

# Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

LABELS  
are for cans,  
not people.

-Anthony Rapp

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Swimming Pool Hours

**Open Swim Daily:** 1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

**Fun Night** is every Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

**Adult Water Aerobics:** Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 pm

**Adult Lap Swim:** Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Monday through Thursday: 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Friday-Sunday: 4:50 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Swimming Lessons:** First Session: June 17-27

### 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)

### OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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



**The City of Groton will be doing adult mosquito control Thursday evening, May 30th.**

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Thanks to Brock Greenfield from Clark/Willow Lake for providing us with the stats from the Legion game played in Groton last night.

## Senators 4 - 11 Groton

📍 Away 🏆 League 📅 Tuesday May 28, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
SNTR	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	4	6	3
GRTN	0	0	0	0	6	5	X	11	7	1

### BATTING

Senators	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
Shane Wick...	3	0	0	0	1	1	5
Ian Johnson...	3	1	0	0	1	2	6
Grayson Flo...	4	1	2	1	0	0	2
Carter Owe...	3	0	1	0	0	2	3
Matt Streff...	3	0	1	0	1	0	3
Gunnar Kvis...	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Peyton Ho...	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Sam Hovde...	2	1	1	0	1	0	1
Lucas Kann...	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Chase Kell...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jeffrey Paul...	3	0	0	1	0	1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>

**TB:** Grayson Florey 2, Carter Owen, Matt Streff, Sam Hovde, Gunnar Kvistad, **CS:** Matt Streff, **HBP:** Carter Owen, **SB:** Ian Johnson, Grayson Florey 2, Jeffrey Paulson, Sam Hovde 2, Peyton Hoffer, **LOB:** 8

### PITCHING

Senators	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Ian Johnson	4.0	4	5	5	4	4	0
Matt Streff	1.0	3	6	4	4	1	0
Shane Wicks	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

**P-S:** Ian Johnson 84-45, Shane Wicks 29-16, Matt Streff 39-16, **WP:** Shane Wicks, **HBP:** Ian Johnson, Matt Streff, **BF:** Ian Johnson 21, Shane Wicks 5, Matt Streff 11

Groton	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
Korbin Blac...	5	2	2	0	0	2	5
Wyatt Lock...	3	2	1	1	1	1	0
Alex Morris...	2	2	1	1	2	0	0
Peyton Joh...	1	1	0	0	1	1	3
Darian Shah...	3	2	1	3	1	0	3
Chandler La...	3	0	0	1	1	0	4
Tristan Trap...	4	0	1	2	0	1	5
Grady O'nei...	1	1	0	0	3	1	0
Garrett Sch...	4	1	1	0	0	2	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

**2B:** Alex Morris, **TB:** Alex Morris 2, Garrett Schrorder, Tristan Traphagen, Wyatt Locke, Korbin Blackmun 2, Darian Shahazz, **HBP:** Peyton Johnson 2, **SB:** Chandler Larson, Wyatt Locke, Korbin Blackmun, Darian Shahazz, **LOB:** 8

Groton	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Peyton Joh...	3.0	2	2	1	5	4	0
Darian Shah...	2.0	4	2	2	2	2	0
Wyatt Locke	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>

**P-S:** Wyatt Locke 26-13, Peyton Johnson 65-34, Darian Shahazz 35-19, **HBP:** Wyatt Locke, **BF:** Wyatt Locke 7, Peyton Johnson 16, Darian Shahazz 10

Sam Hovde caught for CWL. Wyatt Locke, Alex Morris (6) caught for Groton.

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## Senators 9 - 5 Groton

📍 Away 🏆 League 📅 Tuesday May 28, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
SNTR	1	4	3	1	0	9	7	4
GRTN	2	2	1	0	0	5	3	1

### BATTING

Senators	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
Shane Wick...	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Sam Hovd...	2	1	0	0	0	1	1
Ian Johnson...	2	1	0	0	1	1	1
Grayson Flo...	3	0	1	1	0	0	2
Matt Streff...	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Avery Nich...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Gunnar Kvis...	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Zach Winter...	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Clint Rutle...	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jeffrey Pa...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chase Kelly...	3	1	2	0	0	1	1
Peyton Hoff...	1	2	0	0	1	1	0
Carter Cha...	2	1	1	2	0	1	0
Hudson Full...	2	1	2	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

Groton	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
Korbin Blac...	2	1	0	0	1	0	3
Darian Shah...	3	1	1	1	0	0	1
Alex Morris...	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Wyatt Lock...	2	1	0	0	1	2	1
Peyton Joh...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Grady O'n...	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Chandler La...	3	1	2	2	0	0	0
Lucas Simo...	3	0	0	0	0	2	4
Adrian Knut...	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Garrett Sch...	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

**2B:** Chase Kelly, Grayson Florey, Carter Chambers, **TB:** Hudson Fuller 2, Matt Streff, Chase Kelly 3, Grayson Florey 2, Carter Chambers 2, **CS:** Zach Winter, **HBP:** Peyton Hoffer, Zach Winter, Carter Chambers, **SB:** Hudson Fuller, Ian Johnson, Matt Streff 3, Sam Hovde 2, Chase Kelly, Avery Nichols, Shane Wicks, Peyton Hoffer, Carter Chambers 2, **LOB:** 4

**2B:** Chandler Larson, **TB:** Chandler Larson 3, Darian Shahazz, **CS:** Korbin Blackmun, **SB:** Darian Shahazz, **LOB:** 5

Ian Johnson caught for CWL. Korbin Blackmun caught for Groton.

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## National Gas Price Average Drops by more than a Nickel Since Beginning of May

May 28, 2019 - For the 37.6 million Americans who hit the road this past Memorial Day weekend, the vast majority found savings at the pump compared to last year's holiday. Today, 42 states and Washington, D.C. have gas price averages that are less expensive year-over-year, with Floridians (-31 cents) seeing the largest yearly change. Motorists in West Coast states are the exception, paying nearly double-digits more than last May to fill up.

"Gas prices have declined, on average, by at least a nickel, for the majority of the country since the beginning of May and that's a trend motorists can expect to continue into early June," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "Stable crude oil prices are helping to push prices down at the pump despite tight domestic gasoline supply and robust demand. A bump in demand could push prices higher, but only by a few cents."

### South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.77  
Yesterday Avg. \$2.77  
Week Ago Avg. \$2.78  
Month Ago Avg. \$2.79  
Year Ago Avg. \$2.87

Today's national average is \$2.82, which is cheaper than last week by two cents, last month by six cents and last year by 16 cents.

### Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 yearly decreases are: Florida (-31 cents), Delaware (-28 cents), New Mexico (-27 cents), Kentucky (-25 cents), Texas (-24 cents), Louisiana (-24 cents), Georgia (-24 cents), Mississippi (-23 cents), Alabama (-23 cents) and Michigan (-22 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Mississippi (\$2.42), Louisiana (\$2.43), Alabama (\$2.43), South Carolina (\$2.46), Arkansas (\$2.48), Missouri (\$2.52), Tennessee (\$2.52), Texas (\$2.52), Oklahoma (\$2.55) and Virginia (\$2.56).

### Central States and Great Lakes Region

At a penny, Michigan and Indiana saw the only gas pump jumps on the week in the Great Lakes and Central States. Ohio (-7 cents), Nebraska (-4 cents), Kentucky (-3 cents) and Missouri (-2 cents) saw the largest declines at the pump with the remaining states' averages declining a penny or holding steady on the week.

Regional stocks declined by 2 million bbl, per the EIA's latest data, to drop levels to 47.3 million bbl. A large draw like this, especially amid very tight gasoline stock levels, may push gas prices more expensive in the coming days and weeks ahead. Year-over-year, regional stocks sit at a 5.2 million bbl deficit.

### Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI increased by 72 cents to settle at \$58.63. Overall, crude prices saw a loss last week, following release of EIA's weekly petroleum status report that showed total domestic crude inventories rose by 4.8 million bbl. result of the nation's growing domestic crude supply.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at [AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile).

## Deadwood Gaming Revenues Roar Back in April

DEADWOOD, S.D. (05/28/19) - According to statistics released recently by the South Dakota Commission on Gaming, the April 2019 gaming handle showed a 10.83 percent increase, with slot machine handle increasing by 11.56 percent when compared to April 2018. The table game handle was also up 0.42 percent when compared to 2018 April's table game numbers. Deadwood gaming operators rewarded players with \$1,557,471 in "free-play" for the month of April, leaving taxable adjusted gross revenues of \$8,272,523 for April 2019.

"We are pleased that Deadwood has resumed the positive trajectory for 2019 in April," said Mike Rodman, executive director of the Deadwood Gaming Association. "This is the strongest April performance in the last eight years."

The Deadwood community is hosting a special screening of the much anticipated "Deadwood: The Movie" in Deadwood on Friday, May 31 at the Deadwood Mountain Grand.



## 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**



## Cow/Calf Enterprises Show Mixed Results in 2018

Mitchell—Cow/calf enterprises showed mixed results, according to annual report data recently released. “In 2018, there was a negative return in the cow/calf enterprise, but the backgrounding enterprise showed a positive return for a second year,” according to instructor Lori Tonak. This information is based on the enterprise analysis from the farmers and ranchers enrolled in the SD Center for Farm/Ranch Management Program, administered through Mitchell Technical Institute.

The cow calf enterprise information showed a loss of \$-40.73/cow in 2018 compared to a profit of \$54.81/cow in 2017. The total cost to maintain a cow, in the average herd, was \$770.04/cow, an increase from \$725.85/cow in 2017. Feed costs for the cow increased \$30/head, which is attributed to the extra feed for April weather conditions in 2018. The increased feed costs, along with increased death loss of calves and breeding animals in the spring of 2018 were the major contributors for the losses in the cow/calf enterprise.

Beef backgrounding enterprises showed profitability for a second year with a net return of \$19.87 per head, which was a small increase from \$15.97 in 2017. “Looking at the numbers across the enrolled farms showed that the market was relatively stable throughout 2018. Even with the adverse weather in the spring of 2018, the profitability was relatively stable,” stated Tonak. SD Center of Farm/Ranch Management did not have a large enough data set to calculate beef and hog finishing operation profitability this year.

The major factors that affect the profitability in the livestock enterprises are death loss, feed costs and purchase/selling price. Controlling input costs, practicing good herd management techniques, and having a well-planned marketing strategy can potentially increase profits for livestock enterprises.

The Farm/Ranch Business Management Program is offered to farmers and ranchers in South Dakota through Mitchell Technical Institute. The purpose of the program is to assist farm and ranch operators in upgrading their management skills. For more information about the data in this article or about the programs offered, please call 1-605-995-7191 or send an email to [sdcfm@mitchelltech.edu](mailto:sdcfm@mitchelltech.edu).

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- Referral Bonuses

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## Today in Weather History

May 29, 1953: An auditorium was almost entirely unroofed, and barns, along with outbuildings were destroyed in McLaughlin by a tornado. Seven businesses and two homes were also damaged. Estimate of property damage at \$100,000. This tornado was estimated to have F2 strength.

May 29, 2004: Hail, with the largest a quarter sizes, fell in many parts of north-central South Dakota. Lightning struck a house in Veblen and caused some damage. Glass from a broken window hit a man, and some debris from the ceiling hit a woman. They were taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries. The torrential rains of 3 to 6 inches fell between Westport and Columbia with cropland and many roads flooded. Also, some basements were flooded. Four, weak F0 tornadoes, also were reported. The first two touched down near Bath causing no damage. The other two occurred near Ipswich, also causing no damage.

1947: An unprecedented late-spring snowstorm blasts portions of the Midwest from eastern Wyoming to eastern Upper Michigan. The heavy snow caused severe damage to power and telephone lines and the already-leafed-out vegetation. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS Office in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

1951 - A massive hailstorm, from Wallace to Kearney County in Kansas, caused six million dollars damage to crops. (David Ludlum)

1953 - A tornado, 600 yards wide at times, killed two persons on its 20 mile path from southwest of Fort Rice ND into Emmons County. Nearly every building in Fort Rice was damaged. The Catholic church was leveled, with some pews jammed four feet into the ground. (The Weather Channel)

1982: Two significant tornadoes ripped through southern Illinois. The most severe was an F4 that touched down northeast of Carbondale, Illinois then moved to Marion. The twister had multiple vortices within the main funnel. Extensive damage occurred at the Marion Airport. A total of 10 people were killed, and 181 were injured. 648 homes and 200 cars were damaged or destroyed, with total damages around \$100 million.

1986: Hailstones over 3 inches in diameter pounded South Shore in Montreal, Quebec Canada causing over \$65 million in damage.

1987 - Thunderstorms in West Texas produced softball size hail at Lamesa, and hail up to twelve inches deep east of Dimmitt. Thunderstorms also spawned seven tornadoes in West Texas, including one which injured three persons at Wolfforth. Thunderstorms deluged the Texas Hill Country with up to eleven inches of rain. Severe flooding along the Medino, Hondo, Seco, Sabinal and Frio rivers caused more than fifty million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A powerful cold front brought snow and high winds to parts of the western U.S. Austin, NV, was blanketed with ten inches of snow, and winds gusted to 75 mph at the Mojave Airport in California. Strong southerly winds and unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Glasgow, MT, equalled their record for the month of May with a high of 102 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

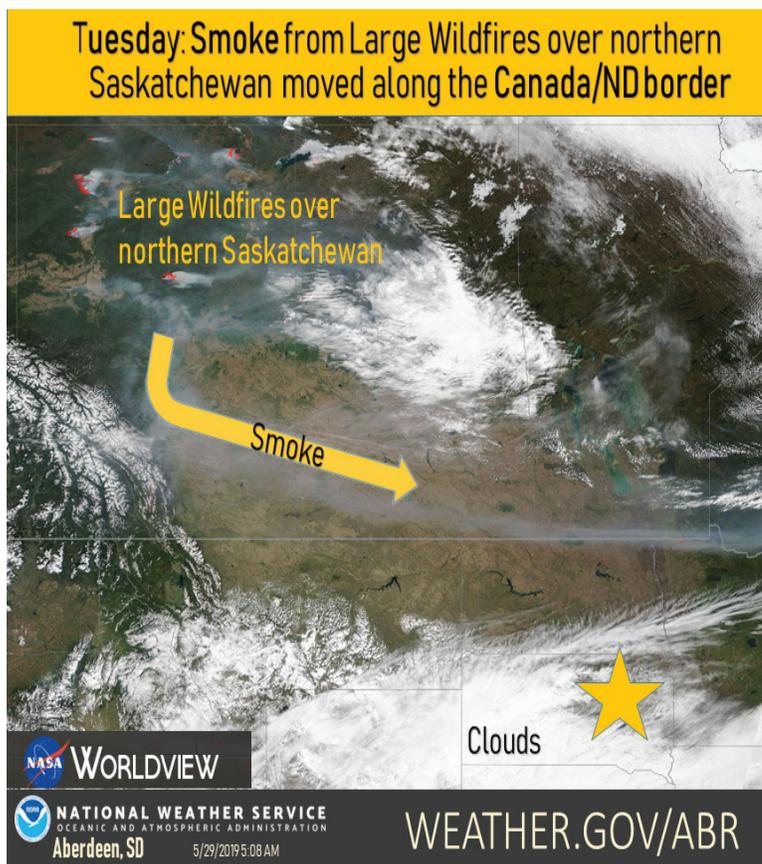
1989 - Wintry weather gripped parts of the northwestern U.S. for the second day in a row. Great Falls, MT, was blanketed with 12 inches of snow, which pushed their total for the winter season to a record 117.4 inches. Six inches of snow whitened the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from north central Colorado to the northern half of Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail or damaging winds. Midday thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Hobart, OK, and produced up to three and a half inches of rain in eastern Colorado in four hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
				
Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 77 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 83 °F



HIGHS: 70s

Smoke sinking south, producing a slight haze in the sky

Temperatures will rise into the 70s today, under a partly cloudy sky. Some haze may be visible from large wildfire smoke drifting south from northern Saskatchewan.

Published on: 05/29/2019 at 6:11AM

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 67 °F at 5:15 PM

Low Temp: 48 °F at 6:15 AM

Wind: 18 mph at 6:40 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1934

Record Low: 23° in 1947

Average High: 72°F

Average Low: 49°F

Average Precip in May.: 2.81

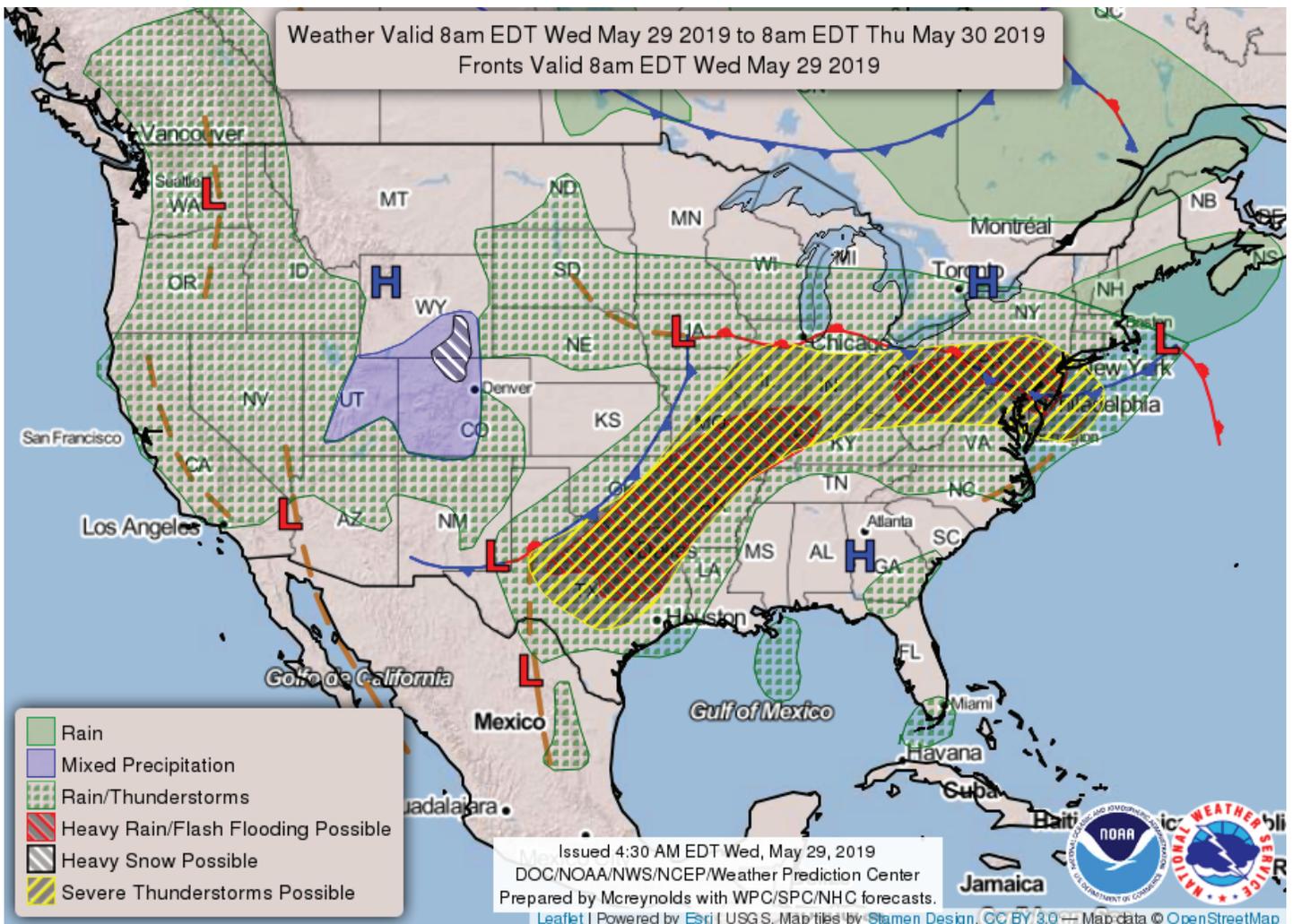
Precip to date in May.: 3.26

Average Precip to date: 6.84

Precip Year to Date: 7.97

Sunset Tonight: 9:12 p.m.

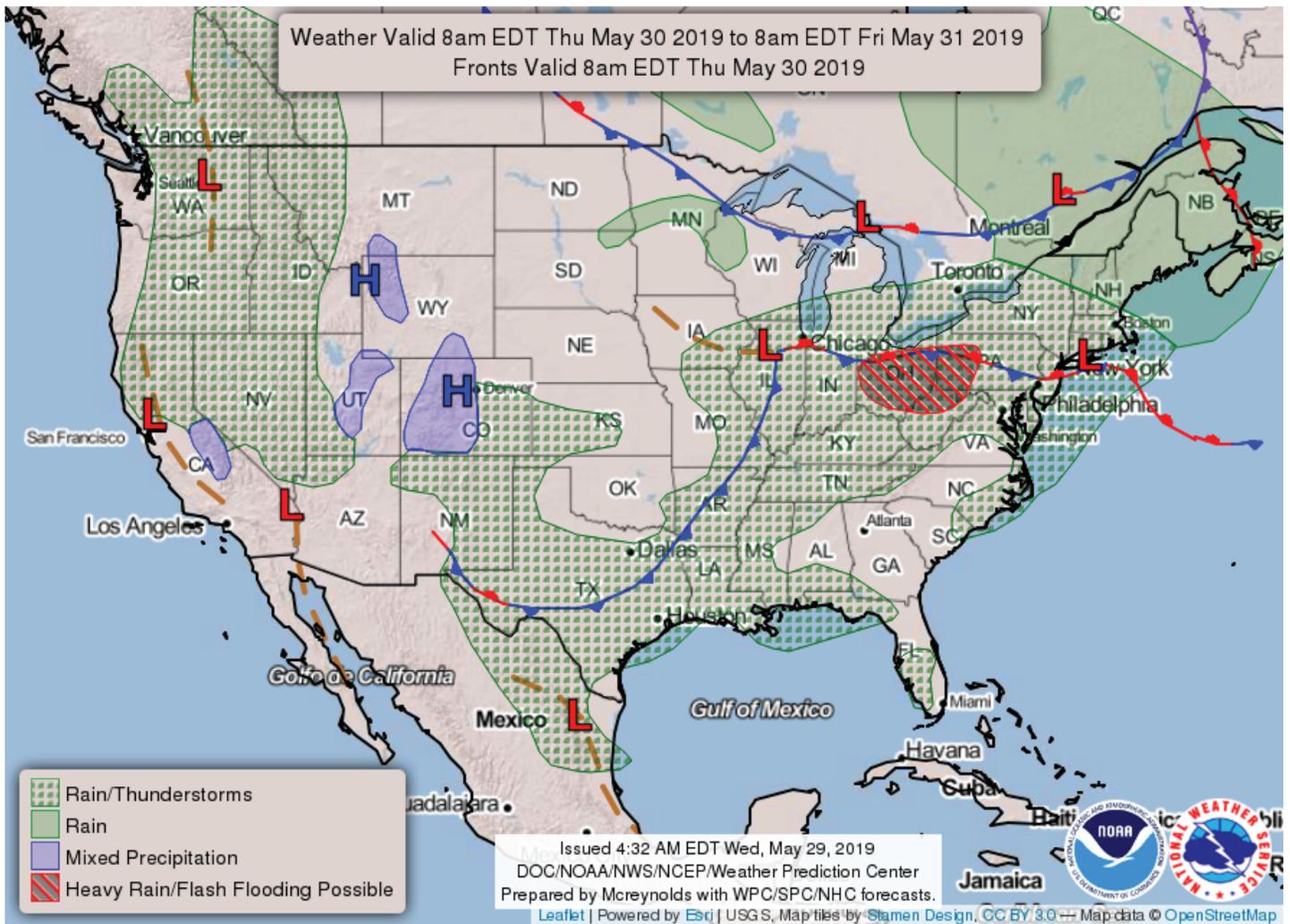
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



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## Tomorrow's Weather Map



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## IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE

Somewhere on a shelf in my library is a small book with a big lesson. When I take its message to heart, I am more apt to succeed in whatever I have in mind. When I rush ahead and neglect its counsel, I am more apt to fail and must deal with problems that could have been avoided.

It Takes Two to See One is the name of the book that can make a distinct difference in how we make our decisions, solve our problems, or set our goals. The simple secret is that if we isolate ourselves from the wisdom and knowledge of others and insulate ourselves from the insight and experiences of others, we are likely to end up with a picture of ourselves that is out of focus, lacks detail and eventually leads us to disaster!

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. Getting input and ideas, advice and information from others can lead us to success. Although not clearly expressed in the way this verse is translated, the advice we are to seek is to come from those whom we can trust and will keep our discussions confidential. As we talk about and look for clarification from many, a pattern will develop, and what we might have overlooked will become clear and visible and obvious to us. Then, its time to act!

There is also the important fact of humility in this verse. Pride does come before destruction and God does hate a person who is arrogant. Those two words, pride and arrogance, have brought the downfall of many. Being inclusive of others in our lives shows great wisdom. No one knows everything, but others may know something that can help us.

Prayer: Lord, help us to realize the need we have for counsel - especially from You. May we recognize our limits, Your wisdom and the gifts You have given others. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

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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

### **Sioux Falls man arrested, accused of leaving child in car**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has been arrested and accused of leaving a 1-year-old child alone in a car outside a hotel.

An employee at the Country Inn and Suites heard the child crying and called police. The employee said car was parked in the lot for 30 minutes to an hour Saturday evening.

As police investigated the owner of the car arrived and told officers he didn't know the boy was in the vehicle when he parked it. The child's mother is the man's girlfriend.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the child wasn't harmed. The Department of Social Services took custody of the boy because his mother could not immediately be found.

### **Security needs reviewed at governor's mansion**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State administrators are reviewing security needs at the governor's residence in South Dakota, including the installation of a fence.

KCCR reports the state is soliciting interest from companies to design and construct a fence. The budget for the fence is \$400,000.

Gov. Kristi Noem spokeswoman Kristin Wileman says no final decisions have been made.

Information from: KCCR-AM, <http://www.todaykccr.com/>

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

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

Mega Millions

09-21-34-42-50, Mega Ball: 21, Megaplier: 2

(nine, twenty-one, thirty-four, forty-two, fifty; Mega Ball: twenty-one; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$418 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$325 million

### **Man drops plan to open South Dakota Medal of Honor Museum**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has scrapped plans to open a museum honoring recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

John L. Johnson of Rapid City had planned to open the museum Aug. 1 at the Rushmore Mall.

But Johnson told the Rapid City Journal on Tuesday that he has abandoned that plan after receiving threats. Instead, he says he plans to open an art gallery for Native American artists on that date in the same space planned for the museum.

Johnson sparked controversy in an interview with the newspaper earlier this month, when he referred to efforts to rescind medals given to U.S. cavalry soldiers for the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre that killed Native Americans, including women and children. Johnson said many of those soldiers who went on to receive the medal acted heroically.

Johnson said he has decided not to move forward with the museum project. He has written a book about Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and had planned to fund the free museum with his own money, donations and other means.

Johnson, who is African American and had worked for Oglala Lakota College as director of assessment

for two years, had planned special displays for minority medal recipients in the museum.

He said he understands Native Americans' strong feels about the medal and Wounded Knee.

"They did make a point and just to avoid any more divisions in our society, to avoid any more controversy and to pay respect to those people, I have dropped the museum project," he said.

The Congressional Medal of Honor was first bestowed upon Union soldiers in the 1860s during the American Civil War.

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

## South Dakota corn planting continues to lag

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Corn planting in South Dakota continues to lag at the start of the season. According to the latest weekly federal crop report, corn planting in South Dakota was 25 percent complete as of Sunday. That's well behind the pace of 87 percent at this time last year and 90 percent for the five-year average.

Corn was 2 percent emerged, well behind 45 percent last year and 57 percent average.

Soybean planting was only 6 percent, compared with 56 percent last year and 64 percent average.

Winter wheat condition was rated 6 percent poor or very poor, 46 percent fair, 45 percent good and 3 percent excellent.

Spring wheat planning was 79 percent, compared with 96 percent last year and 97 percent average.

Only 1.1 days were suitable for fieldwork last week.

## 2nd person dies after 2-vehicle crash near Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a second person has died from injuries suffered in a two-vehicle crash near Rapid City earlier this month.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety says 71-year-old James Broderick was taken to a hospital after the crash and died Thursday.

Authorities say Broderick was driving a Ford Freestar when a Honda CR-V making a left-hand turn pulled in front of him onto South Dakota Highway 79 south of Rapid City on May 7. The two vehicles collided, and the Honda CR-V caught on fire.

The driver of the CR-V, 26-year-old Hannah Drake, was unable to get out of the burning vehicle and died at the scene.

Both drivers were from Rapid City and were the only people involved in the crash.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol continues to investigate.

This version corrects date of crash to May 7 instead of last Tuesday.

## South Dakota project fights financial crimes against tribes

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota project has uncovered dozens of people and organizations that collectively stole millions of dollars from nine Native American reservations, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Dakota.

Aileen Crawford, the office's spokeswoman, told the Rapid City Journal that the Guardians Project has led to 42 convictions on federal charges including fraud, theft and embezzlement from tribes and tribal organizations.

The project, which launched in 2015, brings together local and federal agencies to investigate allegations of corruption and financial crimes against the state's Native American communities. Many of the convictions have involved tribal employees, tribal executives and out-of-state business owners.

A former cashier for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's bingo operations was charged with embezzlement and larceny in March after being accused of stealing more than \$1,000 from the business. A month later,

a former employee of a casino owned by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe was accused of stealing more than \$1,000.

Tribal leaders have also been charged through the project. Five executives from the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe pleaded guilty to embezzlement in 2017 after stealing more than \$81,500 from the tribe.

The U.S. Attorney's Office identifies possible cases for the project when an individual calls 911 "like any other criminal case," Crawford said.

"On a weekly basis, this office and the participating agencies learn about cases from whistleblowers, through concerned citizens and by leaders reporting misconduct taking place in tribal entities," she said.

The office's staff also visits reservations, communicates with tribal governments and creates press releases to share how to report possible criminal activity to the local and federal agencies involved in the project.

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

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

### Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, May 25

#### Give sexual abuse victims a path to justice

Two months ago, the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls released the names of 11 priests who faced substantiated accusations of abusing minors between 1958 and 1992 while serving in eastern South Dakota.

The action came on the crest of a recent wave of such disclosures by Catholic leaders across the country. It began in Pennsylvania last year, when a grand jury in that state accused several dioceses of attempting to cover up abuse by 300 former priests.

As such, the public statement from Sioux Falls Bishop Paul Swain seemed a step in the right direction. Swain apologized to victims "as a sign of my and our faith community's accepting responsibility for failings over the years."

He urged those who had suffered abuse at the hands of any of the 11 priests named in the statement to come forward, so that "assistance might be offered and justice accomplished." He acknowledged that many victims "remain silent for fear they will not be believed."

But Swain's statement fell short of the level of disclosure from the Rapid City Diocese several weeks earlier. The Rapid City statement listed the assignments, including dates, of the priests with credible claims of abuse against them.

Matt Althoff, chancellor of the Sioux Falls Diocese, defended the absence of that kind of information. Swain's letter was addressed to victims who "know where the abuse happened," Althoff said. "Really it is out of a profound sensitivity for the deserved confidentiality of a victim of clergy sexual abuse that all those details, the bishop chose not to include in his letter."

Priests who had been permanently assigned to the Rapid City Diocese were not the only names disclosed in the Rapid City statement. Also included on their list were credibly-accused members of the Jesuit religious order who had been assigned to missions and mission schools on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations.

Despite a 2003 revelation by former Bishop Robert Carlson (now archbishop of St. Louis) of diocese records showing that five religious order priests had been accused of abuse going back to 1950, the Sioux Falls statement explicitly omitted those names.

For some Native American victims of sexual abuse in East River reservation boarding schools operated by Catholic religious orders such as the Benedictines, the omission adds insult to injury. It is, however, in line with the Sioux Falls Diocese's stance during the course of lawsuits filed between 2004 and 2010 that it is not responsible for what happened at those schools.

Among the defendants in those suits were authorities in the Sioux Falls Diocese.

A late-session legislative action in 2010 stopped the cases in their tracks. Attorney Steve Smith, who had represented St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain in abuse cases, crafted a bill ultimately signed by

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former Gov. Mike Rounds that prohibits abuse victims over age 40 from suing churches, schools or other institutions their abuser was associated with. The South Dakota Supreme Court found that the new law retroactively invalidated the plaintiffs' right to sue anyone other than the individuals who abused them.

The Pennsylvania grand jury finding appears to have been the catalyst for renewed efforts in states all around the U.S. to expand statutes of limitations that hinder abuse victims in their search for justice. That makes sense in light of a 2014 German study involving more than a thousand subjects that found men and women were on average 52 years old when they first reported sexual abuse. Those results suggest South Dakota's 40-year-old age limit on the ability to seek damages from institutions is too low.

Smith succeeded in his efforts to quash what he characterized as "frivolous class-action lawsuits" involving claims of abuse in South Dakota nearly a decade ago. According to Argus Leader reporting at the time, he acknowledged that the bill could block victims from recovering civil damages. Nonetheless, he saw out-of-state "con men" lawyers working to build reservation school abuse class-action lawsuits as the greater threat.

That bill's trip through the legislative process shares a commonality with the "riot-boosting" law passed this year at Gov. Kristi Noem's urging. Both were brought with negligible efforts to include the voices of those from Indian Country who were most affected. Smith admitted in 2010 that those who opposed his proposal had scant opportunity to organize against it — "Nobody knew I was doing this."

He also conceded that the bill could potentially block victims of abuse from recovering civil damages, but that concern was trumped by his desire to block unfounded claims.

"I hate con men," said Smith at the time, showing little faith in our judicial system's ability to separate credible accusations of abuse from those that lack legitimacy.

The Catholic Church-run reservation boarding school victims have returned to Pierre every year since Smith's triumph to try to overturn the law he crafted. Every year their pleas have gone unheeded. Perhaps the tide is finally turning in their favor. Perhaps state lawmakers will finally take the time to hear their voices and set the law into alignment with what is right.

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## Madison Daily Leader, Madison, May 24

### Will new law stop the robocalls?

We're grateful for Sen. John Thune's leadership in introducing and shepherding a bill (called the TRACED Act) through the U.S. Senate that addresses the problem of robocalls.

These are automated telephone calls intended to sell a product, change opinion or gather information for another purpose. They have become an extraordinary irritant to anyone with a phone, and are the number one complaint received by the Federal Trade Commission.

Thune's position as chairman on the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet gives him a front row seat to the problem. One alleged abuser of the technology, Adrian Abramovich, is accused of sending 97 million fraudulent robocalls between 2015-2016.

The TRACED Act passed the Senate on a vote of 97-1, which almost never happens in this divided time. Thune is hopeful the House will consider it without delay.

The bill increases the financial penalty to \$10,000 per call, works toward creating a credible threat of criminal prosecution and prison, and makes it easier for carriers to lawfully block calls from reaching us in the first place.

So the big question (if passed by the House and signed by the President) is "Will it work?"

No one knows. Criminal behavior and greed aren't easily vexed. Some criminals may modify the technology to avoid detection. The details of enforcement and prosecution are yet to be tested.

We'll need to wait and see. Assuming it is put into law, it will take time to see results. But we appreciate the effort of Congress and others to address this problem head-on.

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## Rapid City Journal, May 26 \$250 million for schools necessary

Unfortunately, we must raise taxes and spend \$180 million to replace five worn-out, 60- to 70-year-old schools, plus spend an additional \$70 million to upgrade six more schools, consolidate two others, and accelerate overdue maintenance elsewhere.

We got here through decades of underinvestment. Rapid City Area School's current \$22 million per year capital outlay budget falls further behind the growing needs every day.

If you must blame someone, place fault on past leaders who quietly passed along these growing needs fearing local residents would organize to defeat any bond issue, as surely they will attempt this time.

Past politics put regular school upgrades out of reach in Rapid City, making today's serious consequences inevitable. We're stuck not only with a normal backlog of needs but conditions turning dire.

It would be easy for critics to attack one piece of the overall \$250 million spending plan, but it's the weight of total failings that tips the scale. Schools slated for closure are too small, too old, too hot, too cold, too crowded, too dilapidated, too unsafe, too inefficient, too costly to fix, and too unfair for students stuck inside them.

The requested \$250 million won't make Rapid City Area Schools the envy of anyone. It simply raises the district to an acceptable state. More elementary schools will likely be needed within a dozen years.

We'd like to think that what was good for older generations is good enough for today's youth, but the Air Force doesn't still fly prop planes, as it did when these five crumbling schools were built. Everybody walked home for lunch then, but today every parent works full time, so schools need cafeterias.

Schools that were secure when families strolled onto airport tarmacs fall way short when it takes two hours to transit preflight security. The jobs these aging schools prepared Rapid City children to fill have dwindled. Back then there were no computers, no internet, no 3D printers, no self-driving cars, no artificial intelligence, no smart-phone apps, and no gig economy.

These antiquated schools no longer serve for the same reasons that few 1949 to 1958 cars remain on the road: Parts are scarce, mileage stinks, they're uncomfortable, unreliable, unsafe and falling apart.

Inside these older schools, floors are heaving, walls cracking, narrow hallways have become heaped with food storage and working students, closets serve as offices, pipes are rusting inside concrete, electricity runs behind asbestos, and doors stick.

Spending more money to nurse along these poorly organized and cramped facilities would be a waste. Populations have shifted since these schools were built, so some are in the wrong place.

Yes, \$250 million is a lot, but you get there fast when three elementary schools cost \$30 million apiece and two middle schools cost \$45 million apiece. What does \$30 million buy? Masonry walls rather than fragile drywall, geothermal heating for lower fuel costs, efficient and expandable buildings that last — hopefully for more than 60 to 70 years.

Yes, \$250 million is a lot, and it is possible for individuals to say they can't afford it. But it is not honestly possible to say the need doesn't exist. And once you admit that, the realization hits that the needs and expenses will only grow.

Could adjustments to the overall spending plan be made to accommodate political reality? Sure. But where does that get us? Even if voters approve the full package, new schools will not appear for three to six years, coinciding with a time when more military families will arrive because of Ellsworth's expansion.

## Officials warn about flooding in Southern Black Hills

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — A mobile home park is being evacuated in Rapid City because of flooding.

Pennington County Emergency Management officials say a shelter for residents of Melody Park Mobile Home Park is being set up by the Red Cross at First Wesleyan Church.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office says creeks in Hill City and Keystone have flooded onto roads and bridges. Authorities say many of the bridges in Keystone are nearly under water. Grizzly Gulch Road is flooded and Main Street is down to one lane in some areas.

The sheriff's office says Old Hill City Road is flooded from Kemp's Camp to Keystone and is being closed as rocks are falling from the hillside.

## 14-year-old develops pill to fight opioid abuse

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A Brookings High School student has captured the first-place award in an international science competition for his project aimed at fighting the opioid epidemic.

Fourteen-year-old Aditya Tummala developed a gummy-like substance, similar to a gummy bear that would make an opioid pill tamper proof, meaning the medication couldn't be crushed or melted for snorting or injecting.

KSFY-TV says the project garnered first place at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona. Tummala calls the product Tampr-X.

Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

## Israeli leader uncharacteristically quiet over Gulf crisis

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister has been a vocal critic of Iran over the years, accusing the Islamic Republic of sinister intentions at every opportunity. But the outspoken Benjamin Netanyahu has remained uncharacteristically quiet throughout the current crisis between the U.S. and Iran.

While Israel has welcomed Washington's pressure on Tehran, the crisis has nonetheless put Netanyahu in a delicate position, not wanting to be seen as pushing the Americans into a military confrontation and wary of being drawn into fighting with Iran's powerful proxy, the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

"In recent developments, Israel has taken the backseat. There's one reason for this: it's not in Israel's interest to take the lead," said Yoel Guzansky, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies, a Tel Aviv think tank, and former Iran analyst in the prime minister's office.

It's a new look for Netanyahu, who has made Iran his top priority during his decade-long tenure.

Netanyahu has repeatedly accused Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons — a charge it denies — and criticized its support for anti-Israel militants, development of long-range missiles and frequent calls for Israel's destruction.

He has compared the Islamic Republic to Nazi Germany, and famously gave a speech to the U.S. Congress against the U.S.-led international nuclear deal with Iran in 2015. The speech infuriated then-President Barack Obama, and remains a sore spot with U.S. Democrats.

Since President Donald Trump was elected, things have shifted in Netanyahu's favor. The Israeli leader strongly encouraged Trump's decision last year to withdraw from the nuclear deal. He also has welcomed the renewal and tightening of U.S. sanctions on Iran.

The U.S. pullout from the nuclear deal, which gave Iran relief from painful economic sanctions in exchange for limits on its nuclear activities, lies at the root of the current crisis.

Echoing Israel's arguments, Trump has said the deal failed to sufficiently curb Iran's ability to develop a nuclear-weapons capability and did not address Tehran's support for militant groups and its missile program. The renewed sanctions, meanwhile, have sent Iran's economy into freefall.

In recent weeks, tensions have soared as the U.S. beefed up its military presence in the Gulf in response to a still-unexplained threat from Iran.

The U.S. also has accused Iran of being behind a string of incidents, including alleged sabotage of oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and a rocket that landed near the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, while Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels have launched a string of drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia.

Iran in turn has announced it is quadrupling its production capacity of low-enriched uranium, making it likely the country will soon exceed stockpile limits set by the nuclear accord. Iran also gave Europe a July 7 deadline to set new terms for a nuclear deal or it will enrich uranium at higher levels, closer to weapons grade.

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If Iran begins ramping up uranium enrichment, all eyes will turn to Israel, which in the past has issued veiled threats to strike and carried out similar assaults on Syrian and Iraqi nuclear facilities.

Earlier in this decade, Israeli officials strongly considered attacking Iranian nuclear installations, though doing so would be a difficult task. Iran, about 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) from Israel, has a sophisticated air defense system and has spread out its nuclear facilities, building some underground or in the side of a mountain.

All of this has made Netanyahu's low profile especially noticeable. In a recent speech, he repeated his longstanding position that Israel will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon. Otherwise, he and other officials have said little, trying to portray the standoff as a U.S.-Iran dispute.

Israeli Cabinet minister Tzachi Hanegbi, who is close to Netanyahu, said earlier this month that he sees two potential outcomes of the crisis, both of which he described as good for Israel. The Iranians, he said, will meet U.S. demands, return to negotiations and reach a new and improved agreement, or there will be a conflict.

"I don't really believe that the Iranians or the Americans are currently seeking a conflict," Hangebi told the Army Radio station. If there is one, Iran stands no chance against a super power like America, he said.

Guzansky, the Tel Aviv researcher, said Israel has to be careful about being seen as encouraging the U.S. to attack Iran. In 2002, a year before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Netanyahu, as a private citizen, testified to Congress that toppling Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would be a "good choice" that would benefit the region.

"Israel cannot risk being seen as the one who led the U.S. and Iran to a confrontation, in the case of a loss of American lives. The price in U.S. public opinion and in world leaders' opinions would be too high," Guzansky said.

He said the fact that Israel has become a "very partisan" issue — with support much stronger among Republicans than Democrats — added to the risk.

For now, Israeli officials believe the risk of a direct confrontation with Iran remains unlikely. Instead, they believe the biggest immediate threat is the possibility of Iran unleashing its regional proxies along Israel's borders — Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria and Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip — as retaliation for a U.S. attack.

Even that scenario seems distant. Israeli officials say the situation on the ground has not changed fundamentally. Israel has closely monitored Hezbollah and its other enemies for years, and occasionally acts against them.

Israel has acknowledged carrying out hundreds of airstrikes against Iranian and Hezbollah positions in Syria in recent years. On Monday, for instance, the Israeli military said it struck an anti-aircraft position in Syria after it fired at an Israeli warplane.

"We monitor," said an Israeli military official. "We're not looking to escalate." He spoke on condition of anonymity under army protocol.

But it may be difficult for Israel to keep its distance if fighting breaks out between the U.S. and Iran.

Yaakov Amidror, Netanyahu's former national security adviser, said the biggest threat to Israel, by far, is Hezbollah, a powerful militant group that fought Israel to a stalemate during a 2006 war. Since then, Hezbollah has gained valuable battlefield experience fighting alongside government troops in Syria's civil war and is believed to have amassed a vast arsenal of missiles aimed at Israel.

"We'd have to face 130,000 rockets and missiles. It would lead to a devastating war," Amidror said. "Israel would be in the direct line of fire and the burden would fall on our shoulders directly."

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Associated Press writers Ilan Ben Zion and Isabel DeBre in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

## After several quiet years, tornadoes erupt in United States

By RICK CALLAHAN and GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — After several quiet years, tornadoes have erupted in the United States over the last two weeks as a volatile mix of warm, moist air from the Southeast and persistent cold from the Rockies clashed and stalled over the Midwest.

On Monday, the U.S. tied its current record of 11 consecutive days with at least eight tornadoes confirmed on each of those days, said Patrick Marsh, warning coordination meteorologist for the federal Storm Prediction Center. The previous 11-day stretch of at least eight tornadoes per day ended on June 7, 1980.

"We're getting big counts on a lot of these days and that is certainly unusual," Marsh said.

The National Weather Service had already received at least 27 more reports of tornadoes Tuesday, suggesting that the record for consecutive days would be broken once the official totals are in.

The weather service has received 934 tornado reports so far this year, up from the yearly average of 743 observed tornadoes. More than 500 of those reports came in the last 30 days. The actual number is likely lower, however, because some of the reports probably come from different witnesses who spot the same twister.

The U.S. has experienced a lull in the number of tornadoes since 2012, with tornado counts tracking at or below average each year and meteorologists still working to figure out why.

"A lot of people are trying to answer that, but there's no definitive answer," Marsh said.

The recent surge in tornado activity over the past two weeks was driven by high pressure over the Southeast and an unusually cold trough over the Rockies that forced warm, moist air into the central U.S., sparking repeated severe thunderstorms and periodic tornadoes.

"Neither one of these large systems —the high over the Southeast or the trough over the Rockies— are showing signs of moving," Marsh said. "It's a little unusual for them to be so entrenched this late in the season."

Those conditions are ripe for the kind of tornadoes that have swept across the Midwest in the last two weeks, said Cathy Zapotocny, a meteorologist for the weather service in Valley, Nebraska. Zapotocny said the unstable atmosphere helped fuel many of the severe winter storms and subsequent flooding that ravaged Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri earlier this year.

"We've been stuck in this pattern since February," she said.

Zapotocny said the number of tornadoes this year was "basically normal" until the surge this week. May is typically the month with the highest incidence of tornadoes, usually in the Plains and Midwestern states collectively known as Tornado Alley, where most of this year's twisters have hit.

Most of the confirmed tornadoes were rated as less-intense EF0, EF1 and EF2s on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. But 23 were classified as EF3 tornadoes, with wind speeds of 136-165 mph. The strongest confirmed tornado this year was the EF4 tornado that killed 23 people in Alabama in March.

So far this year, 38 people have died in 10 tornadoes in the United States, including a combined seven within the last week in Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma and Ohio.

The relative quiet in recent years followed the massive tornado that killed 161 people and injured more than 1,100 in Joplin, Missouri, in 2011. The EF5 storm packed winds in excess of 200 mph and was on the ground for more than 22 miles.

Scientists also say climate change is responsible for more intense and more frequent extreme weather such as storms, droughts, floods and fires, but without extensive study they cannot directly link a single weather event to the changing climate.

Monday's outbreak was unusual because it occurred over a particularly wide geographic area. Eight states were affected by two regional outbreaks, in the high Plains and the Ohio River Valley.

Tornadoes strafed the Kansas City metropolitan area straddling Kansas and Missouri Tuesday night, barely a week after a massive tornado ripped through the Missouri state capital of Jefferson City.

## Tornadoes stretch into Pennsylvania

By JULIE WRIGHT AND JOHN HANNA Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A vicious storm tore through the Kansas City area, spawning tornadoes that downed trees and power lines, damaged homes and injured at least a dozen people in the latest barrage of severe weather that saw tornado warnings as far east as New York City.

Parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey also were under tornado warnings hours after a swarm of tightly packed twisters swept through Indiana and Ohio overnight, smashing homes, blowing out windows and ending the school year early for some students because of damage to buildings. One person was killed and at least 130 were injured.

The storms in Kansas City Tuesday were the 12th straight day that at least eight tornadoes were reported to the National Weather Service.

After several quiet years, the past couple of weeks have seen an explosion of tornado activity with no end to the pattern in sight.

A large and dangerous tornado touched down on the western edge of Kansas City, Kansas, late Tuesday, the National Weather Service office reported. At least a dozen people were admitted to the hospital in Lawrence, 40 miles (64 kilometers) west of downtown Kansas City, Missouri, and home to the University of Kansas, hospital spokesman Janice Early said. Damage also was reported in the towns of Linwood, Bonner Springs and Pleasant Grove in Kansas.

But the Kansas City metropolitan area of about 2.1 million people appeared to have been spared the direct hit that was feared earlier in the evening when the weather service announced a tornado emergency.

Mark Duffin, 48, learned from his wife and a television report that the large tornado was headed toward his home in Linwood, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) west of Kansas City.

The next thing he knew, the walls of his house were coming down.

Duffin told the Kansas City Star that he grabbed a mattress, followed his 13-year-old to the basement and protected the two of them with the mattress as the home crashed down around them.

"I'm just glad I found my two dogs alive," he said. "Wife's alive, family's alive, I'm alive. So, that's it."

The severe weather wasn't limited to the Midwest. Tornadoes were confirmed in eastern Pennsylvania and the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for parts of New York City and northern New Jersey.

The winds peeled away roofs — leaving homes looking like giant dollhouses — knocked houses off their foundations, toppled trees, brought down power lines and churned up so much debris that it was visible on radar. Highway crews had to use snowplows to clear an Ohio interstate.

Some of the heaviest damage was reported just outside Dayton, Ohio.

"I just got down on all fours and covered my head with my hands," said Francis Dutmers, who with his wife headed for the basement of their home in Vandalia, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) outside Dayton, when the storm hit with a "very loud roar" Monday night. The winds blew out windows around his house, filled rooms with debris and took down most of his trees.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency in three hard-hit counties, allowing the state to suspend normal purchasing procedures and quickly provide supplies like generators and water.

Monday marked the record-tying 11th straight day with at least eight tornadoes in the U.S., said Patrick Marsh, a Storm Prediction Center meteorologist. The last such stretch was in 1980. The weather service website showed at least 27 reports of tornadoes on Tuesday, most in Kansas and Missouri but also in Pennsylvania and Illinois.

Outbreaks of 50 or more tornadoes are not uncommon, having happened 63 times in U.S. history, with three instances of more than 100 twisters, Marsh said. But Monday's swarm was unusual because it happened over a particularly wide geographic area and came amid an especially active stretch, he said.

As for why it's happening, Marsh said high pressure over the Southeast and an unusually cold trough over the Rockies are forcing warm, moist air into the central U.S., triggering repeated severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. And neither system is showing signs of moving, he said.

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Scientists say climate change is responsible for more intense and more frequent extreme weather such as storms, droughts, floods and fires, but without extensive study they cannot directly link a single weather event to the changing climate.

## 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. TORNADOES STRAFE KANSAS CITY AREA

The vicious storm spawns twisters that downs trees and power lines, damages homes and injures at least a dozen people.

### 2. WHO THINKS IT'S A 2-MAN RACE

Even with a field of 24 Democrats, President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden are acting like the 2020 presidential contest is already just between them.

### 3. WHAT BOLTON SAYS ABOUT IRAN'S INTENTIONS

Trump's national security adviser claims there is "no reason" for Tehran to back out of its nuclear deal with world powers other than to seek atomic weapons.

### 4. WHY NETANYAHU HAS BEEN QUIET ON IRAN-US TENSIONS

The Israeli leader does not want to be seen as pushing the Americans into a military confrontation and is wary of being drawn into fighting with Iran's powerful proxy, Lebanon's Hezbollah.

### 5. 'PAIN LEAGUE' EXPOSED ABROAD

Managers with Purdue Pharma's international arm have been ensnared in a corruption scandal in Italy for allegedly paying a prominent pain doctor to push opioids, AP learns.

### 6. HUAWEI CHALLENGES US IN COURT

The Chinese tech giant files a motion in a Texas court objecting to the constitutionality of a law that limits its sales of telecom equipment.

### 7. WHERE US-CUBA RELATIONS HAVE SOURED

The degradation has begun to cut into scientific and medical cooperation on issues ranging from treatment of infectious diseases to coral reef preservation.

### 8. D-DAY TOLD ANEW WITH VIRTUAL REALITY

Archeologists using laser scanning are mapping caves where thousands of French civilians sheltered on D-Day and in the battle of Normandy that followed, AP finds.

### 9. AS CRAFT BEER MARKET GROWS, SO DO WILD FLAVORS

At the Strange Brew Festival in Nevada, visitors could sample a peanut butter and pickle pilsner, a tamale lager and a smoked carrot stout.

### 10. 'GAME OF THRONES' STAR CHECKS INTO WELLNESS CENTER

Kit Harington, who played Jon Snow on the HBO hit, checks into the retreat to work on some "personal issues," his representative says.

## 2020 preview? Feud between Trump and Biden flares up

By STEVE PEOPLES and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Democrats won't pick their nominee for another year, but President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden are acting like the 2020 presidential contest is already a two-man race.

Almost completely ignoring his 23 Democratic competitors, Biden has been laser-focused on Trump — particularly his embrace of racist rhetoric. But it has been Trump's recent focus on Biden that has surprised both his allies and critics, who believe the Republican president may be unintentionally elevating someone whose candidacy is barely a month old.

Trump's advisers have privately encouraged him to lay off Biden. He has done the opposite, lobbing more public insults at the former vice president than any other Democrat over the month. Trump's latest attack was perhaps his most brazen: During a state visit to Japan on Monday, he agreed with North Korean

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leader Kim Jong Un's recent description of Biden as a "low-IQ individual."

A Biden campaign aide on Tuesday called the comments "beneath the dignity of the office." The campaign said it waited a day to respond out of respect for Memorial Day, a holiday that honors the service of military veterans.

"To be on foreign soil, on Memorial Day, and to side repeatedly with a murderous dictator against a fellow American and former vice president speaks for itself," said Biden deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield.

Democrats on the ground in key primary states report that the intensifying feud has strengthened Biden's argument that he's best positioned to take down Trump in 2020. For many voters, nothing matters more than electability. And with Trump's help, Biden is dominating that debate.

Regardless of the short-term political fallout, it's becoming increasingly clear that Trump and his allies view Biden as their most formidable opponent. And the anti-Biden assault could become more organized and intense should Biden maintain his front-runner status in the coming months.

"Trump seems to be obsessed with Biden, which suggests that he's afraid of him," said Gary Pearce, a longtime Democratic operative based in North Carolina.

"Clearly, the reason Trump is going after Biden is because he's perceived as the biggest threat," Republican strategist Alice Stewart concurred. "From Biden's standpoint, you couldn't ask for a better situation."

Trump's attacks on Biden are not part of an organized strategy, according to three people familiar with the campaign's thinking who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters. They described the situation as Trump tweeting and the campaign and the Republican National Committee working overtime to keep up — as evidenced by the delays in both entities in amplifying the president's message. It's consistent with Trump's view of himself as his own political strategist, prioritizing his gut over the advice of aides.

In recent weeks, the president has attacked Biden's intelligence, his energy level, his history of unwanted touching, his record on criminal justice reform and his dedication to Pennsylvania. Trump told Pennsylvania voters during a rally last week that Biden "deserted" them. Biden, a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, left the state as a child when his parents relocated for work.

"I've never forgotten where I came from. My family did have to leave Pennsylvania when I was 10 — we moved to Delaware where my Dad found a job that could provide for our family," Biden tweeted. "Trump doesn't understand the struggles working folks go through."

But Trump went further on Monday when he swiped at the former vice president on foreign soil, choosing Kim's side over Biden's when asked about the North Korean leader's description of the Democrat's intelligence level.

"I don't take sides as to who I'm in favor of or who I'm not," Trump told reporters in Japan 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."

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

On Tuesday, Trump claimed that he "was actually sticking up" for Biden in Japan. He said that Kim had referred to Biden as a "low IQ idiot" and that he had "related the quote of Chairman Kim as a much softer 'low IQ individual.'"

"Who could possibly be upset with that?" the president tweeted.

Trump's swipes against Biden have been the subject of significant internal debate in the halls of the West Wing and his reelection campaign.

Several officials, including Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner, have expressed reservations that the president is helping Biden, whom they view as his strongest opponent, according to the three people familiar with the campaign's thinking. Trump may be highlighting Biden's vulnerabilities for progressive voters, especially when it comes to his history on criminal justice issues. But in attacking the former vice president, some aides believe Trump risks turning Biden into a cause célèbre for Democratic

voters who are most animated by their dislike of Trump.

That could prove especially problematic if Biden proves most resistant to the Trump campaign's entrenched strategy to paint all of Trump's opponents as "socialists." Biden's blue-collar appeal in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin poses the deepest threat to the president's path to 270 electoral votes.

Others in Trump's orbit are less worried and believe Biden might be the easiest to beat of the Democratic field.

"I happen to believe Biden would be the weakest of the general election candidates because he'll be carrying 47 years of baggage and will have many of same vulnerabilities as (Hillary) Clinton," said Trump's 2016 senior communications adviser, Jason Miller.

Billionaire Republican donor Doug Deason, who sits on the finance committee for the most powerful pro-Trump super PAC, cheered Trump's approach.

"Why is he going after Biden? Biden is leading in the polls. He can beat 'em up," Deason said. "I think he's the only real legitimate contestant in the field. And I think it would be a shame for Democrats to end their race to the left and nominate him."

Still, few Biden supporters view the attention from the president as a bad thing.

Biden's campaign seized on Trump's attacks in a Tuesday fundraising email titled "Donald Trump is scared."

"Over the last week, President Trump has repeatedly insulted Joe Biden — even going so far as to side with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. Why? It's simple: Trump's afraid he's going to lose," says the fundraising appeal.

It adds: "Let's use this opportunity to show Donald Trump he should be scared of our momentum."

Miller reported from Washington.

## In UAE, Trump's adviser accuses Iran of seeking nuclear arms

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Donald Trump's national security adviser said Wednesday there was "no reason" for Iran to back out of its nuclear deal with world powers other than to seek atomic weapons, a year after the U.S. president unilaterally withdrew America from the accord.

John Bolton, long a hawk on Iran, also claimed — without offering evidence — that the alleged sabotage of four oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates came from naval mines placed "almost certainly by Iran."

Speaking in Abu Dhabi, the Emirati capital, Bolton told journalists that there had been a previously unknown attempt to attack the Saudi oil port of Yanbu as well.

However, Bolton stressed that the U.S. has not seen any further Iranian attacks in the time since, something he attributed to military deployments — America recently sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf.

He warned the U.S. would strike back if attacked.

"The point is to make it very clear to Iran and its surrogates that these kinds of action risk a very strong response from the United States," Bolton threatened, without elaborating.

Saudi officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment about Bolton's claim on Yanbu, which is the terminus, or end point, of the kingdom's East-West Pipeline. That pipeline was attacked in recent days in a coordinated drone assault launched by Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

In recent weeks, tensions have soared as the U.S. beefed up its military presence in the Persian Gulf in response to a still-unexplained threat from Iran.

The U.S. also has accused Iran of being behind a string of incidents, including the alleged sabotage of oil tankers near the UAE coast and a rocket that landed near the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, while Yemen's Iranian-aligned Houthi rebels have launched a string of drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia.

Iran, meanwhile, has announced it was backing away from the 2015 nuclear deal, which saw it limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Trump withdrew the U.S. from

the accord as he believes it didn't go far enough in limiting the Iranian nuclear program, nor did it address Iran's ballistic missile program.

Bolton said that without more nuclear power plants, it made no sense for Iran to stockpile more low-enriched uranium as it now plans to do. But the U.S. also earlier cut off Iran's ability to sell its uranium to Russia in exchange for unprocessed yellow-cake uranium.

Iran has set a July 7 deadline for Europe to offer better terms to the unraveling nuclear deal, otherwise it will resume enrichment closer to weapons level.

Bolton declined to say what the U.S. would do in response to that but he criticized Iran's actions.

"There's no reason for them to do any of that unless that's part of an effort to reduce the breakout time to produce nuclear weapons," Bolton said. "That's a very serious issue if they continue to do that."

Iran long has insisted its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes. However, Western powers pushed for the nuclear deal to limit Iran's ability to seek atomic weapons.

"This is just more graphic evidence that it hasn't constrained their continuing desire to have nuclear weapons," Bolton added. "It certainly hasn't reduced their terrorist activities in the region that we just discussed or their other malign behavior in their use of conventional forces."

Bolton declined to offer any evidence in blaming Iran for the attacks, citing ongoing investigations.

"Who else would you think is doing it?" he asked rhetorically at one point. "Somebody from Nepal?"

## **AP Report: 'Pain League' allegedly pushed opioids in Italy**

**By CLAIRE GALOFARO and FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press**

PARMA, Italy (AP) — The police huddled for hours each day, headphones on, eavesdropping on the doctor. They'd tapped his cellphone, bugged his office, planted a camera in a trattoria.

They heard him boast about his power to help Big Pharma make millions pushing painkillers, and about all the money they say he was paid in exchange.

Now Dr. Guido Fanelli is at the center of a sprawling corruption case alleging he took kickbacks from an alliance of pharmaceutical executives he nicknamed "The Pain League." Its members, police say, included managers with Mundipharma — the international arm of Purdue Pharma, which is facing some 2,000 lawsuits in the United States over its role in the opioid crisis that has claimed 400,000 lives in two decades.

This is the first known case outside the U.S. where employees of the pharmaceutical empire owned by the Sackler family have been criminally implicated, more than a decade after Purdue executives were convicted over misleading the American public about the addictiveness of OxyContin.

Hundreds of pages of investigative files obtained by The Associated Press detail how Fanelli helped executives from Mundipharma's Italian branch and other companies promote painkillers by writing papers, organizing conferences and working to counter government warnings that opioid consumption was spiking and that physicians should be cautious. The message trumpeted, the AP found, was that there is an epidemic of chronic pain, addiction fears are exaggerated and not prescribing opioids can amount to neglecting the suffering of patients.

Those are the same practices, experts say, that the pharmaceutical industry employed in the U.S. beginning in the 1990s that helped pave the road to disaster.

What Italian police overheard on their wiretaps offers a look at how pharmaceutical executives still pushed opioids abroad even after the cause and consequence of the American epidemic had become apparent.

As the U.S. market contracts, opioid consumption is climbing overseas. Canada and Australia are already following America's catastrophic course, with rising rates of addiction and death. Others may be on the cusp of crisis: Researchers in Brazil report that prescription opioid sales have skyrocketed 465 percent in six years. Overdose deaths are going up in Sweden, Norway, Ireland and England, fueled by prescription painkillers and the illicit drug trade.

Opioid consumption has increased in Italy, too, though authorities say widespread addiction has not taken root in this country with historically strict regulations and a cultural skepticism of the drugs — both of which Fanelli apparently worked to reverse.

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"It makes me feel sick more than anything else," U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark said when she learned of the investigation from the AP.

Clark sent a letter to the World Health Organization in 2017, warning of "deceptive and dangerous practices" of Mundipharma and Purdue and imploring the agency to act — before the American epidemic becomes a pandemic.

"We don't want to be proven right," she said.

Two Mundipharma managers accepted plea bargains in January in connection to allegations that they paid the doctor to help sell more drugs. A lawyer representing them said the pleas are not an admission of guilt. The company's Italian branch was fined. A spokesman for Mundipharma Europe said the corporation did not admit wrongdoing and denied it endorsed any message minimizing addiction risks.

The Carabinieri, Italy's storied paramilitary police corps, code-named its case "Pasimafi," the name of the yacht they say the doctor bought with his kickbacks.

They were listening in when an alleged conspirator joked that Mundipharma employees had given Fanelli so much money, the company logo should be plastered on the stern.

## "THE BUSINESS OF PAIN"

The Carabinieri stumbled onto Fanelli.

In early 2015, the national health system noticed an unusually high expenditure for blood filters. Officer Giandomenico Nupieri tapped a suspect's phone. Earlier in his career, Nupieri had investigated mobsters, so his ears were attuned to cryptic codes of crime. The suspect mentioned Fanelli as well-connected and able to help boost pharmaceutical sales, and said he planned to meet him at a trattoria in Parma, the northern Italian city known for its prosciutto and parmesan.

Investigators installed a camera, researched Fanelli and realized they were onto something bigger than blood filters.

Fanelli was a star in the Italian medical world, respected by the government and often featured on the news, with his unbuttoned shirt collars and mop of pepper-gray hair. He served as a chief of the anesthesiology and pain therapy department at Maggiore Hospital in Parma, and called himself the father of a 2010 law that made opioids easier to prescribe, which he championed as necessary to ease suffering.

But in 2009, as he was helping to draft the law, prosecutors allege he began meeting with "The Pain League," including managers from Mundipharma, several Italian pharmaceutical companies and the Italian arm of German-based Grunenthal.

"The drug companies saw him as the vehicle to commercially promote their own drugs," said Maj. Gianfranco Di Sario, who oversaw the police investigation. Prosecutors allege that Fanelli drew in a web of conspirators, from organizers of medical conferences to fellow physicians. Fanelli, through his lawyer, declined comment.

Italy, unlike the U.S., has strict laws limiting drug companies' influence on medical training and practice. A specialized unit of the Carabinieri is tasked with safeguarding citizens' health. The Italian language even has a specific word for the crime committed by doctors who work to drive up drug sales: "comparaggio."

So police got to work, listening in to Fanelli's conversations and reading his text messages.

In partial transcripts obtained by the AP, Fanelli often exaggerates his dominance in medicine. He claimed he once confronted Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the United States' National Institute on Drug Abuse, after she'd asserted that opioids are often not the best solution for chronic pain. Fanelli crowed of telling her to focus on America and let him take care of the rest of the world. Volkow, through a spokesperson, said she does not know Fanelli and has no recollection of the confrontation.

Luca Finocchiaro, an attorney for a Grunenthal manager implicated in the case, described Fanelli as a motormouth and a braggart, and said the executives would put down their phones, not bothering to listen, as the doctor prattled on "without much sense." The Grunenthal employees maintain their innocence.

And yet the doctor was paid well: According to the investigative file, 464,000 euros from Mundipharma (about \$500,000) and 640,855 euros from Grunenthal (about \$700,000) flowed into businesses Fanelli allegedly set up to hide the payments, beginning in 2009. Spokesmen for Mundipharma and Grunenthal

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said the corporate offices thought the money was for legitimate services, like consultancy and events.

Police allege a "bustarella" — an envelope filled with illicit cash — would occasionally arrive from officials with other companies at Fanelli's hospital office.

"I created a system," police say the doctor bragged. "That is the business of pain."

## A STILL-BOOMING BUSINESS

OxyContin came onto the American market in 1996. Doctors had been apprehensive about opioids, notorious for their miraculous painkilling power but also extraordinary addictiveness, and tended to prescribe them only to the extremely sick and dying.

But Purdue Pharma claimed that OxyContin, twice as potent as morphine, was minimally addictive when prescribed for pain. Its marketing coincided with other forces, including a movement in medical circles to better manage patients' pain. Opioid prescriptions increased for ailments like arthritis, backaches, migraines. The prescription rate quadrupled between 1999 and 2010, and overdoses climbed.

The spectacular success of OxyContin added Purdue's owner, the Sackler family, to the Forbes list of richest American families. In New York, there's a Sackler Wing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and a Sackler Center for Arts Education at The Guggenheim. There's a Sackler Room at the National Gallery in London, a Sackler Wing of Oriental Antiquities at the Louvre.

Protesters have started storming the museums, raining prescription slips from balconies and unfurling signs that read "Shame on Sackler. 200 Dead Each Day."

In the U.S., Purdue and three executives were fined more than \$600 million after pleading guilty in 2007 to misbranding OxyContin by downplaying its addictiveness. Purdue and the Sacklers this year agreed to pay another \$270 million to Oklahoma to settle a lawsuit alleging misleading marketing helped unleash the U.S. addiction epidemic.

The company has vehemently defended itself. Purdue spokesman Bob Josephson notes the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved OxyContin for chronic pain and that a judge recently dismissed one lawsuit after finding the company's marketing was consistent with its FDA approval. Hundreds more lawsuits are still pending against Purdue and other companies. The Sacklers, through a spokeswoman, declined to comment.

Through all this, the family's international operation has stayed mostly out of the limelight.

Mundipharma, like Purdue, is owned by a network of trusts that benefit the Sacklers. Its websites date the company's beginnings to 1952, when two Sackler brothers bought Purdue. Patrice Grand, a spokesman for Mundipharma Europe, said the companies have different managers and portfolios and do not share strategies.

Mundipharma's branch in Italy began in 2005; the Italian Business Register lists the owners as three Luxembourg companies and American-based Rosebay Medical Co., which is named in two of the U.S. opioid lawsuits. A 2017 U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing lists Richard and Jonathan Sackler as members of Rosebay's board.

Mundipharma's network now operates in more than 120 countries, and an emerging markets group has expanded into Asia, Africa and Latin America, selling an assortment of drugs that includes opioids.

A 2016 Los Angeles Times story reported that Mundipharma was repeating some of Purdue's controversial marketing tactics overseas, prompting U.S. Rep. Clark and 11 other members of Congress to urge the World Health Organization to intervene before other nations import addiction. All they heard back was that their letter had been received.

"We cannot just sit by and hope this is a uniquely American experience," Clark told the AP.

Mundipharma sent a representative to the WHO to defend the company's practices as ethical, Grand said. Mundipharma has stopped promoting opioids in Europe, he said, and the drugs now make up less than 40 percent of European sales.

The U.S. has backed away from recommending opioids for chronic pain. The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that up to 29 percent of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain eventually misuse

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them. And in 2016, the Centers for Disease Control issued guidelines finding no good evidence that opioids are effective long term and the risks far outweigh the benefits.

That same year, Mundipharma's operation in Italy released the results of a study proclaiming nearly half of Italians suffer chronic pain. The news release offered a solution: opioid painkillers.

"The still limited use of opioid drugs derives from cultural heritage," it said, "and unfounded fears about the alleged risks of addiction."

## "THE WEAPONS OF SCIENCE"

In early 2015, the Italian government noticed a surge in opioid consumption.

Luca Pani, then head of the Agenzia Italiana del Farmaco, which monitors medication, told the media that until the 2010 law that Fanelli helped write, doctors were reluctant to prescribe opioids. But the numbers — a more than 30 percent jump in certain formulations — represented a reversal "that takes on the semblance of abuse," Pani said. He urged doctors to be cautious.

Prosecutors say Fanelli sprang into action and told a Grunenthal executive not to appear at an upcoming press event. Journalists would ask about the government's warning, Fanelli allegedly said: "And you are exposed."

The doctor invited executives from Mundipharma and Grunenthal, along with Italian drug companies Molteni and Angelini, to Milan to strategize how to counter the warning, prosecutors say, and then he got to work implementing the plan. Representatives for Molteni did not respond to requests for comment. A lawyer for Angelini and one of its managers said his clients did nothing wrong.

Fanelli prepared a scientific paper — "Opioids for chronic non-cancer pain: a critical view from the other side of the pond" — that said the alarm bells ringing in the United States should not be applied to other countries and that doctors should continue prescribing opioids for chronic pain. He texted the Italy Mundipharma executives: "Good news, position paper against addiction, supporting opioids signed by me," prosecutors allege. The paper, one of several Fanelli authored downplaying the risk of addiction, was published in the journal *Minerva Anestesiologica*.

Police officers allege that they once overheard Fanelli brag to a Mundipharma manager that the papers he wrote were "the weapons of science."

Another paper, prosecutors allege, was published on behalf of Molteni. Fanelli allegedly drove his Porsche to a cafe to meet a Molteni executive and later boasted to his wife about receiving "a score of brioches." Prosecutors contend that was code for a 20,000 euro payoff. A lawyer for the Molteni executive said his client declined to comment.

In the U.S., lawsuits against Purdue and other companies claim they paid "key opinion leaders," often prominent pain doctors, who wrote papers that added a veneer of science to commercial claims about the safety of opioids.

One Fanelli paper cites the same specious science once used in the U.S., and others claim that reining in prescriptions would lead to undertreating pain and that pain treatment is a human right. That message liberalized the culture of opioid prescribing for a generation of American doctors, experts say.

"They're using the same playbook that worked in the United States," said Andrew Kolodny, executive director of Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, "despite knowing that it led to a public health catastrophe."

Grand, the Mundipharma spokesman, rejected that, saying: "There is no such playbook." He said the corporate office was unaware of any alleged wrongdoing and the relationship with Fanelli was managed entirely by the executives in Italy.

Fanelli often said that Italy should liberalize its prescribing culture, too. The newspaper "La Repubblica" interviewed him for a story about the spike in opioid consumption, and he said the real risk was that doctors would limit prescriptions even more.

When an executive from Italian pharma company Angelini picked up the newspaper, investigators say, he called Fanelli to complain.

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Fanelli defended himself as having the guts "to go out on a limb."

## "BRINGING IN THE MONEY FOR PAIN"

A traveling road show pulled into Parma on April 16, 2015, and set up an inflatable tent. Investigators heard Fanelli quip that it resembled a giant condom.

The GP Open Road was making its eighth stop on a 16-city tour professing about the plight of chronic pain. General practitioners were the target audience; a press release said many doctors were still "far from adequately managing the disease of pain." One story about the show quoted Fanelli saying common anti-inflammatory drugs were overused and that opioids should be prescribed instead.

The event was hosted by the nonprofit Vivere Senza Dolore, or "Living Without Pain." The president of the board was Marta Gentili, Mundipharma's marketing manager in Italy. The secretary, according to prosecutors, was the founder of a public relations firm that counted Mundipharma's Italian branch among its clients.

As doctors filed into the tent, five Carabinieri officers arrived at a yacht club an hour away near the seaport of La Spezia.

Police had been listening days before when Fanelli allegedly described a plan to launder 31,000 euros from his Mundipharma partners by claiming the yacht was catering lunch for the GP Open Road. Officers found the boat covered with a tarp and the parking lot empty.

The yacht, the Pasimafi V, was owned by a company Fanelli allegedly created to cover his kickbacks; the same firm officially owned Fanelli's Porsche Macan and 4,300-square-foot penthouse in Parma with a rooftop swimming pool.

Investigators also were listening when Fanelli complained about Mundipharma to an alleged co-conspirator; the other man joked that Fanelli should be careful and his yacht might as well have "the logo Mundipharma on its stern" because of all the money he'd supposedly gotten. Fanelli retorted that "GF," his initials, should be on a Mundipharma executive's bank account because he'd helped the company make millions off drugs.

The doctor's grandest plan to help the companies, prosecutors allege, was a continuing medical education conference called the World Medicine Park, which Fanelli billed as a vital global discussion on pain management. In private, police allege, Fanelli said the goal was: "Bringing in the money for pain."

Fanelli was scientific director of the conference, held in May 2015 on the island of Mallorca.

Nick Ross arrived and immediately felt unnerved. Ross, a British broadcaster, often moderates conferences and had expected a familiar scene: earnest doctors packed into classrooms taking notes. Instead he found temporary tents set up at the beach and empty lecture halls.

"There seemed to be a hell of a lot of pharmaceutical people there," recalls Ross. "And I remember being concerned, even suspicious."

Prosecutors would later describe the event as "upside down." The director is supposed to pick the speakers and subjects, but Fanelli, prosecutors say, turned that task over to pharmaceutical companies, including officials with Mundipharma and Grunenthal.

It was "exclusively a marketing event, formally authorized for scientific aims," prosecutors contend, "but which had nothing to do with being scientifically independent."

## "A BLOW TO THE HEART"

After two years of listening, the Carabinieri moved in.

At 4 a.m. on May 8, 2017, police fanned out across Italy, pounding on doors, rounding up physicians and executives, and carting off documents from offices.

They jolted Fanelli out of bed. It was a spectacular fall from grace for a man who'd appeared on TV days before to promote painkillers.

Calls from panicked patients poured into the hospital where Fanelli worked. "Patients were rightly asking: 'Was I treated properly or not?'" said Massimo Fabi, the hospital's director general. "The news arrived like a blow to the heart."

Among those implicated were Marco Filippini, Mundipharma's general manager for southern Europe, in-

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cluding Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium and Turkey; Riccardo Cerbai, the business and marketing director in Italy; and Gentili, the marketing manager. The Mundipharma spokesman said Filippini and Cerbai were immediately suspended and then fired last September. Gentili had already left the company.

In January, Filippini and Cerbai agreed to plea bargains. Filippini got a suspended sentence of one year, 10 months and one day, while Cerbai received a suspended sentence of one year, six months and seven days. The executives declined interviews through their lawyer.

Gentili denied wrongdoing and wrote in a statement that she has dedicated her life to helping people with chronic pain; she awaits a judge's decision on how the case should proceed. A series of preliminary hearings began this month.

Also implicated and awaiting next steps are Grunenthal's Alberto Grua, chief commercial officer for Europe, Australia and North America, and Thilo Stadler, general manager for southern Europe. They are no longer with the company, spokesman Stepan Kracala said. Marketing director Sara Carlini was named in the probe but remains employed. Through lawyers, they all proclaimed innocence.

Dario Romano, the Angelini lawyer, said his clients chose not to seek a plea bargain because they are confident they will be exonerated should the case go to trial.

Deputy Prosecutor Paola Dal Monte has requested indictments against 55 people and 10 companies. Mundipharma and Grunenthal Italia are not among them, because they accepted plea bargains for failing to prevent the alleged activities. Mundipharma's Italian branch was fined 40,000 euros and Grunenthal Italia, 50,000 euros.

Both companies, spokesmen said, immediately launched internal investigations.

Grunenthal retrained employees and created a whistleblower hotline, Kracala said. Mundipharma's probe found violations of company policies, Grand said, but concluded "a significant part" of the payments into Fanelli's businesses appeared to be legitimate. Mundipharma revamped policies to the satisfaction of Italian prosecutors, who withdrew a motion seeking to suspend the company from government contracts.

Fanelli spent four months on house arrest at his penthouse in Parma. He was suspended without pay and barred from practicing medicine pending resolution of the case. He is now free to come and go as he waits to learn if he will stand trial.

## "WHY CAN'T IT HAPPEN HERE?"

The scandal has not caused this country to rethink the law Fanelli helped write. At an annual review after the arrests, Emilia De Biasi, then a member of Italy's Senate, said the allegations shouldn't sully a law "that many envy." Other countries, including Mexico and Poland, have since passed measures to make it easier to prescribe opioids.

Italian consumption of prescription opioids went from 1.1 daily doses per thousand people in 2005 to 4.5 in 2017, according to government reports, but the country so far shows no sign of an addiction crisis.

Dr. Antonio Boschini works at San Patrignano center, among the largest residential rehabs in Europe near the farm town of Coriano. He said he believes Italy has been spared in part because Italians don't share the American expectation that all things can be cured by a pill. But he worries that the experience of the U.S. opioid epidemic "hasn't been received and absorbed" in Italy.

Several of his patients have recently returned from the emergency room for sprained ankles or backaches with prescriptions, feeding his fear that some doctors don't recognize the risk.

"There is this feeling that this danger doesn't exist. It's a problem that happened there, but here it won't happen," Boschini said. "Why can't it happen here?"

Grunenthal's spokesman said the company is analyzing whether patterns from the American epidemic are emerging elsewhere and will soon release the results of the research. The company, which sells drugs in more than 100 countries, is committed to reaching patients in places that have little access to pain medications while limiting addiction risk, he said.

No other country is experiencing an addiction problem on a U.S. scale, Mundipharma's Grand noted. Globally, the network continues to expand. In January, Mundipharma told an Asian business journal that China is set to become its second-largest drug market and could surpass U.S. sales by 2025.

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Keith Humphreys, a Stanford University professor, published a paper in 2017 pleading with the world to pay attention, especially as prescription rates rise in developing countries with minimal regulation. "As Oxy marches around the world, the things we see in Europe will be disturbing," he said, "but less so than they will be in Botswana or India."

In Italy, the Fanelli case has barely registered in this country accustomed to corruption scandals and an ocean away from the American plague.

The Pasimafi V yacht sits sequestered on wooden planks at a dock. A sign reading "subject to seizure," on the Carabinieri's letterhead, is taped to the cabin door. Fanelli's Porsche and penthouse are also gone, seized by police.

But his papers — "the weapons of science," he allegedly called them — still live on the internet, as opioid painkillers proliferate around the globe.

Galofaro, based in Louisville, Kentucky, is an AP national writer who covers the opioid epidemic. She reported in the U.S. and Italy. D'Emilio, based in Rome, reported from Italy. The AP's reporting is funded in part by a grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

If you are a doctor, researcher, pharmaceutical employee or resident living outside of the U.S. and have concerns about opioid availability or addiction issues in your country, please contact Galofaro at [cgalofaro@ap.org](mailto:cgalofaro@ap.org) or on Twitter at [@clairagalofaro](https://twitter.com/clairagalofaro)

## Huawei asks court to deem US security law unconstitutional

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

SHENZHEN, China (AP) — Fighting to maintain its access to major markets for next-generation communications, Chinese tech giant Huawei is challenging the constitutionality of a U.S. law that limits its sales of telecom equipment.

Huawei's chief legal officer Song Liuping said at a press briefing Wednesday that Huawei filed a motion for summary judgment asking the court in Plano, Texas, to rule on whether a U.S. military spending provision that bars the government and its contractors from using Huawei equipment is constitutional.

Huawei is the biggest global maker of network equipment and enjoys a lead in 5G, or fifth-generation, technology. It also is the No. 2 maker of smartphones. The Trump administration claims the company could use its equipment to spy on behalf of the Chinese government and is thus a threat to international cybersecurity.

"This decision threatens to harm our customers in over 170 countries, including more than 3 billion customers who use Huawei products and services around the world," Song said.

Huawei, whose U.S. headquarters is in Plano, launched a lawsuit in March against the U.S. national defense law, calling the provision a "bill of attainder" that selectively punishes Huawei and violates its due process by presuming its guilt without a fair trial. The summary judgment motion seeks to accelerate the legal process to give U.S. customers access to Huawei equipment sooner, according to a Wednesday statement from Huawei.

Song said the "state-sanctioned campaign" against the company will not improve cybersecurity.

"Politicians in the U.S. are using the strength of an entire nation to come after a private company," he said. "This is not normal."

Apart from the defense law provision, the U.S. Commerce Department recently placed Huawei on its "Entity List," effectively barring U.S. firms from selling their technology to it and other Chinese firms without government approval. Huawei relies heavily on U.S. components, including computer chips, and about one-third of its suppliers are American.

The moves against Huawei are part of a broader trade war between the world's two largest economies that has both sides imposing billions of dollars of punitive tariffs against each other's products.

The dispute centers on China's huge longstanding trade surplus with the U.S. and complaints that Beijing

and Chinese companies use unfair tactics to acquire advanced foreign technologies.

The most recent round of negotiations between Beijing and Washington ended earlier this month without an agreement after Trump more than doubled duties on \$200 billion in Chinese imports. China responded by raising tariffs of 5% to 25% on \$60 billion worth of American goods.

The moves against Huawei have already affected the company's U.S. partnerships. Google said it would continue to support existing Huawei smartphones, but future devices won't carry its flagship apps and services, including maps, Gmail and search — a change that will likely make Huawei phones less appealing.

Song said the U.S. has not provided any evidence to show that Huawei is a security threat.

"There is no gun, no smoke, only speculation," he said, accusing the U.S. of setting a "dangerous precedent."

"Today it's telecoms and Huawei," he said. "Tomorrow it could be your industry, your company, your consumers."

Song said Huawei was asking FedEx about four packages containing paper work that were found to have been diverted to FedEx headquarters in the U.S. instead of being delivered to Huawei offices in Asia.

FedEx apologized and said the packages were misrouted accidentally. It said the company wasn't told by anyone to divert the packages.

Song said Huawei was aware of FedEx's apology over the incident. But the company has questioned if the diversions were purely accidental.

"I don't think it is right for any company to intercept or detain individual documents or information. If our rights were truly infringed upon, we have the legal rights to defend ourselves," he said.

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Associated Press video producer Olivia Zhang contributed to this report.

## **Navy SEAL seeks to toss slaying case over withheld evidence**

**By JULIE WATSON and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press**

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Lawyers for a Navy SEAL accused of killing an Islamic State prisoner in Iraq in 2017 want the case thrown out because of alleged prosecutorial misconduct that include withholding evidence and conducting surveillance on the defense.

Attorneys for Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher plan to ask a military court Wednesday in San Diego to dismiss the case or remove the prosecutor and, possibly, have the judge himself step aside.

"Gallagher's case has been irreparably corrupted by a government campaign of outrageous and illegal conduct," attorney Tim Parlatore said in the opening salvo of his motion to dismiss the charges. "This prosecution threatens to make an unequivocal farce of our justice system."

The motion comes with Gallagher's trial less than two weeks away and amid mounting pressure from the defense after lawyers discovered prosecutors planted tracking software in emails sent to the defense team and a journalist that may have violated attorney-client privilege and other constitutional rights.

The Navy has said it did nothing wrong and has no plans to remove the prosecutor. A spokesman wouldn't comment on the motions.

Among the evidence apparently kept from the defense were results of a polygraph exam Gallagher was given weeks before his arrest on charges that he fatally stabbed an injured young teenage militant and picked off civilians from a sniper's perch.

Gallagher knew at the time he was under investigation and denied committing any war crimes during the test, Parlatore said in court papers. Gallagher was told he passed the exam.

Parlatore said he only knows about the exam because his client told him about it and investigation documents showed efforts to schedule the test.

Polygraphs, commonly referred to as lie-detector tests, are not admissible in civilian or military courts because they are "not an indication of truth," said Gary Solis, a former military judge and Marine Corps prosecutor who teaches law at Georgetown.

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Passing such a test means the person answered most of the key questions without any indication of lying. It's debatable whether the results would be considered evidence of innocence, and therefore the prosecution would not necessarily have to turn them over to the defense, Solis said.

The judge could admonish the defense for revealing polygraph results because it could taint the jury in the case, Solis said.

The effort to get the case thrown out comes as President Donald Trump has considered pardoning several service members accused of war crimes, including Gallagher, who has pleaded not guilty.

Gallagher's family has lobbied vigorously for his freedom and dozens of Republican lawmakers have rallied to his cause.

Prosecutors have said Gallagher stabbed the injured militant and then posed for a photo with his corpse for his re-enlistment ceremony. He sent a text to fellow SEALs later saying, "I got this one with my hunting knife."

Parlatore dismissed that as a joke that reflects the dark humor of a warrior. No blood was found on the knife by forensics experts, he added.

Parlatore said he's aware of evidence that showed at least one member of Gallagher's squad practiced medical procedures on the militant when he was dead or nearly dead, which might indicate he died from a different cause.

He said witnesses would be willing to testify to that, but prosecutors have said they're unaware of anything performed on him that was not medically necessary or any alternative cause of death.

Parlatore also claimed that prosecutors can't prove that Gallagher shot a young girl and old man because charges of attempted murder are based only on rumors and inadmissible hearsay.

Gallagher faces trial June 10.

Melley reported from Los Angeles.

## Supreme Court signals more openness to state abortion rules

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court signaled Tuesday it is more open to state restrictions on abortion, upholding an Indiana law supported by abortion opponents that regulates the disposal of fetal remains.

At the same time, the justices declined to take on an issue closer to the core of abortion rights, rejecting the state's appeal of a lower court ruling that blocked a ban on abortion based on gender, race or disability.

Both provisions were contained in a law signed by Vice President Mike Pence in 2016 when he was Indiana's governor.

The court's action keeps it out of an election-year review of the Indiana law amid a flurry of new state laws that go to the very heart of abortion rights. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey this month signed a law that would ban virtually all abortions, even in cases of incest and rape, and subject doctors who perform them to criminal prosecution. That law has yet to take effect and is being challenged in court.

Other states have passed laws that would outlaw abortion once a fetal heartbeat has been detected, typically around six weeks of gestation.

The high court is expected to hear at least one abortion-related case in its term that begins in October and ends in June 2020. In February, the justices blocked a Louisiana law that regulates abortion clinics, pending a full review.

On Tuesday, with two liberal justices dissenting, the court allowed Indiana to enforce a requirement that abortion clinics either bury or cremate fetal remains following an abortion, reversing a ruling by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals court that had blocked it. The justices said in an unsigned opinion that the case does not involve limits on abortion rights.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor dissented. Ginsburg said in a short solo opinion that she believes the issue does implicate a woman's right to have an abortion "without undue interference

from the state.”

And Alyssa Farah, Pence’s spokeswoman, drew a direct link to abortion. Pence commended the court for “upholding a portion of Indiana law that safeguards the sanctity of human life by requiring that remains of aborted babies be treated with respect and dignity,” Farah said in a statement.

Pence also hopes the court will eventually review the other abortion provision at issue Tuesday, she said. The Chicago-based appeals court had blocked a measure that would have prevented a woman from having an abortion for reasons related to race, gender or disability. While the justices declined to hear the state’s appeal of that blocked provision, they indicated their decision “expresses no view on the merits.”

Justice Clarence Thomas, who supports overturning the Roe v. Wade decision that first declared abortion rights, wrote a 20-page opinion that sought to link birth control and abortion to eugenics, the now-discredited movement to improve the human race through selective reproduction. The Indiana provision promotes “a state’s compelling interest in preventing abortion from becoming a tool of modern-day eugenics,” Thomas wrote.

“Although the court declines to wade into these issues today, we cannot avoid them forever,” he wrote. No other justice joined Thomas’ opinion.

Thomas and Ginsburg also engaged in a brief battle of dueling footnotes in which Thomas said Ginsburg’s dissent “makes little sense.” Ginsburg wrote that Thomas’ footnote “displays more heat than light,” including his calling a woman who has an abortion a mother. “A woman who exercises her constitutionally protected right to terminate a pregnancy is a not a ‘mother,’” she wrote.

One other noteworthy aspect of the court’s action Tuesday was the silence of liberal Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan, who vote regularly to uphold abortion rights. By not joining their liberal colleagues in dissent, Breyer and Kagan helped Roberts in his desire to avoid, where possible, controversial outcomes that split the five conservatives and four liberals. The two also may have preserved their ability to negotiate with, if not influence, Roberts in other cases.

The court upheld the fetal remains provision under the least stringent standard of review that courts employ. The legislation only needed to be rationally related to the state’s interest in the proper disposal of the remains, the court said. Indiana met that burden, it said.

The court said it is leaving open court challenges to similar laws under a higher legal standard.

Both abortion rights supporters and opponents believe the court is more likely to favor all manner of abortion restrictions, now that two appointees of President Donald Trump — Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh — have joined the court and Justice Anthony Kennedy has retired.

## 6 months later, gene-edited babies stir new interest, debate

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer**

Six months after a Chinese scientist was widely scorned for helping to make the world’s first gene-edited babies, he remains out of public view, and new information suggests that others may be interested in pursuing the same kind of work outside the United States.

A fertility clinic in the United Arab Emirates city of Dubai emailed scientist He Jiankui to seek training in gene editing, Stanford University bioethicist Dr. William Hurlbut said ahead of a speech Tuesday at the World Science Festival in New York.

Hurlbut, whose advice He often sought, said He told him that scientists from multiple countries and families with inherited health problems had messaged support and interest in altering the genes of embryos to prevent or treat disease. Hurlbut gave The Associated Press an email he said the Dubai clinic sent to He in December, altered to hide the clinic’s name.

“It reveals what eagerness there is out there to use this technology” and the need “for some sort of enforceable governance” of it, Hurlbut said.

Jennifer Doudna, a University of California, Berkeley, co-inventor of the CRISPR gene-editing tool that He used, said that she also has heard of others who want to edit embryos.

“I think they’re entirely credible,” she said of such reports. Doudna, who was also a speaker at the New

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York festival, said the field needs to focus on setting specific criteria for how and when such work should proceed.

"The technology is frankly just not ready for clinical use in human embryos," although research should continue, she said. Doudna is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which also supports AP's Health and Science Department.

Scientists and policy leaders have been debating how to set international standards or controls since He claimed in November that he had altered the genes of twin girls at conception to try to help them resist possible future infection with the AIDS virus.

Editing embryos is outlawed in many countries because it risks damaging other genes, and the DNA changes can be passed to future generations. Many scientists have condemned He's work, and attention has fallen on other scientists who knew or strongly suspected what He was doing.

Stanford recently cleared Hurlbut and two other faculty members of any wrongdoing. Rice University in Houston is still looking into any involvement that He's former adviser, physics and bioengineering professor Michael Deem, may have had.

Hurlbut said it would be best for the field if all involved revealed what they knew and when, because some people did give He, who goes by "JK," encouragement.

"If you call JK a rogue scientist who did this by himself, you miss the truth, and then you fail to see what's wrong with the current structure for the global governance of science," Hurlbut said.

The Chinese scientist has not been seen publicly since shortly after he spoke at a gene-editing conference in Hong Kong in November. The AP's efforts to reach him by phone and email were unsuccessful. Hurlbut and Ryan Ferrell, a media relations person He had hired, said they could not comment on any contact with him or his whereabouts now.

He's claim has not been published in a scientific journal, but the babies' existence seems to have been confirmed by investigators in Guangdong province. According to China's official Xinhua News Agency, investigators said He evaded supervision of his work and violated research norms out of a desire for fame. The report said He acted alone and would be referred to authorities for any violations of laws or regulations.

There has been no word on how the twins are faring or the status of a second pregnancy He achieved with a gene-edited embryo, thought to be in its seventh month now.

Last week, the U.S. National Academies of Medicine and Sciences and others formed an international commission to develop a framework of scientific, medical and ethical issues to be considered for any future attempts to edit eggs, sperm or embryos.

The World Health Organization also has formed a panel on developing global standards for oversight of the field. But those efforts are moving slowly. The group plans to gather views for two years.

"Many people are still grappling with the pace at which the technology is advancing," Doudna said. "It's really quite astounding."

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at <http://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP> .

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

## Disaster aid bill again blocked in House by GOP conservative

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A second conservative Republican on Tuesday blocked another attempt to pass a long-overdue \$19 billion disaster aid bill, delaying again a top priority for some of President Donald Trump's most loyal allies on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky said that if Democratic leaders like Speaker Nancy Pelosi thought the measure was so important, they should have kept the House in session in Washington late last week to slate an up-or-down roll call vote.

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"If the speaker of this House thought that this was must-pass legislation, the speaker ... should have called a vote on this bill before sending every member of Congress on recess for 10 days," Massie said as he blocked the measure.

"You can't have bills passed in Congress with nobody voting on them," Massie said. "That is the definition of the swamp, and that's what people resent about this place."

Massie's move earned swift rebukes from top Democrats. Sanford Bishop of Georgia said that his agricultural district was but one part of the country suffering from hurricane damage and that aid won't arrive until well after the start of planting season. "Many will not be able to plant this year," Bishop said. Hurricane Michael struck Georgia in the middle of last fall's harvest season.

Another conservative, Texas freshman GOP Rep. Chip Roy, had blocked an earlier attempt Friday to pass the measure under fast-track rules, but Democrats tried again Tuesday. Bishop flew to Washington from Georgia to request the House pass the popular measure under fast-track procedures that permitted any individual lawmakers to block the bill.

Rep. Austin Scott, a Republican from Georgia, criticized his GOP colleagues for holding up the disaster bill, calling them "clowns" in a tweet.

Eventual passage of the bill, supported by Trump and top leaders in Congress, is a foregone conclusion. Trying again on Tuesday was a political freebie for Democrats, who went on the attack right after the vote.

"I cannot understand why any member would object to giving relief to so many millions of our citizens who have been badly damaged by natural disasters," said No. 2 House Democratic leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland. Hoyer said the bill "will be passed overwhelmingly" when the House returns.

One concern of many House Republicans was a move by House Democrats last week to dump overboard Trump's request for \$4.5 billion to address the crisis of Central American refugees at the southern border.

Trump is a supporter of the measure, which swept through the Senate on Thursday in a rush to exit Washington for Memorial Day. Many Republicans, including southerners facing reelection, are frustrated that the bill has taken so long. After being denied his border money in a fight with House Democrats, Trump still embraced the bill, which directs much of its aid to political strongholds of his such as the Florida Panhandle and rural Georgia and North Carolina.

Passing legislation without any objection from anyone is often trickier to do in the House than the Senate, however.

"I just think a unanimous consent, voice vote, on the way out the door — there's always, out of 535 (members of Congress), there's always a few who think maybe that's not appropriate," said Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., a conservative who presided over a momentslong pro forma session of the Senate on Tuesday.

Cramer, who moved over to the Senate this year after spending three terms in the House GOP majority, also pointed out that the final disaster bill "actually took out some of the things that the House conservatives wanted," such as billions of dollars to care for the influx of migrants seeking asylum after crossing the southern border.

There are also newer additions to the measure to help Midwestern areas suffering from springtime floods, along with large chunks of money to rebuild military bases such as Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida that were damaged by a string of disasters dating to last fall's hurricane season. The measure ordinarily would have passed months ago, but Trump injected himself into the debate, demanding that funding sought by Puerto Rico's elected officials, Republicans and Democrats both, be kept out.

Democrats held firm in demanding that Puerto Rico, a territory whose 3 million people are U.S. citizens, be helped by the measure. Their confidence was clear from the outset, and GOP resolve on Puerto Rico, never particularly strong to begin with, steadily faded as the impasse dragged on. The bill now contains more money for Puerto Rico, about \$1.4 billion, than Democrats originally sought.

Roy said last week that lawmakers ought to go on record either way on the legislation, which is among the few significant bills to make it through the system despite the intense partisanship dominating Washington.

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This story has been corrected to show the North Dakota senator's name is Kevin Cramer, not Ken Cramer.

## Flattery in Japan in rearview, Trump returns to DC snarls

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE, LAURIE KELLMAN AND JILL COLVIN** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four days of fun and flattery in Tokyo are over for President Donald Trump.

The sumo wrestling, golf and red carpet strolls give way to the same Washington stew of political, policy and legal snarls that Trump never completely left behind during his four days in Japan, judging by his Twitter feed.

Trump returned home Tuesday still in a running feud with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, eager to diminish 2020 Democratic hopeful Joe Biden, weary of Democratic investigations into his administration and business dealings and contending with a daunting list of foreign policy challenges. Members of Congress, for their part, have largely cleared out of the steamy city for an extended Memorial Day recess.

The past four days in Japan's capital, by contrast, seemed tailor-made for Trump, who relishes being the center of attention. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shrewdly designed the visit as a series of history-making firsts that put Trump front and center.

Abe made clear that Trump was the guest of honor — there was only one — at the long weekend's festivities.

News helicopters hovered as Trump's motorcade snaked around the city and above Mobarra Country Club to videotape the leaders as they golfed. Throngs of photographers gathered outside Trump's hotel and on street corners to snap photos as the president passed by.

Abe timed the visit so that Trump would be the first head of state to meet Japan's new Emperor Naruhito.

At the Imperial Palace, Trump walked along red carpets during a pageantry-filled welcome ceremony. Later, he was the honored guest for a six-course French meal at the palace.

Trump also became the first American president to attend a major sumo wrestling tournament and — in another first — award the champion a trophy he created and brought with him called the "President's Cup." He said he hoped the Japanese would continue to bestow the Trump cup for hundreds of years.

His reception in Washington, by contrast, will be animated by the bitterness with which he and Congress left the capital city last week.

On Friday and Monday, two different GOP legislators blocked a vote on a long-overdue \$19 billion disaster aid bill that also includes aid to farms ravaged by storms and flooding. They objected to efforts to pass it without a roll call vote.

Hefty foreign policy challenges also loom for Trump.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un earlier this month tested short-range missiles for the first time since November 2017. The tests alarmed U.S. allies in the region — including Japan — who have been hoping for progress in stalled U.S.-North Korea negotiations. In Japan, Abe and Trump national security adviser John Bolton both said the tests violated U.N. Security Council resolutions. Trump disagreed.

Instead, he said he wasn't bothered by the latest missile tests and had faith that Kim would eventually give up his nuclear ambitions in exchange for the removal of economic sanctions on his country.

On other fronts, Trump is sending more troops to the Mideast as tensions with Iran intensify, the longest war in U.S. history continues to churn in Afghanistan, political upheaval rages in Venezuela, Trump is trying to tap more military assets to deter migrants from crossing the U.S.-Mexico border and his trade war with China remains unresolved.

Shadowing all of those issues — and irking Trump — is the prospect that House Democrats could launch an impeachment inquiry against him. The party's liberals and a third of the 23 Democratic presidential contenders are calling for Trump's impeachment based on what they see as signs in special counsel Robert Mueller's report that the president obstructed justice.

Pelosi and most other Democratic contenders are resisting the push for impeachment — for now. Impeachment matters deeply to the party's base but remains unpopular with most Americans.

Still, the clamor from the left seems to be growing. Pelosi has been willing to say that Trump "is engaged in a cover-up" that could be impeachable. That statement provoked Trump last week into blowing up talks

on a deal to fix the nation's roads and bridges and declaring that he would refuse to work with Democrats until they shut down what he called "phony investigations."

Things went downhill from there. Before legislators bolted for airports and train stations, Pelosi had questioned Trump's fitness for office and he had called her "crazy" while declaring himself "an extremely stable genius."

Even so, there were faint glimmers of possibility.

"When the 'extremely stable genius' starts acting more presidential, I'll be happy to work with him on infrastructure, trade and other issues," Pelosi tweeted.

Trump suggested they focus on trade — specifically, his deal to update NAFTA, called the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

"We will work with them," Trump said Monday in Tokyo. "I would think Nancy Pelosi would approve that."

Democrats want the deal to include stronger enforcement provisions, among other possible changes.

Trump won't be in Washington for long. His travel schedule is tight the next few months. He's off to the United Kingdom, France and Ireland next week. And he's due back in Japan for the Group of 20 summit in late June.

"Looking forward to it," Abe said at a joint press conference Monday with Trump.

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Associated Press writer Deb Riechmann contributed to this report.

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Superville and Colvin reported from Tokyo.

## Health paradox: New US diabetes cases fall as obesity rises

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The number of new diabetes cases among U.S. adults keeps falling, even as obesity rates climb, and health officials aren't sure why.

New federal data released Tuesday found the number of new diabetes diagnoses fell to about 1.3 million in 2017, down from 1.7 million in 2009.

Earlier research had spotted a decline, and the new report shows it's been going on for close to a decade. But health officials are not celebrating.

"The bottom line is we don't know for sure what's driving these trends," said the lead author of the new report, Dr. Stephen Benoit of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Among the possibilities: Changes in testing and getting people to improve their health before becoming diabetic.

The report was published by the journal *BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care*. The statistics run through 2017. Last year's numbers are not yet available, Benoit said.

Diabetes is a disease in which sugar builds up in the blood. The most common form is tied to obesity, and the number of diabetics ballooned as U.S. obesity rates increased.

But other factors also might have pushed up annual diabetes diagnoses from 2000 to 2010, and they may partly explain why the numbers have been going down since, some experts said.

First, the diagnostic threshold was lowered in the late 1990s. That caused more people to be counted as diabetics, but the impact of that may have played out.

"We might have mined out a lot of the previously unrecognized cases" and so new diagnoses in the last several years are more likely to be actual new illnesses, said Dr. John Buse, a University of North Carolina diabetes expert.

Meanwhile, doctors have increasingly used a newer blood test to diagnose diabetes. It's much easier than tests that required patients to fast for 12 hours or to undergo repeated blood draws over two hours.

The American Diabetes Association recommended the new test, known as the hemoglobin A1C blood test, for routine screening in 2010. Because it's easier to do, it would be expected to lead to more diagnoses. But some experts say it may miss a large proportion of early cases in which people aren't showing symptoms. "You may be missing people that would have been diagnosed" with older tests, Benoit said.

Another possibility: Increasingly, more doctors have been diagnosing “prediabetes,” a health condition in which blood sugar levels are high but not high enough to hit the diabetes threshold. Physicians typically push such patients into exercise programs and urge them to change their diet.

“Prediabetes is becoming a more accepted diagnosis” and may be causing an increasing number of patients to improve their health before becoming diabetic, said Dr. Tannaz Moin, a UCLA expert.

The new report is based on a large national survey conducted by the government every year. Participants were asked if they had been diagnosed with diabetes, and also if the diagnosis was made in the previous year.

It found the rate of new diabetes cases fell to 6 per 1,000 U.S. adults in 2017, from 9.2 per 1,000 in 2009. That’s a 35 percent drop, and marks the longest decline since the government started tracking the statistic nearly 40 years ago, according to the CDC.

The decrease was mainly seen among white adults, the researchers said.

Meanwhile, the overall estimate of how many Americans have diabetes — whether the diagnosis is recent or not — has been holding steady at 80 per 1,000 U.S. adults. That translates to about 21 million Americans.

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

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This story has been corrected to show that the new report didn’t find that diabetes has become more common among young adults and people who are black and Hispanic.

## Asian stocks retreat as China-US jitters set in

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian shares slipped Wednesday on expectations that a trade dispute between China and the United States would simmer and possibly weigh on growth.

With a lull in economic releases closer to home, investors digested President Donald Trump’s comments that the country was “not ready” for a trade deal with China. Trump spoke to reporters in Tokyo on Monday.

Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 gave up 1.1% to 21,020.72. The Kospi in South Korea tumbled 1.3% to 2,021.84 and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng was 0.5% lower at 27,267.94.

The Shanghai Composite fell 0.3% to 2,900.71 while Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 eased 0.8% to 6,433.30. Stocks fell in Taiwan and Singapore but advanced in Indonesia.

Earlier this month, China and the U.S. concluded their 11th round of trade talks with no agreement. The U.S. has since raised tariffs on Chinese exports, triggering retaliation from China.

The Trump administration has also mounted sanctions on Huawei. But it refrained from labelling China or any other country as a currency manipulator in a report to Congress on Tuesday.

“To some extent, the sparing of China as a currency manipulator had been expected but provides some relief for one watching the U.S.-China trade impasse,” Jingyi Pan of IG said in a market commentary.

She added that China’s official PMI for May, which will be released on Friday, would be watched an indicator of the initial impact of tariffs on growth.

Over on Wall Street, stocks closed broadly lower as investors who felt jittery about long-term growth shifted money into bonds. The yield on the benchmark 10 year Treasury fell to 2.26%, its lowest level since September 2017.

The broad S&P 500 index slipped 0.8% to 2,802.39 on Tuesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 0.9% to 25,347.77 and the Nasdaq composite was down 0.4% at 7,607.35. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks retreated 0.7% to 1,504.02.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 63 cents to \$58.51 per barrel. The contract rose 51 cents to \$59.14 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 57 cents to \$68.10 per barrel. It settled 10 cents lower at \$68.67 per barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar strengthened to 109.38 yen from 109.36 yen late Tuesday. The euro jumped

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to \$1.1166 from \$1.1161.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, May 29, the 149th day of 2019. There are 216 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 29, 1953, Mount Everest was conquered as Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norgay of Nepal became the first climbers to reach the summit.

On this date:

In 1765, Patrick Henry denounced the Stamp Act before Virginia's House of Burgesses.

In 1790, Rhode Island became the 13th original colony to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state of the union.

In 1914, the Canadian ocean liner RMS Empress of Ireland sank in the St. Lawrence River in eastern Quebec after colliding with the Norwegian cargo ship SS Storstad; of the 1,477 people on board the Empress of Ireland, 1,012 died. (The Storstad suffered only minor damage.)

In 1917, the 35th president of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, was born in Brookline, Massachusetts.

In 1932, World War I veterans began arriving in Washington to demand cash bonuses they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1954, English runner Diane Leather became the first woman to run a sub-five-minute mile, finishing in 4:59.6 during the Midland Championships in Birmingham.

In 1977, Janet Guthrie became the first woman to race in the Indianapolis 500, finishing in 29th place (the winner was A.J. Foyt).

In 1985, 39 people were killed at the European Cup Final in Brussels, Belgium, when rioting broke out and a wall separating British and Italian soccer fans collapsed.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened their historic summit in Moscow.

In 1998, Republican elder statesman Barry Goldwater died in Paradise Valley, Arizona, at age 89.

In 2008, the Vatican issued a decree stating that anyone trying to ordain a woman as a priest and any woman who attempted to receive the ordination would incur automatic excommunication. Actor-comedian Harvey Korman, Emmy winner for "The Carol Burnett Show," died in Los Angeles at age 81.

Ten years ago: A judge in Los Angeles sentenced music producer Phil Spector to 19 years to life in prison for the murder of actress Lana Clarkson. Jay Leno hosted "The Tonight Show" on NBC supposedly for the final time, giving up his desk to Conan O'Brien. (After a stint in prime time, Leno returned to "Tonight" in March 2010, stepping down again in February 2014.)

Five years ago: Saying he wanted kids to play sports but play safely, President Barack Obama called for more and better research into the effects and treatment of concussions in youth athletes during a summit at the White House. The Food and Drug Administration required tanning beds and sun lamps to carry new warnings that they should not be used by anyone under age 18. Shelly Sterling signed a binding contract to sell the Los Angeles Clippers to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for a record-breaking \$2 billion.

One year ago: ABC canceled the reboot of "Roseanne," after star Roseanne Barr's tweet that referred to former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett as a product of the Muslim Brotherhood and the "Planet of the Apes." Starbucks closed thousands of stores for part of the day to hold training sessions for employees on unconscious bias, in response to the arrests of two black men in Philadelphia at one of its stores.

Today's Birthdays: Former Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent is 81. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser is 80. Actor Kevin Conway is 77. Actor Helmut Berger is 75. Rock singer Gary Brooker (Procol Harum) is 74. Actor Anthony Geary is 72. Actor Cotter Smith is 70. Singer Rebbie (ree-bee) Jackson is 69. Movie composer Danny Elfman is 66. Singer LaToya Jackson is 63. Actor Ted Levine is 62. Actress Annette Bening is 61.

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Actor Rupert Everett is 60. Actor Adrian Paul is 60. Singer Melissa Etheridge is 58. Actress Lisa Whelchel is 56. Actress Tracey Bregman is 56. Rock musician Noel Gallagher is 52. Singer Jayski McGowan (Quad City DJ's) is 52. Actor Anthony Azizi is 50. Rock musician Chan Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 50. Actress Laverne Cox is 47. Rock musician Mark Lee (Third Day) is 46. Cartoonist Aaron McGruder ("The Boondocks") is 45. Singer Melanie Brown (Spice Girls) is 44. Rapper Playa Poncho is 44. Latin singer Fonseca is 40. Actor Justin Chon (TV: "Deception"; "Dr. Ken") is 38. NBA player Carmelo Anthony is 35. Actor Billy Flynn is 34. Actor Blake Foster is 34. Actress Riley Keough is 30. Actor Brandon Mychal Smith is 30. Actress Kristen Alderson is 28.

Thought for Today: "When we recall the past, we usually find that it is the simplest things — not the great occasions — that in retrospect give off the greatest glow of happiness." — British-born American comedian Bob Hope (born this date in 1903, died 2003).