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Today, clouds and sunshine, afternoon showers or thunderstorms, humid, high 86. Tonight, patchy clouds, humid, low 72. Tomorrow, sunny, high 84. Weather map, Page A20.

\$2.50

SCIENTISTS REPAIR A RISKY MUTATION IN HUMAN EMBRYO

MILESTONE IN RESEARCH

Hope for Hereditary Ills, but Certain to Renew **Ethical Concerns**

By PAM BELLUCK

Scientists for the first time have successfully edited genes in human embryos to repair a common and serious disease-causing mutation, producing apparently healthy embryos, according to a study published on Wednesday.

The research marks a major milestone and, while a long way from clinical use, it raises the prospect that gene editing may one day protect babies from a variety of hereditary conditions.

But the achievement is also an example of human genetic engineering, once feared and unthinkable, and is sure to renew ethical concerns that some might try to design babies with certain traits, like greater intelligence or athleti-

Scientists have long feared the unforeseen medical consequences of making inherited changes to human DNA. The cultural implications may be just as disturbing: Some experts have warned that unregulated genetic engineering may lead to a new form of eugenics, in which people with means pay to have children with enhanced traits even as those with disabilities are deval-

The study, published in the journal Nature, comes just months after a national scientific committee recommended new guidelines for modifying embryos, easing blanket proscriptions but urging the technique be used only for dire medical problems.

"We've always said in the past gene editing shouldn't be done, mostly because it couldn't be done safely," said Richard Hynes, a cancer researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who

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Embryos after gene editing and rounds of cell division.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017

A Different Sort of Brexit

Prince Philip, 96, at his final solo event Wednesday before retiring from his official duties as Queen Elizabeth II's consort. Page A5.

Asians Become Focus of Battle On Admissions

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

By most standards, Austin Jia holds an enviable position. A rising sophomore at Duke, Mr. Jia attends one of the top universities in the country, setting him up for suc-

But with his high G.P.A., nearly perfect SAT score and activities debate team, tennis captain and state orchestra — Mr. Jia believes he should have had a fair shot at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania. Those Ivy League colleges rejected him after he applied in the

It was particularly disturbing, Mr. Jia said, when classmates with lower scores than his — but who were not Asian-American, like him — were admitted to those Ivy League institutions.

"My gut reaction was that I was super disillusioned by how the whole system was set up," Mr. Jia,

Students like Mr. Jia are now the subject of a lawsuit accusing Harvard of discriminating against Asian-Americans in admissions by imposing a penalty for their

Continued on Page All

Bluster, Chaos and Warm Embrace of the Right

By JEREMY W. PETERS

WASHINGTON — Sometimes he just wants to know how he's doing, like a maître d' checking in after a meal. "How's this playing?" President Trump asked Fox News's Sean Hannity over dinner in the private residence of the White House the other night, a few hours after visiting Wisconsin to announce a deal to create thousands of new factory jobs.

Often he's effusive. "I love you, Jim," Mr. Trump told Jim DeMint, the former Heritage Foundation president, during a small gathering of conservative leaders in the Oval Office in March.

And often he delivers. Tony

As Allies Stray, Trump Keeps Conservative Groups Close

Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, pressed Mr. Trump for months to make the statement he issued last week saying transgender people would be barred from the military. "I've been to the White House I don't know how many more times in the first six months this year than I was during the entire Bush ad-

ministration," Mr. Perkins said. Mr. Trump has strained rela-

tions with a lot of people these days - members of his own party in Congress, the 55-plus percent of Americans who say they disapprove of his performance, his attorney general, his recently ousted communications director and chief of staff. But through all the drama and dismay, one group has never really wavered: the leaders of the conservative move-

This is no accident. Mr. Trump and members of his administration have spent their first six months in office cultivating and strengthening ties to the movement's key groups and players with a level of attention and care

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PRESIDENT BACKS A PLAN TO CURTAIL **LEGAL MIGRATION**

50% CUTS BY 10TH YEAR

Less Emphasis on Family Bonds and More on Skills and Talents

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON - President Trump embraced a proposal on Wednesday to slash legal immigration to the United States in half within a decade by sharply curtailing the ability of American citizens and legal residents to bring family members into the country.

The plan would enact the most far-reaching changes to the system of legal immigration in decades and represents the president's latest effort to stem the flow of newcomers to the United States. Since taking office, he has barred many visitors from select Muslim-majority countries, limited the influx of refugees, increased immigration arrests and pressed to build a wall along the southern border.

In asking Congress to curb legal immigration, Mr. Trump intensified a debate about national identity, economic growth, worker fairness and American values that animated his campaign last year. Critics said the proposal would undercut the fundamental vision of the United States as a haven for the poor and huddled masses, while the president and his allies said the country had taken in too many low-skilled immigrants for too long to the detriment of American workers.

"This legislation will not only restore our competitive edge in the 21st century, but it will restore the sacred bonds of trust between America and its citizens," Mr. Trump said at a White House event alongside two Republican senators sponsoring the bill. "This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and that puts America first."

In throwing his weight behind a bill, Mr. Trump added one more long-odds priority to a legislative agenda already packed with them in the wake of the defeat of legislation to repeal and replace Presiprogram. The president has already vowed to overhaul the tax code and rebuild the nation's roads, airports and other infrastructure.

But by endorsing legal immigration cuts, a move he has long supported, Mr. Trump returned to a theme that has defined his short political career and excites his conservative base at a time when his poll numbers continue to sink. Just 33 percent of Americans approved of his performance in the latest Quinnipiac University survey, the lowest rating of his presidency, and down from 40 percent a month ago.

Democrats and some Republicans quickly criticized the move. "Instead of catching criminals, Trump wants to tear apart communities and punish immigrant families that are making valuable contributions to our economy, said Tom Perez, the chairman of the Democratic National Commit-

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ELAINE THOMPSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

At Amazon, a Prime Day for Job Seekers

Applicants lined up outside a job fair at an Amazon fulfillment center in Kent, Wash., held as part of the company's first Jobs Day, intended to help fill 50,000 positions nationwide. Page B1.

This article is by **Mark Mazzetti**.

Under Trump, Shell of a Force

In Syria Swiftly Lost C.I.A. Aid

Adam Goldman and Michael S. WASHINGTON - The end

came quickly for one of the costliest covert action programs in the history of the C.I.A. During a White House briefing

early last month, the C.I.A. director, Mike Pompeo, recommended to President Trump that he shut down a four-year-old effort to arm and train Syrian rebels. The president swiftly ended the program.

The rebel army was by then a shell, hollowed out by more than a year of bombing by Russian planes and confined to evershrinking patches of Syria that government troops had not reconquered. Critics in Congress had complained for years about the costs - more than \$1 billion over

the life of the program — and reports that some of the C.I.A.-supplied weapons had ended up in the hands of a rebel group tied to Al Qaeda further sapped political support for the program.

While critics of Mr. Trump have argued that he ended the program to curry favor with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, there were in fact dim views of the effort in both the Trump and Obama White Houses — a rare confluence of opinion on national security pol-

The shuttering of the C.I.A. program, one of the most expensive efforts to arm and train rebels since the agency's program arming the mujahedeen in Afghanistan during the 1980s, has forced a reckoning over its suc-

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Wall Street, Climbing Sharply, Skips Washington's 'Soap Opera'

By NELSON D. SCHWARTZ

Despite the disorder in Washington — with a revolving door at the White House and roadblocks on Capitol Hill - Wall Street and corporate America are booming.

The disconnect was evident Wednesday, as the Dow Jones industrial average passed the 22,000 mark, a new high. At the

same time, blue chips like Apple, Caterpillar and U.S. Steel have all reported strong earnings in recent weeks that surpassed analysts' forecasts.

"None of the soap opera in Washington matters," said Frank Sullivan, chief executive of RPM International, a Cleveland-based maker of specialty coatings and sealants like Rust-Oleum. "Nobody in business cares about who talked to who in Russia."

What does matter, Mr. Sullivan said, is stronger global demand in heavy industries like mining and oil and gas, a weaker dollar that helps exporters, and a lighter regulatory touch by the new administration.

The initial stock market rally that followed Mr. Trump's victory in November — the so-called Trump bump — was fueled by optimism among investors that longsought action on tax reform and infrastructure spending might finally be at hand.

Few analysts are so sanguine now, especially after Republicans could not agree last month on how to repeal the Affordable Care Act,

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Trump Approves Russia Bill

The president signed legislation imposing sanctions on Russia and limiting his authority to lift them, but called some provisions unconstitutional.

Regulating a Whaling Life

Indonesian islanders who have hunted whales for centuries bristle at outsiders' efforts at conservation. PAGE A6

NATIONAL A10-14

A Shake-Up of the N.S.C.

The White House is removing hardliners from the National Security Council, upsetting conservatives. PAGE A10



NEW YORK A15-17

Courts for the Notorious B.I.G.

Basketball courts in Brooklyn were officially dedicated to the rapper, who was killed in 1997. PAGE A15

Jersey City's Wary Welcome

Hasidic Jewish families are establishing outposts in unexpected places, unnerv-PAGE A17 ing some residents there.

BUSINESS DAY B1-8

Taking On China Over Tech With the Trump administration set to accuse China of violations of intellectual property, Washington is likely to find

global trade rules favor Beijing. PAGE B1 Racially Charged Union Vote

More than 3,500 workers will decide on unionization this week at a Nissan plant PAGE B1 in Mississippi.

SPORTSTHURSDAY B9-13

One Move, \$263 Million Paris Saint-Germain is poised to more

than double the soccer transfer record to acquire Barcelona's Neymar. PAGE B9 ARTS C1-8

Jazz and Improvisation at Play

With his new album, "Verisimilitude," Tyshawn Sorey continues to defy standard definitions of what a composer and musician is supposed to be. PAGE C2

THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Renaissance Man

Striking out on his own, Matthew Williams, a former collaborator of Kanye West and Lady Gaga, uprooted his family and moved to Italy. PAGE D1

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A18-19 R. James Woolsey

PAGE A19



A Notre Dame Football Savior Ara Parseghian took over an Irish

program that had been in decline for years, and led it to national titles in 1966 and 1973. He was 94.

