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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.



Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Volleyball: Girls Varsity Region 1A 7:00 #5 Webster at #4 Milbank, #7 Tiospa Zina at #2 Roncalli, #6 Sisseton at #3 Redfield/Doland. Groton is the #1 Seed and has first round bye

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 Groton Area hosts #4/#5 winner #2/#7 winner vs #3/#6 winner)

Friday, November 2, 2018

Debate & Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central High School

Saturday, November 3, 2018

Debate & Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central High School

Robotics at Mitchell Technical Institute

Sunday, November 4, 2018

7:00pm: Snow Queen, GHS Gymnasium

Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings (4-3-1) hosted the New Orleans Saints (6-1) on Sunday, setting up a rematch of the playoff game last season that ended on a miracle walk-off win for the Vikings. This time, the miracle was nowhere to be found and the Saints got revenge, beating the Vikings 30-20.

The Vikings played well on both sides of the ball, despite missing six starters who couldn't play because of injury. In fact, the Vikings had more total yards, passing yards, yards per rush, first downs, and time of possession. Ultimately, however, the Vikings shot themselves in the foot with costly turnovers. The first turnover was a rare fumble by Adam Thielen with two minutes left in the first half and the Vikings poised to add to their three-point lead before halftime. Instead, the Saints scored a touchdown two plays later and took a lead they would never relinquish. The second turnover was an interception due to miscommunication between Stefon Diggs and Kirk Cousins. The INT was returned for a touchdown, giving the Saints a two-score lead and putting the game out of reach for the Vikings.

Cousins had a solid day on Sunday, completing 31 of 41 passes for 359 yards and two touchdowns. Once again the Vikings were without running back Dalvin Cook, but Latavius Murray played well against the number one run defense in the NFL. Unfortunately for Murray, the Vikings were in a huge hole in the second half and abandoned the run game. Adam Thielen extended his streak of 100 receiving yards with seven catches for 103 yards and a touchdown, while Stefon Diggs caught 10 passes for 119 yards and a touchdown.

The Vikings' pass defense did a good job of limiting Drew Brees to 120 passing yards, and the run defense held the Saints two-headed monster at running back (Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram) to only 108 rushing yards. The Vikings didn't record a sack on Sunday, the first such game all season, but it's difficult to get a sack on Drew Brees because he is very skilled at sensing the rush and gets the ball out quickly. The Saints have one of the best offenses in the league and the Vikings played them well, which is even more impressive considering they were without Rhodes, Anthony Barr, and Andrew Sendejo.

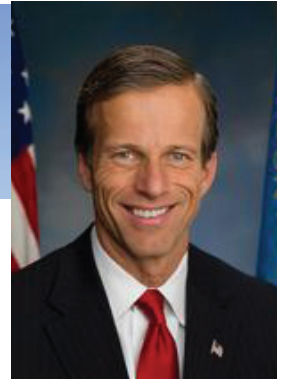
The player of the game on offense is Latavius Murray, who carried the ball 13 times for 56 yards and a touchdown. He also added five catches for 39 yards. The Vikings fell behind in the second half and didn't run the ball much, but Murray made some big plays on Sunday and has secured a role on the offense when Dalvin Cook comes back from injury.

The player of the game on defense is Everson Griffen. No player on defense really stood out, but I'm putting Griffen here because he clearly gave the team a morale boost. Griffen has missed the previous five games for personal reasons, but he is a leader on the team and it's clear the rest of the defense feeds off his energy.

Looking ahead, the Detroit Lions come to town on Sunday, November 04. The game will be at noon (CT) and will air on Fox. The Lions are currently 3-4 and are coming off a 28-14 loss to the Seattle Seahawks. ESPN gives the Vikings a 74% chance to win, which would give the team a record of 5-3-1 going into their bye week. Hopefully some of the injured starters will return, because Detroit always plays the Vikings well and this will be an important, hard-fought divisional battle. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Helping Aviation Reach New Heights

In 2017, 965 million passengers boarded flights that took off from or landed in the United States, and chances are you might have been one of them. Whether it's because of your job, the annual family vacation, or a trip home for the holidays, we all rely on the aviation industry in one way or another. It not only supports more than 10 million American jobs, contributes trillions of dollars to the economy, and gets millions of people to their intended destinations, it also helps get us a product we've purchased, or even a letter we've sent, from one location to another as quickly and as safely as possible.

While the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is in the executive branch of the federal government and is tasked with ensuring the safety of civil aviation and monitoring its operational needs, Congress plays an important role in confirming its leadership, authorizing and appropriating operating funds, and conducting important oversight to ensure it's serving the flying public as effectively and, again, as safely as it possibly can.

Part of that congressional responsibility requires us to pass a bill to reauthorize the FAA and related programs every few years, which essentially gives us the chance to review how things are going both within the agency and with aviation stakeholders and make any necessary reforms or modifications that might be required. We recently passed and the president signed our latest aviation bill, which was overwhelmingly approved on a bipartisan basis, and it was the longest reauthorization since the early 1980s.

This new law promotes economic growth, enhances transportation safety and security, and improves the flying experience for the traveling public, areas we can all agree are important to the industry and the flying public.

Specifically, the law reauthorizes the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which is responsible for allocating funding for capital improvements at airports large and small in South Dakota and across the country. These investments in local facilities help ensure the infrastructure on the ground is both modernized and safe. In some cities, access to commercial aviation is integral to the economic development of a community, and AIP funding is one component to an airport's overall development.

The law also reauthorizes the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for the first time ever. It establishes a five-year term for its administrator to ensure stability and consistency at the agency, expands ways to deploy more canine security teams and new security technologies at airports across the country, and enables smaller airports like those in South Dakota to employ enough law enforcement officers at security checkpoints.

For frequent travelers or those who just want to get through TSA checkpoint lines a little faster, the new law requires the TSA to expand PreCheck program enrollment opportunities by establishing start-to-finish online or mobile enrollment options. For air travelers who live in rural states like South Dakota that have an extremely limited number of enrollment centers, this will be especially welcome news.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which oversees the FAA and TSA, among many other federal agencies, I led the way to ensure this pro-passenger, pro-safety aviation bill made it to the president's desk before existing authority expired, and I was in the Oval Office with President Trump when he signed it into law.

With the FAA reauthorization bill now law, it means the Commerce Committee, during my time as chairman, has authorized or reauthorized federal agencies that cover virtually every mode of transportation in the United States. That's no easy feat, but it does highlight the importance of our committee's work and the bipartisan approach we've taken to get things done, and it's something I'm proud we've been able to achieve over the years.

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This Week in State Government

Public Meetings:

Monday, October 29, 1 – 4 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The Advisory Council on Aging will hold their quarterly meeting at the Hillsview Plaza located at 3800 E. Highway. 34 in Pierre. For more information, please contact Beth Dokken at 605-773-3656.

Monday October 29, 8 p.m. CDT – The South Dakota Board of Examiners in Optometry will meet via teleconference. For more information, including public access information, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=70>.

Thursday, November 1 – Friday, November 2, Sioux Falls – Beginning November 1 at 1 p.m. CDT, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) Commission will meet at Good Earth State Park in Sioux Falls. A public hearing will begin at 2 p.m. CDT discussing the finalizations of October's meeting. The GFP Commission serves as the advocate and liaison between the department and its stakeholders - the people of South Dakota. The Commission meets monthly (except for February and August) and consists of eight members; which are appointed by the Governor for four-year terms. The full agenda for the November meeting can be found here: <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/information/>. For more information, please contact wildinfo@state.sd.us or call 605.773.3718.

Thursday, November 1, 8 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Animal Industry Board will hold a meeting at 411 S. Fort St. A full agenda can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/AIB%20Notice%20of%20Meeting%20and%20Agenda%202018-11-01.pdf>.

Thursday, November 1, 10:30 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The Department of Social Services' Board of Addiction and Prevention Professionals will hold a board of directors meeting at Park Place Center, 3101 W. 41st St. in the conference room. Public input will begin at 11 a.m. For more information please contact Tina Nelson at 605-332-6778. To view the agenda, please visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=29>.

Friday, November 2, 9 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Department of Social Services' Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists Board of Examiners will hold a board meeting at 700 Governors Drive, conference room 3. For more information and to view the agenda please visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=22>.

STAND UP FOR SCHOOL SAFETY.

ANONYMOUSLY TEXT 'SAFE' TO 82257

**TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR
THREATS OR VIOLENCE.**

PROJECT
STANDUP

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You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Monday, October 29 to Thursday, November 1: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, October 29:

- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Brookings – 530 3rd St., Suite 210 605-360-7819
- 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. MDT, Hot Springs (Fall River) – 906 N. River St. 605-280-4307
- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Hot Springs (Vets Home) – 2500 Minnekahta Ave. 605-280-4307
- 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Lake Andes – 400 Main St. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Mobridge – 212 Main St. 605-280-4308
- 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Watertown – 125 S. Broadway 605-360-7819

Tuesday, October 30:

- 9 a.m. – 10 p.m. CDT, Armour – 706 Braddock St. 605-280-4306
- 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. MDT, Belle Fourche – 849 5th Ave. 605-280-4307
- 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Lake Andes – 400 Main St. 605-280-4306
- 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Olivet – 140 Euclid, Room 39 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Rosebud – Veterans Affairs Bldg. 605-280-4308
- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Sturgis – 1300 St., Suite 212 605-280-4307

Wednesday, October 31:

- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – 210 E. 7th Ave. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Winner – 200 E. Third St. 605-280-4308

Thursday, November 1:

- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Ft. Yates, ND – Standing Rock Tribal Office 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Huron – 450 3rd St. SW #103 605-280-4306
- 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Leola – 421 Grant St. 605-280-4308

Monday, October 29, through Thursday, November 1, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Smithfield will conduct walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions include productions workers. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, October 30, to Thursday, November 1 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

Tuesday, October 30, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At 2330 N. Maple Ave. For more information, call 605-394-2296 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Thursday, November 1, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – At 420 S. Roosevelt St. Parties interested in attending should register by calling 605-626-2340 prior to 5 p.m. Wednesday, October 31. For more information, visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, October 30 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

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Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT
Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Tuesday, October 30 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

Tuesday, October 30, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Western Dakota Technical Institute, Lewis & Clark Hall, Room L212. For more information on programs and services, call Kevin Dary, Lynette Engle or Melanie Garstenschlager at 605-718-2956 during these office hours. Additional information available at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, October 30, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Department of Revenue will host a basic sales tax seminar. The seminar will take place at the Department of Revenue's Sioux Falls office, located at 300 S. Sycamore Ave., Suite 102. To register for this free seminar, visit <http://dor.sd.gov> then click on the Education tab. For more information, contact Bobi Adams at 605-773-5815.

Tuesday, October 30, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Mitchell – A financial literacy class will be held at Mitchell Job Service, 1321 N. Main St. For more information, call 605-995-8060 or visit www.sdjobs.org

Tuesday, October 30, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. CDT, Watertown – The Department of Labor and Regulation and Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) will host two meetings in LATI Room 514 about creating a welding Registered Apprenticeship (RA). Interested parties will learn about the RA requirements and return on investment. To RSVP, email mike.jennings@state.sd.us or shane.swenson@lakeareatech.edu.

Tuesday, October 30, 12 – 3 p.m. CDT, Yankton – Avera will be conducting open interviews for CNAs, hospice resident assistants, housekeepers and nutrition assistants at Avera Majestic Bluffs, 2111 W. 11th St. Please complete an online application prior to the event at www.averajobs.org/. Call 605-668-8390 with questions. DLR Yankton Job Service can help you prepare. Call 605-668-2900 for more information.

Tuesday, October 30, 1 – 4 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Department of Revenue will host a basic contractor's excise tax seminar. The seminar will take place at the Department of Revenue's Sioux Falls office, located at 300 S. Sycamore Ave., Suite 102. To register for this free seminar, visit <http://dor.sd.gov> then click on the Education tab. For more information, contact Bobi Adams at 605-773-5815.

Wednesday, October 31 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT
Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Thursday, November 1 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT
Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT
Armour, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT
Plankinton, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT
Lower Brule, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

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Celebrating A Milestone For Democracy

The 2018 election is an important milestone for South Dakota elections. It was 100 years ago – on November 5, 1918 – that South Dakota voters, all men, gave women the right to vote in our state for the first time. It was a long-awaited victory for voting rights for women. Women’s suffragists – both men and women – had campaigned for women’s suffrage since the 1870s, during the era of Dakota Territory.

To celebrate this milestone, I have declared November 2018 as “Women’s Right to Vote Month.” It is an opportunity to remember the efforts of the suffragists who fought for this right for women, and to consider the many women who have played a role in politics since that time.

Perhaps South Dakota’s most notable female political figure is Gladys Pyle of Huron. Pyle was born in 1890 into a political family – her father was attorney general, and her mother was a leading South Dakota suffragist. Gladys Pyle ran for the State House of Representatives in 1922, at the age of 32 and only four years after women gained the right to vote. She was elected, making her the first woman to serve in the South Dakota State Legislature. After four years, she was elected Secretary of State in 1926, making her the first woman to serve in statewide office.

In 1930, Gladys Pyle ran for the Republican nomination for governor. She finished first in a five-candidate field with 28.3% of the vote. State law, however, required that the primary winner secure at least 35% of the vote – if no candidate did, the State Republican Convention would choose from among the primary candidates. This was bad news for Pyle – she was an outsider and many of the other candidate’s supporters wouldn’t support a woman. The deadlocked convention eventually took 12 ballots before, as a compromise, it nominated Warren E. Green, a Hamlin County farmer who had finished dead last in the primary with 7.4%.

Had Pyle been elected, she would have been the first female governor in the United States who had not been the wife or widow of a previous governor. It would be forty-four years before another woman, Ella Grasso of Connecticut, finally broke that barrier in 1974. Pyle, however, went on to set another milestone; she became the first woman to represent South Dakota in the U. S. Senate when she was elected to complete Peter Norbeck’s term following his death.

Many other women have followed in Gladys Pyle’s footsteps, serving as secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor, and public utilities commissioner. Former first lady Vera Bushfield briefly served in the U.S. Senate, taking the place of her late husband. In 2004, Stephanie Herseth became the first woman elected to the U.S. House from South Dakota; she was succeeded by another woman, Kristi Noem. Three women have served on our state’s Supreme Court: Judith Meierhenry, Lori Wilbur and Janine Kern.

Women have also broken barriers in the State Legislature. Mary McClure became the first woman to be a legislative leader when she served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate from 1979-89. She was followed by Debra Anderson, who was Speaker of the House from 1987-88; Jan Nicolay, who chaired the powerful House Appropriations Committee from 1987-96; and Barb Everist, who was the first woman to be Senate Majority Leader in 2001-02. As a state senator, I was privileged to serve with Carole Hillard, who presided over the Senate as South Dakota’s first female lieutenant governor. Many other women have served in leadership roles and as committee chairs.

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In just a few days, South Dakotans will go to their polling places to cast their ballots. We will be electing a new governor, a new congressman, and other statewide officials. All 105 legislative seats will be filled. Voters will consider five ballot measures, and many local governments will hold elections as well. It may be another historic year for women. Both gubernatorial tickets include women, and more than sixty women are running for the State Legislature.

This year's election is 100 years and one day after South Dakota women gained the right to vote. In the scope of history, that really isn't a very long time. It is a good reminder that voting is a privilege that we should never take for granted – there are still many places in the world where free, fair elections are only a dream. I hope that all South Dakotans – men and women – will study the candidates and issues, and remember to vote on or before November 6.



Delivering Results

By **U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)**

When you sent me to the Senate, I promised to do all I could to get Washington working again. For too long, the red tape and excessive bureaucracy of the federal government hindered the ability of South Dakotans to succeed. Overregulation made it difficult for farmers, ranchers, small business owners and local financial institutions to do their jobs. Families were paying so much money in taxes that they weren't able to reinvest back into the economy. We still have work to do, particularly when it comes to improving our ag economy, but the Republican-led Senate has been able to deliver significant results to the American people.

We reformed the tax code for the first time in 31 years. Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law by President Trump, more than 1.8 million jobs have been created, unemployment is at the lowest level since 1969, incomes are rising and our economy is soaring. The economy grew at 4.2 percent in the second quarter of 2018, the fastest pace in nearly four years.

We've also rolled back a record number of excessive, Obama-era regulations. Over the past 19 months, Republicans have saved Americans at least \$50 billion and 16 million hours of regulatory paperwork. This means Americans have more time and money to spend however they want. As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, we passed major legislation to roll back the Dodd-Frank Act. It included a number of provisions that I offered to limit the burdensome regulations on community banks and credit unions in South Dakota, so they can do what they do best: serve their customers and support businesses in their communities. This has helped our economy flourish.

The Senate has confirmed a record number of judges who will interpret the law as written, not based on their personal political leanings. So far, we have confirmed 29 circuit court judges, 53 district court judges and two Supreme Court justices. The Senate Judiciary Committee is hard at work to send even more judges to the full Senate floor before the end of the year. These men and women have the opportunity to shape the direction of our country for a generation or more.

We also passed and the president signed into law the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which included investments to strengthen our military long-term. It gave our troops the largest pay increase in nearly 10 years. Protecting our nation through a strong military is a fundamental role of the federal government. My priority as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee is to make sure our military remains the best in the world. To do this, our military must be properly funded, trained and equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Additionally, I continue working to make sure Ellsworth Air

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Force Base plays a vital role in our national defense now and in the future. It was recently announced that Ellsworth will be one of three bases that will be home to the new B-21 Raider bomber.

South Dakota is home to more than 72,000 veterans, many of whom have had problems dealing with the VA. My office works directly with South Dakota veterans to help cut through red tape so they can get the care and benefits they were promised. We confirmed a new secretary at the VA who has publicly committed to cleaning up the agency's scandals and mismanagement. I sit on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and will continue monitoring the VA to make sure it supports our veterans and follows through on our country's promises to them.

Senate Republicans have made good on our promise to get Washington working again, but we aren't done yet. With farm income down 50 percent in the past five years, we continue working to improve the ag economy. This includes assuring year-round sales of E-15 during next summer's driving season and finalizing trade deals so we can export our commodities like soybeans, corn, wheat, beef, pork and more. We also need to finalize the farm bill so farmers and ranchers have some stability as they work to feed and fuel the world. These are a number of the issues that I look forward to taking up in the coming months when the Senate is back in session.



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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HELPING VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS

By: **Patty Hoffman**

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Every year on Veterans Day, we honor the people who risk their lives to protect our freedom. Social Security honors veterans and active duty members of the military every day by giving them the respect they deserve. Social Security's disability program is an important part of our obligation to wounded warriors and their families.

For military members who return home with injuries, Social Security is a resource they can turn to. If you know any wounded veterans, please let them know about Social Security's Wounded Warriors website. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

The Wounded Warriors website answers many commonly asked questions, and shares other useful information about disability benefits, including how veterans can receive expedited processing of disability claims. Benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.

The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.

Even active duty military who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they're unable to work due to a disabling condition. Active duty status and receipt of military pay doesn't necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Although a person can't receive Social Security disability benefits while engaging in substantial work for pay or profit, receipt of military payments should never stop someone from applying for disability benefits from Social Security.

Social Security is proud to support veterans and active duty members of the military. Let these heroes know they can count on us when they need to take advantage of their earned benefits. Our webpages are easy to share on social media and by email.

Patty Hoffman is the Public Affairs Specialist for ND, SD and Western MN. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 4207 Boulder Ridge Road, Ste. 100, Bismarck ND 58503 or via email at patty.hoffman@ssa.gov.



Fourth Graders take first at Webster

The fourth grade girls' basketball team took first place at the Webster Tournament held Saturday. Pictured in back, left to right, are Coach Mike Imrie, Leah Jones, Kelly Tracy, Avery Crank, Brenna Imrie, Emerlee Jones and Coach Jason Warrington; in front, left to right, are Addison Hoffman, McKenna Tietz, Hailey Pauli, Teagan Hanten and Ashlynn Warrington. (Photo

by Dawn Imrie)

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Today in Weather History

October 29, 1925: Record cold occurred across the area on this date in 1925. The record lows were 9 at Wheaton, Minnesota, 2 degrees below zero at Watertown, 5 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, 7 degrees below zero southeast of McInstosh, and a frigid late October 19 degrees below zero at Kennebec.

1693: From the Royal Society of London: "There happened a most violent storm in Virginia which stopped the course of ancient channels and made some where there never were any." Known as the Accomack Storm, this event likely caused changes to the Delmarva shoreline, and coastal inlets.

1917 - The temperature at Denver, CO, dipped to zero, and at Soda Butte, WY, the mercury plunged to 33 degrees below zero, a U.S. record for the month of October. (David Ludlum)

1942 - A tornado struck the town of Berryville in northwest Arkansas killing 20 persons and causing half a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1948: An historic smog event occurred in the town of Donora, Pennsylvania. The smog killed 20 people and sickened 7,000 more.

1956 - A violent tornado, or series of tornadoes, moved along a path more than 100 miles in length from south of North Platte NE into Rock County NE. It was an unusually late occurrence so far north and west in the U.S. for such a storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Arizona produced wind gusts to 86 mph at the Glendale Airport near Phoenix, baseball size hail and 70 mph winds at Wickenburg, and up to an inch of rain in fifteen minutes in Yavapai County and northwest Maricopa County. Arizona Public Service alone reported 2.5 million dollars damage from the storms. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Wintry weather prevailed in the Upper Midwest. South Bend, IN, equalled their record for October with a morning low of 23 degrees. International Falls MN reported a record low of 11 degrees in the morning, then dipped down to 8 degrees above zero late in the evening. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in Oklahoma and north central Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced weak tornadoes near Snyder and Davidson, and produced hail two inches in diameter at Altus. Large hail damaged 60 to 80 percent of the cotton crop in Tillman County OK. Nine cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s. For Marquette MI it marked their fifth straight day of record warmth. Arctic cold invaded the western U.S. Lows of 7 degrees at Alamosa CO and 9 degrees at Elko NV were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

2011 - New York City received one inch of snow, the earliest they had received that much snow since records began. It was also only the fourth times since the Civil War snow had fallen in New York City in October. The storm also left over three million people without power including 62% of the customers of Connecticut Light and Power.

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Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 59 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 36 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 56 °F

Tuesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 32 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 51 °F

Mild Again Today.
A Few Showers Possible Across the Far North.

Highs Mid 50s to Mid 60s

A photograph of several pumpkins of various colors (orange, green, and white) resting on a bed of straw. The background is a blurred outdoor scene.

 National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 10/29/2018 5:09 AM Central

Published on: 10/29/2018 at 5:20AM

Mild conditions can be expected across the area once again today. A few light rain showers are possible off and on, mainly across the far northern part of the area.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 56 °F at 3:12 PM

Low Outside Temp: 31 °F at 8:49 AM

High Gust: 22 mph at 1:09 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 79° in 1937

Record Low: -5° in 1925

Average High: 51°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.86

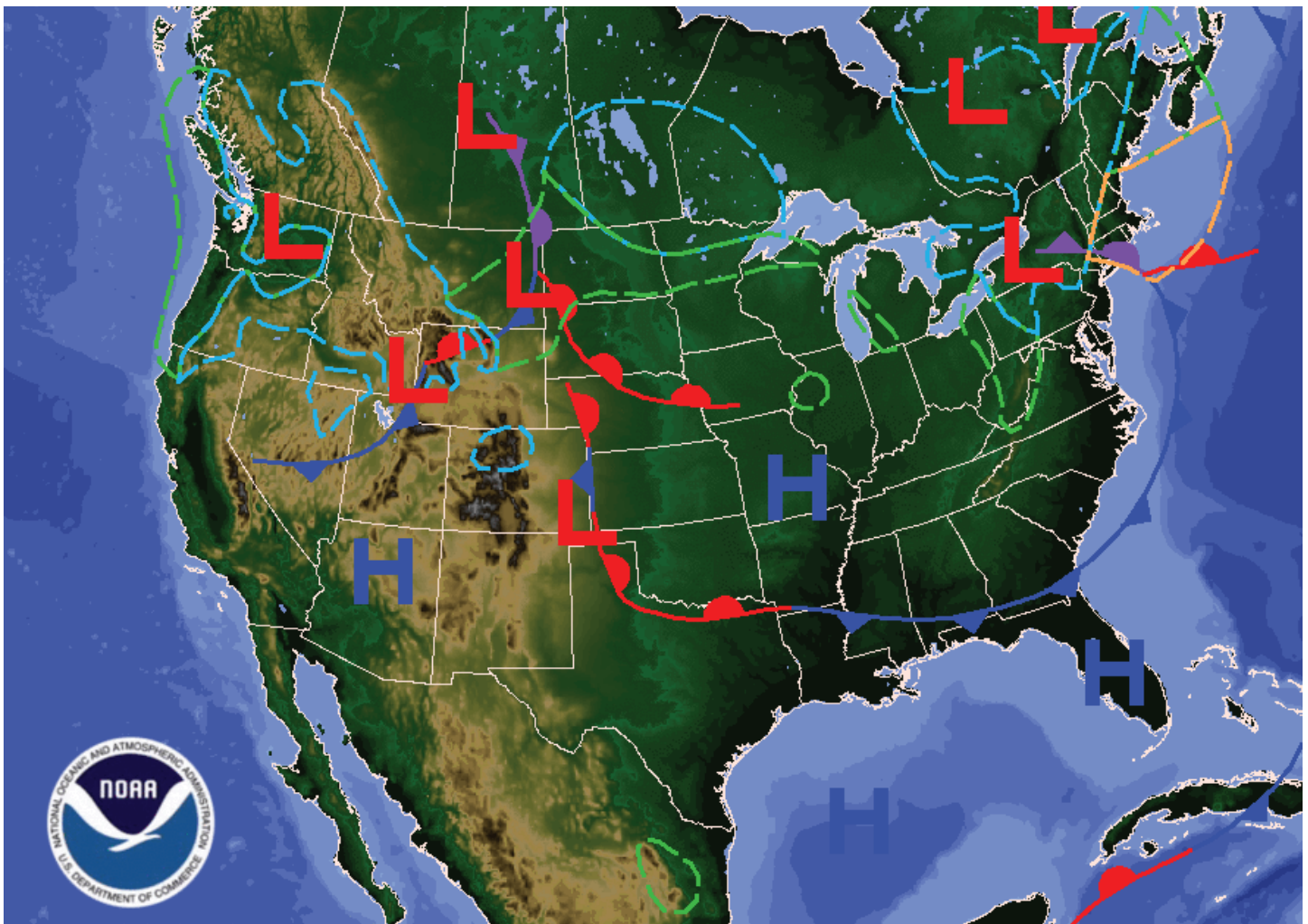
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.44

Average Precip to date: 20.34

Precip Year to Date: 15.05

Sunset Tonight: 6:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:10 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Oct 29, 2018, issued 5:06 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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EXCLUDING GOD

Nations, like individuals, are destined to live or die. And both face the same choice: do what is right or do what is wrong. Right choices lead to eternal life and the wrong choices that are not consistent with Gods Word and His teachings, lead to death.

The Bible very clearly, carefully and consistently distinguishes the difference between right and wrong, righteousness and unrighteousness. And this distinction applies to cities as well as to citizens.

Individuals like Abel, Moses, Daniel, and Paul took the right way. Men like Cain, Pharaoh, Herod, and Judas took the wrong way.

Cities like Sodom and Gomorrah took the wrong way and perished. And the international graveyards of Ancient Rome, Babylon, Media, Persia, and Ancient Greece also provide historical proof of the fact that: Righteousness exalts a nation, and sin is a reproach to any people.

The desolation, destruction, and death of cities and nations are recorded in the pages of history. The evidence provided by archeologists to prove this fact is powerful and plentiful. Yet, many refuse to see and acknowledge the hand of God and the lessons from God that He has planted in the sands of time.

However, to deny a fact will not make it go away nor will ignoring it excuse any person, city or nation from its consequences. Punishment for sin is awaiting those who refuse to accept the love, mercy, and grace of God. But those who trust in and live for Him will be saved.

Prayer: Father, whether we like it or not, accept it or not, believe it or not, we will be judged by Your Word. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 9:17 Righteousness exalts a nation, and sin is a reproach to any people.

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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

Tour seeks paranormal experience in Deadwood's Adams House

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, Rapid City Journal

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — The snow falling on the roads on a recent Saturday evening didn't scare off Matt Phelps, who drove with family for two hours from Kyle to Deadwood for the paranormal investigation at the Adams House.

"I bought these tickets in August," said Phelps, who stood in the visitor center adjacent the Victorian mansion off Sherman Street, warming himself. "Does the weather bring out the ghosts?"

"We'll find out," said Maurice "Mo" Miller, lead investigator of Black Hills Paranormal Investigations.

Ghost-hunting is serious business in historic Deadwood. A few years ago, the Travel Channel series "Ghost Adventures" descended on the Bullock Hotel and the Fairmont Hotel with gadgets and night-vision cameras. They even re-enacted the shooting of Wild Bill Hickok. But don't get the team of Black Hills Paranormal, which runs the Adams House haunting hunts this October, started on cable television ghost-hunters.

"They blow things way out of proportion," said case manager Scott Remboldt, who stood in the doorway prior to the sold-out investigation. "None of us have ever been possessed."

"Never say never," said Phelps' girlfriend, Tony.

For two weekends this October, four times a night, approximately 30 amateur paranormal investigators split into two groups and entered the Adams House, the Rapid City Journal reported. Rose Spiers, communications director for Deadwood History Inc., accompanies the groups as well to set the historical scene.

The Queen Anne home was the culmination of the empire of W.E. Adams, a grocery store magnate and multiple-term mayor of Deadwood. Dumbwaiters, oaken smoking rooms for the gentleman, stained-glass windows and heavy drapes became part of the tour.

"Are those curtains moving?" asked an unnerved participant, as Miller's group entered the dining room.

"Possibly," Miller said. "Someone likely brushed past them, though. It's our job to debunk things."

His voice recorder on, Miller prompted the crowd to supernatural solicitations.

"It may feel weird to speak into thin air," he said.

"Are you intimidated when the house is full of guests?"

No (audible) response.

Another woman asked, "Do you like using that light?"

"Yes, we do," answered Dani Jo Butler, a psychic medium.

But Miller interrupted. "I think she was asking the air."

The air, the spirits, the lingering presence. It can be confusing at first. But for 90 minutes, the tours cycle through the downstairs and upstairs, often with the paranormal investigators — "the professionals" as Miller reminds people — directing people toward common "hot spots." A corridor. Steps to the attic, where a fire once burst out. The wallpaper.

Phelps' sister-in-law ran the EVP reader, like a digital price-checker that reads electricity levels, over the table as the lights flickered.

"That's likely the boiler underneath the floor," Butler said.

Heads nodded, and the dozen or so people shuffle into the next room.

This Halloween season, the public is welcome to ghost tours at the Fairmont and the Bullock. There's also a haunted house in Keystone. In its sixth year, tours with the Adams House cost \$35 (and includes a complimentary black T-shirt). Spiers tells the group no one's ever been injured or demonically possessed, though a photographer with a local television crew had to repeatedly make the sign-of-the-cross as he entered the local room. Miller warned every one of shadow figures on the wallpaper.

"Has anyone passed here?" asked Phelps, as the group entered the fireplace lounge.

"Yes, Mr. Adams was in bed for nine days before passing," Spiers said.

In an adjacent room, some guests inspected the sheet music still on the stand for the ghosts to ac-

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company each other.

Floorboards creaked. A ParaScope — multi-colored tubes in a circle that reads static electricity — briefly blinks up blue.

"Knock if you are with us," Butler said.

Quietly, there's what sounds like a knock on a wall. The room excitedly lights up.

"No, I think that's the tour group upstairs," said Miller, who gets used to being a kill-joy.

Before the tour, there were a number of ground rules provided. No whispering, which can confuse the investigators' "slam EVP sessions." No cellphones (save for a reporter's for note taking). And lastly, no one would be dressed up like zombies.

"If you hear anything, see anything, feel anything, or smell anything," said Miller, "let us know."

Upstairs, in Adams' bedroom, Mary Ellis Potts of Rapid City did just that, interrupting Spiers' talk.

"Oh my gosh," said Potts. "Something just slid my earring off."

She held up her earring

Murmurs rippled through the group.

Ghosts usually aren't malicious to humans, the investigators maintained — just occasionally playful. Later, seated near the bed, Potts feels a dark energy near the bed.

"I was going to tell you that Mr. Adams is standing there," Butler said. "But you've figured that out already."

In Mr. Adams' study, spooky sightings now building, an ordinary Maglite flashlight that has been rigged up to respond to the feather-light nudge of a ghost's presence was set on the mantel overlooking Adams' desk, while Spiers gathered onlookers around the desk. Then, without warning, the flashlight inexplicably turned on.

A wave of excitement passed once again over the group.

"Wow, cool!" exclaimed Spiers. "I've been doing this for years, and only once before has this flashlight turned on."

When the light turned off, Butler asked, "How many spirits are here with us? One, tw — "

At "one," the flashlight turned back on and off.

"Thank you," Butler replied, calmly, complimenting the tricks of the ghost like a trainer at SeaWorld might pat an Orca on the beak after raising its fin. "It's nice having you here, Mr. Adams."

The tour is not ghoulish, spine-tingling (though one woman is escorted out), or filled with stunts. It's just plenty of talking, few lights, and the heightened perceptions of strangers standing in a room waiting for the slightest sign.

"Have you ever tried singing them a song?" asked Phelps. "Could we whistle?"

There's silence, and then a participant softly whistled.

"No whispering or whistling!" Miller said. "That throws off the investigation."

And with no more noises (and a long line outside for the next tour), the group made its way back down the stairs and outside. Standing outside, bundling up with coats, snow still falling, Potts stood with a man near her.

"I've never been, but I'd sure go back," she said.

"Things happen to you like that all the time," the man said.

"Oh stop," Potts said.

The two held onto each other, as they slowly walked down the icy sidewalk. Nearby, the wipers on the Phelps' windshield pushed away the slurry, as the frightening prospect of returning home on the roads, eerily came into the foreground.

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

South Dakota prison job fair aims to reduce recidivism

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF, The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

SPRINGFIELD, S.D. (AP) — As Mike Durfee State Prison inmates, Chad Elkins and Lucas Thaelke know they'll be looking for a job after their release.

But on a recent Monday, the employers and jobs came looking for them.

Around 325 inmates met with 15 employers at the medium-security prison's job fair, according to MDSP workforce development instructor Monica Wepking.

"This is part of a pilot program aimed at reducing recidivism," she said, referring to the rate of inmates who return to the prison.

The inmates were taking advantage of the job opportunities and their new life after prison.

Thaelke plans to return to his hometown of Sioux Falls after his release.

"I have a support system and family back there," he said. "I do have some family in Arizona, but I think it's easier to stay here and get a job in welding."

On the other hand, Elkins doesn't plan to return to Rapid City. Instead, he and his wife plan to reside in Yankton.

"I want a new environment," he said. "I want a good job that pays well and a career worth pursuing."

Both men have completed the MDSP welding program. Thaelke has received American Welding Society (AWS) certification, while Elkins can receive the certification shortly after his release, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

The two inmates expressed optimism about their job prospects after attending the career fair. They were handed applications, and the starting hourly wages ran in the \$18-21 range.

"They (employers) greeted us with open arms," Elkins said of the enthusiastic welcome provided by the job fair participants.

The job fair marked the second such event for the prison. MDSP hosted its initial fair last April, and its success led to the Oct. 15 event.

Thaelke noted this job fair has come closer to his release date, adding to its importance for his future.

"I could be out in January, which is only three months away," he said. "I'm getting more applications and more attention."

For Thaelke, getting a job ahead of his release would be more than a relief. It would provide him with an important springboard for securing all the other things he will need on the outside, such as housing.

"I want to get a job and make as much money as I can," he said.

A job on the outside provides a powerful tool in avoiding a return to prison, Elkins said.

"A lot of people get out of prison, and they end up on the streets," he said. "They come back to prison because they can't find a job. Without a job, you're set up to fail."

Thaelke was already filling out applications at the recent fair.

"I had one business tell me that, if I get out January 28, to give them a call," he said. "That's a huge confidence builder."

In turn, Thaelke encouraged others to have confidence in the inmates.

"We've made mistakes, but we've learned from those mistakes," he said. "Don't judge us on our past. Give us a chance, and you may find we are some of the best and hardest-working employees you've got."

Wepking said she was pleased with the turnout of both inmates and businesses. The numbers were consistent with the first job fair last April, which was attended by 18 businesses.

"Most of the inmates attending (the recent) job fair were within 30 days of release," she said. "They were required to sign up ahead of time for the fair and were divided into three shifts of about 45 minutes each."

At one table, Masaba human resources manager Wendy Sommervold spoke excitedly about her experience at the job fair. For her, the event provided an opportunity to fill slots at the Vermillion business, which produces mining equipment, among other things.

Many businesses are facing a workforce shortage, and the inmates can provide valuable skilled workers, she noted.

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"This is my first time at the job fair, and the reception I received (from the inmates) has been wonderful," she said. "The inmates seemed very eager and interested in our positions. They were so engaged and asked a lot of questions about the jobs, the wages, the people and the environment."

How serious was Sommervold about hiring inmates upon their release?

"You be sure to call us!" she shouted out to one departing inmate, who flashed a smile and held up the company's materials and application forms.

The recent job fair tied in with the prison's vocational programs, according to MDSP associate wardens Alex Reyes and Rebecca Schieffer.

Reyes noted the job fairs are geared toward prisoners nearing their release date, but other inmates are allowed to participate if they are part of the vocational programs.

"We like to give them the opportunity (to interview) after they have earned their certificate in programs like construction technology, welding and automotive," he said. "When we send out the notice (about the job fair), we let the employers know what skill sets the inmates have (achieved)."

The job fair provides inmates with an important connection to employers for life outside of prison, Reyes said.

"It's an incredibly important part of our goal of getting them back into society," he said. "We provide programming and education to rehabilitate the inmates. This job fair gives them extra (resources) to get them acquainted with the outside — the society they will be joining and a workforce that will be a very important part of their lives."

Schieffer pointed to the "soft skills" that inmates acquire by attending the fair.

"You have guys with limited job experience, and this (fair) provides valuable interview skills," she said. "The more you can interview, the better you can get at it."

In addition, the inmates receive assistance with creating resumes and filling out job applications, Schieffer said.

In that respect, the job fair was for real, she added.

"This is not a mock exercise," she said. "Some of these (inmates) can be hired. These employers are looking to hire. If something works out and inmates can get a job, it's the best thing we can do."

Schieffer admitted MDSP officials weren't sure what to expect when they launched the job fairs.

"The first one was a little uncharted territory. We didn't know if we would have a good turnout of employers at the fair, and we did. We didn't know for sure if the inmates were willing to participate, but we had a lot of them," she said.

Some new employers showed up at the recent job fair, Schieffer said.

"The word is getting around. Monica (Wepking) gets a healthy number of different employers, not just from Yankton but from places like Huron and Sioux Falls," she said. "We have a wide variety of businesses, and we also have the Department of Labor and the Veterans Administration."

Schieffer thinks the number of participants can grow even more for future job fairs.

"That's true especially if we can get more employers from a wider distance," she said. "If an inmate plans to go to Rapid City after his release and there aren't any Rapid City employers here (at the job fair), why would that inmate attend? But if you have a good variety of employers, I think it might help with getting more inmates to attend the job fair and apply for jobs."

Thoelke saw the job fair as an encouraging sign for inmates.

"When you're close to getting out (of prison), you're nervous about whether you are going to find a job. Being a felon can make it that much harder," he said. "But then you have all these businesses show up and give us applications. They also gave us words of hope and encouragement, telling us that we can contact them when we get out and we're almost guaranteed an interview."

Elkins offers a word of thanks to MDSP for the vocational training and job fair. Inmates completing the programs can receive a reduction in their sentences, he added.

"This gives us a goal when we get out of prison," he said. "It shows we can make something of ourselves rather than go down the same road as before."

___ Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

South Dakota to carry out first execution since 2012

By **DAVE KOLPACK** and **JAMES NORD**, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man who killed a South Dakota prison guard in a failed escape seven years ago is scheduled to be executed Monday after dropping his death penalty appeal.

Rodney Berget, 56, will be put to death for the 2011 slaying of Ronald "R.J." Johnson, who was beaten with a pipe and had his head covered in plastic wrap at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. It will be the state's first execution since 2012 and just its fourth since reinstating the death penalty in the late 1970s.

Berget admitted to his role in the slaying. He and inmate Eric Robert attacked Johnson on April 12, 2011 — Johnson's 63rd birthday — in a part of the penitentiary known as Pheasantland Industries, 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 through one gate but were stopped by another guard before they could complete their escape through a second gate.

Robert was executed on Oct. 15, 2012. The last execution in South Dakota was on Oct. 30, 2012.

Berget's mental status and death penalty eligibility slowed his case. Berget in 2016 appealed his death sentence, but later asked to withdraw the appeal against his lawyers' advice. Berget wrote to a judge saying he thought the death penalty eventually would be overturned and that he couldn't imagine spending "another 30 years in a cage doing a life sentence."

On Friday, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said he had no plans to block the execution. The state Supreme Court rejected one challenge to the state's method of execution, but a second was pending that argued Berget lacks intellectual capacity to be executed.

Johnson's family plans to witness the execution, which is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

His widow, Lynette 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.

"He was so kind," she told the Argus Leader. "He didn't have a bad word to say about anybody."

Lynette Johnson said she was nervous about the execution, worried that Berget might try to escape. She said his death may bring a sense of security.

The Department of Corrections has said it plans to use a single drug. Its policy calls for either sodium thiopental or pentobarbital. Pentobarbital was used in its last two executions.

South Dakota has not had issues with obtaining the drugs it needs, as some other states have, perhaps because the state shrouds some details in secrecy. Lawmakers in 2013 approved hiding the identities of its suppliers.

After the execution, witnesses and others will meet with media at a guard training academy on prison grounds that was named for Johnson. It was dedicated one year after his death.

Berget will be the second member of his family to be executed. His older brother, Roger, was executed in Oklahoma in 2000 for killing a man to steal his car.

Dennis Davis, director of South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, said a prayer vigil is planned outside the prison on Monday.

"We think we are better than this and we hope that some day we can get it abolished," Davis said of the death penalty.

Brown County seeks state's help to resolve payroll issues

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A county in northern South Dakota has enlisted the state Department of Legislative Audit to help resolve problems with its payroll and benefits system that have resulted in more than \$9,000 in penalties over the past month.

Brown County Commission Chairman Doug Fjeldheim told the Aberdeen American News that the county had to pay fees to the Internal Revenue Service and the South Dakota Retirement System for late pay-

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ments and missing payroll reports. He said it's unclear what went wrong.

Commissioners approved the payment of more than \$4,100 in late fees to the retirement system earlier this month, and another penalty payment has been approved since.

"Basically, what it all stems from is we're trying to outsource our payroll, but the issues started a little before that," Fjeldheim said.

The county approved a contract last summer with RAM Housing Specialists, Inc. to handle its payroll. The contract outlined that the county would pay RAM about \$10,226 for the first two years of providing services such as biweekly payroll, quarterly reports, state unemployment reports, tax deposits and annual W-2s, according to Gary Vetter, county human resources director.

"Our intent was to save about \$25,000 by outsourcing our payroll, now we're not going to save as much with these penalties," Fjeldheim said.

He said the issues resulted in some workers not receiving sick leave or vacation, as well as lack of reporting. But Fjeldheim said the county has since sorted out the issues, and the same problems shouldn't persist in the next pay period.

The county is seeking the state's help to determine who is responsible for the problems.

"It is taxpayers' dollars and we want to be transparent about this," Fjeldheim said.

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

Deadwood to proceed with downtown project after \$1.7 boost

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Deadwood can begin construction on its long-planned downtown square project after receiving a final \$1.7 million funding boost from the state of South Dakota.

Deadwood-Lead Economic Development Corp. announced that the state has contributed a total \$2 million in funding, the Rapid City Journal reported. The state's \$1.7 million awarded this month is in addition to a \$300,000 pledge made last August.

The state funding is matched dollar-for-dollar in a 2017 pledge from the Deadwood Historical Preservation Commission.

The economic development group said the public square's construction can now start in April 2019, as planned. It's scheduled for completion by Labor Day of next year.

The new Deadwood square will be built at the corner of Main and Deadwood Streets as a space to host concerts and other community events. The project was developed in partnership with the DLEDC, the City of Deadwood, Deadwood Main Street Initiative and the historical preservation commission.

"The Public Gathering Space has been something our committee has been working on for over two years now," said Bill Pearson, chairman of the Main Street Initiative group. "It has taken the hard work of the entire group, along with the help of our partners, to make where we are today closer to reality."

Deadwood's interim Mayor David Ruth Jr. said the final state funds came at the perfect time.

"We are able to stay on that timeline now and the city is excited to get this project underway for residents of our great community and also our visitors," Ruth said.

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

Indonesia says survivors unlikely from Lion Air plane crash

By **ACHMAD IBRAHIM** and **STEPHEN WRIGHT**, Associated Press

KARAWANG, Indonesia (AP) — A Lion Air plane crashed into the sea just minutes after taking off from Indonesia's capital on Monday, likely killing all 189 people on board, in a blow to the country's aviation safety record after the lifting of bans on its airlines by the European Union and U.S.

The national search and rescue agency said human remains have been recovered from the crash area. Its director of operations, Bambang Suryo Aji, told a news conference the search effort is focusing on finding bodies, and survivors are not expected.

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More than 300 people including soldiers, police and local fishermen were involved in the search that has also recovered ID cards, personal belongings and aircraft debris. At least a dozen ambulances were parked at a nearby beach.

Indonesia's disaster agency posted photos online of a crushed smartphone, books, bags and parts of the aircraft fuselage that had been collected by search and rescue vessels.

President Joko Widodo ordered the transport safety commission to investigate and urged Indonesians to "keep on praying" as rescuers search for victims.

An air transport official, Novie Riyanto, said the flight was cleared to return to Jakarta after the pilot made a "return to base" request two to three minutes after taking off. It plunged into the sea about 10 minutes later. Weather conditions were normal but the brand new aircraft had experienced a technical issue on its previous flight.

Lion Air said the jet, on a 1 hour and 10 minute flight to Pangkal Pinang on an island chain off Sumatra, was carrying 181 passengers, including one child and two babies, and eight crew members.

It said there were two foreigners on board the plane: its pilot, originally from New Delhi, and an Italian citizen.

Distraught friends and relatives prayed and hugged each other as they waited at Pangkal Pinang's airport and at a crisis center set up at Jakarta's airport. Indonesian TV broadcast pictures of a fuel slick and debris field in the ocean.

At the search agency's headquarters in Jakarta, family members arrived, hoping desperately for news.

Feni, who uses a single name, said her soon to be married sister was on the flight, planning to meet relatives in Pangkal Pinang.

"We are here to find any information about my younger sister, her fiance, her in-law to be and a friend of them," said Feni.

"We don't have any information," she said, as her father wiped tears from reddened eyes. "No one provided us with any information that we need. We're confused. We hope that our family is still alive."

Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani also arrived at the agency and met with its chief, seeking information about 20 ministry staff who were on the flight after attending a ministry event in Jakarta. Photos circulating online showed the distraught minister trying to comfort stunned colleagues.

The search and rescue agency said the flight ended in waters off West Java that are 30 to 35 meters (98 to 115 feet) deep.

The agency's chief, Muhammad Syaugi, told a news conference that divers are trying to locate the wreckage.

Weather conditions for the flight were safe, according to the Indonesian meteorology agency. It said the type of clouds associated with turbulence was not present and winds were weak.

The Boeing 737 Max 8 was delivered to Lion Air in mid-August and put in use within days, according to aviation website Flightradar24. Malindo Air, a Malaysian subsidiary of Jakarta-based Lion Air, was the first airline to begin using the 737 Max 8 last year. The Max 8 replaced the similar 800 in the Chicago-based plane maker's product line.

Lion Air president-director Edward Sirait said the plane had a "technical problem" on its previous flight from Bali to Jakarta but it had been fully remedied. He didn't know specifics of the problem when asked in a TV interview. The pilot of Flight 610 had more than 6,000 flying hours while the co-pilot had more than 5,000 hours, according to the airline.

"Indeed there were reports about a technical problem, and the technical problem has been resolved in accordance with the procedures released by the plane manufacturer," he said. "I did not know exactly but let it be investigated by the authorities."

Boeing Co. said it was "deeply saddened" by the crash and was prepared to provide technical assistance to Indonesia's crash probe.

In a statement, the Chicago-based manufacturer expressed its concern for the 189 people onboard and offered "heartfelt sympathies to their families and loved ones."

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The Transport Ministry said the plane took off from Jakarta at about 6:20 a.m. and crashed just 13 minutes later. Data from FlightAware showed it had reached an altitude of only 5,200 feet (1,580 meters).

The crash is the worst airline disaster in Indonesia since an AirAsia flight from Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the sea in December 2014, killing all 162 on board.

Indonesian airlines were barred in 2007 from flying to Europe because of safety concerns, though several were allowed to resume services in the following decade. The ban was completely lifted in June this year. The U.S. lifted a decadelong ban in 2016.

Lion Air, a discount carrier, is one of Indonesia's youngest and biggest airlines, flying to dozens of domestic and international destinations.

In 2013, one of its Boeing 737-800 jets missed the runway while landing on Bali, crashing into the sea without causing any fatalities among the 108 people on board.

Wright reported from Jakarta. AP writers Niniek Karmini and Ali Kotarumalos in Jakarta contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. 'HE DIDN'T SEE US, THANK GOD'

A survivor of the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre describes how the gunman entered a darkened supply closet he and other terrorized worshippers were hiding in.

2. POLITICS PRESSES ON AMID ELECTION-SEASON TRAGEDY

A divisive midterm campaign barrels on through a wave of election season violence, raising questions about whether America has grown numb to such tragedies.

3. PASSENGER JET CRASHES IN INDONESIA

No survivors are expected after a Lion Air plane with 189 on board crashes shortly after takeoff. Officials say human remains have been recovered, but the exact location of crash is not immediately known.

4. BRAZIL ELECTS FAR-RIGHT PRESIDENT

Jair Bolsonaro promises to defend the constitution and unite a bitterly divided populace, while rights groups warn against a rollback of civil liberties.

5. US ELECTION INTEGRITY DEPENDS ON SECURITY-CHALLENGED FIRMS

Experts say the companies have long skimmed on security in favor of convenience, making it difficult to detect intrusions or tampering.

6. RED SOX NOW DYNASTIC

Boston wins their fourth World Series championship in 15 seasons, as MVP Steve Pearce powers the Red Sox past the Dodgers in five games.

7. FBI HAD PLENTY OF CLUES ON PIPE BOMB SUSPECT

Federal authorities uncovered bomb suspect Cesar Sayoc's ID with DNA, fingerprint clues soon after the explosives surfaced.

8. RUSSIAN HELD AS AGENT STUDIED US GROUPS' CYBERDEFENSES

Maria Butina, accused of being a secret agent by the U.S., worked on a college assignment that called for her to gather information on the cyberdefenses of U.S. nonprofits that champion media freedom and human rights, AP learns.

9. WHAT DEMOCRATS VOW IF THEY WIN HOUSE

To prioritize anti-discrimination legislation that would establish equal rights protections for LGBTQ individuals.

10. NORTH KOREA EYING SWISS, SINGAPOREAN-STYLE SUCCESS

Kim Jong Un is exploring a grand plan to become a regional transportation hub and would be open to joining world financial institutions such as the IMF, AP finds.

Brazil elects far-right president, worrying rights groups

By SARAH DiLORENZO, PETER PRENGAMAN and MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — In some of his first words to the nation as president-elect, far-right politician Jair Bolsonaro promised to defend the constitution and unite a bitterly divided populace.

His left-wing rival immediately vowed to mount a vigorous opposition, while rights groups warned against a rollback of civil liberties.

That juxtaposition underscored the reality that the end of the election was not the end of acrimony and that myriad challenges lay ahead for Latin America's largest nation.

Bolsonaro appeared to try to allay those concerns Sunday night, saying he would "pacify" Brazil following a race that revealed deep divisions and was repeatedly marred by violence. The candidate himself was stabbed and almost died while campaigning in early September, and there were numerous reports of politically motivated violence, especially directed at gay people.

"This country belongs to all of us, Brazilians by birth or by heart, a Brazil of diverse opinions, colors and orientations," he said, reading off a sheet of paper in a live television address.

His victory moved Brazil, the world's fourth-largest democracy, sharply to the right after four consecutive elections in which candidates from the left-leaning Workers' Party won.

Like other right-leaning leaders who have risen to power around the globe, Bolsonaro built his popularity on a mixture of tough talk and hardline positions. And, like many, he is sure to face stiff pushback from groups concerned that his strong views will lead to policies that threaten democratic institutions.

Bolsonaro spent much of the campaign exploiting divisions, taking to Twitter to lambaste the rival Workers' Party as unethical and dangerous. In recent weeks, Brazilians were bombarded with WhatsApp messages that condemned Workers' Party candidate Fernando Haddad, often making outrageous claims.

Ultimately, Bolsonaro's messages resonated with Brazilians hungry for change: He got just over 55 percent of the votes Sunday, compared to right under 45 percent for Haddad.

Haddad promised a fight while saying he would respect the country's institutions.

"We have the responsibility to mount an opposition, putting national interests, the interests of the entire Brazilian people, above everything," Haddad said in a speech to supporters. "Brazil has possibly never needed the exercise of citizenship more than right now."

In a sign of how tense the race got, Haddad did not congratulate Bolsonaro, whom he had accused of spreading lies about him and his family.

Amid the celebrations by Bolsonaro's supporters, there were also reports of some clashes between his backers and opponents.

The rise of Bolsonaro, who cast himself as a political outsider despite a largely lackluster 27-year career in Congress, parallels the emergence of hard-right leaders in many countries. But his extreme messages were rendered more palatable by a perfect storm in Brazil: widespread anger at the political class after years of corruption, an economy that has struggled to recover from a punishing recession and a surge in violence.

In particular, many Brazilians were furious with the Workers' Party for its role in the graft scheme revealed by the "Operation Car Wash" investigation, which uncovered billions of dollars in bribes paid to politicians via inflated construction contracts.

Haddad struggled to build momentum with his promises of a return to the boom times by investing in health and education and reducing poverty. It didn't help that the man who appointed Haddad as the party's candidate, former President Luiz Inacio da Silva, is serving a 12-year sentence for a corruption conviction.

Bolsonaro's candidacy raised serious concerns that he would roll back civil rights and weaken institutions in what remains a young democracy. He has frequently disparaged women, gays and blacks, and said he would name military men to his Cabinet.

Within minutes of his victory being declared, international civil rights groups expressed concerns. Human Rights Watch called on Brazil's judiciary and other institutions to "resist any attempt to undermine human rights, the rule of law and democracy under Jair Bolsonaro's government."

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Steve Schwartzman of the Environmental Defense Fund warned that Bolsonaro's promises about the environment would be "dangerous to the planet."

Bolsonaro has repeatedly said he would pull Brazil from the Paris agreement on climate change, though last week he backed off on that. He has also promised to cut environmental regulations and make Brazil friendlier to international investors.

The past few years in Brazil have been exceptionally turbulent. In 2016, then-President Dilma Rousseff of the Workers' Party was impeached and removed from office on charges that many on the left felt were politically motivated. The economy suffered a two-year recession and is only now beginning to emerge, with growth stagnant and unemployment high.

Dozens of politicians and executives have been jailed in the corruption investigation.

Many observers had predicted a newcomer would emerge to harness the anti-establishment anger. Instead, support coalesced around Bolsonaro, who at the margins in Congress painted himself as just the strong man Brazil needed to dismantle a failing system.

Bolsonaro has promised to crack down on violent crime and drastically reduce the size of Brazil's state. But many of the details of his positions remain unclear since he has largely conducted his campaign via blasts on social media. After he was stabbed, he declined to debate Haddad and gave interviews only to largely friendly media who rarely asked tough questions.

"Tomorrow we start a new country," said Mario Marcondes, a 61-year-old pilot who gathered with other supporters outside Bolsonaro's house. "This was like a soccer game, a dispute that is over. Now we will all know to unite."

Associated Press writer Prengaman reported this story from Rio de Janeiro and AP writers Sarah DiLorenzo and Mauricio Savarese reported in Sao Paulo. Associated Press reporter Marcelo Silva de Sousa also contributed to this report.

'Walk to heaven': Shiite pilgrims trek to Iraq's Karbala

By PHILIP ISSA and HADI MIZBAN, Associated Press

KARBALA, Iraq (AP) — Millions of Shiite Muslims from around the world are making their way this week to their sect's holy shrines in the Iraqi city of Karbala, a pilgrimage that is as much about community as it is about religion.

The shrines are of two revered Shiite imams: Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, and his half-brother Abbas. The annual commemoration, called Arbaeen, draws more pilgrims each year — according to Iraqi figures — than the hajj in Saudi Arabia, a pilgrimage required once in a lifetime of every Muslim who can afford it and is physically able to make it.

Pilgrims stream toward Karbala on foot from the cities of Najaf, 70 kilometers (45 miles) away, Baghdad, 90 kilometers (55 miles) to the north, and other places farther afield, resting along the way in tents lined with foam mattresses and fleece blankets.

"Our fathers and our grandfathers walked to Karbala, and God willing, our children will, too," said Karrad Karim, a 24-year-old pilgrim journeying with four friends from Baghdad. They brought with them large flags bearing devotional sayings to the Shiite saints, but little in the way of supplies for the four-day journey.

That's because along the roads, stalls set up by charities, mosques, and devotional groups see to it that no traveler goes hungry. Cooks prepare vast amounts of stewed lamb, grilled fish, fresh bread, and rice for the pilgrims, refusing payment for the meals.

The pilgrimage, known in Arabic as the Ziara, marks the 40th day of mourning of the anniversary of Hussein's 7th century death at the hands of the Muslim Umayyad forces in the Battle of Karbala, during the tumultuous first century of Islam's history.

Hussein was seen by his followers as the rightful heir of the prophet's legacy. When he refused to pledge allegiance to the Umayyad caliphate, he was killed in the battle, cementing the schism between Sunni and Shiite Islam. Hussein's half-brother Abbas was also killed in the battle.

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Modern depictions of Hussein, stitched on banners displayed along the pilgrimage, show him with blood on his brow and bearing a Christ-like countenance.

But the mood is not all somber among the pilgrims. Spirits were high as travelers approached Karbala, and improved further with generous helpings of dates and tea.

"This is a walk to heaven," said Alaa Dadi, 45, who was making his way with his wife and three children.

Sunnis outnumber Shiites by a wide margin among the world's estimated 1.5 billion Muslims, and Shiite rituals are far less known. The hajj is considered one of the five pillars of Islam, and an obligation for all Muslims — Sunni and Shiite. The Ziara is voluntary and holds little significance in Sunni tradition.

In recent years, the Iraqi government says Karbala received 10-20 million visitors during the event, with many Shiite pilgrims coming from Iraq. No figures have yet been released for 2018.

This year's pilgrimage is the first since Iraq's government declared victory over the Islamic State group in January, but the threat of insurgent attacks still lingers. The militant group has deliberately targeted Shiites in Iraq and elsewhere to destabilize the region. Thousands of Iraqi soldiers and special police forces have been deployed to protect the pilgrims along the routes.

Iranian religious affairs official Hussein Zulfighari said 1.7 million Iranians had already crossed into Iraq for the pilgrimage, and predicted the number could reach 2 million by the event's climax on Tuesday. Zulfighari, quoted in Iran's Fars news agency, said the visitors include 50,000 Afghan Shiites living in Iran.

Muhammad Thiqawi, 57, from Iran, said he was initially hesitant about making the journey this year. A month ago, protesters in Iraq's southern city of Basra burned down Iran's Consulate over what they felt was the country's undue influence over Iraqi affairs. Iran, the region's Shiite power, exerts considerable sway over Iraqi politics through its support for Shiite parties and government-backed militias.

But, he said, "the Iraqis hosted us in their homes and welcomed us. They said Iranians are our friends and guests of Hussein." On his child's stroller, he pinned a poster of the two countries' flags.

Ali al-Alizi, 35, traveled from Qatif, a Shiite province in eastern Saudi Arabia that has been the target of repression by the Sunni monarchy.

Lord Maurice Glasman, a Labour peer in Britain's House of Lords who was raised Jewish, said he came at the encouragement of his Iraqi friends to better understand the country that defeated the Islamic State group's insurgency.

"Politically, ethically, spiritually, it has been an extremely elevated visit," said Glasman, who arrived in Karbala on Sunday, after walking several days from Najaf.

The hajj saw 2.4 million pilgrims this year but Saudi authorities regulate the tradition tightly, driving up costs for pilgrims and depriving it of some of the spontaneity seen in the Ziara. For many Muslims who cannot afford to go on the hajj or cannot get the Saudi visa, the Ziara is a satisfying alternative.

"The hajj is required by God, but the Ziara is voluntary," said Sayyid Abdelamir Mousawi, 46. "Those who go do it out of love."

Issa reported from Baghdad. Associated Press writer Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

Harrowing tales emerge from synagogue; suspect due in court

By MARYCLAIRE DALE, CLAUDIA LAUER and ALLEN BREED, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — As Barry Werber walked into the Tree of Life Synagogue, he passed a cart carrying glassware and whiskey meant for the baby-naming ceremony scheduled at Dor Hadash, one of three small congregations that worship there.

He went downstairs, where his New Light Congregation meets, and found only a few people gathered. Melvin Wax, 88, was chatting up front with David Rosenthal, who had intellectual disabilities and spent hours helping out there. Rosenthal soon went upstairs for his own service at Tree of Life.

Two other men, Daniel Stein and Richard Gottfried, were checking on food supplies in the kitchen for the breakfast New Light planned to host.

Minutes later, Werber found himself hiding in a dark storage closet after an anti-Semitic gunman tore

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through the building and opened fire, killing Wax, Rosenthal, Stein, Gottfried and seven others across two floors.

"I don't know why he thinks the Jews are responsible for all the ills in the world, but he's not the first and he won't be the last," Werber, 76, said Sunday. "Unfortunately, that's our burden to bear. It breaks my heart."

Werber's recollection was among the harrowing accounts that emerged from survivors as authorities worked to piece together the background and movements of the suspected gunman, Robert Gregory Bowers.

Bowers opened fire with an AR-15 rifle and other weapons, killing eight men and three women before a tactical police team tracked him down and shot him, according to state and federal affidavits made public on Sunday.

He apparently posted an anti-Semitic message on a social media account linked to him just a few minutes before he opened fire. He expressed hatred of Jews during the rampage and later told police that "I just want to kill Jews" and that "all these Jews need to die," authorities said. The Anti-Defamation League called it the deadliest U.S. attack on Jews.

Six people were injured, including four officers.

Bowers, who underwent surgery and remained hospitalized, is scheduled to appear in court Monday. It isn't clear whether he has an attorney to speak on his behalf. A message left with the federal public defender's office in Pittsburgh wasn't returned.

All three congregations were conducting Sabbath services when the attack began just before 10 a.m. Saturday in the tree-lined residential neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, about 10 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh and the hub of the city's Jewish community.

Speaking at a vigil in Pittsburgh on Sunday night, Tree of Life Rabbi Jeffrey Myers said about a dozen people had gathered in the main sanctuary when Bowers walked in and began shooting. Seven of his congregants were killed, he said.

"My holy place has been defiled," he said.

In the basement, four members of New Light were just starting to pray — with the two others in the kitchen — when they heard crashing coming from upstairs, looked out the door and saw a body on the staircase, Werber recalled Sunday in an interview at his home.

Rabbi Jonathan Perlman closed the door and pushed them into a large supply closet, he said. As gunshots echoed upstairs, Werber called 911 but was afraid to say anything, for fear of making any noise.

When the shots subsided, he said, Wax opened the door, only to be shot and fall back inside.

"There were three shots, and he falls back into the room where we were," he said. "The gunman walks in."

Apparently unable to see Werber and the other congregants in the darkness, Bowers walked back out.

Werber called the gunman "a maniac" and "a person who has no control of his baser instincts."

Perlman, who also spoke at the vigil Sunday night, said New Light lost three congregants.

"These three men, they cannot be replaced," said Perlman, his voice breaking. "But we will not be broken. We will not be ruined."

Officials released the names of all 11 of the dead, including Rosenthal and his brother, and a husband and wife. The youngest was 54, the oldest 97. The toll included professors, dentists and physicians.

Cecil Rosenthal, 59, and David Rosenthal, 54, were intellectually disabled and lived together near the synagogue.

"Cecil's laugh was infectious. David was so kind and had such a gentle spirit. Together, they looked out for one another. They were inseparable," said Chris Schopf, vice president of residential supports for ACHIEVA, which helped the brothers live independently. "Most of all, they were kind, good people with a strong faith and respect for everyone around."

Bowers shot his victims with an AR-15, used in many of the nation's mass shootings, and three handguns, all of which he owned legally and had a license to carry, according to a law enforcement official who wasn't authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation, and who spoke Sunday on the condition of anonymity.

Bowers was a long-haul trucker who worked for himself, U.S. Attorney Scott Brady said Sunday.

Little else was known about the suspect, who had no apparent criminal record. It appears he acted alone, authorities said.

Bowers was charged with 11 state counts of criminal homicide, six counts of aggravated assault and 13 counts of ethnic intimidation. He was also charged in a 29-count federal criminal complaint that included counts of obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs resulting in death — a federal hate crime — and using a firearm to commit murder.

Federal prosecutors intend to pursue the death penalty against Bowers, Brady said.

Of the six survivors, four remained in the hospital Sunday night, and two — including a 40-year-old officer — were in critical condition.

Lauer reported from Philadelphia, and Breed reported from Raleigh, North Carolina. Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Mark Scoloro in Pittsburgh, Michael Balsamo in Washington, Jennifer Peltz in New York and Michael Rubinkam in northeastern Pennsylvania.

For AP's complete coverage of the Pittsburgh synagogue shootings: <https://www.apnews.com/Shootings>

Russian held as agent studied US groups' cyberdefenses

By **DESMOND BUTLER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A year before federal prosecutors accused Maria Butina of operating as a secret agent for the Russian government, she was a graduate student at American University working on a sensitive project involving cybersecurity.

Butina's college assignment called for her to gather information on the cyberdefenses of U.S. nonprofit organizations that champion media freedom and human rights, The Associated Press has learned. It was information that could help the groups plug important vulnerabilities, but also would be of interest to the Russian government.

In fact, the Russians previously had in their sights at least two of the groups that she and other students interacted with.

Butina participated in the project under the tutelage of a respected professor who advised the State Department on cybersecurity matters. It was carried out for the nonprofit group Internews, which works extensively with the U.S. government to bolster the free flow of information in dangerous parts of the world and has drawn Russian ire with some of its programs in Russia and neighboring countries. The group also advises other nonprofits on cybersecurity.

Internews confirmed Butina's involvement and a broad description of what the project involved. A lawyer for Butina did not respond to a request for comment.

Butina's project raised few eyebrows before her July arrest, despite the fact that news reports already had posed questions about her rapid rise from selling furniture in Siberia and her ties with Kremlin officials.

As part of the project, a small group of students led by Butina was given a list of Internews partners working on human rights and press freedom issues for research purposes only, with the understanding that they not be contacted without consultation. But the students contacted some of the groups anyway, according to people involved in the project who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to describe the work.

An individual who has worked on U.S. programs in Ukraine told the AP that after Butina's arrest he was briefed by U.S. officials who expressed concern that two Internews programs in Ukraine — dealing with media freedom and cybersecurity, and funded by the State Department — may have been exposed to Russian intelligence and may be at risk due to Butina's student work.

State Department spokesman Robert Palladino said the department was not involved with the Internews project Butina worked on.

"We have verified that all documents Internews provided to its students were publicly available, and we remain confident in the integrity of the State Department's programs with Internews," he said.

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Kostiantyn Kvurt, who heads a local nonprofit that Internews helped establish, Internews Ukraine, said he was unaware of Butina's project before being informed of it by the AP, but already was wary of potential Russian intelligence interference.

"If they understand how to break our firewalls, they could find our partners," Kvurt said. "People could get detained, tortured, killed."

Internews said the students were never given access to the group's work or systems.

"The selection of the students and their roles and activities in the research was solely determined by AU faculty," spokeswoman Laura Stein Lindamood said. "Internews is currently reviewing our relationship with university-led student projects."

The access that Butina won through her coursework illustrates how academia and the extensive network of entities that often carry out sensitive, but not classified, work for the U.S. government remain national security vulnerabilities.

In this case, all the institutions expected someone else to vet Butina. Internews thought American University stood behind her; the university said it doesn't do background checks and expects the State Department to vet foreign applicants fully before issuing visas.

Prosecutors allege in court documents that attending the university was Butina's "cover" as she cultivated political contacts and ties with the National Rifle Association. They contend she was part of a clandestine political influence campaign directed by a former Russian lawmaker who has been sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department for his alleged ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

John Sipher, who once ran the CIA's Russian operations, said Butina fits the profile of the kind of lightly trained asset frequently used to help identify espionage targets without attracting attention from counterintelligence, which is often focused on high-level contacts with government officials.

"The project is perfect, because a student can do that research legitimately," Sipher said. "You can just imagine why that would be of interest. It's a sort of gold mine."

Butina's student project was led by Eric Novotny, a cybersecurity expert who has a high security clearance as an adviser to the State Department. One of Novotny's AU courses was called "Cyber Warfare, Terrorism, Espionage, and Crime." The project was aimed at helping Internews identify ways that it could help U.S.-based nonprofits improve their cybersecurity.

Novotny told the AP that even after press reports about Butina raised questions about her connections to the Russian government, he was obligated to treat her like any other student.

"I have always observed university policies and rules during my entire academic career," he said.

The university declined comment, citing federal privacy rules.

After the spring semester, Butina and three other students signed on to the work-study project, according to people familiar with the work, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly.

One of the organizations that Butina contacted, the prominent digital rights organization Electronic Frontier Foundation, had frequent contact with Internews on cybersecurity issues before and had previously been a Russian target. But Butina did not mention Internews in a June 14, 2017, encrypted email reviewed by the AP.

In the email, addressed to cybersecurity director Eva Galperin, she wrote: "My name is Maria Butina and I'm the captain of an American University student group doing research on U.S (civil society organizations) and their cyber security challenges. We have several questions about cyber security concerns facing human rights organizations and your expertise would be very beneficial."

Novotny, who was later interviewed by the FBI about Butina, learned his instructions about not reaching out to partners had been ignored when the cybersecurity adviser of one nonprofit called him after becoming suspicious that a Russian student was asking about cyber vulnerabilities. He sternly warned the students not to ignore the protocol.

Research published by Toronto University-based The Citizen Lab analyzing Russian hacking attempts has found that civil society groups ranked behind only governments as the most frequent targets. Most often, it appeared Russian spies were trying to determine who the organizations were working with in places of

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strategic interest, the research found.

"Russian security services view civil society groups as a threat and treat their local partners with great suspicion," said John Scott-Railton, a cybersecurity researcher at Citizen Lab.

AP found no evidence that Butina passed any information from the university project to Moscow, but the work allowed her to contact likely Russian targets.

It's not clear why Butina's work raised concerns for the two Internews programs in Ukraine, which has not been a focus of prosecutors' case against her. But Ukraine has been a hotspot of U.S.-Russian tensions, where the two countries vie for influence.

The U.S. runs multiple programs aimed at strengthening democracy and boosting pro-Western sentiment in Russia's backyard and in parts of the world where America and Russia are vying for influence. Often they are run by contractors or nonprofit groups. By penetrating the programs, the Russians could determine who the organizations are working with and learn details about their security measures.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation often helps train at-risk civil society groups both in the U.S. and abroad. In recent years, it also has turned its attention to the scourge of state-sponsored malicious software, publishing reports on suspected government-backed hacking campaigns in Kazakhstan, Syria and Lebanon.

In 2015, the organization said Google had alerted it to a knockoff EFF site "almost certainly" operated by the infamous Russian cyberespionage ring now widely known as Fancy Bear. U.S. authorities say the hackers — who rattled the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign by releasing tens of thousands of Democrats' emails — are members of Russia's military intelligence agency.

Galperin said she had a conference call with Butina and the other students, but did not make the connection with the arrested Russian until the AP contacted her. She said the students asked general questions about the threat landscape, and that she passed along no sensitive information.

Butina later widened her search for contacts, posting a solicitation for the project on Facebook that began: "S.O.S. Poor Students Need Help from Civil Society Organizations!"

"My dear American FB friends and followers, I am looking for volunteers for a brief interview of the U.S. civil society organizations for a student research project," she wrote in July. "If you a leader of an organization registered in the United States dealing with human rights (domestically or abroad) and willing to talk online (via Skype or conference call) ... please send me a private message."

Novotny was not informed about the post.

After the student group prepared a report for Internews, Butina continued her cyberpolicy studies. Soon after she finished her spring semester this year, U.S. authorities charged her with trying to influence senior U.S. politicians and infiltrate political organizations on behalf of the Russian government.

Associated Press writer Raphael Satter in London contributed to this report.

Follow Desmond Butler on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/desmondbutler>

Have a tip? Contact the authors securely at <https://www.ap.org/tips>

Red Sox top Dodgers for 4th World Series title in 15 seasons

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Sale's final pitch for this Boston juggernaut triggered a celebration on the Dodger Stadium infield, among thousands of fans who made their way to California — and even outside Fenway Park back home.

The quest is complete. Yes, these 2018 Red Sox really are that great.

A team to remember from top to bottom. A season to savor from start to finish.

David Price proved his postseason mettle, Steve Pearce homered twice and Boston beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 on Sunday to finish off a one-sided World Series in five games.

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A tormented franchise during decades of despair before ending an 86-year championship drought in 2004, the Red Sox have become baseball's team of the century with four titles in 15 seasons.

"Seeing all these grown men over there, just acting like kids, that's what it's all about," Price said after pitching three-hit ball into the eighth inning on short rest. "This is why I came to Boston."

After losing on opening day, Alex Cora's team romped to a 17-2 start and a club-record 108 wins, then went 11-3 in the postseason, dispatching the 100-win New York Yankees and the 103-victory and defending champion Houston Astros in the playoffs. Cora, a player on Boston's 2007 champions, became the first manager from Puerto Rico to win a title and just the fifth rookie skipper overall.

"I don't know where we stand in history and all that," said Dave Dombrowski, the club's president of baseball operations. "If somebody would say you're going to win 119 games and lose 57, we'd never, ever fathom that."

Pearce hit a two-run homer on Clayton Kershaw's sixth pitch. Solo homers by Mookie Betts in the sixth inning and J.D. Martinez in the seventh quieted the Los Angeles crowd. Pearce added a solo drive off Pedro Baez in the eighth, then was selected the Series MVP after the game.

"Best feeling in my life," Pearce said.

Acquired in June from Toronto, Pearce had three homers and seven RBIs in the final 11 innings of the Series. Thousands of Boston fans remained on the first-base side of the stadium long after the final out, chanting "Let's go Red Sox!" and singing "Sweet Caroline."

Of course, they let loose a few choice words about the rival Yankees, too.

"I never knew there were so many Red Sox fans here," Martinez said.

Players' families, many dressed in red, congregated on the field to join the celebration, some holding babies, some watching children run across the outfield in glee.

"This is the greatest Red Sox team in history," owner John Henry proclaimed after receiving the Series trophy.

After losing to Houston in Game 7 last year by the same 5-1 score, the Dodgers became the first team ousted on its home field in consecutive World Series since the New York Giants by the New York Yankees at the Polo Grounds in 1936 and '37. Los Angeles remains without a championship since 1988.

"Ran up against a very good ballclub — and just a little bit too much for us," said manager Dave Roberts, who played for Boston's 2004 champions.

Boston outscored the Dodgers 28-16 and had only a slightly better batting average at .222 to .180. But the Red Sox got timely hitting and won their ninth title, tying the Athletics for third-most behind the Yankees (27) and Cardinals (11).

All that stood between the Red Sox and a sweep was an 18-inning loss in Game 3, the longest World Series game ever. They trailed 4-0 in the seventh inning of Game 4 when Sale rose from the dugout bench for a fiery, profane, motivational rant, and his teammates woke up in time to rally for a 9-6 win.

Boston never trailed in Game 5.

"I didn't say anything that anyone didn't know," Sale explained. "Just rallying the troops and letting them know — we're the best team on the planet, and to start playing like it."

The 33-year-old Price, a Cy Young Award winner in 2012, long pitched under an October shadow cast by his regular-season success. He had been 0-9 in 11 postseason starts before defeating Astros ace Justin Verlander in the clinching Game 5 of the AL Championship Series. The left-hander won his third straight start Sunday and became the first pitcher to beat Cy Young winners in the finale of an LCS and the World Series in the same year.

"I've been through a lot in three years since I came here, but this is why I came," said Price, who like Kershaw can opt out of his lucrative contract in the coming days and become a free agent.

After allowing two runs over six innings to win Game 2 last Wednesday, Price got two outs in the ninth inning of Friday's marathon game. He became the first to pitch into the eighth inning of a Series game on one day of rest since the Yankees' Bob Turley in 1957.

"All the haters, it's time to be quiet and show the guy some respect," Martinez said.

Price gave up a home run to David Freese on his first pitch, then allowed just two more hits — the last

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a triple to Freese that Martinez lost in the third-inning twilight and allowed to drop behind him on the right field warning track. Price struck out five and walked two, retiring 14 in a row before a leadoff walk to Chris Taylor in the eighth ended his night after 89 pitches. He tapped his heart several times to Red Sox fans behind the first base dugout while walking to the bench.

Joe Kelly struck out three straight pinch hitters and Sale, originally scheduled to start Game 5, fanned three more in the ninth. Sale ended by throwing a slider past a falling Manny Machado, a meager 4 for 22 (.182) in the Series, and raised both arms. Boston catcher Christian Vazquez ran out to jump on him with glee, and teammates from the dugout and bullpens followed.

While Price rewrote his own October legacy, Kershaw was unable to do the same as he fell to 1-4 with a 6.06 ERA in postseason elimination games. Plagued at times by an aching back, the 30-year-old lefty no longer is the dominant pitcher who won three Cy Young Awards, his famous 12-to-6 breaking ball now more 10 to 4:30.

Kershaw allowed four runs and seven hits — three of them homers — in seven innings. He is 9-10 with a 4.32 ERA in 30 postseason appearances, a huge drop from his 153-69 record and 2.39 ERA during the regular season.

"It just hurts worse when you make it all the way and get second place," he said.

Kershaw began aggressively, throwing strikes on his first six pitches, and the Red Sox were ready.

Andrew Benintendi hit a one-out single and Pearce pulled a fastball over the middle of the plate and sent it 405 feet into the left-field pavilion.

While the crowd of 54,367 was stunned, Freese woke up fans in the bottom half. He drove Price's first pitch 402 feet to the opposite field and into the right field pavilion.

Betts homered on a slider that stayed in the strike zone after going 0 for 13 in Los Angeles this weekend, the first postseason home run of his career coming in his 87th at-bat. Martinez homered in the seventh, driving a fastball to straightway center.

By then, Red Sox fans had started planning for the April 9 home opener against Toronto, when the championship flag will be raised over Fenway after Boston opens with an 11-game trip out West.

"It wasn't as easy as what people think," Cora said.

STAY AHEAD

Boston went 7-1 on the road in the postseason and 10-0 overall when scoring first.

I'M STILL HERE

Shortstop Xander Bogaerts was the only active player on the Red Sox from their 2013 championship team.

SPEND IT TO MAKE IT

Boston is the first team with the highest payroll to win the title since the 2009 Yankees.

JUST LIKE LAST YEAR

Cora celebrated on the same field where he earned a ring last year as the Astros' bench coach.

Visiting clubhouse manager Mitch Poole estimates he ordered 263 bottles of champagne for the Red Sox, at an estimated cost of \$18,000.

"The visiting team always pays the bill," he said.

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

US election integrity depends on security-challenged firms

By FRANK BAJAK, AP Cybersecurity Writer

It was the kind of security lapse that gives election officials nightmares. In 2017, a private contractor left data on Chicago's 1.8 million registered voters — including addresses, birth dates and partial Social Security numbers — publicly exposed for months on an Amazon cloud server.

Later at a tense hearing, Chicago's Board of Elections dressed down the top three executives of Election Systems & Software, the nation's dominant supplier of election equipment and services.

The three shifted uneasily on folding chairs as board members grilled them about what went wrong.

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ES&S CEO Tom Burt apologized and repeatedly stressed that there was no evidence hackers downloaded the data.

The Chicago lapse provided a rare moment of public accountability for the closely held businesses that have come to serve as front-line guardians of U.S. election security.

A trio of companies — ES&S of Omaha, Nebraska; Dominion Voting Systems of Denver and Hart Inter-Civic of Austin, Texas — sell and service more than 90 percent of the machinery on which votes are cast and results tabulated. Experts say they have long skimmed on security in favor of convenience, making it more difficult to detect intrusions such as occurred in Russia's 2016 election meddling.

The businesses also face no significant federal oversight and operate under a shroud of financial and operational secrecy despite their pivotal role underpinning American democracy.

In much of the nation, especially where tech expertise and budgets are thin, the companies effectively run elections either directly or through subcontractors.

"They cobble things together as well as they can," University of Connecticut election-technology expert Alexander Schwartzman said of the industry leaders. Building truly secure systems would likely make them unprofitable, he said.

The costs of inadequate security can be high. Left unmentioned at the Chicago hearing: The exposed data cache included roughly a dozen encrypted passwords for ES&S employee accounts. In a worst-case scenario, a sophisticated attacker could have used them to infiltrate company systems, said Chris Vickery of the security firm Upgard, which discovered the data lapse.

"This is the type of stuff that leads to a complete compromise," he said. ES&S said the passwords were only used to access the company's Amazon cloud account and that "there was no unauthorized access to any data or systems at any time."

All three of the top vendors declined to discuss their finances and insist that security concerns are overblown. ES&S, for instance, said in an email that "any assertions about resistance to input on security are simply untrue" and argued that for decades the company has "been successful in protecting the voting process."

STONEMOUNTING ON SECURITY

Many voting systems in use today across the more than 10,000 U.S. election jurisdictions are prone to security problems. Academic computer scientists began hacking them with ease more than a decade ago, and not much has changed.

Hackers could theoretically wreak havoc at multiple stages of the election process. They could alter or erase lists of registered voters to sow confusion, secretly introduce software to flip votes, scramble tabulation systems or knock results-reporting sites offline.

There's no evidence any of this has happened, at least not yet.

The vendors say there's no indication hackers have penetrated any of their systems. But authorities acknowledge that some election mischief or malware booby traps may have gone unnoticed.

On July 13, U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller indicted 12 Russian military intelligence operatives for, among other things, infiltrating state and local election systems. Senior U.S. intelligence officials say the Kremlin is well-positioned to rattle confidence in the integrity of elections during this year's midterms, should it choose to.

Election vendors have long resisted open-ended vulnerability testing by independent, ethical hackers — a process that aims to identify weaknesses an adversary could exploit. Such testing is now standard for the Pentagon and major banks.

While the top vendors claim to have stepped up their cybersecurity game, experts are skeptical.

"The industry continues to stonewall the problem," said Bruce McConnell, a Department of Homeland cybersecurity czar during the Obama administration. Election-vendor executives routinely issue assurances, he said, but don't encourage outsiders to inspect their code or offer "bug bounties" to researchers to seek out flaws in their software.

Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, has long criticized what he calls the industry's "severe underinvestment in cybersecurity." At a July hearing, he accused the companies of "ducking, bobbing and weaving"

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on a series of basic security questions he'd asked them.

ES&S told The Associated Press that it allows independent, open-ended testing of its corporate systems as well as its products. But the company would not name the testers and declined to provide documentation of the testing or its results.

Dominion's vice president of government affairs, Kay Stimson, said her company has also had independent third parties probe its systems but would not name them or share details. Hart InterCivic, the No. 3 vendor, said it has done the same using the Canadian cybersecurity firm Bulletproof, but would not discuss the results.

ES&S hired its first chief information security officer in April. None of the big three vendors would say how many cybersecurity experts they employ. Stimson said that "employee confidentiality and security protections outweigh any potential disclosure."

SLOPPY SOFTWARE AND VULNERABILITY

Experts say they might take the industry's security assurances more seriously if not for the abundant evidence of sloppy software development, a major source of vulnerabilities.

During this year's primary elections, ES&S technology failed on several fronts.

In Los Angeles County, more than 118,000 names were left off printed voter rolls. A subsequent outside audit blamed sloppy system integration by an ES&S subsidiary during a database merge.

No such audit was done in Kansas' most populous county after a different sort of error in newly installed ES&S systems delayed the vote count by 13 hours as data uploading from thumb drives crawled.

University of Iowa computer scientist Douglas Jones said both incidents reveal mediocre programming and insufficient pre-election testing. And voting equipment vendors have never seemed security conscious "in any phase of their design," he said.

For instance, industry leader ES&S sells vote-tabulation systems equipped with cellular modems, a feature that experts say sophisticated hackers could exploit to tamper with vote counts. A few states ban such wireless connections; in Alabama, the state had to force ES&S to remove them from machines in January.

"It seemed like there was a lot more emphasis about how cool the machines could be than there was actual evidence that they were secure," said John Bennett, the Alabama secretary of state's deputy chief of staff.

California conducts some of the most rigorous scrutiny of voting systems in the U.S. and has repeatedly found chronic problems with the most popular voting systems. Last year, a state security contractor found multiple vulnerabilities in ES&S's Electionware system that could, for instance, allow an intruder to erase all recorded votes at the close of voting.

In 2014, the same contractor, Jacob Stauffer of the security firm Coherent Cyber, found "multiple critical vulnerabilities" in Dominion's Democracy Suite that could allow skilled hackers to compromise an election's outcome.

"These systems are Frankenstein's monster, essentially," Stauffer said.

The federal Department of Homeland Security began offering confidential vulnerability testing to vendors over the summer. But only one vendor has submitted to such testing, said an agency official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

STALLED INNOVATION

More competition might help, but industry barriers to smaller vendors are "absolutely enormous," said Larry Moore, president of upstart Clear Ballot. Its auditable voting system took two and a half years to win federal certification at a cost of \$1 million.

Startups are hard-pressed to disrupt an industry whose main players rely heavily on proprietary technologies. ES&S and other vendors have jealously guarded them in court — and also unleash lawyers against election officials who purchase competitors' products.

In October, ES&S sued Cook County, Illinois, seeking to void its \$30 million, 10-year contract with a competitor. It also recently threatened Louisiana and Douglas County, Kansas, with lawsuits for choosing other suppliers.

Cook County Elections Director Noah Praetz said suing in defense of market share only chills competition

in an industry with “horribly low” margins, especially considering limited government funding for election equipment.

“The market isn’t functioning real well in terms of bringing innovation,” he said.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Elections are run by the states, whose oversight of suppliers varies. California, New York and Colorado are among states that keep a close eye on the vendors, but many others have cozier relationships with them.

And the vendors can be recalcitrant. In 2017, for instance, Hart InterCivic refused to provide Virginia with a paperless e-Slate touchscreen voting machine for testing, said Edgardo Cortes, then the state election commissioner.

In this year’s midterms — as in the 2016 election — roughly 1 in 5 voters will use such electronic machines. Their tallies cannot be verified because they produce no paper record.

Cortes decided to decertify all such systems. If anyone tried to break in and alter votes, he concluded, “there was really no way for us to tell if that had happened.” Hart InterCivic’s vice president of operations, Peter Lichtenheld, did not dispute Cortes’ account in July Senate testimony, but said its Virginia customers were already moving to newer machines.

At the federal level, no authority accredits election vendors or vets them or their subcontractors. No federal law requires them to report security breaches or to perform background checks on employees or subcontractors.

Election vendors don’t even have to be U.S. companies. Dominion was Canadian-owned until July, when a New York private equity firm bought a controlling interest.

Federal oversight is limited to the little-known Election Assistance Commission, a 30-employee agency that certifies voting equipment but whose recommendations are strictly voluntary. It has no oversight power and cannot sanction manufacturers for any shortcomings.

“We can’t regulate,” EAC chairman Thomas Hicks said during a July 11 congressional hearing when the question came up. Neither can DHS, even though it designated the nation’s election systems “critical infrastructure” in early 2017.

Frank Bajak on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fbajak>

Loved ones, friends remember synagogue shooting victims

By **CLAUDIA LAUER, JENNIFER PELTZ and MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press**

PITTSBURGH (AP) — They were professors and accountants, dentists and beloved doctors serving their local community.

A day after the shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue that left 11 dead, officials released the names of the victims. The oldest of them was 97. The youngest was 54. They included a pair of brothers and a husband and wife.

Said Stephen Cohen, co-president of New Light Congregation: “The loss is incalculable.”

CECIL AND DAVID ROSENTHAL: ‘SWEET, GENTLE, CARING MEN’

Cecil and David Rosenthal went through life together with help from a disability-services organization. And an important part of the brothers’ lives was the Tree of Life Synagogue, where they never missed a Saturday service, people who knew them say.

“If they were here, they would tell you that is where they were supposed to be,” Chris Schopf, a vice president of the organization ACHIEVA, said in a statement.

Achieva provides help with daily living, employment and other needs, and the organization had worked for years with Cecil, 59, and David, 54, who were among the 11 killed in Saturday’s deadly shooting. They lived semi-independently.

Cecil was a person who was up for all sorts of activities: a concert, lunch at Eat ‘n Park — a regional restaurant chain known for its smiley-face cookies — even a trip to the Duquesne University dining hall,

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recalls David DeFelice, a Duquesne senior who was paired with him in a buddies program three years ago. The two became friends, DeFelice said.

"He was a very gregarious person — loved being social, loved people. ... You could put him any situation, and he'd make it work," chatting about the weather or asking students about their parents and talking about his own, said DeFelice.

And when DeFelice recognized Hebrew letters on Cecil's calendar, the elder man was delighted to learn that his buddy was also Jewish and soon invited him to Tree of Life. DeFelice joined him on a couple of occasions and could see that Cecil cherished his faith and the sense of community he found at temple.

"He was such a strong practitioner of his faith," DeFelice said.

Emeritus Rabbi Alvin Berkun saw that, too, in Cecil, who according to his obituary was known as "the honorary mayor of Squirrel Hill," and David, who worked at Goodwill Industries.

"They really found a home at the synagogue, and people reciprocated," he said.

Cecil carried a photo in his wallet of David, whom Schopf remembers as a man with "such a gentle spirit."

"Together, they looked out for each other," she said. "Most of all, they were kind, good people with a strong faith and respect for everyone around."

The two left an impression on state Rep. Dan Frankel, who sometimes attends services at Tree of Life and whose chief of staff is the Rosenthals' sister.

"They were very sweet, gentle, caring men," Frankel said. "... I know that this community will really mourn their loss because they were such special people."

BERNICE AND SYLVAN SIMON: HELPING OTHERS AS A TEAM

Bernice and Sylvan Simon were always ready to help other people, longtime friend and neighbor Jo Stepaniak says, and "they always did it with a smile and always did it with graciousness."

"Anything that they could do, and they did it as a team," she said.

The Simons, who were among those massacred Saturday, were fixtures in in the townhome community on the outskirts of Pittsburgh where they had lived for decades. She'd served on the board, and he was a familiar face from his walks around the neighborhood, with the couple's dog in years past.

Sylvan, 86, was a retired accountant with a good sense of humor — the kind of person his former rabbi felt comfortable joking with after Sylvan broke his arm a couple of weeks ago. (The rabbi emeritus, Alvin Berkun, quipped that Sylvan had to get better so he could once again lift the Torah, the Jewish holy scripture.)

Bernice, 84, a former nurse, loved classical music and devoted time to charitable work, according to Stepaniak and neighbor Inez Miller.

And both Simons cared deeply about Tree of Life Synagogue.

"(They) were very devoted, an active, steady presence," Berkun said. The Simons had married there in a candlelight ceremony nearly 62 years earlier, according to the Tribune-Review.

Tragedy has struck their family before: One of the couple's sons died in a 2010 motorcycle accident in California. And now the Simons' deaths are reverberating through their family and community.

"Bernice and Sylvan were very good, good-hearted, upstanding, honest, gracious, generous people. They were very dignified and compassionate," Stepaniak said, her voice breaking. "Best neighbors that you could ask for."

MELVIN WAX: 'A SWEET, SWEET GUY'

Melvin Wax was always the first to arrive at New Light Congregation in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood — and the last to leave.

Wax, who was in his late 80s, was among those killed when a gunman entered the synagogue Saturday and opened fire a few minutes after Sabbath services began. Fellow members of the congregation, which rented space in the lower level of the Tree of Life Synagogue, said Wax was a kind man and a pillar of the congregation, filling just about every role except cantor.

"He was a gem. He was a gentleman," recalled fellow congregant Barry Werber on Sunday. "There was always a smile on his face."

Myron Snider spoke late Saturday about his friend who would stay late to tell jokes with him. He said

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"Mel," a retired accountant, was unfailingly generous and a pillar of the congregation.

"If somebody didn't come that was supposed to lead services, he could lead the services and do everything. He knew how to do everything at the synagogue. He was really a very learned person," said Snider, a retired pharmacist and chairman of the congregation's cemetery committee.

"He and I used to, at the end of services, try to tell a joke or two to each other. Most of the time they were clean jokes. Most of the time. I won't say all the time. But most of the time."

New Light moved to the Tree of Life building about a year ago, when the congregation of about 100 mostly older members could no longer afford its own space, said administrative assistant Marilyn Honigsberg. She said Wax, who lost his wife Sandra in 2016, was always there when services began at 9:45 a.m.

"I know a few of the people who are always there that early, and he is one of them," she said.

Snider had just been released from a six-week hospital stay for pneumonia and was not at Saturday's services.

"He called my wife to get my phone number in the hospital so he could talk to me," Snider said. "Just a sweet, sweet guy."

JERRY RABINOWITZ: 'TRUSTED CONFIDANT, HEALER'

Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz and his partner in his medical practice were seemingly destined to spend their professional lives together.

He and Dr. Kenneth Ciesielka had been friends for more than 30 years, since they lived on the same floor at the University of Pennsylvania. Ciesielka was a few years behind Rabinowitz, but whether by fate or design, the two always ended up together. They went to the same college, the same medical school and even had the same residency at UPMC a few years apart.

"He is one of the finest people I've ever met. We've been in practice together for 30 years and friends longer than that," Ciesielka said. "His patients are going to miss him terribly. His family is going to miss him terribly and I am going to miss him. He was just one of the kindest, finest people."

Former Allegheny County Deputy District Attorney Law Claus remembered Rabinowitz, a 66-year-old personal physician and victim in Saturday's shooting, as more than a physician for him and his family for the last three decades.

"He was truly a trusted confidant and healer," he wrote in an email to his former co-workers on Sunday. "Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz ... could always be counted upon to provide sage advice whenever he was consulted on medical matters, usually providing that advice with a touch of genuine humor. He had a truly uplifting demeanor, and as a practicing physician he was among the very best."

Rabinowitz, a family practitioner at UPMC Shadyside, was remembered by UPMC as one of its "kindest physicians." The hospital said in a statement that "the UPMC family, in particular UPMC Shadyside, cannot even begin to express the sadness and grief we feel over the loss."

"Those of us who worked with him respected and admired his devotion to his work and faith. His loss is devastating," Tami Minnier, UPMC chief quality officer, wrote in a statement on Twitter.

JOYCE FIENBERG: 'MAGNIFICENT, GENEROUS, CARING'

Joyce Fienberg and her late husband, Stephen, were intellectual powerhouses, but those who knew them say they were the kind of people who used that intellect to help others.

Joyce Fienberg, 75, who was among the victims in Saturday's shooting, spent most of her career at the University of Pittsburgh's Learning Research and Development Center, retiring in 2008 from her job as a researcher looking at learning in the classroom and in museums. She worked on several projects including studying the practices of highly effective teachers.

Dr. Gaea Leinhardt, who was Fienberg's research partner for decades, said she is devastated by the death of her colleague and friend.

"Joyce was a magnificent, generous, caring, and profoundly thoughtful human being," she said.

The research center's current director, Charles Perfetti, said Fienberg earned her bachelor's degree in social psychology from the University of Toronto, in her native Canada.

She brought a keen mind, engaging personality and "a certain elegance and dignity" to the center, Perfetti said.

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"One could have elevated conversations with her that were very interesting," even if they were brief, he said. "I was always impressed with her."

Stephen, who died in 2016 after a battle with cancer, was a renowned professor of statistics and social science at Carnegie Mellon University. His work was used in shaping national policies in forensic science, education and criminal justice.

The couple married in 1965 and had moved to Pittsburgh in the early 1980s. Joyce began her work at the center in 1983. The couple had two sons and several grandchildren.

DANIEL STEIN: 'PASSIONATE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AND ISRAEL'

Daniel Stein was a visible member of Pittsburgh's Jewish community, where he was a leader in the New Light Congregation and his wife, Sharyn, is the membership vice president of the area's Hadassah chapter.

"Their Judaism is very important to them, and to him," said chapter co-president Nancy Shuman. "Both of them were very passionate about the community and Israel."

Stein, 71, was president of the Men's Club at Tree of Life. He also was among a corps of the New Light members who, along with Wax and Richard Gottfried, 65, made up "the religious heart" of the congregation, said Cohen, the congregation co-president.

Stein's nephew Steven Halle told the Tribune-Review that his uncle "was always willing to help anybody."

With his generous spirit and dry sense of humor, "he was somebody that everybody liked," Halle said.

ROSE MALLINGER: SHOOTER'S OLDEST VICTIM

Former Tree of Life Rabbi Chuck Diamond said he worried about Rose Mallinger as soon as he heard about the deadly shooting at the synagogue.

The 97-year-old had almost unflinchingly attended services for decades, he told The Washington Post, and was among the first to walk in.

"I feel a part of me died in that building," Diamond said.

The oldest of those killed in Saturday's shooting at Tree of Life, Brian Schreiber told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that he regularly saw her at services.

"Rose was really a fixture of the congregation," Schreiber, president and CEO of the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh, told the Post-Gazette.

Her daughter, Andrea Wedner, 61, was among the wounded, a family member said. She remains hospitalized.

RICHARD GOTTFRIED: READYING FOR RETIREMENT

Richard Gottfried was preparing for a new chapter in his life.

Gottfried ran a dental office with his wife and practice partner Margaret "Peg" Durachko Gottfried. He and his wife met at the University of Pittsburgh as dental students, according to the Washington Post, and opened their practice together in 1984.

Gottfried, who often did charity work seeing patients who could not otherwise afford dental care, was preparing to retire in the next few months.

He, along with Wax and Stein, "led the service, they maintained the Torah, they did what needed to be done with the rabbi to make services happen," Cohen said.

"He died doing what he liked to do most," said Don Salvin, Gottfried's brother-in-law, told the Washington Post.

IRVING YOUNGER: 'NEVER HAD AN UNKIND WORD'

A neighbor in Pittsburgh's Mount Washington neighborhood on Sunday remembered victim Irving Younger as "a really nice guy."

Jonathan Voyer told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that Younger, 69, was personable and occasionally spoke with him about family or the weather.

"I'm scared for my kids' future," Mr. Voyer told the Post-Gazette. "How can you have that much hate for your fellow neighbor?"

Tina Prizner, who told the Tribune-Review she's lived next door to Younger for several years, said he was a "wonderful" father and grandfather.

The one-time real estate company owner "talked about his daughter and his grandson, always, and he never had an unkind word to say about anybody," Prizner told the Tribune-Review.

Lauer reported from Philadelphia, Peltz reported from New York and Dale reported from Pittsburgh. Associated Press reporters Allen G. Breed in Raleigh, North Carolina and Robert Bumsted in Pittsburgh and researcher Monika Mather in Washington contributed to this story.

'I'm barely breathing': Synagogue survivor recounts terror

By MARYCLAIRE DALE, CLAUDIA LAUER and ALLEN G. BREED, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A survivor of the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre described Sunday how he and other terrorized worshippers concealed themselves in a supply closet as the gunman stepped over the body of a man he had just shot and killed, entered their darkened hiding spot and looked around.

"I can't say anything, and I'm barely breathing," recalled Barry Werber, 76, in an interview with The Associated Press. "He didn't see us, thank God."

The gunman, Robert Gregory Bowers, opened fire with an AR-15 rifle and other weapons during worship services inside Tree of Life Synagogue, killing eight men and three women before a tactical police team tracked him down and shot him, according to state and federal affidavits made public on Sunday. He expressed hatred of Jews during the rampage and later told police that "all these Jews need to die," authorities said.

Six people were injured in the attack, including four officers.

Bowers targeted a building that housed three separate congregations, all of which were conducting Sabbath services when the attack began just before 10 a.m. in the tree-lined residential neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, about 10 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh and the hub of the city's Jewish community.

As authorities worked to piece together Bowers' background and movements, harrowing accounts from the survivors began to emerge.

Speaking at a vigil in Pittsburgh on Sunday night, Tree of Life Rabbi Jeffrey Myers said about a dozen people had gathered in the synagogue's main sanctuary when Bowers walked in and began shooting. He said seven of his congregants were killed.

"My holy place has been defiled," he said.

Officials released the names of all 11 of the dead, all of them middle-aged or elderly. The victims included intellectually disabled brothers and a husband and wife. The youngest was 54, and the oldest was 97.

"The loss is incalculable," said Stephen Cohen, co-president of New Light Congregation, which rents space at Tree of Life.

Mayor Bill Peduto called it the "darkest day of Pittsburgh's history."

Bowers shot his victims with an AR-15 — the weapon used in many of the nation's mass shootings — and three handguns, all of which he owned legally and had a license to carry, according to a law enforcement official who wasn't authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation, and who spoke on Sunday on condition of anonymity.

U.S. Attorney Scott Brady in Pittsburgh said Sunday night that federal prosecutors intend to pursue the death penalty against Bowers.

Bowers was a long-haul trucker who worked for himself, Brady said.

Little else was known about the suspect, who had no apparent criminal record but who is believed to have expressed virulently anti-Semitic views on social media. It appears Bowers acted alone, authorities said.

The victims included Melvin Wax, a retired accountant in his late 80s who was always one of the first to arrive at synagogue and among the last to leave.

"He and I used to, at the end of services, try to tell a joke or two to each other," said Myron Snider, a fellow member of New Light Congregation. "Most of the time they were clean jokes. Most of the time. I won't say all the time. But most of the time."

The toll also included professors, dentists and physicians.

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Cecil Rosenthal, 59, and his younger brother David Rosenthal, 54, were intellectually disabled and lived together in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood, near the synagogue where they were killed.

"Cecil's laugh was infectious. David was so kind and had such a gentle spirit. Together, they looked out for one another. They were inseparable," said Chris Schopf, vice president of residential supports for ACHIEVA, which helped the brothers live independently. "Most of all, they were kind, good people with a strong faith and respect for everyone around."

Bowers apparently posted an anti-Semitic message on a social media account linked to him just a few minutes before he opened fire during Sabbath services on Saturday morning. After the attack, he told an officer, "I just want to kill Jews," according to a federal affidavit .

In the basement, four members of New Light Congregation were just starting to pray — with two others in the kitchen — when they heard crashing sounds coming from upstairs, looked out the door and saw a body on the staircase, Werber, the survivor, recalled Sunday in an interview at his home.

He said Rabbi Jonathan Perlman closed the door and pushed them into a large supply closet. As gunshots echoed upstairs, Werber called 911 but was afraid to say anything, for fear of making any noise.

When the shots subsided, he said, Melvin Wax opened the door, only to be shot and fall back inside.

"There were three shots, and he falls back into the room where we were," he said. "The gunman walks in."

Apparently unable to see Werber and the other congregants in the darkness, Bowers walked back out.

A day later, Werber called the gunman "a maniac" and "a person who has no control of his baser instincts."

"I don't know why he thinks the Jews are responsible for all the ills in the world, but he's not the first and he won't be the last. Unfortunately, that's our burden to bear," Werber said. "It breaks my heart."

The massacre came at a time of increasing anti-Semitism in the U.S. Earlier this year, the Anti-Defamation League reported a nearly 60 percent rise in anti-Semitic incidents in 2017 — the largest single-year increase since the ADL began its tracking nearly three decades ago.

Perlman, who also spoke at the vigil Sunday night, said New Light lost three congregants.

"These three men, they cannot be replaced," said Perlman, his voice breaking. "But we will not be broken. We will not be ruined."

Bowers was charged with 11 state counts of criminal homicide, six counts of aggravated assault and 13 counts of ethnic intimidation in what the leader of the Anti-Defamation League called the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history.

He was also charged in a 29-count federal criminal complaint that included counts of obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs resulting in death — a federal hate crime — and using a firearm to commit murder.

Bowers, who underwent surgery and remained hospitalized, is scheduled to appear in court Monday. It wasn't clear whether he had an attorney to speak on his behalf. A message left with the federal public defender's office in Pittsburgh wasn't immediately returned.

Of the six survivors, four remained in the hospital Sunday night, and two — including a 40-year-old officer — were listed in critical condition.

The nation's latest mass shooting drew condemnation and expressions of sympathy from politicians and religious leaders of all stripes.

Pope Francis led prayers for Pittsburgh in St. Peter's Square.

"In reality, all of us are wounded by this inhuman act of violence," he said. He prayed for God "to help us to extinguish the flames of hatred that develop in our societies, reinforcing the sense of humanity, respect for life and civil and moral values."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman quoted Merkel on Twitter as offering her condolences and saying that "all of us must confront anti-Semitism with determination — everywhere."

Lauer reported from Philadelphia, and Breed reported from Raleigh, North Carolina. Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Mark Scoloro in Pittsburgh, Michael Balsamo in Washington, Jennifer Peltz in New York and Michael Rubinkam in northeastern Pennsylvania.

For AP's complete coverage of the Pittsburgh synagogue shootings: <https://www.apnews.com/Shootings>

Candidates sidestep Trump in midterm closing message

By STEVE PEOPLES and THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

POINT PLEASANT, N.J. (AP) — Tom MacArthur is doing something that's familiar to dozens of candidates in the most fiercely contested congressional races: Tiptoeing around President Donald Trump.

The Republican congressman has done more than anyone in New Jersey to help Trump. He was the only member of his delegation to vote for Trump's tax cuts. And he personally authored a provision that briefly resurrected Trump's health care plan.

But on the eve of the election, he sounds like a member of the Trump resistance.

"I've worked with Democrats to get things done that matter to South Jersey," MacArthur told The Associated Press after addressing hundreds of veterans at an American Legion weekend celebration without mentioning the president's name. "I work with the president when I can, and when I think he's doing something that's bad for Jersey, I resist that, I push back on that."

In an election that hinges on Trump's standing, candidates from both parties are struggling to find the right balance when it comes to Trump. While liberals demand Trump's impeachment, many Democratic candidates are focused on health care. Republicans in Washington, meanwhile, are all in for Trump, but the party's most important House candidates are spending their final days attacking Democrats for resisting — without saying much about the president who's being resisted.

In an interview, Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel suggested the midterm elections are not a referendum on Trump.

"I don't see it," she said. "The candidates that we have that are doing better are the candidates that are focused on district specific issues and not nationalizing the race."

"Democrats don't talk about results because they have none to stand on," McDaniel added. "I've never seen this level of obstruction."

Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez downplays Trump's impact on the midterms as well.

"Health care is on the ballot," he said in an interview. "They want to take it away, we want to preserve it."

Perez said his party's closing message addresses Trump only in that Democrats would provide a check on Trump's policies on health care, the economy and the ethical lapses in his administration.

"The rule of law has been replaced by the rule of Trump," Perez said. "We need guardrails in Washington."

Voters will decide whether the president's party will maintain control of the House and Senate on Nov. 6. A setback in either chamber would almost certainly derail Trump's agenda. It would also give Democrats subpoena power to probe the president's many personal and professional controversies — in addition to giving them an opportunity to pursue impeachment.

In the fight for the Senate, Republicans running in states where Trump remains popular are eager to make the president the centerpiece of their closing messages. Trump and his favorite policies are featured in final-days campaign ads for Republican candidates in Montana, North Dakota, Missouri, Indiana, Tennessee and West Virginia.

But in the high-stakes battle for the House, which is playing out among a more suburban and educated electorate, candidates on both sides are handling Trump with great care.

Republican Rep. David Young is locked in a dead heat with Democrat Cindy Axne in Iowa's 3rd Congressional District.

Young steered clear of the president as he chatted with voters strolling through Des Moines' farmer's market over the weekend. After one woman proclaimed her devotion to Trump, Young ignored the president and thanked her for the support.

"We're running on our record of delivering solutions for Iowans and, on the broad scope of things, the economy," Young later said when asked about his closing message.

He's stressing his effort to avoid partisan national debates, focusing instead on local issues like expanded renewable fuel sales, a \$190-million ethanol plant in western Iowa and farm measures aimed at protect-

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ing soil and water. Nowhere in Young's closing argument does he mention the president, except to say he disagrees with the administration's imposition of tariffs that threaten Iowa's export-heavy agricultural economy.

Nor does Young address health care, even though it's the centerpiece of his Democratic opponent's message against him.

"We need to send people out to Washington who understand how important it is to protect people with pre-existing conditions," Axne said after rallying volunteers over the weekend.

The Democrat is not attacking Trump directly either. She hints at a climate of intolerance coming from the administration by calling her candidacy "a choice that will represent every voice in this district, no matter what color you are."

In Kentucky's 6th District, it's easy to find Democrats who want to attack Trump. But at least one Democratic volunteer backing Amy McGrath against Republican Rep. Andy Barr knows not to mention the president's name.

McGrath, a former Marine, has alternated between condemning Trump's more controversial statements and supporting some of his policies.

"I'm not somebody who is this total anti-Trumper," McGrath said in a weekend interview. "I think his style and his leadership traits are not the traits that I have learned of what good leaders are supposed to be. I think he divides more than he unites Americans."

But, she continued, "if Donald Trump has a good idea, I'll be with him."

It's much the same dynamic in Minnesota's 1st District, one of the few GOP pickup opportunities this cycle.

Democratic candidate Dan Feehan described America in "a moment of chaos" as he rallied around 100 volunteers Sunday morning. "There is something out there that is dark, that is filled with hate," said the Army veteran, not once mentioning the president's name in his remarks.

In a subsequent interview, Feehan said his message has been focused on the need for independent voices in Washington to counter its dysfunction. As for Trump, Feehan said his biggest hope is that Congress becomes a functional co-equal branch of government to serve as a check and balance.

"That means working with President Trump when it makes sense for southern Minnesota, but having the independence again to stand up to him when it does not," he said.

In Michigan's 8th District, Democrat Elissa Slotkin is emphasizing her work for both Republican and Democratic presidents and three tours in Iraq in her quest to defeat Republican incumbent Rep. Mike Bishop. She's particularly focused on health care while decrying "the tone and tenor" of the nation's political climate.

Just don't ask her to blame Trump — as many Democratic activists do.

"To me, it's not any one person, though leadership climate is certainly set from the top," Slotkin told The AP. "For me, it's just more than one person."

Back in New Jersey, Republican MacArthur said Trump is a factor in virtually every other race in the nation. He acknowledged he has done more to help the president than any other member of his state's delegation.

"I'm certainly not running away from it," MacArthur said. He later noted: "I have been among the most bipartisan members of Congress."

Beaumont reported from Des Moines, Iowa. AP writers Adam Beam in Winchester, Kentucky; Steve Karnowski in Mankato, Minnesota; David Eggert in Detroit; Michelle Price in Las Vegas and Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida, contributed to this report.

'In one day' safety of longtime Jewish enclave shattered

By **MATT SEDENSKY** and **MARYCLAIRE DALE**, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — In a city known for its Jewish population, the neighborhood was the faith's spiritual heart and the synagogue a cornerstone of the community.

For generations, Squirrel Hill has been known as one of Pittsburgh's most special enclaves, where the

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Tree of Life temple stood as a welcoming landmark. Residents marveled over their good fortune to live in a place that seemed open, accepting and secure.

"People always felt safe here," said Jules Stein, a lifelong resident of Squirrel Hill who until recently belonged to Tree of Life. "In one day, that changed."

A gunman opened fire Saturday at the synagogue, killing 11 people. It was the type of violence that seemed impossible to many who called the neighborhood home.

Tanya Cohen, who emigrated from Russia and lives near Tree of Life, always knew anti-Semitism existed but never thought it would strike so close.

"It seemed like here, those things were really far away and really removed from our reality," said Cohen, whose 12-year-old daughter was shaken by the sight of rifle-carrying men in fatigues passing by their home. "Those are the things that we read in on a newspaper or in a book or watch in a movie."

The former leader of Tree of Life, Rabbi Alvin Berkun, was dressed and ready to head to the synagogue on Saturday when his wife asked him to stay home because she didn't feel well. He said the congregation only posted security officers on the High Holidays, but even so never felt unsafe there.

"The community is very resilient and we will rebound," he said, "but it will leave a scar forever."

Others, though grateful for the seeming bubble in which they lived, always feared such hatred could visit them.

A 2017 report on Pittsburgh's Jewish community by Brandeis University researchers found 70 percent of area Jews were a little or somewhat concerned about anti-Semitism. Older Jews expressed the most fear: One-third of those 65 and older said they were very concerned, versus 10 percent of those 18 to 34.

The report estimated about 50,000 Jews call Greater Pittsburgh home.

About 1 in 6 respondents said they had directly experienced anti-Semitism in the preceding year, mostly involving comments, insults, jokes and stereotypes. One person quoted in the report said, while walking to a synagogue, a motorist yelled "dumb Jew" and spat at them, before warning them to "go back to Squirrel Hill." Another told of a campaign sign for Donald Trump being put in their yard with a note saying it was from their "neighborhood youth Hitler."

"I have never been a person to say this could never happen here," said Aviva Lubowsky, a lifelong resident of Squirrel Hill who attended Hebrew school at Tree of Life as a child. "Ever since 9/11, sitting in synagogue for the High Holidays, I feel like we're sitting ducks."

Ren Finkel, who moved to Pittsburgh from San Diego six years ago, echoed that sentiment.

"I wouldn't say I was expecting it," Finkel said while attending a small vigil. "But I don't know that surprise is necessarily what I was feeling either."

There have been scattered incidents of anti-Semitism in the area over the years that have occasionally drawn concern, including spray-painted swastikas. In 1986, a rabbinical student from Toronto visiting his in-laws was shot on the street in a killing many believed was motivated by the victim's appearance. He was bearded and wore a yarmulke with a long black coat, black suit and black hat — hallmarks of Orthodox Judaism.

As jarring and violent as that killing was, though, it came nowhere close to the impact of Saturday's attack.

"It was unsettling, but somehow I don't recall that there was a sense that it was part of a larger phenomenon, that it was going to reflect a wave," said Barbara Burstin, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh who teaches about Judaism and has authored books including "Steel City Jews: A History of Pittsburgh and its Jewish Community." "It didn't seem to be representative of a larger phenomenon, but now it definitely does."

German Jews began arriving in Pittsburgh in the 1840s, followed later by Eastern European Jews. Tree of Life broke off from a reform congregation in 1865, moving to the Oakland neighborhood before building its current Squirrel Hill home after World War II.

Today, some 20 synagogues are clustered in the leafy, well-kept area.

Sarah Elbling Straus, a 41-year-old who grew up in Squirrel Hill, said she felt so secure in the neighborhood that she never experienced anti-Semitism until she left for college. She now lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and has been active in her new congregation, including on security issues.

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"You never think it would happen here," she said, "until it happens."

Sedensky reported from Philadelphia. AP National Writer Allen Breed contributed reporting from Pittsburgh.

House Democrats promise action on LGBTQ rights bill

By JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just weeks ahead of a midterm election they hope will deliver them a majority, House Democrats are promising to prioritize anti-discrimination legislation that would for the first time establish widespread equal rights protections for LGBTQ individuals.

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi recently said she would introduce the Equality Act as one of her first orders of business if Democrats retake the House in November. Pelosi made the announcement at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, telling the crowd the issue of equal rights for the LGBTQ community is "personal."

The 1964 Civil Rights Act already bars discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin. The Equality Act, if passed, would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the law and expand those protections beyond the workplace. It would outlaw gender discrimination in places like restaurants and retail shops, in seeking housing, using health care and social services, applying for a loan or participating in the jury selection process.

About 20 states and the District of Columbia currently have local gender and sex non-discrimination laws on the books.

The House bill has 198 co-sponsors, including two Republicans. But no Senate Republicans have signed on, and social conservatives oppose the legislation. And even if the bill cleared Congress, it would still have to be signed by President Donald Trump, who has aligned himself closely with religious conservatives.

Still, Democrats plan to move forward with the bill if they win the House majority, teeing up a test of the GOP's willingness to block it.

Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill said the legislation will be given a low bill number, meaning it would be among the first pieces of legislation to be introduced. Hammill described such a designation as "a place of honor."

The Equality Act is a far-reaching piece of legislation, decades in the works, that would safeguard the LGBTQ community against discrimination and bias. It was introduced in both chambers of Congress in 2015, where it died in committee, and reintroduced in 2017, but has not been voted on.

"This is a very simple proposition," said Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., the lead sponsor of the bill in the House.

"We have a long history in our country of prohibiting discrimination and promoting equality. It's the founding principle of our country, and I believe the vast majority of people in our country think discrimination is wrong. In many ways Congress has to catch up to where the American people are."

A narrower bill to bar gender discrimination in the workplace, called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, passed the Senate in 2013 with 64 votes, including 10 Republicans. But then-House Speaker John Boehner, a vocal opponent, opted not to bring it to a floor vote.

Even if the Equality Act were to pass a Democratic House, its future in the Senate — where 60 votes are typically needed to advance legislation — would be uncertain.

Some of the Republican senators who supported ENDA are out of office or will be come January. Five remain in Congress now: Sens. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, Rob Portman of Ohio, Dean Heller of Nevada, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who recently bucked her party to become the only Republican to vote against the controversial confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., the main sponsor of the Equality Act in the Senate, said he's optimistic that shifting public attitudes on gay rights will propel the bill forward. He noted that in 2015, two years after ENDA stalled in Congress, the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage nationwide.

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"This is what we need to accomplish. It is way past time to end discrimination across the board," Merkley said. "I find it astounding that here we are in a situation where you can now take your marriage certificate from state to state, but if you travel with your partner, in one you're treated as a citizen with full rights, and in the next, you're treated as a second-class citizen."

Merkley said soon after the midterm election he'll begin reaching out to Republican senators to discuss the legislation. But so far they've been hard to convince: All 47 sponsors of the Senate bill are Democrats.

He sees one big sticking point for gaining Republican support: A provision in the bill forbids any employer or retailer from using the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, passed in 1993, to justify withholding services based on gender or sexual orientation. The law, which received bipartisan support, barred the government from interfering with the rights of religious practitioners. But more recently the law has been used to protect the rights of business owners to refuse service based on religious beliefs. In one 2014 case, the Supreme Court found that chain craft store Hobby Lobby, founded by religious evangelicals, didn't have to provide its employees with contraception coverage for religious reasons.

The Trump administration has pursued policies in line with that law when taking steps to roll back protections for LGBTQ individuals, including rescinding guidance for schools on how to treat transgender students and attempting to bar transgender individuals from serving in the military. The administration is also considering a proposal to limit the definition of gender to include only one's sex at birth, according to The New York Times, prompting outrage from LGBTQ advocates.

Religious and conservative organizations have been vocal in their opposition to the Equality Act.

Mary Beth Waddell, senior legislative assistant for conservative group Family Research Council, likened it to government-sanctioned discrimination against religious people.

"The current law in civil rights and the protected classes are inborn and unchangeable characteristics like race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, etc., and religion, which is expressly protected under the constitution," Waddell said. "What the Equality Act does is it turns it on its head and allow the government to impose a belief system about sexual decisions and sexual behaviors on the nation."

Waddell said if the bill comes up for a vote, the group will "certainly be part of the opposition."

One advantage for supporters of the Equality Act is that it has overwhelming support from the business community. Since it was first introduced, major corporations including Apple, Dow Chemical Company, Amazon, General Electric Co. and more than 100 others have signed on to endorse its passage.

"Unlike virtually any other omnibus civil rights bill, the Equality Act had corporate support from the day of introduction," said Deena Fidas, director of the Human Rights Campaign's Workplace Equality Program.

1 migrant dies as 2nd group tries to force entry into Mexico

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

TAPANATEPEC, Mexico (AP) — Several thousand Central American migrants planned to resume their trek through southern Mexico before dawn Monday, while authorities in that country and Guatemala tried to sort out the killing of a migrant at a border crossing.

On Sunday, while the band of migrants was resting and reorganizing in Tepanatepec, several hundred in another group more broke through border barriers in the Guatemala town of Tecun Uman just as members of the caravan did more than a week earlier. Those migrants clashed with Mexican authorities determined not to let the caravan grow or be repeated.

The new group, whose members called themselves a second caravan, gathered on the international bridge leading from Tecun Uman to Mexico. Guatemalan firefighters confirmed that a 26-year-old Honduran was killed from a rubber bullet hitting his head.

At a news conference late Sunday, Mexican Interior Secretary Alfonso Navarrete Prida denied that his country's forces were responsible.

He said that Mexican federal police and immigration agents were attacked with rocks, glass bottles and fireworks when migrants broke through a gate on the Mexican side of the border, but that none of the officers were armed with firearms or anything that could fire rubber bullets. Navarrete said some of the

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attackers carried guns and firebombs.

"Mexico does not criminalize undocumented immigration," he said.

Also on Sunday, about 300 Salvadorans departed from San Salvador hoping to make their way to the U.S. as a group.

Meanwhile, some of the migrants in the initial caravan, now estimated at 4,000 people, rested Sunday in the shade of tarps strung across the town plaza or picked up trash in Tapanatepec, population 7,500. Others soaked themselves in the nearby Novillero river.

Tensions from a long trek through searing heat with tenuous supplies of food and other goods spilled over Saturday night when a dispute in a food line devolved into a beating. Many in the caravan have been on the road for more than two weeks, since the group first formed in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Raul Medina Melendez, security chief for the tiny municipality in Oaxaca state, said the town was distributing sandwiches and water to migrants camped in the central square Saturday night when a man with a megaphone asked people to wait their turn.

Some hurled insults at the man with the megaphone, then they attacked him, Medina said. Police rescued the man as he was being beaten and took him to a hospital for treatment, though his condition was not immediately clear.

On Sunday, several in the caravan took to microphones to denounce the attack.

"Is that the way we're going to always behave?" a woman from Honduras asked.

Others complained of trekkers smoking marijuana or warned that images of litter and uneaten food made them appear disrespectful.

The group planned to set out early Monday for Niltepec, 54 kilometers (33 miles) to the northwest in Oaxaca state.

The caravan still must travel 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) to reach the nearest U.S. border crossing at McAllen, Texas. The trip could be twice as long if the migrants head for the Tijuana-San Diego frontier, as another caravan did earlier this year. Only about 200 in that smaller group made it to the border.

Most of the migrants in the caravan appeared determined to reach the U.S., despite an offer of refuge in Mexico.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto launched a program Friday dubbed "You are home," which promises shelter, medical attention, schooling and jobs to Central Americans who agree to stay in the southern Mexico states of Chiapas or Oaxaca, far from the U.S. border.

Mexico's interior minister said Sunday that temporary identity numbers had been issued to more than 300 migrants, which would allow them to stay and work in Mexico. The ministry said pregnant women, children and the elderly were among those who had joined the program and were now being attended at shelters.

He said 1,895 had applied for refugee status in Mexico.

Associated Press writer Sonia Perez D. in Guatemala City contributed to this report.

Thai owner of Leicester soccer team died in helicopter crash

By **ROB HARRIS, AP Global Soccer Writer**

LEICESTER, England (AP) — Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha achieved what seemed impossible in modern soccer: Gaining promotion with a modest club and winning the English Premier League title within two years.

Bankrolling Leicester City but without the lavish spending of the bigger clubs, the Thai billionaire oversaw one of the greatest underdog successes in sports when the 5,000-1 outsiders won soccer's richest competition in 2016.

In an era of often-absentee foreign owners in the Premier League, Vichai also broke the mold by forging close ties with supporters and the local community.

While Vichai did not seek the limelight and was far from flamboyant, the wealthy entrepreneur's grandiose mode of transport from the King Power stadium named after his duty-free empire became symbolic

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of the club's newfound status in the game. A helicopter would land on the field after matches and whisk away the owner.

Saturday night was the last journey for Vichai.

Goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel was seen weeping as he stared at a fireball in a carpark outside the stadium around an hour after a 1-1 draw with West Ham. Moments earlier, the AgustaWestland AW169 had risen from the center circle and cleared the stadium roof before it spiraled out of control and plummeted into an adjacent carpark in flames.

The 60-year-old Vichai and the four other people on board did not survive the inferno, Leicester announced Sunday.

"I am so totally devastated. I just cannot believe what I saw last night," Schmeichel said. In an emotional tribute to Vichai, the seven-year veteran of the club said: "You changed football. Forever. You gave hope to everyone that the impossible was possible, not just to our fans but to fans all over the world in any sport."

On the spot where fans danced into the night after the improbable title victory two years ago, people gathered through the day to mourn. Hours before the Sunday night confirmation that Vichai did not survive the crash, scarves, jerseys and flowers were laid in an ever-expanding memorial in front of the stadium.

"Without you," read one message on a club flag, "the dream wouldn't have become reality."

Leicester's next game, which had been scheduled for Tuesday against Southampton in the League Cup, has been postponed.

"We now have a responsibility as a club, as players and fans to honor you," Schmeichel said.

Two members of Vichai's staff, Nursara Suknamai and Kaveporn Punpare, also died along with pilot Eric Swaffer and passenger Izabela Roza Lechowicz. Fears that family members were on board were allayed through the day, with his Vichai's son, Aiyawatt, now in line to step up from his role as vice chairman.

"The world has lost a great man," the Leicester club said in a statement. "A man of kindness, of generosity and a man whose life was defined by the love he devoted to his family and those he so successfully led."

Vichai, who started with one shop and grew Thailand's massive King Power duty-free chain, bought Leicester for 39 million pounds (\$50 million) in 2010 when it was in the second-tier competition. Avoiding relegation in its first season back in the Premier League was remarkable enough in 2015 after spending much time in last place. But that was eclipsed in 2016 by the team winning the top-flight title for the first time since being founded in 1884.

"I always believed in the power of our spirit," Vichai said at the time. "It drove us to reach the Premier League, it gave us the strength to stay in the Premier League, and now it has inspired us to win the Premier League."

"It is a spirit that has spread beyond Leicester, taking our story to the hearts of the world. Our spirit exists because of the love we share for each other and the energy it helps to create, both on and off the pitch, and in the years to come, it will continue to be our greatest asset."

Vichai was ridiculed for hiring the manager who masterminded the title success. Claudio Ranieri had been out of work since being fired by the weak Greece national team and his only job in the Premier League at Chelsea ended 11 years earlier. But it proved to be an inspired recruitment, helping to turn a humdrum group of journeymen and modestly purchased signings into a lineup that overpowered the mega-rich giants of the Premier League.

"That was a dream," life-long supporter Ian Hubber said outside the stadium on Sunday. "This is a nightmare."

The outpouring of emotion at the stadium on Sunday reflected how highly the ownership is regarded in the city, which has only one professional soccer team. Vichai has formed a close bond with the fans, sometimes mingling with them at games.

Vichai has been praised for his charity work, donating 2 million pounds (\$2.5 million) toward a new local children's hospital, and he often provided free beer and food for fans outside games.

"He's an owner who actually cared about a club," 19-year-old fan Rikesh Vaja said. "It's not just the club. He impacted the entire city."

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He also gained for the club new fans in Thailand, where they mourned Vichai's sudden death. "It's Thailand's team," soccer fan Chatworachet Sae-Kow said in Bangkok. "It brought fame to Thailand when they won (the title). He carried the Thai flag with him and made people know more about Thailand."

More AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-Soccer> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports#

Brazil elects far-right congressman Bolsonaro to presidency

By SARAH DiLORENZO, PETER PRENGAMAN and MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Jair Bolsonaro, a brash far-right congressman who has waxed nostalgic for Brazil's old military dictatorship, won the presidency of Latin America's largest nation Sunday as voters looked past warnings that he would erode democracy and embraced a chance for radical change after years of turmoil.

The former army captain, who cast himself as a political outsider despite a 27-year career in Congress, became the latest world leader to rise to power by mixing tough, often violent talk with hard-right positions. His victory reflected widespread anger at the political class after years of corruption, an economy that has struggled to recover after a punishing recession and a surge in violence.

"I feel in my heart that things will change," Sandra Coccato, a 68-year-old small business owner, said after she voted for Bolsonaro in Sao Paulo. "Lots of bad people are leaving, and lots of new, good people are entering. There's a light at the end of the tunnel."

In Rio de Janeiro, thousands of Bolsonaro supporters gathered on iconic Copacabana Beach, where fireworks went off. In Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city, car horns could be heard honking and crowds celebrated as the results came in. There were also reports of clashes between his backers and opponents in Sao Paulo.

Speaking to supporters from his home in Rio, Bolsonaro recounted how he was stabbed while campaigning last month and almost died.

"I was never alone. I always felt the presence of God and the force of the Brazilian people," he said.

Bolsonaro, who ran on promises to clean up Brazil and bring back "traditional values," said he would respect the constitution and personal liberty.

"That is a promise, not of a party, not the vain word of a man. It's a promise to God," he said, standing next to his wife and many cheering supporters.

Later, he said in a Facebook Live transmission that he had received a call from some world leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump who wished him good luck.

Addressing supporters in Sao Paulo, his rival, Fernando Haddad of the Workers' Party, did not concede or even mention Bolsonaro by name. Instead, his speech was a promise to resist.

"We have the responsibility to mount an opposition, putting national interests, the interests of the entire Brazilian people, above everything," Haddad said. "Brazil has never needed the exercise of citizenship more than right now."

He later added: "Don't be afraid. We are here. We are together!"

Brazil's top electoral court said Bolsonaro won with just over 55 percent of the vote, compared with just under 45 percent for Haddad.

Bolsonaro went into Sunday the clear front-runner after getting 46 percent of the vote to Haddad's 29 percent in the first round of voting on Oct. 7, when 13 contenders were on the ballot. Opinion polls in recent weeks had him leading by as much as 18 percentage points, but the race tightened in the last few days. Several Brazilian heavyweights came out against him, arguing that he was a direct risk to the world's fourth-largest democracy.

His rise was powered by disgust with the political system. In particular, many Brazilians were furious with the Workers' Party for its role in the mammoth graft scheme uncovered by the "Operation Car Wash" investigation. Haddad struggled to build momentum with his promises of a return to the boom times by investing in health and education and reducing poverty.

Along the way, Bolsonaro's candidacy also raised serious concerns that he would roll back civil rights and weaken institutions in what remains a young democracy. He frequently disparaged women, gays and

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blacks, and said he would name military men to his Cabinet.

Minutes after he was elected, several international human rights groups put out statements demanding that Bolsonaro respect Brazil's democracy.

In a highly unusual moment earlier Sunday, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Jose Dias Toffoli, read out part of the Constitution to reporters after he voted.

"The future president must respect institutions, must respect democracy, the rule of law, the judiciary branch, the national Congress and the legislative branch," Toffoli said in remarks many took to be a rebuke of Bolsonaro and his more extreme positions.

As late as Sunday morning, Haddad was still holding out hope that he could win after receiving several key endorsements late Saturday.

Among them was a popular former Supreme Court justice, Joaquim Barbosa, who tweeted support for Haddad, saying Bolsonaro's candidacy scared him. Likewise, former Attorney General Rodrigo Janot, one of the biggest crusaders against corruption in the Workers' Party in recent years, also endorsed Haddad.

One of the most important endorsements, particularly for young people, came from YouTube personality Felipe Neto, whose channel has nearly 27 million followers.

Neto said he was troubled by Bolsonaro's comments a week ago that "red" leftists would be run out of Brazil.

"In 16 years of the (Workers' Party), I have been robbed, but never threatened," Neto said on Twitter.

The past few years in Brazil have been exceptionally turbulent. In 2016, then-President Dilma Rousseff of the Workers' Party was impeached and removed from office on charges that many on the left felt were politically motivated. The economy suffered a two-year recession and is only beginning to emerge, with growth stagnant and unemployment high.

Scores of politicians and executives have been jailed in the Car Wash corruption investigation, which uncovered a multibillion-dollar scheme to trade public contracts and official favors for bribes and kickbacks.

That instability unleashed sharp anger against the political class but also revealed deep divisions in Brazilian society, and the campaign was the most polarized in decades. There were numerous reports of politically motivated violence, especially directed at gay people.

Many observers predicted that a newcomer would emerge to harness the anti-establishment anger. Instead, support coalesced around Bolsonaro, who at the margins in Congress painted himself as just the strong man Brazil needed to dismantle a failing system.

Bolsonaro's campaign first gained traction with his promises to go after violent crime in a country that leads the world in homicides and where many Brazilians live in daily fear of muggings or burglaries. But his vows to loosen gun laws and give police a freer hand to use force have also raised concerns that his presidency could lead to a bloody crackdown and an erosion of civil rights.

The campaign gained momentum by winning over much of the business community with promises of enacting market-friendly reforms that would reduce the size of the Brazilian state, including cutting ministries and privatizing state companies.

"I hope that with these elections we're not signing a blank check again, and that we don't close our eyes to everything that has happened," said Jose Nobrega, a 53-year-old waiter in Mare, one of Rio's most violent neighborhoods.

Associated Press writers Sarah DiLorenzo and Mauricio Savarese reported this story in Sao Paulo and AP writer Peter Prengaman reported from Rio de Janeiro. AP writers Stan Lehman in Sao Paulo and Marcelo Silva de Sousa and Beatrice Christofaro in Rio de Janeiro contributed to this report.

Germany's governing parties punished in state election

By GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Germany's governing parties lost significant support in a state election Sunday that was marked by discontent with infighting in Chancellor Angela Merkel's national government and prompted

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calls for her coalition to get its act together quickly.

Merkel's conservatives emerged with an extremely lackluster win from the vote for the central Hesse region's state legislature. Her center-left governing partners' dismal performance left them level with the resurgent Greens in second place, while the far-right Alternative for Germany entered the last of Germany's 16 state parliaments.

Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union was defending its 19-year hold on Hesse, previously a stronghold of the center-left Social Democrats, the chancellor's coalition partners in Berlin.

Speculation has been widespread before the vote that a disastrous result for either or both parties could further destabilize the national government, prompting calls for the Social Democrats to walk out and possibly endangering Merkel's own position. On Sunday, government leaders appeared keen to try and keep the show on the road.

Andrea Nahles, the Social Democrats' leader, said that "the state of the government is unacceptable."

She said her party would insist on Merkel's governing coalition agreeing on "a clear, binding timetable" for implementing projects, adding that its implementation ahead of an already-agreed midterm review next fall will show "whether we are still in the right place in this government."

The CDU's general secretary, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, said the coalition needs to identify "three concrete projects for the coming months that we implement." She didn't specify what they might be.

Hesse's conservative governor, Volker Bouffier, told supporters that "the message this evening to the parties in the government in Berlin is clear: people want less argument, more objectivity, more solutions."

Merkel's CDU won 27 percent of the vote Sunday and the Social Democrats 19.8 percent. When Hesse last elected its state legislature in 2013 — on the same day that Merkel, at the height of her power, won a third term as chancellor — they won 38.3 and 30.7 percent, respectively. It was the worst result in the region for the Social Democrats since World War II.

There were big gains for the Greens, who took 19.8 percent of the vote, compared with 11.1 percent five years ago. And the anti-migration, anti-establishment Alternative for Germany won 13.1 percent.

The pro-business Free Democrats won 7.5 and the Left Party 6.3 percent of the vote.

Voters have appeared generally satisfied with Bouffier's outgoing state government. It was the first coalition between the CDU and the traditionally left-leaning Greens to last a full parliamentary term, and an unexpectedly harmonious alliance.

But only the Greens, who are in opposition nationally, benefited at the polls.

The result left Bouffier's outgoing CDU-Green coalition with a one-seat parliamentary majority. A CDU-Social Democrat coalition, or a combination of the Social Democrats, Greens and Free Democrats, would also have a one-seat majority, but neither appears very likely.

The election campaign in prosperous Hesse, which includes Germany's financial center of Frankfurt, has been largely overshadowed by the woes of a federal coalition in office only since March. The state is home to 6.2 million of Germany's 82 million people.

Two weeks ago, both Merkel's partners in the federal "grand coalition" of what have traditionally been Germany's strongest political forces — the Christian Social Union, the Bavaria-only sister to the chancellor's CDU, and the Social Democrats — were battered in a state election in neighboring Bavaria.

The Social Democrats, who were badly beaten in last year's national election, only reluctantly entered Merkel's fourth-term national government in March. Many are dismayed by what has happened since.

The government has been through two major crises, first over whether to turn back small numbers of migrants at the German-Austrian border and then over what to do with the head of Germany's domestic intelligence service after he was accused of downplaying far-right violence against migrants. It has failed to convince voters that it's achieving much on other matters.

Karl-Rudolf Korte, a political science professor at the University of Duisburg-Essen, predicted on ZDF television that its leaders "will do everything to save the 'grand coalition' for the next three years."

Being able to keep Bouffier, a deputy CDU leader, as governor would stabilize Merkel in the short term, he said. Germany's chancellor of the past 13 years has indicated that she will seek another two-year term

as CDU leader in December.

Synagogue attack shatters safety of longtime Jewish enclave

By **MATT SEDENSKY** and **MARYCLAIRE DALE**, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — In a city known for its Jewish population, the neighborhood was the faith's spiritual heart and the synagogue a cornerstone of the community.

For generations, Squirrel Hill has been known as one of Pittsburgh's most special enclaves, where the Tree of Life temple stood as a welcoming landmark. Residents marveled over their good fortune to live in a place that seemed open, accepting and secure.

"People always felt safe here," said Jules Stein, a lifelong resident of Squirrel Hill who until recently belonged to Tree of Life. "In one day, that changed."

A gunman opened fire Saturday at the synagogue, killing 11 people. It was the type of violence that seemed impossible to many who called the neighborhood home.

Tanya Cohen, who emigrated from Russia and lives near Tree of Life, always knew anti-Semitism existed but never thought it would strike so close.

"It seemed like here, those things were really far away and really removed from our reality," said Cohen, whose 12-year-old daughter was shaken by the sight of rifle-carrying men in fatigues passing by their home. "Those are the things that we read in on a newspaper or in a book or watch in a movie."

The former leader of Tree of Life, Rabbi Alvin Berkun, was dressed and ready to head to the synagogue on Saturday when his wife asked him to stay home because she didn't feel well. He said the congregation only posted security officers on the High Holidays, but even so never felt unsafe there.

"The community is very resilient and we will rebound," he said, "but it will leave a scar forever."

Others, though grateful for the seeming bubble in which they lived, always feared such hatred could visit them.

A 2017 report on Pittsburgh's Jewish community by Brandeis University researchers found 70 percent of area Jews were a little or somewhat concerned about anti-Semitism. Older Jews expressed the most fear: One-third of those 65 and older said they were very concerned, versus 10 percent of those 18 to 34.

The report estimated about 50,000 Jews call Greater Pittsburgh home.

About 1 in 6 respondents said they had directly experienced anti-Semitism in the preceding year, mostly involving comments, insults, jokes and stereotypes. One person quoted in the report said, while walking to a synagogue, a motorist yelled "dumb Jew" and spat at them, before warning them to "go back to Squirrel Hill." Another told of a campaign sign for Donald Trump being put in their yard with a note saying it was from their "neighborhood youth Hitler."

"I have never been a person to say this could never happen here," said Aviva Lubowsky, a lifelong resident of Squirrel Hill who attended Hebrew school at Tree of Life as a child. "Ever since 9/11, sitting in synagogue for the High Holidays, I feel like we're sitting ducks."

Ren Finkel, who moved to Pittsburgh from San Diego six years ago, echoed that sentiment.

"I wouldn't say I was expecting it," Finkel said while attending a small vigil. "But I don't know that surprise is necessarily what I was feeling either."

There have been scattered incidents of anti-Semitism in the area over the years that have occasionally drawn concern, including spray-painted swastikas. In 1986, a rabbinical student from Toronto visiting his in-laws was shot on the street in a killing many believed was motivated by the victim's appearance. He was bearded and wore a yarmulke with a long black coat, black suit and black hat — hallmarks of Orthodox Judaism.

As jarring and violent as that killing was, though, it came nowhere close to the impact of Saturday's attack.

"It was unsettling, but somehow I don't recall that there was a sense that it was part of a larger phenomenon, that it was going to reflect a wave," said Barbara Burstin, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh who teaches about Judaism and has authored books including "Steel City Jews: A History of Pittsburgh and its Jewish Community." "It didn't seem to be representative of a larger phenomenon, but

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now it definitely does.”

German Jews began arriving in Pittsburgh in the 1840s, followed later by Eastern European Jews. Tree of Life broke off from a reform congregation in 1865, moving to the Oakland neighborhood before building its current Squirrel Hill home after World War II.

Today, some 20 synagogues are clustered in the leafy, well-kept area.

Sarah Elbling Straus, a 41-year-old who grew up in Squirrel Hill, said she felt so secure in the neighborhood that she never experienced anti-Semitism until she left for college. She now lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and has been active in her new congregation, including on security issues.

“You never think it would happen here,” she said, “until it happens.”

Sedensky reported from Philadelphia. AP National Writer Allen Breed contributed reporting from Pittsburgh.

How a white man is competing for Democratic votes in Georgia

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

STATESBORO, Ga. (AP) — At the annual fundraising gala for Bulloch County Democrats, one orator after another roused the crowd with criticism of President Donald Trump and tributes to the most diverse, liberal ticket the Georgia Democratic Party has ever assembled for a statewide election.

“We’re going to make history,” proclaimed Janice Laws, a Jamaican immigrant and black woman whose candidacy for state insurance commissioner might draw more notice if it weren’t overshadowed by Stacey Abrams’ bid to become the first black female governor in American history.

Former state NAACP leader Francys Johnson, the local congressional candidate, demanded “moral clarity” in opposition to Trump’s treatment of “poor people and immigrants and people of color.”

But John Barrow, the last Democrat to hold the House seat Johnson seeks, struck a different tone as he talked about why he entered politics.

“I thought there was a need for a little bipartisanship ... some need for moderation,” recalled Barrow. Now running for Georgia secretary of state, Barrow told his fellow Democrats he values the “common-sense politics of compromise” over “the politics of confrontation.”

While Abrams runs as an unabashed liberal and gains national attention for her historic potential, Barrow’s campaign is notable for a different reason. He’s the most prominent white man running as a Democrat in Georgia this year, navigating the politics of a state undergoing rapid demographic shifts and a party that is putting a premium on gender and racial diversity. The 62-year-old Barrow’s electoral fortunes could offer clues for how voters might receive potential White House hopefuls like former Vice President Joe Biden, former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Govs. Jay Inslee of Washington and Steve Bullock of Montana.

Barrow is an increasingly rare figure in Deep South Democratic politics, where many white men of his generation became Republicans over the past two decades. Democrats in the state’s congressional delegation are African-American.

For his part, Barrow sees himself as part of Democrats’ diversity, arguing the party is refashioning itself as a big tent, including philosophically.

“What I’m trying to remind folks is there was a time when the parties were more diverse, and that was good for them,” Barrow said in an interview. “The only hope for our country is for both of these parties to be healed from within.”

Abrams, meanwhile, welcomes Barrow even if their politics and path to victory don’t always overlap.

“Every candidate on the Democratic ticket holds strong to their core values and seeks to lift up every Georgian,” she said.

Barrow is not openly critical of his fellow Democrats, including Abrams, noting she defined her tenure as minority leader in the state legislature by striking big-ticket compromises with Republicans. “That’s a high mark in her favor,” Barrow said, “but we all have to earn our stripes every day on that score, and

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I've done it more days, year in and year out, than anybody else on the statewide ticket on either side." He eagerly applies his trademark approach to the hottest topic in his otherwise low-profile race: how the secretary of state manages elections.

That issue has sharply defined the closing weeks of the governor's race pitting Abrams against Republican Brian Kemp, the current secretary of state. Democrats and civil rights groups accuse Kemp's office of nefariously holding up tens of thousands of new voter registrations. Kemp insists that he's following the law and that any of those would-be voters can cast ballots as long as they produce valid identification like any other Georgian.

Barrow has largely kept to his script.

He notes the broader contours of the debate: Republicans arguing for preventing voter fraud while Democrats accuse them of trying to suppress votes. "There are legitimate concerns on both sides," he told The Associated Press. "We ought to be able to make it easier to vote without making it easier for someone to cheat."

At the south Georgia party gathering, Barrow emphasized ballot access. "A part of election integrity is protecting the right to vote," he said, taking a few implicit digs at Kemp.

At a VFW hall a few days later in the Republican-leaning suburbs of Atlanta, Barrow underscored his push for scanned paper ballots statewide in lieu of touch-screen machines that leave no paper trail. At that venue, he made no mention of Kemp or of his own Republican opponent, state Rep. Brad Raffensperger.

The same kind of high-wire routine defined Barrow's 10 years on Capitol Hill. It's a tenure that began in 2004, after a stint as a local elected official in Athens. Barrow defeated an incumbent GOP Republican even as President George W. Bush was re-elected, and Barrow lasted five terms through two moves — GOP lawmakers redrew his district boundaries — and multiple tough campaigns until he finally succumbed to the GOP's midterm sweep in 2014.

Along the way, he was an early endorser of Barack Obama's presidential bid and backed Nancy Pelosi for speaker. But he opposed Obama's health care overhaul in 2010 and from that year forward cast a symbolic vote for his fellow Georgian, civil rights icon John Lewis, as speaker. He backed hate crimes legislation and allowing gay military service members to serve openly, but he opposed Democrats' cap-and-trade tax plans to combat climate change.

He won endorsements from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Rifle Association, featuring the latter group in a memorable 2012 ad in which he brandished firearms he said were family heirlooms.

"Long before I was born, my grandfather used this little Smith & Wesson here to stop a lynchin'," the Harvard Law graduate said, later concluding: "These are my guns now, and ain't nobody gone take 'em away."

He ran almost 10 points ahead of Obama in the district in 2012, but managed just 45 percent of the vote two years later.

As he tries for a comeback, party liberals have embraced Barrow as he charts a middle course.

"You always gave me a call," Johnson, the former NAACP chief and House hopeful, told Barrow at the Bulloch County dinner. "You explained the tough votes. We knew where your values always were."

Barrow defeated two more liberal candidates — both minorities — in the primary. Now he hopes to benefit from Abrams attracting voters who don't usually participate in midterms but are enthusiastic about her campaign, betting they'll back down-ballot Democrats like himself. He also hopes to pick up votes from former constituents who might back Kemp over Abrams.

That leaves open the possibility that Barrow could run ahead of Abrams and win a tight race while she and other Democrats are on the losing end of narrow margins, a scenario that would leave Barrow as the state's highest-ranking Democrat.

After all, Barrow notes that Republicans' repeated redistricting efforts mean he's already represented about one-third of the state's population and proved he can get split-ticket votes.

But, he insists, "There's no strategy other than running as what I am."

—

Note: The reporter is not related to John Barrow.

Follow Bill Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>

This story corrects the length of Barrow's tenure in Congress from 12 years to 10 years.

Analysis: Politics presses on amid election-season tragedy

By CATHERINE LUCEY and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's campaign rallies continued. Attack ads stayed on the airwaves. Political combat largely carried on.

Amid a wave of election-season violence that left many Americans on edge, the contentious midterm campaign has barreled forward with little pause. Trump and other politicians disavowed the pipe bombs sent to prominent Democrats and condemned the massacre of 11 people at a Pittsburgh synagogue this past week. But the divisiveness that has dominated the nation's politics kept creeping back.

During a rally Saturday night, Trump asked a crowd of red-hatted supporters if it was OK for him to "tone it down, just a little bit." When the crowd roared back with a decisive "No!" Trump replied: "I had a feeling you might say that."

The attacks are a grim capstone to a midterm campaign that will serve as a referendum on Trump, whose unorthodox approach to the presidency is particularly glaring in times of tragedy. With less than two weeks to go before Election Day, Trump was among many politicians who largely stuck to the script, raising questions about whether Americans are becoming increasingly desensitized in the wake of tragedy.

"It feels in this moment like there's a numbness," said Jennifer Psaki, who served as a campaign and White House adviser to former President Barack Obama. "When there's a tragedy, the nation is a little rudderless."

Some Trump supporters have begun to suggest that the president modulate his searing and personal attacks on his opponents — including those targeted by the Trump supporter who allegedly mailed pipe bombs to several Democrats.

"In general, we got to tone it down," said Anthony Scaramucci, who briefly served as Trump's White House communications director, in an interview on CNN's "State of the Union." "He's the president of the United States. He controls the news cycle and the bully pulpit. And he could do it."

To be sure, Trump has struck some conciliatory notes in recent days, including vowing to do "everything in my power as president" to stop political violence. He condemned the synagogue shooting as an "evil anti-Semitic attack" and called it "an assault on all of us."

But with just over a week before elections that will determine the control of Congress, Trump has also expressed frustration that outside events are distracting from what he sees as rising GOP momentum. In a tweet last week, he put the word "bomb" in quotation marks and said the media was "not talking politics."

Trump took to Twitter Sunday night to again argue that the media was unfairly blaming him for the divisions in the country. He added that "it is their Fake & Dishonest reporting which is causing problems far greater than they understand!"

He also said he would "probably pass" on reaching out to pipe-bomb targets Hillary Clinton or Obama — overtures that would almost certainly have garnered bipartisan praise.

He's also kept up some of his attacks on others targeted with pipe bombs. On Sunday he called Democratic megadonor Tom Steyer a "crazed & stumbling lunatic" and warned that backing Democratic candidates would be a vote for California Rep. Maxine Waters, who he has previously said has a low IQ. The president also did nothing on Saturday to stop his supporters from chanting "lock her up" — a frequent rally refrain about Clinton, his opponent in the 2016 presidential election.

After a riff about another of his favorite foes — Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who was not targeted in the pipe bomb plot — Trump seemed to acknowledge that there were limits to his ability to ratchet down his rhetoric.

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"We can't resist," he said.

Asked about Trump's decision to keep campaigning amid tragedy, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump was "committed to the safety and security of all Americans, and he mourns with the nation in the aftermath of the evil anti-Semitic attack in Pittsburgh." She added that Trump was committed "to supporting leaders who will fight alongside him to protect the safety and security of all Americans, grow our booming economy and move our country forward."

Of course, Democrats have been just as blistering in their condemnation of Trump during the midterm campaign. Some have declared him unfit for office and a danger to democracy. Many were also quick to blame him for creating the atmosphere that led to this week's violence.

"There's no escaping the tone that he sets," U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, a California Democrat and frequent Trump critic, said Sunday on CNN. "It's going to fall on the rest of us to make this a more perfect union to bring people together, to accentuate our common humanity."

It was mainly in Pennsylvania where the impact of the violence on the campaign was really noticeable.

After Saturday's shooting, there were a few moves to tamp down campaigning. Democrats Sen. Bob Casey and Gov. Tom Wolf and Wolf's Republican opponent, Scott Wagner, all announced on Sunday that they were canceling campaign events. Wolf also took campaign ads off the air.

But across the country, millions of dollars in negative political advertisements still filled the airwaves, including some referencing billionaire George Soros, a liberal donor who received the first pipe bomb last week.

Rep. Steve Stivers, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, defended one such ad, saying "you know, that ad is factual."

Violence has intruded in political campaigns before. When a gunman killed 12 people in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, during the height of the 2012 presidential campaign, both Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney paused some campaign activities.

"There are going to be other days for politics," Obama said at the time.

Trump's explanation for going forward with his political events was far different.

"We have our schedules, and nobody's going to change it," he said. "So we're here."

Editor's Note: Catherine Lucey has covered politics and the White House for AP since 2012. Follow her at http://twitter.com/catherine_lucey. Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace has covered politics and the White House for AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Some Sessions allies hope White House allows graceful exit

By ERIC TUCKER and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sensing that Jeff Sessions' days at the Justice Department may be numbered, some of his supporters want the White House to allow for a graceful exit for an attorney general they believe has dutifully carried out the administration's agenda even while enduring the president's fury.

It seems unlikely that efforts to soften a possible dismissal after the Nov. 6 midterm election would find sympathy in the White House, where President Donald Trump's rage remains unabated over the attorney general's recusal from the Russia investigation. A hand-picked successor could theoretically oversee the rest of the probe in place of Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein.

But some supporters say they hope that if and when Sessions is replaced, his record as senator and attorney general will be recognized and not overwhelmed by Trump's attacks, or that the administration will at least respect the Justice Department by guaranteeing a smooth transition.

A scenario advocated by at least one Sessions ally, former Cincinnati Mayor Ken Blackwell, would allow him to remain on the job until January and be permitted to resign on his own then rather than be fired immediately after the midterms. Blackwell said allies have made their case to administration officials that Sessions has successfully pushed the president's core priorities, including on illegal immigration, and deserves some sort of recognition from the White House that "he has more than a passing grade."

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"It is not unknown, from anyone from John Kelly to Jared Kushner, that there is a base of support," said Blackwell, referring to Trump's chief of staff and son-in-law. "A portion of that base is ready to continue advocacy for his service."

Newt Gingrich, a former Republican House speaker who is close to the White House and calls himself a longtime "admirer" of Sessions, said he would be open to serving as an intermediary if asked between the White House and Sessions supporters.

"He deserves a graceful exit. His career deserves a strong conclusion," said Gingrich, who called Sessions "a strong conservative who has done strong work at the Department of Justice."

Sessions, who has publicly acknowledged the president's displeasure, has plowed forward with the conventional duties of the job, including a regular calendar of events and announcements. On Friday, he spoke first at the Justice Department news conference announcing the arrest of a mail-bomb suspect in Florida.

The president, though mindful that Sessions remains popular among much of his base, would seem unlikely to sign off on a plan to extend Sessions' time in office, according to a White House official and an outside adviser familiar with Trump's thinking but not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations. Trump has repeatedly had to be talked out of firing Sessions before November and has signaled to allies that he wants to make sweeping changes at the Justice Department once the midterms have concluded.

He told The Associated Press this month that he was "not thrilled" with Sessions but made no commitment to dismiss him.

If Trump were to wait, it would not be out of deference to Sessions, but rather because the White House would be managing the fallout from the midterms and preparing for a pair of presidential overseas trips in November, according to the official.

Sessions' decision to recuse remains his original sin in Trump's eyes. Trump has fumed that Sessions has not done more to protect his personal interests and has vented about what he sees as Sessions' failure to get a handle on immigration and his lack of emphasis on combating transnational criminal organizations.

Cameron Smith, a former Sessions Senate aide, said, "The idea that this gets better — they stand next to each other and sing common praises — I just don't see anybody looking at that seriously."

After being berated by Trump over the recusal decision last year, Sessions offered his resignation, but it was rejected. He has been widely viewed as determined to stay in the job because he believes in Trump's agenda, which largely mirrors his own interests, and reluctant to leave a job for which he gave up a Senate seat.

For more than a year, Trump has repeatedly polled advisers as to whether he should fire Sessions. Some of his closest aides, including attorney Rudy Giuliani, have counseled him not to do so, at least not yet.

The case that Sessions' protectors outlined to Trump largely consists of three components:

— Firing Sessions, a witness in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of obstruction of justice, would add legal peril to his standing in the Russia probe.

— Doing so would anger the president's political base, which Trump cares deeply about, especially before the midterms.

— A number of Republican senators would rebel against the treatment of a longtime colleague and potentially not hold confirmation hearings for a replacement if the GOP holds onto the Senate.

Blackwell, the Sessions friend, said conservatives are divided between those who support firing him immediately and those who regard him as loyal to their cause, protective of their ideals and propelling Trump's agenda. Gingrich, for instance, calls the recusal "inexcusable" even as he professes admiration for Sessions.

The ground appears to have softened recently after some influential Republicans, including Sen. Lindsey Graham, suggested Trump would have the right, after the elections, to select a replacement he trusted.

Smith said one way Trump could enable a respectful exit would be for the White House to craft a smooth succession plan and allow Sessions to be part of the process.

Ed Meese, a Reagan administration attorney general and Sessions friend, said he wasn't thinking about Sessions' departure because "I don't want to see him fired at all."

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"I think he's taken it with grace," Meese said of Sessions' response to Trump's anger. "What he is rescued from is less than 1 percent of the department and he has done an outstanding job in everything he's done in the department."

On Twitter follow Eric Tucker at <https://twitter.com/etuckerAP> and Jonathan Lemire at <https://twitter.com/JonLemire>.

Enough is enough: Fed-up Americans crave unity amid violence

By **CLAIRE GALOFARO** and **MARGERY A. BECK**, Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — She flipped through television channels and radio stations, scanning from conservative to liberal media, searching for any sign that the polarized nation had finally reached its tipping point.

For days, Elisa Karem Parker had been seeing updates in the news: A pipe bomb sent to liberal political donor George Soros. One delivered to CNN. More to former President Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and other prominent political figures villainized by those on the right — a bizarre plot unfolding just ahead of the midterm election that will decide which party controls Congress.

"It's like our country is becoming 'The Hunger Games,'" Parker, who considers herself squarely in the middle of the political divide, told her husband and teenage son over dinner.

As authorities intercepted more than a dozen pipe bombs addressed to President Donald Trump's most ardent critics — and then, on Saturday, as news broke of yet another mass shooting in America — political scientists and ordinary citizens observed again that rabid partisanship had devolved to the point of acts of violent extremism. Many wonder whether this latest spasm might be the moment that the nation collectively considers how poisonous the political culture has become and decides to turn the other way.

"If this isn't it, I'd hate to think about what it will take," said Parker as she cast her ballot in early voting last week in Louisville, Kentucky.

The mail-bomb plot is merely the latest in a series of stunning attacks to test how much political animosity Americans are willing to accept: the shooting of a Republican congressman at a baseball practice, the white supremacist rally that turned deadly in Virginia, the recent ricin scare-letters mailed to Trump and other top members of his administration.

On Friday, authorities arrested a suspect in the bomb probe — a 56-year-old registered Republican and Trump enthusiast who "appears to be a partisan," Attorney General Jeff Sessions said when asked about motive. By then, politicians and talking heads had already backed into the usual corners. Both parties blamed the other, and the president called for unity, then again described liberals and the media as villains. The hope Parker had that this might be a turning point faded.

Then came the shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue that claimed 11 lives, an attack likely to cause ugly partisan debates over gun control, hate speech and more.

"I just can't believe the kind of violence that we're experiencing in our country," Pittsburgh resident Cindy Jennings said at a vigil for those targeted at the Tree of Life Synagogue. "I feel like the leadership in our country right now is just encouraging violence, and I wish that that would stop."

The volatile tribalism now so ingrained in American life will eventually right itself, says Robb Willer, a sociology professor at Stanford University, but not until the public decides it's had enough and stops rewarding politicians who use incendiary language and demonize the other side. It's impossible to guess, he notes, how much damage will be done in the meantime.

"That is the question of our time: Are we going to choose to continue the war, or are we going to choose peace? And we don't know yet what the answer to that will be, because while a majority of Americans are fed up with the extremity of our political divisions, it does feel like we're stuck here," Willer says. "It will get worse before it gets better."

Animosity between parties has been growing for decades now, to the point that studies show Republicans and Democrats don't want to date one another, don't want their children to marry one another and don't want to live in the same neighborhoods at a rate unprecedented in modern America. At the same time,

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politicians began using increasingly apocalyptic language. Willer says those two forces — the splintering of society along party lines and the ascent of vitriolic campaigning — merged to create a breeding ground for violence.

"It was simmering," says Parker. "It's like the gas burner was on, then Trump lit the fire."

The president vaulted to political prominence by promoting the racist and false conspiracy theory that Obama was not born in the United States, launched his presidential campaign by calling Mexicans rapists and murderers, and routinely describes his enemies, including the intended recipients of the pipe bombs, as "evil," "dangerous," "the enemy of the American people."

"That let loose a period of incivility, which is too mild a word; it's potentially explosive anger that can turn into violence," says Bob Shrum, a former Democratic strategist who last month started the Center for the Political Future, a program at the University of Southern California designed to restore sanity and bipartisanship in politics.

He's watched with frustration as some liberal politicians respond to Trump's presidency by imitating his divisive style. He describes it as a "cold civil war," where people consider those who disagree with them bad, un-American — their enemy.

"Is there a tipping point? I don't know," he says. "I do believe we're in a dangerous moment, unlike anything I've seen in my lifetime, and I'm 75 years old."

There is little evidence the tide will turn soon.

Moderates are becoming increasingly rare in Washington, D.C., and Republicans willing to criticize Trump's rhetoric, such as Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona and Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, are not running for re-election.

"You don't really have those reasonable voices kind of trying to bring everybody together," says Tom Freeman, a Republican attorney in Lincoln, Nebraska. "It's just kind of round and round we go, and the sides just get more and more extreme, and you don't have that rational leader in the crowd saying, 'Hey, let's dial it back.' The sad thing is, if you did have that person, I don't know that anyone would listen to them."

The polarization is bleeding into everyday Americans' personal lives.

Robert Major, a 51-year-old electrician and Republican from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, says he once moved because his landlord, a liberal, screamed at him for watching conservative news channels.

Meeka Grayer, a 38-year-old radio talk show host and Democrat from Omaha, Nebraska, lost friends over the divide. One conservative friend posted on Facebook about the migrant caravan heading toward the United States from Central America, parroting the president's vilification of the group. Grayer objected and was attacked for her comments, prompting her to block her friend.

Though on opposite sides politically, Grayer and Major agree: The political climate is toxic and tiresome, but they have little confidence it will change because it's too useful to politicians who want to stay in power.

"I think it's time for the little guy to take control, but will that happen?" says Randy Wick, a 68-year-old Republican in Bloomingdale, Illinois, who blames Republicans, Democrats and the media for the division. "It seems like a good ol' boys club up there in Washington. It's all about money."

Willer, the Stanford sociologist, says the absence of political leaders brave enough to try to steer the country onto a better path means it will be left up to voters to break the cycle. Until then, the divisions will only get deeper.

Some already casting votes for the Nov. 6 midterm election say they hope the system can self-correct. The future of the nation, the very concept of democracy, is at stake.

"America is resilient; we find a way even in our darkest days," 36-year-old Cordell Lawrence said as he voted last week in Louisville. Lawrence described himself only as a moderate, preferring not to make public what party he leans to because he worries that could hinder personal and professional relationships.

"Maybe we have to hit rock bottom before we find how to get back up," he said. "We're probably pretty close to rock bottom today. At least I hope we are."

Galofaro reported from Louisville, Kentucky. Beck reported from Omaha, Nebraska. Also contributing were AP writers Martha Irvine in Bloomingdale, Illinois; Ellis Rua in Coral Gables, Florida; Nicholas Riccardi

in Denver; and Hannah Grabenstein in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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

For AP's complete coverage of the Pittsburgh synagogue shootings: <https://www.apnews.com/Shootings>

Shoppers may face hard choices again on health marketplaces

By TOM MURPHY, AP Health Writer

Insurance shoppers likely will have several choices for individual health coverage this fall. The bad news? There's no guarantee they will cover certain doctors or prescriptions.

Health insurers have stopped fleeing the Affordable Care Act's marketplaces and they've toned down premium hikes that gouged consumers in recent years. Some are even dropping prices for 2019. But the market will still be far from ideal for many customers when open enrollment starts Thursday.

Much of the insurance left on the marketplaces limits patients to narrow networks of hospitals or doctors and provides no coverage outside those networks.

Plus these plans can still be unaffordable for people who don't receive help from the ACA's income-based tax credits, and they often require patients to pay several thousand dollars toward their care before most coverage starts.

"People understand that things are kind of screwed up," said Chicago-area broker Robert Slayton. "My objective is to give them what reality is, to give them options. Their job is to choose what may work."

The ACA expanded coverage to millions of Americans when it established state-based marketplaces where people can buy a plan if they don't get insurance through work or qualify for government programs like Medicaid. But the expansion has been rough.

Several insurers pulled back from these markets after being swamped with higher-than-expected costs. Many that remained jacked up prices or started limiting the hospitals and doctors included in their coverage networks.

Those narrow networks give insurers leverage to negotiate better rates that can lead to lower coverage prices, and the consulting firm McKinsey & Co. has found that the quality of their hospitals is comparable to broader networks.

Plans with narrow networks will cover necessary specialists like cardiologists, but they often exclude out-of-state care providers or academic medical centers, which tend to be more expensive.

They can pose problems for patients who have more than one physician or want to keep a doctor covered under a previous plan.

Jodi Smith Lemacks is nervous about changing or losing her job because that could mean cutting off her 15-year-old son Joshua from heart specialists he's seen his entire life. The Richmond, Virginia, resident said she looked last year for options on the ACA's marketplace to trim the coverage bill she pays through work.

She didn't find any plans that would cover his current doctors, including some at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who treat his congenital heart disease.

"The issue with kids like Joshua is, it really matters, it's life or death where you go," she said.

Plans with some form of a limited network made up more than half of the choices offered for 2017 on the ACA's marketplaces, according to the latest numbers from McKinsey. That coverage was particularly common in the price range where most consumers shop, which is within 10 percent of the lowest-priced plan.

These plans grew more common from 2014 to 2017, especially in cities where insurers could choose between competing hospital networks. But that trend has since stabilized, said McKinsey's Jim Oatman.

Even so, brokers aren't expecting narrow networks to go away. In some markets like St. Louis, they were the only option shoppers had among 10 plan choices for this year.

The narrow networks are grouped by hospital systems, and broker Kelly Rector has several customers who see doctors in different systems. She advises them to pick their coverage based on which doctor is most important and drop the others for in-network options.

Plans with narrow networks can make it harder to simply get to the doctor, especially if it's a specialist.

Wichita Falls, Texas, residents with individual coverage have to drive nearly two hours to see an in-network neurologist, insurance agent Kelly Fristoe said. That can be stunning to customers who buy an individual plan after having coverage through work, which tends to come with wider networks.

"They don't like it," Fristoe said. "They're forced to make a change, and they have to go establish themselves with a new specialist."

Debbie Dean lives 15 minutes from a suburban Chicago hospital, but she'll have to travel about an hour to an in-network location if she wants surgery on her injured shoulder. Dean couldn't find affordable coverage that included the nearby hospital when she bought her 2018 plan.

Instead, she settled on insurance that comes with a \$6,000 annual deductible she has to pay before most coverage starts. That, plus the travel distance, keeps her from seeking help.

"I'm grateful that I have coverage, but it's really cruddy coverage," she said. "I sit here with my shoulder killing me every day."

Narrow-network plans with their lower prices can be good for shoppers who aren't tied to a doctor and just want protection from big medical bills, said Paul Rooney, a vice president with the online insurance broker eHealth.

"They're younger and they're healthier and they're thinking, 'I'm going to get this coverage in case I hurt my knee playing basketball,'" he said.

But it can be tough for consumers when shopping to know if there's a decent selection of doctors nearby until they need one.

People who "have the most to lose from having a narrow-network plan are those who have something unexpected happen to them," said Daniel Polsky, a University of Pennsylvania economist.

Follow Tom Murphy on Twitter: @thpmurphy

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Wait times for citizenship applications stretch to 2 years

By AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 700,000 immigrants are waiting on applications to become U.S. citizens, a process that once typically took about six months but has stretched to more than two years in some places under the administration of President Donald Trump.

The long wait times have prompted some immigrant advocates to ask whether the delays are aimed at keeping anti-Trump voters from casting ballots in elections.

"People are motivated to participate, and they're being frustrated from being able to participate in the elections they're excited about," said Manuel Pastor, director of the University of Southern California's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration.

The number of immigrants aspiring to become U.S. citizens surged during 2016, jumping 27 percent from a year earlier as Trump made cracking down on immigration a central theme of his presidential campaign. At first, the federal government kept up with the applications, but then the wait grew.

Backlogs are nothing new in the U.S. immigration system. It often takes years to receive asylum or to be deported. But naturalization — the final step to become an American citizen, obtain a U.S. passport and receive voting rights — had not been subject to such delays in recent years.

Now the average wait time for officials to decide on applications is more than 10 months. It takes up to 22 months in Atlanta and as long as 26 months in parts of Texas, according to official estimates.

Trump tweeted on Thursday that Central American migrants headed north in a U.S.-bound caravan should return home and can apply for American citizenship if they wish. "Go back to your Country and if you want, apply for citizenship like millions of others are doing!" he posted as thousands continued their trek through Mexico.

But immigrants generally must be legal permanent residents of the United States to apply for citizenship

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and getting a green card can take years — if a person even qualifies for one.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said the longer waits to naturalize are because of the surge in applications, not slower processing. The agency decided 850,000 cases in 2017, up 8 percent from a year before.

Despite “a record and unprecedented” spike in applications, the agency is operating more efficiently and effectively and “outperforming itself,” spokesman Michael Bars said in a statement.

To become an American citizen, immigrants must hold green cards for at least three years, demonstrate good moral character and pass English and civics tests.

Citizenship applications typically rise before an increase in filing fees and during presidential election years as immigrants get excited about the prospect of voting and advocacy groups conduct widespread outreach to try to get more eligible voters to the polls.

Enrique Robles, 32, said he applied to naturalize as soon as he was eligible after living in the U.S. most of his life. When he didn’t hear about the status of his application, Robles, who is originally from Mexico, started to worry.

More than a year later, he said, he was called to an interview where an immigration officer questioned whether he should have been issued a green card in the first place, a concern he was able to quickly dispel by explaining that his father had legitimately sponsored him.

“With this administration, it feels like more they are looking for possibilities to kick people out,” said Robles, who took his citizenship oath in September.

Keeping potential citizens from voting could have an effect, but it could also drive their relatives and friends to the polls in greater numbers.

“The naturalization delays have a huge cost in stopping some people” from voting, but they “have a huge impact in motivating others,” said Jeremy Robbins, executive director of New American Economy, a bipartisan group in support of immigration.

Competitive districts that have a large number of foreign-born residents are likely to be among those where naturalization delays could matter most. Those include districts in California’s Orange County and in Texas and New Jersey, Robbins said.

At a recent naturalization ceremony in Los Angeles, some new citizens said the process seemed long to them, while others said it flew by in a matter of months. Key for many was being able to travel with an American passport and being able to vote.

Sameeha Alkamalee Jabbar, 38, who is from Sri Lanka, said the process took 10 months and at times she worried about the backlog. She wants to vote next month because “every vote counts” — and especially because her husband is seeking re-election to a school board seat in Orange County.

“This is home now,” she said, wearing a stars-and-stripes hijab. “I love the United States of America.”

Immigrant advocates recently filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles demanding records from the Trump administration on the delays. They questioned whether wait times were longer in electoral battleground states and said that could suggest voter suppression.

Juliana Cabrales, Mid-Atlantic director of civic engagement at the NALEO Educational Fund, which supports Latino participation in politics, said the group is focused on driving voter turnout in the midterm elections but will quickly pivot to encouraging immigrants to apply for citizenship if they want to vote for president in 2020.

“Right now, we’re finding ourselves in this space, in places like Miami and New York, where processing times are 21 months,” she said. “If you want to vote in 2020 you have to apply (to naturalize) now.”

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 29, the 302nd day of 2018. There are 63 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Oct. 29, 1929, “Black Tuesday” descended upon the New York Stock Exchange. Prices collapsed amid

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panic selling and thousands of investors were wiped out as America's "Great Depression" began.

On this date:

In 1618, Sir Walter Raleigh, the English courtier, military adventurer and poet, was executed in London for treason.

In 1787, the opera "Don Giovanni" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had its world premiere in Prague.

In 1901, President William McKinley's assassin, Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gahsh), was electrocuted.

In 1923, the Republic of Turkey was proclaimed.

In 1956, during the Suez Canal crisis, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" premiered as NBC's nightly television newscast.

In 1960, a chartered plane carrying the California Polytechnic State University football team crashed on takeoff from Toledo, Ohio, killing 22 of the 48 people on board.

In 1964, thieves made off with the Star of India and other gems from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. (The Star and most of the other gems were recovered; three men were convicted of stealing them.)

In 1979, on the 50th anniversary of the great stock market crash, anti-nuclear protesters tried but failed to shut down the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg's previous marijuana use. Jazz great Woody Herman died in Los Angeles at age 74.

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, roared back into space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he'd blazed for America's astronauts 36 years earlier.

In 2004, Osama bin Laden, in a videotaped statement, directly admitted for the first time that he'd ordered the Sept. 11 attacks and told America "the best way to avoid another Manhattan" was to stop threatening Muslims' security.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy slammed ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland, devastating coastal communities and causing widespread power outages; the storm and its aftermath were blamed for at least 182 deaths in the U.S.

Ten years ago: A 6.4-magnitude earthquake in southwestern Pakistan killed at least 215 people. Nearly 50 hours after Game 5 started but was stopped by rain, the Philadelphia Phillies finished off the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 in a three-inning sprint to win the World Series for the first time since 1980.

Five years ago: Medicare chief Marilyn Tavenner, whose agency oversaw the "Obamacare" enrollment website, apologized to Congress for the severe technical problems that marred the online rollout of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. The U.N. confirmed an outbreak of polio in Syria for the first time in over a decade, warning the disease threatened to spread among an estimated half a million children who had never been immunized because of the civil war.

One year ago: All but 10 members of the Houston Texans took a knee during the national anthem, reacting to a remark from team owner Bob McNair to other NFL owners that "we can't have the inmates running the prison." The head of Puerto Rico's power company said the agency was cancelling its \$300 million contract with a tiny Montana company to restore the island's power system; the company was based in the hometown of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Dennis Banks, who helped found the American Indian Movement and took part in sometimes-violent uprisings against the U.S. government, died at the age of 80.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer-musician Sonny Osborne (The Osborne Brothers) is 81. Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is 80. Country singer Lee Clayton is 76. Rock musician Denny Laine is 74. Singer Melba Moore is 73. Musician Peter Green is 72. Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 71. Actress Kate Jackson is 70. Country musician Steve Kellough (Wild Horses) is 62. Actor Dan Castellaneta (TV: "The Simpsons") is 61. Comic strip artist Tom Wilson ("Ziggy") is 61. Actress Finola Hughes is 59. Singer Randy Jackson is 57. Rock musician Peter Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 53. Actress Joely Fisher is 51. Rapper Paris is 51. Actor Rufus Sewell is 51. Actor Grayson McCouch (mih-COOCH') is 50. Rock singer SA Martinez (311) is 49. Actress Winona Ryder is 47. Actress Tracee Ellis Ross is 46. Actress Gabrielle Union is 46. Actor Trevor

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Lissauer is 45. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vonetta Flowers is 45. Actress Milena Govich is 42. Actor Jon Abrahams is 41. Actor Brendan Fehr is 41. Actor Ben Foster is 38. Rock musician Chris Baio (Vampire Weekend) is 34. Actress India Eisley is 25.

Thought for Today: "Numerous politicians have seized absolute power and muzzled the press. Never in history has the press seized absolute power and muzzled the politicians." — David Brinkley, American broadcast journalist (1920-2003).