of teaching social studies that was developed in 2013 and used by about half the states, said Larry Paska, executive director of the National Council for the Social Studies. Paska said it may focus on asking students a question like "What makes an event a turning point in the war?" Students then would use difference sources of evidence to back up their answer.

As part of her D-Day lesson, Turcol tells her class of juniors and seniors that the Germans thought an attack from the Allied forces wouldn't be possible.

"It's too stormy. It's too risky," she says. "And what do we do? Yeah, we find a glimmer of hope. On June 5th, the skies kind of clear. The moon kind of shines. And we're like, this is the moment. This is what is happening."

She tells students that Gen. Dwight Eisenhower kept D-Day plans on the "down low."

Turcol plays a few minutes of a documentary about D-Day to "show you the true humanity of the war," she says.

"You saw the German praying ... asking for his mother, father, asking for this to be over. Not everybody is on the same message in Germany," she says. "Everybody here is a father, a mother, a brother, a cousin, a friend. So every life matters."

Students in Europe also receive dramatically different lessons on D-Day depending on where they live.

Because of Germany's history, any hint of militarism remains a taboo. While battles like D-Day, Stalingrad and the Operation Barbarossa invasion of Russia might be mentioned briefly in schools, they tend to be lumped together in broad overviews of the war. Individual teachers do have leeway, however, to pursue topics that capture the attention of students.

The curriculum is similar from state to state. In Berlin high schools, for example, curriculum guidelines include the history of the war under the overall focus on "the collapse of the first German democracy; Nazi tyranny," which includes classes on Nazi ideology, resistance movements, the Holocaust and World War II.

Similarly, Bavaria's ninth grade curriculum focuses primarily on explaining how the Nazis came to power and their anti-Semitic ideology and genocidal policies, with the war taught briefly as part of their "expansion and conquest policies." In the 11th grade, the focus is even more directly on the Holocaust, and the curriculum guidelines note specific dates to be learned, including the anti-Jewish "Kristallnacht" pogrom in 1938.

The Russian narrative on D-Day has remained almost unchanged since the days of the Soviet Union. Historians and schoolbooks describe the invasion as a long-awaited move as happening after the course of WWII had already been shaped by Soviet victories in the battles of Stalingrad and Kursk and other battles on the Eastern Front.

Even in the country where D-Day occurred, the assault doesn't have a central, dominant place in the teaching of World War II. The history of 20th century conflict is taught in France as a theme and no longer as a chronological list of major battles.

"We no longer teach as we did before, what we called 'the history of battles,'" says Christine Guimonnet, who teaches history at a high school west of Paris and is secretary general of the APHG, a French association of history and geography teachers. "Everyone will, of course, speak about June 6 because it was a major moment in the war, but we're not going to spend a whole week on it. That's not possible."

As long as they are still teaching the broader themes, French teachers may home in on specific events, like D-Day, to organize study projects and, if they have the budget, trips to Normandy beaches, museums or screenings of "The Longest Day," a 1962 film about the events of D-Day.

As cultural director at Normandy's Caen Memorial, Isabelle Bournier deals daily with school groups that tour the museum. French children often aren't familiar with the details of D-Day, partially because fewer families have relatives who lived through the war and can pass on their stories, she said.

Students from Normandy are different from the broader French student population, she said.

"All families are more or less impregnated by this history. It is part of us," Bournier said.

Associated Press reporters John Leicester in Paris, David Rising in Berlin and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this story.

Follow Martha Waggoner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mjwaggonernc>.

Israel faces possible second election amid coalition crisis

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's parliament on Monday passed a preliminary motion to dissolve itself. The move further pushed the country toward an unprecedented political impasse, less than two months after elections seemed to promise Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a new mandate.

If the bill receives final passage in a vote scheduled Wednesday, Israel would be forced to hold new elections — sending the political system into disarray.

Netanyahu appeared to have a clear path to victory, and a fourth consecutive term, after the April 9 elections. His Likud party emerged tied as the largest party in the 120-seat parliament, and with his traditional allies, he appeared to control a solid 65-55 majority.

But he has struggled to form a government ahead of a looming deadline to do so. His prospective coalition has been thrown into crisis in recent days by former Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, an ally and sometimes rival of Netanyahu's.

Netanyahu delivered a primetime statement on Monday calling on his potential partners to put "the good of the nation above every other interest" in order to avoid sending the country once again to "expensive, wasteful" elections. He placed the blame on Lieberman for creating the crisis, but said he was hopeful his efforts to salvage a compromise in the next 48 hours would succeed.

Lieberman has insisted on passing a new law mandating that young ultra-Orthodox men be drafted into the military, like most other Jewish males. Netanyahu's ultra-Orthodox allies demand that the draft exemptions remain in place.

Without the five seats of Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu party, Netanyahu cannot muster a majority.

"The draft law has become a symbol and we will not capitulate on our symbols," Lieberman defiantly said, vowing to press for new elections if his demands are not met.

Netanyahu and Lieberman met Monday evening in a last-ditch effort to find a compromise. Israeli media



FILE - In this Oct. 25, 2012 file photo, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and former Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman shake hands in front of the media after giving a statement in Jerusalem. Netanyahu is facing the possibility of having to fight a second election this year, as he struggles to form a coalition government. With a looming deadline, Israel's newly elected parliament began drafting a bill on Monday to dissolve itself. (AP Photo/

Bernat Armangué, File)

said the meeting ended without any progress, and quoted Likud officials as saying Netanyahu would soon order new elections.

Netanyahu's ruling Likud has traditionally had an alliance with ultra-Orthodox and nationalist parties. But Lieberman, a former top Netanyahu aide, is a wild card. Though staunchly nationalist, he also champions a secular agenda aimed toward his political base of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Likud insists Lieberman is motivated by his personal spite for Netanyahu and has launched a vicious campaign against him in recent days. But Lieberman says he is driven by ideology and will not be a hand to religious coercion.

"I will not be a partner to a Halachic state," he said, using the word for Jewish law.

Ultra-Orthodox parties consider conscription a taboo, fearing that military service will lead to immersion in secularism. But years of exemptions have generated widespread resentment among the rest of Jewish Israelis.

A stalemate on the issue was one of the factors that shortened the term of the previous coalition government, which Lieberman resigned from months before elections were called because he disagreed with its policy toward the Gaza Strip.

Dissolving parliament would be a shocking turn of events for Netanyahu, who has led the country for the past decade. "We invite Lieberman to join us today and not contribute to the toppling of a right-wing government," a statement by Likud read.

President Donald Trump waded into Israeli politics and tweeted support for Netanyahu, saying he was "hoping things will work out with Israel's coalition formation and Bibi and I can continue to make the alliance between America and Israel stronger than ever."

With the 42-day timeline allotted to Netanyahu to sign agreements with his partners and present his new government set to expire late Wednesday, his Likud party presented the paperwork to dissolve the parliament.

The Knesset passed the bill on Monday with 65 members of parliament voting in favor. But the motion could still be pulled at any moment before Wednesday's vote if a compromise is found.

The main opposition party, Blue and White, which also controls 35 seats, appealed for a chance to form a coalition. But a parliamentary vote for dissolution would automatically trigger new elections. Blue and White has ruled out any alliance with Netanyahu.

If Wednesday's final vote passes, it would mark the first time the scenario had played out in Israel and set the stage for an unprecedented second election in the same calendar year.

Polls indicate the results of a new election would not be much different from the last one.

Ilan Ben Zion contributed to this story.

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.

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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 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."



This combination photo shows Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini at a press conference at Stampa Estera (Foreign Press) in Milan, Italy, Friday, May 17, 2019, left, and French president Emmanuel Macron delivering a speech at the Elysee Palace, in Paris, Friday, May 24, 2019. France's pro-EU president and the leader of Italy's euro-skeptic, far-right movement are jockeying for the role of chief powerbroker on the continent after elections to the European Parliament hollowed out the traditional political middle. (AP Photo)

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>

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



FILE - In this Friday, May 24, 2019, file photo, U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton is surrounded by reporters at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, Japan. North Korea on Monday, May 27, 2019, has called U.S. National Security Adviser Bolton a "war monger" and "defective human product" after he called the North's recent tests of short-range missile a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. (Yohei Kanasashi/Kyodo News via AP, File)

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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 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.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 28, the 148th day of 2019. There are 217 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 28, 1977, 165 people were killed when fire raced through the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Kentucky.

On this date:

In 1533, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, declared the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn valid.

In 1863, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, made up of freed blacks, left Boston to fight for the Union in the Civil War.

In 1892, the Sierra Club was organized in San Francisco.

In 1912, the Senate Commerce Committee issued its report on the Titanic disaster that cited a "state of absolute unpreparedness," improperly tested safety equipment and an "indifference to danger" as some of the causes of an "unnecessary tragedy."

In 1918, American troops fought their first major battle during World War I as they launched an offensive against the German-held French village of Cantigny (kahn-tee-NYEE'); the Americans succeeded in capturing the village.

In 1929, the first all-color talking picture, "On with the Show!" produced by Warner Bros., opened in New York.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt pushed a button in Washington signaling that vehicular traffic could begin crossing the just-opened Golden Gate Bridge in California. Neville Chamberlain became prime minister of Britain. In Nazi Germany, Volkswagen was founded by the German Labour Front.

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

In 1957, National League owners gave permission for the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants to move to Los Angeles and San Francisco.

In 1964, the charter of the Palestine Liberation Organization was issued at the start of a meeting of the Palestine National Congress in Jerusalem.

In 1972, Edward, The Duke of Windsor, who had abdicated the English throne to marry Wallis Warfield Simpson, died in Paris at age 77.

In 1987, to the embarrassment of Soviet officials, Mathias Rust (mah-TEE'-uhs rust), a young West German pilot, landed a private plane in Moscow's Red Square without authorization. (Rust was freed by the Soviets the following year.)

Ten years ago: A white New York City police officer killed an off-duty black colleague in a friendly fire incident in East Harlem. (A grand jury declined to indict Officer Andrew Dunton in the shooting of Officer Omar Edwards, who had drawn his gun and was chasing a man who had broken into his car.) Kavya Shivashankar, a 13-year-old girl from Kansas, spelled "Laodicean (lay-AHD'-uh-SEE'-uhn)" (lukewarm or indifferent in religion or politics) to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Five years ago: Seeking to redefine America's foreign policy for a postwar era, President Barack Obama told West Point graduates the United States remained the only nation with the capacity to lead on the world stage but argued it would be a mistake to channel that power into unrestrained military adventures. Maya Angelou, 86, a Renaissance woman who survived the harshest of childhoods to become a force on stage, screen and the printed page, died in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

One year ago: Speaking before an audience of Cabinet members, military leaders, veterans and families, President Donald Trump paid a Memorial Day tribute at Arlington National Cemetery, saying he came to honor "America's greatest heroes." The Golden State Warriors reached the NBA Finals with a win over the Houston Rockets; it was the fourth straight year the Warriors would meet the Cleveland Cavaliers in the finals.

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Today's Birthdays: Actress Carroll Baker is 88. Producer-director Irwin Winkler is 88. Actor John Karlen is 86. Basketball Hall of Famer Jerry West is 81. Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is 75. Singer Gladys Knight is 75. Singer Billy Vera is 75. Singer John Fogerty (Creedance Clearwater Revival) is 74. Country musician Jerry Douglas is 63. Actor Louis Mustillo is 61. Former governor and U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., is 59. Actor Brandon Cruz (TV: "The Courtship of Eddie's Father") is 57. Country singer Phil Vassar is 55. Actress Christa Miller is 55. Singer-musician Chris Ballew (Presidents of the USA) is 54. Rapper Chubb Rock is 51. Singer Kylie Minogue (KY'-lee mihn-OHG') is 51. Actor Justin Kirk is 50. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., is 48. Olympic gold medal figure skater Ekaterina Gordeeva is 48. Television personality Elisabeth Hasselbeck is 42. R&B singer Jaheim is 42. Actor Jake Johnson is 41. Actor Jesse Bradford is 40. Actress Monica Keena is 40. Actress Alexa Davalos is 37. Actress Megalyn Echikunwoke (eh-cheek-uh-WALK'-ay) is 37. Pop singer Colbie Caillat (kal-LAY') is 34. Actress Carey Mulligan is 34. Actor Joseph Cross is 33.

Thought for Today: "Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage." — Maya Angelou (1928-2014).