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

Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



Groton Area Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 27, 2018

ACT Test (Cancelled) Groton Area High School (This testing center has been closed for this test by ACT due to low registration numbers. Students will be notified by ACT of their new testing center assignment.)

All State Chorus and Orchestra at the Rapid City Civic Center

Oral Interp (Pumpkinstakes) at Watertown High School

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Volleyball: Girls Varsity Region 1A (High Seed will Host Region Matches #1---Bye #2 vs #7 #3 vs #6 #4 vs #5)

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

8:30am- 11:35am: MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli Middle School

Thursday, November 1, 2018

ASVAB Testing: Groton Area High School

Volleyball: Girls Varsity Region 1A (High Seed will Host Region Matches #1 vs #4/#5 winner #2/#7 winner vs #3/#6 winner)

Friday, November 2, 2018

Debate & Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central High School

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NSU Volleyball suffers third loss of the season at the hands of Minnesota Duluth

Aberdeen, S.D. – In their fifth top-25 match-up of the season, the No. 5 Northern State University volleyball team fell to No. 8 Minnesota Duluth in 5-sets. With the loss, NSU drops to 22-3 overall and 14-3 in the NSIC, and are now tied with the Bulldogs for second in the league standings.

Northern opened with a 25-20 opening set victory, before falling 25-14 in the second set. The bounced back with a 28-26 victory in the third, but ultimately fell 25-16 and 15-11 in the final two sets of play. The Wolves offense struggled to find consistency, hitting a season low .138 through five sets. They tallied 53 kills, 50 assists, 68 digs, and one service in the match. The Wolves net defense however was on point, with a season high 14 team blocks led by Jenna Reiff with eight.

Hailey Busch and Laura Snyder led the team, as the only Wolves in double figures, with 16 and 15 kills apiece. Snyder also hit a team high .344 in the match. Sally Gaul and Reiff added eight and seven kills respectively, while Ashley Rozell and Morgan Baufield rounded out the team total with four and two.

Rozell recorded 46 total assists, and was third on the team defensively with 12 digs. Jaiden Langlie led the Wolves defense with 17 digs, followed by Lexi Boesl with 14. Busch matched Rozell's total with 12 digs of her own, notching her tenth double-double of the season. Baufield was second on the team at the net with five blocks, followed by Rozell, Busch, and Snyder with three.

The Wolves return to Wachs Arena for their final regular season home match versus St. Cloud State. First serve is set for 3 p.m. versus the Huskies on senior day.

Absentee Ballots Requested as of October 26, 2018

PIERRE, SD – Secretary of State Shantel Krebs announced that as of noon on Friday, October 26, 2018, there have been 56,173 Absentee Ballots requested from South Dakota voters.

In the 2016 Presidential Election there were 108,733 Absentee Ballots cast.
In the 2014 Midterm Election there were 55,292 Absentee Ballots cast.
In the 2012 Presidential Election there were 91,145 Absentee Ballots cast.
As of October 26, 2018, the following chart displays the South Dakota active voter registration totals broken down by age group.

Age Range	Total
18-24	42,820
24-34	85,649
35-44	83,943
45-54	80,752
55-64	104,573
65-74	83,461
75-84	39,465
85-94	15,333
95+	1,867
	537,863

The End of the Great War

"Everyone says the war is over but it is hard to believe," Leo Alvin Ihli wrote in his diary on Nov. 12, 1918.

The Great War had been raging since 1914. The Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire were pitted against the Allied Powers of Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy and Japan.

On April 6, 1917, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution declaring a state of war to exist between the United States and the German Empire.

Ihli from Pierre and Ernest Roth from Columbia both served in the U.S. Army during the First World War. Their war diaries, contained in the South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives, provide insights into war. To read the diaries online, visit the South Dakota Digital Archives.

The two South Dakotans arrived in France in January 1918.

World War I saw an introduction of modern weaponry such as machine guns, tanks and chemical weapons.

Roth wrote of another of the horrors of war: trench warfare, in which opposing armed forces dug deep trenches in the ground as a defense against the enemy.

Roth reached the trenches on the front line on March 16. His diary entry for that day reads, "Our 5th and 6th squads occupy the same dugout ... The enemy trenches are about one kilometer away, (.62 mile) but can be seen."

In a later diary entry, Roth describes how he and another soldier placed sticks and other debris in the bottom four inches of their foxhole to keep from lying in water that seeped in from rain. Standing in cold water for long periods of time could cause trench foot. Many trenches also had pests such as rats and lice living in them.

Roth's company fought in the front lines in one of the major battles of the war, at Chateau-Thierry.

"Our ammunition supply ran short at 7 a.m. and I was sent back to find and bring up the ammunition

carte. This proved to be a great game of alternately running and ducking into shell holes to avoid being hit by the buzzing enemy bullets. Have had no food for three days and only water from contaminated creeks to drink," Roth wrote about the late July battle.

Roth encountered a gas attack and was sent to a field hospital. He rejoined his company on Sept. 1.

Many of Ihli's diary entries focused on taking care of horses. At the start of the war, horses were used for cavalry. A mounted cavalry proved impractical because of trenches, barbed wire and machine gun and artillery fire. Armies on both sides relied on horses and mules to move

SOUTH DAKOTA



HISTORY & HERITAGE



The photograph shows the billet (living quarters) of Company B, 316th Military Police, 91st Division, Montigny-le-Roi Harne, France, August 31, 1918. (Photo South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives.)

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ammunition, supplies, ambulances, weapons carts, artillery pieces and for riding.

In August, Ihli and another soldier were given jobs as mounted messengers. Ihli rode to and from gun positions, battalion headquarters and guided ration wagons. Cognac, the horse assigned to him, was wounded twice while hauling ammunition and had to be put down by the veterinary doctor.

It was as difficult to get rations for horses as it was for soldiers.

On Nov. 3, Ihli wrote in his diary, "We have just about half as many horses as we started out with and they are not much more than skeletons."

By the end of October, there were rumors of peace. Roth wrote that Turkey surrendered to the Allies on Oct. 31, followed by Austria-Hungary's unconditional surrender on Nov. 4.

"The French in this vicinity are ringing bells and blowing horns to celebrate the occasion," he wrote on Nov. 4.

On Nov. 11, Roth wrote, "The armistice terms were accepted by the Germans. Hostilities ceased at 11 a.m. This means -- The war is officially over."

Ihli wrote, "Walked to Jubecourt. Had a little celebration on the way home for an armistice is supposed to be signed this morning at eleven o'clock. Also had some champagne in honor of the event."

World War I took the lives of more than 9 million soldiers; 21 million more were wounded. Civilian casualties caused indirectly by the war numbered nearly 10 million. One account states that more than 8 million horses died on all sides on the Western Front.

According to the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, 32,791 soldiers, sailors and Marines served in World War I. A total of 554 South Dakotans died overseas from wounds, disease and other causes.

A digital display called "The World Remembers" is in the lobby of the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre through Nov. 11, showing the names of World War I soldiers from all countries killed in 1918 and official war-related deaths from 1919-1922. The display also includes a list of South Dakota soldiers killed in the war. The Cultural Heritage Center's education room contains a display of photographs from World War I from the photo collection of the South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives.

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

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GDI Living Heart Fitness of Groton is happy to welcome another new partner that is going to offer a fitness reimbursement program! The Avera Health Employee Health Plan will be rolling out a Fitness Center Incentive to their employees and/or spouse(s) starting 1/1/19!

Enrolled Avera employees and/or spouse(s) will be eligible for an up to \$20 reimbursement per month for working out eight (8) days per calendar month at GDI Living Heart Fitness.

Research demonstrates that a more active lifestyle increases well-being and reduces healthcare costs. Read below to see if you qualify for this program! Starting 1/1/19, Avera will be rolling out a fitness reimbursement program to their Avera Employee(s) and spouse(s). (Any other Avera related program or group is not eligible at this time.)

Eligibility rules:

Eligible adult must be enrolled on the Avera Health Employee Health Plan

Must be an Avera employee and/or spouse

Eight (8) workouts per month = an up to \$20 reimbursement per month (\$40 per household)

Up to two eligible adults but must be the employee and/or spouse

January 2019 will be the first eligible month

So for a single membership - if you pay for the whole year in advance, your cost would be \$6.63 per month as long as you use the facility at least eight times a month or \$15.15 if you pay monthly. It would cost a couple \$7.93 per month if they pay for the year in advance or \$15.45 per month if you pay monthly as long as both use the facility at least eight times a month.

The eligible Avera Employee/spouse would need to enroll online at NIHCArewards.org OR go to their NIHCA participating fitness facility and enroll in person. GDI Living Heart Fitness is a NIHCArewards participating facility. Please note: IF any Avera member was a previous member with another insurance company, please do not re-enroll in the program. Already enrolled members are required to go to NIHCArewards.org website and click on the 2nd green button called: Already Enrolled. The member would log in and go the Insurance tab so they can update and change their insurance information to now Avera Health Plans.

Click Here to Enroll in the program

Under Member Options, Click on [First Time Enrollment](#)

Select [Avera Health](#) from the dropdown box

Type in [57445](#) for the zip code

Click on [Enroll Online](#) to complete the application



Doug Fjeldheim County Commission

**A devoted FAMILY MAN,
a FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE leader,
and a Commissioner who will make
decisions based on COMMON SENSE.**

My fellow taxpayers of Brown County:

I am seeking re-election to the Brown County Commission because I believe I can and have contributed to the greater good by spending our tax dollars wisely.

As a farmer I know how important it is to have good roads and to have a county government that works with the people of the area to protect their interests.

I would be honored to serve another 4 years as a commissioner and treat your tax dollars as my own because just like you, some of them are!

On November 6th, please cast your ballot for Doug Fjeldheim for Brown County Commission.

Doug Fjeldheim

Paid for by Fjeldheim for County Commission

Doug Fjeldheim County Commission

Doug Fjeldheim is seeking to be re-elected to the Brown County Commission. Having over 32 years of management experience in business, 30 years of farming experience, and as the Westport Township Clerk since 2003, Doug is familiar with the challenges each township faces.

As your County Commissioner, Doug Fjeldheim pledges to continue being prudent with how the tax dollars of Brown County are spent.

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Today in Weather History

October 27, 1991: The first winter storm of the season moved across western and northern South Dakota. The storm produced widespread snow and freezing rain. Strong winds also produced blowing snow which caused blizzard conditions. Snow amounts ranged from 3 to 11 inches. Many schools and businesses in western South Dakota were closed. Snow drifts, as high as 6 feet, made many roads impassable. Travel across western South Dakota was extremely difficult, if not impossible. Forty traffic accidents occurred in the Black Hills while five accidents were reported in Pierre. Many major roads were closed due to the snow and visibility. Rapid City airport was closed. Freezing rain downed power and telephone lines in Mobridge, Gettysburg, Belvidere, Midland, and Mission. Ice also broke six power poles in Walworth County. Some rural areas were without electricity for 30 hours.

1913: At least three people died, and more than a hundred people were injured when the Abercynon Tornado struck an area from Edwardsville to Cilfynydd in South Wales. Click [HERE](#) for more information from BBC.

1764 - A "very remarkable storm of snow with high winds" produced 22 inches at Rutland in central Massachusetts. (David Ludlum)

1929 - A snowstorm dumped 27 inches upon Ishpeming, MI, in 24 hours to establish a state record. (David Ludlum)

1962 - An early season winter storm over New England blanketed northern Maine with 7 to 16 inches of snow, and southeastern New England with up to 3 inches of snow. Worcester MA received a record 4.7 inches of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain from Virginia to New York State. Fallen leaves made roads and sidewalks slick, and also clogged sewers. Rainfall totals of 1.55 inches at Newark NJ, 1.54 inches at Harrisburg PA, 1.27 inches at Scranton PA, and 1.22 inches at Atlantic City NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought snow and gale force winds to the Great Lakes Region, and snow and high winds to the north central U.S. Winds gusted to 47 mph at Lansing MI, and reached 55 mph at Pierre SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Wintry weather invaded the northwestern U.S. A storm crossing the Central Rockies produced up to 23 inches of snow in the mountains east of Salt Lake City UT. "Indian Summer" continued in the Lower Ohio Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Afternoon highs of 71 degrees at Marquette MI and 72 degrees at Sault Ste Marie MI were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006: An F1 tornado (waterspout) came ashore and caused significant damage on the west side of Apalachicola Florida.

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Today



Mostly Cloudy

High: 64 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy
and Breezy

Low: 35 °F

Sunday



Sunny

High: 58 °F

Sunday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 36 °F

Monday



Mostly Sunny

High: 60 °F

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
10/27/2018 5:46 AM

Today

55-70°

- ❖ Light Rain this Afternoon - Evening, Mainly in ND and Northeast SD, Western MN.
- ❖ Windy this Afternoon through Tonight.
- ❖ Strongest Winds in North Central SD.

3 Day Forecast Highs

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
55-65°	55-65°	50-55°

Published on: 10/27/2018 at 5:54AM

A storm system crossing the region will bring a chance for light rain this afternoon, and gusty northwesterly winds tonight. The highest winds with gusts of 45 mph should occur in northwestern and north central South Dakota this afternoon through this evening.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 61 °F at 4:33 PM

Low Outside Temp: 32 °F at 8:35 AM

High Gust: 13 mph at 1:46 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 83° in 1983

Record Low: 10° in 1919

Average High: 52°F

Average Low: 28°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.77

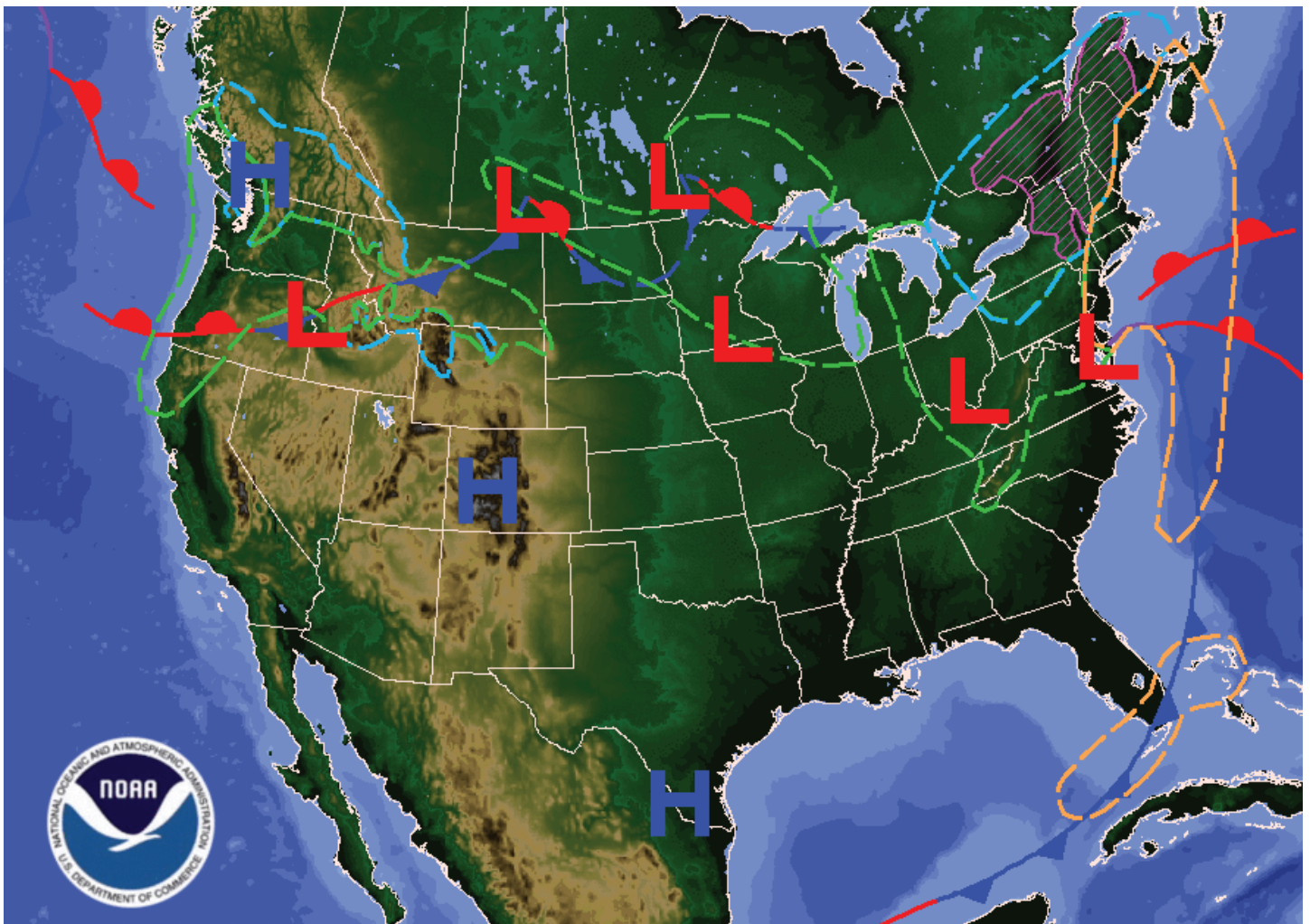
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.42

Average Precip to date: 20.25

Precip Year to Date: 15.03

Sunset Tonight: 6:28 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:08 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Oct 27, 2018, issued 5:15 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hurley with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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LIFES BOOMERANGS

The aborigines are given credit for being the first to develop boomerangs. Although there are many different types and varieties of boomerangs, most of us are familiar with what is called the returning boomerang. Shaped like a bent arm, when properly thrown, it will return to the one who threw it. Initially, they were used for hunting and war. Now, for many, they have become a recreational object.

David made an interesting observation about lifes boomerangs: The trouble he causes recoils on himself, his violence comes down on his own head. Not a pleasant thought for the one who wanted to harm another person.

Remember Haman? He was a conceited and corrupt prime minister. He is a great example of how life can boomerang.

Haman was determined to destroy every Jew in Persia, especially Mordecai. But when Mordecai and his people heard of this diabolical plot, they called upon the Lord for His help. Esther, the queen, decided to give a party and invited Haman to join her and the king. He was elated!

While enjoying the festivities, Queen Esther stood before the king and exposed Haman and his plot. What he had planned for Mordecai boomeranged. By nightfall, Haman was hanging on the seventy-five-foot gallows that he had built for Mordecai. No one came to his funeral. In fact, no one liked Haman, except Haman.

Paul said: The man who sows to please his sinful nature will reap destruction.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to understand and accept the simple fact that whatever we sow, we will certainly reap. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 7:16 The trouble he causes recoils on himself, his violence comes down on his own head.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota superintendents manage rise in school threats

By SHELLY CONLON, The Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls Superintendent Brian Maher learned a young girl from his district threatened to shoot up her school via social media minutes before a mid-September school board meeting. It was more than two hours before parents would find out more information.

The threat was the district's third in a month, with two others occurring the first week of school. And it added to the number of threats Maher has had to take some sort of action on since he started in Sioux Falls three years ago.

"Immediately, there's always a jolt (of panic)," Maher said. "And then you go into the routine — and I'm not meaning to sound dismissive here — of determining the credibility of the threat, the potential safety issue you're dealing with to make the best decision possible."

Ultimately, the student was arrested and charged with making a terroristic threat, a felony, the Argus Leader reported.

But the situation could have gone a different direction, like other threats before it, causing a school to be locked down, heightened security to be present, or as in the case of a threat to the Brookings School District recently, closed all together for a day.

The number of school threats has risen for the last four years. And officials have said they're hearing about more public school districts opting to close or cancel school more often, though the state Department of Education does not track that information.

"Anecdotally, it seems that we are hearing about threats and closures more frequently than we have in the past," Interim Education Secretary Mary Stadick Smith said.

And except for meeting the minimum number of school days under the law, there are no other requirements for making up potential time lost, leaving South Dakota superintendents balancing reassuring parents, ensuring student safety and avoiding causing a panic.

Argus Leader archives show nearly 30 incidents related to potential threats of school violence in the last four years, from stabbings to "cyber-terrorism." Most of those instances occurred in 2018, in the months following deadly school shootings in Parkland, Florida and Santa Fe, Texas. And most also involved a student or juvenile.

When a staff member discovered a threatening note from a student at the Brookings High School recently, Superintendent Klint Willert and the Brookings police chief made the call to cancel classes and all school activities at about 8:45 p.m. the night before.

The broad closure was a first for the district, though no credible threat was found, Willert said at the time.

"This is unique, and this is new," Willert said at a press conference. "The key takeaway for everyone is we take threats seriously, and we have to take threats seriously because of the nature of school violence across our country today."

Willert was not ready to talk about what it's like for him to carry the weight of the decision in the days after the event, but he said he would like to talk about school safety more in-depth eventually.

Other superintendents were able to weigh in on when they first had to add "threat assessment" to their job description as an educator.

For Harrisburg Superintendent Jim Holbeck, the culture of fear shifted after two students killed 13 and injured more than 20 others at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado almost 20 years ago, he said.

Now, the words students say in a school hallway may have to be scrutinized, he said. Most recently, the district had to look into a student who told another student, "expect a big surprise tomorrow at school."

"A big surprise' never 20 years ago meant we had to fear somebody was going to get hurt," Holbeck said. "Now the words put us into an investigative mode. It's a shame, and it's sad that that's what we're doing."

Holbeck has been with Harrisburg for 12 years, overseeing the only district in the state to actually ex-

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perience the terror of a school shooting in four years. The district serves about 5,000 students and is the fastest growing in South Dakota.

In 2015, a student shot the high school principal before another employee tackled the student to the ground to prevent the situation from escalating. The student was charged as an adult for attempted murder.

"Our time and resources could be better spent getting kids an education," Holbeck said. "But we find ourselves caught in having to make sure we keep kids safe, too. And there's nothing more important than keeping our kids safe."

Holbeck and other superintendents said it's hard to avoid the fear that a threat could become a reality, but doing so is now part of the job.

The trick is taking a proactive approach and getting the public to understand two things: That each situation is unique and not all information can be released immediately, school leaders said.

"You can't take for granted anything, and yet you don't want to overreact," Holbeck said. "We find ourselves in the middle of trying to communicate to parents (during a threat), one: be on the lookout. However, we don't have proof. And then trying to reassure people there's no credence in this at all once we find out the facts."

Sometimes, informing the public with what information he can puts people at ease. Other times, it makes them distrust the word of officials more when nothing credible is found, Holbeck said.

When Brookings closed, Baltic Superintendent Bob Sittig sent an email reassuring parents steps were being taken to ensure students were safe.

"Unfortunately, threats or actual instances of violence in schools are all too common across the United States," the email started. "We South Dakotans often think it will not happen here, but there was a school shooting in Harrisburg two years ago, and Brookings, S.D. schools are closed today due to a threat of violence."

The email included a seven-point list about what the district was doing, including an assembly for all sixth through 12th grade students about safety procedures and a reading of the book, "I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared," to elementary students.

The district serves about 500 students and has only experienced one school threat in the last decade, Sittig said recently. But when instances like the one in Brookings come up, he can't avoid thinking about how things might be handled with his own community, Sittig said.

"It's a sad commentary on where we're at right now that we have to do those kinds of things for young kids like that, and that's a very fine line," Sittig said. "It's all about preparing them, so that if the worse happens they can act appropriately — so they can keep themselves and everybody else safe."

In Sioux Falls, the struggle often lies in what information can and can't be shared with the public, either out of fear of a copycat scenario, possibly glorifying the situation or a legitimate safety or legal issue, Maher said.

"What is the right amount of information I give?" Maher said. "There are certain times I'm intentionally vague, and I don't like that. I'd rather be real, real clear."

The answer to preventing more school threats is even more unclear.

"I think we wrestle with that in every school and every state," Maher said. "Certainly, I think discipline is part of that. A loving culture is part of that. Doing what we can to help kids self-regulate is part of that. It's a very complex issue that doesn't have a simple answer."

For Holbeck, the issue comes down to whether students understand the ramifications of something they see as funny or an avenue for attention and how the issue is portrayed in the media, he said.

But he's cautious of saying more, for fear of giving someone the potential power to terrorize others.

"In the case of calling off school, you have now turned — in our case 4,900 kids and their parents — against you for disrupting their work day, their schedules or whatever," Holbeck said. "I'm careful in how I say that, because there are people in this country where that is their desire. They want to be the person who shoots so many people."

Bad attention is still attention, Holbeck said. How superintendents and media outlets balance the information that comes out during a school threat matters, he said.

Asked whether Holbeck still thinks about the moment he was notified about the shooting in 2015, he only spoke generally.

"We have a system for how we can communicate if there's a threat in our school or if there is a crisis," Holbeck said. "We have that notification, and our staff is aware of how that works. We can communicate quite fast, both within our school and to personnel quickly. That day, all of that worked very well."

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

Aberdeen lodge hosts women's-only hunt to kick off season

By VICTORIA LUSK, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — When most think of the opening weekend of pheasant hunting season, they likely think about the thousands of bearded men who flock to South Dakota.

But one couldn't find beards on the hunters at Royal Flush Hunting Lodge on Oct. 20.

For the second year, the lodge hosted Ringneck Rally, a women's-only hunt on opening day, Aberdeen American News reported.

It wasn't anywhere near a first hunt for the woman who knocked down the first bird. Many of the women had hunted before — deer, bear, ducks, geese — though some had never shot a pheasant.

The first bird fell just minutes after the season opened — on the first trip through the first field.

At the end of the walk back through that field, Joey Whittaker, 66, of Hayden, Idaho, would go two-for-two on pheasants flushed under the early afternoon sun.

They were her very first pheasants.

"That was awesome," she said, carrying both pheasants around their colorful necks.

Whittaker joined 11 other women, a handful of guides and a few others for the hunt.

In total, the women would knock down 14 birds in that first field, trudging through thick grasses and battling cattails.

A dog would point, the group would hold and then the magic moment presented itself.

"Rooster!" someone would yell.

Gunfire would follow.

Fallen birds were met with cheers and, more often than not, retrieved by the handful of dogs.

The camaraderie among the women began the night before as each found her weekend home at the lodge near Stratford and gathered around tables for supper, conversation and a drink or two.

There was the typical "lady banter." And then there was talk about types of guns, scopes, lengths of barrels, shopping trips to Cabela's and hunting memories.

Recipes for deer bacon, bearballs (think Swedish meatballs, but with bear meat) and white pheasant chili were discussed.

And then there was the obvious.

They were all women who loved to hunt — something that, in their opinion, could be more common.

That's what lodge owner Charlie Tveit began advocating for when he started the women-only hunt last year.

"I just love these hunts. You don't ever see too many women out there," he said.

There were seven or eight women at last year's hunt, three of whom returned this year.

One of those was Shantel Wittstruck, 38, of Lennox.

There's a different feeling hunting with a group of women when compared to being a woman with a group of men, Wittstruck said. Women tend to be less competitive and care less about filling daily limits, she said. But put a woman in a group of guys and the woman will try to out-shoot and out-bird the men.

"Don't get me wrong, I love to win," she said.

There's a little more independence with women, too. Usually a man knows exactly where he — or they — will fish, hunt, etc. But give a woman the choice and she'll make it for herself.

"Sometimes it's fun to be outside the box," Wittstruck said.

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"We can get out there and do just as good as the guys and be who we are when we're done," said Ann Erhard, 45, of Dalton, Minnesota.

It was her dad who taught her to hunt, and being one of two daughters, she carries on his legacy.

Still, "My dad/uncle/grandpa/husband taught me how to hunt" is a mentality worthy of change, she said. Instead, the ladies want to hear "my mom/aunt/grandma/wife."

And they are well on their way to making sure that happens, even though it comes with tackling a stereotype or two along the way.

Megan Robinson, 26, bought her hunting dog Beau five years ago with one thing in mind — hunting pheasants in South Dakota. She drove all the way from west-central Indiana with her mom Sandy Robinson, 54, and friend Marybeth McDaniel, 21.

Megan Robinson had been to South Dakota one time before — for snow geese. And it was cold.

"I remember lying in the blind freezing, wondering when it was going to be over, and I never think that about hunting," she said.

But under a warm October sun, several birds flushed and fell just within a few minutes and steps into the second field.

"There's always birds in this field," Tveit said.

He opened Royal Flush about four years ago. It was previously a hunting lodge, but sat empty for a few years, he said. Oct. 20 was just the first of many busy days to come, as the lodge is booked through the rest of the season.

This recent weekend, though, it's just the ladies and their dogs making memories, connecting and learning from one another.

"This is the kind of thing I love, exactly what I'm looking for," Erhard said. "And I'm navigating it."

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

01-28-61-62-63, Mega Ball: 5, Megaplier: 4

(one, twenty-eight, sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-three; Mega Ball: five; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$750 million

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, Oct. 23

Move it! Stepping into a healthier life

Health care is always a big issue — in our lives, in our politics, in our economy, in our worries. Whether it's the debate over coverage of pre-existing conditions or fretting over prescription drug prices (just to name a few items on a checklist), the matter of health seems to be everyone's concern.

A new study suggests that one of the greatest threats to your health — one that surpasses such problems as smoking, diabetes or heart disease — is, literally, doing nothing at all.

According to a cardiology study published in *Jama Network Open*, a sedentary lifestyle is far more detrimental to people than has long been realized.

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"Being unfit on a treadmill or in an exercise stress test has a worse prognosis, as far as death, than being hypertensive, being diabetic or being a current smoker," Dr. Wael Jaber, who authored the study, told CNN. "We've never seen something as pronounced as this and as objective as this."

The study is based on research at the Cleveland Clinic conducted with 122,007 patients between 1991 to 2014. The patients were given treadmill tests, and mortality rates were recorded thereafter. The highest mortality group was comprised of patients with markedly sedentary lifestyles, Time magazine reported.

"Cardiorespiratory fitness is inversely associated with long-term mortality with no observed upper limit of benefit," the study concluded.

Jaber added that "being unfit should be considered as strong of a risk factor as hypertension, diabetes and smoking — if not stronger than all of them."

This may come as a surprise — and shockingly simple — to a lot of people, especially in an age filled with health issues ranging from rising obesity to overmedication of our problems.

However, it turns out that one of the greatest proactive tools we have to maintain our health is right at our fingertips — or feet.

This is an important point when you consider just HOW sedentary our culture is becoming. With a vast universe of television-viewing opportunities, video-game temptations and smartphone distractions, it's far too easy to kick back and forego exercise today . and the next day . and the next ...

That can be a killer.

That's why it's important, for instance, for schools to promote physical activity with students to go along with healthy eating choices. A lot of schools do this already, but sometimes, physical education programs get cut when budgeting gets tight. That's understandable: Schools should be about book learning more so than running and jumping. But getting kids in the habit of moving — besides getting their blood circulating, which makes for a more productive mind — also pays physical dividends.

The study noted that exercise pays off, no matter what age you are. "Whether you're in your 40s or your 80s, you will benefit in the same way," Jaber said.

In Yankton, for instance, there are numerous opportunities for exercise. Besides the availability of wellness centers, there are miles of biking/hiking trails, plenty of parks and a lot of sidewalks available to allow you to move. Just walking regularly can do wonders.

In most every community, in fact, there are many opportunities to get up and get moving.

The trick is getting people to buy into this very simple plan. And yes, it can be hard. Some people deal with physical maladies that make exercise, even the most basic and low-impact routines, difficult. Some people may be too busy to easily schedule regular exercise. And some people are simply too set in their sedentary ways to change gears.

But the benefits can be significant, according to the study.

A sedentary lifestyle "should be treated almost as a disease that has a prescription, which is called exercise," Jaber said.

Needless to say, it's your move.

American News, Aberdeen, Oct. 20

E15 fuel decision is good news for consumers and farm country

It was a dry growing season for many area farmers.

Since, it has been a wet harvest season. Playing that waiting game at such a critical time has increased producers' stress, and all that moisture has lowered the quality of some crops.

Those factors, combined with others, have pushed agriculture commodity prices down, making things tough for our farmers and ranchers.

Farm Country has been in search of some good news for months.

The Trump administration delivered. President Donald Trump announced earlier this month that he has directed the Environmental Protection Agency to begin the process of allowing the sale of 15 percent ethanol blend fuel year-round.

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We fully endorse moving to the E15 blend year-round. The more homegrown foods, goods and products we consume, the better.

The majority of ethanol gasoline sold in the U.S. is a 10 percent blend. Gas mixed with ethanol is cheaper. Some believe that it is better for the environment, too.

Ethanol is a grain alcohol that is fermented, typically from corn in the U.S. Other crops could be used to make ethanol, including wheat, barley and potatoes.

South Dakota is one of the national leaders in producing corn and ethanol, one of six states that together produce 70 percent of U.S. fuel ethanol, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

E15 could increase its use by 50 percent. And that should result in more demand for corn.

We hope that would mean better corn prices for farmers. And that, in turn, would help our state's economy.

In South Dakota, happy farmer equals happy life.

The use of E15 in cars and light-duty vehicles manufactured in 2001 and after has been approved by the EPA. The agency has estimated that 90 percent of the vehicles on the road could safely use E15.

Why now?

Until now, the EPA has banned E15 from being sold during the summer due to concerns that it contributes to smog. Ethanol advocates say that 30-year-old regulation is not only unfounded, but outdated.

Oil companies and others against year-round use of E15 argue that people with vehicles made before 2001 will damage their engines by accidentally filling their tanks with E15. Confusion and chaos will reign, and millions of dollars in damage will be done, they predict.

Yes, pulling up to the pump can be confusing, and another choice might add to that frustration. But if we are responsible enough to be driving, we should be responsible and educated enough to know what makes our cars and trucks go.

Ironically, the oil industry also argues that E15's emissions are bad the environment. And fossil fuels are not?

There are no truly clean options, it seems, when it comes to producing the gasoline we consume. Yes, producing E15 takes land, water, fuel and fertilizer.

The argument comes down to who you believe — and whose emissions you believe are worse. Or which production process you believe is cleaner.

The proposed rule change intends to allow E15 sales next summer.

The sooner this change takes effect, the better: Many leaders from oil-producing states objected to Trump endorsing E15. Of course, leaders from ethanol-producing states have been known for their share of thumping the oil industry.

But the goal of "buying American" — or, in this case, "buying South Dakotan and other Midwest states" — and reducing the nation's dependency on foreign oil make E15 a no-brainer.

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Oct. 23

GOOD, BAD & UGLY: Ellsworth scores win on economic security

GOOD: Bombers, tankers and command center airplanes finished the Air Force's first large-scale training exercise in the newly expanded Powder River Training Complex on Thursday. The 35,000-square mile swath of air space, which straddles the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming, had earlier received a Federal Aviation Administration waiver to temporarily raise its training ceiling to 52,000 feet. The higher altitude allows stealth aircraft to train at normal combat altitudes. Sen. John Thune says the expansion further secures the role of Ellsworth Air Force Base, which is critical to the West River and Rapid City economy. Thune called obtaining the FAA waiver a decade-long "battle, adding the next step will be to secure a long-term agreement for periodic altitude expansions that allow for regular exercises.

BAD: The security costs for protests arising over construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline could become expensive for South Dakota counties if disputes mirror the months-long demonstration near Cannon Ball, N.D. That sometimes-violent protest cost an estimated \$38 million for security. Under a state law that requires counties to pay the first portion of disaster costs, Pennington County could be on the hook for

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as much as \$17 million before receiving state assistance.

"It will bankrupt some counties if it happens," according to Kathy Glines, emergency management officer in Harding County, where the Canadian-owned pipeline will enter South Dakota. "There's a lot of counties that don't have this kind of money sitting around, especially if it (a protest) is a long-term issue."

State law follows a long-held emergency management mantra that all disaster response starts local and ends local, but the law gives the governor discretion to increase financial support. The \$8 billion pipeline is being built by TransCanada to move crude oil from Alberta, Canada, to Steele City, Neb., where it will merge with existing pipelines to take oil to Texas refineries. About 250 miles of the pipeline's nearly 1,200-mile route will run on a northwest to southeast path through the heart of West River, entering in Harding County and passing roughly at a 45-degree angle through Butte, Perkins, Meade, Pennington, Haakon, Jones, Lyman and Tripp counties before moving into Nebraska.

UGLY: Last week, a passenger in a car pulled over by the Highway Patrol in 2015 pleaded guilty to a charge of federal fraud. The passenger was found with a notebook with 60 Social Security numbers, names and birthdays, according to court records. Lauren Montgomery, 31, admitted to using the stolen identities to file 79 false tax returns and receive \$105,605 between 2010 and 2014. Let's hope that at sentencing she will be afforded plenty of time to think about what it means to steal from working folk.

Tom Byrum leads Champions playoff event at Sherwood

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Tom Byrum birdied five of the last seven holes for a 6-under 66 and the first-round lead Friday in the PGA Tour Champions' Invesco QQQ Championship.

"Just got on a nice roll, made some nice putts and made some good shots and just capitalized on it," Byrum said. "It was just what you write up out there, 'Picture that shot, hit it and go knock it in.' It works out when you can do that.

The top 54 in the season standings qualified for the second of three playoff events, with 50 players making the trip to Sherwood Country Club. The top 36 at the end of the tournament will advance to the Charles Schwab Cup Championship in Phoenix on Nov. 8-11.

The 58-year-old Byrum entered the week 46th in the standings. He's winless on the 50-and-over tour after winning once on the PGA Tour.

"I'm just trying to play the best I can every day. That will take care of itself," Byrum said. "I would love to give you more of the insider stuff but trying not to complicate it. If I play good, everything will take care of itself, so that's what I'm trying to do."

Scott Parel was a stroke back. He won the Boeing Classic in August for his first Champions title.

Bernhard Langer opened with a 68. The 61-year-old German star is the defending tournament champion and the points leader. He finished second behind Woody Austin last week in the playoff opener in Virginia after winning the regular-season finale in North Carolina.

Miguel Angel Jimenez, second in the points race, matched playing partner Langer with a 68.

Jesper Parnevik, Michael Bradley and David McKenzie also shot 68. They are all outside the top 36, with Parnevik 39th, Bradley 48th and McKenzie 54th. Vijay Singh was at 69 with Colin Montgomerie, Bob Estes, Jeff Maggert and Glen Day.

Scott McCarron was a stroke back a 5 under after birdies on Nos. 11 and 12, but settled for par on the par-5 13th and dropped off the leaderboard with a quadruple bogey on the par-3 14th. Fourth in the standings, he finished with a 71. Playing partner Jerry Kelly, No. 3 in the standings, had a 75.

South Dakota to execute inmate on Monday for guard's slaying

By DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

When South Dakota executes an inmate Monday for killing a prison guard during a 2011 escape attempt, it will be the state's fourth execution since it reinstated the death penalty in the late 1970s.

Rodney Berget, 56, admitted his role in the slaying of Ronald "R.J." Johnson, who was beaten with a pipe and his head covered in plastic wrap. Johnson, a veteran guard of nearly 24 years, died on his 63rd birthday.

Some background on the case:

DEADLY ESCAPE ATTEMPT

On the morning of April 12, 2011, Berget and inmate Eric Robert attacked Johnson in a part of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls known as Pheasantland Industries. It's where inmates work on upholstery, signs, furniture and other projects.

After beating Johnson and leaving his body, Robert put on Johnson's pants, hat and jacket and pushed a cart loaded with two boxes, one with Berget inside, toward the exits. They made it outside one gate but were stopped by another guard before they could complete their escape through a second gate.

In a statement to a judge, Berget acknowledged he deserved to die.

"I knew what I was doing, and I continued to do it," Berget said. "I destroyed a family. I took away a father, a husband, a grandpa."

GIVING UP

Robert was executed on Oct. 15, 2012. He hastened his own death by attempting to waive the state's review of death penalty cases and then told a judge that if allowed to live, he would kill again.

Berget's mental status and death penalty eligibility have played a key role in court delays. Berget in 2016 appealed his death sentence, but later asked to withdraw the appeal against the advice of his lawyers.

Berget wrote to a judge asking to proceed to execution. He said he was worried the death penalty would be overturned and said he couldn't imagine spending "another 30 years in a cage."

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Friday that there have been two filings seeking to stop the execution. The South Dakota Supreme Court denied one challenging the state's method of execution, but a second arguing that Berget lacks the intellectual capacity to receive capital punishment is pending, Jackley said.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S METHOD

South Dakota uses lethal injection and has not had issues with obtaining the drugs it needs, as some other states have. One reason may be that the state shrouds some details in secrecy.

That includes the supplier of the drug it will use. Lawmakers in 2013 approved hiding the identities of its suppliers. The Department of Corrections has said it plans to use a "one-drug protocol" in the execution, and policy calls for either sodium thiopental or pentobarbital. Pentobarbital was used in its last two executions.

State law also allows the Department of Corrections to withhold a public announcement of the time of the execution until 48 hours beforehand. The state announced the week of Berget's execution in August.

Johnson's family plans to be there. Berget will be executed at 1:30 p.m., rather than the typical 10 p.m. time, to keep a balance between those involved and the need to maintain orderly operations of the institution.

Afterward, witnesses and others will meet with media at the Ronald "RJ" Johnson Training Academy on the prison grounds. It was dedicated in Johnson's memory on the one-year anniversary of his death.

'HE WAS SO KIND'

Johnson's widow, Lynette Johnson, says her husband didn't deserve to die.

She told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader that her husband was "so kind" and "didn't have a bad word to say about anybody." Johnson sized down R.J.'s wedding ring and now wears it next to her own; she keeps his watch — its hands frozen at the time he was attacked — in a clear case next to photos above her fireplace.

Lynette Johnson told the Argus Leader she appreciates letters she has gotten from inmates who knew and respected her husband. She said she is nervous about Monday's execution, worried that Berget might

try to escape. She said his death may bring a sense of security.

Johnson didn't return a phone message from The Associated Press.

BERGET FAMILY HISTORY

Berget will be the second member of his family to be executed. His older brother, Roger, was convicted of killing a man to steal his car and spent 13 years on Oklahoma's death row until his execution in 2000 at age 39.

Roger Berget was sentenced to death in March 1987. Less than three months later, Rodney Berget, then 25 and serving time for grand theft and escape, joined five other inmates in breaking out of the South Dakota prison.

Rodney Berget was released in 2002 but didn't stay on the outside for long. A year later he was sentenced to life in prison for attempted murder and kidnapping.

READY TO DIE

Dennis Davis, director of South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, has been visiting Berget regularly on death row. Davis said Berget is tired of being locked in a cell 23 hours a day and is ready to die.

"He doesn't want to be tortured anymore in solitary confinement," Davis said. "Obviously he has some fears as any human being would."

Davis said Berget's family has not been in contact with him for many years and only one relative, a niece, has supported him. It's not clear if she will attend the execution.

Davis, a Catholic deacon from Burbank, plans to walk with Berget from death row to the gurney.

Ex-pediatrician faces more charges for child sexual abuse

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A former Pine Ridge Indian Reservation pediatrician who is accused of sexually abusing children is now facing more charges.

Stanley Weber, 69, was indicted Tuesday on two additional counts related to the alleged sexual assault of Native American children in Pine Ridge from 1995 to 2011, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Weber now faces a total of 12 charges after being initially indicted in February 2017 with five counts of aggravated sexual abuse, one count of sexual abuse and four counts of sexual abuse with a minor.

The new charges allege that the abuse began in 1995, which is three years earlier than the original indictment's claims.

One of Weber's counts this week is for aggravated sexual assault against a minor under 12 years old between 1995 and 1998. The other count alleges that he sexually abused a minor between 12 and 16 years old between 1998 and 2001.

The new South Dakota charges come a month after a federal jury in Montana convicted Weber of sexually abusing two Native American boys on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation between 1993 and 1995.

Prosecutors in the Montana case said Weber groomed potential victims by offering them money, candy, alcohol, video games and trips and earned their trust before isolating and abusing them.

The Montana judge jailed Weber until his sentencing hearing, which is scheduled for Dec. 13.

South Dakota Judge Jeffrey Viken agreed Thursday to delay all of Weber's court scheduling until he's sentenced in Montana.

Weber could stand trial in the South Dakota case on Jan. 8, 2019, if no plea deal is reached.

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

Wife of fallen officer awaits killer's execution

By DANIELLE FERGUSON, Sioux Falls Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Don't call Lynette Johnson a widow.

She's not ready for that title. She hasn't been able to grieve yet.

Even after the second of two men to be executed for her husband's 2011 murder dies by lethal injection Monday, that grief won't subside. She will still wake up every morning and remember that her husband, Ron "RJ" Johnson, is gone.

On a quiet afternoon a few days before Rodney Berget's scheduled execution, Lynette sat in her living room next to RJ's old rocking chair and reflected.

On RJ's life. On how she and her family have changed because of what happened. On how the justice system functions.

She's careful about what she says and how she says it. She doesn't want to implicate any possible future action or legislation related to the death penalty.

One thing she will say proudly, without hesitation: Her husband was respected and respectful, and he didn't deserve to die the way he did.

"He was so kind," she says. "He didn't have a bad word to say about anybody."

RJ wasn't supposed to be working on April 12, 2011, his 63rd birthday. He even talked about retiring from his near 24-year stint as a correctional officer at the South Dakota State Penitentiary just two days before he was called into work and later killed by two inmates attempting to escape.

RJ made sure to call his wife every day at lunch time to let her know he was OK. That day, she got a call from someone else.

Her husband had been found on the floor under a pile of laundry in the Pheasantland Industries building at the penitentiary, with saran wrap around his head and gashes so deep that part of his skull was missing.

His wrists and fingers were shattered, so much so that medics almost couldn't see his wedding ring, which Johnson later sized down to wear with her own ring.

RJ's watch stopped working when he was being attacked. It sits in a clear case next to photos above the fireplace. The hands are frozen at 10:27 a.m., minutes before the two inmates attempting to escape during a food truck delivery were caught.

Photos lining walls, cupboards and chairs in her home are more than mementos. Glancing at them provides moments of relief from the image seared into her mind from last time she saw her husband: bloodied, bruised and lifeless on an emergency room table.

"I just try to remember what he looked like," says Lynette. "I'm trying to put him back together."

Any memory is helpful. She smiles when talking about letters she received from inmates who knew and respected RJ. Some former inmates have approached her in public, sharing stories of their encounters with her husband. Some even made her a plaque with the poem "A correctional officer's farewell" written on it.

She feels mostly prepared for Monday. It's not the first execution she's witnessed. Lynette and her children sat through the 2012 execution of Eric Robert, who pleaded guilty to the murder. She described the process as "peaceful" and "dignified." She's aware of the reaction that description may draw, but it's what she remembers.

This execution will be different. Though she knows what to expect, she's more anxious. She's nervous about Berget being transferred from the high-security Jameson Annex to general population areas on the hill. She's worried he may try to escape again. It's a fear that may subside after Monday.

She worries for her grandchildren. The first execution, they were younger, able to be shielded from news reports and social media. They're older now and will likely be asking more questions.

In her view, justice can never be fully achieved because the process won't make up for what happened to her husband and the pain and loss the family has endured.

She also doesn't expect Monday to bring her family closure. But it may bring a sense of security, knowing a man who has escaped or made escape attempts multiple times won't harm another correctional officer.

"It's going to save a correctional officer," Lynette says.

After Monday, she and her family will continue to learn what life is without a husband, father or "poppa."

They will still hold birthday parties for RJ on his birthday, which is also the anniversary of his death.

Lynette will continue to straighten photos, read through letters from RJ's former co-workers and inmates and hug the memorial teddy bear sitting in his old chair at the kitchen counter.

She'll continue to appreciate people who tell her stories about her husband. She may cry, she said, but it's because she's grateful that somebody else remembers his life.

"You remember him," she says of those moments. "You remember he existed."

State to seek death penalty if child death suspect convicted

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The state plans to seek the death penalty if a man accused of killing a 1 ½-year-old child in Minnehaha County is convicted.

Thirty-eight-year-old Keith Cornett faces several charges including murder in the death of his stepson in a Dell Rapids home in December 2016. An autopsy found six blows to Hayden Wigton's head and bite marks.

The Argus Leader reports prosecutors filed a notice of intent this week to seek the death penalty if Cornett is convicted. A jury ultimately would decide if that sentence would be appropriate.

The court has assigned Cornett public defenders who have murder trial and death penalty experience. The trial is scheduled for March.

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

71-year-old man sentenced for raping nursing home resident

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A 71-year-old Rapid City man has been sentenced to serve 10 years in prison for raping a 56-year-old woman with dementia.

Authorities say Roger Jackson took the woman out of a nursing home in 2016 and sexually assaulted her. A jury in June convicted him of third-degree rape after determining the woman was unable to give consent due to her mental condition.

The Rapid City Journal reports Jackson had taught music to the woman. The victim's husband spoke at the sentencing hearing, calling Jackson's crime "premeditated and planned."

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

Proposed health provider merger to go before appeals panel

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Attorneys for Dakotas-based Sanford Health and Bismarck's Mid Dakota Clinic will make a last-ditch effort next month to merge.

The two agreed to merge last year but a federal judge blocked the move. The judge ruled in favor of the Federal Trade Commission and the North Dakota Attorney General's Office, which argued that the merger could result in antitrust law violations.

The health care providers appealed. The Bismarck Tribune reports that arguments are scheduled before a three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Nov. 13 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A decision typically takes a few months. Court documents indicate that Sanford and Mid Dakota will abandon their plan if the injunction blocking the merger is upheld.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

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California man sentenced for shipping drugs to South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A California man has been sentenced to five years in federal prison for shipping methamphetamine to Rapid City through the U.S. mail system.

The U.S. attorney's office says 56-year-old James Ferguson, of Vacaville, California, was arrested after law enforcement intercepted one of his packages in April 2017. He later pleaded guilty to distributing a controlled substance.

Ferguson will be on supervised release for four years following his prison time.

Corn and soybean harvests progress in South Dakota over week

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — One-fourth of the corn crop in South Dakota and about half of the soybeans have been harvested.

The federal Agriculture Department in its weekly crop report says both crops remain well behind the average pace, despite a week of good harvest weather.

Harvest progress for other crops is 8 percent for sunflowers and 25 percent for sorghum. They also are well behind average.

Winter wheat seeding in the state is 87 percent complete.

Subsoil moisture is rated 67 percent adequate to surplus, and topsoil moisture is 87 percent in those categories, down slightly over the week.

Pasture and range conditions are rated 49 percent in good to excellent condition, up slightly over the week.

Winner man injured in Tripp County crash dies 5 days later

CARTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Winner man injured in a one-vehicle crash in Tripp County last week has died.

The Highway Patrol says 65-year-old Ricky Meister lost control of his sport utility vehicle on U.S. Highway 18 near Carter and it rolled several times in the ditch the morning of Oct. 18.

He was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital, where he died Tuesday.

Students stay inside, mountain lion spotted in Box Elder

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Extra precautions were taken after a mountain lion was spotted roaming near schools in Box Elder.

Douglas School District officials kept students off the playgrounds Thursday and Game, Fish and Park personnel were called to the area. Supervisor John Kanta tells KOTA-TV officers will remain on the scene until Friday morning. If the lion is spotted again it will be euthanized.

Kanta says relocating the animal is not an option because it would likely return to the same area. The lion was spotted on school security video about 5 a.m. Thursday.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

DNA, fingerprint match helped lead FBI to mail bomb suspect

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Florida man with a criminal history and a fervor for President Donald Trump sent at least 13 mail bombs to prominent Democrats, Justice Department officials said, crediting DNA, a fingerprint match and misspellings for the key break in a case that spread fear of election-season violence with little precedent in the U.S.

Cesar Sayoc, 56, of Aventura, Florida, faces five federal charges in connection with a mail bomb plot that spurred a weeklong, coast-to-coast investigation that continued even after he was taken into custody

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Friday as investigators scrutinized additional suspicious packages intended for Democrats.

Sayoc will make his first court appearance next week, where additional details may be revealed about a motive. In the meantime, Attorney General Jeff Sessions suggested that politics may have played a role and noted that Sayoc appeared to be a "partisan." Those who saw him in the Florida neighborhood, unmistakable in a white van plastered with Trump's image and political stickers, described him as unsettling and troubled.

Sayoc's social media profiles portray a deeply disaffected conservative who trafficked in online conspiracy theories, parody accounts and name-calling. He called a Florida school shooting survivor a "fake phony," peddled theories about George Soros, the billionaire political donor targeted this week by a package bomb, and denigrated other Democrats who were later the intended recipients of explosive packages.

An amateur body builder and former stripper who once spent time on probation for a bomb threat charge, Sayoc first registered as a Republican voter just ahead of the March 2016 Republican primary and quickly identified himself as a proud Trump supporter, tweeting and posting on Facebook videos that appear to show him at Trump rallies.

He appeared to be living in his van, showering on the beach or at a local fitness center.

Sayoc's arrest Friday was a major breakthrough in the nationwide manhunt following the discovery of the explosive devices — none of which detonated — addressed to prominent Democrats and other frequent targets of conservative ire, including former President Barack Obama, former Vice President Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and the cable network CNN. On Friday, new packages addressed to New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and former National Intelligence Director James Clapper were intercepted — both similar to those containing pipe bombs discovered earlier in the week. Investigators in California scrutinized a package sent to Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris, her office said, and one sent to Tom Steyer, a billionaire businessman who has campaigned for months for Trump's impeachment.

The mail bombs, coming shortly before major midterm elections, sparked a heated national conversation about the hard-edged political climate and Trump's role in fanning the flames. The president has branded the media the "enemy of the people" and hurled harsh, personal insults at others targeted in the plot.

Shortly after Sayoc was detained, Trump declared that "we must never allow political violence to take root in America" and that Americans "must unify."

Speaking later to reporters Friday evening before leaving for a political rally in North Carolina, Trump said he knows Sayoc supported him but that he himself "bears no blame." Hours earlier Trump had complained via tweet that "this 'bomb' stuff" was taking attention away from the upcoming election and that critics were wrongly blaming him.

FBI and police officials worked swiftly to untangle clues this week as the packages mounted, sometimes several in the same day.

The big break came when a fingerprint found on one of the packages, intended for California Rep. Maxine Waters, matched a fingerprint of Sayoc's on file with Florida authorities. A DNA sample from a device intended for Obama similarly matched the suspect's DNA, the FBI said.

An additional clue: Misspellings from his online posts matched mistakes found on the packages, according to an 11-page criminal complaint that included the formal charges of threatening former presidents and transporting explosives across state lines.

Some packages included photographs of the intended recipients marked with a red "x," the FBI said. The packages contained timers and batteries, but were not rigged to explode upon opening. Officials were uncertain whether the devices were poorly designed or never intended to cause physical harm.

Authorities noted that they included "energetic material." A footnote to the charging document said such explosive material "gives off heat and energy through a rapid exothermic reaction when initiated by heat, shock or friction."

"These are not hoax devices," FBI Director Chris Wray said.

Sayoc was arrested near an auto parts store in Plantation, Florida, north of Miami. Across the street, Thomas Fiori, a former federal law enforcement officer, said he saw about 50 armed officers swarm a man

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standing outside a white van. They ordered him to the ground, Fiori said, and he did not resist.

"He had that look of, 'I'm done, I surrender,'" Fiori said.

Sayoc appears to have been living on the margins, regularly running into trouble with the law and struggling to make ends meet. He was repeatedly arrested for theft in the 1990s, faced felony charges of possession of anabolic steroids in 2004 and was convicted of grand theft in 2014. In 2002, he served a year of probation for a felony charge of threatening to throw or place a bomb.

His lawyer in that case said the charge stemmed from a heated conversation with a Florida utility representative.

Ronald Lowy, a Miami attorney, said Sayoc showed no ability at the time to back up his threat with any bomb-making expertise.

Sayoc had \$4,175 in personal property and more than \$21,000 in debts when filed for bankruptcy in 2012. "Debtor lives with mother, owns no furniture," his lawyer indicated in a property list.

He had been an amateur body builder. More recently he was seen at an LA Fitness in Aventura, regularly showering at the gym but not working out, said Edgar Lopez, 48, a therapist who works out at the gym.

Marc Weiss saw Sayoc nearly every morning at 6 a.m. for the last four or five months.

"I've seen the guy maybe 80 times and I never said a word to him because I had a feeling he was a little off," said Weiss, a 56-year-old building superintendent who has lived in the neighborhood for eight years. "This guy had an air about him that was unsettling."

Sayoc's political awakening appears to have coincided with Trump's rise. He registered to vote in Florida in March 2016 and has voted early since, records show.

Documents released Friday by the Broward County Sheriff's Office show Sayoc reported in May 2015 that more than \$40,000 in goods were stolen from his van and an attached trailer, including 11 pieces of Donald Trump-brand clothing valued at \$7,150. Specifics are not included, but Trump has a line of suits, shirts, ties and accessories.

The report shows detectives were never able to confirm whether the theft actually happened, and no arrests were made.

Most of those targeted this week were past or present U.S. officials, but packages also were sent to actor Robert De Niro and Soros. The bombs have been sent across the country — from New York, Delaware and Washington, D.C., to Florida and California, where Waters was targeted. They bore the return address of Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the former chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee.

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman, Ken Thomas, Jill Colvin, Michael Biesecker, Stephen Braun and Chad Day in Washington; Terry Spencer, Kelli Kennedy and Curt Anderson in Florida; Jim Mustian, Deepti Hajela, Tom Hays and Michael R. Sisak in New York and Raphael Satter in Paris contributed to this report.

For the AP's complete coverage of the mail-bomb scare: <https://apnews.com/PipeBombAttacks>

Dodgers win Late, Late Show, cut Red Sox lead to 2-1

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Brian Dozier swung bananas from a rope over the dugout railing.

How appropriate. The longest game in World Series history was bananas.

Twenty-three players on each team, including nine pitchers.

Eighteen innings — four more than any of the previous 662 World Series games.

Seven hours, 20 minutes — 1:39 longer than any Series game played before.

Walker Buehler threw the first pitch in autumn twilight at 5:10 p.m.

Max Muncy homered on the 561st and last at 12:30 a.m., when most of America was asleep and even fans in Alaska and in Hawaii were struggling to stay up.

Ernie Banks would have been happy — the Los Angeles Dodgers and Boston Red Sox filled his oft-said desire: Let's play two! "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" was played twice, during the seventh-inning stretch

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and the 14th inning elongation.

"It was an amazing game," Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig said. "I'm a little tired. But we're ready to come back tomorrow."

Then he looked at his watch and corrected himself.

"In a couple of hours," Puig said.

Live from Hollywood: the Late Late Late Show: The Dodgers' dramatic, draining, dizzying 3-2 victory Friday night cut their World Series deficit to 2-1.

"I think my beard got about 3 inches longer," said Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner, whose red whiskers already were Santa length.

Soccer ends after 120 minutes and is decided by penalty kicks.

Even Wimbledon is instituting fifth-set tiebreakers next year when tied 12-12 after John Isner's 70-68 first-round triumph over Nicolas Mahut in 2010 and Isner's 26-24 semifinal defeat to Kevin Anderson this year.

No U.S. major team sport DOUBLED the length of a game in its championship. Notably, a Boston team has been involved in the longest title match in all four of the major sports.

Only once has the Super Bowl gone to overtime, with only an extra 11:02 needed for New England's win over Atlanta in 2017 .

There have been only two NBA Finals games needing the extra 15 minutes of three overtimes, Boston's victory over Phoenix in 1976 and the Suns' win over Chicago in 1993 . The longest Stanley Cup final matchup was Edmonton's win over Boston in the 1990 opener, a three-overtime affair requiring an extra 55:13.

"You look up and see the 18th inning, and you're like, holy cow, where did the game go?" Muncy said. "Those last nine innings or so just kind of blended together."

The Dodgers munched on peanut butter and banana sandwiches provided by a team employee, and hung the bananas to produce fruitful luck — harkening back to the rally banana credited by Enrique Hernandez for helping end a 35-inning scoreless streak three years ago.

"You want to have fun with it," said Rich Hill, the Dodgers scheduled Game 4 starter before a middle-of-the-night change to TBA to match Boston's probable pitcher.

Clayton Kershaw, a three-time NL Cy Young Award winner with a .163 career batting average, pinch hit in the 17th inning and lined out.

"Starting pitchers are used to getting their spikes on, but nothing usually comes to fruition," Kershaw said.

Muncy nearly won the game in the 15th inning, pulling a long drive off Nathan Eovaldi that hooked just to the foul side of the right-field pole . Eovaldi, Boston's scheduled Game 4 starter, was starting his seventh inning of relief when Muncy hit an opposite-field drive to left-center for the Dodgers' fourth World Series walkoff hit. He joined Cookie Lavagetto, whose double in 1947's fourth game ended a no-hit bid by the Yankees' Bill Bevens ; Jackie Robinson, whose 10th-inning single in 1956's sixth game scored Jim Gilliam ; and Kirk Gibson, whose two-out, two-run pinch homer off Oakland's Dennis Eckersley won the 1988 opener .

"All I know is we're feeling pretty good about ourselves right now," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said.

Rookie right-hander Walker Buehler allowed two hits over seven shutout innings and left with a one-run lead provided by Joc Pederson's third-inning homer off Rick Porcello.

Jackie Bradley Jr.'s eighth-inning homer against Kenley Jansen tied the score, Dodgers center fielder Cody Bellinger threw out Ian Kinsler at the plate in the 10th to keep the game going, the Red Sox went ahead on pitcher Scott Alexander's throwing error in the 13th and the Dodgers tied it 2-2 on Kinsler's two-out throwing error from second base in the bottom half .

After hitting .297 in winning the first two games at cozy, chilly Fenway Park, Boston was 5 for 57 at the plate in the warmth of Dodger Stadium— including 0 for 28 in the top four slots of the batting order.

"This was a gut-wrenching game for both sides," Muncy said. "Their guys are banged up, our guys are banged up."

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

'We're heading north!' Migrants nix offer to stay in Mexico

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

ARRIAGA, Mexico (AP) — Hundreds of Mexican federal officers carrying plastic shields blocked a Central American caravan from advancing toward the United States on Saturday, after a group of several thousand migrants turned down the chance to apply for refugee status and obtain a Mexican offer of benefits.

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto has announced what he called the "You are at home" plan, offering shelter, medical attention, schooling and jobs to Central Americans in Chiapas and Oaxaca states if migrants apply, calling it a first step toward permanent refugee status. Authorities said more than 1,700 had already applied for refugee status.

But a standoff unfolded as federal police officers blocked the highway, saying there was an operation underway to stop the caravan. Thousands of migrants waited to advance, vowing to continue their long trek toward the U.S. border.

At a meeting brokered by Mexico's National Human Rights Commission, police said they would reopen the highway and only wanted an opportunity for federal authorities to explain the proposal to migrants who had rejected it the previous evening. Migrants countered that the middle of a highway was no place to negotiate and said they wanted to at least arrive safely to Mexico City to discuss the topic with authorities and Mexican lawmakers.

They agreed to relay information back to their respective sides and said they would reconvene.

Orbelina Orellana, a migrant from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, said she and her husband left three children behind and had decided to continue north one way or another.

"Our destiny is to get to the border," Orellana said.

She was suspicious of the government's proposal and said that some Hondurans who had applied for legal status had already been sent back. Her claims could not be verified, but migrants' representatives in the talks asked the Mexican government to provide a list of anyone who had been forced to return.

The standoff comes after one of the caravan's longest days of walking and hanging from passing trucks on a 60-mile (100 kilometer) journey to the city of Arriaga.

The bulk of the migrants were boisterous Friday evening in their refusal to accept anything less than safe passage to the U.S. border.

"Thank you!" they yelled as they voted to reject the offer in a show of hands. They then added: "No, we're heading north!"

Sitting at the edge of the edge of the town square, 58-year-old Oscar Sosa of San Pedro Sula, Honduras concurred.

"Our goal is not to remain in Mexico," Sosa said. "Our goal is to make it to the (U.S). We want passage, that's all."

Still 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) from the nearest U.S. border crossing at McAllen, Texas, the journey could be twice as long if the group of some 4,000 migrants heads for the Tijuana-San Diego frontier, as another caravan did earlier this year. Only about 200 in that group made it to the border.

While such migrant caravans have taken place regularly over the years, passing largely unnoticed, they have received widespread attention this year after fierce opposition from U.S. President Donald Trump.

On Friday, the Pentagon approved a request for additional troops at the southern border, likely to total several hundred, to help the U.S. Border Patrol as Trump seeks to transform concerns about immigration and the caravan into electoral gains in the Nov. 6 midterms.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis signed off on the request for help from the Department of Homeland Security and authorized the military staff to work out details such as the size, composition and estimated cost of the deployments, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss planning that has not yet been publicly announced.

Stoking fears about the caravan and illegal immigration to rally his Republican base, the president insinuated that gang members and "Middle Easterners" are mixed in with the group, though he later acknowledged there was no proof of that.

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At a church in Arriaga that opened its grounds to women and children Friday, Ana Griselda Hernandez, 44, of Mapala, Honduras, said she and two friends traveling with children had decided to pay for a bus ride from Pijjiapan, because the 4-year-old and 5-year-old would have never covered the 60-mile distance.

"It's difficult because they walk very slowly," she said. She pointed out scabbed-over blisters on her feet, a testament to the fact they had walked or hitched rides since leaving their country.

The caravan is now trying to strike out for Tapanatepec, about 29 miles (46 kilometers) away.

Up until now, Mexico's government has allowed the migrants to make their way on foot, but has not provided them with food, shelter or bathrooms, reserving any aid for those who turn themselves in.

Police have also been ejecting paid migrant passengers off buses, enforcing an obscure road insurance regulation to make it tougher for them to travel that way.

On Friday, authorities were cracking down on smaller groups trying to catch up with the main caravan, detaining about 300 Hondurans and Guatemalans who crossed the Mexico border illegally, said an official with the national immigration authority.

Migrants, who enter Mexico illegally every day, usually ride in smugglers' trucks or buses, or walk at night to avoid detection. The fact that the group of about 300 stragglers was walking in broad daylight suggests they were adopting the tactics of the main caravan, which is large enough to be out in the open without fear of mass detention.

However, it now appears such smaller groups will be picked off by immigration authorities, keeping them from swelling the caravan's ranks.

On Friday evening, Irineo Mujica, whose organization People without Borders is supporting the caravan, accused Mexican immigration agents of harassment and urged migrants to travel closely together.

"They are terrorizing us," he said.

Associated Press writers Mark Stevenson and Peter Orsi in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Afghans vote in south Kandahar's delayed elections

By AMIR SHAH and KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Security was tight throughout southern Kandahar on Saturday as voters waited hours in line to cast their ballots in parliamentary elections that were delayed in the province by one week after an attack by an elite guard killed two top government officials, including a powerful provincial police chief.

Major roads throughout southern Kandahar were closed nearly 24 hours before polls opened to stop vehicle-borne explosive devices from entering the province, said provincial governor's spokesman Aziz Ahmed Azizi.

Kandahar Gov. Zalmay Wesa was seriously hurt in the Oct. 18 attack that killed provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq and also targeted the commander of U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan, Gen. Scott Miller, who escaped unhurt. U.S. Gen. Jeffery Smiley was wounded. Raziq's strongman tactics had been credited with thwarting successive Taliban attempts to gain a foothold in Kandahar, once their spiritual heartland.

Polls closed at 5 p.m. local time but election officials could not immediately determine the turnout from the 567,000 registered voters in Kandahar.

Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections since 2010 were held against a backdrop of near-daily attacks by the Taliban, who have seized nearly half the country and have repeatedly refused offers to negotiate with the Afghanistan government. The U.S.-backed government is rife with corruption and many Afghans have said they do not expect the elections to be fair. Yet millions of Afghans have defied Taliban threats and waited, often for hours, to cast their votes.

Independent Election Commission deputy spokesman Aziz Ibrahimi said voting was to start at 7 a.m. Saturday at 1,113 polling stations throughout Kandahar, but early reports said scores of polling stations opened late because staff did not show up or election materials were not readily available. Ibrahimi said 111 candidates were vying for 11 seats in Parliament from southern Kandahar in Afghanistan's 249-seat

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chamber.

Hajji Hamdullah Gulalai, head of one of the largest tribes in south Kandahar, complained bitterly about the chaos at polling stations, where workers were late arriving and had difficulty finding the names of voters waiting to cast their ballots.

"People are frustrated and waiting for hours in long lines," said Gulalai who voted at a polling station set up in a Kandahar city school. "They cannot find people's names on the voters' list."

Political analyst Mokadar Ahmad Waheeda said election workers were struggling with a new biometric identification system and at least three observers for candidates were arrested on allegations of trying to influence the vote.

Preliminary results of nationwide voting are not expected before mid-November.

Stakes are high for Afghans hoping to reform Parliament, challenge the dominance of warlords and the politically corrupt and replace them with a younger, more educated generation of politicians. They are also high for the U.S., which is still seeking an exit strategy after 17 years of war that has cost more than \$900 billion and claimed more than 2,400 U.S. service personnel.

Underscoring Afghanistan's precarious security situation, a suicide attack outside a military compound in Afghanistan's central Wardak province south of the Afghan capital Kabul killed six people, provincial council member Sharifullah Hottak told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Hottak said the car bomb detonated in the provincial capital of Maidan Shahr as two busloads of mechanics arrived at the gate to begin their day's work. Another eight people were wounded, he said, although the casualty numbers could rise.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the insurgent group was responsible.

Last weekend's countrywide voting in Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections in eight years suffered from violence and chaos, with multiple attacks killing more than 50 people in two days of voting. Technical glitches with a new biometric identification system introduced to stem fraud allegations instead created massive confusion and caused delays lasting hours, frustrating voters and challenging the credibility of the polls. The unprecedented delays forced voting to be extended a second day last weekend to give voters in more than 400 polling centers an opportunity to cast their ballots.

An independent monitoring group said voting was also marred by ballot stuffing and intimidation by armed men affiliated with candidates in 19 of the country's 32 provinces that were voting last weekend. Security is so inadequate in central Ghazni province that voting had to be delayed until next year.

AP FACT CHECK: Did Trump think mail bombs were liberal plot?

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the blink of a tweet, President Donald Trump gave subtle credence to the notion that bombs mailed to Democrats were actually a ploy to hurt Republicans in the election. That flew in the face of known facts in the episode, just one example of reality being twisted in the house of mirrors otherwise known as the final stretch of the election campaign.

A look at some of the rhetoric of the past week:

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

TRUMP: "Republicans are doing so well in early voting, and at the polls, and now this 'Bomb' stuff happens and the momentum greatly slows - news not talking politics. Very unfortunate, what is going on. Republicans, go out and vote!" — tweet Friday.

THE FACTS: His use of "bomb" in quotation marks lent weight to conspiracy theories that Democrats and CNN were targeted as part of a liberal plot to drum up voter anger at Trump and fellow Republicans. There's no evidence of that. Trump's tweet bemoaned the diversion of attention away from the campaign by news organizations that shifted priority to the attack. Given Trump's vow that no effort would be spared to bring the perpetrator or perpetrators to justice, it's questionable whether the president actually believed the theory he seemed to be subscribing to in the tweet.

Later Friday, police arrested a Florida man who is a fervent Trump supporter and accused him of sending

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more than a dozen mail bombs. Trump hailed law enforcement for acting so swiftly against "terrorizing acts" he called "despicable."

TRUMP, on the discovery of pipe bombs targeting prominent Democratic politicians and CNN: "Those engaged in the political arena must stop treating political opponents as being morally defective." — Wisconsin rally Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump specifically calls out opponents as being morally defective. He called Democrats and other opponents of Justice Brett Kavanaugh "very evil people." He has routinely described Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters as "low IQ." She was among those targeted by pipe bombs in the mail, as was CNN, prime among the news organizations he calls "fake" and an "enemy of the people" in his stump speech.

For much of his political career, Trump has often embraced deeply personal attacks against his opponents. During the 2016 campaign, for instance, he repeatedly encouraged supporters to physically attack liberal protesters, offering to pay for their legal bills.

His recent rhetoric has sometimes turned darker.

"The Democrats are willing to do anything, to hurt anyone, to get the power they so desperately crave," Trump declared at a Minnesota rally this month. "They want to destroy."

He also praised a Republican congressman from Montana for body slamming a reporter.

TAX CUTS

TRUMP: "We're going to be putting in a 10 percent tax cut for middle-income families. It's going to be put in next week, 10 percent tax cut. Kevin Brady is working on it. We've been working on it for a few months, a 10 percent brand-new — and that is in addition to the big tax cuts that you've already gotten. But this one is for middle income." — Texas rally Monday.

TRUMP: "We're putting in a resolution some time in the next week and a half to two weeks (and) we're giving a middle-income tax reduction of about 10 percent." — remarks Monday at White House.

THE FACTS: A reality check is in order.

His suggestion that he can soon secure a tax cut for middle-class families is highly questionable. Congress is out of session as lawmakers campaign for the Nov. 6 midterm elections. When pressed about when a bill can be approved, Trump insisted that "we'll do the vote after the election."

But he's making a big assumption that Congress can act in a lame-duck session this year or that Republicans will keep control of the House and Senate next year.

Addressing reporters on Wednesday, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said it was "highly unlikely" the Senate would vote on Trump's tax cut plan after the election. When asked if it could pass, he said: "I've seen miracles happen before."

Coming so close to critical elections, the tax proposal appeared to be more a tacit acknowledgement by the Trump administration that the \$1.5 trillion package of tax cuts passed last year failed to deliver the political traction that Republicans had hoped for. So he's dangling the prospect for more.

TRUMP: "We've saved your family farms, ranches and small businesses from the estate tax, also known as the death tax. ...There's no tax. ...That was in our tax cuts." — Texas rally Monday.

THE FACTS: There is so an estate tax. The Republican-controlled Congress did not eliminate the estate tax as part of its 2017 law. Rather, it increased the tax exemption — temporarily — so fewer people will be subject to those taxes. There also wasn't much that Trump "saved" since very few farms or small businesses were subject to an estate tax even before the 2017 law.

Previously, any assets from estates valued at more than \$5.49 million, or nearly \$11 million for couples, were subject to the estate tax in 2017. The new law doubled that minimum for 2018 to \$11.2 million, or \$22.4 million for couples. Those increased minimums will expire at the end of 2025.

According to an analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, only about 50 small farms and closely held businesses were subject to the estate tax in 2017. Those estates represent about 1 percent of all taxable estate tax returns.

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VOTER FRAUD

TRUMP: "All levels of government and Law Enforcement are watching carefully for VOTER FRAUD, including during EARLY VOTING. Cheat at your own peril. Violators will be subject to maximum penalties, both civil and criminal!" — tweet Oct. 20.

TRUMP: "The illegals — and by the way, I hate to tell you, you go to California, you go — they vote anyway. They vote anyway. And they're not supposed to. ...Voter ID, folks. Voter ID. Voter ID." — Texas rally Monday.

THE FACTS: He's exaggerating the extent of voting fraud.

The actual number of fraud cases is very small, and the type that voter IDs are designed to prevent — voter impersonation at the ballot box — is virtually nonexistent.

In court cases that have invalidated some ID laws as having discriminatory effects, election officials could barely cite a case in which a person was charged with in-person voting fraud.

Democrats have opposed voter-ID laws as unnecessarily restricting access for nonwhites and young people, who tend to vote Democratic. Republicans accuse Democrats of wanting noncitizens to be able to vote in U.S. elections.

Trump often asserts that voter fraud is a significant issue, but has not provided evidence of consequential fraud.

After the 2016 election, Trump convened a commission to investigate potential voting fraud, after alleging repeatedly and without evidence that fraud cost him the popular vote. Trump won the Electoral College.

But he disbanded the panel in January, blaming the decision on more than a dozen states that refused to comply with the commission's demand for reams of personal voter data.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

TRUMP: "Republicans will totally protect people with Pre-Existing Conditions, Democrats will not! Vote Republican." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: He's not "totally" protecting health coverage for patients with pre-existing medical conditions. In fact, his Justice Department is arguing in court that those protections in the Obama-era health law should fall. And the short-term health plans Trump often promotes as a bargain alternative offer no guarantee of covering pre-existing conditions.

Government lawyers said in legal filings in June that they will no longer defend key parts of the Affordable Care Act, including provisions that guarantee access to health insurance regardless of any medical conditions. Attorney General Jeff Sessions wrote in a letter to Congress that Trump approved the legal strategy.

The decision was a rare departure from the Justice Department's custom of defending federal laws in court. It came after Texas and other Republican-led states sued to strike down the entire law because Congress repealed a provision that people without health insurance must pay a fine.

The Trump administration said it won't defend the provision shielding people with medical conditions from being denied coverage or charged higher premiums.

Former President Barack Obama's health care law requires insurers to take all applicants, regardless of medical history, and patients with health problems pay the same standard premiums as healthy ones. Bills supported last year by Trump and congressional Republicans to repeal the law could have pushed up costs for people with pre-existing conditions.

JUDGES

TRUMP: "We're after George Washington" in federal judicial appointments. — Texas rally Monday.

THE FACTS: Trump is not No. 2.

Trump has appointed 84 judges who have been confirmed. That translates to about 10 percent of the total federal judgeships at the 21-month mark in his presidency. That lags at least two other presidents in terms of both raw numbers and percentages, said Russell Wheeler, a visiting fellow at the Brookings

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Institution and expert on judicial appointments.

Wheeler, a former deputy director of the Federal Judicial Center, analyzed historical data from the center and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. He found that Trump trails Democrats John F. Kennedy (110) and Bill Clinton (128) at comparable points in their presidencies in the number of judges seated.

Wheeler also put together a ranking based on the number of appointees in 21 months as a percentage of "authorized judgeships," or the total seats created by Congress. Trump lags more than a dozen other presidents, including Washington, who as the first president appointed 100 percent of the federal judges. At the 21-month mark, for instance, Kennedy appointees occupied roughly 28 percent of the judicial seats then authorized by Congress, far higher than Trump's 10 percent.

IMMIGRATION

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE: "In the last fiscal year, we apprehended more than 10 terrorists or suspected terrorists per day at our southern border from countries that are referred to in the lexicon as other than Mexico. That means from the Middle East region." — remarks Tuesday at a Washington Post event.

THE FACTS: He misused information from the government.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection arrested an average of 10 people a day in the 2017 budget year who were trying to enter the U.S. from countries with suspected links to terrorism, according to Pence's office. That average applies to all points of entry, not just the southern border. And the primary points of entry for people coming from overseas are airports, not the two borders.

Pence's office acknowledged his mistake. Pence cited the information accurately later, at an Oval Office bill signing by Trump.

TRUMP: "Take your camera, go into the middle and search. You're gonna find MS-13, you're gonna find Middle Eastern, you're going to find everything. And guess what? We're not allowing them in our country. We want safety." — remarks to reporters Monday.

TRUMP: "Sadly, it looks like Mexico's Police and Military are unable to stop the Caravan heading to the Southern Border of the United States. Criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in. I have alerted Border Patrol and Military that this is a National Emergency. Must change laws!" — tweet Monday.

THE FACTS: Trump provided no evidence to support these assertions and later acknowledged "there's no proof of anything."

The migrants in this caravan are mostly from Honduras, where it started, as well as El Salvador and Guatemala. On the whole they are poor, carrying the belongings that fit into a knapsack and fleeing gang violence or poverty. They are roughly 1,000 miles (1,600 km) from the nearest U.S. border crossing.

Are some criminals mixed in with the throngs? That's probably true, given the sheer number of migrants. Trump did not substantiate his claim that members of the MS-13 gang, in particular, are among them.

Some migrants clashed with Mexican police at the Mexico-Guatemala border, hurling stones and other objects as they tried to cross the international bridge. Caravan leaders said they had expelled a number of troublemakers from the procession, exhibiting some self-policing. Ultimately, most entered Guatemala — and later, Mexico — by illegally bypassing immigration checkpoints.

The caravan otherwise has been overwhelmingly peaceful, receiving applause and donated food from residents of the towns they pass.

Guatemalan officials say they detained several Syrian citizens with false documents two years ago and deported them. No evidence was made public connecting them to the Islamic State or this caravan.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Matthew Daly in Washington, and Christopher Sherman in Mexico City contributed to this report.

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Obama rips Trump, GOP in fiery speeches for Midwest Dems

By IVAN MORENO and DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Former President Barack Obama criticized President Donald Trump's tenure in office Friday in fiery speeches in Milwaukee and Detroit that took aim at him and other Republicans for "making stuff up."

The speeches were among Obama's sharpest and most direct takedowns of Trump's presidency, although the former president was careful to not mention Trump by name. He said the "character of our country is on the ballot" in the first midterm election since Trump took office.

Obama cited a recent Trump comment that he would pass a tax cut before the November election. Obama then told the crowds in high school gymnasiums that "Congress isn't even in session before the election! He just makes it up!"

At one point Obama said in Wisconsin: "Here's the thing. Everything I say you can look up."

Obama's visits were to urge people to vote for Michigan and Wisconsin's Democratic candidates. While Trump was frequently the target of his criticism, he did not spare Republicans generally and said they are lying when they say they want to protect people with pre-existing conditions while trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

"What we have not seen before in our public life is politicians just blatantly, repeatedly, baldly, shamelessly, lying. Just making stuff up," Obama said. "Calling up, down. Calling black, white. That's what your governor is doing with these ads, just making stuff up," he said, referring to Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker and his assertions that he wants to protect health care for those with pre-existing conditions. Walker is being challenged by Democrat Tony Evers.

In Michigan, Obama credited Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer for helping to expand Medicaid and said "few people fought against it harder" than her Republican opponent, state Attorney General Bill Schuette. He said voters can trust Sen. Debbie Stabenow to protect people with pre-existing conditions because "she was there" to help pass his health law. She is facing a challenge from Republican John James, whom Obama criticized for saying he backs Trump's agenda "2,000 percent."

Obama used the subject of Hillary Clinton's private email server to accuse Republicans of trying to "scare the heck out of people before every election" and also to mock Trump about the Chinese spying on his cellphone.

"In the last election, it was Hillary's emails. 'This is terrible' ... 'This is a national security crisis.' They didn't care about emails and you know how you know? Because if they did, they'd be up in arms right now that the Chinese are listening to the president's iPhone that he leaves in his golf cart."

Obama spoke about the slow-moving migrant caravan from Central America bound for the United States as another example of a Republican scare tactic.

"Now the latest, they're trying to convince everybody to be afraid of a bunch of impoverished, malnourished refugees a thousand miles away," he said. "That's the thing that is the most important thing in this election," he said. "Not health care, not whether or not folks are able to retire, doing something about higher wages, rebuilding our roads and bridges and putting people back to work."

"Suddenly," he continued, changing his voice to a high-pitch to strike a mocking tone, "it's these group of folks. We don't even know where they are. They're right down there."

Referring to Trump's promise to "drain the swamp," Obama said that instead "they have gone to Washington and just plundered away."

"In Washington they have racked up enough indictments to field a football team," he said. "Nobody in my administration got indicted."

Obama's visit to Milwaukee was the first time he was in the city for a political event since March 2016, when he came to celebrate enrollment numbers in the Affordable Care Act. He did not campaign for Hillary Clinton in Wisconsin, a state she narrowly lost that proved crucial to Trump becoming president.

Michigan is another battleground state in the Midwest that Democrats lost in 2016, despite Obama's visit the day before the election.

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"I'm hopeful Michigan," he said. "I'm hopeful that despite all the noise, despite all the lies, we're going to come through all that. We're going to remember who we are, who we're called to be. I'm hopeful because out of this political darkness, I'm seeing a great awakening."

Moreno reported from Milwaukee.

Trump lectures media for trying 'to score political points'

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — President Donald Trump lectured the media at length on Friday evening, accusing reporters of trying "to use the sinister actions of one individual to score political points" against him hours after police apprehended a staunch supporter of his in connection with the mail-bomb scare targeting Democrats and CNN.

Trump was campaigning in Charlotte, North Carolina, to support two GOP candidates facing close races in the state.

Trump has been on a rally blitz, hoping to help vulnerable Republicans ahead of the Nov. 6 elections that will determine which party controls Congress. He's planning at least 10 rallies over the five-day stretch before Election Day.

Trump, who held back some of his usual name-calling at a rally in Wisconsin earlier this week, was back to his usual attack lines Friday evening even as he called for an end to the "politics of personal destruction."

Not long after, he referred to his 2016 opponent as "Crooked Hillary Clinton," prompting a round of "Lock her up!" chants.

Clinton was among the frequent Trump targets sent pipe bombs this week.

"Oh boy, they're going to be reporting about you tonight," Trump joked in response. The crowd also broke into frequent chants of "CNN sucks!"

Also earning a mention: California Rep. Maxine Waters, another frequent Trump target who was sent a package.

Trump had told reporters as he left Washington that he had no plans to tone down his rhetoric, adding: "I could really tone it up. Because, as you know, the media has been extremely unfair to me and to the Republican Party."

Late, late show: Dodgers beat Red Sox in longest Series game

By BETH HARRIS, AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Exhausted yet exhilarated, the Dodgers headed home for a catnap. The Red Sox may well toss and turn thinking about one that got away.

Max Muncy's home run leading off the bottom of the 18th inning finally ended the longest World Series game in history early Saturday and gave Los Angeles a 3-2 victory over Boston that drew the Dodgers to 2-1 in the best-of-seven matchup.

Muncy homered to left-center on a full-count pitch from Nathan Eovaldi, jolting the remaining fans to their feet at 12:30 a.m. A grinning Muncy tossed his helmet aside as he headed for third in the final scene of a pivotal game that lasted 7 hours, 20 minutes.

"The feeling was just pure joy and incredible excitement," he said.

The Dodgers mobbed Muncy at home plate, celebrating the solo shot that pulled them back from the brink of a potential 3-0 Series deficit that no team has ever recovered from.

The Red Sox could only rue their near-miss.

They were oh-so-close in the 13th to taking a commanding Series lead. But veteran second baseman Ian Kinsler's wide throw on a two-out grounder by Yasiel Puig let Los Angeles score the tying run.

"Had the last out in my glove and couldn't get it over there. It's tough to swallow," Kinsler said.

"I feel like I let the team down right there," he said.

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Said Red Sox manager Alex Cora: "It was just a bad night."

"We had some situations that we could have put them away and then we didn't. And at the end we paid the price," he said.

Evoking memories of Kirk Gibson's winning pinch-hit homer in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series, Muncy came within feet of ending it in the bottom of the 15th. But his shot to right sailed just foul and he ended up striking out.

"I really thought I had it," Muncy said. "That was kind of defeating at that point, but I was able to get back and get another shot."

The battle of attrition had a bit of everything: 46 players, including 18 pitchers, and 561 pitches. Never before had a Series game gone more than 14 innings.

Two games in one, really. And a fall classic, indeed.

"It was a must-win for us. Our guys just persevered," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

How long did they play? Put it this way: The game took 15 minutes more than the entire 1939 World Series when the Yankees swept Cincinnati, STATS said.

Long after rookie Walker Buehler dazzled over seven shutout innings for the Dodgers, things got interesting.

The Red Sox tied it 1-all in the eighth on a homer by Jackie Bradley Jr. and took a 2-1 lead in the 13th. Los Angeles answered with the tying run in the bottom of the inning.

After Dodgers center fielder Cody Bellinger made the throw of his life in the 10th, both teams scored on bizarre errors in the 13th.

Cora used starter David Price in relief, rotated his outfielders in the middle of innings and even put catcher Christian Vazquez at first base for the first time in his big league career.

Out of position players, Roberts called on ace Clayton Kershaw to pinch-hit in the 17th. He flied out.

The stadium organist was busy, too, launching into "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" in the 14th inning — a second version of the seventh-inning stretch. Not many had left by then.

The crowd cheered when the stadium clock struck midnight.

"What a ballgame. What a marathon," Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner said. "Unbelievable fight from our club."

"I think my beard got about 3 inches longer."

The Dodgers snacked on peanut butter and banana sandwiches whipped up by a team employee, and hung a bag of bananas over the dugout railing to change their luck.

"We were well-fueled," Kershaw said.

Game 4 is later Saturday at Dodger Stadium. Eovaldi had been scheduled to start for the Red Sox, but he threw 97 pitches over six-plus innings in relief as one of nine pitchers they used. The Dodgers backtracked on Rich Hill and said they would announce a starter later.

"I'm a little tired, but we're ready to come back tomorrow," Los Angeles slugger Yasiel Puig said, looking at his watch and adding, "in a couple of hours."

The Red Sox had a wild 13th with a walk, a steal, an infield hit and an error before taking a 2-1 lead.

Brock Holt drew a leadoff walk and stole second. Pinch-hitter Eduardo Nunez got flipped on his back by catcher Austin Barnes as he chased Scott Alexander's wild pitch.

Nunez then reached on a nubber to the right side and Alexander bungled the toss to first, allowing Holt to score. Nunez got knocked on his back again on the play at first, but stayed in the game as Boston had no one left on its bench.

The Dodgers tied it 2-all in the bottom of the 13th. Muncy drew a leadoff walk and tagged up when Nunez tumbled into the third base stands after catching Bellinger's pop foul. Muncy scored when Kinsler botched the throw to first on Puig's infield single.

Bradley Jr. tied it at 1 with a drive off closer Kenley Jansen in the eighth.

The Dodgers led 1-0 on Joc Pederson's two-out homer in the third.

Both teams squandered numerous chances. The Red Sox stranded runners in the 10th and 11th. The Dodgers left runners on in every inning from the fifth to the 11th.

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Boston had runners at the corners in the 10th. Pedro Baez walked J.D. Martinez with one out and took third on Holt's single to center.

Bellinger started a sensational, inning-ending double play from center field, catching Nunez's pinch-hit fly and then firing to catcher Austin Barnes a few feet up the third-base line. Barnes made the tag as Kinsler came barreling past and both players tumbled to the dirt.

The game began in 78-degree heat — 31 degrees warmer than at Fenway Park for the first two games. Buehler stymied the Red Sox through seven innings. The right-hander retired his final 14 batters before leaving after 108 pitches. He allowed two hits, struck out seven and didn't walk anyone.

"He's got an overt confidence, a quiet confidence, a little combo," Roberts said. "But he's got tremendous stuff, and he lives for moments like this."

Boston starter Rick Porcello gave up one run and three hits in 4 2/3 innings. He struck out five and walked one.

Alex Wood threw a hitless inning for the win.

ALL NIGHT LONG

Previously, the longest postseason game by time was San Francisco's 18-inning win over Washington that took 6 hours, 23 minutes, during the 2014 NL Division Series. The only other playoff game to last 18 innings was Houston's victory over Atlanta in the 2005 NLDS.

STREAK STOPPERS

The Red Sox had won six straight games, starting in the ALCS. They had been 5-0 on the road this postseason.

UP NEXT

Red Sox: Cora hadn't decided on a Game 4 starter.

Dodgers: After the game, the team said its starter would be announced later. Left-hander Rich Hill had been set to go.

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

Bomb suspect: Ex-stripper with cash problems, Trump devotion

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cesar Sayoc is an amateur body builder and former stripper, a loner with a long arrest record who showed little interest in politics until Donald Trump came along.

On Friday, he was identified by authorities as the Florida man who put pipe bombs in small manila envelopes, affixed six stamps and sent them to some of Trump's most prominent critics.

His arrest capped a week in which the bombs aimed at some of America's biggest names — Obama, Clinton, De Niro — dominated the news and invited speculation about who might be responsible for them. The answer, authorities said, was Sayoc, a 56-year-old man from Aventura, Florida, who was devoted to Trump, had a history of financial problems and an extensive arrest record, including a stint on probation for making a bomb threat.

His attorney in that 2002 case, Ronald Lowy, described Sayoc as "a confused man who had trouble controlling his emotions."

A cousin of Sayoc, Lenny Altieri, used stronger terms.

"I know the guy is a lunatic," Altieri told The Associated Press. "He has been a loner."

Altieri confirmed that Sayoc had been a stripper. On an online resume, Sayoc described himself as a booker and promoter for burlesque shows.

Stacy Saccal, the general manager of the Ultra Gentlemen's Club in West Palm Beach, said Sayoc had worked there for about two months, first as a floor bouncer and for the past month as a disc jockey — most recently on Thursday night, hours before his arrest Friday morning.

"I didn't know this guy was mad crazy like this," she said Friday. "Never once did he speak politics. This is a bar. We don't talk politics or religion in a bar, you know?"

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Florida voter records show Sayoc first registered in March 2016 as a Republican and cast a ballot in that November's presidential election.

He has been an active Trump supporter, tweeting and posting Facebook videos that appear to show him at the president's rallies.

Sayoc's social media accounts are peppered with memes supporting Trump, and denigrating Democrats.

Sayoc lived in a white 2002 Dodge Ram van, which was plastered with stickers supporting Trump and criticizing media outlets that included CNN, which was also targeted by mail bombs.

The van was often parked outside an LA Fitness in Aventura, backed up in a parking space under the trees for shade. Patrons say they frequently saw him in the locker room.

"He'd just be walking straight to the shower and be in the shower forever," said Edgar Lopez, who often exercises at the gym. "I never saw him working out."

Other times, the van was seen parked at the beach in nearby Hollywood before dawn, with Sayoc stripping down to skin-tight shorts for an outdoor shower.

"I've seen the guy maybe 80 times and I never said a word to him because I had a feeling he was a little off," said Marc Weiss, the superintendent of a building near where Sayoc frequently parked. "I assumed because he was showering at the beach that he was homeless."

In 2015, he reported to police that his van was broken into outside of a gym in Oakland Park, Florida. He claimed that more than \$40,000 worth of items were stolen, including \$7,150 worth of Donald Trump-brand suits.

But often, Sayoc was on the other side of legal complaints.

In the 2002 bomb threat case, he had lashed out at a Florida utility representative because his electricity service was about to be cut off. The arrest report said Sayoc threatened in a phone call to blow up the utility's offices and said that "It would be worse than September 11th."

Sayoc was also convicted in 2014 for grand theft and in 2013 for battery. In 2004, he faced several felony charges for unlawful possession of a synthetic anabolic steroid often used to help build muscles. He also had several arrests going back to the 1990s for theft, obtaining fraudulent refunds and tampering with evidence.

Lowy said he recalled that Sayoc also had a run-in with authorities where he was charged with possessing a fake driver's license after altering his birthdate to make him appear younger.

Sayoc displayed no political leanings at the time of the bombing charge, Lowy said, except for plastering his vehicle with Native American emblems. Sayoc told his lawyer his father was Native American.

More recently, Sayoc described himself on social media as being affiliated with the Seminole Warriors boxing club and being a member of the "Unconquered Seminole Tribe."

Gary Bitner, a spokesman for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, said there is no evidence to show that Sayoc worked for the tribe or was a tribal member.

Altieri, his cousin, said Sayoc's only connection to Native Americans was that he once dated a member of a tribe.

Sayoc was born in New York City. His mother was Italian and his biological father was Filipino, and his parents separated when he was a young boy, Altieri said. After his parents separated, Sayoc was "kind of rejected" by his family.

"When you get no love as a young kid, you get kind of out of whack," he said.

He enrolled at Brevard College in North Carolina in 1980 and attended for three semesters, said Christie Cauble, the school's interim director of communications. He then transferred to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, enrolling for the 1983-84 academic year. Buffie Stephens, director of media relations for the school, said Sayoc didn't declare a major. He played a few games as a walk-on player for the university's men's soccer team. There is no indication he ever completed a degree.

He moved to the Miami suburbs in the late 1980s. He had serious financial problems in recent years, including losing his home in foreclosure in 2009 and filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection in 2012.

In court records, Sayoc was described as having \$4,175 in personal property and more than \$21,000 in

debts, mostly from unpaid credit cards. His monthly income at the time was \$1,070.

"Debtor lives with mother, owns no furniture," Sayoc's lawyer indicated in a property list. Sayoc's mother, Madeline, also filed for bankruptcy around the same time. She was not immediately available to respond to phone messages left with her by the AP.

Sayoc's media diet appears to have consisted of a toxic mixture of conspiracy theory, parody accounts and right-wing news sites. One of Sayoc's most favored recent sources was a Twitter account that spread hoaxes about the Parkland High School shooting in Florida earlier this year.

He tweeted at least 40 times a screenshot of a meme featuring the transparently false claim that Parkland mass-shooting survivor David Hogg never went to Stoneman Douglas High School, occasionally including hostile captions such as "He is a George Soros paid protester." Soros, the billionaire progressive political donor, was targeted this week by a package bomb.

Sayoc even seems to have stumbled across a Polish conspiracy news site, tweeting out a wildly false claim that Angela Merkel had been conceived using Adolf Hitler's frozen sperm.

In June, he praised Trump in a birthday message saying, "Happy Birthday President Donald J. Trump the greatest result President ever."

Associated Press reporters Michael Schneider in Orlando, Florida; Terry Spencer in Plantation, Florida; Mike Balsamo in Washington; Curt Anderson in Miami; Ken Sweet in New York; Kelli Kennedy in Aventura, Florida; Ellis Rua in West Palm Beach, Florida; Tom Foreman Jr. in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Raphael Satter in London; and Jonathan Drew in Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this story.

Follow AP investigative reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Saudi FM says global outcry over Khashoggi 'hysterical'

By AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia's top diplomat said Saturday that the global outcry and media focus on the killing of a Saudi journalist earlier this month has become "hysterical" as he urged the public to wait for the results of an investigation before ascribing blame to the kingdom's top leadership.

Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist critical of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was killed by Saudi agents at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

"This issue has become fairly hysterical," Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said. "I think people have assigned blame on Saudi Arabia with such certainty before the investigation is complete."

Some of those implicated in Khashoggi's killing are close to Prince Mohammed, who is the kingdom's heir apparent. His condemnation of the killing as "heinous" and "painful" has so far failed to ease suspicions that such a high-level operation could have been carried out without his knowledge.

Al-Jubeir addressed the mounting skepticism around the crown prince's alleged involvement. He was speaking in response to questions from Western journalists at an annual conference of international officials, including U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis, in Bahrain.

"We have made clear that we are going to have a full and transparent investigation, the results of which will be released. We have made it very clear that those responsible will be held responsible," he said, adding that the kingdom has also put in place mechanisms to ensure this does not happen.

"We're trying to uncover what happened. We know that a mistake was committed. We know that people exceeded their authority and we know that we're investigating them," he said.

But he cautioned that "investigations take time."

"Unfortunately, there has been this hysteria in the media about Saudi Arabia's guilt before the investigation is completed," he said.

Turkey alleges a 15-member hit squad was sent to Istanbul to kill the journalist, a onetime Saudi insider who became an outspoken critic of Prince Mohammed in columns for The Washington Post. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said the three others in the group of 18 who have been detained in Saudi

Arabia were consulate employees.

Saudi Arabia has said five officials, including two who worked directly under the crown prince, have been relieved of their posts. Al-Jubeir on Saturday said six in total were dismissed. King Salman has assigned his son, the crown prince, to oversee the restructuring of the kingdom's intelligence bodies in the aftermath of the killing.

Erdogan said Friday that Turkey would reveal more evidence about the killing but was not in any rush to do so, indicating that Turkish authorities will methodically increase pressure on Saudi Arabia even as the kingdom floats conflicting statements in a vain and often clumsy attempt to end the crisis.

After three weeks of shifting Saudi accounts around the incident, the kingdom this week acknowledged that the killing was "premeditated," citing evidence from Turkish officials investigating what happened. Saudi Arabia originally said Khashoggi had walked out of the consulate Oct. 2, before offering various other narratives that President Donald Trump called "one of the worst cover-ups in the history of cover-ups."

Turkey is requesting that Saudi Arabia hand over the suspects in the killing, which the kingdom has described as a rogue operation by officials who may have exceeded their orders or authority.

CIA director Gina Haspel, who was in Turkey earlier this week to review evidence, briefed Trump in Washington on Thursday.

Saudi Arabia's chief prosecutor will arrive in Turkey on Sunday as part of the investigation and will meet with Turkish counterparts, according to Erdogan.

Cry me a river: Low water levels causing chaos in Germany

By DAVID RISING, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A new island in Lake Constance. A river in Berlin flowing backward. Dead fish on the banks of lakes and ponds. Barges barely loaded so they don't run aground.

A hot, dry summer has left German rivers and lakes at record low water levels, causing chaos for the inland shipping industry, environmental damage and billions of euros (dollars) in losses — a scenario that experts warn could portend the future as global temperatures rise.

The drought-like conditions have hit nearly 90 percent of the country this year.

In Magdeburg, the Elbe River has been so low that no ships carrying goods south to Leipzig or on to the Czech Republic have been able to pass through since the end of June, said Hartmut Rhein of the city's waterways and shipping department.

The river's down to a depth of about 50 centimeters (less than 20 inches) there, when at least double that level is needed for normal shipping traffic, he said.

"At the moment the only possibility is to completely unload ships and transfer their cargoes to other means of transportation," he said.

The situation is similar across Germany. The mighty Rhine has hit its lowest water levels ever at several points, and other major rivers like the Danube, the Weser and the Main are all far below normal.

On the waterways that are still navigable, the lower water levels have actually led to increased shipping traffic, as companies pack less weight onto boats so they don't ride so low in the water. That means they must send more vessels out to carry the same amount of freight.

"All the ships on the Rhine are going around the clock to transport goods that would normally be on fewer ships," said Rolf Nagelschmidt of Cologne's waterways and shipping office. "At the moment, everything that can float is being loaded up."

That has sent freight prices skyrocketing, and some costs are already being felt by consumers, with higher prices at gas pumps and for home heating oil.

Chemical giant BASF has been forced to cut production due to a lack of transportation. On Friday the company lowered its yearly profit forecast after a slowdown in the third quarter partly from the extra costs incurred due to the low levels of the Rhine, which flows past its headquarters in Ludwigshafen.

Germany's Economy Ministry said Friday it had taken the unusual step of authorizing temporary access to Germany's strategic fuel reserves in areas where supplies have not been able to get through due to

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the shallow waters.

With such widespread drought, Germany's agricultural industry is also struggling. There have been shortages of feed for livestock and the country's grain harvest is forecast to drop to 36 million tons this year compared to an average of 47.9 million tons over the last five years, according to the Center for Disaster Management at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology.

"If you look at the overall economic effects, we're talking certainly in the double-digit billions," said the center's Michael Kunz.

Northern and eastern Germany saw their warmest summer ever recorded in 2018, and central Germany had its lowest rainfall ever, according to the German Weather Service, or DWD.

"Climate change means not only an increase in average temperatures, but also in the increase of extreme events," said DWD Vice President Paul Becker. "This year's summer has been exceptional with its intensive drought and prolonged heat, but we expect an increase in such extreme periods in the future."

From April through August, a high-pressure zone sat over northern Europe and a low-pressure zone blanketed the south. That created a "blocking situation" that produced the unusual weather, said Freja Vamborg, a senior climate scientist with Copernicus Climate Change Service, a European Union information service.

"During that whole time, most of northern Europe was warm and dry and the Mediterranean was wet," she said.

Most of Germany has been right in the middle of the dry zone. While there has been some relief from the drought in the British Isles and Scandinavia, the drought is still plaguing Germany.

Sandbanks have appeared on the Rhine River that have not been seen before in modern history. On the Austrian part of Lake Constance, which is shared by Germany, Austria and Switzerland, a 10,000 square meter (108,000 square foot) silt island has appeared.

Unexploded World War II munitions are also popping up, most recently with a 1,000-kilogram (2,200-pound) American bomb being found on the exposed bottom of the Rhine near Neuwied this week. Experts say some 3,000 bombs were dropped in the area as the allies sought to destroy a railway bridge, but only a few actually hit their target.

In Berlin, the Spree River, which normally flows into the Havel River in the western part of the city, has been taking water in from the Havel instead, said Derk Ehlert, with the city's environment department.

"It's flowing backward, so to speak," he said.

A family of beavers living in the German capital's central Tiergarten park has attracted a lot of attention for taking matters into their own paws. They built a new dam about six weeks ago to keep the area wet — but that just dried other areas up.

"They wanted their old water level back," Ehlert said.

Other wildlife has been less able than the beavers to cope. Hundreds of tons of fish and countless freshwater mussels have been dying as waters have receded, said Magnus Wessel, head of nature conservation policy for the environmental group BUND.

Causes for the die-offs include greater concentrations of pesticides and other toxins due to the lower volume of water, boat traffic riding closer to the riverbeds, the increased number of boats on the rivers and less oxygen in the water, Wessel said.

And, of course, the obvious.

"If you live underwater and you don't have water above you, you're dead," he said.

Frank Jordans in Berlin and Daniel Niemann in Cologne contributed to this story.

Florida Trump supporter charged in chilling mail-bomb plot

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal authorities on Friday captured a Florida man with a criminal history and a fervor for President Donald Trump and accused him of sending at least 13 mail bombs to prominent Democrats, capping a nationwide search in a case that spread fear of election-season violence with little precedent in the U.S.

Justice Department officials announced five federal charges against Cesar Sayoc, 56, of Aventura, Florida, and revealed that DNA and a fingerprint found on an envelope package helped them identify the suspect after a five-day, coast-to-coast investigation. Even as he was arrested and charged, investigators scrutinized new suspicious packages believed to be tied to his plot.

FBI officials did not disclose a motive, although Attorney General Jeff Sessions suggested politics may have played a role, noting Sayoc appeared to be a "partisan." Those who saw him in the neighborhood, unmistakable in a white van plastered with Trump's image and political stickers, described him as unsettling and troubled.

Sayoc's social media profiles portray a deeply disaffected conservative who trafficked in online conspiracy theories, parody accounts and name-calling. He called a Florida school shooting survivor a "fake phony," peddled theories about George Soros, the billionaire political donor targeted this week by a package bomb and denigrated other Democrats who were later the intended recipients of explosive packages.

An amateur body builder and former stripper who once spent time on probation for a bomb threat charge, Sayoc first registered as a Republican voter just ahead of the March 2016 Republican primary and quickly identified himself as a proud Trump supporter, tweeting and posting on Facebook videos that appear to show him at Trump rallies.

He appeared to be living in his van, showering on the beach or at a local fitness center.

Sayoc's arrest Friday was a major breakthrough in the nationwide manhunt following the discovery of explosive devices — none of which detonated — addressed to prominent Democrats and other frequent targets of conservative ire, including former President Barack Obama, former Vice President Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and the cable network CNN. On Friday, new packages addressed to New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and former National Intelligence Director James Clapper were intercepted — both similar to those containing pipe bombs discovered earlier in the week. Investigators in California scrutinized a package sent to Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris, her office said, and one sent to Tom Steyer, a billionaire businessman who has campaigned for months for Trump's impeachment.

The mail bombs, coming barely a week before major midterm elections, sparked a heated national conversation about the hard-edged political climate and Trump's role in fanning the flames. The president has branded the media the "enemy of the people" and hurled harsh, personal insults at others targeted in the plot.

Shortly after Sayoc was detained, Trump declared that "we must never allow political violence to take root in America" and that Americans "must unify."

Speaking later to reporters Friday evening before leaving for a political rally in North Carolina, said he knows Sayoc supported him but that he himself "bears no blame." Hours earlier Trump had complained via tweet that "this 'bomb' stuff" was taking attention away from the upcoming election and that critics were wrongly blaming him.

FBI and police officials worked swiftly to untangle clues this week as the packages mounted, sometimes several in the same day.

The big break came when a fingerprint found on one of the packages, intended for California Rep. Maxine Waters, matched a fingerprint of Sayoc's on file with Florida authorities. A DNA sample from a device intended for Obama similarly matched the suspect's DNA, the FBI said.

An additional clue: Misspellings from his online posts matched mistakes found on the packages, according to an 11-page criminal complaint that included the formal charges of threatening former presidents and transporting explosives across state lines.

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Some packages included photographs of the intended recipients marked with a red "x," the FBI said. The packages contained timers and batteries, but were not rigged to explode upon opening. Officials were uncertain whether the devices were poorly designed or never intended to cause physical harm.

Authorities noted that they included "energetic material." A footnote to the charging document said such explosive material "gives off heat and energy through a rapid exothermic reaction when initiated by heat, shock or friction."

"These are not hoax devices," FBI Director Chris Wray said.

Sayoc was arrested near an auto parts store in Plantation, Florida, north of Miami. Across the street, Thomas Fiori, a former federal law enforcement officer, said he saw about 50 armed officers swarm a man standing outside a white van. They ordered him to the ground, Fiori said, and he did not resist.

"He had that look of, 'I'm done, I surrender,'" Fiori said.

Sayoc appears to have been living on the margins, regularly running into trouble with the law and struggling to make ends meet. He was repeatedly arrested for theft in the 1990s, faced felony charges of possession of anabolic steroids in 2004 and was convicted of grand theft in 2014. In 2002, he served a year of probation for a felony charge of threatening to throw or place a bomb.

His lawyer in that case said the charge stemmed from a heated conversation with a Florida utility representative.

Ronald Lowy, a Miami attorney, said Sayoc showed no ability at the time to back up his threat with any bomb-making expertise.

Sayoc had \$4,175 in personal property and more than \$21,000 in debts when filed for bankruptcy in 2012. "Debtor lives with mother, owns no furniture," his lawyer indicated in a property list.

He had been an amateur body builder. More recently he was seen at an LA Fitness in Aventura, regularly showering at the gym but not working out, said Edgar Lopez, 48, a therapist who works out at the gym.

Marc Weiss saw Sayoc nearly every morning at 6 a.m. for the last four or five months

"I've seen the guy maybe 80 times and I never said a word to him because I had a feeling he was a little off," said Weiss, a 56-year-old building superintendent who has lived in the neighborhood for eight years. "This guy had an air about him that was unsettling."

Sayoc's political awakening appears to have coincided with Trump's rise. He registered to vote in Florida in March 2016 and has voted early since, records show.

Documents released Friday by the Broward County Sheriff's Office show Sayoc reported in May 2015 that more than \$40,000 in goods were stolen from his van and an attached trailer, including 11 pieces of Donald Trump-brand clothing valued at \$7,150. Specifics are not included, but Trump has a line of suits, shirts, ties and accessories.

The report shows detectives were never able to confirm whether the theft actually happened, and no arrests were made.

Most of those targeted this week were past or present U.S. officials, but packages also were sent to actor Robert De Niro and billionaire George Soros. The bombs have been sent across the country — from New York, Delaware and Washington, D.C., to Florida and California, where Waters was targeted. They bore the return address of Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the former chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee.

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman, Ken Thomas, Jill Colvin, Michael Biesecker, Stephen Braun and Chad Day in Washington; Terry Spencer, Kelli Kennedy and Curt Anderson in Florida; Jim Mustian, Deepti Hajela, Tom Hays and Michael R. Sisak in New York and Raphael Satter in Paris contributed to this report.

For the AP's complete coverage of the mail-bomb scare: <https://apnews.com/PipeBombAttacks>

After arrest, Republicans struggle with mail bombs fallout

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — All week long, supporters of President Donald Trump played defense as each day brought new reports of more pipe bombs sent to prominent critics of the president. Some suggested the mailings could be a “false flag” operation aimed at ginning up Democratic enthusiasm. Trump himself complained “this ‘Bomb’ stuff” was distracting from the upcoming midterm elections.

Then came Friday’s arrest of a Trump supporter in Florida as the prime suspect.

Republicans from Trump on down scrambled to draw a firm line between the alleged actions of 56-year-old Cesar Sayoc and the president.

“There’s no blame. There’s no anything,” Trump insisted, batting away any suggestion that his harsh rhetoric, sometimes casually endorsing violence, played any role.

As for the message sent by his own words, Trump was unapologetic: “I think I’ve toned it down. I could really tone it up.”

Conservatives joined the defensive chorus, pointing, as Trump did, to the 2017 shooting of Republican Rep. Steve Scalise and others by a supporter of Democrat Bernie Sanders. No politician should be blamed for the violent tendencies of a supporter, they argued.

Matthew Schlapp, chair of the American Conservative Union, tweeted that the “FBI tried to ‘stop’ Trump. Obama pushed Russian collusion. CNN never stops attacking him. Maxine & co want him in jail. But he is at fault?!”

Ari Fleischer, former press secretary for President George W. Bush, admonished Trump for some of his harsh rhetoric and said “this is a time for the president to focus 100 percent on lifting the nation up and 0 percent on the political ramifications.”

But Fleischer also said he expected “the Democrats and the press to fall back into their pattern of rushing to blame President Trump. And that’s not right.”

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina created an awkward moment Friday when he said he hopes Democratic opposition to Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh “blows up in their face.” Graham made the comment while appearing with Nevada Sen. Dean Heller near Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas Sun reported that Graham later clarified that he had meant he hoped the opposition would blow up politically for Democrats. Graham also called the mailing of bombs “political terrorism generated by a man who thinks he’s helping Trump, who’s hurting America.”

As he has done in other times of crisis, Trump on Friday delivered carefully worded remarks that denounced the hateful actions, declaring that “these terrorizing acts are despicable and have no place in our country.”

“I’ve instructed authorities to spare no resource or expense in finding those responsible and bringing them to swift and certain justice,” Trump said. “We must never allow political violence to take root in America, cannot let it happen. And I am committed to doing everything in my power as president to stop it and to stop it now. Stop it now.”

But those remarks came a short time after he tweeted a complaint that the media’s focus on bombs was distracting from the midterms.

“Republicans are doing so well in early voting, and at the polls, and now this “Bomb” stuff happens and the momentum greatly slows - news not talking politics,” Trump tweeted in the hours before Sayoc was taken into custody. “Very unfortunate, what is going on. Republicans, go out and vote!”

At a campaign rally Friday night in North Carolina, Trump resumed the attack, accusing the media of using the pipe bomb incident to “score political points” against him and the GOP. The pro-Trump crowd broke into boos when and there were loud chants of “CNN sucks.”

Trump’s tweet was an effort to refocus attention on the midterms that could alter the path of his presidency. His quote marks around “Bomb” were striking, suggesting the president might doubt the authenticity of the scare. That theory had gained steam in some quarters on the right.

A number of Trump’s allies, including his eldest son, Donald Jr., and conservative commentator Lou Dobbs, have used social media to promote the idea that the bombs may be a Democrat-run hoax. Rush

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Limbaugh, influential right-wing radio host, and some GOP congressional candidates did the same. And the president's favorite television show, Fox & Friends, ran a segment Friday morning in the hours before his tweet that raised the possibility that the bombs were a ploy to help Democrats.

After Sayoc was revealed to be a Trump supporter, a number of conservatives were quick to absolve the president of blame for contributing to the hyper-partisan atmosphere.

And even during the scare, Trump did not abandon his politics of grievance.

He issued a 3 a.m. tweet Friday in which he complained that CNN and others were blaming him for the panic, saying they were "ridiculously comparing this to September 11th and the Oklahoma City bombing, yet when I criticize them they go wild and scream, 'it's just not Presidential!'" One of the explosives packages was sent to CNN, forcing an evacuation of their Manhattan studios.

At the White House, just moments after saluting Sayoc's arrest, Trump told cheering members of the 2018 Young Black Leadership Summit that "Come to think of it, who gets attacked more than me? I can do the greatest thing for our country and on the networks ... it will show bad. No matter what."

Some in the crowd began to yell "Fake News," a staple at any Trump rally, while one person shouted "CNN sucks!" After Trump mentioned globalism, there was a jeer about George Soros, the liberal donor who was the target of one of the pipe bombs.

Trump also complained that coverage of the manhunt distracted from his announcement Thursday about an effort to lower prescription drug prices. Trump said the announcement "was competing with this story" about the pipe bombs.

He added that with apprehension of the suspect, "maybe that can start to disappear rapidly because we don't like those stories."

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

Trump accuses media of trying 'to score political points'

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — President Donald Trump lectured the media at length on Friday evening, accusing reporters of trying "to use the sinister actions of one individual to score political points" against him hours after police apprehended a staunch supporter of his in connection with the mail-bomb scare targeting Democrats and CNN.

Trump was campaigning in Charlotte, North Carolina, to support two GOP candidates facing close races in the state.

Trump has been on a rally blitz, hoping to help vulnerable Republicans ahead of the Nov. 6 elections that will determine which party controls Congress. He's planning at least 10 rallies over the five-day stretch before Election Day.

Trump, who held back some of his usual name-calling at a rally in Wisconsin earlier this week, was back to his usual attack lines Friday evening even as he called for an end to the "politics of personal destruction."

Not long after, he referred to his 2016 opponent as "Crooked Hillary Clinton," prompting a round of "Lock her up!" chants.

Clinton was among the frequent Trump targets sent pipe bombs this week.

"Oh boy, they're going to be reporting about you tonight," Trump joked in response. The crowd also broke into frequent chants of "CNN sucks!"

Also earning a mention: California Rep. Maxine Waters, another frequent Trump target who was sent a package.

Trump had told reporters as he left Washington that he had no plans to tone down his rhetoric, adding: "I could really tone it up. Because, as you know, the media has been extremely unfair to me and to the Republican Party."

In migrant caravan, safety in numbers and no smuggling fees

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

ARRIAGA, Mexico (AP) — Kenia Yoselin Gutierrez had long thought about migrating from her native Honduras to the United States, but stories of others who made the trip scared her off: migrants being raped or disappearing, children stolen.

When she heard about the caravan that has now grown into several thousand people traveling through southern Mexico, she saw her chance. Her 5-year-old daughter, sister and niece joined her.

"It's not so easy to walk this road alone and with children," the 23-year-old said, sitting with her sister and their daughters under a tarp near the main square in the southern Mexican town of Pijijiapan. "But while we are accompanied like this, it's not so dangerous."

The tropical sun may be hot, the road long and Mexican authorities unhelpful and even harassing, but many in the caravan say traveling in a large group helps safeguard them from the dangers that plague the trail northward.

It's also a relatively inexpensive way to make the trip, as intensified U.S. efforts to seal the border have driven the price smugglers charge as high as \$12,000 — a sum those fleeing poverty and violence can ill afford.

At the same time, kidnapping and extorting money from migrants has become big business for Mexican criminal organizations, especially near the U.S. border, making it more difficult for people to attempt crossings on their own.

The result has been caravans like this one and the camaraderie that comes amid thousands of strangers who all share a common history and goal.

"We are from the same country," said Harlin Sandoval, who was waiting with several hundred others on the highway outside Pijijiapan, hoping to hitch a ride from passing trucks. "And I feel more protected."

On Friday, the caravan made its most ambitious single-day trek since the migrants crossed into the southern Mexican state of Chiapas a week ago, a 60-mile (100-kilometer) hike up the coast from Pijijiapan to the town of Arriaga.

The group has thinned considerably from exhaustion and illness, and was about 4,000-strong compared with its peak of more than 7,000. Still 1,000 miles from the nearest U.S. border crossing at McAllen, Texas, the journey could be twice as long if the group heads for the Tijuana-San Diego frontier, as another caravan did earlier this year. Only about 200 in that group made it to the border.

While such migrant caravans have taken place regularly over the years, passing largely unnoticed, they have received widespread attention this year after fierce opposition from U.S. President Donald Trump.

On Friday, the Pentagon approved a request for additional troops at the southern border, likely to total several hundred, to help the U.S. Border Patrol as Trump seeks to transform fears about immigration and the caravan into electoral gains in the Nov. 6 midterms.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis signed off on the request for help from the Department of Homeland Security and authorized the military staff to work out details such as the size, composition and estimated cost of the deployments, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss planning that has not yet been publicly announced.

Stoking fears about the caravan and illegal immigration to rally his Republican base, the president has insinuated that gang members and "Middle Easterners" are mixed in the group, though he later acknowledged there was no proof of that.

On Friday, President Enrique Pena Nieto announced the launch of what he called the "You are at home" plan, offering shelter, medical attention, schooling and jobs to Central Americans in the southern states of Chiapas and Oaxaca if they apply for refuge. Pena Nieto said the plan "is only for those who fulfill Mexican laws" and is a first step toward permanent refuge status.

In the evening, in Arriaga's central plaza after the walking was done, the migrants rejected the proposal in a show of hands and boisterous voice vote. "Gracias!" they yelled, but then "No, we're heading north!"

A coordinator of the caravan said they would strike out again before dawn for Tapanatepec, about 29

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miles (46 kilometers) away across the Oaxaca state line.

Even before the announcement, authorities said more than 1,700 of the migrants had applied for refugee status, while hundreds of others had accepted bus rides home.

Mexico's government has allowed the migrants to make their way on foot, but has not provided them with food, shelter or bathrooms, reserving any aid for those who turn themselves in.

Police have also been ejecting paid migrant passengers off buses, enforcing an obscure road insurance regulation to make it tougher for them to travel that way.

Authorities were also cracking down on smaller groups trying to catch up with the main caravan, detaining about 300 Hondurans and Guatemalans as they walked along a highway after crossing the Mexico border illegally, said an official with the national immigration authority.

Migrants, who enter Mexico illegally every day, usually ride in smugglers' trucks or buses, or walk at night to avoid detection. The fact that this group was walking in broad daylight suggests they were adopting the tactics of the caravan, which is large enough to be out in the open without fear of mass detentions.

However, it now appears such smaller groups will be picked off by immigration authorities, keeping them from swelling the caravan's ranks.

For Jenifer Ramirez, traveling with her 5-month-old daughter in her arms as her husband and two other children, 3 and 5, trudged alongside them, the caravan was a stroke of good fortune.

Forced to leave Honduras in a hurry after her husband, a bus driver, was warned by gang members he would be killed if he didn't agree to transport drugs on his vehicle, the family had no money to pay a smuggler.

"In a group we receive help," said Ramirez, 24, referring to the food and donations provided by local communities at every stop along the way. "If you don't have money you get food, clothing ... to be able to continue."

Gutierrez, the young woman traveling with her daughter, sister and niece, said she had never before slept in a park or on a sidewalk. She hopes that all the hardship may someday become "a pretty memory" for herself and her daughter, if they make it to the U.S.

"I would like her to remember that I am doing this to give her a better life, to give good schooling, to give her what I never had in my childhood," Gutierrez said. "And may she never end up like me, having to emigrate far away."

Associated Press writers Mark Stevenson and Peter Orsi in Mexico City contributed to this report.

This story corrects town to Tapanatepec.

Away from caravan, other migrants travel out of spotlight

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

TRANCAS VIEJAS, Mexico (AP) — On a day when a migrant caravan of several thousand was still crawling through far southern Mexico, hundreds of young men were walking swiftly between train rides more than 200 miles to the north.

Some of them had left Honduras the same day as those in the caravan. One had left a week later. The difference: They were moving along one of the traditional Central American migrant trails, riding the freight trains known as La Bestia, or "the beast," that have been speeding — and maiming — migrants on their journey toward the U.S. border for decades.

While world attention has been focused on the migrant caravan numbering an estimated 4,000 people for the past two weeks, thousands of other migrants have continued their steady flow north on well-trod migratory routes. It's a faster option — and those taking it hope may help them fly under the radar while Mexican authorities focus on the slow-moving caravan.

In fiscal 2018, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended more than 396,000 migrants who crossed the southwest border illegally. Just the ones who were caught in a week amount to more than

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the estimated 7,000 traveling in the caravan at its peak.

One afternoon this week, at the spot where a set of mud-packed railroad tracks crossed a rural backroad in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, figures emerged walking in the distance. Every few minutes more groups — of eight, 10, 12 young men — came into view.

They said they had gotten off a train that had stopped an hour's walk away and were trying to make it to a migrant shelter before nightfall.

Cesar Ferrera, wearing a green shirt and black jeans covered in grime from the train, said he left his home in the Honduran city of San Pedro Sula on Oct. 13, the same day the caravan departed, but never considered joining it.

"The train takes you much more quickly, and they are walking slowly and are super behind," Ferrera said. "We are, wow, way ahead."

He estimated there were 500 to 600 people just like him on the train that crossed the Guatemalan border into Mexico, passing town after town in southern Chiapas state in recent days.

His reasons for leaving were identical to many of those traveling in the caravan. Work was hard to find and what was available didn't pay enough to support a family. Crime was an ever-present threat. The 28-year-old left his two children at home along with his wife.

"More than anything, the government doesn't solve people's problems," Ferrera said.

He was working as a private security guard at a mall in San Pedro Sula last December and had to fight off looters in the disturbances that followed President Juan Orlando Hernandez's contested re-election, which was marred by irregularities and denounced as outright fraudulent by Hernandez's opponent. He said he was not making enough to risk his life protecting someone else's property.

Since leaving Honduras two weeks ago, he hasn't had access to news about President Donald Trump's threats of sealing the border to stop the caravan, but said he was undeterred.

Those living along the tracks in Trancas Viejas didn't blink an eye at the sight of dozens of young men walking by their homes.

Estefana Reves Cardenas has lived there for more than 15 years. Sometimes the migrants ride the train past, but it's also common to hear them walking by throughout the night. She couldn't remember ever having a problem with any of the young men, pregnant women and children who have passed.

"We give them a bit of food," Reves said. "Not everyone, because they are so many and they all want some."

It was Manuel Hernandez's first time attempting the trip.

The 23-year-old farmer from Santa Barbara, Honduras, had started travelling six days earlier and had heard some of Trump's threats about the caravan.

"Yes, we heard, but we are going to try it," Hernandez said. "It is an adventure."

He preferred to travel this way on his own because the caravan attracted a lot more attention.

"One person alone," he said, "that's the way."

Hernandez, who has family in Washington, D.C., said he was sure he could find a landscaping job there. Noting that he'd be "very close" to Trump, he chuckled and said maybe he would "visit him."

Debate erupts over Halloween costumes crossing racial lines

By TERRY TANG, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — When Colorado attorney Jeff Schwartz asked his 7-year-old son what he wanted to dress as this Halloween, the answer was clear: his favorite movie superhero, "Black Panther."

Schwartz said his white son's choice of a black character didn't give him pause.

"I didn't give it a second thought," said Schwartz. "I think that if my son wants to idolize a character — be it a black character or a white character — race doesn't need to come into it at all."

NBC talk show host Megyn Kelly's comments about blackface on Halloween have reinvigorated a debate over costumes that cross racial lines and what's appropriate at a time when diverse movie and TV characters like Black Panther have become hugely popular.

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The issue has reverberated across social media, from magazine articles about white children wearing Black Panther costumes to protests against costumes that perpetuate Native American stereotypes. Social media debates have focused on whether political correctness is spoiling the spirit of the holiday.

The fallout was swift for Kelly, who wondered on her show why dressing up in blackface for Halloween is racist: NBC said Friday it was canceling "Megyn Kelly Today." She found little support from her NBC colleagues, including Al Roker who called on her to apologize to people of color nationwide. He later was asked on Twitter if a woman's white son was OK to dress as Black Panther.

"Sure he can. Just don't try to wear dark makeup on," Roker wrote.

Others chimed in on the thread, including Schwartz, whose son only wants to don the Marvel character's vibranium suit.

"We should encourage our kids to have black heroes whether they're white or black kids. That's healthy," Schwartz said.

Some articles warn white parents away from such a choice, arguing that while Black Panther's fabled homeland "Wakanda" isn't a real place, the character's race is essential to his identity.

Elise Barrow, a black mother of three in New York City, said she and her husband tried to persuade their 5-year-old son to be Black Panther, but he opted to be a dinosaur instead. Barrow said she was torn by the debate.

"Kids want to be what they want to be. I'm not going to prevent them," Barrow said. "If my son wants to be Captain America, I'm not going to say no."

A similar issue cropped up in recent years with the animated features "Moana," set in ancient Polynesia, and Pixar's "Coco," which centers on a Mexican boy named Miguel and his family. A few months before "Moana's" November 2016 release, Disney pulled a costume based on the character of Maui, voiced by Dwayne Johnson. The ensemble included a brown bodysuit with Polynesian tattoos and a faux-grass skirt. Some argued that it was off-putting to have a child wear the skin of another race.

Jim Quirk, a white father of three in St. Paul, Minnesota, said adults should stop projecting concerns about race and gender onto what is essentially "a kids' holiday."

"They want to be princesses, doctors, Black Panther or whatever," Quirk said. "They do it because they want to be like them. It's adults who put meaning onto these things."

But he acknowledges there are some things that are over the line, such as blackface.

"You shouldn't be disrespectful," Quirk said.

Calling out cultural appropriation is what drives Amanda Blackhorse, a longtime activist against the use of Native images for mascots and logos. On Wednesday, Blackhorse and others demonstrated outside the Phoenix headquarters of Yandy.com, a lingerie company that has been selling "sexy" Native costumes including one marketed as "Chief Wansum Tail."

Her group delivered an online petition with thousands of signatures calling on Yandy to stop using Native American culture for costumes.

"The people have always looked at or seen Native people through stereotypes — through headdresses, buckskin and fringe," Blackhorse said. "This company is perpetuating that. They think that's who we are. They don't see us as different tribes."

The group wants Yandy to discontinue the line, issue an apology and donate any proceeds from the costumes to agencies that help Native American women. A spokeswoman for Yandy did not respond to a message seeking comment.

Yandy's far from the only retailer offering such costumes. Amazon.com and other mainstream sites offer Halloween-wear based on Asian stereotypes such as a geisha or "dragon lady." There are also Mexican-inspired outfits that include a poncho, sombrero and mustache and a "sexy senorita" dress.

Kelly's blackface comments, meanwhile, left many outraged.

"Back when I was a kid that was OK as long as you were dressing up as like a character," Kelly said in discussion with an all-white panel.

Blackface dates back to the 1830s when white performers would put on dark makeup, wigs and exaggerated costumes, mocking slaves, according to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American

History & Culture. They often depicted black people as lazy, ignorant or cowardly. Decades later, movie stars like Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland wore blackface on screen.

Follow Associated Press writer Terry Tang on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ttangAP>

Hate crime considered in Kentucky grocery shooting

By DYLAN LOVAN, Associated Press

JEFFERSONTOWN, Ky. (AP) — The fatal shooting death of two black grocery patrons by a white gunman is being investigated as a possible hate crime, a U.S. official said Friday.

Federal investigators are examining if there were any violations of federal law, "which includes potential civil rights violations such as hate crimes," said U.S. Attorney Russell M. Coleman in Louisville.

Gregory A. Bush, 51, has been charged with murder and other crimes in the deaths of the man and the woman at a Kroger store Wednesday in Jeffersontown, located on the outskirts of Louisville. The FBI is investigating alongside local police.

"The murders are not being taken lightly by the United States government," Coleman said in a prepared statement.

Police said Bush attempted to enter a historically black church minutes before arriving at the grocery store. A surveillance video confirmed Bush's presence at the Jeffersontown First Baptist Church about 10 to 15 minutes before he went to the Kroger, Police Chief Sam Rogers said. The church is headed by a black pastor and has a large African-American membership.

Bush "appeared to try to gain access to the church," Rogers said.

The information came as news media outlets reported that Bush made a racial comment after the deadly shooting in Jeffersontown, a city of about 26,600 people.

Rogers said it was too soon, however, to say whether the shooting was racially motivated.

Rogers said Bush apparently does have a history of mental illness, as news outlets have reported.

An arrest report says Bush walked into the Kroger, pulled a gun from his waist and shot a man in the back of the head, then kept shooting him multiple times "as he was down on the floor." The report says Bush then reholstered his gun, walked outside and killed a woman in the parking lot. Each victim died of multiple gunshot wounds, Rogers said. Rogers said Bush was standing at arm's length when he shot the woman in the back of the head.

A man carrying a concealed weapon who happened to be in the parking lot challenged Bush, and police say the suspect then "began firing wildly" at him, putting other shoppers in the parking lot in danger. Neither man was hurt in that confrontation, Rogers said.

Bystander video shows a white man in a distinctive neon-yellow shirt trying to drive away while an officer chases after him on foot. Many more officers converged on the scene and made the arrest just a few hundred yards (meters) from the store on Wednesday afternoon.

Bush was jailed on \$5 million bond Thursday on two counts of murder and 10 counts of felony wanton endangerment.

Ed Harrell was quoted by the Courier Journal of Louisville as saying he was waiting on his wife in the parking lot when he heard gunshots and grabbed his revolver. As he crouched down, he said he saw the gunman walk "nonchalantly" by with a gun by his side. Harrell said he called out to ask what was going on, and the gunman replied: "Don't shoot me. I won't shoot you. Whites don't shoot whites."

Rogers said police "are aware of that statement and are evaluating any factors that may come into play with" it.

Bush's ex-wife is African-American, and she has received protection orders against him after violent outbursts, including an incident in 2009 when she told police he called her racial epithets during a custody exchange of their son. They divorced in 2000.

The local coroner's office identified Wednesday's shooting victims as Maurice Stallard, 69, and Vicki Lee Jones, 67. Police said there didn't appear to be any connection between Bush and the victims, or any link

between Bush and the Kroger store.

Stallard's 12-year-old grandson was shopping with him in the store when he was gunned down, Jefferson town Mayor Bill Dieruf said Thursday. The boy was physically unharmed, but most certainly traumatized, the mayor said, adding, "He was there and cannot unsee what he has seen."

Stallard was the father of Kellie Watson, the chief racial equity officer for Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer. The mayor shared his outrage Thursday over what he called an "epidemic of gun violence" that "hit close to home."

Authorities removed computers and cellphones from the house where Bush lived with his parents.

Bush's criminal record shows he threatened his ex-wife and punched a deputy sheriff during a family court hearing years ago. He also was charged with assaulting his elderly parents in January 2009. A judge ordered him to comply with mental health treatment and prohibited Bush from possessing firearms for two years.

An arrest citation said Bush's parents were punched and choked, and they told police they were "terrified of (his) unpredictable behavior."

Bush's ex-wife told authorities in a domestic violence petition in 2009 that Bush was "diagnosed paranoid" in 2003 but had stopped taking his medication.

"I am afraid for me and my son. I want him to stay away," she wrote in the court document.

US: 'Everything on table' to block migrants at border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

CALEXICO, California (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said Friday that "everything is on the table" as the administration considered new measures to stifle immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border and send a message that a slow-moving migrant caravan bound for the United States will not be welcome.

Nielsen addressed the Trump administration's efforts to fortify the border while standing next to a newly constructed 30-foot fence in California. Before she spoke, two workers wearing welding masks affixed a plaque to the barrier with the names of President Donald Trump and several high-ranking officials to commemorate what the administration calls the completion of the first phase of his border wall.

Nielsen's trip to the border came after the Pentagon approved a request for additional troops at the southern border, expected to total at least 800 and possibly more than 1,000. And the White House is looking at new border security measures, including one plan that would use the same mechanism as Trump's travel ban to block migrants from seeking asylum in the U.S, according to two people familiar with the discussion. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the idea, which they stressed was still in the early planning stages and had yet to be decided.

"We are looking at every possible way within the legal construct that we have to make sure that those who don't have the legal right to come to this country do not come in," Nielsen said.

The president has stepped up his focus on immigration in the days leading up to the Nov. 6 elections that will determine which party controls Congress, focusing on a caravan of migrants heading north through Mexico that is about 1,000 miles away but dwindling in size.

"I called up the military," Trump said at a meeting of young black conservative leaders. "We're not letting them in, they ought to go back now because we're not."

Any attempt by Trump to curtail the rights of migrants to seek asylum is bound to draw legal challenge.

Andrea Guerrero, executive director of Alliance San Diego, said it would be "a very drastic action that would have disastrous practical implications for our asylum obligations, for our moral and legal obligations."

"We know that civil rights attorneys are preparing to litigate right now," she said. "They're preparing to litigate right away. I don't know if (Trump) cares if he wins the litigation. He wants to score political points ... it's all part of the same political ploy to stoke fear for political reasons and build more walls."

The federal government recently completed construction on a two-mile section of fencing that's 30-foot tall. Nielsen called it a significant accomplishment to keep immigrants out. The structure is separate from

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a concrete wall prototype that the government has built near San Diego as part of Trump's signature campaign promise during his 2016 White House campaign.

"Let me be clear: Walls work," Nielsen said.

New details also began to emerge Friday about the military deployment on the border.

A Defense Department official said the mission is authorized from Oct. 30 to Dec. 15 and will operate in border areas of California, Arizona and Texas. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details that have not yet been publicly announced, said the troops will not be involved in detaining migrants.

In a brief written statement the Pentagon gave several examples of assistance they would provide. These include barricades and fencing; helicopters and airplanes to move Border Patrol personnel, and medical teams to triage and treat patients and prepare them for commercial transport. It also will provide personal protective gear and temporary housing for Border Patrol personnel.

Trump earlier this year ordered the deployment of National Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border to respond to a spike in illegal border crossings. But those members remain under the control of the governors of the states where they're positioned, and their activities are limited to supportive roles, such as providing surveillance.

There already are about 2,000 National Guard troops on the border.

AP Writers Bob Burns and Colleen Long contributed to this report from Washington.

NBC cancels Megyn Kelly's show after blackface controversy

By LYNN ELBER and MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Megyn Kelly, the former Fox News Channel personality who made a rocky transition to softer news at NBC, was fired from her morning show Friday after triggering a furor by suggesting it was OK for white people to wear blackface at Halloween.

"Megyn Kelly Today" is not returning," NBC News said in a statement. The show occupied the fourth hour of NBC's "Today" program, a time slot that will be hosted by other co-anchors next week, the network said.

NBC didn't address Kelly's future at the network. But negotiations over her exit from NBC are underway, according to a person familiar with the talks who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bryan Freedman, an attorney for Kelly, said in a statement that she "remains an employee of NBC News and discussions about next steps are continuing." He did not elaborate.

Kelly is in the second year of a three-year contract that reportedly pays her more than \$20 million a year.

The show's cancellation came four days after she provoked a firestorm for her on-air comments about blackface as a costume.

"But what is racist?" Kelly said Tuesday. "Truly, you do get in trouble if you are a white person who puts on blackface at Halloween or a black person who puts on whiteface for Halloween. Back when I was a kid, that was OK, as long as you were dressing up as, like, a character."

Critics accused her of ignoring the ugly history of minstrel shows and movies in which whites applied blackface to mock blacks as lazy, ignorant or cowardly.

Kelly apologized to fellow NBC staffers later in the day and made a tearful apology on her show Wednesday. She did not host new episodes of "Megyn Kelly Today" as scheduled on Thursday and Friday.

Kelly, 47, made her debut as a NBC morning host in September 2017, taking over the 9 a.m. slot at "Today" and saying she wanted viewers "to have a laugh with us, a smile, sometimes a tear and maybe a little hope to start your day." She did cooking demonstrations and explored emotional topics.

She largely floundered with that soft-news focus, and a pair of awkward and hostile interviews with Hollywood figures Jane Fonda and Debra Messing backfired. Kelly briefly found more of a purpose with the eruption of the #MeToo movement.

She made news when interviewing women who accused President Donald Trump of inappropriate behavior and spoke with accusers of Harvey Weinstein, Bill O'Reilly, Roy Moore and others, as well as women

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who say they were harassed on Capitol Hill.

Time magazine, which honored "The Silence Breakers" as its Person of the Year, cited Kelly as the group's leader in the entertainment field. The episode with Trump accusers had more than 2.9 million viewers, one of her biggest audiences.

But strains continued behind the scenes. Kelly last month publicly called for NBC News Chairman Andrew Lack to appoint outside investigators to look into why the network didn't air Ronan Farrow's stories about Weinstein and allowed Farrow to take the material to The New Yorker.

And her ratings have been consistently down from what "Today" garnered in the 9 a.m. hour before Kelly came on board. In its first year, Kelly's show averaged 2.4 million viewers a day, a drop of 400,000 from the year before.

The latest controversy may have tipped the balance. Both NBC's "Nightly News" and "Today" did stories on her blackface comment, and weatherman Al Roker said Kelly "owes a big apology to people of color across the country."

A former corporate defense attorney, Kelly made her name at Fox News discussing politics in prime time. During the first GOP debate in 2015, she asked Trump about calling women "fat pigs, dogs, slob, and disgusting animals." Trump later complained about her questions, saying, "You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes. Blood coming out of her wherever."

Although Kelly may have attempted a fresh start at NBC, she couldn't always escape her baggage.

Many of her former Fox News Channel viewers were upset by her perceived disloyalty in leaving and her clashes with Trump during the campaign. At the same time, her former association with Fox caused some NBC colleagues and viewers to regard her with suspicion.

While at Fox, Kelly cultivated a reputation for toughness and a willingness to challenge conservative orthodoxy. Her private testimony about former Fox News chief executive Roger Ailes' unwanted sexual advances a decade ago helped lead to Ailes' firing.

She also created controversy with her stance on race. In 2013, while an anchor at Fox, Kelly addressed the ethnicity of Santa Claus by saying: "For all you kids watching at home, Santa just is white."

Elber reported from Los Angeles.

Stocks slump again; S&P 500, Dow back into red for year

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Stocks are back in the red for the year after another wave of selling hit Wall Street Friday.

The latest plunge came at the end of an unusually turbulent week of trading that had one huge gain sandwiched between massive losses.

A three-week slide has left the benchmark S&P 500 index on track for its worst month since February 2009, right before the stock market hit bottom following the 2008 financial crisis.

Longtime market favorites like Amazon led the way lower after reporting weak results. Technology and consumer-focused companies accounted for much of the sell-off.

Media and communications stocks, banks and health care companies also took heavy losses. Bond prices rose, sending yields lower, as investors sought out less risky assets.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell nearly 300 points and the S&P 500, a benchmark for many index funds, is now down 9.3 percent from its September peak. That's just shy of what Wall Street calls a "correction," or a drop of 10 percent or more from a peak. The last S&P 500 correction happened in February.

The stock market has whipsawed this week, with the Dow slumping 500 points over the first two days of the week, plunging 608 on Wednesday, soaring 401 points Thursday and then plunging again on Friday. The ups and downs came during the busiest week for third-quarter company earnings.

"We're going through this transition where, earlier in the year, the corporate earnings results were just a blowout and now they're more mixed," said David Lefkowitz, senior equity strategist Americas at UBS Global Wealth Management. "That's causing some of this volatility."

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The S&P 500 index slid 46.88 points, or 1.7 percent, to 2,658.69.

The Dow dropped 296.24 points, or 1.2 percent, to 24,688.31. The average was briefly down 539 points.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite lost 151.12 points, or 2.1 percent, to 7,167.21. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 16.58 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,483.82. The S&P 500 and Dow are now down for the year again.

Stock trading turned volatile in October after a placid summer, with big sell-offs in the sectors that have powered the bulk of the gains during the market's long bull run.

Disappointing quarterly results and outlooks have stoked investors' jitters over future growth in corporate profits, a key driver of the stock market.

Traders are worried that rising interest rates and the escalating U.S.-China trading dispute could hurt the economy and dampen corporate earnings growth.

"There's still uncertainty facing equity investors," said Gary Pollack, managing director at Deutsche Bank Wealth Management. "And the GDP report this morning showed the economy slowing down from the second quarter."

The Commerce Department said the U.S. economy's gross domestic product, a measure of total output of goods and services, grew at a robust annual rate of 3.5 percent in the July-September quarter. That's higher than what many economists had been projecting, but lower than the 4.2 percent rate of growth in the second quarter.

While a sharp increase in personal consumption helped boost the overall GDP reading, there was also an increase in business inventories during the quarter. That could mean that companies may pull back on beefing up their stockpiles in the fourth quarter, Pollack said.

Amazon and Google parent company Alphabet slumped after both companies reported quarterly revenue figures that fell short of analysts' estimates. Amazon sank 7.8 percent to \$1,642.81 while Alphabet fell 1.8 percent to \$1,083.75.

Mattel dropped 2.8 percent to \$13.45 after the toy maker served up quarterly results that fell short of analysts' forecasts.

Colgate-Palmolive lost 6.6 percent to \$59.58 after the maker of consumer products didn't earn as much revenue in the latest quarter as analysts expected.

In a bright spot, chipmaker Intel gained 3.1 percent to \$45.69 after it reported strong quarterly results and raised its outlook.

U.S. bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.08 percent from 3.13 percent late Thursday.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 0.4 percent to settle at \$67.59 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, added 0.9 percent to close at \$77.62 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline gained 0.1 percent to \$1.82 a gallon. Heating oil jumped 1.1 percent to \$2.30 a gallon and natural gas fell 0.5 percent to \$3.19 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The dollar fell to 111.85 yen from 112.61 yen on Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1412 from \$1.1359.

Gold rose 0.3 percent to \$1,235.80 an ounce. Silver gained 0.5 percent to \$14.70 an ounce. Copper dipped 0.5 percent to \$2.74 a pound.

Major European stock indexes fell. Germany's DAX slipped 0.9 percent, while France's CAC 40 dropped 1.3 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 slid 0.9 percent. In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 0.4 percent, while South Korea's Kospi dropped 1.8 percent. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was flat. Hong Kong's Hang Seng sank 1.1 percent.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Oct. 27, the 300th day of 2018. There are 65 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 27, 1978, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for their progress toward achieving a Middle East accord.

On this date:

In 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the United States Constitution, was published.

In 1795, the United States and Spain signed the Treaty of San Lorenzo (also known as "Pinckney's Treaty"), which provided for free navigation of the Mississippi River.

In 1858, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was born in New York City.

In 1904, the first rapid transit subway, the IRT, was inaugurated in New York City.

In 1938, Du Pont announced a name for its new synthetic yarn: "nylon."

In 1947, "You Bet Your Life," a comedy quiz show starring Groucho Marx, premiered on ABC Radio. (It later became a television show on NBC.)

In 1954, U.S. Air Force Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was promoted to brigadier general, the first black officer to achieve that rank in the USAF. Walt Disney's first television program, titled "Disneyland" after the yet-to-be completed theme park, premiered on ABC.

In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down while flying over Cuba, killing the pilot, U.S. Air Force Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr.

In 1992, Petty Officer Allen Schindler, a gay U.S. Navy sailor, was beaten to death near Sasebo Naval Base in southwestern Japan by shipmate Terry Helvey, who pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to life in prison.

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch cut through the western Caribbean, pummeling coastal Honduras and Belize; the storm caused several thousand deaths in Central America in the days that followed.

In 2002, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (loo-EEZ' ee-NAH'-cee-oh LOO'-luh duh SEEL'-vuh) was elected president of Brazil in a runoff, becoming the country's first elected leftist leader.

In 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 4, 3-0.

Ten years ago: Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens was convicted in Washington of seven corruption charges for lying about free home renovations and other gifts from a wealthy oil contractor. (A judge later dismissed the case, saying prosecutors had withheld evidence that might have been favorable to Stevens at trial.) Umpires halted play in Game 5 of the World Series with the Philadelphia Phillies and Tampa Bay Rays tied at 2 because of rain. (The game was completed two days later, at which time the Phillies beat the Rays 4-3 to win the Series.)

Five years ago: The Boston Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-2 to tie the World Series at two games apiece; the game finished with a pickoff play, a first in postseason history. Lou Reed, 71, who radically challenged rock's founding promise of good times and public celebration as leader of the Velvet Underground and a solo artist and was a founder of indie rock, died in Southampton, New York.

One year ago: Spain fired Catalonia's regional government and dissolved its parliament, after a Catalan declaration of independence that flouted the country's constitution. Golfer Tiger Woods pleaded guilty to reckless driving, resolving charges from an arrest in which he was found passed out in his car with prescription drugs and marijuana in his system. The White House said federal officials had played no role in selecting a tiny Montana company from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown for a \$300 million contract to help restore Puerto Rico's power grid. Facebook executives said they would verify political ad buyers in federal elections, requiring them to reveal correct names and locations.

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Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian John Cleese is 79. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 78. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 76. Producer-director Ivan Reitman is 72. Country singer-musician Jack Daniels is 69. Rock musician Garry Tallent (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 69. Author Fran Lebowitz is 68. Rock musician K.K. Downing is 67. TV personality Jayne Kennedy is 67. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 66. Actor Peter Firth is 65. Actor Robert Picardo is 65. World Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 62. Singer Simon Le Bon is 60. Country musician Jerry Dale McFadden (The Mavericks) is 54. Internet news editor Matt Drudge is 52. Rock musician Jason Finn (Presidents of the United States of America) is 51. Actor Sean Holland is 50. Actor Channon Roe is 49. Actress Sheeri Rappaport is 41. Actor David Walton is 40. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 40. Actress-singer Kelly Osbourne is 34. Actress Christine Evangelista is 32. Actor Bryan Craig is 27. Actor Troy Gentile is 25.

Thought for Today: "He who seeks rest finds boredom. He who seeks work finds rest." — Dylan Thomas (1914-1953).