

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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

**CLOSED:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

### Saturday, June 1

U10 Pee Wees at Clark Tournament  
Junior Teeners Round Robin in Groton  
2:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Milbank  
4:00 p.m.: Milbank vs. Redfield  
6:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Redfield

### Sunday, June 2

4:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Milbank, (DH)  
4 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs at Redfield

### Monday, June 3

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Webster, (DH)  
6:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets at Webster, (DH)  
6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees at Webster, (DH) (R,B)  
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Britton, (DH)s (R,B)  
6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Practice at Soccer Field (both)  
Softball at Ipswich (U8 at 6 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)

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**Left to right is Bev Sombke, Deb McKiver, Laurie Mitchell, Pam Rix, Linda Gengerke and Marjorie Overacker.**

**The Garden Club members planted a Moscow Lilac tree for Arbor Day. Due to the blizzard the tree planting had to be postponed until the weather got nicer. (Photo by Tina Kosel)**



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## Groton Area Fourth Quarter Honor Roll

### Seniors

**4.0 GPA:** Taylor Holm, Kaitlyn Kassube, Kylie Kassube, AnneMarie Smith, Emily Thompson, Jillian Barton, Cassandra Townsend, Kaitlyn Anderson, Tylan Glover, Alexis Simon, Payton Maine, Ashley Garduno, Samantha Geffre, Miranda Hanson, Samantha Menzia

**3.99-3.50:** Micah Poor, Alexa Hickenbotham, Devan Howard, Wyatt Locke

**3.49-3.00:** Jennie Doeden, Shannon Wiedrick, Jeremy Johnson, Emily Blocker, Josie LaMee, Megan Crosby, Korbin Blackmun, Shyla Larson

### Juniors

**4.0 GPA:** Kaycie Hawkins, Kaylin Kucker, Indigo Rogers, KaSandra Pappas, Kayla Jensen, Nicole Marzahn, Tadyn Glover

**3.99-3.50:** Jaime Ruiz de Medina Maroto, Payton Colestock, Benjamin Higgins, Noah Poor, Madeline Schuelke

**3.49-3.00:** Rylee Rosenau, Austin Jones, Caitlynn Barse

### Sophomores

**4.0 GPA:** Samantha Pappas, Alexis Hanten, Erin Unzen, Grace Wambach

**3.99-3.50:** Isaac Smith, Jasmine Gengerke, Sage Mortenson, Alexa Herr, Hailey Monson, Paloma Fernandez Gonzalez, Tanae Lipp, Regan Leicht, Eh Tha You Say, Dragr Monson, Grace Wiedrick, Alex Morris, Tessa Erdmann, Brooklyn Gilbert, Steven Paulson

**3.49-3.00:** Trey Gengerke, Alyssa Fordham, Braden Freeman, Chandler Larson, Lucas Simon

### Freshmen

**4.0 GPA:** Stella Meier

**3.99-3.50:** Travis Townsend, Madeline Fliehs, Allyssa Locke, Trista Keith, Seth Johnson, Jordan Bjerke

**3.49-3.00:** Madisen Bjerke, Pierce Kettering, Jace Kroll, Alexander Dutchuk

### Eighth Graders

**4.0 GPA:** Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski

**3.99-3.50:** Kaleb Antonsen, Caleb Hanten, Cole Bisbee, Ethan Clark, Elliana Weismantel, Carter Barse, Shaylee Peterson, Andrew Marzahn, Aspen Johnson, Cadance Tullis, Isaac Higgins, Jacelynn Gleason

**3.49-3.00:** Brooke Gengerke, Cade Larson, Cole Simon, Gracie Traphagen, Brenna Carda, Tate Larson, Shallyn Foertsch, KayLynn Overacker, Kamryn Fliehs, Porter Johnson, Chase Gackle

### Seventh Graders

**4.0 GPA:** Claire Heinrich

**3.99-3.50:** Hannah Monson, Ashlyn Sperry, Dillon Abeln, Holden Sippel, Emily Clark, Lexi Osterman, Sara Menzia, Kyleigh Englund, Jaycie Lier, Abigail Jensen, Cadence Feist, Emma Schinkel

**3.49-3.00:** Anna Fjeldheim, Anna Bisbee, Colby Dunker, Shea Jandel, Karsyn Jangula, Camryn Kurtz, Lydia Meier, Faith Fliehs, Lane Tietz, Bradin Althoff, Michael Weisenburger

### Sixth Graders

**4.0 GPA: None**

**3.99-3.50:** Gretchen Dinger, Axel Warrington, Payton Mitchell, Elizabeth Fliehs, Alexis Geffre

**3.49-3.00:** Blake Pauli, Ashlyn Feser, Jeslyn Kosel, Faith Traphagen, Logan Pearson, Turner Thompson, Blake Dennert, Aiden Heathcote



## Groton receives its airport award

Groton Airport was selected for the Best Maintained Basic Service General Aviation Airport in South Dakota for 2018. The award ceremony was held on March 27 during the South Dakota Airports Conference. The conference was held in Watertown and was attended by about 130 people. The award was presented by Tom Koch of the SD Department of the Transportation, Office of Air, Rail & Transit. Koch is pictured above (left) presenting Terry Herron of the City of Groton with the award. The award recognizes the "team" effort in maintaining the airport including Finance Officer Hope Block, county officials, Airport Manager Terry Herron, and airport workers.

Tom Koch and Colton Stahl inspected all public airports in South Dakota in 2018 and evaluated them based on the criteria below. This award is the first time that Groton Airport has won the award. (Photo from Groton SD Community Facebook Page)



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## New municipal tax changes effective July 1, 2019

PIERRE, S.D. – A pair of South Dakota communities will update their municipal sales tax rates beginning July 1.

These municipal tax changes taking effect include:

Buffalo Chip is removing its 2 percent general sales and use tax.

Faulkton is imposing a 1 percent municipal gross receipts tax rate on lodging, eating establishments and alcoholic beverages. This tax is in addition to its 2 percent general sales and use tax rate.

South Dakota municipalities may implement new tax rates or change existing tax rates Jan. 1 or July 1 each year.

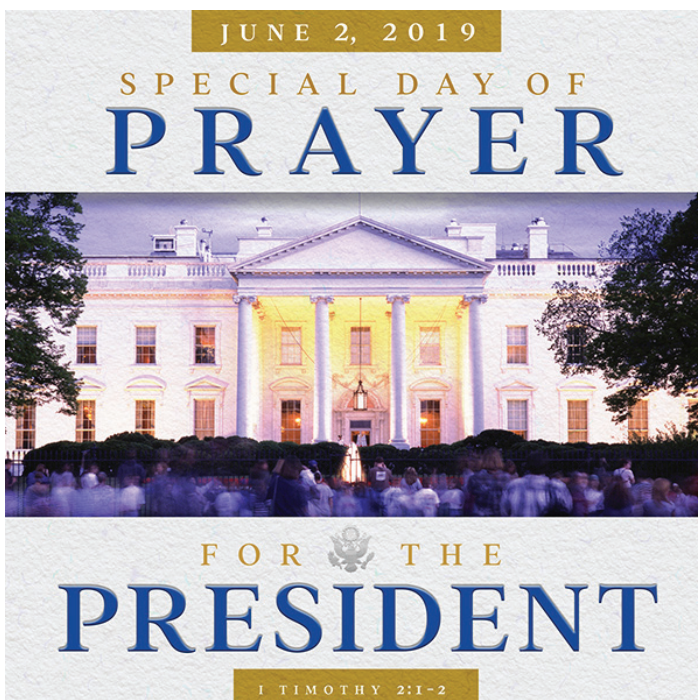
## Deadwood Hotel Occupancy Down Slightly in April

DEADWOOD, S.D. (05/31/2019) - Deadwood Hotel occupancy rate was down in April when compared with April 2018 numbers. According to monthly data released recently by Deadwood's City Finance Office, hotels in Deadwood had an occupancy rate of 37.17 percent for April 2019, which is a .75 percent decrease when compared with April 2018.

"While Deadwood's hotel occupancy rate is down slightly, Deadwood still accommodated more visitors" said Mike Rodman, executive director of the Deadwood Gaming Association. "Because of additional hotel room inventory this April over last April, Deadwood hotel operators rented 675 room nights more than last April.

"Deadwood's April occupancy rate change was below the national April hotel occupancy increase of 0.3 percent," Rodman added. "And Deadwood's occupancy rate was well below the national hotel occupancy rate of 68.0 percent for April 2019."

Deadwood kicked off its summer season this week with Deadwood Alive reenactors' free Main Street daily gunfights and The Trial of Jack McCall, which has operated each summer in Deadwood since 1928.



Dear Friend,

Don't forget this Sunday, June 2, is a special day of prayer for the President, Donald J. Trump. Our nation is in trouble, and the President needs God's wisdom and guidance as he leads and makes decisions that impact all of our lives.

As you gather in church, Sunday school, small group, as a family, or even pray alone, remember this one truth: "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16, ESV). God hears the prayers of His people, and He answers them!

Would you add your name to the growing list of Christians across the nation who are praying for the President this Sunday? If we don't join together in prayer now, what will be left of America for our children and grandchildren?

Thank you for praying. May God richly bless you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham

President,

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

& Samaritan's Purse

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**James Valley Telecommunications held its annual meeting on Thursday. Those pictured above were the lucky winners of credit to their bill. David & Judy Mendel - \$100 credit, Laverne & Carol Strom - \$100 credit, Sheila Sullivan - \$250 credit, Virginia Abeln - \$250 credit, Darlys Himanga - \$500 credit. (Courtesy photo)**



**The Board of Directors for James Valley Telecommunications are pictured above. Left to right they are Bob Wegner, Duane Jark, Bill Ewalt, Mark Wattier, Roger Zastrow, Garrett Rahm and Wendell Rye. (Courtesy photo)**



**James Valley Telecommunications Bob Peterson Memorial Scholarship - \$2,000 each (L to R): Caleb Schentzel, Northwestern Area HS  
Jordan Schmieg, Langford Area HS  
AnneMarie Smith, Groton Area HS**

(Courtesy photo)



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**A good crowd was on hand for the annual meeting of the James Valley Telecommunications Cooperative. The event was held in the GHS Gym. (Courtesy photo)**



**Groton Area's OST program, led by Kim Weber, provided the entertainment at the James Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Annual Meeting. (Courtesy photo)**



## EARTHTALK ™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard that many household cleaners contain toxic ingredients that can pollute my indoor environment. How do I avoid such chemicals and can you suggest any safer alternatives?

-- M. Sharp, Las Vegas, NV

It's true that many common household cleaning products contain synthetic chemicals that can make the inhabitants of your home sick. The non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) looked into the ingredients lists of more than 2,000 cleaning supplies commonly available on store shelves across the country and found that hundreds of them contain substances linked to serious health problems.

"A large and growing body of evidence links frequent use of many ordinary cleaning supplies at home or on the job with development of asthma and other respiratory problems," reports EWG. Furthermore, many cleaning products contain carcinogenic elements like 1,4-dioxane and formaldehyde. Still others can cause chemical burns, allergic reactions or other irritations upon exposure to the skin.

"Despite these health concerns, cleaning product labels often do not give consumers enough information about their ingredients to allow people to make informed decisions on which ones are safer and which ones might harm their health," adds EWG. To fill the void, EWG launched its "Guide to Healthy Cleaning" to point consumers toward products made from natural ingredients that won't make us sick.

This free online database provides short reviews and letter grades regarding the eco-friendliness of thousands of cleaning products. Among the dozens of products scoring an "A" grade are: Meliora's Unscented Soap Flakes (general cleaning), Nature Clean Automatic Dishwasher Pacs (dishwasher detergent), Aura Cacia Aromatherapy Mist (air freshening), MamaSuds Toilet Bombs (toilet bowl cleaner), Aspen Clean Kitchen Cleaner (kitchen disinfectant), Attitude Laundry Detergent (laundry soap) and BuggyLOVE Organic No-Wash Stain Remover (carpet and upholstery cleaner).

If you are a "do-it-yourselfer" you can make your own all-natural cleaning formulations for a small fraction of the cost of what you would pay for any manufactured name brand's version of the same thing. National Geographic suggests that a 1:1 mix of distilled white vinegar and water in a spray bottle is all you need to clean stovetops, countertops, backsplashes, porcelain and ceramic tile, and that you can dissolve mineral deposits at the base of faucets by wrapping the offending areas in a vinegar-soaked rag for a few minutes and then wiping clean. Meanwhile, freshening indoor air without compromising indoor air quality is as simple as wringing out a towel soaked in vinegar and whirling it around the room.

If bad smells are coming up from the bowels of your sink, pour a 1:1 mix of baking soda and vinegar (about a quarter-cup of each) into the drain and then once the ensuing bubbles dissipate, flush with hot water. You can even avoid the nasty smell and chemical exposure inherent in using oven cleaning formulations by doing it yourself with an 8-hour, on-the-hour application of hot water and baking soda on oven splatter spots. It literally costs pennies to clean your house without any chemical exposure. With so many good all-natural, inexpensive options to choose from nowadays, why would anyone in their right mind pay the big bucks for name-brand, toxin-laden cleaners anymore?



**A few good scrubbies, some elbow grease and a little all-natural soap is all it takes for many household cleaning jobs.** Credit: Marco

Verch, FlickrCC.



# NOW HIRING!

## Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts

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

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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

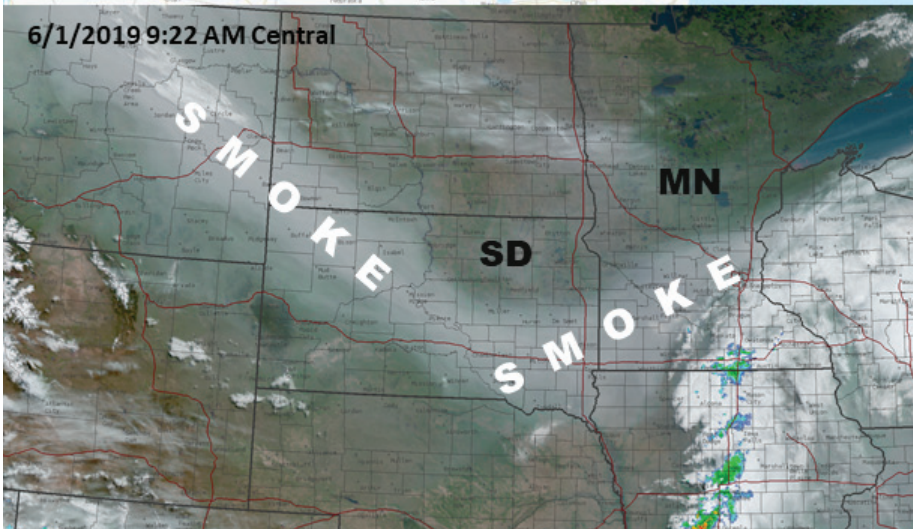
To apply visit [www.uslbm.com/careers](http://www.uslbm.com/careers) or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

## Smoke from Canadian Wildfires



*June 1, 2019*

**Smoke from Canadian wildfires continues to drift south across the Northern Plains, thanks to northwest winds aloft.**



**A hazy sky and red sunsets/sunrises are possible until Monday, before winds aloft shift and direct the smoke out of our area.**



Published on: 06/01/2019 at 10:25AM

**A hazy sky continues across the area, thanks to smoke from Canadian wildfires. Satellite data: <https://bit.ly/2RUnbeT> Forecast information: <https://airquality.weather.gov/sectors/northplains.php?period=1#tabs> Additional information: <https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/Products/land/hms.html> and <http://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/interactive-map>**



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## Today in Weather History

June 1, 1990: A small F0 tornado blew over two mobile homes on the north side of Groton. Numerous trees were either blown down or lost limbs. Also, high winds of 65 mph occurred 5 miles south and 1 mile east of Mellette.

June 1, 2008: Severe thunderstorms developed along the eastern slopes of the Black Hills and dropped large hail and heavy rain over eastern Custer and Shannon Counties. Softball sized hail was reported south of Hermosa.

June 1, 2011: High water levels coming into June along with above average June rainfall kept water levels up on Blue Dog, Bitter, Rush, and Waubay Lakes in Day County throughout the month. The high lake levels continued to cause extensive road and property damage. Many families remained away from their homes and cabins. Also, hundreds of acres of farmland remained flooded along with many roads. Road and property damage would be in the several millions of dollars. The high lake levels and flooding would continue for the next several months. In Hamlin County, Lake Poinsett, including several other lakes, continued to flood and damage several homes along with several county and township roads. High lake levels and flooding would continue for the next several months.

1903: During the early afternoon, one of the most destructive tornadoes in the history of Georgia up to this time, struck the outskirts of Gainesville. The track of the storm was about four miles in length and varied between 100 to 200 feet in width. The tornado touched down about one mile southwest of Gainesville, striking a large cotton mill at 12:45 pm, Eastern Time, just 10 minutes after 750 employees filed into the great structure from dinner. On the top floor of the mill were employed 250 children, and it was here that the greatest loss of life occurred.






1919: Snowfall of almost a half-inch fell at Denver, Colorado. This storm produced their greatest 24-hour snowfall recorded in June. Two temperature records were set: The low temperature of 32 degrees was a record low for the date, and the high of only 40 degrees was a record low maximum. Cheyenne, Wyoming recorded 1.6 inches of snow, which is one of only six times that at least one inch of snow has fallen at Cheyenne in June.

1934: June started off on a warm note as high temperatures surpassed the century mark across parts of the Midwest. Several locations tied or set a record high temperatures for June including: Rockford, IL: 106°, Mather, WI: 105°, Hatfield, WI: 103°, Mondovi, WI: 102°, Chicago, IL: 102° and Grand Rapids, MI tied their June record high with 102°.

1999: A tornado with an intermittent damage path destroyed 200 homes, businesses, and other buildings in the southern portion of St. James, Missouri. Of these, 33 homes were destroyed along with the St. James Golf Course clubhouse and two Missouri Department of Transportation buildings. The tornado then moved east, south of the downtown St. James area and intensified. F2 to F3 damage occurred with a 200 to 300-yard damage path. Several homes and farm buildings were severely damaged or destroyed. Further north, severe thunderstorms produced many tornadoes around central Illinois. The most intense tornado touched down in Montgomery County south of Farmersville and moved into southwest Christian County. One person was killed when a semi-trailer overturned at a rest area on I-55. Across eastern parts of the state, high winds up to 70 mph caused damage to trees, power lines, and some buildings. The Mattoon area also reported flooding from these storms, producing \$3 million dollars in damage.

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
				
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 72 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 80 °F

 National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

## Welcome to Meteorological Summer!



### Dry Weekend

**Today**  near 70°  
Hazy sky  
from Canadian wildfire smoke

**Sunday**  73 to 78°  
Hazy sky  
from Canadian wildfire smoke

**Monday**  77 to 85°  
Breezy  
Showers & Thunderstorms possible Monday night

Updated: 6/1/2019 2:53 AM Central

Published on: 06/01/2019 at 3:56AM

Hazy, but otherwise sunny and dry conditions will prevail for the weekend. Temperatures will warm back to the upper 70s to mid 80s for Monday afternoon. Welcome to Meteorological Summer! Get ready for Summer weather hazards by visiting our Summer Safety website: [weather.gov/wrn/summer-safety](http://weather.gov/wrn/summer-safety) #SummerSafety



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 88 °F at 3:17 PM

Low Temp: 56 °F at 5:41 AM

Wind: 24 mph at 10:21 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1933

Record Low: 34° in 1946

Average High: 73°F

Average Low: 50°F

Average Precip in May.: 3.11

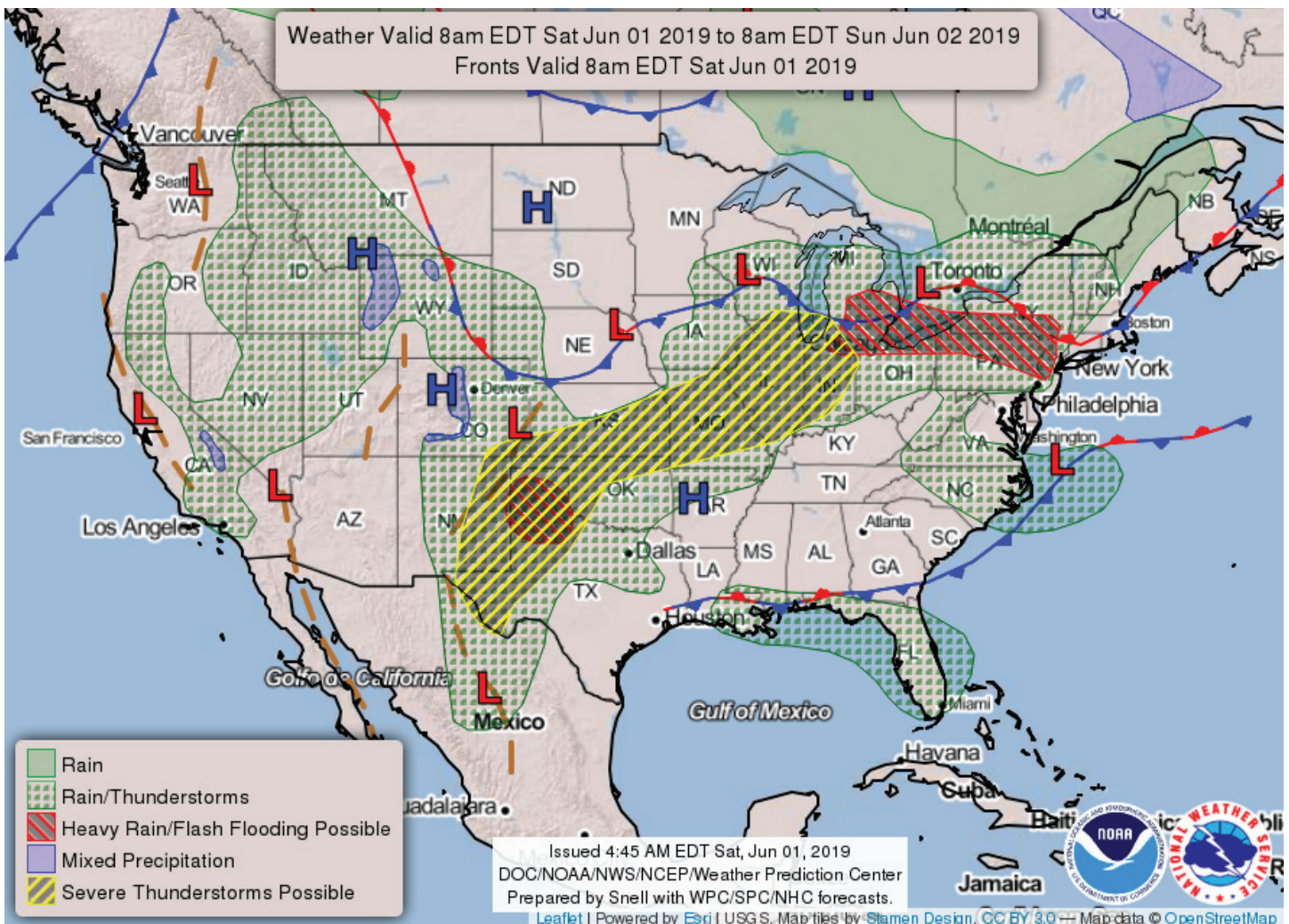
Precip to date in May.: 3.26

Average Precip to date: 7.14

Precip Year to Date: 7.97

Sunset Tonight: 9:15 p.m.

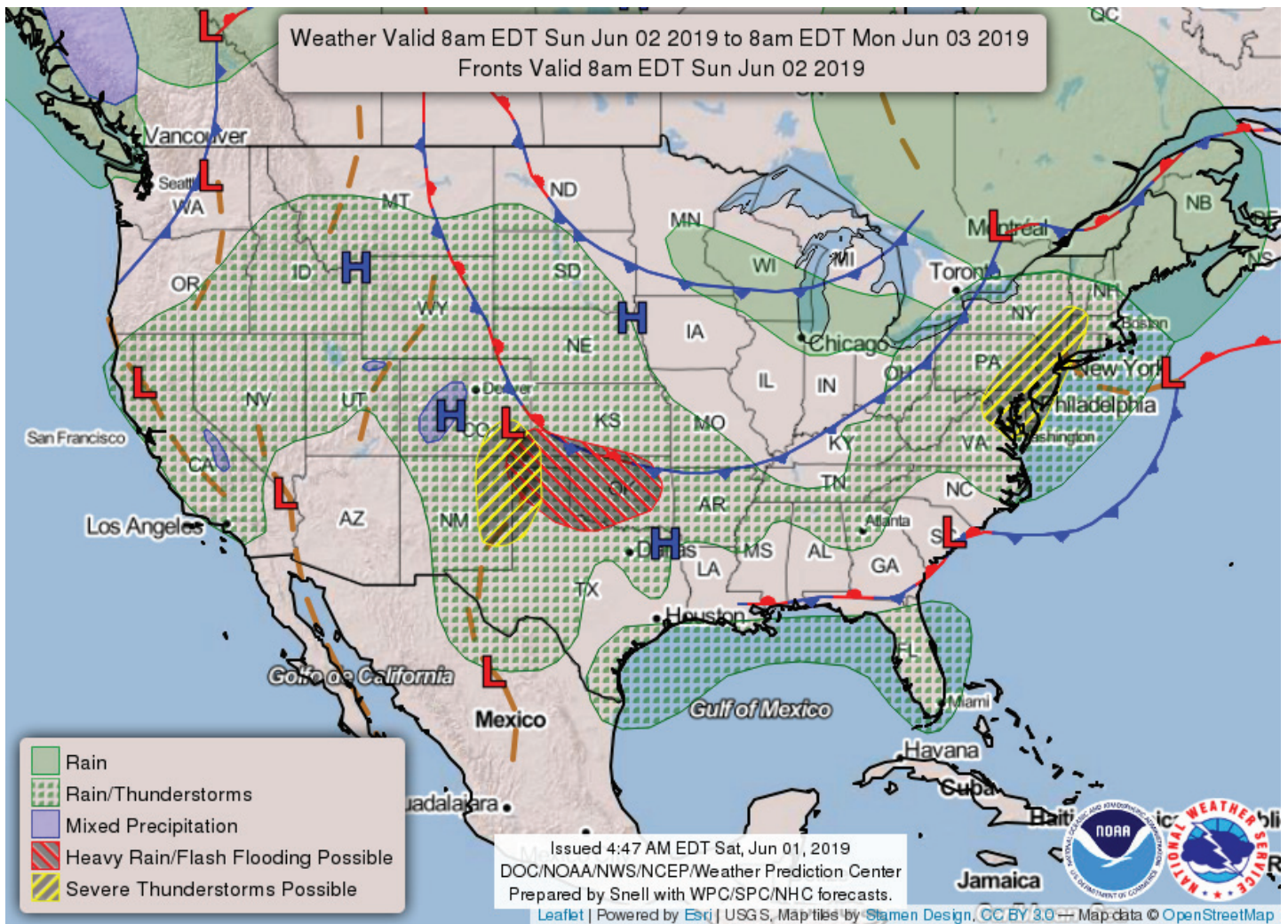
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48 a.m.



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## Tomorrow's Weather Map





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## IT TAKES MORE THAN GOOD PLANS

It had been a long, trying and tiring day. It seemed as though there was one demand after another - each more consuming than the preceding one. While sitting alone and looking out the window at a yard filled with pine trees, my little dog Bella came and sat at my feet. Finally, I thought, here's someone who has come to comfort me.

Shortly after she sat down and looked into my eyes, she began to bark loudly. Not wanting to be disturbed, I tried to avoid looking at her - hoping she would come to the conclusion that I did not want to be bothered. It didn't work. She persisted until I looked at her, shook my head, got up from my chair, and fed her. What I find so amazing is that she expects to be fed at the same time each day. It is as though she has a plan in place organized around a clock. Not so, because she does not have the ability to plan. Only man, created in the image of God, has been given the ability to plan. It is a God-given gift and to be used to glorify and honor the Lord. And notice, if you will, that it comes from the heart - our very essence - the sum total of all the gifts God has given to us.

Notice also, the answer of the tongue comes from the Lord. We may make the most intricate, time-consuming and carefully designed plans for what we think is best for us and others. But, in the end, only God knows what is best for every situation, decision, problem or plan.

We must always recognize the sovereignty of God in all things. We must wait upon Him to speak to us and give us the assurance that our plans agree with His Word and will!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to understand that the best plans ever conceived will fail without Your blessing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 16:1 To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue.

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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 **AP** Associated Press

### Reforestation ongoing after the Black Hills' largest wildfire

By **SETH TUPPER** Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Human hands have given the circle of life a faster spin for the past 16 years in a fire-ravaged pocket of the Black Hills National Forest.

It begins in the fall when men heave themselves up the trunks of ponderosa pine trees to snip green cones from the branches.

It continues 300 miles away in Nebraska, where the cones are dried and the seeds are extracted and grown into seedlings, the Rapid City Journal reported.

In the spring, a truck covers the 300 miles again, this time returning the seedlings to South Dakota, where migrant workers implant them in the ground at the superhuman pace of about 1,000 trees per person, per day.

It all happens one cone, a few seeds and one seedling at a time, but it has added up to 2 million trees planted

since 2003 at an estimated cost of nearly \$2 million to the Black Hills National Forest.

And it was all made necessary by an arsonist who tossed a match in 2000 (she subsequently served 15 years in prison and was paroled in 2016). The match ignited the Jasper Fire, which burned across 130 square miles in the Jewel Cave area and blazed its way into the record books as the largest fire in the recorded history of the Black Hills. Today, much of the formerly forested area is covered with grass and littered with the desiccated trunks of burned trees that are slowly decaying into the landscape.

The fire affected an estimated 239 million board feet of timber. In other words, if all the trees killed by the fire had been preemptively harvested and processed into boards measuring 1 foot long, 1 foot wide and 1 inch thick, the boards would've covered 45,000 miles when laid end-to-end — almost enough to circle the earth twice.

Compared to the fire's giant footprint, the 2 million trees that have been planted since then are like specks of paint on a mostly blank canvas.

But it's a start. Without human help, reforestation would depend on the lonely ponderosa pines that survived the Jasper Fire. Their seeds don't spread far, and any new trees they spawn could take 60 years to produce viable seeds of their own.

At that pace, it could take centuries for individual trees to multiply into groves.

The U.S. Forest Service doesn't want to wait that long. So, every two to seven years, when conditions are cool and moist enough to produce a bumper crop of pine cones, fall is cone-picking season in the southern Black Hills.

To learn that people are paid to collect pine cones in a national forest is to imagine a crew leisurely strolling through nature, stooping here and there to pick up a cone from the forest floor.



**In this April 23, 2019 photo, Juan Garcia-Roberta fills his satchel with new saplings ready to plant at the Jasper Fire site outside of Custer, S.D.** (Adam Fondren/Rapid City Journal via AP)

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To watch an actual cone-picker working in a national forest is something entirely different.

Pine cones on the ground are no good for seed-collecting. Those cones have already dried out, opened up and released their seeds. To get the seeds before they flutter away, the cones have to be harvested while they're still green, sealed up and attached to a tree.

That requires climbing the ramrod-straight trunks of mature pine trees in the Black Hills, which is like trying to ascend a flag pole covered in scratchy, crumbly bark.

Last September, Chris Cawley, of Missoula, Montana, demonstrated the technique on a 40-foot-tall tree.

Using a thick rope wrapped around the tree and attached to his waist harness, Cawley used the rope's purchase on the bark to support his upper body while his knees and feet clamped onto the trunk. Then he slide the rope higher, used it to pull himself up, and clamped his knees and feet onto the trunk again.

In that alternating fashion — pulling with the rope, clamping with the legs, again and again, all the while lugging extra ropes and a long-handled pruner hanging from his waist harness — he violently struggled about halfway up the tree. There, he reached some branches strong enough to support his feet, paused, and wrapped another rope around the tree and affixed it to his harness, like a rock climber clipping onto a bolt.

"It's kind of just like a scramble to the first branch," Cawley said, "and you use clip lines to keep you safe."

From there he continued to the top of the tree, using the stronger branches like ladder rungs.

At the top, he grabbed his long-handled pruner and began cutting off the tips of pine-cone-bearing branches, while working his way back down the tree.

The branch segments, weighted by the living, greenish and surprisingly hefty pine cones, whistled toward the earth like bombs and thumped onto the ground. Soon the base of the tree was littered all around with branch-ends and pine cones, and Cawley descended to gather up the cones.

Then it was on to the next tree. Cawley, a wiry-framed 39-year-old, said he can climb 10 trees and collect up to 18 bushels of pine cones on a good day.

He started picking cones 20 years ago, after being a teenage rock climber.

"I figured nobody was going to pay me to climb rocks," Cawley said. "But there were lots of people climbing trees."

He now works for Roan & Associates, of Montana. Besides picking cones, the company does other land-restoration work, such as planting trees and sagebrush, and collecting pollen. Cawley supplements his income with construction jobs during the winter, but he otherwise stays in the woods as much as he can.

"One of the great things about this country is its forest and its public land," he said. "There's a lot of places in the world that didn't take care of their forests so well, and doing this work ensures that future generations have that opportunity."

In September, Cawley was leading a five-man crew of cone pickers on the fringes of the Jasper Fire area, about 20 miles west and a little north of Custer. Cones are picked there because seeds will grow better if they're picked at about the same elevation as they'll be planted.

The crew picked cones all day, getting paid by the bushel, and slept in tents at a campground in Newcastle, Wyoming. Their stay in the Black Hills lasted a few weeks, and they picked about 1,000 bushels of cones, all of which were bagged in burlap and hauled to the last place anyone would expect to find a tree



**In this April 23, 2019 photo, Juan Garcia-Roberta pulls a sapling from his satchel at the Jasper Fire site outside of Custer, S.D.**

(Adam Fondren/Rapid City Journal via AP)



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nursery: the mostly treeless Sandhills of north-central Nebraska.

The U.S. Forest Service's Charles E. Bessey Nursery was founded in 1902 and named for a botany professor who pioneered experimental tree-planting in the Great Plains.

The nursery is just outside the town of Halsey, Nebraska, population 76. The broader setting is the Sandhills, a vast region of dunes created by desert conditions that existed centuries ago. Today the dunes are anchored in place by uneven grass cover, and the Sandhills are a beautifully spartan place populated mostly by cattle.

As improbable as the Sandhills seem for the location of a tree nursery, the region has some qualities that make it ideal for the job. Those include reserves of underground water that can be tapped with shallow wells to water the trees, and soil of a loose and sandy makeup that makes it easy to uproot young trees for transplantation.

Each year, the Bessey Nursery supplies about 2 million young trees to state conservation agencies and the national forests of the Rocky Mountain region.

Last fall, when the Black Hills pine cones picked by Cawley and his crew arrived at the nursery, they received an enthusiastic greeting from the nursery's hands-on manager, Richard Gilbert.

Gilbert not only runs the nursery but also lives in a house on-site. He's been there for 14 years and still views the life cycle of trees with energetic wonder.

"It's amazing, man. It really is," he said. "It's really cool. It's awesome to be part of it, that's for sure."

Upon receiving the burlap bags full of Black Hills pine cones, Gilbert and his crew of five full-time and six seasonal employees laid out the sacks in a storage building to dry. Pine cones can remain there for two to six weeks until the nursery crew is ready to process them.

Next, the pine cones are spread onto wooden boxes with wire-mesh bottoms and are subjected to 48 hours of hot, dry propane heat to open them up.

After the transformation from closed, green cylinders into open, brown cones is complete, the next step is the tumbler, which looks like an industrial clothes dryer for pine cones. The tumbling motion of the machine's cylindrical chamber dislodges the seeds from the cones, and the seeds fall through openings in the cylinder to a receptacle below.

Next, the seeds are processed by the de-winger — another literally named machine that uses slapping leather flaps to bust the wings from the seeds.

"The reason they have a wing on them is if the cone's still on the tree, and it opens up and the seed comes out, the seed will just whirlybird away from the tree," Gilbert said while dropping a winged seed to demonstrate.

Finally, the seeds are run through other machines that clean them of clingy natural debris.

The clean seeds are sealed inside plastic bags and cardboard cylinders and placed in a big walk-in freezer at 5 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit — alongside 14,000 pounds of other seeds, mostly from national forests in the Rocky Mountain region — while a sample of the seeds is sent to a lab in Georgia. The lab workers



**In this April 23, 2019 photo, Paulino Ordonez swings his planting tool to ready the ground for a sapling at the Jasper Fire site outside of Custer, S.D.** (Adam Fondren/Rapid City Journal via AP)

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analyze the quality of the seed crop to help Gilbert determine how many seeds he should drop in each cell of dirt when he plants them.

The lab analysis can take four to five months, so the seeds produced by last year's Black Hills cone pickers could remain in the freezer until next year.

When Gilbert and his crew needed to plant trees for the Black Hills in March 2018, they pulled a 2015 crop of Black Hills seeds out of the freezer and planted about 153,000 seedlings.

The seeds were planted in squarish, Styrofoam containers with 112 small holes, each with space for about 6 cubic inches of dirt. The nursery grows some other trees in the ground, mostly for state conservation programs, but the national forests served by the nursery have better success with so-called "container trees."

The Black Hills container trees were grown in two of the nursery's greenhouses. From March to October, the seeds sprouted and grew into 6-inch-high, pine-needle-bearing seedlings.

Around the beginning of November, the seedlings were removed from their containers and packed in plastic bags and boxes, at a rate of 300 per box. The boxes of seedlings were then placed in a freezer at 26 degrees until last month.

"They just think it's winter," Gilbert said. "They don't know any different."

The boxes of trees were recently removed from the freezer and hauled by truck to the Jasper Burn area.

In April, a crew of 18 Mexican laborers under the employ of OC Forestry in Medford, Oregon, completed the final step in the long journey from pine cone to planted tree. Most of the laborers were migrants on temporary work visas, while the foreman was a Mexican-born U.S. citizen.

Walking across a roughly 400-acre area burned by the Jasper Fire, with heavy pouches full of seedlings affixed to their belts, the crew members paused every 10 feet or so. They used ax-like tools called hoe-dads to quickly scrape a small patch of grass down to the dirt. Next, they swung the hoedad to chop the earth, pry open a small hole, and drop the seedling in. After a quick tamp of the dirt with one foot, they walked away to plant the next seedling.

Planting as rapidly as one seedling every 10 to 15 seconds, members of the crew planted as many as 1,000 trees per person each day for two weeks until all 153,000 of the seedlings were in the ground.

Many of the seedlings were planted near the fallen trunks of dead trees for protection from harsh sun and weather, and the seedlings were also encased in biodegradable tubing to prevent damage by hungry wildlife drawn to the seedlings' green needles.

Most of the seedlings will survive with favorable weather and adequate precipitation. If a drought ensues, many of them could die.

Because of the abundant storehouse of Black Hills seeds kept at the nursery in Nebraska, seedlings are planted almost every spring in the Jasper Fire area, even in years when no new pine cones are picked. Thriving young trees have begun to transform the landscape in some areas within the fire's footprint, including alongside Mud Springs Road, where a hillside full of seedlings planted seven years ago has grown into a grove of 3- to 4-foot-tall trees.

Blaine Cook, a longtime Forest Service silviculturist, stood gazing at that hillside during this spring's planting project and reflected on the Jasper Fire.

"It changed the forest and people's lives," Cook said, "for years and decades to come."

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

## **New Lakota-translated children's book honors history**

**By SHELLY CONLON Argus Leader**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Garfield Elementary fifth-grader Jaeden Brugier has been learning to speak the Lakota language throughout the last year.

Yet for someone wanting to share the history and legends of his ancestors with his peers, he felt as though he's never had a true chance, he said.



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The school library has less than five books translated in Lakota, and reading sessions often made him feel almost invisible, he said.

But a statewide effort by the South Dakota Humanities Council is about to change that by giving second graders copies of the 2019 Young Readers One Book "Tatanka and Other Legends of the Lakota People," the first book in the history of the Young Readers program translated in both Lakota and English, the Argus Leader reported.

The initiative comes after legislators passed a law in March to officially recognize O'ceti Sakowin, which is comprised of the dialects of Lakota, Dakota and Nakota, as the official indigenous language of South Dakota starting July 1. The law comes almost 30 years after South Dakota chose to honor its Native American heritage by forgoing Columbus Day and renaming the holiday Native Americans' Day.

The state is one of only a handful to change the holiday, and the language law also made it first state in the contiguous United States. The book depicts three legends authored and illustrated by Oglala Sioux Tribe member and Rapid City resident Donald F. Montileaux.

Students received the book this spring to read during the summer, a press release from the council states.

In the Sioux Falls School District, however, the books will go to third graders this fall through school libraries, so it's fresh in the students' minds when the author speaks at the South Dakota Festival of Books from Oct. 4 to Oct. 6 in Deadwood, which hosted by the humanities council each year, said Ann Smith, the district's curriculum services program director.

Delaying the book's distribution also means getting it in the hands of more children, Garfield Elementary librarian Susan Thies said. She's been a librarian for two years and a classroom teacher for 19.

"We have such a transient population, they move (often) and have issues at home and food scarcity," Thies said. "So we always let the second graders know the (program) is coming up, that way in the fall this is ready to go for them."

The book is a perfect way to give children insight into another language in a way that honors the Lakota history and connects with families who might not have a great relationship with public schools, including with those once prohibited and punished for speaking Lakota in schools years ago, Thies said.

Before this book, students who didn't feel connected to what they were reading often slumped in their chairs. Their faces drooped down or they wandered the library, not knowing what to pick out, she said. There was no emotion tied to the words they read, she said.

"This gives value to our history, to say, 'I see you,'" Thies said. "When you walk into the libraries, you (often) see books about little white boys, little white girls and their dogs and cats. But do our African American students from Africa see themselves? Do our African American students from America see themselves? Our Lakota children will see themselves, they'll feel valued because the state has said this is important."

Once she received one, Thies showed a copy of the new book to Bugier, who immediately spent time



**"Tatanka and Other Legends of the Lakota People," seen in a May 1, 2019 photo, will be the first book in the history of the Young Readers program by the South Dakota Humanities Council to be made available in both Lakota and English for second-graders next school year.**

(Shelly Conlon/The Argus Leader via AP)

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searching for the Lakota words he knew to match them with English words, she said. He immediately begged her to let him check the book out to bring it home to his family.

Unfortunately, the book wasn't ready to be borrowed yet, Thies said. But that didn't stop Bugier from being excited about the possibility, she said.

"Of course, we want children to be fluent in English, but at this age, (a book like this) opens the world," Thies said. "It's like a passport to different cultures and countries. And you get to know your own country and culture better when you step out and learn about others."

Bugier will be going to a new school next year, and though he isn't one of the third graders receiving the book, he knows the book will help bring awareness and understanding to part of his culture and current political issues in the state, he said.

And with a younger sister and cousin still on the campus, he also hopes his peers will use the books to continue a school club he started and wishes to carry it on to the middle school level, he said. Called the Circle of Courage Club, it's a club that allows anyone to teach anyone else about their culture and history, he said.

"I'm really hoping I see that book and other books that are Lakota and English, and if there is, I'll be really happy," Brugier said. "I'm hoping that when they learn everything, they'll be like me and try to research more and more about their Lakota history."

For Thies, she hopes this will inspire more South Dakota authors to reach out to schools or to write and publish in indigenous languages now that the three languages are recognized, she said.

"When you read these books, the children sit up, and they sparkle," Thies said. "Our children who are sometimes so silent and never say anything, they can't stop praising their hand. And all of a sudden they're proud of their history. They're proud of the present."

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

07-08-26-65-67, Mega Ball: 4, Megaplier: 3

(seven, eight, twenty-six, sixty-five, sixty-seven; Mega Ball: four; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$444 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$350 million

## Correction: CorTrust-First Minnesota story

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — In a story May 30 about CorTrust's acquisition of First Minnesota Bank, The Associated Press reported erroneously that the purchase price was \$347 million. The purchase price was not actually disclosed and \$347 million was the amount First Minnesota Bank has in assets.

A corrected version of the story is below:

CorTrust acquiring First Minnesota Bank for an undisclosed sum

CorTrust Bank is expanding its footprint in Minnesota

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — CorTrust Bank is expanding its footprint in Minnesota.

The Mitchell-based bank, with 22 locations in eastern South Dakota, is buying First Minnesota Bank, which has assets of \$347 million. That will increase CorTrust locations in Minnesota from four to 15 branches and give it a combined asset of \$1.2 billion.

The purchase price was not disclosed.

The Argus Leader says the deal is expected to close by the end of September.



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## Lawmaker: South Dakota transgender bathroom debate to stay

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota lawmaker is arguing that debate over transgender rights will likely continue and that it's only a matter of time before the U.S. Supreme Court hears a case regarding transgender bathroom use.

Republican Rep. Fred Deutsch spoke to the Argus Leader after the high court declined to take up a challenge to a Pennsylvania school's policy allowing transgender students to use bathrooms corresponding with their gender identity.

Deutsch sponsored a 2016 bill that sought to limit the bathrooms and locker rooms that South Dakota's transgender students can use. It passed the Legislature, but was vetoed by then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Deutsch said "everybody deserves to be treated with dignity and respect," but that students also need privacy from the opposite sex when using a restroom or locker room.

He expects state lawmakers to continue grappling with the issue.

The Supreme Court this week rejected an appeal from students in Pennsylvania's Boyertown School District, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) northwest of Philadelphia, who argued that allowing transgender students to use the same facilities violated their privacy rights. The students are represented by conservative Christian law firm, Alliance Defending Freedom.

Libby Skarin, policy director of the American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota, called the high court's decision "a huge victory" for transgender students. Skarin said the ruling sends a message to South Dakota's transgender students that "they deserve protection" and that courts understand they deserve to be treated as equals to their peers.

"My hope would be that we don't see any discriminatory legislation in the future," Skarin said. "It's been five long years of legislation that targets transgender kids, and I hope that perhaps this case could be the end of that."

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

## Smoke from Canadian wildfires drifts into 5 US states

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Smoke from large wildfires in Canada's Alberta province has drifted into five U.S. states and is causing haze and air quality issues.

More than two dozen fires are burning in Alberta and 10,000 people have been forced from their homes.

The smoke has drifted into Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington state and Wyoming.

The government agency Alberta Wildfire reports the largest blaze is out of control about 450 miles (733 kilometers) north of Edmonton and has burned 887 square miles (2,300 square kilometers) of land.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rated Helena's air quality as unhealthy Friday morning while the air quality in the Montana cities of Great Falls and Lewistown was rated as unhealthy for sensitive groups such as people with asthma or heart disease.

## Second trial scheduled in fatal stabbing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A second trial has been set for a Rapid City woman after a jury couldn't reach a verdict on a murder charge against her.

Lorraine Swallow will be tried again beginning Sept. 9 on a second-degree murder charge in the fatal stabbing of her 28-year-old nephew, Tyrell Bull Bear, last December.

After four days of testimony from witnesses and hours of deliberation, a jury couldn't decide if the 33-year-old woman acted in self-defense.

Defense attorney Angela Colbath urged Judge Matt Brown to acquit Swallow after the jury couldn't reach a verdict, saying there was no evidence she acted with a "depraved mind." Brown declined. Prosecutor Stacy Wickre said Swallow could have walked away or asked for help after fighting with Bull Bear.

## Virginia Beach shooting victims were veteran city employees

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — The 12 people who were fatally shot in a Virginia Beach government building were remembered Saturday during a somber news conference as officials sought to put the focus on those who died and not the gunman.

Police Chief James Cervera identified the assailant as DeWayne Craddock, who was employed for 15 years as an engineer with the city's utilities department. He declined to comment on a motive for Friday's rampage, which ended with Craddock's death in a gun battle with police. City officials uttered his name just once and said they would not mention it again.

City Manager Dave Hansen said he had worked for years with many of the dead, 11 of whom were city employees. The 12th was a contractor trying to get a permit.

Their names and photos were projected on a screen as Hansen read aloud biographical information that included their hometowns and years of service.

"They leave a void that we will never be able to fill," he said.

Chaplains and family assistance workers worked through the night to notify relatives — a job that Hansen described as "the most difficult task anyone will ever have to do."

One of the dead employees had worked for the city for 41 years. Six worked in the same department as Craddock, though authorities have declined to say if anyone was specifically targeted or if the suspect had issued threats before. The victims were found throughout the building, on three floors, police said.

Authorities have said Craddock opened fire indiscriminately. Four other people were wounded, including a police officer whose bulletproof vest saved his life.

The suspect was armed with a .45-caliber handgun with a noise suppressor, police said. Cervera said Saturday that more weapons were found at the scene and at his home, but he declined to elaborate.

The building was open to the public, but security passes were required to enter inner offices, conference rooms and other work areas. As a current employee, Craddock would have had the pass to enter the inner offices, Hansen said.

Asked how secure the building was, the police chief said that government buildings must balance access with security.

"It's an open government building. Citizens have the right to access open government buildings. Employees have a right to access their work site," he said.

Craddock, 40, was a professional engineer who had graduated from Denbigh High School in nearby Newport News in 1996 and joined the Army National Guard, according to a newspaper clip from the time. He received basic military training and advanced individual training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He later graduated from Old Dominion University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

The 11 city employees who were killed were identified as Tara Welch Gallagher, Mary Louise Gayle, Al-



**People gather to pray during a vigil in response to a fatal shooting at a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Va., Saturday, June 1, 2019. A longtime city employee opened fire at the building Friday before police shot and killed him, authorities said.** (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)



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exander Mikhail Gusev, Katherine A. Nixon, Ryan Keith Cox, Joshua A. Hardy and Michelle "Missy" Langer, all of Virginia Beach; Laquita C. Brown and Robert "Bobby" Williams, both of Chesapeake; and Richard H. Nettleton of Norfolk and Christopher Kelly Rapp of Powhatan. The 12th victim, Herbert "Bert" Snelling of Virginia Beach, was a contractor filling a permit.

Craddock appeared to have had no felony record, which would have made him eligible to purchase guns.

Joseph Scott, an engineering technician with the department of public works, said he had worked with Craddock before and had a brief interaction with him Friday. Scott said he saw him in the men's restroom about five minutes before the shooting.

"He was in there brushing his teeth, which he always did after he ate," Scott said. "I said 'Hey, how you doing? What are you doing this weekend?' It was just a brief conversation."

Scott said he left for the day right after and learned of the shooting when a co-worker and then his son called him asking if he was OK.

"I couldn't believe that it happened," he said.

Scott said he worked in a different division from Craddock, whom he described as quiet, polite and a "nice guy." Scott said he thought Craddock was in good standing at work and had never heard negative reports about him.

Craddock's neighbors said police swarmed the neighborhood of modest townhomes Friday in Virginia Beach. Some said he had lived there for at least 10 years.

Several neighbors said Craddock was a clean-cut member of the neighborhood association board whose wife had left him some years ago.

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Associated Press writers Regina Garcia Cano and Michael Biesecker in Washington, D.C.; Denise Lavoie and Michael Kunzelman in Virginia Beach, Virginia; and Jonathan Drew in Durham, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

## Trump digs in on Mexican import tariffs despite uproar

By JILL COLVIN and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite pushback from U.S. business, Mexico and Capitol Hill, President Donald Trump is doubling down on his threat to slap a 5% tariff on Mexican imports unless America's southern neighbor cracks down on Central American migrants trying to cross the U.S. border.

U.S. manufacturers said the tariff, set to take effect June 10, would have devastating consequences on them and American consumers. U.S. stocks tumbled on Wall Street in response to Trump's planned action.

"Imposing tariffs on goods from Mexico is exactly the wrong move," said Neil Bradley, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which is exploring legal action in response to the tariffs. "These tariffs will be paid by American families and businesses without doing a thing to solve the very real problems at the border. Instead, Congress and the president need to work together to address the serious problems at the border."

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador dispatched his foreign secretary to Washington to try to negotiate a solution. He said social problems are not solved with coercive measures, but also seemed convinced that Trump just needed to be informed about all the steps Mexico has taken to slow illegal migration.

Mexico has stepped up raids on migrant caravans traveling through the southern states of Chiapas and Oaxaca this year. It has deported thousands of migrants and frustrated thousands more who wait endlessly for permits that would allow them to travel legally through Mexico.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke with his Mexican counterpart via telephone Friday, said State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus, who's traveling with Pompeo in Bern, Switzerland. Ortagus said the department doesn't comment on details of diplomatic conversations.

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"We maintain an ongoing dialogue and close cooperation with Mexico on a wide range of issues, including border security efforts," she said. "The United States and Mexico recognize that managing our shared border is a challenge common to both countries."

Administration officials told reporters in a briefing call Thursday evening that Mexico could prevent the tariffs from kicking in by securing its southern border with Guatemala, cracking down on criminal smuggling organizations, and entering into a "safe third country agreement" that would make it difficult for those who enter Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S.

"We fully believe they have the ability to stop people coming in from their southern border and if they're able to do that, these tariffs will either not go into place or will be removed after they go into place," said acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney.

Trump said the percentage will gradually increase — up to 25% — until the migration problem is remedied.

"Mexico has taken advantage of the United States for decades," Trump said in a tweet Friday. "Because of the Dems, our Immigration Laws are BAD. Mexico makes a FORTUNE from the U.S., have for decades, they can easily fix this problem. Time for them to finally do what must be done!"

Trump's decision showed the administration going to new lengths, and looking for new levers, to pressure Mexico to take action — even if those risk upending other policy priorities, like the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a trade deal that is the cornerstone of Trump's legislative agenda and seen as beneficial to his reelection effort.

Keeping the economy rolling also is critical to Trump's reelection, and business was not happy with the president's planned tariff on Mexican imports.

"These proposed tariffs would have devastating consequences on manufacturers in America and on American consumers," said Jay Timmons, chief executive officer of the National Association of Manufacturers. "We have taken our concerns to the highest levels of the administration and strongly urge them to consider carefully the impact of this action on working families across this country."

The stock market's tumble on Friday all but guarantees that May will be the first monthly loss for the market in 2019. The news hit automakers particularly hard. Many of them import vehicles into the U.S. from Mexico.

"The auto sector — and the 10 million jobs it supports — relies upon the North American supply chain and cross border commerce to remain globally competitive," said the Auto Alliance, which represents auto-makers that built 70% of all cars and light trucks sold in U.S. "Any barrier to the flow of commerce across the U.S.-Mexico border will have a cascading effect — harming U.S. consumers, threatening American jobs and investment and curtailing economic progress."

Some of Trump's fellow Republicans in Congress opposed the tariff. Republican senators have made almost weekly treks to the White House to nudge the president off his trade wars, and this latest move



**Migrant children line up for a meal at the door of the Jesus del Buen Pastor del Pobre y el Migrante shelter, in Tapachula, Chiapas state, Mexico, Thursday, May 30, 2019. Resentment has been growing in parts of central Mexico as the flow of migrants has continued. Towns were receptive and welcoming to the first caravans last year, but more recently have felt overwhelmed.** (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)



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sent them scrambling again to signal their displeasure in hopes of reversing Trump's actions.

Texas Republican Sen. John Cornyn supports the president's commitment to securing the border, an aide said, but he opposes the across-the-board tariff, "which will disproportionately hurt Texas."

Key trade senators also spoke up. Pennsylvania GOP Sen. Pat Toomey, who has questioned the administration's ability to invoke national security threats for some other imports, called the tariffs a "blanket tax increase" on items Americans purchases from Mexico and "the wrong remedy."

The tariff threat comes at a peculiar time, given how hard the administration has been pushing for passage of the USMCA, which would update the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, a usual Trump ally and the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, slammed the president's action, saying it was a "misuse of presidential tariff authority" that would burden American consumers and "seriously jeopardize passage of USMCA."

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, said the livelihoods of farmers and producers from her state are at risk and so is the USMCA.

"If the president goes through with this, I'm afraid progress to get this trade agreement across the finish line will be stifled," she said.

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Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro, Kevin Freking and Paul Wiseman in Washington and Maria Verza in Mexico City contributed to this report.

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Follow Colvin and Long on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and <https://twitter.com/ctlong1>

## The Latest: Trump offers condolences after shooting

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — The Latest on the shooting in Virginia Beach (all times local):  
10:55 a.m.

President Donald Trump says he's spoken to Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam and city officials in Virginia Beach after a shooting at a municipal building there killed 12 people.

In a tweet Saturday morning, Trump says he offered condolences to the community and that the federal government is there for whatever is needed.

The gunman was identified as DeWayne Craddock, who had worked for the city as an engineer for 15 years.

Eleven city employees and one contractor were killed in the shooting. Craddock was killed in the ensuing gunbattle with police. One police officer was hurt but was expected to recover.

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10:55 a.m.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam called for prayers at a Saturday vigil for the victims of a shooting at a Virginia Beach municipal building that killed 12 people.

Northam said to pray, not just for the victims, but also for first responders to Friday's violence because they too are grieving.

The gunman was identified as DeWayne Craddock, who had worked for the city as an engineer for 15 years.

Eleven city employees and one contractor were killed in the shooting. Craddock was killed in the ensuing gunbattle with police. One police officer was hurt but was expected to recover.

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9:20 a.m.

Authorities in Virginia would not say whether the man believed to have opened fire on co-workers at a city municipal building was facing any sort of disciplinary action related to his employment.

Virginia Beach City Manager Dave Hansen said at a press conference Saturday that DeWayne Craddock had been employed by the city for 15 years as an engineer.

Hansen said Craddock was still employed at the time of the shooting Friday afternoon and possessed a

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security pass that allowed him access to nonpublic areas of the municipal building.

Neither Hansen nor Virginia Beach Police Chief James Cervera would comment on whether Craddock was facing disciplinary or termination proceedings at the time of the shooting.

Some 11 city employees and one contractor were killed in the shooting. Craddock was killed in the ensuing gunbattle with police. One police officer was hurt but was expected to recover.

9:05 a.m.

Police say they have recovered "additional weapons" that were in the possession of the suspect believed to have shot and killed 12 people during a rampage at a municipal building in Virginia.

Virginia Beach Police Chief James Cervera said at a news conference Saturday that the weapons were recovered at the scene as well as at the home of the suspect, identified as DeWayne Craddock.

Earlier, Cervera had said that the suspect used a .45-caliber handgun with a suppressor in the killings. Unlike some states, silencers are legal in Virginia, though it is illegal to have one in Virginia Beach per local ordinance.

Authorities say Craddock stormed the building and opened fire Friday afternoon at the city building before he was killed in a gunbattle with police.

8:35 a.m.

Officials have identified the gunman who killed 12 people and then was shot by officers at a Virginia Beach municipal building as Dewayne Craddock.

Authorities used a Saturday morning news conference to focus on the victims. They projected photos on a screen and gave each victim's name along with biographical details.

City manager Dave Hansen says 11 of the 12 victims were employees of the city. He says families of the victims have been notified. He says he'd worked with most of them for many years, and they "leave a void that we will never be able to fill."

Officials identified Craddock for the first time after talking about the victims. They say they will name Craddock only once, then will not refer to him again.

1:30 a.m.

Authorities say a longtime city employee wielding a .45-caliber handgun with a suppressor fatally shot 12 people on three floors of a municipal building in Virginia Beach before police shot him.

Four other people were wounded in Friday's shooting, including a police officer whose bulletproof vest saved his life.



**Virginia Beach Police Chief James Cervera speaks at a news conference on a shooting at a municipal building, Saturday, June 1, 2019, in Virginia Beach, Va. Authorities identified the suspect as DeWayne Craddock, a longtime city employee who opened fire at the building Friday before police shot and killed him, authorities said.** (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)



Police Chief James Cervera says the suspect engaged in a "long gunbattle" with law enforcement officers. He says officers gave the suspect first aid after he was shot, but he died.

Cervera said Friday that he would release the suspect's name after authorities had contacted his family, but would mention the name only once.

He said after that, "he will be forever referred to as the suspect because our focus now is the dignity and respect to the victims in this case and to their families."

Associated Press writers Regina Garcia Cano in Washington, D.C.; Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; and Tom Foreman Jr. in Charlotte, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

## No. 1 Osaka's 16-match winning streak at Slams ends in Paris

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — This was one deficit too big to overcome for Naomi Osaka, whose Grand Slam winning streak is over.

The No. 1-ranked Osaka couldn't muster a comeback after falling way behind yet again at the French Open, losing 6-4, 6-2 in the third round to No. 42 Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic on Saturday.

Osaka had won her past 16 matches at major tournaments, allowing her to lift the trophies at the U.S. Open last September and Australian Open in January. That run also included two victories at Roland Garros after trailing by a set and a break each time.

But Osaka's mounting mistakes just kept accumulating against Siniakova, who never had reached the fourth round in singles in 18 previous Slam appearances. She is better known for her doubles success, winning championships at the French Open and Wimbledon last year and topping the rankings

"I mean, it's incredible. It's amazing. It's the thing I couldn't believe," said Siniakova, who will face 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys next. "It was my best tennis."

It decidedly was not Osaka's, who quickly gathered her things and headed to the Court Suzanne Lenglen locker room when the lopsided match was finished.

She wound up with a hard-to-believe 38 unforced errors; Siniakova made only 13.

And Osaka, so good lately at the biggest moments on her sport's biggest stages, wasn't able to come up with the goods on the hottest day of the tournament so far, with the temperature topping 80 degrees (approaching 30 Celsius).

One key statistic: Osaka compiled seven break points in the first set but failed to convert a single one. She was 0 for 4 on break chances when Siniakova served out that set, then never managed to earn one in the second.



**Japan's Naomi Osaka gets up after slipping during her third round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Saturday, June 1, 2019. Osaka lost her match in two sets, 4-6, 2-6.** (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

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Clay has never been Osaka's best surface. Her power game is served better by the speed of hard courts, in particular. That's why she still has not made it to the round of 16 at the French Open.

The first tennis player from Japan to be ranked No. 1 thought she was better suited to contend this time and spoke about eyeing a third consecutive Grand Slam title.

After going just 9-11 on clay over her career until this season, she was 9-1 in 2019 until Saturday's setback. The loss ends Osaka's run of 16 straight wins in Grand Slam tournaments, which included titles at the U.S. Open and Australian Open.

Osaka's exit, a day after No. 2 Karolina Pliskova lost, leaves defending champion Simona Halep, at No. 3, as the highest-seeded woman remaining. Halep needed only 55 minutes to get to the fourth round with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over No. 27 Lesia Tsurenko.

Keys, a semifinalist in Paris a year ago, advanced by beating qualifier Anna Blinkova 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-4. In men's action, No. 1 Novak Djokovic stretched his Slam winning streak to 24 matches as he seeks his fourth title in a row, eliminating 147th-ranked qualifier Salvatore Caruso of Italy 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

Also advancing were No. 5 Alexander Zverev, No. 6 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No. 9 Fabio Fognini and No. 24 Stan Wawrinka, the 2015 champion and 2017 runner-up at Roland Garros.

Tsitsipas vs. Wawrinka, and Zverev vs. Fognini will be fourth-round matchups.

More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Bet responsibly? A struggle for some as sportsbook ads widen

By WAYNE PARRY Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The tagline makes the solution sound so simple: "Gamble responsibly."

It's anything but for those who struggle with compulsive gambling. Instead, the footnote caps a powerful new temptation as ads for sports betting emerge in states that have recently legalized an activity once banned in most of the United States.

Sharon, a 39-year-old homemaker, decided with her husband to move from New Jersey to New York specifically to get away from legalized sports betting, but still sees ads frequently that remind her of the tens of thousands of dollars in debt she racked up on a wagering app.

Charlie, an information technology professional from suburban Philadelphia, says the advertisements and easy access makes wagering "tempting as hell," even as his losses mounted to \$400,000 as he bet online while traveling on service calls.

They've complicated addiction recovery for Gary, a real estate agent from New Jersey who attends support group meetings and has lost nearly \$2 million over a lifetime of gambling.

"It seems like every fourth commercial, there's one telling you how easy it is to bet on sports and make money," said Gary, who like other gamblers spoke to The Associated Press on condition that his full name not be used because of stigmas some people associate with unhealthy gambling.

"It's right in front of my eyes, and even though I've been in recovery for years and go regularly to Gamblers Anonymous meetings, it's starting to bother me," he said. "I can feel it."

Advertising supporting the nascent sports betting industry has not drawn the same level of scrutiny from regulators and lawmakers in the U.S. as counterparts in Europe, where several countries strictly regulate or even ban gambling ads, including those for sports betting.

One year after the U.S. Supreme Court ended a virtual monopoly in Nevada, eight states have begun taking legal sports wagers. Three states and the District of Columbia have passed laws to create new markets and a handful of legislatures are still considering bills. None of the laws passed has significant restrictions for sports betting ads.

The commercial casino industry wants to keep it that way. The American Gaming Association, the gambling industry's main trade group and lobbying arm, recently issued voluntary guidelines for sports betting advertising in a bid to stay ahead of possible government regulation.

Those who struggle with gambling find ads touting Super Bowl or March Madness wagers similar to beer



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ads tempting those with alcoholism, or fast food ads enticing those with unhealthy eating habits. Though a hurdle for some, the ads are an understandable facet of expanded betting with sportsbooks chasing new customers to bet legally and leisurely, just like millions of people who visit casinos, buy lottery tickets or drink and eat without harmful consequences.

"There's not one commercial break it seems where you don't see one of these ads. As much as I tried to stop, there are all these incentives: a \$500 free bet, we'll refund your first bet even if you lose. They're everywhere I look," said Sharon, who lives in a New York TV market that's a key target for advertisers of New Jersey sportsbooks. "It's a constant reminder of my problem. There's still this incredible temptation that these ads make worse."

Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, thinks the details of gambling ads haven't been explored enough.

"In the U.S., if you say, 'Gamble responsibly,' you've now met the responsible gambling standard," Whyte said. "It's going to be a big issue. There's heightened concern for people struggling with gambling addiction and relapse. And I don't see a lot of discussion about this."

Major sportsbooks all say they train their workers to spot people with potential gambling problems, offering various solutions including self-imposed betting "timeouts" for those who want them. In New Jersey, some money from licensing fees for sports betting fund compulsive gambling treatment programs, and ads are required by state law to mention a 1-800-GAMBLER telephone help line. Regulations in other states are relatively similar.

European regulators are using a heavier hand. In 2018, Italy banned all gambling advertising, Sweden is considering similar restrictions, and in Belgium, online casinos will be banned from advertising on television. England plans to ban all gambling-related ads during live sports starting in August.

In the U.S., leagues generally have had a hand in the content of their advertising; not long ago the NFL even stopped ads for Las Vegas casinos from airing nationally during the Super Bowl.

Scott Kaufman-Ross, head of fantasy and gaming for the NBA, said advertising for sports betting is OK "if a fan is interested in betting and they want to bet. But if they're not interested, or if they're a problem gambler, they should not have it thrown in their face."

Charlie, the IT professional, said gambling is often easier than drinking alcohol when he finds himself alone in hotels with nothing to do.

"Imagine being an alcoholic sitting home on your couch and there's no beer in the house, and then there's this app that you can press and magically a beer appears," he said. "That's the kind of access that's out there now and it's tempting as hell. It's really, really hard to maintain your recovery and not bet again. Everywhere you look, someone's urging you to gamble."

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## Trump turbulence lags momentum for North American trade deal

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The momentum that supporters have tried to build for a new North American trade deal has run into some Trump turbulence.

The Trump administration had taken steps in recent weeks to work with Democratic and Republican lawmakers to address concerns about the proposed United States-Mexico-Canada agreement.

Then President Donald Trump made his threat this past week of a 5% tariff on Mexican imports unless America's southern neighbor cracked down on Central American migrants trying to cross the U.S. border.

His recent decision to remove U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico had appealed mostly Republicans who were using their trade vote as leverage to do away with those penalties.

The administration also had committed to meeting with a group of House Democrats to allay their con-

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cerns. That gesture created good will, and as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., described it, put Democrats "on a path to yes."

Now it's unclear where that path may lead.

Influential business groups fear that Trump's threat against Mexico could derail the proposed trade agreement.

"The last thing we want to do is put that landmark deal — and the 2 million manufacturing jobs that depend on North American trade — in jeopardy," said Jay Timmons, president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said it was considering legal action to block the tariffs from going into effect.

Some GOP senators are rankled, too, most notably Charles Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

"This is a misuse of presidential tariff authority and counter to congressional intent," Grassley said.

Congressional aides from both parties said that it's too soon to say

whether Trump's proposal will derail the agreement. But it does make it harder for lawmakers to assess how the agreement would improve the economic landscape if the tariffs on Mexico go into place.

Democrats seem mostly concerned with other breaking developments.

Hours before Trump announced his tariff plan, his administration tried to set up the agreement for a possible congressional vote before the August recess. The administration completed the formal steps necessary to start the clock for submitting legislation to Congress.

Pelosi said that was "not a positive step" and "indicates a lack of knowledge on the part of the administration on the policy and process to pass a trade agreement."

Democrats want to strengthen enforcement of labor and environmental standards in Mexico. They have pushed for Mexico to change labor laws that have encouraged wages as low as \$1 or \$2 per hour at some plants, giving U.S. companies a strong incentive to move operations south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Mexico lawmakers have approved a law that requires secret-ballot union votes and proof of workers' consent for contracts. Democrats in Washington want to ensure follow-through, and Pelosi still holds the final say in determining when, or if, the agreement comes up for a vote.

Pelosi also joined several Republican senators in slamming Trump's tariff threat, saying it is "not rooted in wise trade policy but has more to do with bad immigration policy on his part."

"Yet again, the president is sowing chaos over the border instead of delivering solutions for American workers and for American consumers," Pelosi said.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said the tariffs should not jeopardize passage of the trade pact and that the president simply wants Mexico to do more to stem the flow of migrants.

She said the White House is confident it would pass the Democratic-run House, if Pelosi put it to a vote.



**FILE - In this Feb. 26, 2019, file photo, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. The sense of momentum supporters tried to build for a new North American trade agreement has turned to whiplash. The Trump administration had been taking steps in recent weeks to work with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to address various concerns they have with the proposed United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.** (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)



Trump said he had the authority to impose a 5 percent levy on all goods imported from Mexico and pledged to increase those duties to as high as 25 percent if Mexico did not dramatically to reduce the number of migrants crossing the border.

Investors have responded negatively, with the Dow Jones industrial average closing Friday down roughly 355 points, or 1.4%.

Still, Conway told reporters that "tariffs are a good way to get a trading partner's attention, and apparently it did."

Mexico's foreign relations secretary, Marcelo Ebrard, announced that he and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would lead talks Wednesday in Washington, a move seen as potentially easing tensions and avoiding retaliatory tariffs.

Both Mexico and Canada are moving ahead with steps toward ratifying the trade agreement.

Canada's foreign minister, Chrystia Freeland, indicated that it's up to the U.S. and Mexico to work out their dispute. "This is a bilateral issue," she said.

Associated Press writers Rob Gillies in Toronto and Deb Riechmann contributed to this report.

## Voter surge in 2018 prompts voting reforms, restrictions

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — New York voters for years have experienced some of the longest wait times in the nation on Election Day. Attempts to fix the problem routinely became casualties of the divided politics of the state Legislature.

That dynamic changed last November, when Democrats won majorities in both legislative chambers, and it didn't take them long to act.

Just weeks into this year's legislative session, they passed a bill to allow early voting, and Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo promptly signed it.

"Early voting is going to make a significant difference for countless numbers of New Yorkers by making polling places so much more accessible and allow voters to determine when it is most convenient for them," said Susan Lerner, executive director of Common Cause New York.

New York is among a small number of states where Democrats made big gains in last year's election and have used that power to pass laws to make it easier to register and to vote. They have introduced early voting, all-mail voting or automatic registration.



**FILE - In this Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018, file photo, voters stand in line to cast their ballots at P.S. 22, in the Prospect Heights neighborhood in the Brooklyn borough of New York. An effort by Democrats to implement broad reforms to the nation's voting process has stalled in the U.S. Senate, but some states are moving forward to expand access through early voting, same-day voter registration and other measures ahead of 2020. The biggest success for voting rights advocates so far is New York, which had been one of a dozen states not offering some form of early voting.** (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

A few Republican-led states — some of which saw high turnout for Democratic candidates — are going

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in the opposite direction, advancing bills to tighten voter registration and early voting.

"Some of this seems like a fairly direct response to things that happened in the midterms," said Max Feldman, who tracks voting laws at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University's School of Law.

In New Mexico, Democrats not only expanded their majority in the state House but also claimed the governor's mansion after eight years of GOP control. By March, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham had signed a law to allow people to register and vote on the same day beginning in 2021. Previously, registration ended 28 days before an election.

Hawaii lawmakers approved legislation replacing the in-person voting system with one made up entirely of mailed ballots. If the measure is signed into law, the state will join Colorado, Oregon and Washington with mail-only voting. Delaware approved in-person, early voting beginning in 2022.

While bills increasing voter access this year far outnumbered those seeking to impose restrictions, many of the expansion bills were put forward by Democratic lawmakers in states led by Republicans. That means they are unlikely pass.

In the 2018 elections, Democrats nearly doubled to 14 the number of states in which they control the governor's office and both legislative chambers, but Republicans remain in charge in more states — 22.

While some voting reforms such as automatic registration have drawn bipartisan support, Republicans generally have opposed same-day registration, mail-only voting and other changes, saying they increase the potential for fraud.

In Connecticut, Republicans recently thwarted a push by Democrats to do as New York did and add in-person, early voting. Democrats have a legislative majority there, but a constitutional amendment is required to make the change, and they fell short of garnering the votes necessary to put the issue on the ballot.

Republicans had expressed concern that early voters might come to regret their selections if a race's dynamics shifted after they had turned in their ballot.

GOP lawmakers in some states also have targeted groups that register voters. They say such groups can create a burden for local election officials if they turn in large numbers of forms that are incomplete or contain false information.

In Tennessee, Republican Gov. Bill Lee signed a law that allows for fines against groups turning in 100 or more incomplete registration forms in a year.

"This bill was presented because of actual circumstances that were meant to confuse the integrity, or to create a lack of integrity, in the voting process," Lee said.

Critics say Tennessee's Republicans feel threatened by an increase in voter participation last year. In 2018, turnout in the state was 51 percent higher than in the previous midterm election. About 259,500 new voters registered in the six months before Election Day.

"What politicians should be doing is making sure that local election officials have the adequate resources to do their jobs," ACLU attorney Sophia Lakin said in announcing a federal lawsuit challenging the new law. "Silencing civic groups' voices is not the solution."

In Texas, where Democrats picked up two congressional seats last year, lawmakers have been considering a bill that would make it a felony rather than a misdemeanor to knowingly put false information on a voter registration form. It would also increase scrutiny of those who provide transportation for voters headed to the polls.

The legislation passed the state Senate but stalled in the House.

Voter-suppression claims also have been made against Republicans in Florida, over a constitutional amendment voters approved last year that would make it easier for convicted felons to regain the right to vote.

Republican lawmakers, in drafting legislation to implement the amendment, said its language about felons having to complete "all terms of their sentence including parole or probation" also meant paying all court fees, fines and restitution before being eligible to vote.

"This measure is nothing but a poll tax that would effectively disenfranchise those who are unable to pay," Rep. Marcia L. Fudge, an Ohio Democrat, said during a recent congressional hearing in Florida.

The bill's sponsor, GOP state Sen. Jeff Brandes, defended it, saying: "Our goal was to follow the constitution, and the constitution is clear — 'all terms of the sentence.'"



Associated Press writer Jonathan Mattise in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

Follow Christina Almeida Cassidy on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Christina](http://twitter.com/AP_Christina)

## Defense chief calls out China on tech theft, South China Sea

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — U.S. Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan on Saturday denounced China's efforts to steal technology from other nations and militarize man-made outposts in the South China Sea as a "toolkit of coercion," saying activities by Beijing the U.S. perceives as hostile must end.

In his first major speech on the international stage, Shanahan mixed sharp criticism of China and warnings of North Korea's "extraordinary" threat with vows that the U.S. will remain strongly committed to the Indo-Pacific region and is ready to invest billions of dollars in securing its stability.

While he didn't specifically name China in early parts of his speech, he made clear who his target was, making pointed references to Beijing's campaign to put advanced weapons systems on disputed islands in the region.

"If these trends in these behaviors continue, artificial features in the global commons could become tollbooths. Sovereignty could become the purview of the powerful," Shanahan said.

His remarks underscore America's frayed relations with China, as the Trump administration wages a trade war with Beijing, imposes sanctions on Chinese tech giant Huawei and approves a weapons sale to Taiwan, the self-ruled island the Communist mainland claims as its own territory. And they reflect America's new national defense strategy that declared great power competition with China and Russia as top priorities.

Shanahan's speech is also arguably an audition to both the world and U.S. top leaders in Congress, as his nomination for permanent secretary has still not been sent to Capitol Hill by President Donald Trump.

And listening closely in the audience were nervous allies and partners in the region who are worried about the economic impact of the U.S.-China trade dispute and the political blowback of America's complaints about Beijing's rapid progress in hypersonic weapons, nuclear technology and space launches.

Lt. Gen. Shao Yuanming, a senior Chinese officer, said he welcomed deeper communication between China and the U.S., but he expressed strong opposition to some of Shanahan's comments on U.S. relations with Taiwan and China's operations in the South China Sea. He said China has strong legal claims to the waterway, and that Beijing has put necessary "deterrent facilities" there in response to U.S. provocation involving military exercises in that region.

Shanahan told reporters Friday that he would use his speech to the Shangri-La Dialogue conference to



**Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, left, arrives for the opening dinner of the 18th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-la Dialogue, an annual defense and security forum in Asia, in Singapore, Friday, May 31, 2019.** (AP Photo/Yong Teck Lim)

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criticize Beijing's use of coercion to advance its interests. And after his remarks, during questions from the audience, he suggested that his speech was more directly critical than those of other U.S. defense secretaries in the past.

"I won't apologize for the way I framed some of my remarks, but we're not going to ignore Chinese behavior," Shanahan said. "I think in the past people have kind of tiptoed around that. It's not about being confrontational, it's about being open and having a dialogue."

Shanahan, however, is one of several Pentagon chiefs to take aim at China during the Singapore conference. In 2014, for example, then-Secretary Chuck Hagel used the podium to slam China for cyberspying and said the U.S. would not look away while Beijing's territorial claims destabilized the region and threatened Asia's long-term progress.

Still, Shanahan said the U.S. is willing to cooperate with China and welcomes competition, but said behavior that erodes other nations' sovereignty and sows distrust of China's intentions must end.

"Competition does not mean conflict," he said. "Competition is not to be feared. We should welcome it, provided that everyone plays by internationally established rules."

He also rejected suggestions that the U.S. is in a "face-off" or trade war with China, and said economic negotiations with Beijing are ongoing and the Pentagon is building relations with the Chinese military.

But he went on to restate America's distrust of Huawei, the world's No. 1 network equipment provider and second-largest smartphone maker. The U.S. claims Huawei is legally beholden to China's ruling Communists, which could use the company's products, including its next-generation wireless network known as 5G, for cyberespionage.

Shanahan said Huawei is "too close to the government" of China, which has laws requiring data be shared. "That's too much risk for the department," said Shanahan. "You can't trust that those networks are going to be protected."

China warned Friday that that it was drawing up a list of "unreliable" foreign companies, organizations and individuals for targeting in what could signal retaliation for U.S. sanctions on Huawei.

Much of Shanahan's speech centered on America's work with partners across the region.

"The Indo-Pacific is our priority theater," he said. "We are where we belong. We are investing in the region. We are investing in you, and with you."

But he also called on the Pacific nations to invest in their own futures.

Several U.S. senators attending the conference gave Shanahan high marks for his speech, saying his criticism of China hit the right tone. Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine, said Shanahan "distinguished himself" in his remarks, including assertions that conflict with China is not inevitable.

King stopped short of saying he would vote for Shanahan when his nomination hits the Senate, but Sen. Tammy Duckworth, an Illinois Democrat, said she was impressed and is now more inclined to support him.

On North Korea, Shanahan said the U.S. is focused on negotiations to achieve full denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, adding that the North "has neared a point where it could credibly strike regional allies, U.S. territory and our forward-deployed forces."

He credited China for its cooperation on enforcing U.N. sanctions against Pyongyang.

In a departure from past conferences, however, Shanahan faced little backlash from the Chinese leaders in the audience during the question-and-answer session.

On Friday, Chinese defense ministry spokesman Wu Qian was both conciliatory and challenging.

Wu told reporters that the U.S. has recently "had a series of negative words and deeds" on Taiwan issues. "On the issue of safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the U.S. should not underestimate the determination of the Chinese military, will or ability," he said.

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Associated Press writer Annabelle Liang contributed to this report.

## Arrest in 43-year-old murder case stuns Wisconsin town

By IVAN MORENO Associated Press

LAKEWOOD, Wis. (AP) — Word of the arrest — via a friend's text message — hit Wayne Sankey like a thunderbolt.

"I said, 'You gotta be kidding me,'" Sankey recalled. "And then I told the wife and she couldn't believe it. 'There's no way,' she said. 'Ray down the road?'"

Ray Vannieuwenhoven was his next-door neighbor — a helpful, 82-year-old handyman with a gravelly voice and a loud, distinctive laugh, the kind of guy who always waved from his car.

The widower and father of five grown children had lived quietly for two decades among the 800 residents of Lakewood, a northern Wisconsin town surrounded by forests and small lakes.

Now authorities were saying this man was a cold-blooded killer. They had used genetic genealogy to crack a cold case that stretched back well into the 20th century — a double murder 25 miles southwest of Lakewood.

For nearly 43 years, Vannieuwenhoven had lived in plain sight, yet outside detectives' radar.

It was just too much to be believed. Was the guy next door really a monster?

David Schuldes and Ellen Matheys, engaged to be married, set up their campsite at a secluded spot in McClintock Park on Friday afternoon, July 9, 1976.

It appeared they were alone.

Schuldes was a 25-year-old part-timer in the circulation department of the Green Bay Press-Gazette; Matheys, 24, worked at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay library.

They were about to go for a walk, according to court documents and news reports of the time. First, Matheys stopped to use the restroom.

Two shots from a .30-caliber rifle shattered the quiet. One bullet struck Schuldes' neck from 50 feet away, killing him instantly. The other bullet lodged in a bathroom wall.

Matheys ran, with the killer in pursuit, investigators say. He caught and raped her, then shot her twice in the chest.

Her body was found 200 yards from where Schuldes lay, a camera slung over his shoulder.

Investigators were stumped: The killer took no money and left Matheys' purse in the couple's car. They didn't know why the couple was targeted, and leads were scant. For months, campers avoided McClintock Park.

DNA profiling in the '90s brought new hope, but detectives got no matches when they submitted the



**In this March 14, 2019 booking photo provided by the Marinette County Sheriff's Office is Raymand Vannieuwenhoven. Prosecutors said they used DNA and genetic genealogy to connect Vannieuwenhoven to the killings 43 years ago of a young couple David Schuldes and Ellen Matheys. Vannieuwenhoven, 82, a widower and father of five grown children had lived quietly for two decades among the 800 residents of Lakewood, a northern Wisconsin town about 25 miles southwest from the site of the murders. Now he is being held on a \$1 million bond.**

(Marinette County Sheriff via AP)



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semen from Matheys' shorts to the FBI's national database.

Last year, detectives contacted Virginia-based Parabon NanoLabs, a DNA technology company whose work with genetic genealogy analysis has helped police identify 55 suspects in cold cases nationwide since May 2018, according to the company. Parabon uploads DNA from crime scenes to GEDmatch, a free, public genealogy database with about 1.2 million profiles, all voluntarily submitted by people who've used consumer genealogy sites like Ancestry.com and 23andMe.

California law enforcement used GEDmatch to capture the Golden State Killer last year by finding distant relatives and reverse-engineering his family tree.

Parabon's experts completed Vannieuwenhoven's family tree in late December. They'd found his parents, who had lived in the Green Bay area. Now detectives needed DNA samples from Vannieuwenhoven and his three brothers. Two were ruled out with DNA samples collected from one brother's trash and another's used coffee cup.

On March 6, two sheriff's deputies knocked on Vannieuwenhoven's door, pretending they wanted him to fill out a brief survey on area-policing. They told him to put the survey in an envelope and seal it with his tongue.

Detectives didn't need to visit the fourth brother. Eight days later, Vannieuwenhoven was in custody.

At Vannieuwenhoven's first court appearance, on March 22, bond was set at \$1 million.

"Not guilty, not guilty, not guilty," Vannieuwenhoven said, when the judge asked him if he understood the charges. His next court date is June 19.

Kurt Schuldes, 68, a cousin of David Schuldes in Green Bay, welcomed the news of an arrest, but lamented the time it took: "He just got away with it for way too long, unfortunately."

"It was a long time coming," said Cynthia Chizek, Matheys' 53-year-old niece, who lives in Henderson, Nevada. "It's just something that always hangs over your head, knowing that there's someone out there who did this heinous crime."

Prosecutors and Lakewood residents, meanwhile, were left with the question: Who is Raymand Lawrence Vannieuwenhoven?

Richard Leurquin, twin brother of Vannieuwenhoven's dead wife, Rita, said his brother-in-law was "a very loving father to his wife and kids." He's convinced Vannieuwenhoven is innocent.

The Vannieuwenhovens were married until her death in 2008, a few months after they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Sankey said after Rita died, Vannieuwenhoven spent his days fishing, hunting, and going on weeks-long camping trips.

But Vannieuwenhoven had a dark side. To start, this isn't his first time in jail.

In 1957, when he was 20, married, and going by the name Lawrence Vannieuwenhoven, he was jailed for six months for an unprovoked attack on a 17-year-old girl. She was walking with three friends when Vannieuwenhoven struck her on the back, face, and shoulder. Shortly before, police said, Vannieuwenhoven also tried to attack a 16-year-old girl.

Vannieuwenhoven said before sentencing he "was only trying to scare the girls," the Press-Gazette reported at the time.

In 1960, he pleaded guilty to not providing financial support to his wife and their 1-year-old daughter, the Press-Gazette reported then. He was on probation for a year.

More recently, some neighbors caught glimpses of a menacing side when he drank. He stopped only a few years ago, for his health, they said.

"I know this much — when he was drinking he was one son of a bitch. You didn't want to be anywhere near him when he was drinking. Not just me, a lot of people," said Fred Mason, 66, who works at the town dump where Vannieuwenhoven was seen frequently, rummaging through scrap piles for small engine parts.

Robert Ganzell, 86, and his wife sometimes dined out with Vannieuwenhoven. He heard from others that he had a temper when he drank, but Ganzell said he never witnessed it.

As for the murder charges, Ganzell was nonplussed. "Never thought of it being him, doing anything like that," Ganzell said. Aside from that, he had little to say about Vannieuwenhoven.

In fact, the neighbors realized that they knew little about this man. For instance, it's unclear where he worked before retiring. Sankey said he's heard Vannieuwenhoven was an iron worker, but he also told Sankey he used to haul and deliver boats.

Sankey, 68, said he and his wife are still coming to terms with the allegations against their next-door neighbor, the guy who would occasionally repair his lawnmower or snow blower.

"People had the impression that he was a very good, normal person, just a retired guy," Sankey said. "No matter where you went you'd mention Ray and they'd say, 'Oh yeah, old Ray.' That was basically about it. It's still hard to believe."

Associated Press researchers Rhonda Shafner and Jennifer Farrar contributed from New York.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump distorts findings of Russia probe

By HOPE YEN and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is distorting the findings of the Russia investigation, claiming exoneration and a possible case against him "closed" based on remarks from a special counsel who did not make either statement.

"Robert Mueller would have brought charges, if he had ANYTHING, but there were no charges to bring!" Trump tweeted Thursday.

"CASE CLOSED," he said in another tweet.

Special counsel Robert Mueller this past week announced the end to his work in the Russia probe and said he would return to private life. But Mueller specifically declined to vindicate Trump on obstruction charges, indicating it was up to Congress to decide whether to take up continued investigations and bring charges of wrongdoing against a sitting president.

Trump is also asserting that Mueller was hopelessly biased and "conflicted," broadly dismissing his two-year investigation as a hoax and witch hunt. Trump's own aides, however, have previously rejected his complaints about Mueller as groundless. And the Mueller investigation produced a number of guilty pleas, convictions and criminal charges as part of a review that ultimately concluded Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election was "sweeping and systematic."

The statements helped cap a week of unsupported assertion by the president on trade, the economy, North Korea and more.

A review:

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

TRUMP: "There was no crime. There was no obstruction. There was no collusion." — remarks Thursday to reporters.

TRUMP, on Mueller's statement on finishing his work as special counsel: "There was insufficient evidence and therefore, in our Country, a person is innocent. The case is closed! Thank you." — tweet Wednesday.



In this May 30, 2019, photo, President Donald Trump talks with reporters on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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SARAH SANDERS, White House press secretary: "The Special Counsel has completed the investigation, closed his office, and has closed the case. ... The report was clear there was no collusion, no conspiracy and the Department of Justice confirmed there was no obstruction. ...After two years, the Special Counsel is moving on with his life, and everyone else should do the same." — statement Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Mueller did not fully exonerate Trump or declare that a possible case against Trump to be "closed." While announcing his work was now finished, Mueller specifically left it open for Congress to decide on possible charges of wrongdoing. Mueller also did not say there was "insufficient evidence" as to possible crimes of obstruction, making clear that his report did not draw a conclusion.

Mueller said his team declined to make a prosecutorial judgment on whether to charge Trump, partly because of a Justice Department legal opinion that said sitting presidents shouldn't be indicted.

As a result, his detailed report factually laid out instances in which Trump might have obstructed justice, leaving it up to Congress to take up the matter.

"If we had had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so," Mueller said Wednesday. Based on that department's legal opinion, Mueller said, "the Constitution requires a process other than the criminal justice system to formally accuse a sitting president of wrongdoing."

Attorney General William Barr wrote in a March 24 letter that ultimately he was deciding that the evidence developed by Mueller was "not sufficient" to establish, for the purposes of prosecution, that Trump committed obstruction of justice. But Mueller explicitly declined to say that.

It's true the Mueller report did not find a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia, saying it had not collected sufficient evidence "to establish" or sustain criminal charges. However, the report did not assess whether "collusion" occurred.

TRUMP, on Mueller's relationship with former FBI Director James Comey, who was fired by Trump: "He loves Comey. You look at the relationship with those two. So whether it's love or deep like, but he was conflicted." — remarks Thursday to reporters.

THE FACTS: Though Comey succeeded Mueller as FBI director and though they served together in the Bush administration, the men are not known to be social friends. There is certainly no evidence, as Trump has repeatedly suggested, that they are "best friends" or have a relationship that is "love or deep like."

TRUMP: "I think he's totally conflicted. ...Robert Mueller should've never been chosen because he wanted the FBI job and he didn't get it. And the next day, he was picked as Special Counsel. So you tell somebody, 'I'm sorry, you can't have the job.' And then, after you say that, he's going to make a ruling on you? It doesn't work that way. Plus, we had a business dispute." — remarks Thursday to reporters.

THE FACTS: Trump makes a groundless charge that Mueller was "totally conflicted." Mueller, a longtime Republican, was cleared by the Justice Department's ethics experts to lead the Russia investigation.

According to the special counsel's report, when Trump previously complained privately to aides that Mueller would not be objective, the advisers, including then-White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, then-White House counsel Don McGahn and Reince Priebus, chief of staff at the time, rejected his complaints of an alleged business dispute and possible bad feelings over the FBI job as not representing "true conflicts." Bannon called the claims "ridiculous."

Bannon told Mueller's investigators that while the White House had invited Mueller to speak to the president about the FBI and thought about asking him to become director again, Mueller did not come in looking for a job. Mueller was previously FBI director from 2001 to 2013.

TRUMP: "There's no nothing. It's nothing but a witch hunt." — remarks Thursday to reporters.

TRUMP: "They don't talk about Russia anymore because it turned out to be a hoax. It was all a hoax." — remarks Thursday.

THE FACTS: A two-year investigation that produced guilty pleas, convictions and criminal charges against Russian intelligence officers and others with ties to the Kremlin, as well as Trump associates, is not a hoax. Mueller's report concluded there was "sweeping and systematic" Russian interference in the 2016 election.



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

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

## ECONOMY

TRUMP: "Employment numbers are the best. We have close to 160 million people working today, which is more than we've ever had before." — remarks Thursday to reporters.

THE FACTS: It's true that more people are working now, but that is driven by population growth. A more relevant measure is the proportion of Americans with jobs, and that is still far below record highs.

According to Labor Department data, 60.6 percent of people in the United States 16 years and older were working in April. That's below the all-time high of 64.7 percent in April 2000, though higher than the 59.9 percent when Trump was inaugurated in January 2017.

The Labor Department reported that the unemployment rate dropped in April to 3.6% from 3.8%. That drop reflected a healthy economy for sure, but also an increase in the number of Americans who stopped looking for work.

## NORTH KOREA

TRUMP, on limited progress by North Korea to "denuclearize": "So I think that he is — he is going to try, at some point. I'm in no rush at all. ...We, as you know, are getting the remains — continuing to get the remains." — news conference Monday with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

THE FACTS: U.S. efforts to recover additional remains of American service members have stalled amid souring relations with North Korea.

Last month, as tensions between the U.S. and North Korea spiked again, the Pentagon said it had suspended its efforts this year to arrange negotiations on recovering additional remains of American service members killed in the North during the Korean War. The Pentagon said it remained hopeful they can reach agreement with the North for recovery operations in 2020.

The Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency said it has had no communication with North Korean authorities since the Vietnam summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last February. That meeting focused on the North's nuclear weapons and followed a June 2018 summit where Kim committed to permitting a resumption of U.S. remains recovery; that effort had been suspended by the U.S. in 2005.

The agency said it had "reached the point where we can no longer effectively plan, coordinate, and conduct field operations" with the North during this budget year, which ends Sept. 30. The North, it said, never agreed to face-to-face negotiations to work out details for the recovery operations, such as payments required for the provision of support services by the North Korean army.

Last summer, in line with the first Trump-Kim summit in June, the North turned over 55 boxes of what it said were the remains of an undetermined number of U.S. service members killed in the North during the 1950-53 war. So far, six Americans have been identified from the 55 boxes.

U.S. officials have said the North has suggested in recent years that it holds perhaps 200 sets of American war remains. Thousands more are unrecovered from battlefields and former POW camps.

## TRADE

TRUMP: "We're taking in billions of dollars in tariffs. China is subsidizing products. So the United States' taxpayers are paying for very little of it." — remarks Thursday to reporters.

TRUMP: "You know, foolishly, some people said that the American taxpayer is paying the tariffs of China. No, no, no — it's not that way. They're paying a small percentage, but our country is taking in billions and billions of dollars." — news conference Monday with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

THE FACTS: That's not true. U.S. consumers and the public are primarily if not entirely paying the costs

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of the tariffs, as his chief economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, has acknowledged. That's how tariffs work: Importers pay the taxes and often pass on the cost to consumers. The U.S. is not "taking in" billions from China as a result.

A sustained trade dispute is not painless for China, either. Its goods become pricier and therefore less competitive. But China is not paying a tab to the U.S. treasury in this matter.

As Kudlow said, accurately: "Both sides will suffer on this." But in his view, "this is a risk we should and can take."

## MARS

TRUMP: "Prime Minister Abe and I have agreed to dramatically expand our nations' cooperation in human space exploration. Japan will join our mission to send U.S. astronauts to space. We'll be going to the moon. We'll be going to Mars very soon." — news conference Monday.

THE FACTS: Not very soon. The U.S. will almost certainly not be sending humans to Mars in his presidency, even if he wins a second term.

The Trump administration has placed a priority on the moon over Mars for human exploration (President Barack Obama favored Mars) and hopes to accelerate NASA's plan for returning people to the lunar surface. It has asked Congress to approve enough money to make a moon mission possible by 2024, instead 2028. But even if that happens, Mars would come years after that. International space agencies have made aspirational statements about possibly landing humans on Mars during the 2030s.

## IRAN

TRUMP: "If you look at the deal that Biden and President Obama signed, they would have access — free access — to nuclear weapons, where they wouldn't even be in violation, in just a very short period of time. What kind of a deal is that?" — news conference Monday.

THE FACTS: That's a misrepresentation of what the deal required. Iran would not have access to nuclear weapons capability in a "very short period" without violating the terms of the 2015 accord. The U.S. withdrew from the multinational agreement last year.

During the 15-year life of most provisions of the deal, Iran's capabilities were limited to a level where it could not produce a nuclear bomb. Iran was thought to be only months away from a bomb when the deal came into effect.

After 15 years, Iran could have an array of advanced centrifuges ready to work, the limits on its stockpile would be gone and, in theory, it could then throw itself into producing highly enriched uranium. But nothing in the deal prevented the West from trying to rein Iran in again with sanctions. The deal included a pledge by Iran never to seek a nuclear weapon. In return, partners in the deal eased sanctions on Iran.

Associated Press writers Cal Woodward, Christopher Rugaber, Robert Burns, Lolita C. Baldor and Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

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## Wide range of emotions on impeachment underscores challenge

By **LISA MASCARO, MARC LEVY, ADRIAN SAINZ and AMY TAXIN** Associated Press

YORKTOWN, Va. (AP) — In suburban Philadelphia, it took a little more than eight minutes into the question-and-answer session at freshman Rep. Madeleine Dean's town hall before someone asked about impeachment.

The topic was broached in Southern California as Rep. Katie Porter fielded other questions on health care, homelessness, border security and the minimum wage.

In military heavy Yorktown, along coastal Virginia, another newly elected Democrat, Rep. Elaine Luria,

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never got asked about it at all.

Since House Democrats swept to power last November, the seams of their big tent majority are being stretched over the difficult issues surrounding whether to start impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump.

For those lawmakers and others, the town hall sessions in their districts revealed how much or how little impeachment is on voters' minds. Lawmakers were at home the same week that special counsel Robert Mueller delivered his first and potentially last public statement on the matter.

The differing opinions expressed to lawmakers offer a snapshot of the challenges facing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and the many conversations to come.

"I actually wondered whether anybody would bring it up," Dean told the crowd of about 150 in a Montgomery County Community College auditorium.

It was Wednesday, the night after Mueller's rare public remarks. Dean drew applause and whistles and hoots of support as she laced into Trump, calling him "the most indecent president of our lifetime."

Dean serves on the House Judiciary Committee, which is steeped in the impeachment debate, and she is among those calling for an impeachment inquiry. But the new congresswoman also acknowledged that in other conversations with voters around the district recently, they did not raise the subject.

The night before Mueller's spoke at the Justice Department, Luria said she, too, was only asked about impeachment at one of her three stops Tuesday, during a visit with seniors at a retirement community.

The former Naval officer, who is also new to Congress, said it came up as more of a question, asking what she makes of it all.

"I talked about how I think Congress has an important duty, oversight, and we have a big responsibility to get to the bottom of the facts," she recalled in an interview later that evening after the town hall in Yorktown.

Luria said she also brought the question back to the seniors for their advice. "I wasn't alive when Watergate happened ... I understand it was very divisive as a country," she recalled telling them, "and kind of asked them, 'How do you feel about it?'"

The seniors nodded in agreement, she said, responding, "Yes, it's something that would be very divisive."

These are the considerations Pelosi is taking into account as she considers the House's next moves. Despite increasingly vocal voices among her colleagues for the start of an impeachment inquiry, Pelosi has made it clear she's in no rush to impeach. Such proceedings would start in the House before the case would shift to the Senate for a trial.

Pelosi prefers a more measured approach, saying she wants to have the country's support, whatever the House's ultimate decision.

Democrats last year won the majority in so many districts that had voted for Trump in 2016, basing their



**U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen, seated right, speaks with constituents at a meeting on Friday, May 31, 2019 in Memphis, Tenn. The Memphis Democrat is a member of the House Judiciary Committee and a proponent of President Donald Trump's impeachment.** (AP Photo/Adrian Sainz)



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campaigns on promises of lowering health care costs, creating jobs with infrastructure investment and cleaning up the government. So Pelosi is wary of taking on an impeachment inquiry that would overpower that agenda.

Pelosi worries impeachment would split the country. She remembers how the proceedings against President Bill Clinton helped propel Democrats, and warns it could help Trump's re-election in 2020.

But that might not be enough for some voters.

About 15 people waited at a library in Memphis to meet with Rep. Steve Cohen, a Democrat who was one of the earliest House proponents of impeachment.

One constituent, Lloyd Brown, 62, told The Associated Press that he is watching the impeachment process closely.

"I do think that Congress should proceed with impeachment hearings, because I believe that will bring out some of the facts that haven't become public yet," Brown said.

Cohen, also a member of the House Judiciary Committee, discussed the possibility of impeachment, expressing his hope that Mueller will testify before the House. The congressman said that even if Trump is impeached, he does not think that the president will be convicted in the Republican-controlled Senate.

"But I do think he should have his day of reckoning," Cohen said, adding later that Trump "makes Richard Nixon look honest."

At a town hall in western Michigan on Tuesday, a woman told Rep. Justin Amash, the only Republican to accuse Trump of impeachable conduct, that she has been calling Pelosi's office nearly every day because "we need to change her mind" about an impeachment inquiry.

Amash agreed it's time to start an inquiry. But Amash, who has drawn criticism from his party, said Pelosi's "sort of playing it both ways."

On Thursday, about 100 people packed into a small room at a library in Tustin, California, as Porter spoke briefly then drew from random questions attendants had written down on cards.

They covered various topics including one about what should happen to those who refuse to appear for testimony before a congressional committee, leading Porter to briefly address the issue of impeachment.

The new congresswoman from what had been a Republican-held district told the crowd her goal is to do her job, not stoke a crisis. But she said the refusal to comply with the subpoenas was a turning point, in her view.

"You didn't hear me ever talk about impeachment. It's not why I went to Washington," she said. "But I will not shirk my duty if the time comes, and the time is nigh."

After the event, Barbara Colter, 66, said the last time she saw Porter speak the congresswoman didn't seem to want to move in that direction. But her comments on Thursday made Colter think that's changed. And she agrees.

"After yesterday, I think that we need to move in that direction," Colter said.

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Mascaro reported from Yorktown, Virginia, Levy from Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, Sainz from Memphis, Tennessee, and Taxin from Tustin, California. Associated Press writer David Eggert contributed from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## How Trump's Mexico threat imperils his own economic agenda

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's vow to impose new tariffs on Mexican imports risks sabotaging not just his drive to forge more favorable trade deals but also a U.S. economy that he says has strengthened under his watch.

Trump announced Thursday that he would impose a 5% tax on all Mexican imports on June 10 — and raise it to 25% by Oct. 1 — unless Mexico stopped a surge of Central American migrants into the U.S. That would swell the prices Americans pay for countless items from avocados to clothes to medical devices.

His threat, which drew an outcry from a broad span of business groups and political figures, suddenly cast

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doubt on prospects for a new North American trade agreement. Trump last year negotiated the deal, formally called the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, and billed it a triumph of his economic policymaking.

The USMCA must be approved by lawmakers in all three countries. Yet Mexico is unlikely to ratify the pact if it must cope with a new batch of Trump-imposed tariffs just months after forging a free-trade agreement with the administration. The very point of free-trade pacts, after all, is to liberate countries from tariffs and other protectionist policies that hurt their exporters.

"It's very hard to see the USMCA going forward after this," said Philip Levy, who was a White House economist under President George W. Bush and is now a senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. "The president has essentially told the Mexicans that the deal offers them no guarantees against (U.S.) trade protectionism. It asks them to jump through hoops with no reward."

Stock markets sank Friday on the news. The Dow Jones industrial average lost about 355 points, or 1.4%.

If Trump were to proceed with a series of escalating tariffs on goods from Mexico, the economic damage could be far-reaching. Mexico is all but sure to retaliate with its own tariffs and probably aim them at U.S. farm products. Mexico last year bought \$300 billion worth of U.S. goods and services, second only to Canada. And the United States imported \$378 billion from Mexico, No. 2 to China.

U.S.-Mexico trade includes significant business between auto suppliers and assembly plants that are interwoven in complex cross-border supply chains. Products that are traded between the two countries tend to cross each other's borders multiple times. Many automakers, including General Motors Co., ship vehicles manufactured in Mexico into the U.S. Those cars could be subject to Trump's tariffs.

"The suddenly renewed potential for tariffs on goods from Mexico revives a risk (for automakers and suppliers) many believed was largely behind us" after the signing of the USMCA, said Itay Michaeli, auto analyst at Citi Research. "This new uncertainty is a clear negative for auto stocks."

Oxford Economics has forecast that 25% U.S. tariffs on Mexican imports, if maintained, could deal a heavy blow to the U.S. economy. It estimated that the import taxes would subtract at least 0.7 percentage point from U.S. economic growth in 2020, reducing growth to a frail 1% or less.

Mexico's faltering economy could slide into an outright recession, Oxford estimates.

The timing of Trump's threatened new tariffs was puzzling, suggesting a chaotic internal policymaking process. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and other officials with trade portfolios weren't involved in the final discussions Thursday and privately expressed their opposition to the move, according to the three people with knowledge of the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Trump's decision came less than two weeks after he agreed to lift tariffs on Mexican and Canadian steel and aluminum — a move that seemed to clear a key hurdle to passing the USMCA. And it came the same



**A worker carries a bunch of harvested bananas to be exported, at a farm in Ciudad Hidalgo, Chiapas state, Mexico, Friday, May 31 2019. If the tariffs threatened by United States President Donald Trump on Thursday were to take effect, Americans may see higher prices in grocery stores. The U.S. imports \$12 billion of fresh fruits and vegetables from Mexico.** (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

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day that Vice President Mike Pence visited Canada to promote that deal and that the administration sent Congress a notification meant to start the legislative process for ratifying the USMCA.

The administration insists that the threat to impose new tariffs on Mexico is a tool of immigration policy and doesn't signal the start of a new trade fight or amount to a negotiating ploy in the final wrangling over USMCA.

"This is not a tariff war with Mexico in any way, shape or form," White House trade adviser Peter Navarro told CNBC on Friday.

But the move provoked condemnation even from some of Trump's fellow Republicans.

"Let's focus on solving the crisis at the border but not hurt our economy and endanger an important @POTUS goal -- a better trade deal w/ #Canada & #Mexico," Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, who served as the top U.S. trade negotiator under President George W. Bush, tweeted.

Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, denounced the president's threat as a "misuse of presidential tariff authority" that would burden American consumers and "seriously jeopardize passage of USMCA."

The Constitution gives Congress power over the nation's trade policies. But over the years, lawmakers ceded authority to the White House. The big gun in the White House's trade arsenal is the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977, which authorizes the president to declare a national emergency and impose economic sanctions, from freezing foreign assets to restricting investment in foreign countries.

The administration is invoking that law to justify potential new tariffs on Mexico. But the law has never been used to impose tariffs, and some legal experts say it can't. It doesn't say "that the president may impose tariffs on the importation of goods," said Dean Pinkert, a partner at Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP and a former member of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Congress is already considering scaling back the president's power over trade policy. It's taking aim in particular at a provision of a 1962 law that empowers him to impose trade sanctions on any imports he deems a threat to national security — a provision Trump has used to justify new tariffs.

Trump has led the United States into the biggest trade war since the 1930s. Accusing China of stealing U.S. technology and coercing American companies to turn over trade secrets, the president has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports. And he plans to target the remaining \$300 billion in products from China that haven't already been hit.

Eleven rounds of talks have failed to end the standoff with Beijing. Negotiations broke off several weeks ago after U.S. officials accused Beijing of reneging on commitments it had made in earlier rounds of negotiation.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, noted that the two sides were widely expected to reach some kind of deal, perhaps if Trump meets Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan, in late June. But, Zandi wrote, "emotions now seem to be overtaking President Trump, and the odds that he will be able to get himself together sufficiently to come to terms with the Chinese in the coming month appear to be fading."

The administration is also trying to craft trade agreements with Japan and the European Union. To heighten pressure on the EU, it is threatening to tax auto imports as soon as the fall. Extending tariffs to auto would amount to a significant escalation in hostilities. The U.S. last year imported \$192 billion worth of passenger vehicles and \$159 billion in auto parts.

Jorge Guajardo, a former Mexican diplomat who is now a senior director at the McLarty Associates consulting firm, said he wonders why any country would agree to a trade deal with Trump after what's happened to Mexico.

"Bottom line: Trump likes (tariffs) and will always look for an excuse to levy them," Guajardo tweeted. "No country should delude itself thinking they can appease him to avoid them."

\_\_\_\_ AP writers Zeke Miller and Marcy Gordon in Washington and Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed to this report.

\_\_\_\_ Follow Paul Wiseman on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/PaulWisemanAP>



## Trump tariff threats alarm Mexico growers, economists

By **ANDRÉS VILLARREAL, CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN and PETER ORSI** Associated Press

CULIACAN, Mexico (AP) — Tomato exporter Sergio Esquer Peiro spent much of Friday in hastily called meetings with other stunned growers, trying to evaluate the potential fallout of U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to slap coercive tariffs on all imports from Mexico.

The sudden announcement caught observers on both sides of the border by surprise and prompted President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to dispatch his top diplomat to Washington for talks seeking to head off the proposed tariffs.

Obrador said Mexico won't panic over the threatened hike, but economists and those whose livelihoods depend on the trade relationship worth hundreds of billions of dollars a year worry that stiff duties could have dramatic, negative consequences and potentially spark a trade war between the neighboring countries.

Already, Esquer and other exporters were having to contend with a 17.56% tariff on tomatoes imposed after Washington announced in March it was ending a longstanding agreement over alleged Mexican dumping of the fruit. If the new duties do take effect, Esquer is looking at another 5% being slapped on his products — potentially increasing to 25% in subsequent months — unless Mexico does more to stop illegal migration through its territory by a June 10 deadline per Trump's demand.

"Right now more than anything there is a reaction of disbelief with everything that is going on," Esquer, who's been sending tomatoes and other crops to the United States for 60 years, told The Associated Press by phone during a break in the meetings.

"It also goes against the spirit there is between both countries, the agreements we have, the bilateral trade we have, which is very successful," Esquer continued. "On the other hand, we'll have to wait for the reaction of U.S. exporters to Mexico, because they are also going to see their exports threatened if Mexico launches some kind of mirror policy."

From berries and automobiles to machinery and household appliances, all of Mexico's exports stand to be hit with the tariffs. Avocado growers in Michoacan, electronics factory workers in Tamaulipas, across the border from Texas, auto parts exporters, all would feel the pinch.

Esquer, who does business from the tomato-growing northwestern state of Sinaloa, said it's not just businessmen who stand to lose, since Mexico's estimated 700 tomato exporters are responsible for directly generating some 450,000 jobs. According to Mexico's Agriculture Department, last year some \$2 billion in tomatoes were exported to the United States, second only to tequila and ahead of avocados.

The threat also throws into question the future of the USMCA trade deal between the U.S., Mexico and Canada, hammered out in months of contentious negotiations as a replacement for the North American



**Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador says Mexico will not respond to U.S. President Donald Trump's threat of coercive tariffs with desperation, but instead push for dialogue, during his daily morning press conference at the National Palace, in Mexico City, Friday, May 31, 2019.** (AP Photo/Ginnette Riquelme)

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Free Trade Agreement, one of the Trump administration's most touted achievements.

Trump's threat came the same day Mexico announced it would begin the process of ratifying the USMCA and less than two weeks after it successfully negotiated the lifting of U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs that had been a roadblock to final approval for the trade deal.

"It would really have a terrible impact on our producers and our exporters," said Kenneth Smith Ramos, who led then-President Enrique Peña Nieto's delegation to USMCA talks and is now an international trade consultant at Mexico City-based AGON.

"And it would hurt U.S. producers as well because they rely a lot on Mexican inputs for their production," he added. "So it would reduce their competitiveness and force them to raise prices, which would ultimately of course hit consumers."

That means people like Chuck Sholtis, CEO of El Paso, Texas-based Plastic Molding Technology Inc., which employs 100 people. Most of its business involves plastic injection molding for automotive, electronics and business products for maquiladoras, factories in Mexico that are run by foreign companies. Sholtis said his company has already suffered from U.S. steel tariffs on China that increased the costs of their tools, and it's also been hit by slowdowns at ports of entry.

Sholtis said the United States has found a niche in high-tech specialized manufacturing that's part of a global supply chain. He fears that if more tariffs like this are implemented, or if the USMCA doesn't take effect, the United States will lose its edge in manufacturing. He's also worried about possible recession in Mexico and the United States.

"It's illogical," Sholtis said, "Tariffs go against one of the stated goals of the administration: to help manufacturing and thereby create high-skilled manufacturing jobs."

The economic impact for Mexico was swift, with the peso down more than 3% against the U.S. dollar Friday. U.S. stocks likewise tumbled on Wall Street.

Initial macroeconomic projections from economists were also chilling.

Analyst Alfredo Coutiño of Moody's Analytics said Mexican exports to the U.S. totaled \$358 billion last year, or 80% of all goods the country sold overseas. Over the course of a year, he said, a 5% tariff would represent about \$18 billion in damage or 1.5% of Mexico's GDP, while a 25% tariff would amount to \$90 billion or 7.3% of GDP.

Banco Base estimated that a 5% tariff could knock 2.85 percentage points off growth of Mexico's exports, but said a weaker peso would help compensate.

Such tariffs would "likely push Mexico into a recession," as well as disrupt regional supply chains and hurt investor confidence, Oxford Economics economist Gregory Daco wrote in a report.

Coutiño said Mexico could impose retaliatory penalties, sparking a tariff war.

A second, "less aggressive but potentially more effective" option would be to allow the peso to depreciate to the point where the tariffs would be neutralized, he added.

Via Twitter, Trump argued that "Mexico has taken advantage of the United States for decades. Because of the Dems, our Immigration Laws are BAD. Mexico makes a FORTUNE from the U.S., have for decades, they can easily fix this problem. Time for them to finally do what must be done."

Mexico already has implemented policies and actions to discourage irregular migration.

Last month, it raided the latest caravan of mostly Central American migrants traveling through the southern state of Chiapas, arresting hundreds and effectively breaking it up. There have been no significant caravans since then, with many migrants saying they now fear to travel in large groups.

Mexico also has deported thousands of migrants and frustrated thousands more with seemingly endless waits for permits that would allow them to travel legally through the country.

But sealing its porous southern border with Guatemala is probably impossible because Mexico lacks sufficient infrastructure to completely patrol a frontier that includes a river passing through dense jungle.

"We are carrying out our responsibility in immigration policy," López Obrador said Friday morning, while making no promises of new action to stem the flow of mostly Central American immigrants transiting Mexico to reach the U.S. border.

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"We have to help so that they don't enter the United States illegally, but we also have to do it respecting human rights," said López Obrador. "Nothing authoritarian. They're human beings."

López Obrador espouses a longer-term, holistic approach focused on improving security, development and economic opportunity in the migrants' countries of origin, especially Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. For now López Obrador is betting on diplomacy and dialogue.

Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced talks would take place next Wednesday in Washington with him and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo leading their respective nations' delegations.

"There is a disposition for dialogue," Ebrard tweeted. "We will be firm and we will defend the dignity of Mexico."

In Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas, 21-year-old Jennifer del Carmen Pérez Hernández, said she moved there three years ago because she couldn't find work in her home state of Veracruz, on the Gulf coast.

Pérez said when she first arrived she was told that if Trump were elected, staff cuts might be possible. She's kept her job operates an upholstery machine specialized for cars so far, but the tariff threat gives her new cause for concern.

"I've worked in sewing the three years that I've been in Juarez. It's what I know," Pérez said. "If there are cuts and I have to find work elsewhere, I would start at zero."

Associated Press writers Christopher Sherman and Peter Orsi reported from Mexico City, and Cedar Atanasio contributed from Ciudad Juarez.

## 12 people killed in Virginia Beach shooting; suspect dead

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — A longtime city employee opened fire in a municipal building in Virginia Beach on Friday, killing 12 people on three floors and sending terrified co-workers scrambling for cover before police shot and killed him following a "long gun-battle," authorities said.

Four other people were wounded in the shooting, including a police officer whose bulletproof vest saved his life, said Virginia Beach Police Chief James Cervera. The city's visibly shaken mayor, Bobby Dyer, called it "the most devastating day in the history of Virginia Beach."

The shooting happened shortly after 4 p.m. when the veteran employee of the Public Utilities Department entered a building in the city's Municipal Center, and "immediately began to indiscriminately fire upon all of the victims," Cervera said. Authorities did not release the suspect's name, instead choosing to focus on the victims during a news conference.

Police entered the building and got out as many employees as they could, then exchanged fire with the suspect, who was armed with a .45 caliber handgun, the chief said.

Police initially said the gunman shot and killed 11 people, including one who was found inside a vehicle outside the municipal building. Cervera later said one more died on the way to the hospital.

The shooting sent shock waves through Virginia Beach, the state's largest city and a popular vacation spot in southeastern Virginia. The building where the attack took place is in a suburban complex miles away from the high-rise hotels along the beach and the downtown business area.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam said in a statement he was devastated by the "unspeakable, senseless violence," and is offering the state's full support to survivors and relatives of the victims.

"That they should be taken in this manner is the worst kind of tragedy," the governor said during the news conference.

The White House said President Donald Trump had been briefed and was monitoring the situation.

Megan Banton, an administrative assistant who works in the building where the shooting happened, said she heard gunshots, called 911 and barricaded herself and about 20 colleagues inside an office, pushing a desk against a door.



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"We tried to do everything we could to keep everybody safe," she said. "We were all just terrified. It felt like it wasn't real, like we were in a dream. You are just terrified because all you can hear is the gunshots."

She texted her mom, telling her that there was an active shooter in the building and she and others were waiting for police.

"Thank God my baby is OK," Banton's mother, Dana Showers, said.

At a nearby middle school, friends and relatives were reuniting with loved ones who were in the building when the shooting happened. They included Paul Swain, 50, who said he saw his fiancée from across the parking lot, clearly in an agitated state.

"I think she knew some of the people," he said.

Outside the school, Cheryl Benn, 65, waited while her husband, David, a traffic engineer with the city who was in the building where the shooting happened, gave a written statement to detectives.

She said her husband initially called her from a barricaded room and said it sounded as if someone had been working with a nail gun. Then he saw the bodies.

"This is unbelievable for Virginia Beach," Cheryl Benn said. "By and large, it's a pretty calm and peaceful place to live."

Associated Press writers Regina Garcia Cano in Washington, D.C.; Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; and Tom Foreman Jr. in Charlotte, North Carolina, contributed to this report.



**Emergency vehicles fill the parking lot at the Princess Anne Middle School in Virginia Beach, Va, on Friday, May 31, 2019. A longtime city employee opened fire at a municipal building in Virginia Beach on Friday, killing 11 people before police shot and killed him, authorities said. Six other people were wounded in the shooting, including a police officer whose bulletproof vest saved his life, said Virginia Beach Police Chief James Cervera.** (AP Photo/Vicki Cronis-Nohe)

## Trump's tariff plan shows the risks he's willing to take

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Exasperated by reports of a flood of illegal border crossings, President Donald Trump summoned his top immigration advisers to demand action. Responding to his mounting concern, including his extreme threats to entirely close the U.S.-Mexico border, they prepared an alternative but still-inflammatory plan to levy escalating tariffs on all Mexican imports to the United States.

Thursday night's surprise announcement of the plan by Trump, threatening to upend ratification chances for his own revised North American free trade pact, demonstrated the lengths to which the risk-taking president is willing to go to crack down on illegal immigration, even in the face of bipartisan criticism, legal challenges and polarized public feelings.

He's setting the tricky politics of immigration and trade — the two issues that defined his candidacy and bedevil his presidency — on a collision course and injecting new tensions into his relations with political allies as he struggles to show results in his campaign for a second term.

"Mexico has taken advantage of the United States for decades," Trump declared anew in a tweet on

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Friday. That was the morning after he announced the 5% tariff would kick in on June 10 — and increase monthly to 25% “until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied.”

“Because of the Dems, our Immigration Laws are BAD. Mexico makes a FORTUNE from the U.S., have for decades, they can easily fix this problem. Time for them to finally do what must be done!” he said.

Debate over solutions aside, indicators at the border have indeed been getting worse. For May, officials said Thursday, apprehensions are expected to hit their highest level in more than a dozen years and “significantly surpass the record 109,000 in April,” said acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan.

On Wednesday, a group of 1,036 — including families and unaccompanied children — was appended after crossing from Juárez. That was the largest group ever apprehended at the border.

Nonetheless, Trump’s tariff prescription for the problem was instantly panned across the political spectrum . Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, a usual Trump ally and the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said it was a “misuse of presidential tariff authority” that would burden American consumers and “seriously jeopardize passage” of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada pact to modify the North American Free Trade Agreement.

“Imposing tariffs on goods from Mexico is exactly the wrong move,” said Neil Bradley, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce , the establishment lobbying giant that now is exploring legal action to block the tariffs.

“These tariffs will be paid by American families and businesses without doing a thing to solve the very real problems at the border,” Bradley said, imploring Congress and the president to work together to address border problems.

To both allies and critics, the tariff escalation marks the latest manifestation of Trump’s increasing reliance on instinct and his aides’ increasing unwillingness or inability to constrain an impulsive leader. Many of the people who had once talked Trump out of going through with his most radical ideas, such as completely shutting down the southern border or renewing the controversial immigrant child separation policy, have been pushed out of the administration, including former Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

The tariff announcement was made with a striking amount of secrecy for the leak-prone Trump administration, with barely two dozen officials in the West Wing aware of what was to transpire. Trade Representative Bob Lighthizer and other officials with trade portfolios were not included in the final discussions Thursday and privately expressed opposition to the move, according to three people familiar with the matter who spoke only on the condition of anonymity.

Trump is mindful that many of his efforts to clamp down on illegal immigration have been stymied by courts or Congress, and that his promise to build a border wall will be far from fulfilled by the time voters decide his political fate next year. With his campaign depending on even more of his hard-core supporters turning out in 2020 than in 2016, Trump’s team is worried that the spike in crossings could prove to be a



**White House press secretary Sarah Sanders talks to reporters outside the White House, Friday, May 31, 2019, in Washington.** (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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political headache with his base.

But in aiming for progress on that front, Trump is now throwing into the wager another campaign promise: approval of his renegotiated North American trade pact.

Sandwiched between two presidential foreign trips, and with senior adviser and Mexico liaison Jared Kushner out of the country, the tariff announcement caught many in the White House and on Capitol Hill unawares. Press secretary Sarah Sanders insisted that the White House had briefed key lawmakers and allies on the plan before it was announced, though some complained they found out only at the last moment, with no time to provide feedback.

While the announcement was a surprise, Trump's ire over a sharp increase in southern border crossings and his demand for increasingly drastic action were not. Trump attorneys, including White House Counsel Pat Cipollone, had been studying how to fulfill the president's wish for weeks and settled on the tariff plan as a more legally-sound move than Trump's push to close the border.

White House officials assert that the tariff announcement was a negotiating tool, designed to get Mexico to act. And, perhaps seeking to calm anxious markets, they suggest the taxes might never take effect.

"We fully believe they have the ability to stop people coming in from their southern border and if they're able to do that, these tariffs will either not go into place or will be removed after they go into place," said acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney.

Asked what Mexico can do to avoid the levies, press secretary Sanders said a good start would be for Mexico to send home Central American migrants crossing through their country to get into the United States.

"They can return them back home," she said. "They can stop these massive caravans from coming through their country into ours. That would be a very big first step."

Follow Miller and Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ZekeJMiller> and <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

## US companies are in line of fire of tariffs aimed at Mexico

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER** and **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO** AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's surprise threat to impose escalating tariffs on Mexican imports jolted industry leaders throughout the U.S. economy Friday, sparked opposition even from usual Trump allies and set the stage for American consumers to face higher prices.

It also sent stock markets tumbling, with the Dow Jones industrial average closing down roughly 355 points, or 1.4%. Investors poured money instead into the safety of bonds, sending yields lower and signaling that they fear the economy will slow in the coming months.

Trump vowed Thursday to slap a 5% tariff on all Mexican imports on June 10, just over a week away, and raise those tariffs to 25% by October, unless Mexico stops the flow of Central American migrants into the U.S.

If the tariffs were to take effect, they could eventually raise prices for a new Chevrolet Blazer SUV, a burrito at Chipotle, a new shirt or a Corona beer. A 5% duty on the \$346.5 billion of goods imported from Mexico translates into \$17 billion in tariffs. Some of that higher cost might be paid, at least initially, by U.S. companies. But a significant portion would likely be passed on to U.S. shoppers.

The impact of Trump's latest tariffs, should they be imposed, will fall first on U.S. companies. Businesses in many industries have set up tightly linked supply chains with Mexico. Billions of dollars of auto parts, for example, are sent back and forth across the U.S.-Mexico border, in some cases several times, as components are added and integrated into finished cars. Similar networks exist in other industries, from clothing to electronics. The import taxes could quickly translate into much higher costs.

"That's what's so concerning about these tariffs," said John Mitchell, president of IPC, a trade group representing the electronics industry. "It undercuts the region's ability to leverage each other's strengths to benefit North American manufacturing."

Peter Navarro, a top trade adviser to the Trump White House, insisted in an interview on CNBC that the Mexican government and businesses would pay the tariffs. But about 40% of imports from Mexico



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are from U.S.-affiliated companies, meaning there is no Mexican company that would pay. Instead the tariffs will simply raise costs for U.S. companies — and ultimately for consumers — particularly for parts that cross the border several times, Mitchell said.

The U.S. economy has been integrating with Mexico's since the implementation of NAFTA in 1994. All U.S.-made cars now include at least some parts from overseas, and 37% of those parts are from Mexico.

"Any barrier to the flow of commerce across the U.S.-Mexico border will have a cascading effect — harming U.S. consumers, threatening American jobs and investment, curtailing the economic progress that the administration is working to re-ignite," said David Schwietert, interim president of the Auto Alliance trade group, which represents U.S. automakers and foreign companies that build cars in the United States, such as BMW and Toyota.

Shares of General Motors Co., which imports more vehicles into the U.S. than any other automaker, tumbled 4.25% Friday.

"For GM, we roughly estimate that a 5% tariff could be a several-hundred-million dollar annual earnings hit," said Itay Michaeli of Citi Investment Research.

The new tariffs came as a surprise for many companies because the Trump administration had just renewed its push to win congressional approval for the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, its update to NAFTA.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, a usual Trump ally and the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, condemned the president's action as "a misuse of presidential tariff authority" that would burden American consumers and "seriously jeopardize passage of USMCA."

Some industry representatives said the duties would not encourage companies to return production to the U.S., as Trump has said he wants, but actually have the opposite effect: It will discourage them from relocating to the U.S. because they'd have to pay more for imported parts.

"If you can't buy your components here, you're not going to think about coming back here," Mitchell said.

Americans may also see higher prices in grocery stores. The U.S. imports \$12 billion of fresh fruits and vegetables from Mexico, including tomatoes, avocados, peppers and lemons.

"This is a tax on healthy diets, plain and simple," said Lance Jungmeyer, president of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas.

Jungmeyer noted that food imports from Mexico haven't been subject to tariffs for decades, and importers would have to file paperwork with Customs to pay duties. That can 10 days or more to process, potentially leaving many companies unable to import for a time after June 10.

"I've got to educate a whole range of people who haven't paid tariffs on Mexican produce since 1995," Jungmeyer said.

Many U.S. restaurant chains buy tomatoes and other fresh produce from Mexico. Laurie Schalow, an executive for Chipotle Mexican Grill, said the chain has sought to diversify its supplier base and now buys some avocados from Chile and Peru and is less dependent on Mexico. Still, the tariffs would hurt the



**President Donald Trump waves as he takes the stage to speak at the U.S. Air Force Academy graduation Thursday, May 30, 2019 at Air Force Academy, Colo.** (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

company, Schalow said.

Trump has already imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion of goods from China. The additional duties on Mexican imports could weaken the U.S. economy. Growth was already forecast to slip to a roughly 1.5% annual pace in the April-June quarter, down from 3.1% in the first three months of the year.

Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, estimates that if the full 25% duties on Mexican goods were put in place, U.S. growth next year would be cut by 0.7 percentage point.

The U.S. imports \$2.4 billion of clothing and textiles from Mexico. Stephen Lamar, executive vice president of American Apparel and Footwear Association, said companies are already thinking about how to cut costs but will likely have to raise prices because their profit margins are so thin.

Mexico is the eighth-largest supplier of clothing and seventh-largest supplier of footwear to the U.S. market. It's the largest supplier of men's and boy's jeans, accounting for 35% of imports, according to the AAFA.

Shares of Kontoor Brands, which includes Wrangler and Lee, fell nearly 8%, while shares of Levi Strauss dropped 7%. Both companies obtain some of their denim from Mexico.

About 70% of imported beer is from Mexico, up from less than 20% in 1990, according to the National Beer Wholesalers Association. Shares of Constellation Brands, which makes Corona and Modelo beers, among others, fell nearly 6% Friday.

Jeremy Seaver, owner of Tios Mexican Cafe in Ann Arbor, Michigan, said the tariffs would hurt his business. He uses avocados from Mexico, serves Mexican tequila, beer and soda and sells Mexican hot sauces. Even his restaurant's decorations are all from Mexico, he said.

"I'm very concerned," he said. "Five percent (tariff) doesn't sound like a lot, but to a small business like mine, that's a lot."

D'Innocenzio reported from New York. AP Writers Michelle Chapman in New York and Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit also contributed to this report.

This version of the story corrects that NAFTA was implemented in 1994, not 1995 in paragraph 8.

## Judge says Missouri clinic can keep providing abortions

By JIM SALTER and DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A judge issued an order Friday to keep Missouri's only abortion clinic operating over the objections of state health officials, delivering abortion-rights advocates a courtroom victory after a string of setbacks in legislatures around the U.S.

St. Louis Circuit Judge Michael Stelzer said Planned Parenthood's St. Louis clinic can continue providing abortions despite the Missouri health department's refusal to renew its license over a variety of patient safety concerns. He said the temporary restraining order was necessary to "prevent irreparable injury" to Planned Parenthood.

With the abortion license set to expire at midnight Friday, Planned Parenthood pre-emptively sued this week and argued that the state was "weaponizing" the licensing process. Planned Parenthood said that absent court intervention, Missouri would become the first state without an abortion clinic since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized the procedure nationwide.

The clinic's license will remain in effect until a ruling is issued on Planned Parenthood's request for a permanent injunction, Stelzer's ruling says. A hearing is set for Tuesday morning.

"Today is a victory for women across Missouri, but this fight is far from over," Planned Parenthood Federation of America CEO Dr. Leana Wen said in a statement. "We have seen just how vulnerable access to abortion care is here — and in the rest of the country."

Republican Gov. Mike Parson said in a written statement that state regulators still have "serious health and safety concerns regarding Planned Parenthood's abortion facility in St. Louis."

Parson's administration drew support from Missouri Right to Life Executive Director Susan Klein, who

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backed a 2017 state law requiring unannounced annual inspections of abortion clinics. Klein said abortion-rights advocates are trying "to play the victim and blame others for their deficiencies."

In refusing to renew the license, Missouri's health department cited "failed surgical abortions in which women remained pregnant" and legal violations, while insisting that it first needed to interview several clinic physicians who had been reluctant to talk. Planned Parenthood said two staff doctors agreed to interviews, but that others who are contractors or no longer work at the clinic would not talk.

The fight over the clinic's license comes as lawmakers in many conservative states are passing new restrictions that take aim at Roe. Abortion opponents, emboldened by new conservative justices on the Supreme Court, are hoping federal courts will uphold laws that prohibit abortions before a fetus is viable outside the womb, the dividing line the high court set in Roe.

Louisiana , Georgia , Kentucky , Mississippi and Ohio have enacted bills barring abortion once there's a detectable fetal heartbeat, as early as the sixth week of pregnancy. Parson signed a Missouri bill last week approving an eight-week ban on abortion, with exceptions only for medical emergencies. Alabama has gone even further, outlawing virtually all abortions, even in cases of rape or incest. None of the bans has taken effect, and all are expected to face legal challenges.

Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Sarah Felts said the St. Louis clinic continued to perform abortions Friday, including on patients who moved up appointments that had been scheduled for next week. The clinic also provides other services that were not jeopardized by the license dispute.

The number of abortions performed in Missouri has declined every year for the past decade, reaching a low of 2,910 last year. Of those, an estimated 1,210 occurred at eight weeks or less of pregnancy, according to preliminary statistics from the state health department.

Missouri women also seek abortions in other states. In Kansas, about 3,300 of the 7,000 abortions performed in 2018 were for Missouri residents, according to the state's health department. Illinois does not track the home states of women seeking abortions.

An abortion clinic is located just across the Mississippi River in Granite City, Illinois, less than 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the Planned Parenthood facility in St. Louis. Planned Parenthood's abortion clinic in the Kansas City area is in Overland Park, Kansas, just 2 miles (3 kilometers) from the state line. State figures show a handful of Missouri hospitals also perform abortions, but those are relatively rare.



**Abortion-rights supporters march Thursday, May 30, 2019, in St. Louis. A St. Louis judge is deciding whether to grant an order that would allow Missouri's only abortion clinic to keep its license to perform abortions past Friday.**

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

Lieb reported from Jefferson City, Missouri.



## On eve of UK visit, Trump backs Boris Johnson, dings duchess

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is wading into the United Kingdom's political maelstrom days before he is set to embark on his first state visit there, saying Boris Johnson would make an "excellent" prime minister and calling Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, "nasty."

In an interview Friday with the British tabloid *The Sun*, Trump expressed support for the controversial ex-foreign secretary in his bid to replace Theresa May, saying, "I think Boris would do a very good job. I think he would be excellent."

May is to step down amid an impasse over Brexit on June 7, just days after Trump is set to be feted by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace and after official observances of the 75th anniversary of D-Day are concluded.

Trump referred to the American-born Duchess of Sussex as "nasty" over comments she made in 2016 threatening to move to Canada if Trump won the White House.

"I didn't know that she was nasty," he said of Meghan when read her prior criticism. The former Meghan Markle married Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, in 2018 and gave birth to their first child, Archie, in May.

During the state visit, the president, his wife, Melania, and his four adult children are expected to meet with Harry as well as his brother, Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and his wife, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. Meghan is expected to stay home with Archie.

Trump told the newspaper that he didn't know that he wouldn't be meeting Markle but predicted that she will make "a very good" American princess.

As for May, Trump criticized her handling of Brexit negotiations with the European Union, saying she "didn't give the European Union anything to lose."

Trump's first visit to the UK as president was marred by similar critical comments he made to the same tabloid last year about May's handling of Brexit.

Trump is scheduled to arrive in London on Monday for a three-day visit.



**FILE - In this Sept. 26, 2018, file photo, President Donald Trump shakes hands as he meets with British Prime Minister Theresa May at the Lotte New York Palace hotel during the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Trump is weighing in on the United Kingdom's political maelstrom days before his state visit, saying Boris Johnson would be an "excellent" prime minister and calling Meghan Markle "nasty."** (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, file)

## Principal: I accidentally plagiarized Ashton Kutcher speech

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (AP) — A West Virginia principal accused of plagiarizing Ashton Kutcher in an address to his school's graduating class says he didn't mean to use someone else's work.

Parkersburg High School Principal Kenny DeMoss has issued a statement saying he should have cited his sources in the May 23 speech, but asserted the ideas were his own.

"I did not get all my ideas from Ashton. Format yes, thoughts and ideas were from my heart," he wrote, adding that he's upset the speech has stolen the focus from graduating students.

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A graduate posted a video to Facebook that spliced DeMoss' speech with Kutcher's 2013 Nickelodeon Teen Choice Awards speech and has since amassed more than 100,000 views. The speeches used similar wording and at times featured identical phrasing.

DeMoss said the widely-circulated video cut out a preface that was supposed to make clear he was going to be folding others' ideas and thoughts into his speech.

In an email Friday, DeMoss said he's putting the incident behind him.

"Me and my family are the only ones being hurt here. My accuser isn't. I love kids and love this school and this will only make me better," he said.

Wood County Schools Superintendent Will Hosaflook did not immediately return a voicemail seeking comment.

This story has been corrected to say Teen Choice, not Kids' Choice. Links photo.



**In this May 23, 2019 photo, Principal Kenny DeMoss gives closing remarks during Parkersburg High School's 2019 graduation ceremony, in Parkersburg, W.Va. The West Virginia principal accused of plagiarizing Ashton Kutcher in the address to his school's graduating class says he didn't mean to use someone else's work. DeMoss has issued a statement saying he should have cited his sources in the speech, but asserted the ideas were his own.** (Michael Erb/News and Sentinel via AP)

## Broken bee? Spelling experts say tougher words are out there

By BEN NUCKOLS Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — The Scripps National Spelling Bee suffered a body blow when eight kids ended up co-champions because they were simply too accomplished to stumble over any of the words Scripps threw at them.

That doesn't mean it's irretrievably broken.

Even some critics who thought the words Thursday night were insultingly easy are optimistic that the bee can recover and produce a single champion next year and for many years to come.

"As spellers evolve, the bee does, too," 17-year-old former speller Grace Walters said Friday. She's the personal coach to last year's winner and three of this year's champions. "The National Spelling Bee as we know it right now might be broken, but the bee is going to evolve. I think it can continue. ... I'll be really sad if it doesn't!"

The extraordinary 2019 bee featured strong contestants, a field as deep and well-prepared as any in the event's 94-year history.

Of the 16 spellers in last year's prime-time finals, 10 made it back into this year's top 50. Seven made the top 16 for the second straight year, including two who advanced to ESPN's prime-time telecast three years in a row. (Both of those three-timers, Erin Howard and Shruthika Padhy, were among the eight champions.)

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"It's still overwhelming to look at the aptitude of these kids at one time," said Mirle Shivashankar, father of 2009 champion Kavya Shivashankar and 2015 co-champion Vanya Shivashankar. "We used to see these kinds of kids before, one at a time, two at a time. Tossing them in a group like that is just hard to digest for me."

From the beginning of the finals Thursday morning, Scripps was playing catch-up. Ten spellers exited in the first round of finals, more or less an expected number. But in the next round, only six misspelled. Just five dropped out in the round after that. The words had to get much tougher just to whittle the field to 16 kids in the span of 5½ hours.

That's when bee organizers huddled for an emergency strategy meeting, where they hatched a contingency plan to end the bee with more than the maximum of three co-champions allowed under the rules.

"The ability of those spellers was simply greater in aggregate than we prepared for," said Peter Sokolowski, an editor-at-large at Merriam-Webster who consults with Scripps but has no formal role in word selection or bee planning.

"They were structurally prepared for kind of a duel between two spellers. What they recognized was they didn't have enough words of that very high level, of the most difficult level. ... They were all difficult words, but not the most difficult words. They had already gone through them."

But why did that happen? According to the former spellers-turned-professional coaches who helped this year's kids crack the bee's code, the Scripps word list has tendencies that are easy to figure out. SpellPundit, an online study guide started by two ex-spellers and used by all but two of the eventual champions, offers a full refund of its \$600 annual subscription fee if Scripps uses a word that isn't included in its database.

Among the weaknesses that spellers exploited: Scripps frequently repeats words from past bees.

"The spelling bee recycles words, so it's really predictable. There's really no reason to recycle words," said Scott Remer, the 2008 fourth-place finisher and author of "Words of Wisdom: Keys to Success in the Scripps National Spelling Bee."

"One thing they're probably going to want to do is start to branch out from the traditional, mainstay, bread-and-butter words that they've been asking," he said.

The 25-year-old Remer, who coached two of this year's champions, said too many words had familiar roots and patterns or were simply spelled phonetically, albeit in languages other than English.

"Seitan," that's just very standard Japanese patterns," Remer said. "A word like 'chapon' is pure, standard, very easy French. Just abides by all the French rules and it's six letters long."

Siyona Mishra, who finished ninth in 2015 and coached this year's co-champion Christopher Serrao, said tricking up the word list is easy.

"You could go to geographical words, names of tribes of people," the 15-year-old Siyona said. "Genus names, some slangy words are also a bit more difficult, not in the sense that they're hard to spell but they're a lot more unpredictable. They don't follow language patterns."



**Rohan Raja, 13, of Irving, Texas, celebrates after becoming one of eight co-champions in the finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, Friday, May 31, 2019, in Oxon Hill, Md. The spelling bee ended in unprecedented 8-way championship tie after organizers ran out of challenging words.**

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)



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Another consideration is the entertainment factor. Scripps tends to use words that sound fun, fascinating or intimidating to amateur spellers watching at home. A tougher Scripps bee might be drier and heavier on scientific jargon.

"It might mean resorting to words," Grace said, "that aren't as interesting to a national television audience."

As in any contest, if the rules change, the competitors will adapt. Online tools allow spellers to study more efficiently, freeing them up to learn even more. Sokolowski saw something in this year's bee he's never seen before. It came from Simone Kaplan, the last speller eliminated before the eight who made history.

"The girl quoting the definitions before (pronouncer Jacques) Bailly said them stated the usage note from our unabridged dictionary verbatim. ... It's a very specific kind of writing that we do. I thought, 'Oh my goodness, this 13-year-old girl is quoting our dictionary back to us,'" Sokolowski said. "These spellers as a group simply were unusually gifted. They may indicate that we have entered a new era of competition."

Follow Ben Nuckols at <https://twitter.com/APBenNuckols>

## D-Day ceremony spotlights Trump's complicated military ties

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — World leaders will gather in solemn assembly next week above the sandy beaches of Normandy to mark the 75th anniversary of the world-changing D-Day invasion of France. It's typically a heartfelt tribute to alliance and sacrifice and a unified vow for enduring unity, outweighing any national or political skirmish of the moment.

That's what has some U.S. veterans and others worried about President Donald Trump's attendance. The president has shown a repeated willingness to inject nationalistic rhetoric and political partisanship into moments once aimed at unity. For Trump, there is no water's edge for politics, no veneer of nonpartisanship around military or national security matters.

The president, who did not serve in the military before becoming commander in chief, has feuded with Gold Star families, blasted political opponents on foreign soil, and mocked Sen. John McCain, a prisoner of war, for being captured by the enemy. Trump's antipathy for the late senator was so well known that the White House this week requested that the Navy keep the USS McCain out of the president's line of sight during a recent trip to Japan, so as not to rile the president.

It's a pattern that is set to get more scrutiny in coming days, as Trump heads overseas for the D-Day



**FILE - In this June 6, 2018, file photo, headstones at the Colleville American military cemetery, in Colleville sur Mer, western France. The world will turn its eyes to the beaches of France to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day. The United States' representative at the solemn ceremony in Normandy will be President Donald Trump, whose complicated relationship with the armed forces includes allegations of draft dodging, feuds with Gold Star families and considerations of pardoning soldiers accused of war crimes.** (AP Photo/David Vincent, File)

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memorial where he will be joined at the service by, among others, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat whom he has called "crazy Nancy" and warned not to try to impeach him.

"It's unfortunate we have to be even concerned that this historic commemoration will be overly politicized, but this is the command climate he's created and the reality we have," said Paul Rieckhoff, founder and former head of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and now host of the podcast, "Angry Americans." "We have to send our president. You go with the president we've got, and this is the president we've got. So we're rightfully holding our breath for an event like this."

More than 9,000 Americans are buried in the cemeteries dedicated to the D-Day operation that marked a turning point in World War II, beginning the Allied push to drive the Nazis out of France and eventually Europe. On a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, rows of white crosses and the Stars of David stretch as far as the eye can see — markers of sacrifices.

The president missed the other significant military commemoration of his term.

In November, also in France, Trump scuttled plans to honor the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I at Aisne-Marne American Cemetery. The White House said the president's helicopter could not make it to the site because of bad weather. It did not explain why Trump could not make the 50-mile drive. His absence set off howls from many veterans.

Trump blamed the Secret Service and the next day went to a different cemetery outside Paris.

In recent days, he visited Arlington National Cemetery and spent Memorial Day on a naval ship in Japan. "You are the ones keep going and striving, and keeping America safe, and strong, and proud, and free," Trump said during the visit. He also wished everyone a "Happy Memorial Day," a greeting some find off-keep for a holiday dedicated to honoring dead servicemembers.

Ahead of the trip, the White House told the U.S. Navy to keep the warship rededicated in honor of Sen. McCain out of sight of the president. The president denied knowing about the request but said the gesture was "well-meaning" because he was no fan of McCain, a prisoner of war whom Trump once mocked by saying he preferred soldiers who "weren't captured."

Trump also sided with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un over criticism of former Vice President Joe Biden. Some veteran groups were pleased that Trump was attending the D-Day commemoration but urged him to leave the political broadsides at home.

"In situations like these, it's best for President Trump to focus on his positive vision for reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs and advocating for a more restrained foreign policy," said Dan Caldwell, a senior adviser for the conservative Concerned Veterans for America.

Plenty of previous presidents have embraced the military, identifying themselves with its power and patriotism. But Trump's relationship with the armed forces — and the families of individual soldiers — has at times been uniquely fraught.

As a candidate, he feuded with the parents of Capt. Humayun Khan, who was killed in Iraq, and as president clashed with the mother of Sgt. La David Johnson, who died in Niger. Though Trump has been a boisterous cheerleader for the Pentagon, he is part of a recent trend of commanders-in-chief who did not serve in the military. He received a deferment that allowed him to not serve in Vietnam War due to bone spurs, but has been unable to remember in which foot, leading to accusations of draft dodging, including this week from 2020 rivals.

"You have somebody who thinks it's all right to let somebody go in his place into a deadly war and is willing to pretend to be disabled in order to do it," said Democrat Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who served as a Navy intelligence officer in Afghanistan. "That is an assault on the honor of this country."

And while a number of veterans groups have applauded Trump's efforts to improve mental and physical health care to former officers, many of those same organizations sharply criticized Trump's recent consideration to pardon several American military members accused of war crimes, including headline-grabbing cases of shooting unarmed civilians and killing an enemy captive.

"It is mind-blowing that these are the persons this administration is considering for pardons," said Kristofer Goldsmith, an associate director for policy at Vietnam Veterans of America, one of several veterans' groups

that oppose the pardons.

Trump considered issuing the pardons for Memorial Day but later said he may wait for some trials to conclude. But his international trips have repeatedly been interrupted by distractions back home, and many around him fear that even a solemn World War II observance may not be enough to prevent the president from tweeting an attack at special counsel Robert Mueller or escalating tensions with his hosts, outgoing British Prime Minister Theresa May or French president Emmanuel Macron.

Additional reporting by AP's Hope Yen and Emily Swanson in Washington.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

## Stocks end rocky month lower as Trump widens trade war

By DAMIAN J. TROISE and ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writers

Wall Street is no fan of Tariff Man.

The stock market stumbled Friday to its first losing month of 2019 in May, primarily due to President Donald Trump's decision to broadly wield his tariff powers, first against China over trade and then against Mexico over immigration.

During stocks' month-long slide investors wrestled with the potential impact that the U.S.'s escalating trade war with China could have on corporate and economic growth. Friday's losses came after Trump announced plans via Twitter to impose tariffs on Mexico in a bid to compel the nation's third-biggest trading partner to crack down on migrants attempting to enter the U.S.

The move shocked investors and spurred a broad sell-off that sliced more than 350 points from the Dow Jones Industrial Average. The selling left the benchmark S&P 500 index 6.6% lower for the month, and up 9.8% for the year so far.

"Clearly the markets were blindsided and completely caught off guard," said Cliff Hodge, director of investments for Cornerstone Wealth.

It was only a month ago that the S&P 500 hit a record high and underlined its claim as the longest bull market for stocks on record, at more than a decade long. The market had climbed steadily through 2019 amid rising investor confidence that a deal with China was at hand and that the Federal Reserve would not tip the economy into recession by raising interest rates too aggressively.

But when the first weekend of May arrived, Trump's tweet threatening more tariffs on China upended months of calm in the market. Investors are now preparing for a much longer and messier resolution to the global trade war than they were expecting just a few weeks ago.

The trade conflicts have also clouded the global economic outlook, with many economists now forecasting U.S. growth to weaken in the coming months. That's likely to weigh on corporate profits this year.



**FILE - In this May 28, 2019, file photo specialist Peter Mazza, left, and trader Stephen Gilmartin work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The U.S. stock market opens at 9:30 a.m. EDT on Friday, May 31.** (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)



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"What you had over the last few days really is an increase in global uncertainty, and the economic data has been poor and weakening," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Globalt Investments. "With rising costs as a result of tariffs and rising uncertainty, that's definitely going to have a damper on earnings."

The S&P 500 index fell 36.80 points, or 1.3%, to 2,752.06. It's the first time the S&P 500 has dropped for four straight weeks since autumn 2014.

The Dow lost 354.84 points, or 1.4%, to 24,815.04. The Nasdaq slid 114.57 points, or 1.5%, to 7,453.15. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies gave up 20.04 points, or 1.4%, to 1,465.49.

Major stock indexes in Europe also fell.

"You had a market that was feeling as though President Trump would want to do a deal so that the economy would not be hurt," said Martin. "And now the behavior is indicating that he will use (tariffs) to accomplish his goals and seems less concerned about the actual economic impact."

Since the end of April, investors have sought out safer investments like utilities and bonds. Technology stocks, which led gains all year, were among the month's biggest losers. The technology heavy Nasdaq shed 7.9%, while technology companies within the S&P 500 lost 8.9%.

Utilities, which have lagged the market, fell only 1.3% in May, making them among the month's best performers. Meanwhile, real estate stocks posted a 0.9% gain, the only winners this month.

The new tariffs on Mexican goods shocked investors who were already nervous about a global trade war crimping economic growth.

The new front in the trade war hit automakers particularly hard. Many of them import vehicles from Mexico. General Motors slid 4.3% Friday, while Fiat Chrysler dropped 4.8%. Ford Motor lost 2.3%.

Banks also declined as higher bond prices pushed yields lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note slid to 2.13% from 2.22% late Thursday.

Investors have been shifting money into bonds over concerns that economic growth will be crimped by the ongoing trade war. Lower bond yields drag down interest rates, making lending less profitable for banks. Citigroup fell 2.3% and Bank of America lost 2.1%.

Energy companies sank following another broad slide in oil prices. Occidental Petroleum fell 4.1% and Valero Energy dropped 3.4%.

Investors have been fleeing to safer holdings all month. The shift to utilities and bonds quickened earlier in May after the U.S. and China broke off negotiations. The U.S. then pushed more tariffs on Chinese goods along with a ban on technology sales. That prompted retaliatory tariffs from China and threats over other key resources.

While the U.S. economy grew at a solid 3.1% annual rate in the January-March quarter, many economists now think growth is likely to weaken in coming months. They cite a range of threats facing the U.S. economy, including escalating trade conflicts, more cautious spending by consumers and businesses, and a global economic slowdown.

On Friday, a report showed China's factory activity slowed in May as the trade war between Washington and Beijing escalated.

Economists say China may be drawing up its own list of retaliatory targets among U.S. companies. The worry is that a trade war fought on multiple fronts around the world will be a drag on corporate profits and on a U.S. economy that's been supported by a solid job market.

That worry pulled the yield on the 10-year Treasury note to its lowest level since the summer of 2017. That's left long-term Treasury yields below some short-term yields, an unusual occurrence that many investors see as a warning sign of recession.

Investors are also raising their bets that the Federal Reserve will need to cut interest rates later in 2019 to help the economy, less than a year after it had been raising rates to get them closer to normal.

"The fact that the president is willing to use tariffs as a weapon can really cause damage to business confidence," Hodge said. "You've got to be wondering, who's next?"

Energy futures closed broadly lower Friday. Benchmark U.S. crude tumbled 5.5% to settle at \$53.50 a barrel. Brent crude oil, the international standard, closed 3.6% lower at \$64.49 per barrel.

Wholesale gasoline slid 4.1% to \$1.80 per gallon. Heating oil dropped 3.8% to \$1.84 per gallon. Natural

gas gave up 3.7% to \$2.45 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold gained 1.4% to \$1,311.10 per ounce, silver added 0.5% to \$14.57 per ounce and copper fell 0.5% to \$2.64 per pound.

The dollar fell to 108.41 Japanese yen from 109.55 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1171 from \$1.1135.

AP Business Writer Stan Choe contributed to this article.

## US Catholic Church reports big rise in sex-abuse allegations

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Quantifying its vast sex-abuse crisis, the U.S. Roman Catholic Church said Friday that allegations of child sex abuse by clerics more than doubled in its latest 12-month reporting period, and that its spending on victim compensation and child protection surged above \$300 million.

During the period from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, 1,385 adults came forward with 1,455 allegations of abuse, according to the annual report of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. That was up from 693 allegations in the previous year. The report attributed much of the increase to a victim compensation program implemented in five dioceses in New York state.

According to the report, Catholic dioceses and religious orders spent \$301.6 million during the reporting period on payments to victims, legal fees and child-protection efforts. That was up 14% from the previous year and double the amount spent in the 2014 fiscal year.

The number of allegations is likely to rise further during the current fiscal year, given that Catholic dioceses in New Jersey and Pennsylvania have started large compensation programs in the wake of a scathing Pennsylvania grand jury report released in August. The grand jury identified more than 300 priests in six of the state's dioceses who have been credibly accused of child sexual abuse committed over many decades.

Since then, attorneys general in numerous states have set up abuse hotlines and launched investigations, and a growing number of dioceses and Catholic religious orders have released names of priests accused of abuse.



**FILE - In this Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018 file photo, a sexual abuse victim points to the photos of Catholic priests accused of sexual misconduct by victims during a news conference in Orange, Calif. On Friday, May 31, 2019, the U.S. Catholic church says that allegations of child sex-abuse by clergy more than doubled in its latest 12-month reporting period, and its spending on victim compensation and child protection surged above \$300 million. During the period between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018, 1,385 adults came forward with 1,455 allegations of abuse, according to the annual report of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. That was up from 693 allegations in the previous year.** (AP Photo/

Jae C. Hong)

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"Victims are coming forward now because of real progress by secular authorities," said the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. "Lawmakers are increasingly getting rid of archaic, predator-friendly laws and 16 attorneys general have launched investigations, so many victims are feeling hopeful."

The advocacy group urged officials in every diocese to turn over sex abuse records to their state attorney general for investigation. The group also said church staff should be instructed to report suspected abuse to secular law enforcement before filing a report internally.

According to a survey included in the new annual report, more than 90% of the alleged abusers were already dead or removed from the ministry. Most of the reported abuse occurred between 1960 and 1990, with a peak in the 1970s.

Compilation of the annual report entails an audit of Catholic dioceses across the U.S. to assess their compliance with a 2002 charter outlining the church's child-protection policies. Only one diocese, based in Lincoln, Nebraska, was found noncompliant due to lack of transparency in public communications about child sex abuse cases.

Members of the audit team made on-site visits to more than one-third of the 196 U.S. dioceses and found shortcomings in 14% of them that will warrant follow-up visits. Among the problems detected were poor record-keeping of background-check data, and allowing some clergy, staff and volunteers to have contact with children without undergoing training or background checks.

The findings were evidence of "complacency and lack of diligence on the part of some dioceses," said a letter included in the report from Francesco Cesareo, who chairs a review board created by the bishops in 2002 to monitor sex abuse prevention efforts.

Referring to the Pennsylvania grand jury report, and the abuse allegations that led to the defrocking of former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Cesareo said the events "have led to both frustration and anger among the faithful in the Church, a loss of the credibility of the hierarchy, and a questioning of the efficacy of the audit itself."

The introductory section of the annual report said the McCarrick scandal and the grand jury report helped turn complacency into urgency, and it commended some of the steps taken in response.

"While it is unfortunate that it took such grave sins and crimes to spur action, as Catholics, we are grateful that God can bring good out of such evils," the report said. "However, there remains work to be done."

Specifically, the report urged new steps to address the accountability of bishops engaged in abuse or cover-ups, as well as increased involvement of lay experts in investigating abuse allegations.

Those issues are expected to be discussed at the bishops' upcoming national meeting in Baltimore starting June 11.

## UN atomic watchdog raises questions of Iran's centrifuge use

By KIYOKO METZLER Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — The U.N. atomic watchdog said Friday that Iran continues to stay within the limitations set by the 2015 nuclear deal with major powers, but reported its stockpiles of low-enriched uranium and heavy water are growing and raised questions for the first time about Iran's adherence to a key but vague provision intended to limit the country's use of advanced centrifuges.

In a confidential quarterly report distributed to member states and seen by The Associated Press, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran has stayed within key limitations set in the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, for uranium and heavy water stockpiles.

But while in past reports the IAEA said Iran's research and development on enrichment "has been conducted using centrifuges within the limits defined in the JCPOA," the Friday report instead changed the wording to say it "has been conducted using centrifuges specified in the JCPOA."

A centrifuge is a device that enriches uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas. Under the atomic accord, Iran has been limited to operating 5,060 older-model IR-1 centrifuges.

In a footnote, the agency said that "up to 33" more advanced IR-6 centrifuges have been installed and that "technical discussions in relation to the IR-6 centrifuges are ongoing."



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Under terms of the nuclear deal, Iran is allowed to test no more than 30 of the IR-6s once the deal has been in place for 8 1/2 years. The deal is murky about limits before that point, which will arrive in 2023.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi, said last month that Iran had begun installing a chain of 20 IR-6 centrifuges at its underground Natanz enrichment facility. Iranian officials say the IR-6 can enrich 10 times faster than an IR-1.

Iran maintains that it is allowed to install the centrifuges, regardless of the agreement's limit on their use for testing. A senior diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't officially allowed to comment on the report said the faster centrifuges were not yet being fed with uranium.

The diplomat said the technical discussions on the centrifuges were between the deal's signatories and Iran, but would not elaborate. "It is being discussed, and we report the facts that we see," the diplomat said.

"The feed line is under agency seal," the diplomat said, adding it was up to partner countries in the deal to determine whether the installation was a violation of the accord.

The nuclear deal is meant to keep Tehran from building atomic weapons in exchange for economic incentives. It has been complicated by the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the deal last year and Washington's increased sanctions, which has been taking a toll on the Iranian economy.

That has left the other signatories — Germany, Britain, France, Russia and China — struggling to come up with enough incentives to keep Iran in the deal.

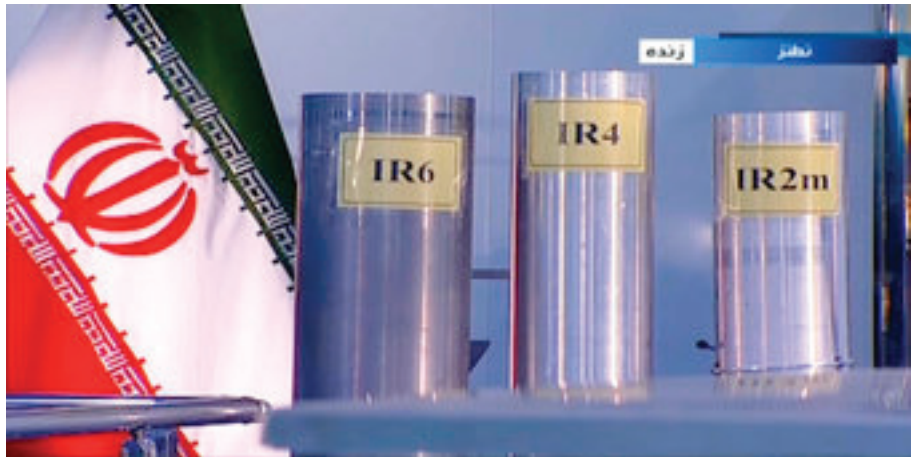
Earlier this month, Iran announced that if a way couldn't be found within 60 days to shield it from U.S. sanctions targeting its economy and oil industry, it would ramp up its enrichment of uranium beyond the purity allowed under nuclear deal. And about a week ago, Iran said it had increased its uranium-enrichment production capacity, though only of the lower-enriched uranium permitted by the agreement.

In its first quarterly report since those announcements, however, the Vienna-based IAEA found Iran continued to be in compliance and also said its inspectors had been given unfettered access to Iranian nuclear facilities.

"Timely and proactive cooperation by Iran in providing such access facilitates implementation of the additional protocol and enhances confidence," the report stated, referring to the procedure detailing safeguards and tools for verification.

The senior diplomat said Iran does have the capacity to quadruple uranium enrichment as it recently threatened, but that inspectors would have to wait until the next report to determine whether they had actually set that increase in motion.

"They have the flexibility, they can increase and they can reduce, and they can do a number of things," the diplomat said. "The capacity is always there, and we do verify this at a technical level, we are fully monitoring that."



**FILE - In this June 6, 2018, file frame from Islamic Republic Iran Broadcasting, IRIB, state-run TV, three versions of domestically-built centrifuges are shown in a live TV program from Natanz, an Iranian uranium enrichment plant, in Iran. A report Friday, May 31, 2019, by U.N. nuclear watchdogs said Iran had begun installing IR-6s like the one shown on the left. That raised questions for the first time about its adherence to a key provision of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers that was intended to limit the country's use of advanced centrifuges.** (IRIB via AP, File)

Earlier this month, the U.S. ended deals allowing Iran to exchange its enriched uranium for unrefined yellowcake uranium with Russia, and to sell its heavy water, which is used as a coolant in nuclear reactors, to Oman. That will also make it difficult, if not impossible, for it to stay within stockpile limits if it increases production of both.

The IAEA said Iran's heavy water stockpile was 125.2 metric tons (138 U.S. tons) as of May 26, up from 124.8 tons in February but below the 130 ton limit. Its stock of low-enriched uranium was 174.1 kilograms (383.8 pounds) as of May 20, up from 163.8 kilograms in February; the limit is 202.8 kilograms.

It added that Iran had not enriched any uranium above the level allowed by the JCPOA.

"All centrifuges and associated infrastructure in storage have remained under continuous agency monitoring," the IAEA said.

Associated Press writers David Rising in Berlin; Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

## Celebrities branch out with podcasts of their own

By ALICIA RANCILIO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Topher Grace has added a lot of skills to his portfolio over the last few weeks.

He learned to beatbox. He officiated a wedding with "Shazam!" star Zachary Levi, and even tried telemarketing.

He's doing it all for a new role, but it has nothing to do with acting: Instead, he's trying different things in his recently launched podcast called "Minor Adventures with Topher Grace."

"It really is more fun for me than anyone else," said Grace.

"Tig Notaro came on and we did livestock auctioneering," he recalled. "I was so bad at it. But, upon listening back I realized, 'It really doesn't matter if I'm good or not. In fact, it's kind of better if (the adventure) is outside of everyone's comfort zone.'"

Grace is among the growing number of celebrities who are branching out to host their own podcasts. Notables including Lena Dunham, Chelsea Handler, Alyssa Milano, "Power's" Omari Hardwick and "Queer Eye" star Karamo Brown are among those who've launched their own approximately hour-long, weekly shows this year.

And Katharine Schwarzenegger hosts a podcast about rescuing pets.

For some, it's a way to be creative outside of the medium where they are traditionally known.

Hardwick's podcast, on the subscription-based Luminary Network, is called "Poetics." It's dedicated to poetry, which is one of his passions. At the end of each episode, Hardwick's guests must create original prose inspired by their conversation. It requires guests to dig below the surface and come up with prose based on their emotions and experiences.

"We just kind of talk about their journey, their life and when they found a pen ... and where they see



**This combination of photos shows celebrities, top row from left, Alyssa Milano, Kamaro Brown, David Tennant, and bottom row from left, Omari Hardwick, Lauren Conrad and Topher Grace, who have launched podcasts.** (AP Photo)

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themselves going from that point on," said Hardwick. Guests have included Method Man, Big Daddy Kane, producer Rodney Jerkins and Dave East.

Others are using podcasts to call attention to things they care about.

Milano was looking for a way to bring attention to people who dedicate their lives to making change, but who aren't famous.

"There are so many people on the ground that fight every single day ... and the only reason why I get (media) interested is because I'm an actress, and that's great," said Milano.

But, she wondered, "How can I use that platform to empower others to make a difference?"

Milano's new podcast, "Sorry Not Sorry," attempts to highlight those change seekers. She speaks to activists including Manuel Olivier, a father who lost son Joaquin in the 2018 school shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas high school, and #MeToo activist Tarana Burke.

Lauren Conrad, who gained fame as an MTV reality star but later branched out to write books, design clothes and take on other projects, has added podcast host to her list with "Asking for a Friend," which features experts in various fields dishing on their work. Most guests are people she's worked with in the past.

"I felt like this was a very cool opportunity to sit down and talk with each of these people about all the things they've taught me," she said.

Grace also appreciates how a podcast allows for a space to share more of himself, but still in a controlled environment. He's rarely appeared in tabloids and was never a paparazzi favorite.

"I started to realize, 'Oh this is a way that I can share something that I love doing in my free time, but still I don't have to talk about anything I don't want to talk about, like family stuff.'" (For the record, Grace does mention his wife and baby on the show, but everything is on his terms.) Others like to use podcasts as a way to share their talent of getting others to open up.

Karamo Brown of "Queer Eye," says the success of the show has made people reach out to him for advice. His expertise on the series is culture, where he specializes in making people feel better about themselves. With his new podcast, Brown, who used to work as a social worker and psychotherapist, takes questions from real people looking for advice.

Brown says helping people find closure or to feel better, helps him: "I literally feel better about myself, it's contagious."

He believes people feel comfortable opening up to him because he's honest about his own past struggles.

"I live my life very honestly and I talk about own challenges with drugs, alcohol, depression, relationship problems, parenting and dating. I've been through so many issues and so when I talk to people I can relate to them."

"Doctor Who" star David Tennant uses his podcast, "David Tennant Does a Podcast," to interview celebrity pals including Olivia Colman, Jennifer Garner and Michael Sheen.

"I love being in a room and just talking to people and seeing where it goes and then that's the finished product," said Tennant.

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AP Writer Gary Gerard Hamilton and Jill Dobson in New York contributed to this report.

## Hurricane season 2019: A sense of fear for towns already hit

By The Associated Press

The annual start of hurricane season casts a shadow of dread over coastal sections of the United States. People fret over the next Big One, even as communities struggle to recover from the last one.

For some communities, the devastation remains an open wound, as in Florida's Panama City, slammed by Hurricane Michael in October.

Even years later, many towns still bear the scars, physical or psychological.

PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

With hurricane season days away, Janelle Crosby steps out of the cramped recreational vehicle where



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she has lived since Hurricane Michael ripped apart her world more than seven months ago.

More than a half-dozen friends and relatives live in three domed tents near the front of the RV, and a daughter is just feet away in Crosby's former home, an old trailer that was split open by trees. A homeless man lives in a tent on the other side of the RV; Crosby and her husband, Wilbur, let him stay on their little plot of property because he had nowhere else to go.

Crosby, 55, rode out the Category 5 storm at a hotel and feels fortunate, despite her living conditions and poor health — she has breast cancer — because no close friends or family died in Michael. Yet she is terrified that hurricane season begins Saturday with her Florida Panhandle community still in ruins.

"I've already lost everything once. We can't do it again. I can't. I'm not strong enough. A lot of these people aren't," Crosby said over the drone of a gasoline-powered generator.

It's hard to imagine what another hurricane would do to Crosby's part of the Panhandle, where she lives near Panama City in Springfield.

Both cities are in Bay County, where 25 people were killed as Michael blew ashore with winds of 160 mph (257 kph). About 70% of the county's homes were damaged or destroyed, and some 20,000 people were displaced. Three schools remain closed because of damage, as do many businesses and apartment buildings. Officials estimate 13% of the county's 185,000 residents simply left.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provided Crosby and her husband \$1,300 in aid and offered a temporary condominium nearly 15 miles (24 kilometers) away in Panama City Beach, she said. The family declined the housing because her husband didn't have transportation to get to his job at a transmission shop, Crosby said.

So the couple remains in the camper, shooing away the occasional rat and pooling resources with the tent dwellers.

"If one of us has generator gas, we all have a fan, or if we have propane, we all get to cook that night," she said. "If not, we get out here and make fires and cook. We're surviving."

They're also praying there's not another hurricane anytime soon.

"I don't want to live through another," she said. "I don't want to ever witness what we witnessed. It was just terrifying."

-- Associated Press writer Jay Reeves

NICHOLS, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thomas Lee tenses up whenever a forecaster mentions trouble in the tropics.

He dreads a third round of flooding from hurricane-swollen rivers, which might mean finally telling his South Carolina hometown of 70 years goodbye. That's after devastating flooding from Hurricane Matthew



**In this May 9, 2019, photo, business owner Keith Bassett discusses his effort to renovate a building in the Strand, the Galveston, Texas, historic downtown district. The restoration of the historic building is part of an ongoing rebirth of downtown Galveston following the devastation the city suffered when Hurricane Ike made landfall in 2008. "The city is definitely doing really well," said Bassett, who rebuilt and consolidated his two stores that were flooded.**

(AP Photo/John L. Mone)

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in 2016 and again from Hurricane Florence in 2018.

When the first drops of rain from Florence fell last September, Lee considered leaving. But exactly 238 days later, he put the last coat of bright yellow paint on his walls, covering the 2018 high-water mark, several inches above the 2016 line. Some \$13,000 later — all out of his own pocket for now — his house is home again, while the town of a few hundred souls struggles to stay alive.

"These are my roots," Lee said, pointing to a nearly collapsed structure next door where he was born in 1949.

Nichols, 45 miles (72 kilometers) from the sea, lost more than half its businesses and a third of its homes in 2016 and shrank some more after 2018, Town Administrator Sandee Rogers said. Along Nichols' two-lane main drag, every building is boarded up. Many houses abandoned in 2016 are collapsing. Its bustling core gone, Nichols now tries to attract residents with its proximity to the coast, Rogers said.

"It's real small-town America, but close to other things," Rogers said. "We can't give up on small-town America."

Some research suggests global warming is increasing the intensity of rains across the Southeast. A \$1.5 million federal grant will study Nichols' topography and flow to see how to prevent flooding, but the results won't be in time to make any difference this season.

"We're on pins and needles now," Rogers said.

-- Associated Press writer Jeffrey Collins

GALVESTON, TEXAS

It's been nearly 11 years since Hurricane Ike smashed Murdochs gift shop to splinters in Galveston while devastating homes on the Texas island and wiping away beaches that were the lifeblood of its tourism economy.

The shop was rebuilt on its stilts about a year later and today is more successful than ever, co-owner Todd Flores said.

"It was hard, but we had a lot of people helping us," Flores said of the rebuilding, which was sped by a loan from a local bank when insurance money was slow in coming. "We knew this is what we wanted to do."

The hurricane's 110 mph (177 kph) winds and 15-foot (4.6-meter) storm surge damaged 80% of Galveston's homes. Its population of 55,000 dropped by about 10,000.

The population has bounced back, but the demographics shifted. Many of those who lived in public housing that was destroyed never came back. That meant Galveston lost many African American families, changing the city's character, said Leon Phillips, president of the Galveston Coalition for Justice.

"When you displace that many people in one fell swoop, that leaves very little to ... keep the history of African Americans on this island," Phillips said.

Phillips has pushed for a full rebuilding of Galveston's four public housing complexes against the resistance of some residents who say they are a haven for poverty. Only half of the lost units have been rebuilt, but the mayor is committed to finishing the job.

"In my mind, the city was too slow to respond to the underserved or those who couldn't raise Cain and get answers," Mayor Jim Yarbrough said.

Between 2008, when Ike hit, and 2015, Galveston's black population dropped 9%. But it has increased in the past few years.

Meanwhile, Galveston has spent more than \$200 million to largely restore its infrastructure, improving storm drainage and building a \$75 million wastewater treatment plant. Last year the Gulf Coast city had its best year on record, with 7.2 million visitors.

"The city is definitely doing really well," said Keith Bassett, who rebuilt and consolidated his two stores that were flooded in Galveston's historic downtown. "Based upon what happened after Hurricane Ike, you never would have believed we would be at this point."

The approach of hurricane season is a reminder that it's only a matter of time before the next one. A hurricane in 1900 killed 6,000 Galveston residents. Murdochs has been rebuilt five times since it opened in 1910 inside a bathhouse.

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"You don't really breathe until November," Flores said.

-- Associated Press writer Juan A. Lozano

PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA

Siblings Patty and John Vogt remember brisk traffic on Louisiana Highway 23 that brought oilfield workers to their roadside produce business. Grocery stores and farmers markets were regular customers for the citrus they grew in Plaquemines Parish.

"Our business was really blooming," Patty recalled as she sat next to her brother in a cavernous red barn behind their produce stand and next to a small orchard. "We had a lot of customers. We delivered to wholesalers, fruit stands, stores."

Then came Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It blew ashore in Plaquemines Parish on its way to New Orleans, where it caused a catastrophe.

In its aftermath, Patty managed to salvage and rebuild the 60-foot (18-meter) contraption that washes, rinses and dries their harvest. But their citrus business never fully recovered. She once tended 5,000 trees. Now, it's about 1,000. The 200 citrus producers in Plaquemines before Katrina hit dwindled to 60 by 2017, according to the Louisiana State University AgCenter.

Patty, 65, said she is determined to continue their family business of four generations but always frets when hurricane season nears.

"Everybody does that's been totally wiped out," said Patty, whose business has also been hurt by drop-offs in customers as a result of low oil prices and the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

John, 68, reminisced about the competition at the annual parish Orange Festival. "There used to be eight, 10, maybe 12 vendors at one time selling oranges," he said.

"Now, you got one," the brother and sister said, almost in unison. "Us."

-- Associated Press writer Kevin McGill

HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

Nearly 27 years after Hurricane Andrew cut a path of destruction south of Miami, Karon Grunwell is still overcome with sadness when she thinks about how the Category 5 storm forever changed her hometown.

In 1992, Homestead was a sleepy agricultural town bordered by the Everglades and large farms planted with winter tomatoes and other crops. It was also the site of Homestead Air Force Base. Now Homestead is full of sprawling gated developments where many residents commute 40 miles (60 kilometers) north to Miami with no memory of the monster storm.

Grunwell still lives in the sturdy concrete block home where she and her family rode out the storm in the early morning darkness of Aug. 12. Thousands of homes and businesses in the town of about 27,000 were leveled.

"The Air Force base was totally destroyed. Andrew caused a major impact to schools, grocery stores, retail businesses. And it caused huge economic problems for just your everyday people," Grunwell said. "The vegetation has come back, but it's not anything like it was."

"I still cry when I talk about it," she said.

Families who had lived in the area for generations got their insurance payouts and moved away. Many went to neighboring Broward County. Grunwell, who was a manager for the Postal Service, said there were 35,000 change-of-address forms processed for the towns of Homestead, nearby Florida City and Princeton.

Jeff Blakley, 69, remembers watching the exodus while pulling 12-hour shifts as a BellSouth lineman, repairing telephone lines for the ravaged area.

"As I went home in the evenings, I remember seeing a solid line of cars heading north," Blakley said. "It was bumper-to-bumper, and it was heartbreaking because you would see cars with everything they owned. Stuff was coming out the windows and mattresses were strapped to the roof. And they were just leaving because the devastation was so horrific."

The Air Force base was downsized, its population going from 5,123 before Andrew to 466 in 2000. The storm stunted Homestead's growth rate in the 1990s, but it surged in the early 2000s as land sold by departing farmers was transformed into housing developments. The town now has about 70,000 people.



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But for hurricane survivors, "the stuff will not go away for quite some time," Grunwell said. "You will keep remembering how things were."

-- Associated Press writer Freida Frisaro

An earlier version of this report had an incorrect age for Jeff Blakley.

## NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By AMANDA SEITZ and BEATRICE DUPUY Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these is legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked these out. Here are the real facts:

**CLAIM:** A photo of a menacing cloud formation hovering over a cornfield was taken Tuesday by the Bonner Springs, Kansas, police department as tornadoes coursed through the region.

**THE FACTS:** A photojournalist captured the photo almost a year ago while covering storms about 200 miles away from Bonner Springs, in the small town of Andale, Kansas. Travis Heying, a photographer with The Wichita Eagle newspaper, took the photo on June 26, 2018. "It's just a cool, midsummer Kansas thunderstorm," Heying told The Associated Press. Facebook and Twitter users shared the photograph, wrongly identifying it as being taken west of Kansas City. Heying said it should have been easy to spot that the photo was being misrepresented. "Any self-respecting Midwesterner knows the corn is never that tall in May," he said.



**FILE - In this Tuesday, June, 26, 2018 file photo, a severe thunderstorm makes its way towards Wichita, Kan. Travis Heying, a photographer with The Wichita Eagle newspaper, captured the scene while he was chasing thunderstorms. He said that no tornadoes touched down that evening where he was shooting. "It's just a cool, midsummer Kansas thunderstorm." It was not taken Tuesday, May 28, 2019, by the Bonner Springs, Kan., police department as tornadoes coursed through the region.** (Travis Heying/The Wichita

Eagle via AP)

**CLAIM:** Screenshot shows CNN host S.E. Cupp on her "Unfiltered" show with a chyron that suggests she was discussing "fashtag," a new symbol for the alt-right.

**THE FACTS:** The image was manipulated. Cupp did not discuss hashtags being used as a fascist symbol on her show, a CNN spokeswoman told the AP in an email. The screenshot was taken from Cupp's May 25 program on "Politics & Sexism," in which she discussed White House counselor Kellyanne Conway's claim that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is not "pro-woman" because she declined to speak with Conway following a meeting. The fabricated image shows a hashtag covered by a red circle with a backslash across it where there had been a picture of Pelosi and Conway on the screen. The original chyron read: "Trump called Pelosi 'Crazy Nancy,' says she has 'Lost it.'" In the altered image it reads: "The 'Fashtag,' alt-rights new hate symbol?" The manipulated image circulated as part of a thread on the online forum 4chan, where

users jokingly suggested using hashtags to represent swastikas.

**CLAIM:** Video shows “the new congresswoman from Michigan” talking about “making all of America Muslim.”

**THE FACTS:** The woman in the video is not Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. The video shows Muslim advocate Sharifa Alkhateeb addressing the “Muslim American Political Awareness Conference” in 1989. The video, which has often been misrepresented online, began circulating again on May 26 after rock musician Ted Nugent shared it on Facebook. The caption with Nugent’s post, tied to Memorial Day, urges people to “listen very closely to the new congressman from Michigan” and the speaker’s beliefs “so we don’t let them continue to destroy the wonderful American system of individual freedom that so many died for.” The video shared by Nugent has a timestamp of 1989. Tlaib, a 42-year-old Democratic congresswoman, would have been a child when the video was made. In the video, Alkhateeb discusses creating ways of bringing all Americans into the same way of thinking as Muslims. Alkhateeb, former president of the North American Council for Muslim Women, died in 2004. A representative for Nugent did not respond to requests for comment.



**This combination of 2001 and 2018 photos shows Sharifa Alkhateeb, founder and president of the North American Council of Muslim Women, left, and U.S. Rep.-elect Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich. On Friday, May 31, 2019, The Associated Press has found that a video circulating on the internet that says it shows “the new congresswoman from Michigan” talking about “making all of America Muslim,” has been misidentified. The 42-year-old Democratic congresswoman would have been a child when the 1989 timestamped video of Alkhateeb was made.** (AP Photo/Kenneth Lambert, Carolyn Kaster)

This is part of The Associated Press’ ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online, including work with Facebook to identify and reduce the circulation of false stories on the platform.

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <https://www.apnews.com/APFactCheck>

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## Union warns Disney World fire department is understaffed

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Firefighters for Walt Disney World’s private government say they’re understaffed and that poses a safety risk as the Florida theme park resort grows even bigger with this year’s openings of a new Star Wars land and air gondolas.

“We just don’t have enough firefighters on property to make these families and visitors safe,” said Timothy Stromsnes, president of the Reedy Creek Professional Firefighters, Local 2117, which represents the firefighters working for Disney’s private government.

The administrator for that local government, the Reedy Creek Improvement District, disagrees and accused the union of airing concerns in the media to increase pressure as it negotiates a new contract. The firefighter’s contract expired at the end of last year.

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"Safety is of utmost importance, which is why we are always focused on the district being a safe place and are confident we provide appropriate levels of fire and medical services," Reedy Creek Improvement District administrator John Classe said in an email Wednesday.

He wouldn't comment further.

Disney World spokeswoman Andrea Finger said the safety of guests and employees is a core focus of the resort.

At any given moment, 32 Reedy Creek firefighters are working a 24-hour shift on the 25,000-acre (10,117-hectare) Disney World property. But that's not enough for the number of people who visit the theme park resort, said Stromsnes, adding that there should be an additional 16 firefighters on a shift, at a minimum.

By next year, Disney World is forecast to have as many as 143,000 guests each night at its more than two dozen hotels and up to 153,000 daily visitors at its four theme parks and two water parks. Add a workforce of more than 70,000 employees, and the resort, which is the geographic size of

the city of San Francisco, could host anywhere from 215,000 to almost 360,000 people on any given day, according to planning documents from the Reedy Creek Improvement District.

That's roughly on par with the residential population of Pittsburgh, St. Louis or Cincinnati. But the Reedy Creek firefighters face challenges different from fire departments in those cities. While they help patrons with heat-related illnesses, rescue passengers from car accidents and respond to hotel fire alarms, they also help put out the periodic dragon fire, and they are summoned when the occasional vacation turns tragic.

The National Fire Protection Association says in a March 2019 research report there is no defined standard for a proper ratio between firefighters and residents. The median reported ratio for communities between 250,000 and 500,000 residents was 1.14 firefighters per 1,000 people, according to the report.

With a total of 145 firefighters, Reedy Creek's ratio would be 0.67 firefighters per 1,000 people if there were at least 215,000 people on the property on any given day. The actual daily number fluctuates, given the transient nature of tourists.

The Reedy Creek Improvement District, a quasi-private, special-purpose government, is controlled by Disney. It was created in 1967 when then-Florida Gov. Claude Kirk signed legislation authorizing it to regulate land use, enforce building codes, treat wastewater, control drainage, maintain utilities and provide fire protection at Disney World.

Such private governments aren't uncommon in fast-growing Florida, which has more than 600 community development districts that manage and pay for infrastructure in new communities.

Walt Disney had originally envisioned building a futuristic, planned city on the Florida property, but those



**In this Tuesday, May 28, 2019 photo, Timothy Stromsnes, left, president of the Reedy Creek Professional Firefighters, Local 2117 and union vice president Sean Pierce air concerns about the firefighting staff at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Firefighters for Walt Disney World's private government say they're vastly understaffed, posing a safety risk as the 25,000-acre Florida theme park resort grows even bigger this year with the debuts of a new Star Wars land, a new air-gondola system and even more hotel rooms.** (AP Photo/John Raoux)



plans were abandoned after his death in 1966.

A lack of a built-in constituency in the district puts the firefighters at a disadvantage since there are no residents putting political pressure on the government to increase staffing, said Sean Pierce, vice president of the firefighters' local union.

This story has been corrected to say 32 firefighters work a 24-hour shift at the fire department each day, not three shifts of 32 firefighters per shift each day.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

## Giant American flag flap flutters on; business owner rallies

By SARAH BLAKE MORGAN and MARTHA WAGGONER Associated Press

STATESVILLE, N.C. (AP) — The reality television star who has said he would go to jail before removing a huge American flag from his recreational vehicle store in North Carolina told cheering employees on Thursday that he would not take the banner down "under any circumstance."

Standing in the parking lot of Gander RV late Thursday afternoon, Marcus Lemonis declared to a group of workers and a gaggle of news media that he was not interested in the city of Statesville's offer to change a local ordinance regulating banner sizes to allow the giant flag to continue flying. What he wants, he said, is for them to eliminate all size restrictions on the American flag.

"This is about a city and a flag that does not belong to us, it doesn't belong to you; it belongs to all of us," said Lemonis, chief executive officer of Camping World, which owns Gander, and star of CNBC's reality television show "The Profit".

In announcing his visit to the site, Lemonis had said Wednesday that he wanted to show his support for workers "frustrated by the distraction" of the flag controversy.

Officials from the city about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Charlotte sued the company earlier this month over the flag, which measures 40 feet by 80 feet (12 meters by 24 meters) and hangs on a 130-foot-high (40-meter-high) flagpole next to I-77. The code limits flags to 25 feet by 40 feet (7.6 meters by 12 meters).

But Lemonis declared on Wednesday that he would go to jail before he'd take the banner down. Not long after that, Statesville Mayor Costi Kutteh issued a statement saying he had asked the city's planning department to change the dimensions allowed for flags displayed in a highway business zone.

"If passed, this amendment will permit the flag currently displayed ... to continue flying," the release said.



**In this undated handout photo provided by Camping World, an American flag blows in the wind at Gander RV, in Statesville, N.C. Businessman and reality television star Marcus Lemonis says he'll go to jail before he removes a huge American flag flying at a recreational vehicle store that his company owns and that's the subject of a lawsuit because of its size.** (Jennifer Munday/Camping World, AP)

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Kutteh said the matter should be resolved at the department's meeting on July 15.

That's not good enough, Lemonis said Thursday.

"What we're asking for and what we're not going to back down on is ... for the city to modify the ordinance to eliminate the size of flag regulation and the size of pole regulation unless it interferes with the FAA, it interferes with people's health, wellness or safety, or it blocks the visibility of a consumer to another person's business," he said.

Employees cheered when he once again proclaimed, "The flag is not coming down under any circumstance."

Lemonis' attorneys were planning to file a response to the city's lawsuit. Lemonis said Wednesday that the response would cite First Amendment free-speech protections as well as a North Carolina law that prohibits size restrictions on official governmental flags except when necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare.

Daquane Messier, who's opening a new hookah lounge in Statesville, said he was rooting for Lemonis "because a win for him" as a business owner "is a win for me."

"Let them fly the flag," he said. "It can be a Confederate flag. It can be a neo-Nazi flag for all I care. You fly it. Because everyone has the freedom to express ourselves."

Treva Miller, who works for a school system near Gander RV, said she doesn't understand why the flag's size is such a big deal.

"It's a flag," Miller said. "It's not hurting anyone. It's not doing any damage. I'm not really sure what the controversy is."

Waggoner reported from Raleigh, North Carolina.

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

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 1, the 152nd day of 2019. There are 213 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 1, 1813, the mortally wounded commander of the USS Chesapeake, Capt. James Lawrence, gave the order, "Don't give up the ship" during a losing battle with the British frigate HMS Shannon in the War of 1812.

On this date:

In 1533, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of King Henry VIII, was crowned as Queen Consort of England.

In 1792, Kentucky became the 15th state.

In 1796, Tennessee became the 16th state.

In 1926, actress Marilyn Monroe was born Norma Jeane Mortenson in Los Angeles.

In 1939, the British submarine HMS Thetis sank during a trial dive off North Wales with the loss of 99 lives. Lou Nova defeated Max Baer at Yankee Stadium in the first U.S. televised heavyweight prizefight. Mexico officially abolished the siesta.

In 1943, a civilian flight from Portugal to England was shot down by Germany during World War II, killing all 17 people aboard, including actor Leslie Howard.

In 1967, the Beatles album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" was released, as was David Bowie's debut album, eponymously titled "David Bowie."

In 1968, author-lecturer Helen Keller, who earned a college degree despite being blind and deaf almost her entire life, died in Westport, Connecticut, at age 87.

In 1977, the Soviet Union formally charged Jewish human rights activist Anatoly Shcharansky with treason. (Shcharansky was imprisoned, then released in 1986; he's now known as Natan Sharansky.)

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In 1980, Cable News Network made its debut.

In 2008, fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent died in Paris at age 71.

In 2017, President Donald Trump declared he would pull the U.S. from the landmark Paris climate agreement. (The U.S. remains a part of the agreement until at least 2020.)

Ten years ago: Air France Flight 447, an Airbus A330 carrying 228 people from Rio de Janeiro to Paris, crashed into the Atlantic Ocean with the loss of everyone on board. General Motors filed for Chapter 11, becoming the largest U.S. industrial company to enter bankruptcy protection. A gunman shot and killed Pvt. William Andrew Long outside of an Army recruiting center in Little Rock, Arkansas; another soldier, Pvt. Quinton I. Ezeagwula, was wounded. (Abdulahakim Muhammad, a Muslim convert, pleaded guilty to capital murder, attempted capital murder and gun charges; he was sentenced to life in prison without parole.) Conan O'Brien debuted as host of NBC's "Tonight Show" (however, he stepped down in January 2010 after a dispute with the network).

Five years ago: Freed American soldier Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl entered the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, a day after he was released by the Taliban in exchange for five Guantanamo terrorism detainees. Ann B. Davis, 88, who became America's favorite and most famous housekeeper as the devoted Alice Nelson on television's "The Brady Bunch," died in San Antonio, Texas.

One year ago: After a week of hard-nosed negotiation and diplomatic gamesmanship, President Donald Trump announced that the nuclear-weapons summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un that he had earlier canceled would take place on June 12th in Singapore. Trump directed Energy Secretary Rick Perry to take "immediate steps" to bolster struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants to keep them open, calling it a matter of national and economic security. An Ecuadorean immigrant, Pablo Villavicencio, was held for deportation after delivering pizza to an Army installation in Brooklyn, New York; a judge later ordered him freed while he continued his efforts to gain legal status. Health officials said four more deaths had been linked to a national food poisoning outbreak blamed on tainted lettuce, bringing the total to five.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Pat Boone is 85. Actor Morgan Freeman is 82. Actor Rene Auberjonois (oh-behr-juh-NWAH') is 79. Opera singer Frederica von Stade is 74. Actor Brian Cox is 73. Rock musician Ronnie Wood is 72. Actor Jonathan Pryce is 72. Actress Gemma Craven is 69. Actor John M. Jackson (TV: "NCIS: Los Angeles") is 69. Blues-rock musician Tom Principato is 67. Country singer Ronnie Dunn is 66. Actress Lisa Hartman Black is 63. Actor Tom Irwin is 63. Singer-musician Alan Wilder is 60. Rock musician Simon Gallup (The Cure) is 59. Country musician Richard Comeaux (River Road) is 58. Actor-comedian Mark Curry is 58. Actor-singer Jason Donovan is 51. Actress Teri Polo is 50. Basketball player-turned-coach Tony Bennett is 50. Actor Rick Gomez is 47. Model-actress Heidi Klum is 46. Singer Alanis Morissette is 45. Actress Sarah Wayne Callies is 42. Comedian Link Neal (Rhett & Link) is 41. TV personality Damien Fahey is 39. Americana singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile is 38. Actor Johnny Pemberton is 38. Actress-writer Amy Schumer is 38. Former tennis player Justine Henin is 37. Actor Taylor Handley is 35. Actress Zazie Beetz is 28. Actress Willow Shields is 19.

Thought for Today: "Our age knows nothing but reaction, and leaps from one extreme to another." — Reinhold Niebuhr, American theologian (1892-1971).