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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.



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

Roof work begins on Historic Trinity Church

Work began Monday on re-roofing the Historic Trinity Church in downtown Groton. The project is being funded by an "Outside of Deadwood Grant" awarded by the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission based on the statewide historical significance of the church. The church is the lone survivor of 153 similar churches, all built to plans by a world famous architect, that existed in South Dakota in 1890.

Thanks to the generous support of local residents, businesses and civic groups, the Groton Community Historical Society ("GCHS"), new owner of the church, was able to raise sufficient funds to match a grant of \$17,500 for the project.

The project consists of removing the current asphalt shingles, replacing rotted roof and ceiling boards, adding an overall layer of 1/2 inch plywood for strength, and installing gutters and light brown stone-coated steel shingles which look like the original wooden shingles put on the church when it was built in 1884, but which will be stronger and require less maintenance. S&S Lumber of Groton recommended these shingles and special ordered them for the project.

Prior to beginning the re-roofing, the gigantic old maple tree 15 feet in circumference north of the church was severely trimmed by Sperry's Treeline Tree Services of Groton to prevent future damage to the new roof. The decision to trim the tree rather than remove it completely was based on the recommendation of Aberdeen Forester Aaron Keis, a Certified Arborist knowledgeable about tree risk assessment, who concluded after careful study that "it's a good tree".

Blocker Construction of Bath was selected as the contractor for the job based on competitive bidding and their willingness and ability to tackle and complete challenging roofing jobs.

Other Groton businesses participating in the project include Shirlee Briggs' Final Finish, which is staining the new ceiling boards to match the original ones which have rotted out due to holes in the existing asphalt roof. The plan is to remove and replace the rotted ceiling and roofing boards back to solid wood, which will require a hole about 10 feet high and 18 feet wide in the north side of the roof.

Topper Tastad, GCHS President, anticipates that the project will be completed by the end of this week "if everything goes as planned and the weather holds".



Blocker Construction started tearing off the old roof of Groton's Historic Trinity Church on Monday, and discovered a big hole under the old asphalt shingles on the North side. The new steel shingles will closely resemble the original 1884 wooden shingles. (Photo by Betty Breck)

Betty Breck

G-Force is Tournament Champion

GT Robotics hosted South Dakota's first VEX Robotic tournament of the 2018-19 season on Oct. 20. Eleven teams from Mitchell, Vermillion and Groton participated in the tournament. Groton's G-Force team, with members Travis Townsend and Tanner McGannon, were tournament champions. The Vermillion team chose G-Force as the alliance partner for the elimination rounds (like playoffs) after Vermillion finished first, and G-Force finished second in the qualifying matches (like "regular season play"). G-Force finished the qualifying matches with a record of eight wins and four losses, coming back from a two-win and four-loss start. Travis and Tanner kept their heads and worked hard to improve their robot, strategy and driving. In order to become the champion, G-Force and the Vermillion team had to defeat an alliance of Groton's G.A.T. Wrenches and Mitchell's Cortex Destroyers in the championship match.

As with every year's first tournament, the robots from most teams were not 100% ready when the teams arrived in Groton at 8 a.m. "The first competition each year gives the robotists an important deadline to strive for, and always sparks a competitive spirit among the teams," said Jim Lane, the volunteer GT Robotics coach. Every team was working all day to improve their robots, game strategy and driving. Lane added, "I find the work ethic of the robotics teams amazing to watch as they build, fix and rebuild all day."

The Gear Heads team struggled to fix a drive problem. About halfway through the day, their robot started losing power on the right side wheels shortly after each match started. Despite only being able to drive in circles or arches, they fought hard and kept scoring in each match.

Rankings of GT Robotics teams at the end of qualifying rounds for the tournament

	Tournament	Groton
	Number of teams in Tournery	11
9050A	G-Force	2
9050B	Gear Heads	10
9050C	G.A.T. Wenches	11
9050D	Geek Squad	7
9050E	Galaxy	5

How far did GT Robotics team get in elimination rounds (playoffs)?

	Tournament	Groton
9050A	G-Force	Champion
9050B	Gear Heads	
9050C	G.A.T. Wenches	Final
9050D	Geek Squad	Semi
9050E	Galaxy	Semi

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Left Photo: The G Force team was the champions. Pictured left to right are the members of the Vermillion Team that teamed up with G-Force team members Travis Townsend and Tanner McGannon. (Courtesy Photo)



Geek Squad team members: Nick Morris, Lee Iverson, then Mitchell team members. (Courtesy Photo)

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Galaxy Team Members: Isaac Higgins, Alex Dutchuk, River Pardick. (Courtesy Photo)



Gear Heads Team Members: Jack Dinger, Ethan Clark, Axel Warrington and G.A.T. Wrenches Team Members; Noah Tullis, Adrian Knudson. (Courtesy Photo)

STAND UP FOR SCHOOL SAFETY.

ANONYMOUSLY TEXT 'SAFE' TO 82257

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

PROJECT
STANDUP

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In this Season of Giving, Help a Loved One with Social Security

By: Patty Hoffman

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

During the holiday season, we surround ourselves with family and friends, some of whom may rely on us for a number of reasons. An aging parent might need help clearing snow. A sibling may require help after a surgery. And as we get older, our family members may need help managing their finances. In fact, more than eight million people who get monthly Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits need help managing their money.

If you have a loved one who cannot manage their finances, you may be able to become a representative payee. We thoroughly investigate people who apply to be representative payees to protect the interests of Social Security beneficiaries, because a representative payee receives the beneficiary's payments and is given the authority to use them on the beneficiary's behalf.

Social Security appoints a representative payee to manage Social Security and SSI funds only. A payee has no legal authority to manage non-Social Security income or medical matters.

As a representative payee, you must know what the beneficiary's needs are so you can decide the best use of benefits for their care and well-being. This is especially important if the beneficiary doesn't live with you. Each year, Social Security may ask you to complete a form to account for the benefits you've received. You can either fill out the form and return it to Social Security or go online at www.socialsecurity.gov/payee to file the report.

Due to a recent change in the law, we no longer require the following payees to complete an annual Representative Payee Report:

- o Natural or adoptive parents of a minor child beneficiary who primarily reside in the same household as the child;
- o Legal guardians of a minor child beneficiary who primarily reside in the same household as the child;
- o Natural or adoptive parents of a disabled adult beneficiary who primarily reside in the same household with the beneficiary; and
- o Spouse of a beneficiary.

Taking care of family is something we do all year long, not just during this holiday season. Becoming a representative payee is a selfless act of kindness. You can read more about becoming a representative payee at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10076.pdf.

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.



Doug **Fjeldheim** County Commission

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

My fellow taxpayers of Brown County:

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

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

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

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

Doug Fjeldheim

Paid for by Fjeldheim for County Commission

Doug **Fjeldheim** County Commission

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

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

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Today in Weather History

October 30, 1943: Snow fell across much of central and north central South Dakota on this date in 1943. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 7 inches occurred. Snowfall amounts included, 2 inches at Timber Lake, 4 inches at Murdo, 5 inches at Mobridge, and 7 inches at Kennebec and Pierre.

October 30, 1950: Much above normal temperatures occurred across the entire area of central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Record highs were mostly in the 80s across the area. The records were 78 degrees at Sisseton, 80 degrees at Wheaton, 85 degrees at Watertown and Aberdeen, 86 degrees at Mobridge, 88 degrees at Pierre, and a hot 91 degrees at Kennebec.

1925 - Nashville, TN, was blanketed with an inch of snow, their earliest measurable snow of record. (The Weather Channel)

1947 - The Donora, PA, smog disaster finally came to an end. For five days an inversion trapped impurities in the lower atmosphere over the Monongahela Valley killing 20 persons, and leaving more than 2000 others sick. (26th-30th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 74 mph near the town of Gould. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the central U.S. Temperatures warmed into the 80s from Texas to the Lower Missouri Valley. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Ten cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date. The morning low of 20 degrees at South Bend IND was a record for October, and lows of 18 degrees at Grand Rapids MI and 20 degrees at Fort Wayne IND equalled records for October. The low of 2 degrees at International Falls MN smashed their previous record for the date by 11 degrees. Syracuse NY received 2.9 inches of snow to establish a record for October with 5.7 inches for the month. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Temperatures soared into the 70s in the northeastern U.S. The record high of 73 degrees at Alpena MI marked their sixth straight day of record warmth. In the western U.S., Klamath Falls OR reported a record low of 19 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1991: The Perfect Storm, also known as the No-Name Storm reached maximum strength on this day with a low pressure of 972 mb and sustained winds of 69 mph.

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Today



Sunny

High: 56 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 31 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 55 °F

Wednesday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 27 °F

Thursday



Partly Sunny

High: 54 °F



Halloween Outlook

Highs in the 50s
Evening Temps in the 40s

Today
Highs in the 50s



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 10/30/2018 4:36 AM Central



Published on: 10/30/2018 at 4:39AM

The next couple of days will feature dry and mild conditions, with mostly sunny skies and winds generally under 10 mph.

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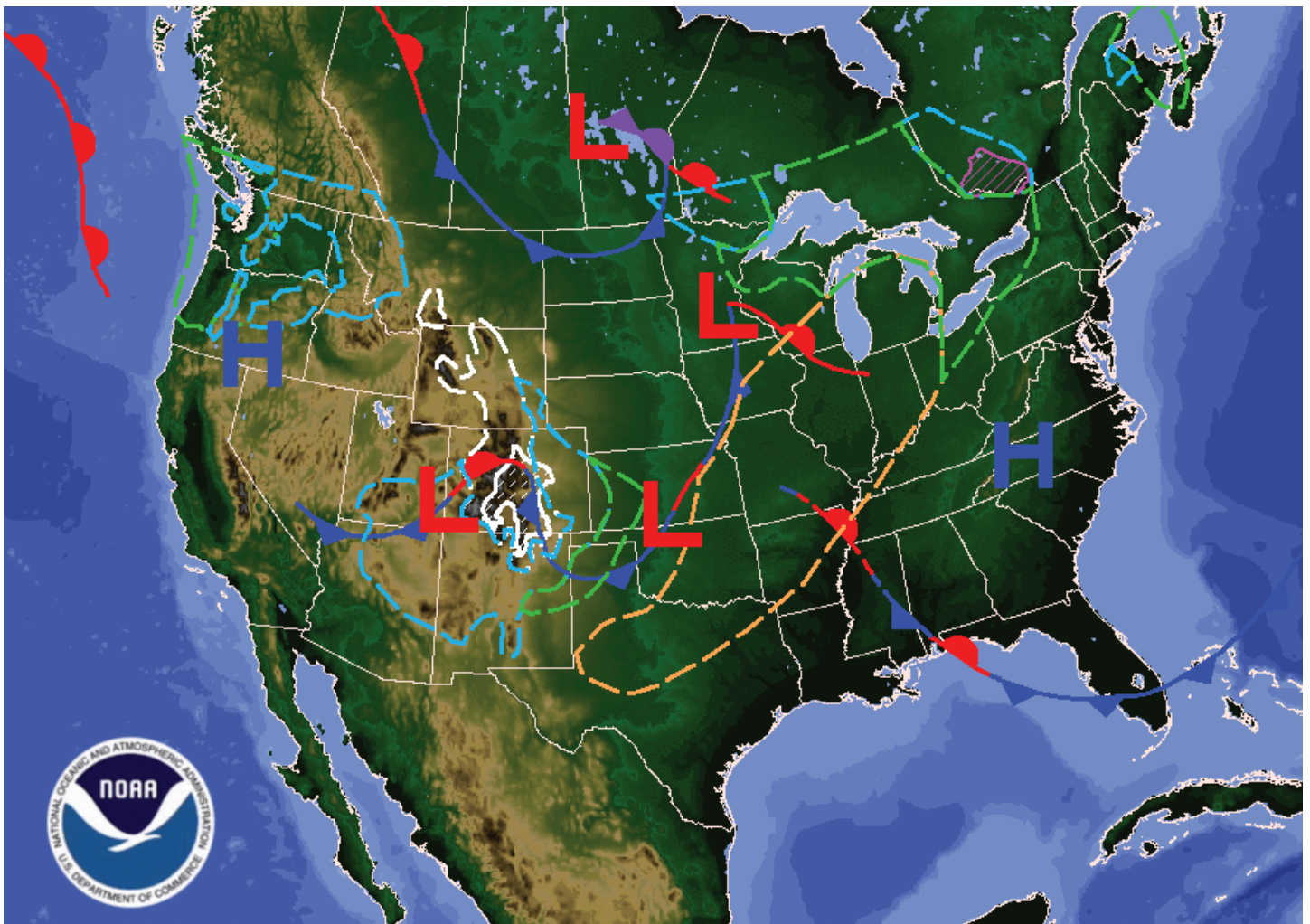
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 60 °F at 4:00 PM
Low Outside Temp: 38 °F at 12:02 AM
High Gust: 30 mph at 11:25 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 85° in 1950
Record Low: 8° in 1991, 1925
Average High: 50°F
Average Low: 27°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.91
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.44
Average Precip to date: 20.39
Precip Year to Date: 15.05
Sunset Tonight: 6:24 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Oct 30, 2018, issued 4:59 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hurley 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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HEARING, ENCOURAGING, LISTENING

Years ago, I was sitting in front of a television trying to find an escape from the cares of the day. It had been a difficult forty-eight hours serving as a Navy chaplain in a large hospital. I was trying to escape from the stress and strain of being with sick and dying patients as the Chaplain on Duty. My young son burst into my escape, shouting, Dad! Lets play. Whatever he said did not register. So he said it again and then asked, Dad, did you hear me?

Of course, Son, I was listening carefully, was my reply.

Grabbing my face with his two little hands and looking into my eyes, he said, Dad, I didnt ask if you were listening. I asked if you heard me. Then and there, I was taught the difference between listening and hearing.

The Psalmist recognized this difference, too. You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; You encourage them and You listen to their cry.

What a comforting thought! His ear is always open to the cries of His children and He waits attentively to hear their voices in times of need. What a beautiful picture of a loving Father. There is nothing we need to do to get His attention. is attenti Nor is there a magical formula to use when we pray. All we have to do is to cry out to Him.

We cry and He hears. His ear is always open for our particular voice. His eyes are always on us no matter where we may be. And His heart is always sensitive to our personal needs. When we cry, He hears, He listens, He understands and He will respond and meet our needs.

Prayer: Lord, You are above us but not beyond us. You hear us when we cry and respond when the time is right. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 10:17 You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; You encourage them and You listen to their cry.

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

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News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Region 7A First Round

Bennett County def. Little Wound, 25-18, 20-25, 21-25, 25-19, 15-11

Pine Ridge def. St. Francis Indian, 22-25, 25-16, 25-18, 25-23

Red Cloud def. Todd County, 25-18, 23-25, 25-23, 16-25, 16-14

Region 1B First Round

Aberdeen Christian def. Waubay/Summit, 25-21, 25-19, 23-25, 21-25, 15-6

Great Plains Lutheran def. Britton-Hecla, 25-23, 26-24, 25-14

Wilmot def. Florence/Henry, 25-16, 17-25, 25-23, 25-21

Region 2B First Round

Highmore-Harrold def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-18, 25-7, 25-18

Leola/Frederick def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-23, 25-16, 17-25, 25-21

Region 3B First Round

James Valley Christian def. DeSmet, 27-25, 25-14, 26-24

Wessington Springs def. Lake Preston, 25-10, 25-15, 25-12

Wolsey-Wessington def. Iroquois, 25-9, 25-16, 25-18

Region 4B First Round

Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Howard, 25-22, 25-17, 25-16

Mitchell Christian def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-19, 29-27, 25-23

Region 5B First Round

Freeman Academy/Marion def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-21, 25-16, 25-21

Irene-Wakonda def. Centerville, 25-21, 25-16, 25-21

Region 6B First Round

Colome def. Marty Indian, 25-10, 25-20, 25-14

Scotland def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 23-25, 25-21, 25-21, 25-17

Region 7B First Round

Edgemont def. Crazy Horse, 25-7, 25-22, 25-11

Jones County def. Lower Brule, 25-20, 15-25, 25-20, 25-23

Lyman def. Oelrichs, forfeit

Region 8B First Round

Dupree def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-12, 25-18, 25-17

McIntosh def. Wakpala, 25-4, 25-8, 25-7

Newell def. Takini, 25-11, 25-13, 25-10

South Dakota executes inmate who killed prison guard in 2011

By DAVE KOLPACK and JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota inmate who killed a correctional officer seven years ago during a failed prison escape on the guard's 63rd birthday was put to death Monday evening, marking the state's first execution since 2012.

Rodney Berget, 56, received a lethal injection of an undisclosed drug 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. Berget's execution was the state's fourth since it reinstated the death penalty in 1979.

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It originally was to be carried out at 1:30 p.m. CDT, but was delayed for hours while the U.S. Supreme Court weighed a last-minute legal bid to block it. Berget joked in his last words about the wait, saying, "Sorry for the delay, I got caught in traffic."

He was soft-spoken and appeared emotional. He also thanked people for their support and mentioned two by name.

"I love you, and I'll meet you out there," he said while appearing to give a peace sign with his left hand.

After the administering of the drug started at 7:25 p.m., Berget groaned and pushed out his chest. He drifted off and snored briefly before his eyes closed. He was pronounced dead at 7:37 p.m. CDT.

Johnson's widow, Lynette Johnson, who witnessed the execution, said her husband experienced "cruel and unusual punishment" but Berget's lethal injection was "peaceful" and "sterile."

"What's embedded in my mind is the crime scene. Ron laid in a pool of blood. His blood was all over that crime scene," she said. "That's cruel and unusual punishment."

She sized down her husband'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.

Berget was serving a life sentence for attempted murder and kidnapping when he and another inmate, Eric Robert, attacked Johnson on April 12, 2011, in a part of the penitentiary known as Pheasantland Industries, where inmates work on upholstery, signs, furniture and other projects. After Johnson was beaten, Robert put on Johnson's pants, hat and jacket and pushed a cart loaded with two boxes, one with Berget inside, toward the exits. They made it outside one gate but were stopped by another guard before they could complete their escape through a second gate. Berget admitted to his role in the slaying.

Robert was executed on Oct. 15, 2012. The state also put an inmate to death on Oct. 30, 2012, but that was the last one before Berget's.

Lynette Johnson said the executions held Robert and Berget accountable, and she asked that people not feel bad for the men. She spoke at a guard training academy that was named for her husband and dedicated one year after his death.

Johnson turned 63 on the day that he was killed, and he was nearing the end of a nearly 24-year career as a guard.

Berget's mental status and death penalty eligibility played a role in court delays. 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 would be overturned and that he couldn't imagine spending "another 30 years in a cage doing a life sentence."

The Department of Corrections planned to use a single drug to execute Berget. Policy calls for either sodium thiopental or pentobarbital. Pentobarbital was used in the state's 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.

Berget was 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.

Opponents of the death penalty gathered for a vigil Monday outside the South Dakota prison, some joining in a circle and singing. Sioux Falls resident Elaine Engelgau, 62, who sat behind a sign attached to a cross reading: "JESUS: HE WITHOUT SIN, CAST THE FIRST STONE," told The Associated Press that she prayed the execution would be halted and for Berget's soul.

"I don't think it's right to kill a person, and I think the citizens of the state of South Dakota are wrong to kill someone," said Engelgau, a retired court reporter.

Scott Johnson told the Argus Leader that he didn't know R.J. Johnson, but stood across the street in support of the death penalty. Scott Johnson said a prisoner in the penitentiary killed his sister and was sentenced to life without parole.

"I know there's two sides to everything, but I don't understand their side at all," he said.

___ For the latest updates on Berget's execution: <https://bit.ly/2JmEL7S>

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South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota media volleyball poll. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. R.C. Stevens	(11)	29-1	71	1
2. S.F. O'Gorman	(4)	25-5	64	2
3. S.F. Washington -		25-5	42	3
4. Watertown -		20-5	33	4
5. Mitchell -	14-7	14	RV	

Others receiving votes: Huron (14-7) 1.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. S.F. Christian	(15)	26-8	75	1
2. Miller -	26-2	60	2	
3. McCook Central-Montrose				22-3 43 3
4. Winner -	24-3	30	4	
5. St. Thomas More			30-5	11 5

Others receiving votes: Wagner (26-4) 6.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Northwestern	(15)	32-2	75	1
2. Warner -	30-2	60	2	
3. Chester Area		22-5	45	3
4. Faith -	26-1	28	4	
5. Philip -	24-5	7	RV	

Others receiving votes: Ethan (24-6) 5, Burke (26-7) 3, Waverly-South Shore (24-5) 1, Kadoka Area (26-4) 1.

Box Elder police kill mountain lion seen near schools

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Police in Box Elder have shot and killed a mountain lion that was spotted roaming near schools last week.

Officers spotted the animal in Veterans Park Friday evening. One officer shot and wounded the lion when it was up in a tree. The wounded animal fell to the ground, and another officer — fearing the big cat could head to nearby homes — shot it again.

KOTA-TV reports a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks conservation officer came to Box Elder to retrieve the young male lion.

The lion was spotted on school security video early Thursday. Douglas School District officials kept students off the playgrounds Thursday and Friday as a precaution.

Superintendent Alan Kerr said Monday students were allowed back on the playgrounds at all of the district's schools.

Vermillion church moves services after vandalism discovered

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — A church in Vermillion moved Sunday morning services due to vandalism. Apostolic Faith Church Pastor Greg Robinson tells the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan that someone tampered with the church's furnace wiring, and that there was a gas smell in the building. Someone also had left a dry-erase board on the pulpit with a biblical passage about the apocalypse. Police were called and services were relocated to a parishioner's home. Officers plan to be present at the church's next service.

Police declined to comment on the investigation.

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

Vandalism cited for shutdown of Redfield shooting range

REDFIELD, S.D. (AP) — Redfield officials are citing vandalism and littering for a lengthy shutdown of the town's shooting range.

City Finance Officer Adam Hansen tells the American News that the range on city-owned property was closed in April.

Hansen says targets at the facility were vandalized, so people began bringing items like refrigerators and other appliances to shoot at.

He says the closure is indefinite as officials consider enhancing security.

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

Authorities identify man killed in Brookings County crash

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Brookings man who died in a two-vehicle crash in Brookings County.

The Highway Patrol says 47-year-old Corey Kilber was driving a pickup truck that rear-ended a semi carrying hazardous material on U.S. Highway 14. The crash happened about 4 miles west of Brookings about midday Tuesday.

The patrol says the crash happened as the semi was pulling away from a railroad crossing with its hazard lights activated. Less than a gallon of sodium hydroxide, or lye, spilled. It was contained by emergency responders. The semi driver wasn't hurt.

2 children killed, 2 other hurt in highway crash

LEOLA, S.D. (AP) — Officials say two children have died and two others have been injured in a highway crash in northern South Dakota.

The state Department of Public Safety says an eastbound car ran off Highway 10 near Leola Sunday afternoon. The driver brought the vehicle back onto the highway where it collided with a westbound car.

Authorities say a 4-year-old girl and 2-year-old boy in the first car died at the scene. The 28-year-old woman driving that car was thrown from the vehicle. She was initially taken to an Aberdeen hospital before she was airlifted to a Fargo hospital.

A 7-year-old girl in the same vehicle was taken to an Aberdeen hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Pentagon sending 5,200 troops to border week before midterms

By **ROBERT BURNS, COLLEEN LONG and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon said it's sending 5,200 troops to the Southwest border in an extraordinary military operation ordered up just a week before midterm elections in which President Donald Trump has put a sharp focus on Central American migrants moving north in slow-moving caravans that are still hundreds of miles from the U.S.

The number of troops being deployed is more than double the 2,000 who are in Syria fighting the Islamic State group.

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Trump, eager to keep voters focused on illegal immigration in the lead-up to the elections, stepped up his dire warnings about the caravans, tweeting, "This is an invasion of our Country and our Military is waiting for you!"

But any migrants who complete the long trek to the southern U.S. border already face major hurdles — both physical and bureaucratic — to being allowed into the United States.

In an interview Monday, Trump said the U.S. would build "tent cities" for asylum seekers.

"We're going to put tents up all over the place," told Fox News Channel's Laura Ingraham. "They're going to be very nice and they're going to wait and if they don't get asylum, they get out."

Under current protocol, migrants who clear an initial screening are often released until their cases are decided in immigration court, which can take several years.

Trump denied his focus on the caravan is intended to help Republicans in next week's midterms, saying, "This has nothing to do with elections."

The Pentagon's "Operation Faithful Patriot" was described by the commander of U.S. Northern Command as an effort to help Customs and Border Protection "harden the southern border" by stiffening defenses at and near legal entry points. Advanced helicopters will allow border protection agents to swoop down on migrants trying to cross illegally, said Air Force Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy.

Troops planned to bring heavy concertina wiring to unspool across open spaces between ports.

"We will not allow a large group to enter the U.S. in an unlawful and unsafe manner," said Kevin McAleenan, commissioner of Customs and Border Protection.

Eight hundred troops already are on their way to southern Texas, O'Shaughnessy said, and their numbers will top 5,200 by week's end. Some of the troops will be armed. He said troops would focus first on Texas, followed by Arizona and then California.

The troops will join the more than 2,000 National Guardsmen that Trump has already deployed to the border. It remained unclear Monday why the administration was choosing to send active-duty troops given that they will be limited to performing the same support functions the Guard already is doing.

The number of people in the first migrant caravan headed toward the U.S. has dwindled to about 4,000 from about 7,000 last week, though a second one was gaining steam and marked by violence. About 600 migrants in the second group tried to cross a bridge from Guatemala to Mexico en masse Monday. The riverbank standoff with Mexico police followed a more violent confrontation Sunday when the migrants used sticks and rocks against officers. One migrant was killed Sunday night by a head wound, but the cause was unclear.

The first group passed through the spot via the river — wading or on rafts — and was advancing through southern Mexico. That group appeared to begin as a collection of about 160 who decided to band together in Honduras for protection against the gangs who prey on migrants traveling alone and snowballed as the group moved north. They are mostly from Honduras, where it started, as well as El Salvador and Guatemala.

Another, smaller caravan earlier this year dwindled greatly as it passed through Mexico, with only about 200 making it to the California border.

Migrants are entitled under both U.S. and international law to apply for asylum. But there already is a bottleneck of would-be asylum seekers waiting at some U.S. border crossings to make their claims, some waiting as long as five weeks.

McAleenan said the aim of the operation was to deter migrants from crossing illegally, but he conceded his officers were overwhelmed by a surge of asylum seekers at border crossings. He also said Mexico was prepared to offer asylum to members of the caravan.

"If you're already seeking asylum, you've been given a generous offer," he said of Mexico. "We want to work with Mexico to manage that flow."

The White House is also weighing additional border security measures, including blocking those traveling in the caravan from seeking legal asylum and preventing them from entering the U.S.

The military operation drew quick criticism.

"Sending active military forces to our southern border is not only a huge waste of taxpayer money, but

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an unnecessary course of action that will further terrorize and militarize our border communities," said Shaw Drake of the American Civil Liberties Union's border rights center at El Paso, Texas.

Military personnel are legally prohibited from engaging in immigration enforcement. The troops will include military police, combat engineers and others helping on the border.

The escalating rhetoric over the migrants and expected deployments come as the president has been trying to turn the caravans into a key election issue just days before elections that will determine whether Republicans maintain control of Congress.

"This will be the election of the caravans, the Kavanaughs, law and order, tax cuts, and you know what else? It's going to be the election of common sense," Trump said at a rally in Illinois on Saturday night.

On Monday, he tweeted without providing evidence, "Many Gang Members and some very bad people are mixed into the Caravan heading to our Southern Border."

"Please go back," he urged them, "you will not be admitted into the United States unless you go through the legal process. This is an invasion of our Country and our Military is waiting for you!"

It's possible there are criminals mixed in, but Trump has not substantiated his claim that members of the MS-13 gang, in particular, are among them.

The troops are expected to perform a wide variety of functions such as transporting supplies for the Border Patrol, but not engage directly with migrants seeking to cross the border, officials said. One U.S. official said the troops will be sent initially to staging bases in California, Texas and Arizona while the CBP works out precisely where it wants the troops positioned. U.S. Transportation Command posted a video on its Facebook page Monday of a C-17 transport plane that it said was delivering Army equipment to the Southwest border in support of the operation.

The U.S. military has already begun delivering jersey barriers to the southern border in conjunction with the deployment plans.

___ Associated Press writers Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Lolita C. Baldor in Prague contributed to this report.

Previous flight of crashed Lion Air jet terrified passengers

By NINIEK KARMINI and STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Relatives numbed by grief provided samples for DNA tests to help identify victims of the Lion Air plane crash that killed 189 people in Indonesia, as accounts emerged of problems on the jet's previous flight including rapid descents that terrified passengers.

Rescue personnel searched the sea where the plane crashed northeast of Jakarta, sending 26 body bags to identification experts, while the airline flew dozens of grieving relatives to the country's capital, Jakarta.

The 2-month-old Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet crashed into the Java Sea early Monday, just 13 minutes after taking off from Jakarta for an island off Sumatra. Its pilot requested clearance to return to the airport just 2-3 minutes after takeoff, indicating a problem, though the cause is still baffling.

Aircraft debris and personal belongings including ID cards, clothing and bags found scattered in the sea were spread out on tarps at a port in north Jakarta and sorted into evidence bags.

The disaster has reignited concerns about safety in Indonesia's fast-growing aviation industry, which was recently removed from European Union and U.S. blacklists.

Two passengers on the plane's previous flight from Bali to Jakarta on Sunday described issues that caused annoyance and alarm.

Alon Soetanto told TVOne the plane dropped suddenly several times in the first few minutes of its flight.

"About three to eight minutes after it took off, I felt like the plane was losing power and unable to rise. That happened several times during the flight," he said. "We felt like in a roller coaster. Some passengers began to panic and vomit."

His account is consistent with data from flight-tracking sites that show erratic speed, altitude and direction in the minutes after the jet took off. A similar pattern is also seen in data pinged from Monday's fatal flight. Safety experts cautioned, however, that the data must be checked for accuracy against the plane's

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“black boxes,” which officials are confident will be recovered.

Lion Air president Edward Sirait said there were reports of technical problems with the flight from Bali but they had been resolved in accordance with the plane manufacturer’s procedures. The airline didn’t respond to requests to verify a document purporting to be a Lion Air maintenance report, dated Sunday, that described inaccurate airspeed and altitude readings after takeoff.

In a detailed post online, Indonesian TV presenter Conchita Caroline, who was on Sunday’s flight, said boarding was delayed by more than an hour and when the plane was being towed, a technical problem forced it to return to its parking space.

She said passengers sat in the cabin without air conditioning for at least 30 minutes listening to an “unusual” engine roar, while some children vomited from the overbearing heat, until staff faced with rising anger let them disembark.

After the passengers waited on the tarmac for about 30 minutes, they were told to board again while an engine was checked.

Caroline said she queried a staff member and received a defensive response.

“He just showed me the flight permit that he had signed and he said the problem had been settled,” she said. “He treated me like a passenger full of disturbing dramas even though what I was asking represented friends and confused tourists who didn’t understand Indonesian.”

On Tuesday, distraught family members struggled to comprehend the sudden loss of loved ones in the crash of a new plane with experienced pilots in fine weather.

Many went to a police hospital where authorities asked they provide medical and dental records and samples for DNA testing to help with identification of victims.

Risiko, who uses a single name, wept outside the building as he waited with relatives.

“My father was onboard but we still don’t know. We’re still hoping for the best because there hasn’t been an official statement from Lion Air. So we’re still hoping for the best,” he said.

Experts from Boeing Co. were expected to arrive in Jakarta on Wednesday to help with the accident investigation, Indonesia’s National Transportation Safety Committee said. The Transport Ministry has ordered an inspection of all Boeing 737 MAX 8 planes in Indonesia.

Air accident investigator Ony Suryo Wibowo told a news conference that officials have only a small amount of information so far and don’t know if it’s correct. He implored the public to be patient.

“To all Indonesian people, we are saddened and offer condolences but give us time to investigate why the plane crashed,” he said. “Give us a chance to look deeply, to look at the whole problem, so the responsibility given to us by the government can be carried out.”

More than 800 people from multiple agencies are involved in the search, which was expanded Tuesday to a 10 nautical mile area. Specialist ships and remotely operated underwater vehicles have been deployed to search for the plane’s hull and flight recorders.

Search and Rescue Agency chief Muhammad Syaugi said search teams are going “all out” to locate the aircraft’s fuselage.

He has said he’s certain it won’t take long to locate the hull of the aircraft and its flight recorders due to the relatively shallow 30 meter (100 foot) depth of the waters where it crashed.

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. 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. Earlier this year it confirmed a deal to buy 50 new Boeing narrow-body aircraft worth an estimated \$6.2 billion. It has been expanding aggressively in Southeast Asia, a fast-growing region of more than 600 million people.

___ AP journalists Andi Jatmiko and Ali Kotarumalos in Jakarta, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

Al-Shabab's former No. 2 leader runs for office in Somalia

By ABDI GULED and CARA ANNA, Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The normal-looking campaign rally in Somalia's capital this month was anything but. Dozens of people in T-shirts bearing the smiling candidate's image and "Security and Justice" were praising the former No. 2 leader of Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group, the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab, who until recently was the target of a \$5 million U.S. reward.

Stunned, Somalia's federal government is in an awkward spot. If Mukhtar Robow's campaign for a regional presidency goes forward, observers say the man who once praised Osama bin Laden and tried to impose an Islamic state has a good chance at winning next month's election.

Ever since surprising Somalis by defecting to a delighted government last year, the former al-Shabab spokesman and founding father has not been shy. Robow openly discussed his break with hardliners that led him to quit the extremist group — "I disagreed with their creed, which does not serve Islamic religion," he said — and the threats that pushed him to defect after years of living in the safety of his clan. Then he donated blood in a show of support after Somalia's deadliest attack, the October 2017 truck bombing in Mogadishu that killed over 500 people.

Now the lanky, bearded Robow, al-Shabab's highest-profile defector, seeks to lead his native Southwest region despite a sharp "no" from the federal government. The interior ministry says he's ineligible to run because he remains under international sanctions.

The problem, observers say, is that Somalia's federal government is in such a state that no one knows who has the authority to decide who can be a candidate. The presidency did not respond to questions. The United Nations mission in Somalia, which provides electoral support, would not comment.

"Who has the last call on who runs? Nobody knows," Hussein Sheikh-Ali, a former national security adviser and chair of the Hiraal Institute who has known Robow for years, told The Associated Press.

On top of that, relations between Somalia's federal government and its regional ones are so bad that cooperation is almost severed, victim of the wary politics in the Horn of Africa nation recovering from decades of warlord-led fighting and devastating al-Shabab attacks. Over the weekend, Southwest residents and some members of parliament protested what they called the federal government's meddling in the vote.

While Robow told the AP he couldn't comment, there's no sign of him backing out of the race, even as al-Shabab calls him an apostate. When the group this month bombed Baidoa, the Southwest's interim capital, he quickly appeared at a local hospital to visit victims and condemn the attacks.

Despite his dark history that includes recruiting many local young men into al-Shabab, some in the Southwest reserve goodwill for Robow after he spared several government officials from certain execution when the extremist group overran Baidoa in 2009.

"That has contributed to change his people's perception toward him, so they owe him a bit," regional lawmaker Ahmed Nur Adam told the AP.

"He's already changed himself for the better, so forget his past identity," said Ali Ahmed Isaq, a local traditional elder. "So, just like other politicians with a dreadful past such as warlords who are now politicians, nothing can deny him any leadership role."

Worried about Robow's popularity, the federal government has sent at least one high-level official to try to persuade him to step aside. "I was asked to relinquish my candidacy but I'm telling you that ... I will be running for president," Robow told supporters this month. "With the help of God, we will win and peace will win."

Now the government is backing its own candidate with money, armored vehicles and security forces.

"I guess you could say it is a positive story to see a former high-ranking al-Shabab official participating in a system he spent many years trying to destroy," Omar Mahmood, a researcher with the Institute for Security Studies, told the AP. "But there is also the other side of it, the lack of having to answer for his time as a jihadist."

Some Somalis, haunted by memories of Robow praising al-Shabab attacks and the executions of government supporters, said he should be held accountable for the beheadings and other killings under his

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command. Others are alarmed that he would severely curtail women's rights and other social freedoms if elected.

"He may do a better job in terms of security, but I think it's too early for him to consider such a high-level position before adopting some more moderate and nonviolent views," said a Somali intelligence official who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

However, in the first sign of possible tolerance toward women, Robow has urged his constituency to welcome other candidates including women, and he asked for forgiveness for his past while promising security.

"We shall reopen roads on which women are raped and people are harassed," he said during a speech in Baidoa last week. "Notwithstanding my previous views, I owe you a lot for this huge welcome," he added, to applause.

The election drama is a major test of Somalia's U.S.-backed efforts to encourage fighters to leave al-Shabab in the belief that every defection exposes weakness in the extremist group, which still controls large parts of the rural south and central regions, including the Southwest.

"It doesn't help that Somali law and institutions are still very much evolving and the amnesty program for ex-al-Shabab members is a bit unclear," Mahmood said. Some low- and mid-level defectors go to rehabilitation centers while others end up on trial. Robow has received other arrangements, including security.

Questions remain about his defection, which occurred soon after the U.S. quietly cancelled the \$5 million offer under its "Rewards for Justice" program. That led al-Shabab to believe Robow had made a deal with the Americans, Sheikh-Ali said. The U.S. mission to Somalia did not respond to questions but tweeted on Tuesday that it looks forward to a "credible vote" next month and "We support the process but never any specific candidate."

However, Robow is still under U.S. sanctions imposed in 2008 when he was named a "specially designated global terrorist." He has never gone completely through Somalia's defection process, which would include the federal government negotiating with international bodies to clear him from sanctions, Sheikh-Ali said.

"Unfortunately, he was thinking everything was fine and that's when he decided to run," he said. Startled, international bodies pressured Somalia and "the government woke up and said, 'You cannot run.'"

There likely isn't time for Robow to be cleared before the Nov. 17 election, Sheikh-Ali said.

He sees this as a disappointment. Somalia has a tradition of being accommodating, he said. After all, the current president of the Jubaland region was once part of insurgent group Hizbul Islam, which tried to overthrow the federal government. On Monday the new U.N. envoy to Somalia, Nicholas Haysom, greeted the Jubaland leader with a handshake and smile.

"The Robow case is really jeopardizing any chance of another al-Shabab leader to consider defecting to the government side," said Sheikh-Ali, who advocates dialogue with the extremist group. "Somalia needs peace."

___ Anna reported from Johannesburg. Associated Press videographer Mohamed Sheikh Nor in Mogadishu contributed.

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Synagogue shooter was obsessed with Jewish refugee agency

By MICHAEL HILL, Associated Press

Just moments before the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting that left 11 people dead, the suspect is believed to have posted a final social media rant against a Jewish refugee settlement agency most people had never heard of, but which has increasingly become the target of right-wing rage and conspiracy theories.

"HIAS likes to bring invaders in that kill our people," Robert Gregory Bowers wrote on the platform Gab early Saturday. "I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going in."

The group, formerly known as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, was founded in 1881 in a Manhattan storefront to assist Jews persecuted in Russia and Eastern Europe. HIAS is now among nine groups that

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contract with the State Department to help refugees settle in the United States, and it has recently clashed with the Trump administration over policies that have throttled the flow of such newcomers.

Analysts who follow the extreme right say the fixation some extremists have with HIAS appears to be fueled by a mix of anti-Semitism and the recent caustic rhetoric about an immigrant caravan trudging slowly toward the United States.

Specifically, they believe Bowers ascribed to the "white genocide" conspiracy, which holds that Jews are prominent among the forces seeking to destroy the "white race" by bringing in non-white people. The Gab.com account believed to be Bowers' includes several recent postings or re-postings critical of HIAS.

"Who do they blame for these immigration policies? Who do they blame for diversity multi-culturalism? It's the Jews," said Oren Segal, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism. "And so as a Jewish organization that is focused on issues of immigration, that's one of the reasons they were targeted."

Based in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Silver Spring, HIAS has an annual operating budget of \$42 million and receives about half of its money from the federal government. Among the thousands of people it has aided are Google co-founder Sergey Brin and singer Regina Spektor.

As the Trump administration restricted the number of refugees allowed into the U.S., HIAS and its local affiliates went from resettling 4,191 refugees in 2016 to 1,632 for the fiscal year that just ended.

Though HIAS strongly supports the rights of asylum seekers to a fair hearing, it has no connection to the immigrant caravan, said spokesman Bill Swersey.

"We're the people who go to the airport, that bring the refugees home, that make sure there's food in the fridge, make sure their kids know where the school is," said Melanie Nezer, HIAS's senior vice president for public affairs.

But right-wing extremists see HIAS in a more sinister light.

Heidi Beirich, who directs the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project, said HIAS's name comes up on white-supremacist message boards whenever posters become angry about refugees or immigrants. She noted that other resettlement agencies, such as those associated with Christian religions, have not raised the same sort of ire.

It happened toward the end of the Obama administration during the debate over Syrian refugees. Attention ratcheted up recently as President Donald Trump and others started drawing attention to the migrant caravan slowly making its way through Mexico toward the U.S. border.

"White supremacists are ginned up right now," Beirich said.

HIAS also has been public in its opposition to Trump's immigration policies. It sued the administration in 2017 over the executive order halting refugee resettlement. In August, HIAS and the ADL led a delegation of national Jewish organizations to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Segal said the high-profile visit this summer could have drawn the attention of right-wing extremists.

As Bowers appeared in federal court in a wheelchair Monday, HIAS-affiliated offices across the country increased security.

Nezer said the group is still processing the tragedy.

"I think we need to redouble our efforts to stand up for these values and not cower and hide," she said, "because to me that would be the most dangerous response."

Trump to visit a Pittsburgh scarred by violence at synagogue

By ZEKE MILLER and ALLEN G. BREED, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — To Marianne Novy, President Donald Trump isn't wanted "unless he really changes his ways." For David Dvir, politics should take a pause for grief: "It's our president, and we need to welcome him."

Trump is once again called upon to step into the all-too-frequent role of national consoler after the worst instance of anti-Semitic violence in American history. He faces an uneasy welcome on Tuesday in the anguished community of Squirrel Hill, home to the Tree of Life synagogue where 11 people were gunned down during Sabbath services. The president's visit to the Pittsburgh neighborhood, where Novy and Dvir

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live, comes as he struggles to balance appeals for national unity with partisan campaign rhetoric just a week before contentious midterm elections.

Trump said late Monday he was looking forward to the visit.

"Well, I'm just going to pay my respects," Trump told Fox News Channel's Laura Ingraham. "I'm also going to the hospital to see the officers and some of the people that were so badly hurt."

Trump is traveling to the historic hub of the city's Jewish community as the first funerals are scheduled to be held for the victims, who range in age from 54 to 97. He is expected to meet with first responders and community leaders. The death toll includes a set of brothers, a husband and wife, professors, dentists and a physician. It was not immediately clear whether Trump, who will be joined by first lady Melania Trump, daughter Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner, would meet with any family members.

The White House said the purpose of Trump's visit was to "express the support of the American people and to grieve with the Pittsburgh community."

Trump's trip is set against the backdrop of national unease over incidents of political violence and hate, and questions about his credibility as unifier. Since his 2016 campaign for the White House, Trump has at times been slow to denounce white nationalists, neo-Nazis and other hate-filled individuals and groups that found common cause with his nationalistic political rhetoric.

In Squirrel Hill, Barry Werber, 76, who said he survived the massacre by hiding in a dark storage closet as the gunman rampaged through the building, said he hoped Trump wouldn't visit, noting that the president has embraced the politically fraught label of "nationalist." Werber said the Nazis were nationalists.

"It's part of his program to instigate his base," Werber said, and "bigots are coming out of the woodwork."

Novy, 73, a retired college English professor, said she signed an open letter asking Trump not to come to Pittsburgh. "His language has encouraged hatred and fear of immigrants, which is part of the reason why these people were killed," she said.

Just minutes before the synagogue attack, the shooter apparently took to social media to rage against HIAS, a Jewish organization that resettles refugees under contract with the U.S. government.

Dvir, 52, the owner of Murray Avenue Locksmith in Squirrel Hill, said of Trump, "I think he made some mistakes, but he is a great president." He added that it would be "a shame" if the community protested the president's visit.

Asked Monday if Trump has done enough to condemn white nationalism, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the president "has denounced racism, hatred and bigotry in all forms on a number of occasions."

She added: "Some individuals — they're grieving, they're hurting. The president wants to be there to show the support of this administration for the Jewish community. The rabbi said that he is welcome as well."

Local and religious leaders were divided on whether Trump should visit. Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, a Democrat, told reporters ahead of the announced visit that the White House ought to consult with the families of the victims about their preferences and asked that the president not come during a funeral.

"If the president is looking to come to Pittsburgh, I would ask that he not do so while we are burying the dead," Peduto said. "Our attention and our focus is going to be on them, and we don't have public safety that we can take away from what is needed in order to do both."

But Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, who was conducting Sabbath services at the Tree of Life synagogue when the shooter opened fire, made clear the president would be welcome, telling CNN: "The president of the United States is always welcome. I am a citizen. He is my president. He is certainly welcome."

Shulamit Bastacky, 77, a Holocaust survivor and neighbor of victim Melvin Wax, expressed hope that fraught political issues and protests would not overshadow the remembrances.

"This is not the place to do it," she said. "You can do the political part everywhere else. Not at this time. This would be like desecrating those people who were killed. They were murdered because they were Jews."

"You can protest later on," she added. "To me it's sacred what happened here."

Miller reported from Washington.

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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. 'I'M GOING TO DIE'

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers of Tree of Life Synagogue recounts the morning a gunman shot to death eight congregants as he barricaded himself in the choir loft's bathroom.

2. TRUMP TRAVELS TO MOURNING CITY DIVIDED BY HIS VISIT

The president faces an uneasy welcome in Pittsburgh as he is again called upon to step into the all-too-frequent role of national consoler after the worst instance of anti-Semitic violence in U.S. history.

3. LACK OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM LAW DEBATED

Some believe that white supremacists who kill for ideology should get the same terrorism label as IS supporters; others fret about trampling on free speech guarantees.

4. WHAT FLIERS REPORTED ABOUT INDONESIAN PLANE

A passenger on a previous flight aboard the doomed Lion Air jetliner complained that the new Boeing 737 Max 8 dropped suddenly several times in the first few minutes of its flight.

5. PIPE-BOMB SUSPECT HAD HIT LIST OF TARGETS

Cesar Sayoc kept a list of elected officials and others who investigators believe were intended targets, an official tells the AP.

6. WHERE THERE'S A RISK OF STARVATION

Tens of thousands of Syrians stranded in a desert camp near the Jordanian border are at risk of malnutrition amid dwindling humanitarian supplies.

7. TRUMP ORDERS TROOPS TO THE BORDER

As a slow-moving migrant caravan treks north from Central America, the Pentagon is sending 5,200 troops to the Southwest border in an extraordinary military operation.

8. ACADEMIA RETHINKING SAUDI DEALS

Some U.S. colleges and universities like MIT are reviewing ties they have with Saudi Arabia in the wake of the murder of a journalist, AP finds.

9. FROM EXTREMIST TO CANDIDATE

Mukhtar Robow, once the No. 2 leader of Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group al-Shabab, is now running for a regional presidency in Somalia, AP learns.

10. NBA HAS NEW 3-POINT KING

Klay Thompson breaks teammate Stephen Curry's league record for 3-pointers in a game with 14 and scores 52 in the Warriors' win over the Bulls.

'I'm going to die:' Survivors relive horrors at Tree of Life

By ADAM GELLER, ALLEN G. BREED and MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Up in the choir loft, alone, Rabbi Jeffrey Myers whispered to a 911 dispatcher on his cellphone.

Below him, down in the sanctuary, eight of his congregants had been felled by a gunman's bullets. Up here, though, Myers couldn't see them — or any of the other horrors going on beyond his hideaway. He could only listen. He waited for another round of semiautomatic gunfire, but all was silent. Then he heard what he feared even more.

Could that be footsteps?

Myers rushed into the loft's bathroom, barricading himself inside.

Days earlier he had used a blog posting to urge members of his Tree of Life congregation to celebrate life's moments while they had the chance: "None of us can say with certainty that there is always next year," he wrote. Now, Myers wondered if he should hang up with 911 and make a video to tell his wife and children he loved them, while he still had time.

"I'm going to die," he thought.

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Saturday morning — the time when Jews in communities like this one come together to celebrate the miracle of the earth's creation and the day of rest that followed — had barely begun.

As a light rain fell over the Tudors and Victorians of Pittsburgh's leafy Squirrel Hill, the parking lot at the Tree of Life Synagogue had been slow to fill in. There was nothing unusual about that. Officially, services begin at 9:45 for Tree of Life and the two other congregations that share its large stone building — New Light and Dor Hadash. Worshippers from all three were filtering in, many of them older, taking their time.

The synagogue has long been one of the touchstones of Squirrel Hill, a rolling neighborhood about five miles east of downtown that is the center of the city's large Jewish community. Founded in 1864, Tree of Life prides itself as a warm, welcoming place, "where even the oldest Jewish traditions become relevant to the way our members live today," it says on its website.

On Saturdays, the day of the Jewish Sabbath, its doors are unlocked and open to all. On this day, the New Light congregation gathered in a basement room. Upstairs, toward the front of the building, the worshippers of Dor Hadash prepared for a ceremony to name a newborn boy. And in the main sanctuary, Myers convened about a dozen of his congregants.

Outside the building, though, Robert Gregory Bowers was also mindful of the Saturday rituals. For months, the 46-year-old truck driver had been posting angry rants against Jews on the Gab social media site, to little apparent notice. He blamed Jews for plotting against society, contaminating it in order to destroy it.

At 9:49 a.m. Saturday, he posted again.

"I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered," Bowers wrote. "Screw your optics. I'm going in."

Inside the synagogue, New Light's rabbi, Jonathan Perlman, was just a few minutes into morning prayers when his congregants heard a loud bang. Barry Werber, an Air Force vet who was there to help mark the anniversary of his mother's death, thought at first that someone might have walked into a cart upstairs stacked with glassware and whiskey meant for the baby-naming ceremony. To Myers, it sounded like somebody in the hallway had knocked over a coat rack.

Then the sounds came again, this time in a burst.

Werber and other worshippers opened a door leading into the basement hallway. A body lay on the staircase. Their rabbi quickly closed the door and pushed Werber and fellow congregants Melvin Wax and Carol Black into a large supply closet. As gunshots echoed upstairs, Werber dialed 911 but was too afraid to say anything, for fear of making any noise.

The first call to an emergency dispatcher came in at 9:54: Active shooter at Tree of Life. Twenty shots fired in the lobby, maybe 30.

Nine minutes had passed since worship was scheduled to begin.

In the main sanctuary, Myers told his congregants to drop to the floor. "Don't move. Be quiet."

Although he was their leader, Myers was still new to Tree of Life. A native of Newark, New Jersey, he had been trained as a cantor — the clergyman charged with leading Jewish congregations in song. For years, he worked in the New York area, then near Atlantic City. But watching some synagogues close and others consolidate, he decided to broaden his resume and sought ordination.

When his previous congregation eliminated the cantor's post because of budgetary pressures, Myers found his first job as a rabbi in a city he knew little about. He and his wife, Janice, had moved to Pittsburgh a year earlier to start a new and somewhat unlikely chapter for a couple whose two children were already grown.

Now, still near the front of the sanctuary, he led a group of worshippers through some nearby doors that he knew would get them outside, to safety.

Then he turned back. Eight congregants remained inside, near the back of the room closest to the lobby — where the gunfire was getting louder.

"I knew at that point there was nothing I could do," Myers would say later.

From the front of the sanctuary, Myers scrambled up the narrow stairs leading to the choir loft.

Unseen to him, the stocky, square-jawed Bowers stalked the building, armed with an AR-15 assault-style rifle and three handguns.

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In an upstairs bathroom, custodian Augie Siriano heard four or five distinctive pops and went to investigate, threading through a sanctuary and lobby toward the chapel where Tree of Life's service had been cut short.

"I turned and looked and there was a gentleman lying face down, coming out of the doors of the chapel, and he had blood coming out of his head," Siriano said in an interview with Pittsburgh television station WTAE. "As soon as I seen that, I turned and headed in the other direction, toward the exit doors."

In the pitch black of the basement closet, all turned silent. Could it be over? Werber and the others hidden there waited, before the elderly Wax decided to check and opened the door. A blast of bullets drove him backward, and those inside the closet watched their friend fall to the floor. The gunman, stepping over his body, moved toward them.

In the darkness, Werber held his breath. He still had the 911 operator on the line. But his old flip phone had no light on it, and he and the others were drawn deep in the shadows.

They could see, framed in a sliver of light from the doorway, the stock of Bower's rifle and his jacket, but little else. Could he see them? As the seconds ticked by, Werber waited for the gunman to spray the closet with bullets. "I'm barely breathing," Werber would later recall. Then Bowers turned his back and walked away.

Outside, police cruisers and tactical vehicles flooded into the blocks around the intersection of Shady and Wilkins avenues. Nearby, Michael Aronson, a long-ago paramedic turned accounts manager, ordered his daughters, ages 6 and 8, into the basement, asking them to remember what they'd learned in school lockdown drills. He flipped through channels on his police scanner, as chatter ramped up in intensity.

"We're under fire," an officer radioed in at 9:59 a.m.

"Every unit in the city needs to get here now!" another officer said minutes later.

Judah Samet, a member of the Tree of Life congregation for 54 years, is almost always on time for services, but his housekeeper had delayed him. The 80-year-old, who survived the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, was just pulling into a handicapped spot when a man knocked on the window: "You can't go into the synagogue. There's a shooting."

Samet saw what he later realized was a plainclothes officer, pistol drawn, exchanging fire with an assailant. For the second time in his life, Samet was face-to-face with evil.

Back inside, Werber and the others waited. The closet had a back door, Werber recalled, but in the darkness he could not see it. Perlman, the rabbi, managed to find his way out at some point. But the other two remained until police came to lead them out.

"I lost my yarmulke in the process," Werber said. "I still had my prayer shawl."

When police tactical teams entered the synagogue, a spent ammunition magazine lay in the hallway — and four bodies were sprawled across the atrium.

Bowers exchanged more gunfire, then retreated to the third floor. Four officers were wounded before authorities cornered the gunman.

At 11:08, Bowers, bleeding from wounds, crawled from his hiding place and raised his hands.

"All these Jews need to die," he said to an officer.

In the end, 11 people did lose their lives at Tree of Life in an attack officials have labeled the worst single act of violence against Jews in America since the country's founding. The victims included Dor Hadash congregant Jerry Rabinowitz, who reportedly went in to try to help the wounded, as well as three members of New Light: Richard Gottfried, a dentist looking ahead to retirement; Dan Stein, a new grandfather; and Wax, a retired accountant who was a "gem and gentleman," Werber said.

Seven of the eight Tree of Life congregants who couldn't make their way out of the sanctuary also were slain, and one was wounded but lived. The killed include brothers Cecil and David Rosenthal, who are to be laid to rest Tuesday, and a couple, Bernice and Sylvan Simon, both in their 80s.

On Monday morning, Myers stood at a street corner outside of the synagogue, where memorials shaped like the Star of David had been placed along the sidewalk — one to honor each of those killed. He talked about the funerals to come and the difficult days and weeks ahead, but vowed: "Here in Pittsburgh, hate will not triumph. Love will win out."

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Then he pointed to the building named for the tree at the heart of the Old Testament's Garden of Eden. "I looked at this and I said, 'Oh my God, this is a giant mausoleum,'" he said. But then, he realized, he was wrong.

"Tree of Life has been in Pittsburgh for 154 years. We're not leaving this corner," he said. "We will be back and will rebuild, even stronger."

___ Also contributing were AP reporters Mark Scolforo, Mark Gillispie and Claudia Lauer.

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

Saudi ties to US colleges come under mounting scrutiny

By COLLIN BINKLEY and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — U.S. colleges and universities have received more than \$350 million from the Saudi government this decade, yet some are rethinking their arrangements in the wake of the killing of a journalist that has ignited a global uproar against the oil-rich nation.

The Associated Press analyzed federal data and found that at least \$354 million from the Saudi government or institutions it controls has flowed to 37 American schools since 2011. Much of the money was provided through a scholarship program that covers tuition for Saudis studying in the U.S., but at least \$62 million came through contracts or gifts from the kingdom's nationally owned companies and research institutes, the AP found.

Those benefiting the most from Saudi contracts include Northwestern University, which has received \$14 million from a top Saudi research center since 2011, and the University of California, Los Angeles, which accepted \$6 million from the same institute, known as the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's national oil company, Saudi Aramco, has channeled \$20 million to American universities, including \$9 million to Texas A&M University and \$4 million to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A national chemical company known as SABIC steered another \$8 million to U.S. schools.

Although some of the contracts halted before last year, questions surrounding Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi's death at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul have spurred some schools to reconsider current or future deals.

On Oct. 22, MIT announced it will undertake a "swift, thorough reassessment" of the institute's partnerships with Saudi Arabia, calling Khashoggi's disappearance a "grave concern." Richard Lester, an associate provost, said faculty who work with the kingdom can "make their own determinations as to the best path forward."

The institute pairs with Saudi universities on numerous research projects and has a long history working with Saudi Aramco. In March, the oil company pledged \$25 million to MIT for research in areas including renewable energy and artificial intelligence.

At Babson College near Boston, which has received \$2.5 million through a contract with the SABIC chemical company, officials told the AP they are "monitoring events closely and gathering input from our community regarding potential paths forward." The school's deal provides leadership training to Saudi business managers, and it joins several other research and training partnerships between Babson and Saudi universities.

But many other schools have given no indications they're reconsidering ties.

Officials at the University of California, Berkeley, said they are not reviewing their Saudi funding, which includes a \$6 million contract to develop nanomaterials that can be used to support renewable energy. Spokesman Roqua Montez said the kingdom's support represents only a small fraction of the contracts and grants that go to campus researchers.

Northwestern University refused to say whether any of its funding is under review. Spokesman Bob Rowley said only that the "vast majority" of the \$14 million is for science grants but did not respond to further questions.

Others including Tufts University and the University of Michigan would not answer questions about their

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Saudi funding.

The AP analysis examined data from the Education Department's Foreign Gifts and Contracts Report, which details foreign funding to any U.S. university that received \$250,000 or more in a given year. The self-reported data covers funding from 2011 through 2017.

Besides money directly from the Saudi government or entities controlled by it, U.S. universities received a combined \$140 million from private Saudi sources, universities and hospitals.

Another \$114 million could not be accounted for because schools did not report the specific source of the funding within Saudi Arabia. That included about \$40 million at Johns Hopkins University and \$28 million at Harvard University. Officials at Johns Hopkins and Harvard did not provide further details.

The largest sums of money came through a Saudi scholarship program that sends thousands of students to U.S. schools every year. George Washington University received \$73 million from the program, followed by George Mason University, with \$63 million.

Those schools said they won't refuse the scholarship money because it would force them to reject the students it covers.

"Refusing payment would result in us denying an educational opportunity to otherwise qualified students. This would run counter to our mission of serving students," Michael Sandler, a spokesman for George Mason, said in a statement.

The public school in Virginia hosts about 250 Saudi students through the program each fall and spring term.

America's ties with Saudi Arabia have come under intense scrutiny in the wake of Khashoggi's killing in Turkey, which President Donald Trump called "the worst cover-up ever." Activists and some politicians have called on the U.S. and its industries to break with the nation, and some have.

Turkey is seeking the extradition of 18 Saudi suspects detained in Saudi Arabia for the Oct. 2 killing of Khashoggi, who had written critically of Saudi Arabia's crown prince in columns for The Washington Post. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir has said the kingdom will try the perpetrators and bring them to justice after an investigation is completed.

Three Washington lobbying firms recently canceled contracts hiring them to represent Saudi interests, and several other businesses have suspended work in the kingdom, including those owned by billionaire investor Richard Branson.

More recently, the pressure to break ties has expanded to college campuses, including at the University of New Haven in Connecticut, which partners with a Saudi police college to provide a degree in security studies in Riyadh.

Despite protests from a human rights group in New Haven, the university says it plans to continue the program. In a statement, the school said its work in the kingdom "is something we believe should be supported and fostered."

The turmoil has rippled through campuses in other ways, too. At Columbia University, for example, officials recently canceled a planned lecture with Saudi artist Ahmed Mater. Columbia separately received a \$1.1 million grant from the Saudi agriculture ministry in 2016, records show, but officials said the school has no further funding scheduled from the kingdom.

In some ways, the ties between American colleges and the kingdom were created to ease tensions between the nations. The scholarship program was created in 2005 after leaders of both countries met to lighten the diplomatic strain following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Since then, the program has sent tens of thousands of Saudis to study in the U.S. It reached its height in 2015, when more than 120,000 Saudis came to study in the U.S., but numbers have fallen sharply since 2016, when the kingdom scaled back the program amid a budget shortfall tied to falling oil prices.

Day reported from Washington.

Follow Collin Binkley on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/cbinkley> and Chad Day at <http://twitter.com/ChadSDay>

Attacks renew debate: Should US have domestic terrorism law?

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The package bombs sent to Democrats across the country and the killings of Jews at a Pittsburgh synagogue may seem like clear-cut cases of terrorism. But the suspects will almost certainly never face terrorism charges.

The reason: There's no domestic terrorism law.

Whether there should be one is a matter of debate. On one hand, there's the belief that white supremacists who kill for ideology should get the same terrorism label as Islamic State group supporters. On the other, there's concern about infringing on constitutional guarantees to protect free speech, no matter how abhorrent.

In the absence of domestic terrorism laws, the Justice Department relies on other statutes to prosecute ideologically motivated violence by people with no international ties. That makes it hard to track how often extremists driven by religious, racial or anti-government bias commit violence in the U.S. It also complicates efforts to develop a universally-accepted domestic terror definition.

Mary McCord, a former top Justice Department official in the Obama administration, favors a law that "puts domestic terrorism on the same moral plain as international terrorism."

"Terrorism offenses are done purposely to send a much broader message, and so having that be the charged crime puts that label on that and says, 'This is someone who committed a terrorism act,'" she said.

The discussion in some ways is more about labels than consequences. Even without a specific law, the Justice Department has other tools available — including explosives, hate crime and firearm possession charges. The penalty can easily be every bit as severe as in the international terrorism cases the Justice Department routinely brings against people who align themselves with foreign extremist groups and carry out violence in their names.

Both Cesar Sayoc, accused of sending more than a dozen explosive packages to high-profile critics of President Donald Trump, and Robert Bowers, accused of killing 11 inside a Pittsburgh synagogue, could face decades in prison. In the case of Bowers, charged in a 29-count complaint with federal crimes including using a firearm to commit murder and obstructing the free exercise of religion, prosecutors intend to seek the death penalty. The same punishment was sought for Dylann Roof in the 2015 shooting at a black church in South Carolina.

Prosecutors are treating the synagogue shooting as a hate crime rather than domestic terrorism. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein told police officials on Monday that the Justice Department is aggressively prosecuting hate crimes, saying "The vile forces of bigotry and hatred will not prevail."

Opponents of domestic terrorism laws say prosecutors already have enough tools. They worry what would happen if law enforcement were empowered to apply the same tools to a domestic investigation, like a secret warrant to monitor communications, as they have for international investigations. They also contend that increased powers could run afoul of civil liberties protection and lead to groups being classified as terror organizations just because the government didn't like their ideology.

"You want to be really careful given the current political context about who would be put on that list because you don't want them put on there for purely punitive reasons," said Karen Greenberg, director of Fordham University law school's Center on National Security.

But advocates of a domestic terrorism law say without a specific statute, cases that could all be charged under a single law are instead brought under a hodgepodge of others and sometimes prosecuted as state or local terrorism offenses, making it virtually impossible to identify trends, and tally how many domestic terror acts occur in the United States and how they're handled by prosecutors.

When an attack occurs, "you have to find the criminal laws that may apply based upon the specific facts that may apply," said Joshua Zive, outside counsel to the FBI Agents Association.

"When it does that, you've then lost the ability to kind of measure those prosecutions from a domestic terrorism standpoint. They've been essentially spread to the wind based on what the individual facts might be," he said.

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The Justice Department, acknowledging the homegrown extremism threat, appointed a domestic terrorism counsel in 2015 to coordinate the work of U.S. attorneys. But though ideas for a broader statute have been kicked around, Zive said he could not recall any "viable" legislative proposal.

The federal code includes a definition of domestic terrorism but has no penalties associated with it. A proposal floated by the FBI association would borrow the language of that definition — the use of violence for political means to intimidate or coerce a government or civilian population — and make it a crime no matter what type of weapon is used.

The Justice Department has historically reserved terrorism prosecutions for cases involving foreign organizations.

That's because the State Department maintains a list of dozens of foreign terror groups. Actions aimed at helping those organizations, whether traveling abroad to join the Islamic State group or committing an act at home, fall under a broadly construed law that makes it illegal to lend material support to a foreign terror organization.

By comparison, the U.S. does not make it a crime to associate with organizations like the Ku Klux Klan that have been involved in ideologically motivated crimes.

"The time is ripe for us to have a serious discussion about whether we have all the tools we need to detect, prosecute and prevent these sorts of acts," Zive said.

On Twitter, follow Eric Tucker at <http://www.twitter.com/etucker> and Michael Balsamo at <http://www.twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1>

4 years of CFP rankings show importance of a good start

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

The College Football Playoff selection committee has begun its fifth season ranking teams.

After meeting for a day and a half in Texas, the committee will reveal its first top 25 Tuesday night. It will update its ranking each week until the one that really counts: The top four teams in the final ranking on Dec. 2 will advance to the national semifinals with a shot at playing for the championship.

If form holds, two schools ranked in the top four this week will go on to play in the semifinals.

Of the 16 teams the committee ranked in the top four of its initial rankings from 2014-17, half made the four-team playoff.

WT

If form holds, two of the top four teams in the first College Football Playoff ranking of the season will go on to play in the national semifinals.

After meeting for a day and a half at a hotel outside Dallas, the CFP selection committee will unveil its initial top 25 Tuesday night, the first of the nationally televised weekly revelations until the one that really counts on Dec. 2.

Coaches have already begun imploring their teams not to pay attention.

"You know, it's like John Wooden said, and I can't remember the exact quote, but basically: Don't let criticism or praise affect you negatively," Washington State coach Mike Leach said. "And so we have to just focus on stuff like that."

Ranking teams is a time-honored tradition in college football, going back to first Associated Press poll in 1936. But what, if anything, can be learned from the first four years of CFP rankings?

Of the 16 teams the committee ranked in the top four of its initial rankings from 2014-17, half made the playoff. Last season, for the first time, three teams (Georgia, Alabama, Clemson) started in the top four and finished there (Clemson was the only team to be somewhere in the top four in all six rankings from the committee).

In 2015 and '16, two teams in the committee's first four made the playoff. Both of those years, Alabama and Clemson started in the top four and never slipped out. Clemson was No. 1 in every committee top 25 in 2015 and Alabama was top-ranked in all six 2016 rankings.

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The very first committee rankings, in 2014, had just one eventual playoff team. They included three teams from the Southeastern Conference (though not the one that eventually made the playoff) along with Florida State.

That year, the committee created a bit of a stir when, in its third ranking, it dropped unbeaten national champion Florida State to No. 3 behind No. 2 Oregon, which had lost a game. It seemed to send a signal the committee would be different from traditional polls that tended to honor win-loss record above all. The second-to-last rankings had Florida State at four behind three teams that had already lost. The Seminoles went into the Rose Bowl semifinal as the No. 3 seed and lost to Oregon.

Among the eight teams over the past four seasons that were part of the initial committee top four but did not make the playoff, only one was unranked on selection Sunday. Texas A&M in 2016 was somewhat of a surprising No. 4, and then proceeded to lose three of its final four games. Auburn (2014), LSU (2015) and Notre Dame (2017) were the other teams to start in the committee's top four, but wind up not even making a New Year's Six bowl.

The playoff team that made the longest climb from first committee ranking to final was Ohio State, which started 16th in 2014 and made the semifinals as the fourth seed — and won the championship. Oklahoma in 2015 was 15th in the first top 25 and fourth on selection Sunday.

The last two seasons, none of the eventual playoff teams were ranked worse than sixth (Ohio State in 2016) in the committee's first ranking.

The committee has been criticized — by supporters of Central Florida, for example — for not ranking teams from outside the Power Five conferences high enough. UCF was No. 18 in last year's first CFP top 25, the best showing from a Group of Five school in any of the initial rankings. The Knights finished 12th, the best ranking for any non-Power Five team in any committee rankings over the four seasons.

____ Follow Ralph D. Russo at www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP and listen at <https://www.podcastone.com/AP-Top-25-College-Football-Podcast>

____ More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/tag/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

US West's abandoned mines hold danger and, for some, thrills

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

EUREKA, Utah (AP) — Underneath the mountains and deserts of the U.S. West lie hundreds of thousands of abandoned mines, an underground world that can hold serious danger and unexpected wonder.

They are a legacy of the region's prospecting past, when almost anyone could dig a mine and then walk away, with little cleanup required, when it stopped producing.

In Utah alone, the state is trying to seal more than 10,000 open mines with cinderblocks and metal grates after people have died in rock falls and all-terrain-vehicle crashes and from poisonous air over the past three decades. Just this month in Arizona, a prospector broke his left leg and ankle after plunging to the bottom of an old mine shaft. He spent nearly three days there with no food or water fending off rattlesnakes before a friend heard his cries for help.

Still, not everyone wants to see the mines closed. For years, a dedicated subculture of explorers has been slipping underground to see tunnels lined with sparkling quartz, century-old rail cars and caverns that open in the earth like buried ballrooms.

"Nobody has walked the path you're walking for 100 years," said Jeremy MacLee, who uses old mining documents and high-tech safety equipment to find and explore forgotten holes, mostly in Utah.

He also lends his expertise to searches for missing people. That's how he got to know Bill Powell, who looked for his 18-year-old son, Riley, for months before the teenager and his girlfriend were found dead in a mine shaft the outside the small town of Eureka.

The teens' families formed a close bond with MacLee and other volunteer searchers. Despite his painful memories, Bill Powell decided to see what draws his friend to those dark recesses deep in the desert.

"It's a whole different life. The underground life," said Powell, who has a gravelly voice, close-cropped gray beard and a quick smile.

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On a recent day, he and MacLee joined a group of friends in front of a mountainside opening near Eureka, wearing helmets, oxygen meters and strong lights, and a carrying stash of extra batteries. Cool air blasted from the opening, cutting through the desert heat.

The group walked between metal tracks that once carried ore carts, making their way through a tunnel shored up in places with squared-off timbers. After nearly a mile, the railcar tracks suddenly dropped into an abyss as the tunnel opened wide into a huge cavern. A hundred years ago, it would be a bustling scene lit with candles and carbide lights, as miners climbed a scaffolding the size of a seven-story building to drill out lead and silver.

Now, it is silent and pitch-black, illuminated only by the searching headlamp beams.

Bill Powell thought of his son, and the trips they took through the desert when he was a kid. Sometimes they'd come across an old mine shaft and toss a rock down, trying to imagine how far it fell. He doesn't do that anymore, not since his son's body was found in one of those pits.

Though the teenager never got to explore a mine like the one his father was in, Bill Powell thought he'd like seeing it. "He'd probably wish he was with me, hanging out."

But the dangers of abandoned mines weigh on Utah officials' minds. There have been 11 deaths since 1982 and more than 40 injuries, including people who entered mines to explore and others who fell in by accident, according to state data. Some abandoned mines become filled with tainted water, as in the toxic 2015 spill from Colorado's Gold King mine, but most in Utah are dry.

Legally, entering a mine can be considered trespassing in Utah if it has been closed or there are signs posted outside, but prosecutions are rare. Explorers argue it's no more dangerous than outdoor sports ranging from hiking to skiing, which also claim lives in the West.

But there are hazards specific to mines that can be especially dangerous to the unprepared, from abandoned explosives to the potentially fatal low-oxygen air known to miners as "black damp," reclamation specialist Chris Rohrer said. And while some explorers like MacLee go in prepared, many do not.

"It's just a wide open, Wild West thing," he said. "It's a completely uncontrolled situation."

In Arizona, prospector John Waddell fell to the rocky bottom of a mine shaft after the rigging he used to lower himself broke Oct. 15. He survived by sucking moisture out of his shirt before a friend who he'd told about his plans came to check on him.

There are also cases like Riley Powell and his girlfriend, Brelynne "Breezy" Otteson. Prosecutors say an enraged man killed the teenage couple after they visited his girlfriend despite his warning her not to have male visitors. He dumped their bodies in the mine shaft, where they remained for nearly three months before being discovered in March.

Similar cases have occurred in states like Wyoming, Colorado and California. Investigators also searched old mines in Utah and neighboring Nevada after the high-profile 2009 disappearance of Susan Cox Powell, though the 28-year-old Salt Lake City-area wife and mother was never found.

"Unfortunately, an abandoned mine is probably a good place to dispose of something like that — a person or something you want to hide forever," said Hollie Brown, spokeswoman for the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

For the state, the message is as clear as its skull-and-crossbones signs: Stay out and stay alive. The program has been around more than 30 years, and the division has already sealed some 6,000 abandoned mines.

One of the next projects on its list is a onetime stable near an early-1900s mine that used to house mining mules said to be so accustomed to the dim light underground that they had to be blindfolded when they were brought outside, Rohrer said.

In that case, it plans to seal the opening with a metal gate. At other mines, crews build cinderblock walls, backfill with dirt and rocks, or weld rebar over the openings so bats and other wildlife can still get in and out.

"For 150 years, people have dug holes in the ground and brought wealth out of the ground," Rohrer said. "Unfortunately, after they brought that wealth out of the ground, they left that hole behind."

Thousands of Syrians stuck in the desert risk starvation

By HIBA DLEWATI, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Tens of thousands of Syrians stranded in a desert camp near the Jordanian border are at risk of starvation amid dwindling supplies and the approach of winter, while regional powers trade blame over who is responsible for this latest humanitarian catastrophe in Syria's civil war.

Desperately needed aid deliveries to the besieged Rukban camp have repeatedly failed or been postponed, including a U.N. convoy which was supposed to go in on Thursday but has now been indefinitely delayed.

The camp is home to around 45,000 people, many of them women and children, who are camped out in the open desert. At least four people have died in the past month, due to malnutrition and lack of medical care.

Sand storms and heavy rains in recent weeks have left Rukban's tattered tents and clay houses in even worse shape. Imad Ghali, a camp resident, said this isn't the first time Rukban has been promised aid and not received it.

"It's like telling someone dying of thirst to wait for the rain," said Ghali. "How long are we going to wait?"

People started gathering in Rukban three years ago, fleeing Islamic State militants and airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition, Russia and Syria. Jordan sealed its border and stopped regular aid deliveries in 2016 after a cross-border IS attack that killed seven Jordanian soldiers.

The last aid delivery from Jordan was in January, leaving the camp's residents dependent on goods largely smuggled from government-held areas. The situation sharply deteriorated after the Syrian government blocked supply routes last month following a botched reconciliation deal with rebel groups in the area, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Russia, a close ally of the Syrian government, has blamed the U.S. for the deterioration of the situation in Rukban, which is within a 55 square kilometer (20 sq. mile) "deconfliction zone" set up by U.S. forces in the nearby Tanf military base.

"The inability of the US side to live up to its commitment to provide security in the 55-kilometer area around its base in Tanf stopped the convoy from going," Lt. Gen. Vladimir Savchenko said last week, adding that the area around Tanf has "a large number of armed and uncontrolled militants who can stage any manner of provocation" and endanger aid workers.

The U.S.-led coalition has denied such allegations.

"Any talk of the coalition holding up the process is simply misinformation and others deflecting off themselves," U.S. military spokesman Col. Sean Ryan said in an email.

On Saturday, the White House envoy to the coalition, Brett McGurk, said the Syrian government and Russia are using Rukban as an excuse to question the U.S. presence in the area.

"The question is for the regime and Russians. Do they really want to help these people or use them as something to come after us?" he asked, after stressing the U.S. was going to stay in the Tanf base. He spoke at a security conference in Bahrain last week.

Jordan, which at one point used cranes to drop aid for Syrians struck in Rukban, said it will not shoulder responsibility for this latest episode.

"Rukban is Syrian people on Syrian territory, so it is the responsibility of the Syrian government and the U.N. and the international community," Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said on Saturday. "We are not going to own Rukban."

He added, however, that Jordan will continue to provide water to Rukban and access to a Jordanian clinic for those in need.

"The camp's location has pushed the warring sides to use it as a way to pressure each other, while simultaneously neglecting the camp," said Rami Abdulrahman, who heads the Observatory.

Conditions will only worsen as the winter approaches, the U.N. children's agency warned earlier this month.

The Syrian government authorized the U.N. to deliver aid to Rukban two weeks ago, which would have been the first U.N. delivery to the camp made through Syria. However, the joint U.N. and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy did not arrive Thursday as promised, and has been indefinitely delayed.

Damascus-based U.N. official Fadwa Abed Rabou Baroud said the convoy was delayed for logistical and security reasons.

Meanwhile, the camp's residents are running out of food and medicine, the majority surviving off one small meal a day, said Abdul-Fattah al-Khaled, the director of a school in Rukban. Local merchants have hiked up the cost of supplies.

"There is no one organizing, observing or holding anyone accountable in the camp," said al-Khaled. "Our biggest problem is that we are not registered with the U.N. as a refugee camp and are instead just labeled as 'stuck on the border.'"

Rukban's residents staged a five-day sit-in earlier this month after a series of deaths in September due to malnutrition and lack of medical care. Among the dead were a 5-day-old boy and a 4-month-old girl.

A handful of nurses run a few poorly equipped clinics in the camp, al-Khaled said, and a medical center supported by the U.N. children's agency across the border takes urgent, life-threatening cases.

Earlier this month, a young woman died from anemia and chronic acute diarrhea. Rukban's bare-bones medical center was unable to treat Bassma Zaarour, and asked for her to be sent to a Jordanian hospital, but she died almost immediately after her appointment.

Jordan is in talks with Russia to find a permanent solution through voluntary returns and reconciliation agreements. Rukban is "a desert and no community can be sustained there," said Safadi, the Jordanian foreign minister. "Russia, Jordan and the U.S. are in agreement that we need to de-establish Rukban for people to go back, and we're working on that."

The camp's residents are exhausted, al-Khaled said, but fear leaving without safe passage, either to government-held areas or parts of the north controlled by Turkish-backed rebels.

Rampage victims' funerals begin as Trump heads to Pittsburgh

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and CLAUDIA LAUER, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Cecil and David Rosenthal lived together, worshipped together, made their way through life together, two intellectually disabled brothers in their 50s who were ensconced in Pittsburgh's close-knit Jewish community.

And on Tuesday, they will be buried there together, in one of the first funerals to follow the shooting that killed the brothers and nine other people at Tree of Life synagogue.

Funerals were also set Tuesday for Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, a family-medicine practitioner known for his caring and kindness, and Daniel Stein, a man seen as part of the core of his congregation.

Other victims' funerals have been scheduled through Friday in a week of mourning, anguish and questions about the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history.

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump plan to visit Pittsburgh on Tuesday to "express the support of the American people and to grieve with the Pittsburgh community," the White House said.

The plan elicited mixed feelings in Pittsburgh.

Tree of Life Rabbi Jeffrey Myers told CNN that the president is "certainly welcome," while Democratic Mayor Bill Peduto asked the Republican president ahead of the announcement not to come while the first funerals were being held. Some other people, including shooting survivor Barry Werber, weren't keen on a visit from a president who has embraced the politically fraught term "nationalist."

The suspect in Saturday's massacre at Tree of Life synagogue, Robert Gregory Bowers, appeared briefly Monday in a federal court, where he was ordered held without bail for a court date Thursday. He didn't enter a plea.

Authorities say the 46-year-old truck driver, who is facing both state and federal charges, expressed hatred of Jews during and after the rampage.

The fusillade killed people at a synagogue where they were dedicated members. The oldest victim was 97-year-old Rose Mallinger. At 54, David Rosenthal was the youngest victim.

He and Cecil, 59, lived at a building run by Achieva, a disability-services organization that had worked with the brothers for years. David had worked with Achieva's cleaning service and at Goodwill Industries,

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and Cecil was hoping to start working soon at a workplace-services company, Achieva spokeswoman Lisa Razza told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

David was quieter than Cecil, who had a sociable personality that earned him a reputation as "the honorary mayor of Squirrel Hill," a venerable Jewish enclave in Pittsburgh.

"They were lovely souls, and they lived for the congregation" at Tree of Life, said Brian Schreiber, a member who's also president of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh.

Rabinowitz, 66, had a family medicine practice and was affiliated with UPMC Shadyside hospital. The UPMC hospital system described him as one of its "kindest physicians."

Rabinowitz also was a go-to doctor for HIV patients in the epidemic's early and desperate days, a physician who "always hugged us as we left his office," according to Michael Kerr, who credits Rabinowitz with helping him survive.

"Thank you," Kerr wrote on Facebook, "for having always been there during the most terrifying and frightening time of my life.... You are one of my heroes."

Stein, 71, was a visible member of Pittsburgh's Jewish community, where he was the men's club president at Tree of Life. He was among a trio of members who made up the "religious heart" of New Light Congregation, one of three that meets at the synagogue, co-president Stephen Cohen said.

Stein's nephew Steven Halle told the Tribune-Review that his uncle had a dry sense of humor and a willingness to help anybody.

"He was somebody that everybody liked," Halle said.

Lauer reported from Philadelphia. Associated Press writers Allen G. Breed and Mark Scoloro in Pittsburgh and Jennifer Peltz in New York contributed.

Asian markets rise as weaker yuan eases fear of more tariffs

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher on Tuesday as traders took the weaker yuan as a sign that Chinese exports can remain competitive even if a trade dispute with Washington heats up.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.5 percent to 21,455.54 after official data showed that its unemployment rate eased to 2.3 percent in September, from 2.4 percent a month earlier. The Shanghai Composite index added 0.7 percent to 2,560.38 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.1 percent to 24,796.41. The Kospi in South Korea picked up 0.7 percent to 2,008.81. Australia's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.6 percent to 5,760.30. Shares were higher in Taiwan but fell in Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand.

WALL STREET: A report the U.S. is preparing to impose tariffs on all imports from China weighed on sentiment. The S&P 500 index fell 0.7 percent to 2,641.25. The Dow Jones Industrial Average tumbled 1 percent to 24,442.92 and the Nasdaq composite gave up 1.6 percent to 7,050.29. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks dropped 0.4 percent to 1,447.31.

MORE CHINESE TARIFFS: On Monday, Bloomberg News reported that the Trump administration plans to announce a new wave of tariffs on Chinese goods in December, if upcoming talks between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping fail to substantially diffuse tensions. The report cited unnamed sources who said the tariffs could cover imports from China that have not already been hit by tariffs, amounting to up to \$257 billion worth of imports. A weakening of the Chinese yuan, which can make exports more price competitive, lifted sentiment in Asia. The yuan had declined to 6.9644 per dollar by midday on Monday, the lowest level since May 2008. It fell to 6.9677 against the dollar on Tuesday.

ANALYST'S TAKE: The optimism may be misplaced, said Jingyi Pan of IG. "Even a 10 percent depreciation of the yuan does not measure up to the expected impact from a lift in tariffs," she said in a commentary. "This is not including the externalities ... from damage to business confidence and upon the regional supply chain."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude added 5 cents to \$67.09 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dropped 55 cents to settle at \$67.04 a barrel in New York. Brent crude,

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used to price international oils, lost 27 cents to \$77.10 per barrel. In the previous session, it dropped 29 cents to \$77.37 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar strengthened to 112.65 yen from 112.37 yen late Monday. The euro rose to \$1.1382 from \$1.1372.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 30, the 303rd day of 2018. There are 62 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 30, 1735 (New Style calendar), the second president of the United States, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

On this date:

In 1912, Vice President James S. Sherman, running for a second term of office with President William Howard Taft, died six days before Election Day. (Sherman was replaced with Nicholas Murray Butler, but Taft, the Republican candidate, ended up losing in an Electoral College landslide to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.)

In 1944, the Martha Graham ballet "Appalachian Spring," with music by Aaron Copland, premiered at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., with Graham in a leading role.

In 1945, the U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing, effective at midnight.

In 1953, Gen. George C. Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Albert Schweitzer received the Peace Prize for 1952.

In 1961, the Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb, the "Tsar Bomba," with a force estimated at about 50 megatons. The Soviet Party Congress unanimously approved a resolution ordering the removal of Josef Stalin's body from Lenin's tomb.

In 1972, 45 people were killed when an Illinois Central Gulf commuter train was struck from behind by another train on Chicago's South Side.

In 1974, Muhammad Ali knocked out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15-round bout in Kinshasa, Zaire (zah-EER'), known as the "Rumble in the Jungle," to regain his world heavyweight title.

In 1975, the New York Daily News ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto any proposed federal bailout of New York City.

In 1979, President Carter announced his choice of federal appeals judge Shirley Hufstедler to head the newly created Department of Education.

In 1985, schoolteacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe witnessed the launch of the space shuttle Challenger, the same craft that would carry her and six other crew members to their deaths in Jan. 1986.

In 1995, by a razor-thin vote of 50.6 percent to 49.4 percent, Federalists prevailed over separatists in a Quebec secession referendum.

In 2002, Jam Master Jay (Jason Mizell), a rapper with the hip-hop group Run-DMC, was killed in a shooting in New York. He was 37.

Ten years ago: A federal jury in Miami convicted the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in the first case brought under a 1994 U.S. law allowing prosecution for torture and atrocities committed overseas. (Charles McArthur Emmanuel was later sentenced to 97 years in prison.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama claimed "full responsibility" for fixing his administration's troubled health insurance website, while on Capitol Hill, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius apologized to frustrated people trying to sign up, declaring that she was accountable for the failures but also defended the historic health care overhaul. The government said the deficit for the 2013 budget year totaled \$680.3 billion, down from \$1.09 trillion in 2012. The Boston Red Sox romped to their third World Series championship in 10 seasons, thumping the St. Louis Cardinals 6-1 in Game 6 at Fenway.

One year ago: Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and a former Manafort business as-

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sociate, Rick Gates, were indicted on felony charges including conspiracy against the United States as Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election revealed its first targets. A former Trump campaign adviser, George Papadopoulos, admitted he lied to the FBI about his contacts with Russians. At his sentencing hearing, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl apologized to the military personnel who were wounded searching for him after he walked off his post in Afghanistan in 2009. A federal judge in Washington barred the Trump administration from proceeding with plans to exclude transgender people from military service.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Claude Lelouch is 81. Rock singer Grace Slick is 79. Songwriter Eddie Holland is 79. Rhythm-and-blues singer Otis Williams (The Temptations) is 77. Actress Joanna Shimkus is 75. Actor Henry Winkler is 73. Broadcast journalist Andrea Mitchell is 72. Rock musician Chris Slade (Asia) is 72. Country/rock musician Timothy B. Schmit (The Eagles) is 71. Actor Leon Rippy is 69. Actor Harry Hamlin is 67. Actor Charles Martin Smith is 65. Country singer T. Graham Brown is 64. Actor Kevin Pollak is 61. Rock singer-musician Jerry De Borg (Jesus Jones) is 58. Actor Michael Beach is 55. Rock singer-musician Gavin Rossdale (Bush) is 53. Actor Jack Plotnick is 50. Comedian Ben Bailey is 48. Actor Billy Brown is 48. Actress Nia Long is 48. Country singer Kassidy Osborn (SHeDAISY) (sh-DAY'-zee) is 42. Actor Gael Garcia Bernal is 40. Actor Matthew Morrison is 40. Business executive and presidential adviser Ivanka Trump is 37. Actress Fiona Dourif is 37. Actor Shaun Sipos (SEE'-pohs) is 37. Actress Janel (juh-NEHL') Parrish is 30. Actor Tequan Richmond is 26.

Thought for Today: "All men are almost led to believe not of proof, but by attraction." — Blaise Pascal, French philosopher (1623-1662).