



Monday, May 19, 2025

1. Former president Joe Biden was diagnosed with “aggressive” prostate cancer.

What we know: The disease has spread to his bones, Biden’s office said yesterday, adding that the condition can be managed effectively.

It comes at an extraordinary moment: Democrats in recent days have been questioning their handling of the 2024 election, especially Biden’s initial decision to seek a second term.

2. President Donald Trump’s tax and immigration bill cleared a hurdle in Congress.

Last night: A key House committee advanced the package, overcoming opposition from four hard-line Republicans over spending.

In related news: The country’s credit rating was downgraded Friday as the national debt soars. And Trump keeps ordering officials to stop enforcing rules he doesn’t like.

Over the weekend: Trump bashed Taylor Swift and Bruce Springsteen on Truth Social.

3. Investigations are continuing after a Mexican ship rammed the Brooklyn Bridge.

What happened? The naval ship crashed Saturday night during a journey down New York City’s East River. The captain lost control after a mechanical failure, officials said.

The victims: A Mexican naval academy cadet and a sailor were identified yesterday as the two people killed in the crash. Nineteen other crew members were injured.

4. Israel launched extensive new ground operations in Gaza this weekend.

The latest: The offensive is part of an Israeli plan that could include a long-term occupation of the Gaza Strip. Israel said it would allow a “basic” amount of aid into the territory.

In Syria: Ousted dictator Bashar al-Assad built a vast network of informants. Now, Syrians are left to wonder who among them quietly contributed to the regime’s tyranny.

5. An explosion collapsed a fertility clinic in California.

What happened? The large blast injured four people and killed the suspect Saturday in Palm Springs. The clinic’s eggs and embryos were not affected, its doctor said.

The investigation: The FBI called it an intentional act of terrorism by a “nihilistic” 25-year-old. A rambling 30-minute audio recording that surfaced online is being examined.

6. Deadly storms swept the U.S. this weekend.

The details: More than two dozen people were killed in three states. A powerful tornado hit Kentucky, and storms knocked out power for thousands in the Great Lakes region.

What else to know: Some local forecast offices no longer monitor weather around-the-clock because of Trump administration cuts.

7. Scientists set in motion a new, astoundingly precise clock.

Tick-tock: An atomic clock in Boulder, Colorado, is now helping keep official U.S. time. It relies on cesium atoms, which oscillate more than 9 billion times per second.

How good is it? The clock is so reliable that it would be off by less than a second if it had started running 100 million years ago, researchers say.



Vocabulary 19/05/25:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|
| 2. | bill - | draft (suggested) law |
| | hurdle - | a frame or fence for jumping over in a race |
| | to balloon - | to quickly increase in size, weight or importance |
| | House - | House of Representatives, one of the two chambers of the US Congress/parliament |
| 3. | naval - | Marine- |
| | towering - | very high and making people feel respect |
| | to perch - | to sit on or near the edge of something |
| 4. | to pound - | to hit or beat repeatedly with a lot of force |
| 5. | fertility clinic - | Kinderwunschlinik, a medical facility specializing in diagnosing and treating infertility (also called infertility clinic) |
| | natalist - | believing that it is important to have children |
| | rambling - | too long and confused |
| 7. | to oscillate - | to move repeatedly from one position to another |

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