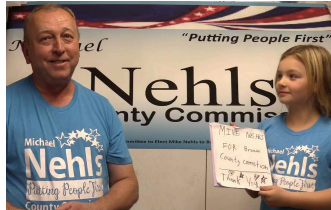


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- 2- Mike Nehls for County Commissioner
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**Turn Clocks
Back 1 hour
before going
to bed
tonight!**

Groton Area Schedule of Events

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



✓ Vote Michael Nehls

NOW is

the Time!

Eastern Brown County has not had representation on the commission for 33



- 30 year law enforcement veteran working with city and county governments.
- Progressive thinker.
- Conservative Spender
- Common Sense Approach to Solving Issues.
- Putting taxpayers first.

My pledge is that I will always listen to the concerns of all county residents and to represent Brown County taxpayers as an experienced and trust worthy public servant.

Vote Lana Greenfield for District 2 House A WISE CHOICE; A STRONG VOICE



**LANA
GREENFIELD**
DISTRICT 2
FOR **HOUSE**
LANAGREENFIELD.COM

Background:

- ★ Raised on a farm near Bryant
- ★ Received a Bachelor of Science in education from BHSU
- ★ Married for 48 years, mother of three, grandmother

Experience:

- ★ Owner of Greeny's, a restaurant-lodging facility in Doland
- ★ Land owner
- ★ Retired 37 year veteran teacher

Lana Supports:

- ◆ Life
- ◆ Gun Rights
- ◆ Stable education curriculum
- ◆ Small business and entrepreneurship
- ◆ Veterans
- ◆ Elderly and homes for the disabled
- ◆ No new taxes
- ◆ Common sense government
- ◆ A strict interpretation of the Constitution

***Re-elect Lana Greenfield on
November 6th, a
fiscally conservative Republican,
endorsed by the NRA.***

Paid for by Lana Greenfield for House,
Box 143, Doland, SD 57436

 **VOTE** ★for★
**LYNN
HEUPEL**



FOR BROWN COUNTY AUDITOR

I am running for Brown County Auditor because I want to continue my dedication by working for you the people of Brown County. I have worked in the Auditor's office for 7 years and have been the Chief Deputy Auditor for 6 years. As the Chief Deputy Auditor, I have knowledge of the overall duties of the Auditor's Office; my main responsibilities are Accounts Payable, Monthly & Annual Financial Reports, Assist Legislative Audits during the Counties Annual Audits, Apportion the Taxes collected, Liquor Licenses and assisting with Elections, County Liens and Inventory. This along with my years of experience in accounting, management and customer service, I am prepared to step into this role upon Maxine Fischer's retirement. I ask for your support by voting for me in the General Election. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th but Absentee voting started Friday, Sept. 21st at the Auditor's Office between 8am to 5pm, Monday- Friday.

Committed to Community
Experienced * Proven Performance

[Facebook.com/lynn.m.heupelforbrcoauditor](https://www.facebook.com/lynn.m.heupelforbrcoauditor)

Paid for by Heupel for Brown County Auditor

Work completed at historic Trinity Church



Groton's Historic Trinity Church has a new roof, and with it, a new lease on life. The 134-year-old church could have gone the way of the other 152 similar Episcopal Churches that existed in South Dakota in 1890. But with funding from the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission and the City of Deadwood, plus the generous financial support of the Groton community, the church will now stand as a testament to the spirituality of our pioneer ancestors for many generations to come.

The Blocker Construction crew finished shingling the North roof of the church late Thursday afternoon, then shingled the entire South roof and the South entry roof Friday, working hard to finish the project before the rainstorms predicted for Saturday morning.

To thank everyone who contributed to the preservation of this unique historical monument, the Groton Community Historical Society will hold an open house at the church on Thanksgiving Day from 12 noon to 2 pm. The public is invited to come by to admire the new roof and tour the inside of the church.

The church is located at the intersection of 3rd Street and 3rd Avenue, one block North of the Community Center where the big community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held. (Photo by Betty Breck)

No. 5 Wolves fly by Golden Eagles on Friday night

Crookston, Minn. – The No. 5 Northern State University volleyball team opened their final weekend of the regular season with a swift 3-set victory over Minnesota Crookston. The Wolves defeated the Golden Eagles 25-15, 25-20, and 25-12 improving to 24-3 overall and 16-3 in the Northern Sun.

NSU made quick work of UMC recording 40 kills, 38 assists, 45 digs, three blocks, and two service aces. The Wolves hit .326 in the match, including a match high .440 in the opening set. Defensively they held the Golden Eagles to a .088 attack percentage, forcing 21 hitting errors.

Hailey Busch led the team on offense and defense with a double-double, recording ten kills and 12 digs. The senior hit .318 in the win, and was one of five Wolves above .300. Jenna Reiff was second on the team with nine kills, hitting .333. She added three digs and one assist, as well as a team high two blocks.

Sally Gaul and Laura Snyder each tallied six kills, with Snyder hitting .308 through three sets. Snyder also added four assists and a team high two blocks alongside Reiff. Morgan Baufield led the team, hitting at a .556 clip with five kills and zero hitting errors. The sophomore added two digs and one block. Regan Dennis and Ashley Rozell rounded out the team's offensive totals with two kills each.

Rozell tallied 32 assists, averaging 10.67 per set, while adding one ace, one block, and six digs. Lexi Boesl was second on the team defensively with ten digs, while Bry Goar and Jaiden Langlie each recorded six.

Northern returns to action this afternoon for a 3 p.m. match against Bemidji State on the road. The Wolves are on the hunt for their first NSIC Conference Championship in program history.



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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Class A Volleyball SoDak 16

Print Bracket

The eight (8) winners of the SoDak 16 contests will be re-seeded for the State Tournament.

#1 Miller

Scores:

Date: 11/6/2018
Time: 5:30 p.m. CT
Site: James Valley Christian HS-Huron

Scores:

#16 Chamberlain

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#5 St. Thomas More

Scores:

Date: 11/6/2018
Time: 6:00 p.m. MT
Site: Rapid City Central

Scores:

#12

RC Christian

#2 Central/Montrose

Scores:

Date: 11/6/2018
Time: 7:00 p.m. CT
Site: Sioux Falls Roosevelt

Scores:

#15 Dakota Valley

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#6 Elk Point-Jefferson

Scores:

Date: 11/6/2018
Time: 7:00 p.m. CT
Site: Brandon Valley HS

Scores:

#11

Dell Rapids

Seed School	Seed Pts.
1 Miller	45.786
2 McCook Central/Montrose	45.080
3 SF Christian	44.824
4 Winner	44.556
5 St. Thomas More	44.371
6 Elk Point-Jefferson	43.833
7 Parker	43.700
8 Groton Area	43.448

Seed School	Seed Pts.
9 Aberdeen Roncalli	43.375
10 Madison	43.000
11 Dell Rapids	42.750
12 RC Christian	42.382
13 Pine Ridge	42.115
14 Hamlin	41.885
15 Dakota Valley	41.710
16 Chamberlain	39.259

#3 SF Christian

Scores:

Date: 11/6/2018
Time: 5:30 p.m. CT
Site: Madison

Scores:

#14 Hamlin

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#7 Parker

Scores:

Date: 11/6/2018
Time: 5:30 p.m. CT
Site: Sioux Falls Roosevelt

Scores:

#10

Madison

#4 Winner

Scores:

Date: 11/6/2018
Time: 5:00 p.m. MT
Site: Wall

Scores:

#13 Pine Ridge

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#8 Groton Area

Scores:

Date: 11/6/2018
Time: 7:00 p.m. CT
Site: Aberdeen Central HS

Scores:

#9 Aberdeen Roncalli

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EarthTalk®

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What are PFASs and why should we be concerned about them?

-- Jim Stobbins, Cary, NC

PFASs—short for perfluoroalkyl substances—are synthetic chemicals of various formulations (including PFCs, PFOA, PFOS and GenX, among others) that are used widely in various products for moisture and stain resistance. Non-stick pans, rain jackets and carpeting are among thousands of different types of consumer goods that now contain one form or another of PFASs.

“Sealant tape, ski wax and floor wax are waterproof thanks to them,” reports the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), “and in machinery they reduce gear friction.” NRDC adds they are found in our homes, our offices, our supermarkets—practically everywhere.

But while it’s nice that we can’t stain our carpeting no matter how messy we are, are we paying for this luxury with our health? The fact that these chemicals are so hard to break down in their intended applications also means they don’t easily break down in nature when released into the environment. Not only is this bad for ecosystems and wildlife, but it’s also risky for human health.

A wide range of animal studies has linked the chemicals to kidney, prostate, rectal and testicular cancers, not to mention hormone malfunction, liver and thyroid problems, and abnormal fetal development. NRDC cites research showing that the offspring of human mothers exposed to certain PFASs had lower-than-average birth weights. Another recent study found that women with high levels of PFASs in their bloodstreams take longer on average to get pregnant.

“For years, bad-actor PFASs were used in food containers like pizza boxes, microwave popcorn bags, Chinese take-out containers and other food packaging to repel grease, and they could leach into the food,” reports NRDC’s Erik Olson, adding: “PFASs that enter the body through the foods we eat and products we use every day can linger there for years before they are eventually flushed out.”

In 2016 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration banned three of the worst PFASs from food uses in response to a petition from NRDC and other non-profit partners. “But we’re worried that chemical cousins of those PFASs are being used,” says Olson. “And the trouble is, manufacturers don’t have to disclose to consumers that they’re using them.”

While the battle to eliminate PFASs entirely rages on, NRDC suggests consumers can take matters into their own hands to minimize their exposure. For starters, ask manufacturers whether their products contain PFASs since such chemicals likely won’t be listed on labels. Steer clear of non-stick cookware, Gore-Tex clothing, personal care products with “PTFE” or “fluoro” ingredients, or textiles made with the original (pre-2000) formulation of Scotchgard, as these likely contain significant amounts of PFASs.

Avoid carpeting and clothing hyped to be “stain-resistant”—a dead giveaway that they have been treated with PFASs. And never order or heat up food in grease-resistant paper unless you want a healthy portion of PFASs with your meal or snack. Likewise, ditch the microwave popcorn—most of which comes in a PFAS-treated bag—and make it on the stovetop instead (it’s more fun that way anyway).

CONTACTS: NRDC, www.nrdc.org; EPA’s Basic Information on PFAS, www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

Drug abuse is now the leading cause of death for people under 50. Meth is a tremendous challenge in South Dakota, but opioid addiction is spreading to an ever-increasing number of families each year. Nationwide, more than 46 Americans lose their lives because of an opioid addiction every day. It's an epidemic, and South Dakota is no exception.

Opioids have stolen the lives of hundreds of South Dakotans in recent years. No family, no community is immune to addiction.

With opioids, addiction can start with a simple prescription for pain medication to deal with a headache. But that same medicine intended for healing can be the drug that leads to a life-altering addiction. More than 40 percent of all opioid overdose deaths involved a prescription opioid. While some measures have been taken to better monitor prescription drugs, opioid prescriptions in South Dakota have reached all-time highs.

To address the epidemic, training efforts have launched at places like Avera and Sanford to make sure doctors understand when and how to prescribe opioids.

On the federal level, I've worked with President Trump on a bipartisan bill to combat the opioid epidemic by confronting the trafficking of deadly opiates, prioritizing addiction prevention, better supporting those in treatment, and taking a data-driven approach for targeting resources for millions of Medicare recipients who lack access to mental health resources. There's still much to be done in our fight against opioid addiction, but this is a good start.

Additionally, I'm continuing to work on the federal level to make sure we're doing all we can to keep illegal drugs out of South Dakota. I strongly support legislation, for instance, that cracks down on Mexican drug traffickers and those who help facilitate their illicit activities at the border; this includes my continued vote to fully fund President Trump's border security agenda. I believe doing this is a step toward cut off drugs at their source.

We have to end this epidemic. If you or someone you care about is abusing substances or medications, please talk to your doctor or contact a treatment center immediately. If you don't know where to turn, call the free and confidential National Treatment Referral Routing Service at 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

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Big Sioux River Flood Information System is now Online

During my time as governor, I have always tried to learn from experience, and to improve systems and processes to lead to better performance. Recently, a new flood information system came online that will help with future flooding events on the Big Sioux River.

In June 2014, after several days of heavy rains, residents prepared for a Big Sioux River flood. The rising water threatened homes, farms, and businesses in South Dakota, especially in the lower basin. Based on the flood prediction models in use at that time, significant resources were deployed to protect people and property. A section of Interstate 29 and part of a railroad line were both closed. Fortunately, flood waters were not as severe as predicted and those transportation routes and most homes were ultimately unharmed.

Although I was happy that the flooding was less than predicted, the 2014 event made it clear the existing flood prediction models were not accurate. Forty percent of South Dakota's population lives in the Big Sioux River basin, and our state needed better information to react to flooding events in this area.

I asked Lieutenant Governor Matt Michels to convene a flood task force to evaluate what could be done. The task force included staff from the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Transportation, Public Safety, and the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications. The aim was to develop an accurate hydrologic computer model linked to real-time, river-height measuring gages to better predict inundated areas during high flow events.

After reviewing the findings of the Task Force and seeing the need, DENR's Board of Water and Natural Resources recommended funding for the model in the 2016 State Water Plan. Their recommendation was to appropriate funds from the state Water and Environment Fund. The 2016 Legislature agreed and passed the bill.

Using the dedicated water funding, DENR produced two online, flood information systems with mapping tools. The first system contains 8,500 possible flood scenarios that can be accessed by the general public to evaluate risks to their families and property. The second system is for use by local, state, and federal officials as it can use real time data to assess immediate flood conditions and determine appropriate response actions to protect communities and critical infrastructure such as drinking water and wastewater systems.

To ensure the model would meet the needs of local officials in the basin, DENR asked for review and input throughout the development process. Several local government entities responded by contributing financial support to install new stream gages to help monitor real-time river stages and predict maximum water levels during a flood. Ultimately, the new flood model coupled with the additional stream gages will also help the National Weather Service make more accurate river stage predictions. All this information will lead to more effective and efficient flood response, enhanced protection for threatened communities, and better planning for future development near the flood plain.

I am pleased to announce DENR and its contractor have completed the modeling effort on-time and on-budget. Best of all, it works! While maintenance of the system will be on-going, it has been verified and calibrated several times this spring and summer during high-flow events in the Big Sioux River. To view the new online flood information system visit <http://www.bigsiouxfis.org>.

This is a landmark project that uses the latest technology to produce information that will better protect human life and property for years to come. That is what government is supposed to do, and the Big Sioux River Flood Information System does the job.



Anhydrous tanks roll into ditch

Thursday night BCEM, BCSO, and Groton Fire Dept. responded to an anhydrous ammonia tank rollover. A farmer was trying to move over to allow other vehicles pass and the nurse tanks caught the edge of the ditch causing the tanks to roll over. Thankfully the safety devices on the tanks worked and there was no leak of product. Special thanks to Agtegra and Schmidt Construction for helping in the recovery.

There are still a lot of farm machinery on the roadway. Please slow down and move over to allow safe passing.

(Photos and information from BCEM Facebook Page)





**SOUTH DAKOTA
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

ELECTION SECURITY: SD County Auditors Express Varying Degrees of Concern By T.D. Griffith

Some county auditors in South Dakota are getting nearly daily security updates from the Department of Homeland Security. At least one has thwarted hacking attempts already and many are leaning heavily on the state's information technology specialists as they prepare for the midterm elections.

The auditors are responsible for maintaining the voter registration lists and supervising the election process, and so are understandably diligent.

But, Secretary of State Shantel Krebs says, the most effective security system to prevent hacking has been in place in the state for years - the paper ballot.

"The beauty of that is that South Dakota does not use online voting systems," Krebs said. "We rely on a paper ballot. The security and integrity of South Dakota votes remains secure because we utilize the paper ballot."

Still, Krebs said her staff members are vigilant for any attempted hacks and are being assisted by specialists with the South Dakota Bureau of Information and Telecommunications as the election date nears.

"Of course, we are always watching," she said. "We are always being made aware of any concerns of the Department of Homeland Security, which they pass along. All secretaries of state across the nation are informed about information that would be pertinent to them. There is open communication and updates of things going on and what to be watchful for."

South Dakota has electronic voter rolls, but the statewide database is maintained by individual county auditors. Several security procedures are in place regarding access to that system, including an authentication key process that is constantly changing in what Krebs describes as "a triple security check."

Auditors approaching election with confidence, care

Minnehaha County Auditor Bob Litz said his staff didn't notice any attempted intrusions in the 2016 presidential election. But in hindsight, and after a review by Homeland Security and its Fusion Center, he said hackers had attempted to access the county's system.

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"They could have been from anybody," Litz said. "Whether it was Fancy Bear – the Russians – we don't know, and we don't know if it was election-based or just seeking general information. There is no evidence that they were able to steal any data."

In the leadup to this year's election, Litz said hacking attempts have become more frequent.

"In 2016, we had our usual phishing expeditions, but this time around we've had a significant ramp-up of people trying to infiltrate our systems," Litz said. "I get advisories every day or every other day from Homeland Security and our county IT is taking proactive steps with regard to hacking attempts."



The number of Independent voters has risen sharply in recent years in South Dakota, altering the political landscape and changing campaign strategies. Photo: Bart Pfankuch

Litz also credits the state Bureau of Information and Telecommunications with serving as an "umbrella" to thwart attempts to infiltrate voting systems statewide. "It gives me some level of comfort," he said.

Litz said he was so concerned about election security that he and a staffer specializing in election oversight attended the August DEFCON 26 conference in Las Vegas, where they met with Dr. Douglas Maughan, director of cyber-security for DHS, and "found out what's really going on."

"There is absolutely increased hacking activity this year," Litz said. "I would characterize many of the attempts as crude, but we've caught some more sophisticated ones. And, they're not just going after work computers and home laptops, but also cell phones. It's important to keep them all locked up."

While Pennington County had no reports of attempted intrusions in the 2016 presidential election, Auditor-elect Cindy Mohler said this week that her Rapid City office received a recent visit from a representative of DHS's Fusion Center.

"They work in the internet world and they met with us and our IT department and gave us a heads up on what to be on the lookout for in terms of phishing emails, including our own social media pages," Mohler said. "They just wanted us to keep an eye out so we're not getting hacked or someone is duplicating our accounts. It's so common, if you think of the internet at all in those terms, and they are things we have previously talked about with our IT department."

While Mohler said she expected periodic updates from DHS, she said she was not overly concerned about hacking in next week's election.

"Not electronically I don't, because we use paper ballots," she said. "Our scanners are not connected to

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the internet. They are secure when we leave at night. Our doors are locked so no one is going to tamper with the programming.

"Voters should know we're going to do our best to secure the integrity of their vote," Mohler added. "We want to ensure that everyone's vote is counted. We always work to make sure those tallies are accurate."

Maxine Fischer, who has served as Brown County Auditor since 1991, said she has never experienced attempted hacking and has not been contacted by Homeland Security regarding election security. She is confident in the integrity of her county's election system.

"We do everything we can to secure the ballot and we are very careful," Fischer said. "There is a certain trust involved and we are very conscientious about our job."

Likewise, in Lawrence County, auditor Brenda McGruder, said she had not been notified of any attempted hacks of her system, nor had she had contact with Homeland Security relative to this year's election.

"As far as our voter system, I'm confident and the voters of South Dakota should feel confident too," McGruder said. "From the secretary of state's office right down to the county auditors, we all take our jobs seriously."

Early voting numbers are high

If the number of early voters is an indication, Election Day turnout should be high, the auditors say. The auditors contacted said they were surprised by the interest in and the extent of early voting occurring.

"It's been awesome," said Brown County's Fischer. Four years ago, 3,100 county residents voted early, and two years ago 6,100 voters cast ballots in the days before polls opened. Fischer said she was confident that far more than 3,100 would cast early ballots in this year's mid-terms.

"The ballot issues have perked some people up, and the governor's race and, of course, the national (Congressional) race," she said.

Pennington County voters are on track to cast as many ballots as they did in 2016's presidential election, which would mean a healthy 70 percent turnout of registered voters, Mohler said.

"It's been good and really steady, with 400 to 600 ballots being cast a day," she said. "Maybe it's just the political climate right now, with so much going on and people talking about it. But, maybe it's the governor's race or the congressional race."

In Minnehaha, South Dakota's most populous county where 118,000 registered voters reside, Auditor Litz said early voting had been brisk as well.

Litz is anxious as Election Day approaches, but hopeful that all voting process will go smoothly and without interruption.

"I wake up at three o'clock every damn morning thinking, did I forget anything and what else can I do to improve the process here?" he said.

Tom Griffith, Deadwood, S.D., is a contributing reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A fourth-generation South Dakotan, he has been a journalist, editor and photographer in Arizona, Montana and South Dakota. He also has written or co-authored more than 70 books and his travel features have appeared in more than 250 magazines and newspapers worldwide.

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It's SoDak 16 Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Roncalli
Cavaliers**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018

7:00 p.m. at Aberdeen Central High School

Good Luck Lady Tigers from these GDILIVE.COM Sponsors

**Allied Climate Professionals
Bahr Spray Foam
Blocker Construction
Dakota Risk Management
Groton Dairy Queen
Groton Ford
Groton Legion Post #39
Jungle Lanes
Lori's Pharmacy
Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.
Professional Management Services
S & S Lumber
Sanford Health
Tyson DeHoet Trucking
Weber Landscaping**

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Today in Weather History

November 3, 2003: Heavy snow fell across the area. Snowfall of 6 to 9 inches fell across Big Stone County in Minnesota, with nine inches in Ortonville. Heavy snow of up to eight inches fell across Grant County in South Dakota. Six inches fell at Big Stone City, and 8 inches fell at Milbank. Heavy snow also fell from the early morning to around noon across parts of central South Dakota. Six inches of snow fell at Kennebec, Fort Thompson, Gann Valley, and Miller.

1890 - The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, reached 96 degrees, a November record for 76 years. (David Ludlum)

1927: Historic flooding occurred across Vermont from November 2nd through the 4th. This flood washed out 1285 bridges, miles of roads and railways, and several homes and buildings. Eighty-four people were killed from the flooding, including Lt. Governor S. Hollister Jackson.

1927 - Somerset VT was deluged with 8.77 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour record for the state. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1961 - A rare November thunderstorm produced snow at Casper, WY. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1966: An early season snowfall, which started on the 2nd, whitened the ground from Alabama to Michigan. Mobile, Alabama had their earliest snowflakes on record. Louisville, Kentucky measured 13.1 inches, Nashville; Tennessee reported 7.2 inches and Huntsville, Alabama had 4 inches of snow.

1987 - Twenty-one cities, mostly in the Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Columbus OH was their warmest reading of record for so late in the season. Showers and thundershowers associated with a tropical depression south of Florida produced 4.28 inches of rain at Clewiston in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A sharp cold front brought about an abrupt end to Indian Summer in the north central U.S. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY, and winds in the mountains near the Washoe Valley of southeastern Wyoming gusted to 78 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central U.S. Del Rio TX tied Laredo TX and McAllen TX for honors as the hot spot in the nation with a record warm afternoon high of 91 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Cold weather prevailed in the central U.S. Six cities in Texas, Minnesota, and Michigan, reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 7 above zero at Marquette MI was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

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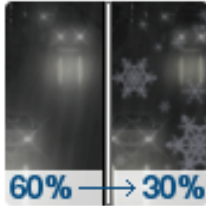
Today



Rain/Snow
then Rain

High: 40 °F

Tonight



Rain Likely
then Chance
Rain/Snow

Low: 33 °F

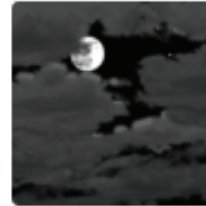
Sunday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 41 °F

Sunday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 31 °F

Monday



Slight Chance
Wintry Mix
then Chance
Rain

High: 44 °F

Light Rain (And Sometimes Snow) Today
Temperatures In The Upper 30s



Published on: 11/03/2018 at 4:28AM

A slow moving system will bring rain, which will sometimes mix with snow, to the region today. Little if any accumulation is expected however. The trend of cool and unsettled weather continues through the end of the weekend and well into next week.

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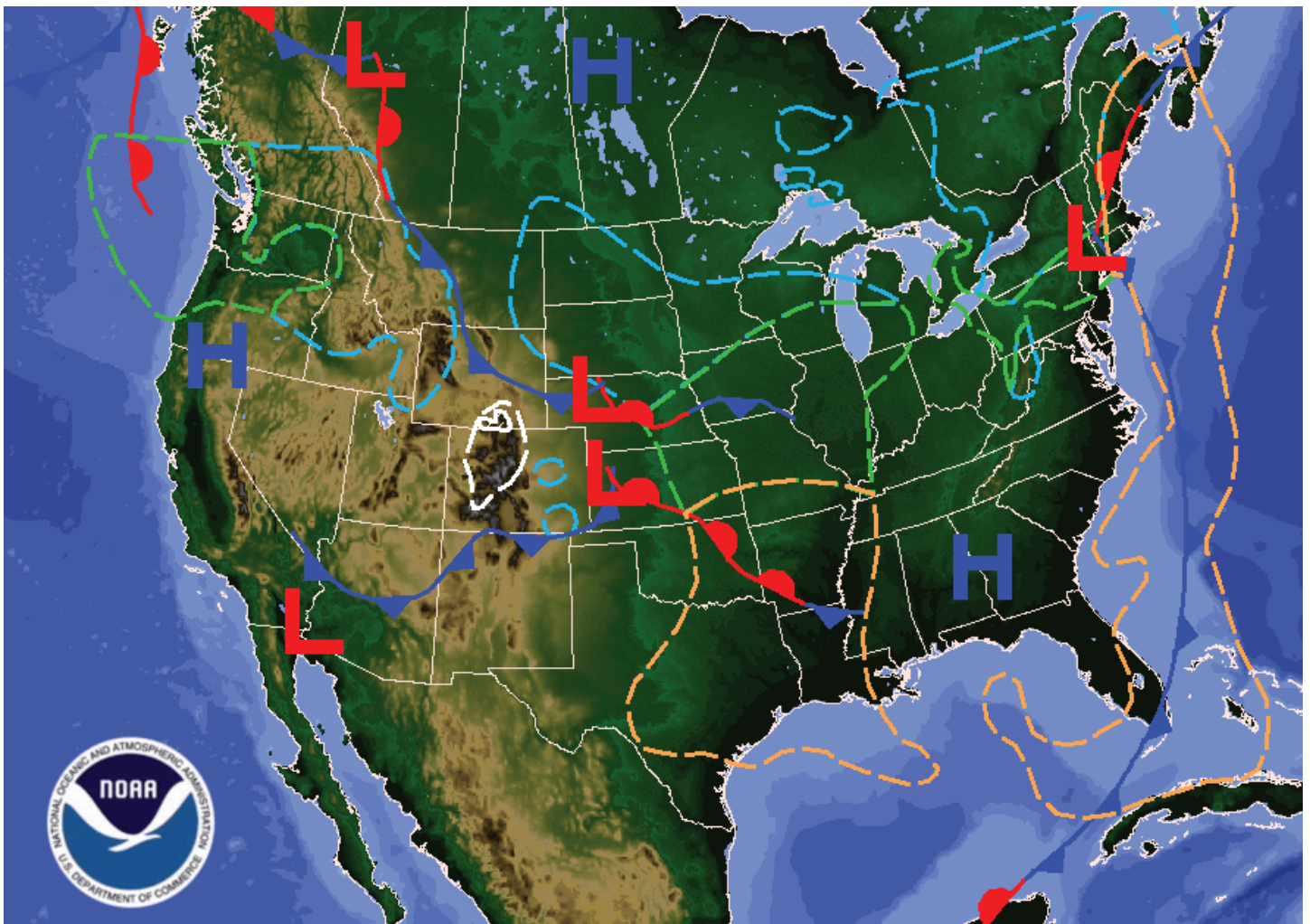
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 44 °F at 2:54 PM
Low Outside Temp: 39 °F at 10:22 PM
High Gust: 12 mph at 8:52 PM
Precip: 0.01

Today's Info

Record High: 75° in 1904
Record Low: 1 in 1991
Average High: 48°F
Average Low: 25°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.06
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.01
Average Precip to date: 20.53
Precip Year to Date: 15.06
Sunset Tonight: 6:18 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:17 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Nov 03, 2018, issued 4:51 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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WONDERS AND MIRACLES

Have you ever planted a seed in a jar, placed it in a window where the sun's warmth and light were at work and watched in wonder as God brought life to that small package? Left in darkness, little, if anything, would have happened. But when the seed was placed in soil, nourished by the sun and the life-giving elements in the soil, its thirst quenched by water, a miracle took place. It did what God created it to do.

Some might question the difference between the words wonder and miracle. We often watch in awe when we do not understand what is going on around us. Sometimes things that amaze us are easily explained by someone who knows more than we do. Then, when we understand what happened, we may still be filled with wonder, but it is no longer a mystery. It's like God's love for us. We wonder why and how He loves until we know Jesus.

A miracle, however, is some event or action that cannot be explained. It is an extraordinary event that demonstrates God's power. Without giving us any warning or making any announcement, He invades what is going on and unpredictably changes things to let us know who is in charge! What has been, no longer is, and what will be cannot be predicted. It was obvious in the journey of the Israelites: God unexpectedly saved and protected them. So, the Psalmist wrote, Remember His miracles. It was His grace that saved them.

But what about miracles in our lives? By His grace, we can be saved. Like them, He will save us, too. Now, that's a miracle all can enjoy!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for Your love, mercy, grace and salvation. May we never forget these miracles! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 105:5 Remember the wonders he has performed, his miracles, and the rulings he has given.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

It's almost over: South Dakota campaigns make closing pitch

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Republican Dusty Johnson's campaign for Congress has contacted more than 175,000 voters during his race, and he hopes to reach 45,000 more by the time the polls close Tuesday. Democrat Tim Bjorkman has visited about 180 communities and both U.S. House hopefuls have events planned around the state into next week.

Closing arguments are on in South Dakota political campaigns, which stretch way beyond the marquee governor's race between Democrat Billie Sutton and Republican Kristi Noem that's drawing Vice President Mike Pence to Rapid City on Monday. Voters will decide whether Johnson or Bjorkman should replace Noem in Congress and settle five ballot questions, among them measures that would reshape the state's citizen initiative system and raise tobacco taxes for the first time in more than a decade.

Johnson, a former public utilities commissioner, said his priorities if elected are finishing a farm bill, making progress on resolving trade disputes to the benefit of the U.S. and tackling the federal deficit. He started out Thursday on what he's dubbed his "Energy to Burn" tour, planning to visit roughly 30 cities in the campaign's last days.

"It's more about making sure that I'm in communities interviewing for the job," said Johnson, whom a recent poll found had a major lead over Bjorkman in the race.

But Bjorkman, a former judge, said thousands of state residents face long odds in their daily lives and the poll isn't affecting how he campaigns. Bjorkman said he wants to win the seat to help bring down health care costs and ensure every sick person can see a doctor; stand against cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security; and examine tax laws that make it tougher for low- and middle-income families to purchase a home.

"We're not just striding or sauntering to the finish line," said Bjorkman, who's also on a tour across the state that ends with a Sioux Falls rally on Monday. "We are racing."

Among ballot measures, the most active are campaigns on either side of Amendment W, a government ethics overhaul, and a plan to increase tobacco taxes to make state technical schools more affordable called Initiated Measure 25. The tobacco industry has sunk millions of dollars into opposing the tax hike, which was down in a recent poll.

Americans for Prosperity-South Dakota and the campaign against Amendment W plan to reach 75,000 South Dakota residents in the final days of the election cycle, Don Haggar, AFP's state director, said in a statement. Doug Kronaizl, spokesman for pro-amendment group Represent South Dakota, said in a statement that the campaign would be knocking on doors in cities including Vermillion and Sioux Falls.

The measure would tighten campaign finance and lobbying restrictions, establish a new state ethics board and prevent the Legislature from changing voter laws — or the ballot question system — without a public vote. Critics have highlighted its out-of-state funding and characterized the ethics board as having unchecked power.

An October poll found more people supporting the measure than opposing it, but a lot of respondents were still undecided.

Sioux Falls upgrades text messaging system for snow alerts

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls is launching a new snow alert text messaging system designed to notify residents about when their streets will be plowed after significant snowfalls.

The Argus Leader reports that the city is updating its text alert system to send up to one million text messages per hour, costing Sioux Falls roughly \$44,000 a year. The system also allows the city's emergency manager to notify all of Sioux Falls or targeted geographic areas about hazards, disasters and evacuation

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orders.

Residents can text "SNOWALERT" to 888-777 in order to sign up for alerts.

Sioux Falls Emergency Manager Regan Smith says residents can get snow alerts that are more timely and useful than the previous system that took hours to notify the public. Smith says it can send 1,000 messages per second.

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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Class 11AAA Semifinal

Brandon Valley 29, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 15

Sioux Falls Washington 28, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 14

Class 11AA Semifinal

Huron 28, Yankton 23

Pierre 40, Brookings 7

Class 11A Semifinal

Dell Rapids 25, Dakota Valley 22

Tea Area 28, West Central 0

Class 9AA Semifinal

Bon Homme 43, Wolsey-Wessington 14

Kimball/White Lake 42, Garretson 14

Class 9A Semifinal

Canistota 44, Timber Lake 20

Howard 12, Britton-Hecla 8

Class 11B Semifinal

Bridgewater-Emery 42, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 6

Sioux Falls Christian 38, Canton 20

Class 9B Semifinal

Colome 74, Wall 28

Sully Buttes 48, Faulkton 14

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Northern State University wrestler remembered by coach, team

By CUYLER MEADE, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — One hundred and forty-one pounds, give or take a couple of tons more.

That's what Northern State University lost when Curtis LeMair died suddenly Oct. 17.

The 18-year-old LeMair was a freshman wrestler with the Wolves and he competed in the 141-pound weight class. But it takes just a half-second talking to those who knew him to learn he was so much more.

"I don't know if I really needed to know him very long to get to know what the kid was about," said Rocky Burkett, LeMair's head wrestling coach at Northern State.

The two had been in contact since the spring of the wrestler's junior year of high school in Shakopee, Minnesota.

"I got an email from him, and the email just jumped out," Burkett recalled. "The kid was excited about wrestling, about possibly being at Northern State ... we were emailing back and forth and every time he'd respond that he was just excited."

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Burkett wasn't disappointed when he got LeMair on campus.

"Curtis was a kid — he believed," Burkett said.

It seems too perfect, but Burkett's hopes for LeMair were about as high as a wrestling coach's hopes can be. He invoked names attached to faces on the walls of the Barnett Center when he talked about what he thought this kid could have become.

"Everybody loved this kid," Burkett said. "Minnesota is a pretty tough wrestling state, and you talk about the best wrestlers in Minnesota, they all love Curtis LeMair. He was going to be our ambassador."

He was already impacting his teammates in the few short months he was on campus.

Unanimous recollections were twofold: LeMair's work ethic; LeMair's smile.

"His smile," said freshman teammate Adam DeBoer. "I don't know, he had the ability to turn one of the worst days into one of the best days."

That smile was the first thing remembered by fellow freshman Brandon Sharkey — someone who'd have had to compete with LeMair, being in the same weight class.

"I could go on for days," Sharkey said. "He had a smile on his face everywhere he went. He could bring a light into a room."

And then, there was the wrestling.

"Hardest worker I ever met in my life," Sharkey said. "He really loved the sport of wrestling."

DeBoer echoed those thoughts.

"He's always pushing other people so they push to their fullest potential," DeBoer said. "He was always trying to reach his full potential, working extra hard after practice, getting stuff on the bike. I only knew him a couple months, but we were together probably every day since stepping foot on campus. Every day was great with him. He was always making other people smile.

"Seeing him go so quick — that's not a smile you can forget about. His attitude toward life, not just wrestling, he always had good, positive vibes toward everything."

Initial autopsy findings point to an undetected genetic heart condition as the likely cause of death, Aberdeen American News reported.

The Wolves are down a 141-pounder, yes, but someone like LeMair doesn't disappear without a trace.

"Everything we do now is for him," DeBoer said. "We knew that he was 100 percent Northern State. He was here to wrestle hard. He had respect from the community and he gave respect to the community, and everything we do this season is for him. We wouldn't want to do it for anyone else."

The team hung up a pair of LeMair's wrestling boots on one of the pull-up bars in the wrestling room.

"I was struggling a couple days back," Sharkey said. "(The team was) saying, 'Let's get back in the room and get going, that's what Curtis would want.' And I believe 100 percent that's what he'd want. But I was struggling in practice, and I looked up and saw Curtis's wrestling shoes hanging up in the room. That gave me the extra go. Knowing Curtis would want us to go as hard as we could, that's going to take us to the next level."

Burkett, incredibly, spoke to LeMair at length on the phone the day before the wrestler was found dead in the Great Plains East residence hall on campus.

Traveling to visit a recruit, Burkett called his relatively recent signee, LeMair, and asked him why he came to Northern State and what Burkett should tell this recruit who was waffling in his commitment decision.

"I talked to Curtis that day, just talking about what makes Northern special," Burkett recalled. "He just kept talking about — his parents have a hunting lodge in Hoven — he loved the community. He said I should call his dad, and I've talked to his dad before, but his dad was talking about the community support, Northern, how special it is, and how people treat their student-athletes. That's what's so special. I got (back to Aberdeen for) the end of practice that night, talked to Curtis, seeing how he was doing. So weird."

"The next day, I'm going into practice that morning, his roommate called me, he'd called 911. I'm going into his room, seeing him there, talking to 911, and he's dead. Why did I talk to him that day? I don't know."

It's hard to overstate the loss to the team, both from a wrestling and a personality standpoint. It's visible on Burkett's face and audible in his voice how much the wrestler meant to his team and to his coach.

But it's not hard to understand the size of the impact his brief arrival and sudden departure leave on the members of the program.

"He had a huge heart," Burkett said. "And that's what took him. Heart was too big. But he lived life with a huge heart."

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

Tribal candidates decorate Pine Ridge with election signs

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, Rapid City Journal

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Warren Blue Bird walks down the row of signs hanging from a chain-link fence at the busy intersection of Highway 18 in Pine Ridge, forecasting each election.

"Peri Pourier, she wants to be in the district house in Pierre," he yells out, over passing semi traffic. "Red Dawn Foster, I campaigned for her last year, but I don't think she got in. Carlow is just right up the road. And there's Julian Bear Runner. He's my relative."

The Bear Runner banner reads: "Common Man with a Plan."

As with state and municipal races across the country, elections for tribal candidates on the Pine Ridge reservation are in full swing for the Nov. 6 election. The most visible sign is, well, the colorful, often hand-made campaign signs dotting the ditches, hanging from post office walls or painted onto stacked hay bales across the reservation.

"We do what we can with what we have," said Peri Pourier, a Navy veteran and Democrat running for the Legislature in District 27, which stretches from the reservation up to ranch country west of Philip and then nearly to the Missouri River. "Being Lakota, you make do."

After Pourier announced her candidacy, her father found some recycled plywood, a pail of red paint and began making 12 signs that were labors of love, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"He's a one-man wrecking ball," said Chase Iron Eyes, campaign manager for Julian Bear Runner, who is running for president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Near the post office in Porcupine, Pourier gets out of a truck. She'd driven up to Rapid City — roughly 90 minutes — for an interview with the public radio station.

"My father is on limited income. He can't work. He actually has a bone disease and has a hard time getting around," she said. "But he believes in this so much. There's one on a back road near Slim Buttes, one near Chadron, and way out in Wanblee. He was feeling inspired."

On the road to Wolf Creek School, a white sign in black paint reads, "Vote Tom Poor Bear Vice President." Near some horses on the highway, "Vote Duane Syrup Big Crow Wakpamni Council." North of Pine Ridge, there's a hay bale with candidate Maggie Ross for District 27 House," which includes a painted turtle.

Most are for Democrats, the dominant political party on South Dakota's reservations. But at Big Batt's, a gas stop in the heart of Pine Ridge, a banner is up for the two Republican candidates for the Legislature — Elizabeth May and Steve Livermont. They're digitally printed.

Out toward Wounded Knee, Bear Runner, the 33-year-old presidential candidate who made a name during the protest at Standing Rock nearly two years ago, pulls over his truck — the back is filled with candy for kids and an empty backseat that he says is for hitchhikers — and he points to his big sign along the highway.

"We hit the clearance aisle at Menard's to pick up the spray paint and the plywood, and I got those Christmas lights at Walmart (in Rapid City)," he said.

Rules for campaigns are different on Pine Ridge. There are no campaign finance laws, and candidates often rely on small donations. There are also no laws against placing signs in roadway right of ways. The only rule is signs can't obstruct motorists' views and can't be near memorial sites.

"That's why you won't see any in Wounded Knee," said Pourier. "Not near the memorial, at least."

Down a cul-de-sac inside the village of Wounded Knee, Bear Runner's sign-making operation is going strong with Savannah Begay and Smudge Bear, who both came to the Dakotas during the pipeline pro-

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tests and have remained as residents, churning out red, white and blue signs reading, "VOTE Bear Runner O.S.T. President."

"I'm an artist if that's what's needed," said Begay, whose flower scarf gets pulled up over her face when she uses spray paint. Beneath her on the grass, near a pine shelter used by the family for butchering, Begay has set out 2-foot by 2-foot plywood slides.

"It's going to be like the Hollywood sign," she said. "We'll just have to find a big hill for it."

Begay said she heard Bear Runner speak and was drawn to the way he spoke practically about the tribe's issues. A puppy, Stewie, tracks muddy paw prints over the plywood slabs painted white and then trots over to lap up water from a divot in the driveway, while Bear Runner smokes a cigarette and talks about the support he's received.

"I heard from a grandfather in Wanblee. He said, 'Julian, when you get in there (to the president's office) you need to help with housing. We've got nine families living here. Will you help us?'"

Bear Runner's opponent — Richard Zephier — is in his 70s and has a deep background in tribal administration, serving previously as executive director for OST. Most of Zephier's signs are printed and feature his smiling face. Bear Runner worries about having some of his signs torn down by opponents, so he's waiting until the campaign's last week to "bombard" the countryside with his name.

In recent weeks, national news has followed the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to not take up a court case out of North Dakota requiring voters show an address when voting — an arguably prohibitive voting requirement for many residents of reservations who often use P.O. boxes and sometimes move from residence to residence. Voting on Pine Ridge, as well, is complicated by the fact that the tribal precincts don't jive with state precincts.

"If you live on the west side of Wounded Knee, you may need to drive all the way up to Singing Horse Trading Post to vote for the state election," which is roughly eight miles from the voting precinct in Wounded Knee for the tribal elections. For people with limited resources, Pourier said, these barriers just make voting that much more difficult.

Driving, however, is a staple of life on the reservation, which makes the election signs an effective way to campaign.

"We have to drive everywhere," Pourier said. "If you want medicine, you need to drive to Pine Ridge. If you want to go to the grocery store, there are three on the reservation, which is roughly the size of Connecticut. You need to drive. We're always in our cars. That's why these signs go where people can see them."

"It's strategic," said Bear Runner, "I put my signs up where they'll get the most attention, usually on the roadways."

At the house in Wounded Knee, where the sign-making operation will continue up to election day, Begay's aunt has cooked soup and made fry bread. Friends come and go, saying hello to Bear Runner, who would be one of the youngest presidents of OST if elected. As Begay pulls back the painter's tape covering the white plywood, the bright red "B" spray looks almost orange.

"That's what you get for shopping the clearance aisle," said Bear Runner to laughs. He tells the visitors to drive toward Porcupine, where one of his signs is draped in Christmas lights with a lantern pointed toward it, so it stays lit-up at night.

"I just want to give people something to be inspired in," said Bear Runner. "On the reservation, you've got to see to believe, you know?"

He briefly lifts up one of the arsenal of posts that'll hold the signs high in a grassy ditch and talks about the color scheme.

"I chose red, white and blue because they're patriotic colors," said Bear Runner, an Army veteran, who keeps an Oglala Sioux Tribe stocking cap pulled down just over his eyes. Asked whether he means "patriotism" of the United States or of Oglala Sioux Tribes, he doesn't flinch for a second.

"Both."

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

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

03-23-28-46-62, Mega Ball: 16, Megaplier: 2

(three, twenty-three, twenty-eight, forty-six, sixty-two; Mega Ball: sixteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$52 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$53 million

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Nov. 1

Water board dumps \$7,500 down drain for private fight

Government has grabbed power by imposing septic tank laws under the guise of protecting public health and safety, rails George Ferebee, who refuses to go silently from public life.

Water-related diseases cause 3.4 million deaths in the world every year, according to UNICEF, so it's easy to see how water protection might fit under the guise of health and safety. Septic tank laws certainly are an unlikely means of grabbing power.

Ferebee was charged in 2015 over allegations his rural Hill City property's septic system lacks a permit, required to prevent septic tanks from leaking into streams and watersheds.

Ferebee believes the nature of his landholding makes it exempt, and he has repeatedly challenged the law's legality. Over the years, city and county governments have rejected the departing Pennington County commissioner's complaints, as have the state Water Management Board and voters — Ferebee lost to fellow Republican Ron Rossknecht by 32-points in the June primary election. So far, judges have also rejected his arguments.

This country affords wonderful freedoms — limited by well-considered rules like those that keep your sewage from making others sick.

One of those cherished freedoms is the right to tilt quixotically at windmill giants — or in Ferebee's case, septic tank laws. After eight years of defeats in his ongoing political and legal campaigns, most people would recognize a lost cause for what it is. A law is a law, and if you can't convince others to change it, you live within it. Flout the law, and you must pay the fine. Speeders, thieves and frauds confront this lesson daily. Contest a violation and you also pay the court costs.

Unless you're George Ferebee, and you can convince a small, publicly funded board of cronies to back your quixotic campaign.

On Oct. 9, the nine-member board of the West Dakota Water Development District, which collects a total of about \$200,000 annually from property taxpayers west of the Cheyenne River in Pennington County, voted 6-3 to commit up to \$7,500 to fight local regulation of septic systems. The board's mission is to protect water resources, and it's hard to see how funding one man's legal challenge does that.

This wasteful mistake isn't on Ferebee. He can pick fights and pay the consequences. This inappropriate and misguided use of public funds is on the six members of the board who flushed up to \$7,500 down the drain. Luckily, voters will get a chance to pass judgment on their action Tuesday.

Even West Dakota board member Jeannette Deurloo, who opposes the septic tank rules and admits Ferebee recruited her to the water board, describes the \$7,500 authorization as an improper use of public funds to support a private legal fight.

"This is not the purpose of what we're here for," said Deurloo. "This is not in our bylaws that we finance legal aid to citizens."

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Three of those who voted in favor of financially backing Ferebee's crusade — Ken Moss, Michael Mueller and Ernest Getty — face challengers at the polls next Tuesday.

For years, Ferebee has promoted himself as a warrior against wasteful public spending. Apparently he is OK with waste of all kinds when it involves himself.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, Nov. 1

We say
— In Passing

A sad THUMBS DOWN on the death of South Dakota Supreme Court Justice Steven Zinter, who died this week of complications following surgery. Chief Justice David Gilbertson recalled Zinter as immersing himself into every case with detailed research because he believed in the case's importance to someone. Gilbertson and Zinter were the only two justices based out of Pierre full time. Zinter was appointed the 45th Supreme Court justice in 2002 and previously served as a circuit judge for 20 years. Over the years, Zinter and the other justices heard cases during Supreme Court sessions at Mount Marty College and the University of South Dakota. Zinter became a quadriplegic following an accident, but continued his law career and inspired others with his example.

— On The Alert

THUMBS UP to a new type of alert that will be issued by the National Weather Service: a Snow Squall Warning. According to the NWS, this refers to "sudden white-out conditions that move in and move on quickly. They typically only last 15 to 30 minutes and often cause flash freezing of road surfaces in addition to the whiteout conditions. If a Snow Squall Warning is issued for your area, it is best to avoid or delay motor travel until the squall passes through." While perhaps not as sweeping as, say, a blizzard, snow squalls can create dangerous situations with very little (if any) notice; if you've driven through one, you know how hazardous they can be. Hopefully, these warnings can aid travellers — and maybe prevent bad situations from happening.

— Vandalism

THUMBS DOWN to the vandalism at the Apostolic Faith Church in Vermillion. A suspect has been identified and faces charges in last weekend's vandalism of the church. The Vermillion Police Department announced the case was solved as authorities identified and interviewed the suspect, who was not named in the Facebook post. The VPD was working with the Clay County state's attorney regarding possible charges. Authorities don't believe a threat exists to anyone at this time. The Rev. Greg Robinson, the church's pastor, discovered the vandalism when he and his son arrived at the church to prepare for services. A dry-erase board contained an apocalyptic message, and the church contained the smell of gas. The authorities were alerted, and services were moved to a parishioner's home. Robinson, who is black, told the Press & Dakotan that he suspected race may be connected to the vandalism.

— It's Time

As is our pessimistic custom (sorry, but it's been a long week, plus it's election season), THUMBS DOWN in advance to those people who forget to move their clocks back at 2 a.m. Sunday for the start of Standard Time. Yes, it can be a pain, but at least you get an extra hour of sleep out of it, so it's a nice reward. On a more serious note, do also take this opportunity to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are not only in good, working order but also aren't too old. The general rule of thumb is, if a detector is 10 years old, it's probably time to replace it, even if the test alarm works. There's never a bad time to play it safe in this instance!

The Public Opinion, Watertown, Nov. 2

Thumbs up, thumbs down

— Thumbs up: Job fair behind bars

Did you see the story in Tuesday's paper about a unique job fair? It was held at the Mike Durfee State

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Prison, a medium-security facility in Springfield, S.D. Given South Dakota's ultra-low unemployment numbers, and the fact that former inmates who land good jobs are much less likely to re-offend, this is a great idea. About 325 inmates met with 15 potential employers during the event, which was held after the success of the prison's first job fair held last April. Putting former inmates to work at jobs that pay a living wage is a win-win situation. Companies desperate for workers benefit, and the state will likely have fewer repeat offenders heading into an already-crowded prison system.

— Thumbs up: Speaking of unemployment...

Watertown's jobless rate sat at 2.8 percent in September, which is a pretty low number. But in October, it fell by nearly a half-percentage point to 2.4 percent. Only Huron, Pierre and Sioux Falls had lower numbers among the state's 10 largest cities. The numbers show that the economy in South Dakota is doing well, and highlight the fact that we need to keep workforce development on the front burner. With so few workers available, many companies that want to expand may have difficulty doing so.

— Thumbs down: Follow the money

We reported this week that campaign spending on the race for the South Dakota governorship is around \$10 million. But the time the campaign is over, the candidates in all likelihood will have spent more than during any previous governor campaign in state history. The big problem is that much of that money comes from out-of-state sources. Why would non-South Dakotans pony up millions of dollars in an effort to get a particular candidate elected to Pierre? We believe it's more about pushing a particular political ideology than electing the best person for the job. When you see all of the negative ads, remember that it isn't always South Dakotans paying for them. And most importantly, don't let them determine how you cast your vote,

— Waiting to see: Out with Molly, in with Rocco

We don't usually hedge our bets, but we're not sure which direction this thumb should go. We're talking about the Minnesota Twins' recent announcement that they are replacing manager Paul Molitor with young Rocco Baldelli. Molitor was a hometown hero with a Hall of Fame ring, and Baldelli is a 37-year-old with no managerial experience. We liked Molitor and were surprised with the move, despite the Twins disappointing season. We are, however, willing to give the kid a chance and see what he can do. The last time the Twins hired a manager in his mid-30s, things worked out pretty well. His name was Tom Kelly, and he led the Twins to a pair of World Series championships before retiring. Let's hope Baldelli can come close to matching TK's success.

South Dakota citizens renew ballot battle with lawmakers

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — After watching South Dakota Republicans undo government ethics rules that voters had just imposed, Jennifer Krauel was angry enough to volunteer for a new anti-corruption ballot measure that lawmakers couldn't overturn.

In a college town north of Sioux Falls, Krauel reminded welder David Scheibel of the ethics rules' repeal. Republican lawmakers contended the law was likely unconstitutional, and they replaced it with other provisions — some called them workable, others called them weaker. But Scheibel, a 62-year-old Republican, was receptive to Krauel's pitch, calling the legislators' move a "slap in the face." This year's measure would be cemented in the state constitution — safe from legislative tinkering — and would hamstring lawmakers' power to cast aside citizen laws.

"This is existential for our democracy," Krauel, a registered Democrat who voted for the 2016 measure and started volunteering for the new campaign after its repeal, told The Associated Press. "This one really matters. I mean, let's stop this nonsense now because I don't want to have to do it again."

South Dakota, which in 1898 became the first state to adopt citizen initiatives, is the "poster child" of a conflict between citizens and state legislatures over ballot questions, said Josh Altic, ballot measures project director at Ballotpedia, an organization that compiles electoral data.

It was one of several states where lawmakers brushed aside or changed 2016 voter measures. Lawmak-

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ers also came back with new rules on ballot question campaigns and proposed making the state constitution harder to change. Meanwhile, supporters of the measure known as Amendment W turned in enough signatures to put the ethics rules to voters — a shift that would hem in the Legislature's power.

"As far as ... initiative proponents sort of striking back, I guess you might say, there's nothing like what South Dakota has on the ballot," Altic said.

Republican lawmakers decried the campaign to pass the original measure as deceptive and challenged its constitutionality in court. A judge had put the law on hold before they scrapped it, and lawmakers followed up by creating an ethics commission and limiting lobbyist gifts to public officials.

Activists are counting on lingering anger to help pass Amendment W, which would tighten campaign finance and lobbying restrictions, establish a more powerful state ethics board and prevent the Legislature from changing voter laws — or the ballot question system — without a public vote.

Opponents say it would undermine the constitution, making the ethics board a new branch of government without checks and balances. A summary of the measure from the state attorney general says it would likely be challenged on constitutional grounds.

A recent poll found more people supporting the measure than opposing it, but a lot of respondents were still undecided. Support was about even among Republicans and Democrats.

Frustrated lawmakers are seeking their own changes. The Legislature is asking residents to raise the threshold for approval of constitutional amendments to 55 percent, from the current simple majority. Also, House Speaker Mark Mickelson gathered thousands of signatures to put a question on the ballot to bar out-of-state money for initiatives.

Mickelson said lawmakers are simply seeking to protect the rights of South Dakota residents to pass their own laws.

"The initiative process is a very cool thing. I'm using it myself," Mickelson said.

Amendment W supporters have a huge money advantage, raising about \$615,000 to opponents' roughly \$190,000. Major contributors in support of the amendment include Washington-based political action committee End Citizens United; the Massachusetts-based anti-corruption organization Represent.Us; and filmmaker J.J. Abrams.

That outside influence is a concern for Charles Schauer, a laborer from Sioux Falls who plans to oppose Amendment W.

"I just don't think out-of-state people need to come in and tell us what to do," he said.

Opponents' advertising has focused on that outside financing and characterized the ethics board as having unchecked power. Supporters of Amendment W have promoted a message of fighting corruption; one ad showed a lobbyist feeding politicians turkey legs during a backroom deal.

"I would concede this: They have really strong sound bites," David Owen, chairman of opposition campaign W is Wrong, said. "They're not accurate."

Krauel, who spent her recent 58th birthday knocking on doors for Amendment W, points to recent financial misconduct scandals that grabbed headlines in South Dakota as a reason the state needs stronger ethics rules. She said single-party dominance in state politics breeds corruption.

"Ethical government is the root of what protects our systems," Krauel said. "If we can ensure that people trust their elected officials, then they'll stay engaged."

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics>

Huron man accused of defrauding prospective game hunters

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A Huron man is accused of defrauding people out of thousands of dollars they paid for guided trophy game hunts.

Mitchell police say 50-year-old Roger King accepted cash from five local residents, telling them he would take them on guided trophy hunts on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation. The amount of cash paid was

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about \$4,000 in total.

The Daily Republic reports court documents say that the people who paid King were unable to get a hold of him and learned the trips were invalid.

King is charged with felony grand theft. A conviction carries a maximum five years in prison and a fine of \$10,000.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Man pleads guilty to stealing from elderly godparents

WAHPETON, S.D. (AP) — A Wahpeton man has pleaded guilty to grand theft for stealing more than \$100,000 from his elderly godparents.

Forty-nine-year-old Reese Wickoren faces up to 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine. He will also be responsible for paying restitution after taking \$107,000 from the couple in Brown County.

State Attorney General Marty Jackley says the case highlights the importance of the elder abuse unit in his office which worked with local law enforcement.

Migrants' brief hopes of buses to Mexico's capital dashed

By SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

SAYULA, Mexico (AP) — Thousands of Central American migrants traveling in a caravan through southern Mexico resumed their journey toward the United States by hitchhiking and walking along highways on Saturday, after a governor reneged on a brief offer to provide dozens of buses to take them to Mexico City more quickly.

Gov. Miguel Angel Yunes announced Friday evening that authorities in the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz would be providing not only humanitarian assistance to the migrants but buses to leapfrog them to the country's capital, three weeks after the migrants began their grueling journey.

"It is very important that they be able to move soon from Veracruz toward another place," Yunes said in a video message. "For that reason, we also offered them transportation so that, if possible, tomorrow ... they may be able to go to Mexico City or to the place they wish."

Organizers of the caravan of about 4,000 migrants told its members that they would be leaving the town of Sayula around 5 a.m. Saturday in convoys of 10 buses for the 10- to 12-hour trip. A jubilant caravan coordinator told the group: "We are all going!"

But almost immediately afterward, Yunes released a second video saying that because Mexico City's water system was undergoing maintenance and 7 million of its people would be without water over the weekend, it would not be correct to send the migrants there. The maintenance has been known about for weeks.

Migrants expressed surprise and disappointment at the decision before setting out by their own means for La Isla, a town about 43 miles (70 kilometers) away. A day prior, the migrants made a trek of 40 miles (65 kilometers) from Juchitan, Oaxaca, to Donaji, Oaxaca, and then even farther along to Sayula.

"They're playing with our dignity. If you could have only seen the people's happiness last night when they told us that we were going by bus and today we're not," said Gerardo Perez, a 20-year-old migrant who was tired from the trip.

Saira Cabrera, a 36-year-old migrant traveling with her husband and two children aged 7 and 13, said she was frustrated.

"It's a letdown that first they told us yes, and then they said no. People are mad and confused," she said.

Caravan organizers released a statement rejecting Yunes' decision and demanding that he fulfill his offer of buses to Mexico City. The migrants' request for buses to the capital were also ignored by the Mexican government days earlier when they were in Juchitan.

The latest reversal comes as Mexican authorities appear conflicted and divided over their approach to the caravan.

On Friday, another caravan of migrants — this time from El Salvador — waded over the Suchiate River

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into Mexico, bringing 1,000 to 1,500 people who want to reach the U.S. border.

That caravan tried to cross the bridge between Guatemala and Mexico, but Mexican authorities told those traveling in it they would have to show passports and visas and enter in groups of 50 for processing.

The Salvadorans expressed misgivings that they would be deported, so they turned around and waded across a shallow stretch of the river to enter Mexico.

Although police were present, they did not try to stop the migrants, who later walked along a highway toward the nearest large city, Tapachula.

Mexico is now faced with the unprecedented situation of having three caravans stretched out over 300 miles (500 kilometers) of highways in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Veracruz, with a total of more than 6,000 migrants.

The first, largest group of mainly Honduran migrants entered Mexico on Oct. 19. Though that caravan once numbered as many as 7,000, it has shrunk significantly, although it has become difficult to give an exact number as migrants have advanced toward small towns any way they can.

Another caravan, also of about 1,000 to 1,500 people, entered Mexico earlier this week and is now in Mapastepec, Chiapas. That group includes Hondurans, Salvadorans and some Guatemalans. In addition, the government identified a smaller group of 300 Central American migrants walking further ahead, in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

Immigration agents and police have been nibbling at the edges of the two caravans farthest ahead.

A federal official who was not authorized to be quoted by name said 153 migrants in the second caravan were detained earlier in the week during highway inspections in Chiapas, a short distance from the Guatemalan border.

There has also been pressure on the main caravan. Federal police have been pulling freight trucks over and forcing migrants off, saying their habit of clinging to the tops or sides of the trucks was dangerous.

At other points along the route, police have forced overloaded pickups to drop off migrants and ordered passenger vans to stop helping with transportation.

With or without the Mexican government's help, it remained unclear how many migrants would make it to the U.S. border; many days of scorching heat, constant walking, chills, rain and illness have taken their toll. Mexico's Interior Department says nearly 3,000 of the migrants in the first caravan have applied for refuge in Mexico and hundreds more have returned home.

Ahead, they await more uncertainty.

President Donald Trump has ordered U.S. troops to the Mexican border in response to the caravans. More than 7,000 active duty troops have been told to deploy to Texas, Arizona and California.

Trump has also told the U.S. military mobilizing at the southwest border that if U.S. troops face rock-throwing migrants, they should react as though the rocks were rifles. He plans to sign an order next week that could lead to the large-scale detention of migrants crossing the southern border and bar anyone caught crossing illegally from claiming asylum.

Though some migrants clashed with Mexican police at a bridge on the Guatemala border, they have repeatedly denied coming with any ill intentions, saying they're fleeing poverty and violence.

"We aren't killers," said Stephany Lopez, a 21-year-old Salvadoran with the first caravan.

Associated Press writer Peter Orsi in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Police search for motive in Florida yoga studio slayings

By GARY FINEOUT and BRENDAN FARRINGTON, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Two people were shot to death and five others wounded at a yoga studio in Florida's capital by a gunman who then killed himself, authorities said.

The two slain Friday included a student and faculty member at Florida State University, according to university officials.

Tallahassee Police Chief Michael DeLeo told reporters Friday night that the man shot six people and

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pistol-whipped another after walking into the studio, which is part of a small Tallahassee shopping center. The suspect then fatally shot himself, DeLeo said.

Early Saturday morning, the Tallahassee Police Department identified the shooter as Scott Paul Beierle, 40. The department identified the two slain as Dr. Nancy Van Vessem, 61, and Maura Binkley, 21.

Van Vessem was an internist who served as chief medical director for Capital Health Plan, the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper reported.

The Democrat also reported that Florida State University President John Thrasher said Van Vessem and Binkley had ties to the university.

"To lose one of our students and one of our faculty members in this tragic and violent way is just devastating to the Florida State University family. We feel this loss profoundly and we send our deepest sympathies to Maura's and Nancy's loved ones while we pray for the recovery of those who were injured," Thrasher said in a statement.

Capital Health Plan issued a statement praising Van Vessem.

"As CHP's longtime chief medical director, Nancy has been a guiding, visionary force in our daily work to serve the wellness and health care needs of thousands of families in this community. Her dedication, caring, leadership, humanity, and experience made her one of the most respected, inspiring, and accomplished medical professionals in the state and country. Our hearts are filled with sorrow and prayers for her family. We all have been so blessed to have Nancy in our lives," the company said.

DeLeo said the shooter acted alone and authorities are investigating possible motives. He declined to say what kind of gun the shooter had.

"We're all very saddened and shocked by the events that occurred, but it's important that people understand that there is no immediate threat outside of what has already occurred this evening," DeLeo said.

Melissa Hutchinson said she helped treat a "profusely" bleeding man who rushed into a bar after the incident. She said three people from the studio ran in, and they were told there was an active shooter.

"It was a shocking moment something happened like this," Hutchinson said.

The people who came in were injured, including the bleeding man who was pistol-whipped while trying to stop the shooter. They told her the shooter kept coming in and out of the studio. When he loaded his gun, people started pounding the studio's windows to warn people.

City Commissioner Scott Maddox said on Facebook, "In my public service career I have had to be on some bad scenes. This is the worst. Please pray."

Neighborhood resident Elle Welling said she saw at least three people loaded into ambulances as she was leaving a liquor store across the street.

"You don't think about this in Tallahassee and now you have to," said Welling, 26.

The plaza is home to popular restaurants, a jewelry store, a framing shop, a hair salon and other businesses.

Erskin Wesson, 64, said he was eating dinner with his family at a restaurant located below the yoga studio when they heard the gunshots above them.

"We just heard 'pow, pow, pow, pow,'" Wesson said. "It sounded like a limb falling on a tin roof and rolling."

The restaurant's owner came by a short time later, asking if anyone was a doctor, Wesson said. His step-daughter is an emergency room nurse and helped paramedics for about an hour, he said.

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, the Democratic nominee for governor, broke off the campaign trail to return to Tallahassee. He earlier appeared at a campaign event with former President Barack Obama.

Late Friday night, Gillum told reporters near the crime scene that he had made hospital visits to two people wounded at the yoga studio. The mayor said they were in good spirits despite their injuries.

Gillum asked residents to pray for the survivors and those who were killed.

"We all feel a sense of added vulnerability" because of the shooting, the mayor said.

Republican Gov. Rick Scott, who is challenging Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson, called DeLeo and the head of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to get details of the shooting.

"I will remain in constant communication with law enforcement. We have offered state assistance,"

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Scott tweeted.

Tallahassee's crime rate has been an issue in the governor's race. Gillum's opponent, Republican former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, has called the capital Florida's most crime-ridden city — a claim that is incorrect.

In Florida, a bitter and personal clash for US Senate

By GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Floridians could help determine control of the U.S. Senate on Tuesday as they decide whether to keep three-term incumbent Democrat Bill Nelson in office or replace him with Republican Gov. Rick Scott.

Nelson has been viewed as one of the nation's most vulnerable Democrats thanks to the formidable challenge from Scott, a multimillionaire businessman who has poured more than \$60 million of his own fortune into the contest. A Nelson loss could make it difficult for Democrats to take back the Senate.

While the two men differ on a range of issues ranging from gun control to health care, the election has been more about character and competence and the candidates' respective relationships with President Donald Trump.

Scott has urged voters to "retire" the 76-year-old Nelson, calling him ineffective and faulting him on everything from the level of federal support for the space program to the slow wait to get federal money to help repair the Lake Okeechobee dike.

"I work and he doesn't," said Scott. "He doesn't do anything. I don't know what he has done in 42 years of office."

That message has resonated with voters such as Ed Evangelista, who attended a Trump political rally this week in southwest Florida. He recently moved to the state after living in Connecticut for most of his 70 years.

In his home state, he said he voted for Democrats and Republicans. Now that he lives in Venice, Florida, he's casting his first ballot in the state for Scott.

"He's been in way too long," Evangelista said of Nelson. "I don't care if he's a good guy or not."

Nelson has responded by branding Scott as a Trump follower who has used the governor's office to pad his wealth and has ignored problems festering in the state. He has insisted Scott's actions to cut the budgets of water-management districts and limit enforcement actions at the state's environmental agency have contributed to the toxic algae and red tide that have plagued the coast this year. Nelson has also criticized Scott for opposing President Barack Obama's federal health care overhaul.

"The campaign is about trust and integrity," Nelson said during a campaign swing through Tallahassee with Vice President Joe Biden. "I think the choice is pretty clear. You just can't trust Rick Scott. He'll either change his position or he goes completely against the public interest."

When Scott first decided to run, the contest between him and Nelson was seen as one of the marquee races in the nation, involving two heavyweights.

But that battle has been overshadowed by the governor's race, a vitriolic contest between Republican Ron DeSantis and Democrat Andrew Gillum that's been seen as a proxy battle between Trump and Democrats. Scott also spent nearly two weeks off the campaign trail to respond to Hurricane Michael, which pummeled several counties in the Florida Panhandle and was responsible for dozens of deaths.

Scott, a one-time health care executive, jumped into politics eight years ago and rode a tea party wave into the governor's office. He promised to enact stiff new policies to deal with immigration and was a loud critic of Obama. While in office, Scott backed away from his hard line on immigration and even came out in support of Medicaid expansion, although he changed that position once he was re-elected.

The 65-year-old governor planned to make the election a referendum on Nelson's tenure, but found himself playing defense over his own record and became the target of vocal protests at some of his campaign stops.

The governor also began widely airing a television ad promising to retain the Affordable Care Act's consumer protections for people with pre-existing conditions, even though Florida is one of the states

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involved in a lawsuit aimed at overturning the federal law. The governor has maintained he had nothing to do with the lawsuit, but he has not called for the state to withdraw from it.

Nelson and his allies ran ads questioning Scott's ethics, pointing to his ouster as chief executive of health care giant Columbia/HCA amid a federal fraud investigation. Although Scott was never charged with any wrongdoing, the health care conglomerate paid a then-record \$1.7 billion fine for Medicare fraud.

Nelson, whose long political career included a stint as the state's insurance commissioner, has been put on the defensive this election season, as well, particularly over several public comments and statements.

Over the summer he triggered a firestorm when he said the Russians were meddling in Florida's election system after an unsuccessful attempt in 2016. While top GOP senators would neither confirm nor deny Nelson's statement, federal authorities told Florida election officials they saw no signs of any "new or ongoing compromises" of state or local election systems.

More recently, Nelson warned that the ongoing political strife in the nation could lead to the genocide that happened in the African nation of Rwanda, where nearly a million people were killed in the early '90s.

Democrat McCaskill reaches right in GOP-leaning Missouri

By SUMMER BALLENTINE, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill has approvingly evoked former President Ronald Reagan. She said she would back President Donald Trump if he stopped a migrant caravan at the border. And speaking on Fox News, she has decried "crazy Democrats."

What is the Democratic senator up to?

The vulnerable incumbent is appealing to the right in a bid to win a third term in a state that Trump won by 19 percentage points in 2016.

She's betting a more centrist message will resonate with independents and moderate Republican voters she desperately needs to beat Republican challenger Josh Hawley, who has relentlessly attacked her as too liberal for the conservative leaning state.

"For me, it's not about fighting the president every day," she told a group of supporters gathered at an iconic Missouri pizza parlor called Shakespeare's Pizza in the college town of Columbia. "It's about fighting for you every day."

McCaskill's messaging prompted Trump to say sarcastically during a Thursday rally in Columbia, Missouri, that: "I didn't know she was a Republican."

She's among 10 Democratic Senate incumbents up for re-election in states the president won, and Republicans see Missouri as a prime opportunity to flip a seat and build on their now slim 51-49 majority in the Senate.

So, during a late October debate McCaskill praised Republican icon Reagan for working to unite the country when he was president in the 1980s.

She accepted an interview with Fox News, which in itself is unusual for a Democrat, and on Monday criticized "crazy Democrats" who "walk in restaurants and scream in elected officials' faces."

"I am not somebody who thinks that we should ever be uncivil," McCaskill said. "I think what most Missourians want is for us to listen to each other, figure out where we can compromise, not scream in each other's faces (and) not call each other names."

She avoided calling any of her Senate Democratic colleagues crazy but noted that she has clashed with Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren and disagrees with Sen. Bernie Sanders on a number of issues.

Asked in the same Fox interview about the caravan of migrants making its way through Mexico, McCaskill said:

"Stop it at the border. I think the president has to use every tool he has at his disposal and I'll 100 percent back him up on that."

Hawley scoffs at such talk from McCaskill.

"She just does not vote with this state," Hawley, the state attorney general, wrote in a recent Facebook post. "She voted no on (Supreme Court) Justice Kavanaugh. She voted no on Justice Gorsuch. She voted

no on middle class tax cuts. She's sponsoring an open borders bill. You couldn't get farther away from what the people of this state want."

Hawley tied his campaign to Trump and has embraced the president throughout his campaign, although he's been careful not to adopt Trump's incendiary rhetoric.

A check of McCaskill's record shows that she votes with the president about half the time, though she has opposed him on some of the biggest votes including both of his Supreme Court nominees, Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch.

Trump said that McCaskill had been "saying such nice things about me. But you know what? She'll never vote with me. That's the problem."

Some voters don't seem sold on McCaskill's message, either.

"I'm a hardcore conservative, and she's a hardcore liberal even though she's trying to hide it," said Jeff Ferry, a 50-year-old antique store owner from Perry, Missouri who traveled to Columbia to see the president speak. When asked who he will pick for Senate, he said "it sure won't be Claire McCaskill."

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics>

Naming disaster: When home becomes shorthand for heartbreak

By TED ANTHONY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As the neighborhood where she grew up became national news, as the synagogue where her bat mitzvah took place 37 years ago became the font of a thousand unwelcome tears, Sarah Bloom watched TV — and listened.

What she heard as she sat in her Florida home last weekend made her very sad: news anchors discussing what "Squirrel Hill" means to the national political debate. Talking heads analyzing what implications "Pittsburgh" will have on anti-Semitic activity in the United States. The names of her hometown and beloved neighborhood, suddenly a national shorthand for bloodshed and heartbreak.

"If you hurt Pittsburgh, you hurt me. If you hurt Squirrel Hill, you kill me," said a still disbelieving Bloom, 49, who lives a few miles from the site of the Parkland shooting eight months ago. "It doesn't fit — Orlando, Sandy Hook, Las Vegas, Pittsburgh. Not my city. Take that out of there."

Shanksville and Newtown. Waco and Charlottesville and Aurora. Kent State and Columbine and Lockerbie and Oklahoma City. Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima. And now: Pittsburgh and Squirrel Hill.

When the name of the place you hold dear suddenly becomes synonymous with tragedy, the emotional impact can be searing and the aftereffects can linger for months, years, even generations.

"Charlottesville is now known for the tiki-torch carriers," says Waki Wynn, 47, a private-school athletic director in the Virginia town where a "Unite the Right" march last year drew white supremacists and led to violence. The events etched the name of his community indelibly onto the national psyche.

Unsurprisingly, there's a term for this: metonymy, or using a word as a stand-in for what it represents. We do it a lot in America, and to some extent it's natural. A busy society with complicated ideas to express needs shorthand sometimes.

Thus we say we have problems with "Washington" (the American government). When baseball players talk of making it to Cooperstown, they're talking not just about the community but the larger notion of baseball immortality. And when astronauts out in space reach out to "Houston," it's not the city where Mission Control is located but the institution where problems can be solved.

"It's a way of encapsulating a whole series of ideas that are complex, that we don't have to explain," says linguist Alan Juffs, who heads the English Language Institute at the University of Pittsburgh.

But it is tragedy that seems to repurpose place names into monikers for traumatic events most freely, and our modern, quick-draw media society has only accelerated this.

"Squirrel Hill has become one point on a long continuum of increasingly common moments like this," says Robert Hayashi, an associate professor of American studies at Amherst College who studies how stories about places shape local identity.

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"Those place names become a kind of simplistic kind of label for this kind of event that doesn't allow us to delve into the history and context behind it," says Hayashi, a Pittsburgh native. "People can talk about their community, but it gets overwritten by this larger narrative."

Bigger towns where bad things happen don't suffer this syndrome the same way because their identity, to the rest of the country and world, is much more multifaceted.

Say "New York" today and no one will think of 9/11 as they do with Shanksville, the crash site of United Flight 93. And "Las Vegas" doesn't only mean "mass shooting" a year after the worst one by a single assailant in the country's history took place there. Same with Orlando, which still means "Disney" more than it does "nightclub massacre."

Even "Pittsburgh" is a big enough, familiar enough place that it will likely regain its status as a city, rather than an event, in relatively short order.

But with smaller towns and schools — or, in the uniquely named Squirrel Hill's case, a distinct part of a larger town — it is harder to shake the reputation.

Kent State and Columbine, both names of schools, remain stand-ins for larger social issues. The communities of Auschwitz and Dachau will never shed global recognition for what happened there during World War II, though Auschwitz's reversion to its original Polish name, Oswiecim, was a step in that direction. Same story for the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; in the West, at least, they remain metaphors for atomic devastation.

Sometimes the name of an entire nation is the traumatic event. In Hanoi in 2015, a senior Vietnamese journalist leaned over a table toward a visiting American speaker. "I look forward," he said, "to the day when you hear the word 'Vietnam' and you think of a country, not a war."

How do communities move on? Time helps, but not always.

Pearl Harbor will still mean a day of infamy a century from now. The upstate New York neighborhood of Love Canal, virtually wiped out today, will forever be synonymous with toxic waste. And a generation after the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 rained bodies over Lockerbie, Scotland, townspeople are still trying to shake the reputation.

"Lockerbie is known for one night, but people have been here for 6,000 years," Joanne Dagleish, a resident there, said a few years ago.

Shannon Berg worked in the Detroit mayor's office as the city tried to rebrand its notorious, arson-saturated "Devil's Night," the night before Halloween, into an effort called "Angel's Night." Its strategy: Not merely moving away from the unpleasant storyline but replacing it.

Each year, the city planned for months to stem the tide of arsons, deployed volunteer patrols and held events, art competitions and block parties.

The problem obviously was only one of many that plagued Detroit, but in this case the solution worked. This past week, after many successful years, Detroit abandoned "Angel's Night" in favor of its new, if slightly precious, replacement: "Halloween in the D."

"It was a community redefining a moment for itself. And it took a long time, and it took a lot of political and civic participation," says Berg, who now runs a Portland, Oregon, communications firm that deals with crisis response. "But Detroit wasn't known for Halloween arson any longer."

She adds: "I think it is possible, and for me it almost feels like that's redemption for a community."

Wynn, who used to run an African-American newspaper in Charlottesville and now also works as a real-estate agent there, gets a different reaction now when he's traveling and he utters the one word that tells people where he's from.

"They'll say, 'Oh, my God. Charlottesville. Are you OK?'" he says.

"I don't think it will ever go away, because race is such an intertwined component of the American fabric," Wynn says. Charlottesville, he says, is not perfect when it comes to race — but it's a good place to live. "So when they respond that way, it gives me a chance to say how wonderful Charlottesville is. It represents an opportunity to talk to people about this place and how great this city is — and how I have no intention of leaving."

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Past midterms, some zero in on amending Constitution

By MATT SEDENSKY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Whatever success Republicans have amassed in taking control of all three branches of U.S. government, and whatever fate awaits them as midterm elections near, some on the right are working to cement change by amending the Constitution. And to the mounting alarm of others on all parts of the spectrum, they want to bypass the usual process.

They're pushing for an unprecedented Constitutional convention of the states. While opponents are afraid of what such a convention would do, supporters say it is the only way to deal with the federal government's overreach and ineptitude.

"They literally see this as the survival of the nation," said Karla Jones, director of the federalism task force at the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, which represents state lawmakers and offers guidance and model legislation for states to call a convention under the Constitution's Article V.

Among the most frequently cited changes being sought: amendments enforcing a balanced federal budget, establishing term limits for members of Congress, and repealing the 17th Amendment, which put the power of electing the Senate in the hands of the public instead of state legislatures.

For the past 229 years, constitutional amendments have originated in Congress, where they need the support of two-thirds of both houses, and then the approval of at least three-quarters of the states.

But under a never-used second prong of Article V, amendments can originate in the states. Two-thirds of states — currently, 34 — must call for a convention at which three-fourths of states approve of a change.

The particulars of such a convention, though, are not laid out. Do the states have to call for a convention on the same topic? Must they pass resolutions with similar or identical wording? The U.S. Supreme Court may have to decide whether the threshold of states has been reached and, ultimately, the parameters of a convention and the rules delegates would be governed by.

A bill introduced in the U.S. House last year would direct the National Archives to compile all applications for an Article V convention.

Some believe enough states have already passed Article V resolutions, pointing to votes over the years across the country on a variety of potential amendment topics. Others contend the highest possible current count of states is 28 — the number of states with existing resolutions on the most common convention topic, a balanced budget amendment. Others point to lower total counts based on states that have passed near-identical resolutions.

Regardless, proponents of a convention believe they have momentum on their side more than any other time in American history.

"That second clause of Article V was specifically intended for a time like this, when the federal government gets out of control and when the Congress won't deliver to the people what they want," said Mark Meckler, a tea party leader who now heads Citizens for Self-Governance, which runs the Convention of States Project calling for an Article V convention. Legislation promoted by the group calls for a convention focused on the federal government's budget and power, and term limits for office holders. It has passed 12 states and one legislative chamber in another 10.

The Convention of States Project says 18 other states are considering the measure.

Meckler, like other backers of a convention, believes there's no reason why it can't be limited in scope. Others aren't so sure. Four states that previously had passed resolutions calling for a convention have rescinded them in recent years, often citing wariness over a "runaway" convention.

Karen Hoberty Flynn, president of Common Cause, has sounded alarms on a possible convention and portrays the coast-to-coast emergence of resolutions on the issue "a game of Whack-a-Mole."

"This is the most dangerous idea in American politics that most people know nothing about," she said.

There are proponents of an Article V convention on the left who see it as a possible way to overturn the

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Citizens United campaign finance decision, pass the Equal Rights Amendment and otherwise address what they see as a stacked deck that has helped the GOP get an unfair advantage. But with more red states than blue ones, it seems an unlikely path to abolishing the Electoral College, reengineering apportionment of the Senate or otherwise devising a democracy they believe is more reflective of the American public's views.

It's not the first time a convention has been proposed.

In the 1890s, when the Senate refused to take up the issue of direct election of senators, states pursued a convention, falling just short. Eventually, the 17th Amendment passed in the usual way, fulfilling that aim. In the 1960s, states sought a convention over a Supreme Court decision dictating how legislative districts were apportioned.

But convention opponents have always feared that once one has been launched, it could tear up the Constitutions in all sorts of ways.

What's to stop a convention from passing an abhorrent affront to the Founders, like an outright ban on Muslims, Klarman asks. He points to a 2009 Swiss referendum that resulted in outlawing the construction of minarets, the towers found beside mosques.

Jones said such fears are "misguided" and that "so many stopgaps" would prevent a "runaway" convention.

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Parkland survivors vote for 1st time, months after massacre

By KELLI KENNEDY and MIKE SCHNEIDER, Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — Nine months after 17 classmates and teachers were gunned down at their Florida school, Parkland students are finally facing the moment they've been leading up to with marches, school walkouts and voter-registration events throughout the country: their first Election Day.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student activists set their sights on the 4 million U.S. citizens turning 18 this year. They're hoping to counteract the voter apathy that's especially prevalent among the youth during midterm elections. Many of the activists, now household names like David Hogg, postponed college plans to mobilize young voters. Many of them support gun reform, in the name of their fallen classmates.

"It is kind of the culmination of everything we've been working for," said senior Jaclyn Corin, one of the founders of the March For Our Lives group. "This is truly the moment that young people are going to make the difference in this country."

Corin, who voted along with her dad at an early polling site on her 18th birthday, visited a half-dozen cities in just a handful of days last week, getting up at 3 a.m. to board planes.

It has been a whirlwind for the students, with celebrity support from Oprah to Kim Kardashian, a Time magazine cover, late night TV spots and book deals — but all of it misses their main target unless it motivates students to cast ballots by the end of Tuesday.

At a University of Central Florida event during the final week of election campaigning, Stoneman Douglas graduate and current UCF student Bradley Thornton escorted fellow students to the campus' early voting site. UCF student Tiffany McKelton said she wouldn't have voted if the Parkland activists hadn't shown up on campus.

"I've never voted in a primary election. I actually did it because of them," said McKelton, a psychology major from West Palm Beach.

In the past months they've boarded countless buses and planes, passed out T shirts, and hosted BBQs and dance parties on college campuses around the U.S.

Thornton said talking things through often does the trick.

"I can't tell you how many conversations I've had that were like, 'Ah, I'm not interested' ... and through just a simple, really nice cordial conversation, they get this magical inspiration to vote," Thornton said.

Corin said she's encountered plenty of voter apathy along the way. The students often note that voter turnout in the last midterm elections was the lowest since World War II.

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"It's really about tying it back to gun violence or tying it back to immigration or whatever that person is passionate about," Corin said. "I've used that tactic so many times and it has actually worked."

It remains to be seen what role the youth vote will play in this year's midterms.

The 30-and-under crowd is more likely to vote in this year's midterms than in the past. Forty percent say they'll vote, compared to just 26 percent in 2014, according to a new poll by Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. They're being pushed, in part, by a strong disapproval of President Donald Trump.

Trends in Florida's early voting suggest a surge in young voters.

Of the 124,000 people aged 18 to 29 who had voted in person at early polling stations as of Thursday, nearly a third did not vote in the presidential election in 2016, according to analysis by University of Florida political science professor Daniel Smith. About half of those new voters were newly registered.

"There are newly energized voters who sat out in 2016, or have registered since then, who are turning out. There's no question about that," Smith said.

In contrast, for people 65 and older who had voted early and in person, about 7 percent didn't vote in 2016.

Matt Deitsch dropped out of college after the Feb. 14 shooting at Stoneman Douglas to help start March For Our Lives alongside his younger siblings, Parkland survivors Ryan Deitsch and Samantha Deitsch.

He said this year's election will be a starting point, "not a culmination."

"It's where we really get to see what kind of push we really made to the needle," Deitsch said in between passing out fliers to UCF students. "We're running a really good race but there's really so much work to do."

Corin said the young activists will continue with their mission regardless of the election outcome.

"The fact that we've engaged a new generation of voters, that's a win," Corin said.

Schneider reported from Orlando.

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For some, a vibrant US economy complicates voting decision

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

EXTON, Pennsylvania (AP) — For many voters in America's affluent suburbs, a flourishing economy is forcing a thorny dilemma for the midterm elections.

Do they vote Democratic, in part to protest President Donald Trump for behavior some see as divisive and unpresidential? Or do they back Republicans in hopes that the economy will continue thriving under the majority party?

A healthy economy has at least complicated their decision and blurred the outcome of the midterm elections. On Friday, the government reported that employers added a robust 250,000 jobs in October. And the unemployment rate stayed at a five-decade low of 3.7 percent.

At stake Tuesday is control of the House and Senate, both now led by Republican majorities. Steady economic growth and a vigorous job market haven't been the clincher in prosperous areas that were once seemingly safe Republican turf. Partly as a result, many analysts say Democrats stand a good chance of regaining control of the House even while Republicans maintain the Senate.

The ambivalence of many voters is evident in the Philadelphia suburbs of Bucks and Chester counties. The landscape of rolling hills is dotted by shopping plazas and luxury car dealerships, by fieldstone and stucco houses that fill cul-de-sacs. Residents are likelier than the country as a whole to have college degrees, and the median family income is about \$100,000.

Interviews with about a dozen people elicited a range of sentiments about whether and how the economy might affect their votes. For some, all that matters is the energized pace of job growth, which began under President Barack Obama and has continued under Trump.

Others, some of them lifelong Republicans, are finding their loyalties tested by a president who embraces

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tariffs, disparages refugees and attacks political opponents. With Pennsylvania also holding votes for governor and a Senate seat, many said they were willing to split their votes between the parties.

"I'm not a fan of Donald Trump," said 85-year-old Ross Kershey. "He doesn't respect checks and balances. But he's certainly done well for the economy."

A retired high school history teacher, Kershey is teaching a course on the Supreme Court at Immaculata University in Malvern, a suburb of Philadelphia. Those court cases were fresh in his mind as he sipped tea and ate pancakes at an IHOP on a recent afternoon. He objects to Trump's recent threat to unilaterally suspend the constitutional protection of birthright citizenship as a way to control undocumented immigration.

Yet for all his antipathy toward the president, the strength of the economy is at least giving Kershey pause: "I'll probably vote Democratic, but I'm not sure yet."

Workers have been increasingly benefiting from the economy's strength. Average pay growth for over the past 12 months has reached 3.1 percent, its best year-over-year increase since 2009, the government said Friday. Those gains have been concentrated among affluent Americans, though higher minimum wages have also helped raise the pay of many lower-income workers.

Among people earning at least \$100,000, 60 percent approve of how Trump has handled the economy, according to a survey by The Associated Press and NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That is a relative advantage for a president whose tax cuts for corporations and individuals are credited with helping boost growth this year.

Jean Hoffman, a 53-year-old real estate agent in Chester County, is pondering the college costs ahead for her two teenage daughters. She said she thinks voting Republican might help extend the economy's hot streak.

"I'm going to have two kids in college, and these are my earning years," she said. "So for me, the economy is the No. 1 priority."

Hoffman said she feels less concerned about Trump's confrontational style or habit of assailing critics. "It's like white noise at this point," she said.

Judging by the economy, the status of the House appears too close to call, said Ray Fair, a Yale economist. Using inflation and growth data, Fair developed a model to forecast electoral outcomes, which in 2016 correctly showed that that presidential election favored Republicans.

For 2018, Fair's economy-based model is less favorable than most political surveys for Democratic prospects to win the House. But the gap isn't sufficient to draw a firm conclusion about what will happen Tuesday. Because the party out of power — Democrats, in this case — generally enjoys an advantage in midterms, growth would have to be even stronger to decisively help Republicans this year.

"This time, the real uncertainty is turnout," Fair said. "You can't say anything with much confidence about who is going to be on which side of 50 percent."

To drive turnout, Pat Proprik, chair of the Bucks County Republicans, has been speaking to groups of voters nightly and knocking on doors. She said people in wealthier parts of the county tend to highlight the economy in explaining their intention to back Trump. Those in more modest areas tend to stress non-economic issues, at least at first.

"Economics isn't the first thing out of their mouth," Proprik said. "But when you bring it up, they jump on it."

At 83, Dick Calef is a lifelong Republican. He attributes the economic gains in suburban Philadelphia to longer-term factors beyond Trump's policies, like the growth of internet and health care companies. Calef is still unsure how he'll vote.

"I find myself voting to keep a balance in the government," he said. "I'm kind of fed up with the political environment."

Jerry McNeff intends to split his ballot between the parties in Pennsylvania's House, Senate and gubernatorial races.

"Trump had the right philosophy regarding the economy," said McNeff, 72. "Taxes needed to be overhauled. Regulations had become obstructive to industry."

But as he has aged, McNeff said, the economy has mattered less to him. He thinks more about his five grandchildren. Every report of a mass shooting at a school makes him wonder about what could happen to them. And it stuns him that the federal government has done little to prevent future shootings, like seriously considering a bill to expand background checks.

"If you say what is the No. 1 thing that keeps you up at night, that is it."

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'We are not killers:' Migrants in caravan respond to Trump

By SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

DONAJI, Mexico (AP) — As President Donald Trump ramped up his anti-migrant rhetoric ahead of Tuesday's midterm elections, exhausted Central Americans walking across Mexico in hopes of reaching the United States said they were mostly perplexed and turned off by his threats, which they perceive as exaggerated.

The U.S. president has spent the final days of the campaign hammering the issue as he tries to energize Republican voters, and his favorite target has been the migrant caravan of almost 4,000 people that is still more than 800 miles away from the nearest U.S. border. Three smaller ones are following behind it.

Trump's recent statements include that he plans to sign an order that could lead to the detention of migrants crossing the southern border, and barring anyone caught crossing illegally from claiming asylum. Both propositions are legally dubious. Trump also said he had told the U.S. military mobilizing at the southwest border that if U.S. troops face rock-throwing migrants, they should react as though the rocks were "rifles."

"It is pure ignorance for him to think like that," said Marta Cuellos, a 40-year-old from Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital. "A rock is not the same as a rifle."

While some migrants have clashed with Mexican police at a bridge on the Guatemala border, most of those traveling with the caravans have been peaceful and say they are fleeing violence and poverty at home. Those traveling through the southern state of Oaxaca on Friday said they are not looking for trouble.

Cuellos said she owned a cantina back home in Honduras but left because she could no longer make rent and was being harassed by police. She persuaded her 35-year-old sister to join her on the trip, and said the only thing they want is work and a better life in the United States. It's her second attempt. She first crossed into the U.S. seven years ago but was deported last year.

Selvin Maldonado, a 25-year-old from Copan, Honduras, said he left his wife and baby daughter at home in search of a better living to support his children. He took his 5-year-old son, Dennys, with him.

"What Trump said is stupid," Maldonado said while walking to the town of Donaji. "I don't want to attack police, because my concern is my son."

The migrants also were also turned off by the U.S. president's characterization of the slow-moving caravan and the three smaller ones following as "invasion." Trump has proposed detaining migrants in massive tent cities at the border.

"We are not killers," said Stephany Lopez, a 21-year-old Salvadoran with the first caravan. "We just want to work for a few years, and after that he can deport us if he wants."

Lopez noted that the president's mother, who was born in Scotland, was an immigrant.

"He should think of us as equals. Immigrants have built that country," she said.

In June, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said that domestic and gang violence would generally no longer be accepted as reasons for migrants to be granted asylum. Trump has said this week that those in the caravan would not get asylum — though U.S. law allows them the right to apply — and warned them to turn around.

The Trump administration's vehement opposition and tough rhetoric has at least some in the caravan weighing alternatives.

Tiffany Morandis, 19, was traveling with her husband, 28-year-old Javier Sanchez, and their two sons, 7-year-old Angel and 9-month-old Cesar. Her nose and face sun-scorched after many days on the road,

she said she was very tired and is considering stopping in Tijuana, the Mexican border city across from San Diego.

"Donald Trump has made things very complicated at the border, and better that we stay in Tijuana than fight with him," Morandis said.

But many are hopeful. "Even stones can soften," Cuellos said.

Many women ran for office, will they win in record numbers?

By JUANA SUMMERS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gender politics have been a defining issue of this election cycle, beginning back with the mobilization by women against the victory and inauguration of President Donald Trump.

But it's not clear whether the #MeToo movement — and the controversy that sometimes surrounds it — will translate into political success for either party on Tuesday.

More women than ever before won major party primaries for Congress and governor this year, giving women the chance to significantly increase their numbers in office. They're donating more money to political campaigns, too, and they've become a well-established force in the 2018 elections.

"I feel very good about where women are going to be," said Christina Reynolds, the vice president of communications for EMILY's List, a group dedicated to supporting Democratic women in politics. "I think regardless of what happens, women have shown that they are no longer happy with other people representing them and speaking for them."

But Republicans, too, feel the focus on gender politics could benefit them. The fight over Justice Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court galvanized their voters, they say, and could be a factor in races including the close re-election campaign for Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota.

Meanwhile, #MeToo's impact has had ripples in other races, too. In Minnesota, Rep. Keith Ellison is fending off allegations of abuse from an ex-girlfriend that have turned the race for state attorney general on its head. Ellison has denied those allegations. In the same state, U.S. Sen. Tina Smith, a Democrat, and Karen Housley, a Republican, are fighting over the seat that Smith was appointed to after Al Franken resigned following allegations by women that he touched them inappropriately.

Like most midterm elections, the 2018 campaign is also a referendum on the incumbent president. And among women, who vote historically at higher rates than men, Trump's standing is still bleak. In the latest NPR/PBS News Hour/Marist poll, 49 percent of women said that they disapproved of Trump's performance, compared with 44 percent of men. And 51 percent of women overall said that Trump would be a major factor in their vote.

"Women have been energized for a long time, and it's connected to Donald Trump," said Karine Jean-Pierre, a senior adviser for MoveOn.org and a veteran of four Democratic presidential campaigns. "We are in this really awful time where people are just tired and ready and there's been such an energy around electoral politics, for at least a year since the Women's March."

Republican women say they, too, can lay claim to a share of the energy, particularly in the weeks since the bruising fight over Kavanaugh's nomination. Alice Stewart, a veteran of Republican presidential campaigns, said it's critical that the #MeToo movement "stay strong and continue."

"It has done a lot of good to hold men in power and men who have committed these acts accountable," she said in an interview. "In terms of significance, it is greater than the midterm elections."

But, Stewart added, in the case of Kavanaugh's confirmation, the movement was "temporarily hijacked for certain groups for their own gain," a tactic that she believes ended up hurting Democrats.

"In that instance, it backfired. It galvanized Republicans. It made them unite behind Brett Kavanaugh," she said. "I say it backfired in that it reignited the intensity of Republicans due to the levels that the Democrats would go to, to turn the confirmation process into such a character assassination."

But women who opposed Kavanaugh said the energy from recent protests in Washington and elsewhere over his nomination would fuel Democratic women in 2018 and beyond.

Kelley Robinson, the national organizing director for Planned Parenthood Action Fund, remembered

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standing on the Supreme Court steps, addressing a rally after Kavanaugh was confirmed. "I've never felt that kind of wave of sadness, of grief and of anger that I felt in front of that large group," she said.

Robinson said she believes that voters — and particularly women — will remember that fight. Every senator that voted for Kavanaugh, Robinson said, "they sided with folks that disbelieved, that mocked survivors and sided against women."

Sarah Sherman, who founded Vote MeToo PAC to support female candidates this year, said that after the Kavanaugh vote she personally felt "really steamrolled, but we peeled ourselves off the pavement" to continue to fight on behalf of women.

The fight was "definitely something that has galvanized Republicans," she said. But she also said there may be women — some survivors of assault themselves — who will be propelled to the polls by the Women's March, the Kavanaugh battle and in rebuke to the Trump presidency who go unseen.

"When you're walking in there, you don't have to explain yourself to anyone. You don't have to explain yourself to your boss," she said. "You still have your vote."

Some women said that while #MeToo is not explicitly aimed toward electing more women or driving female voters to the polls, the movement and the new wave of women in politics share the same fuel.

"It's about ways of approaching the same basic problem: A group of people who have not seen themselves reflected in the power system is stepping up and saying, 'This isn't working for me. I want to push back against the status quo because otherwise, I won't be protected or fought for,'" said Amanda Litman, a co-founder of Run For Something, which helps left-leaning millennials run for office.

At its core, the #MeToo movement is a cultural movement, and cultural movements often far outpace national politics, said Shaunna Thomas, a co-founder of Ultraviolet, which advocates for women's rights. She noted that November's elections are the first "since women around the country started demanding that sexual abusers be held accountable."

"An electoral outcome at this stage is a lot to expect of a movement that is about challenging patriarchy -- it's a huge goal," offered Thomas. "It's not just, we want fewer women to be sexually assaulted or raped or harassed. What we're demanding is a world where women have control over their own bodies, their own minds. That's a project that goes far beyond needing to build and exercise electoral power."

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics>

Trump stumps in cities that don't look that much like US

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is in the final stretch of a 44-city blitz for the midterm elections, but the America he's glimpsed from the airport arrivals and his armored limousine is hardly a reflection of the nation as a whole.

The president has mostly traveled to counties that are whiter, less educated and have lower incomes than the rest of the United States, according to Census Bureau data. It's a sign that he is seeking to galvanize the same group of voters that helped carry him to victory in 2016.

Trump has largely eschewed the big metropolises for smaller cities. He has been to Tampa, Nashville, Cleveland and Houston — where the arenas could accommodate his crowds. But he's primarily been jet-setting to smaller places such as Elko, Nevada (population 20,078). Or, Mosinee, Wisconsin (population 4,023). Or, Belgrade, Montana (population 7,874).

When Trump stops at Belgrade on Saturday, historical records suggest he will be the second president to visit the Montana town named after Serbia's capital city. In 2009, Barack Obama held a town hall in Belgrade to promote the Affordable Care Act.

Since March, Trump has crisscrossed the country like a salesman with a set territory. The majority of his trips have been to just nine states. They are Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Florida, Missouri, Montana, Indiana, West Virginia and Nevada.

Trump won eight of those states in 2016, but not Nevada. And this year, seven of them feature a major

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Senate race with a Democratic incumbent. The former casino magnate has visited one city twice for the midterms: Las Vegas.

Here is a portrait of the America that the president is seeing:

LOWER INCOMES

Trump has journeyed to counties where it's slightly more of a struggle to reach and stay in the middle class.

Out of his scheduled rallies, 74 percent are in counties with median incomes that fall below the national level. But he's brought tidings of a 49-year low unemployment rate and accelerated economic growth to places that mostly lag the median U.S. household income of \$55,032.

In September, Trump went to Wheeling, West Virginia. The typical household income in the county surrounding Wheeling is \$41,986, or about \$13,000 below the national level. The metro area has lost 818 jobs in the 12 months that ended in August, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. And for West Virginia, coal mine jobs have declined this year after a hiring bump in 2017.

"Your state is booming like never before," Trump told the crowd in Wheeling. "And our great coal miners are back to work."

Trump has visited a few affluent counties. He stopped by Rochester, Minnesota, where incomes are high because of the presence of the world-renowned Mayo Clinic. And during a special congressional election in August, the president campaigned in Delaware County, Ohio, where the median household income of \$94,234 is just shy of being double the national average.

FEWER COLLEGE DEGREES

Just 18.1 percent of the adults in Elko County, Nevada hold a college degree. That's compared to 30.3 percent nationwide. Of the 43 places Trump is visiting, 28 have a below-average share of college graduates.

Elko's economy is unique because it relies on mining gold, instead of the office and health care jobs that often require a college diploma. The county has five active gold mines, according to the Nevada Commission on Mineral Resources. This makes it something of an outlier in country where mining metal ore accounts for 0.03 percent of all jobs.

Trump went to Elko in part to help push for the re-election of Republican Sen. Dean Heller, who is in a tight race against Democratic Rep. Jacky Rosen. Heller flattered the president — and provided the lone reference to the local economy — by telling him, "I think everything you touch turns to gold."

When Trump has gone to more educated counties, it's often because they have a major college campus and venues where people can gather. Missoula is home to the University of Montana and 41.8 percent of its adults are college graduates. The University of Missouri is in Columbia, where 46.8 percent of adults hold college degrees.

RACE

Other than his rallies at big cities, Trump has generally been in communities that are overwhelmingly white. The U.S. population is 73.3 percent white, but almost three-fourths of the places where the president has stumped for midterms are above that average.

In the county surrounding Council Bluffs, Iowa, 88.7 percent of the population is non-Hispanic whites. Trump told the crowd at his rally that Democrats would allow Central American gangs such as MS-13 to immigrate freely into the United States, a claim disputed by Democratic lawmakers.

"They want to turn America, these Democrats — and that's what they want — into a giant sanctuary for criminal aliens and the MS-13 killers," Trump said.

In the area around Council Bluffs, 6.1 percent of the population is of Mexican descent. About 1 percent are from other Hispanic nations. By comparison, 17.3 percent of the U.S. population is Hispanic.

The biggest outlier in Trump's schedule may be his rally Sunday in Macon, Georgia. Its county is 53.9 percent black, making it the lone place being visited by the president where minorities make up the majority of the population.

Trump is going there to promote the gubernatorial candidacy of Republican Brian Kemp. He is running against Democrat Stacey Abrams, who is trying to become the first black female governor in U.S. history.

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Police: 3 dead, including shooter, at Florida yoga studio

By GARY FINEOUT and BRENDAN FARRINGTON, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A gunman killed two people and wounded five others at a yoga studio in Florida's capital before killing himself Friday evening, officials said.

Tallahassee Police Chief Michael DeLeo told reporters Friday night that the man shot six people and pistol-whipped another after walking into the studio, which is part of a small Tallahassee shopping center.

The suspect then fatally shot himself, DeLeo said.

Early Saturday morning, the Tallahassee Police Department identified the shooter as Scott Paul Beierle, 40.

The department identified the two people who were killed as Dr. Nancy Van Vessem, 61, and Maura Binkley, 21.

Van Vessem was an internist who served as chief medical director for Capital Health Plan, the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper reported.

Capital Health Plan issued a statement praising Van Vessem, the Democrat reported.

"As CHP's longtime chief medical director, Nancy has been a guiding, visionary force in our daily work to serve the wellness and health care needs of thousands of families in this community. Her dedication, caring, leadership, humanity, and experience made her one of the most respected, inspiring, and accomplished medical professionals in the state and country. Our hearts are filled with sorrow and prayers for her family. We all have been so blessed to have Nancy in our lives," the company said.

Florida State University President John Thrasher says Van Vessem and Binkley had ties to the university, the Democrat reported.

"To lose one of our students and one of our faculty members in this tragic and violent way is just devastating to the Florida State University family. We feel this loss profoundly and we send our deepest sympathies to Maura's and Nancy's loved ones while we pray for the recovery of those who were injured," Thrasher said in a statement.

DeLeo said police are asking for anyone who saw something unusual around the time of the shooting to contact police. He said the shooter acted alone and authorities are investigating possible motives. He declined to say what kind of gun the shooter had.

"We're all very saddened and shocked by the events that occurred, but it's important that people understand that there is no immediate threat outside of what has already occurred this evening," DeLeo said.

Melissa Hutchinson said she helped treat a "profusely" bleeding man who rushed into a bar after the incident. She said three people from the studio ran in, and they were told there was an active shooter.

"It was a shocking moment something happened like this," Hutchinson said.

The people who came in were injured, including the bleeding man who was pistol-whipped while trying to stop the shooter. They told her the shooter kept coming in and out of the studio. When he loaded his gun, people started pounding the windows of the studio to warn people.

City Commissioner Scott Maddox was on the scene. He said on Facebook, "In my public service career I have had to be on some bad scenes. This is the worst. Please pray."

Elle Welling said she was leaving a liquor store across the street from the shopping center and saw at least three people loaded into ambulances.

"You don't think about this in Tallahassee and now you have to," said Welling, 26, who lives in the neighborhood.

The plaza is home to popular restaurants, a jewelry store, a framing shop, a hair salon and other businesses.

Erskin Wesson, 64, said he was eating dinner with his family at a restaurant located below the yoga studio when they heard the gunshots above them.

"We just heard 'pow, pow, pow, pow,'" Wesson said. "It sounded like a limb falling on a tin roof and rolling."

The restaurant's owner came by a short time later, asking if anyone was a doctor, Wesson said. His step-daughter is an emergency room nurse and helped paramedics for about an hour, he said.

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who is the Democratic nominee for governor, broke off the campaign trail to return to Tallahassee. He earlier appeared at a campaign event with former President Barack Obama.

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Late Friday night, Gillum spoke to reporters near the scene of the shooting to say that he had visited in the hospital two people who were shot at the yoga studio. The mayor said they were in good spirits despite their injuries.

Gillum asked residents to pray for those who survived and those who were killed in the shooting.

"We all feel a sense of added vulnerability" because of the shooting, the mayor said.

Republican Gov. Rick Scott, who is challenging Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson, called DeLeo and the head of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to get details of the shooting.

"I will remain in constant communication with law enforcement. We have offered state assistance," Scott tweeted.

Tallahassee's crime and murder rate has been an issue in the governor's race, with Gillum's opponent, Republican former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, calling the capital Florida's most crime-ridden city, a claim that is incorrect.

Trump rallies for 2018 Republicans _ with an eye toward 2020

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — President Donald Trump campaigned back-to-back Friday as he launched a feverish push to help elect Republicans in next week's voting — but he also looked ahead to facing off against "one of the lefties" he expects to challenge his re-election effort in 2020.

Trump opened a rally at an Indianapolis high school by highlighting the news from earlier Friday that the economy had added another 250,000 jobs in October. He also talked about the low unemployment rate.

"More Americans are working right now, today, in this country, than have ever worked in this country before," Trump said. "That's going to be fun on the debate stage when we debate one of the lefties. And they're going to be saying what a good job they're going to do by raising your taxes. ... You know, I think we're going to win that debate."

He didn't name any of the Democrats who are thought to be considering challenging Trump in two years, but at past rallies the president has singled out such Democrats as Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts for criticism.

Trump came to Indiana to campaign for Republican Senate candidate Mike Braun, a former state representative and businessman who is putting up a stiff challenge to Democratic incumbent Joe Donnelly.

Trump said Donnelly, a first-term senator, was ineffective and referred to him as "Sleepin' Joe." While Donnelly has sought to highlight his cooperation with Trump on issues such as immigration, he voted against last year's tax cuts and this year voted against Trump's choice of Brett Kavanaugh to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Braun said, "Let's retire Joe Donnelly."

In response, Donnelly said he looked forward to welcoming Trump again next year "after I'm re-elected on Tuesday."

Trump has scheduled seven more rallies — in Montana, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri — through Election Day.

Friday's Indiana event received an added jolt from Vice President Mike Pence, who represented Indiana in Congress and as governor, and Bobby Knight, the Hall of Fame former head coach of the Indiana University men's basketball team.

At an airport rally earlier Friday in Huntington, West Virginia, Trump opened the final sprint to the midterms by defending his decision to tweet a video warning of people crossing into the U.S. illegally at the border with Mexico. Democrats and Republicans blasted the video as "racist."

Trump said critics had given him a "hard time" about the video, which featured a Mexican migrant in a courtroom, smiling and boasting about having killed police officers.

But Trump said, "All I'm doing is just telling the truth."

The video alleges without evidence that Democrats were responsible for allowing Luis Bracamontes into the U.S. The twice-deported immigrant from Mexico was sentenced to death in California for the 2014

killings of two police officers.

The video also includes scenes of a migrant caravan that is moving toward the U.S., but is still hundreds of miles away from the border. It ominously warns, "Who else would Democrats let in?" and suggests more violence will soon penetrate the border.

Trump's aggressive travel schedule over the next several days is aimed at boosting GOP Senate candidates as the party tries to expand its 51-49 Senate majority, rather than working to defend embattled Republicans in the House, where the party's control appears in doubt.

In West Virginia, Trump campaigned for Republican Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, who is in a tight race against Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin. Trump told the crowd cheering him from inside a hangar that "Joe will never be with us. He's never going to vote for us."

But Trump didn't present a complete picture of Manchin's voting record.

On major issues, Manchin did join Democrats in voting against the tax cuts, but he broke with his caucus and supported both of Trump's Supreme Court nominees: Neil Gorsuch and Kavanaugh.

Trump has been using his campaign rallies to warn his Republican base of what he argues are the negative consequences of Democratic control of Congress. He has been stoking GOP anger over the Democrats' handling of Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings and fears of illegal immigration as the migrant caravan slowly advances toward the U.S.-Mexico border.

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

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Migrants' hopes dashed in Mexico when bus offer reversed

By SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

DONAJI, Mexico (AP) — After three grueling weeks walking along highways and hitching rides, thousands of Central American migrants traveling in a caravan through southern Mexico were told Friday that they would soon be leapfrogging ahead to the nation's capital in buses only to have their hopes dashed almost immediately when the offer was pulled.

As the caravan crossed into the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, Gov. Miguel Angel Yunes announced that authorities there would be providing not only humanitarian assistance but also offering mass transportation for the migrants.

"It is very important that they be able to move soon from Veracruz toward another place," Yunes said in a video message released in the evening. "For that reason, we also offered them transportation so that, if possible, tomorrow ... they may be able to go to Mexico City or to the place they wish."

During an evening assembly, caravan organizers told the migrants that they would be leaving around 5 a.m. for the capital in dozens of buses, apparently enough to accommodate the several thousand people in the group.

"We are all going!" one of the coordinators told the group.

But then Yunes released a second video saying that because Mexico City's water system was undergoing maintenance and much of the city would be without water over the weekend, it would not be correct to send the migrants there.

Instead he offered to take the migrants to another city in Veracruz until the problem in Mexico City is resolved.

"I want to offer the migrants that while this problem is being resolved they accept my invitation to go to a city in Veracruz" that has the conditions to host them, he said.

Migrants expressed surprise and disappointment at the decision.

The offer of buses to Mexico City and the subsequent reversal came after the migrants' request for buses to the capital were ignored by the Mexican government days earlier when they were in Juchitan, Oaxaca state.

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Earlier in the day, a third caravan of migrants — this time from El Salvador — waded over the Suchiate River into Mexico on Friday, bringing another 1,000 to 1,500 people who want to reach the U.S. border.

The third caravan tried to cross the bridge between Guatemala and Mexico, but Mexican authorities told those traveling in it they would have to show passports and visas and enter in groups of 50 for processing.

The Salvadorans expressed misgivings that they would be deported, so they turned around and waded across a shallow stretch of the river to enter Mexico.

Although police were present, they did not try to physically stop the migrants, who later walked along a highway toward the nearest large city, Tapachula.

Mexico is now faced with the unprecedented situation of having three caravans stretched out over 300 miles (500 kilometers) of highways in the southern states of Chiapas and Oaxaca, with a total of about 6,000 migrants. The first, largest group of mainly Honduran migrants entered Mexico on Oct. 19.

Though the first caravan once numbered as many as 7,000, it has shrunk significantly. It has been hard to know their exact numbers as people scatter across highways and in small towns. Mexico's Interior Department estimated that, as of Friday, it numbered only 3,000 people. Other estimates had it around 4,000 or more.

The second caravan, also of about 1,000 to 1,500 people, entered Mexico earlier this week and is now in Mapastepec, Chiapas. The second group includes Hondurans, Salvadorans and some Guatemalans. In addition, the government identified a fourth, smaller group of 300 Central American migrants walking further ahead, in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

It remained unclear how many migrants would make it; 20 days of scorching heat, constant walking, chills, rain and illness had taken their toll. Mexico's Interior Department says nearly 3,000 of the migrants in the first caravan have applied for refuge in Mexico; hundreds more have returned home.

Honduran migrant Saul Guzman, 48, spent the night under a tin roof in the Oaxaca state town of Matias Romero with his son Dannys, 12, before setting out for the town of Donaji, 30 miles (47 kilometers) north.

"I have been through a lot," said Guzman. "I want to spend my time differently, not in poverty."

In his hometown of Ocotepeque, Honduras, he left behind a coffin, either for his mother, who suffers dementia, "or for me, if I don't make it," Guzman said.

The migrants made a grueling 40-mile (65-kilometer) trek from Juchitan, Oaxaca, on Thursday, after they failed to get the bus transportation they had hoped for. Hitching rides on Friday allowed them to arrive early at their destination for the day, Donaji, and some headed to a town even farther north, Sayula.

Another large caravan early this year passed through Veracruz but then veered back toward Mexico City and eventually tried to head to Tijuana in the far northwest. Few made it.

Immigration agents and police have been nibbling at the edges of the first two caravans.

A federal official who was not authorized to be quoted by name said 153 migrants in the second caravan were detained Wednesday during highway inspections in Chiapas, a short distance from the Guatemalan border.

There has also been pressure on the first caravan. Federal police began pulling freight trucks over and forcing migrants off, saying their habit of clinging to the tops or sides of the trucks was dangerous.

At other points along the route, police have forced overloaded pickups to drop off migrants. On previous days, they have ordered passenger vans to stop helping with transportation.

President Donald Trump has ordered U.S. troops to the Mexican border in response to the caravans of migrants. More than 7,000 active duty troops have been told to deploy to Texas, Arizona and California.

Trump says he has told the U.S. military mobilizing at the southwest border that if U.S. troops face rock-throwing migrants, they should react as though the rocks were "rifles." He also plans to sign an order next week that could lead to the large-scale detention of migrants crossing the southern border and bar anyone caught crossing illegally from claiming asylum.

Though some migrants clashed with Mexican police at a bridge on the Guatemala border, they have repeatedly denied coming with any ill intentions, saying they're fleeing poverty and violence.

"We aren't killers," said Stephany Lopez, a 21-year-old Salvadoran with the first caravan.

Similar caravans have occurred regularly over the years and passed largely unnoticed, but Trump has

focused on the latest marchers seeking to make border security a hot-button issue in next week's midterm elections.

Associated Press writer Peter Orsi in Mexico City contributed to this report.

US restores Iran sanctions lifted under Obama nuclear deal

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Friday restored U.S. sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal, but carved out exemptions for eight countries that can still import oil from the Islamic Republic without penalty.

The sanctions take effect Monday and cover Iran's shipping, financial and energy sectors. They are the second batch the administration has re-imposed since Trump withdrew from the landmark accord in May.

The 2015 deal, one of former President Barack Obama's biggest diplomatic achievements, gave Iran billions of dollars in sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, which many believed it was using to develop atomic weapons. Trump repeatedly denounced the agreement as the "worst ever" negotiated by the United States and said it gave Iran too much in return for too little.

But proponents as well as the other parties to the deal — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the European Union — have vehemently defended it. The Europeans have mounted a drive to save the agreement without the U.S., fearing that the new sanctions will drive Iran to pull out and resume all of its nuclear work.

Friday's announcement comes just days before congressional midterm elections in the U.S., allowing Trump to highlight his decision to withdraw from the deal — a move that was popular among Republicans.

Shortly after the announcement, Trump tweeted what looks like a movie poster image of himself that takes creative inspiration from the TV series "Game of Thrones" with the tagline "Sanctions are Coming, November 5."

In a statement issued Friday night, Trump said, "Our objective is to force the regime into a clear choice: either abandon its destructive behavior or continue down the path toward economic disaster."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the sanctions are "aimed at fundamentally altering the behavior of the Islamic Republic of Iran." He has issued a list of 12 demands that Iran must meet to get the sanctions lifted that include an end to its support for terrorism and military engagement in Syria and a halt to nuclear and ballistic missile development.

Pompeo said eight nations will receive temporary waivers allowing them to continue to import Iranian petroleum products as they move to end such imports entirely. He said those countries, which other officials said would include U.S. allies such as Turkey, Italy, India, Japan and South Korea, had made efforts to eliminate their imports but could not complete the task by Monday.

The waivers will be valid for six months, during which time the importing country can buy Iranian oil but must deposit Iran's revenue in an escrow account. Iran can spend the money but only on a narrow range of humanitarian items.

Pompeo defended the oil waivers and noted that since May, when the U.S. began to press countries to stop buying Iranian oil, Iran's exports had dropped by more than 1 million barrels per day.

He said the Iranian economy is already reeling from the earlier sanctions, with the currency losing half its value since April and the prices of fruit, poultry, eggs and milk skyrocketing.

Some Iran hawks in Congress and elsewhere said Friday's move should have gone even further. They were hoping for Iran to be disconnected from the main international financial messaging network known as SWIFT.

With limited exceptions, the re-imposed U.S. sanctions will hit Iran as well as countries that do not stop importing Iranian oil and foreign firms that do business with blacklisted Iranian entities, including its central bank, a number of private financial institutions, and state-run port and shipping firms, as well as hundreds of individual Iranian officials.

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"Our ultimate aim is to compel Iran to permanently abandon its well-documented outlaw activities and behave as a normal country," Pompeo told reporters in a conference call with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Mnuchin said 700 more Iranian companies and people would be added to the sanctions rolls. Those, he said, would include more than 300 that had not been included under previous sanctions.

Israel, which considers Iran an existential threat and opposed the deal from the beginning, welcomed Friday's announcement.

"Thank you, Mr. President, for restoring sanctions against an Iranian regime that vows and works to destroy the Jewish state," Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer said in a tweet.

Mnuchin defended the decision to allow some Iranian banks to remain connected to SWIFT, saying that the Belgium-based firm had been warned that it will face penalties if sanctioned institutions are permitted to use it. And, he said that U.S. regulators would be watching closely Iranian transactions that use SWIFT to ensure any that run afoul of U.S. sanctions would be punished.

Troop deployment creates tense atmosphere on US border

By NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — As the first active-duty military troops sent to the U.S. border with Mexico installed coils of razor wire on a bridge and a riverbank Friday, a sense of unease spread across Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

President Donald Trump's portrayal of a border under siege by drug smugglers and other criminals is at odds with what residents in towns along the 1,954-mile (3,126-kilometer) divide with Mexico see in their daily routines, with U.S. border towns consistently ranking among the safest in the country.

Some Valley residents question the need for a large military presence and fear it will tarnish the area's image. And some are afraid of violence if and when the caravan of Central American migrants that the troops have been sent to confront reaches the U.S. border.

While the southern tip of Texas is the busiest corridor for illegal crossings, border agents make many arrests far from public view, on uninhabited banks of the Rio Grande and on nearby dirt paths and roads lined by thick brush.

"I feel safer here than when I go up to bigger cities," lifelong Rio Grande Valley resident Emmanuel Torres said Friday while working at a coffee shop in Brownsville, the region's largest city, with about 200,000 people.

Torres, 19, said the area feels "a lot like family," and he worries the military presence will fuel outsiders' perceptions of a dysfunctional border.

"People that don't live here are just going to create a bigger negative image," Torres said.

When Trump pledged this week to send up to 15,000 troops to the border in response to the slow-moving caravan of migrants, he unnerved the economically struggling region of 1 million people that stretches over flat, sun-drenched citrus groves and farms of cotton, sugar cane and vegetables.

The Pentagon said more than 3,500 troops have been deployed to staging bases along the border, including about 1,000 Marines in California. Still, there were only about 100 troops at the border on Friday, working at and near a bridge leading to McAllen, Texas, the Rio Grande Valley's second-biggest city, with about 140,000 people.

More than a dozen military members in fatigues were at the northern bank of the river, below the bridge, laying concertina wire. Other soldiers erected wire barriers on the bridge's pedestrian paths.

The largest caravan traveling through Mexico is still weeks away from the U.S. border, and migrants have given no indication where they might cross. The Rio Grande Valley is the shortest route from Central America but also one of the most dangerous.

The troops are being sent in what has been described as a support role, helping border agents. But Trump said he told the military that if troops face rock-throwing migrants, they should react as though the rocks were rifles.

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"It's all preparation in anticipation of the caravan," said Manuel Padilla Jr., the Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley sector chief. "We're hoping that these people do not show up at the border. They're not going to be allowed in."

Conchita Padilla, a volunteer at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art, said she believes the U.S. has the right to defend its borders. But she also said she is frightened by the troops because she doesn't know what they will do or how they will react to the caravan.

"My worry is that if they fight each other, there might be innocent people in the way that are suffering consequences," said Padilla, 66. "We are just praying that they go in peace."

According to an analysis by The Associated Press of FBI statistics, nine U.S. cities along the Mexican border had a violent crime rate of nearly 346 offenses per 100,000 residents in 2017. That's lower than the national rate of almost 383. In Brownsville, it was 257, in McAllen, 144.

Those same nine border towns and cities also had a property crime rate of 2,058 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. Nationwide, the estimated rate was just over 2,362 per 100,000.

"It's almost shocking, but it's true," Jack Levin, director of Northeastern University's Brudnick Center on Violence. "The numbers don't lie."

Associated Press writers Russell Contreras in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

Alec Baldwin charged with assault in alleged parking dispute

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Alec Baldwin was arrested Friday and charged with assault and harassment after allegedly striking a man in the face during a dispute over a parking spot outside his New York City home, authorities said.

Police said the actor claimed he had a family member holding the spot for him as he attempted to park his black Cadillac Escalade around 1:30 p.m. when a man driving a black Saab station wagon pulled up and took it.

Police said the men were arguing and pushed each other before Baldwin, 60, got more aggressive. The driver of the station wagon told police Baldwin hit him with his hand, but wasn't sure if it was a punch or a slap.

The driver, 49, was taken to a hospital with jaw pain and redness in the neck area, police said.

Baldwin was released from a nearby precinct in Manhattan's Greenwich Village neighborhood about two hours after the incident. He was ordered to appear in court Nov. 26.

Baldwin walked silently past reporters and photographers to a waiting SUV on Friday afternoon. His publicist did not immediately respond to a message requesting comment.

Baldwin, the star of former television sitcom "30 Rock" and current host of "Match Game," portrays President Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live" and recently started a talk show on ABC.

Asked about Baldwin's arrest, Trump said: "I wish him luck."

An ABC spokeswoman had no comment about Baldwin's arrest, other than to say his talk show will air Sunday night as scheduled.

The most recent episode, with less than 1.5 million viewers, had the smallest audience of any prime-time program on the top four broadcast networks over the past week, the Nielsen company said.

Baldwin's past scrapes with the law include a 2014 arrest in New York City for bicycling the wrong way on a one-way street and a 1995 arrest for allegedly slugging a paparazzi photographer in Los Angeles, one of several such run-ins.

Baldwin was booted off an American Airlines flight in 2011 after allegedly getting belligerent with a flight attendant who asked him to stop playing "Words with Friends" and put his cellphone away.

After the bicycle-related arrest, Baldwin told New York magazine he was ready to quit his public life and leave the city, an hour train ride from where he grew up on Long Island.

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"I just can't live in New York anymore," Baldwin said in the article. "Everything I hated about L.A. I'm beginning to crave. L.A. is a place where you live behind a gate, you get in a car, your interaction with the public is minimal. I used to hate that. But New York has changed."

Follow Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak.

Associated Press writers David Bauder and Jennifer Peltz contributed to this report.

Trump vs. Obama in the final weekend of the midterms

By **KEN THOMAS, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Feuding from a distance, President Donald Trump and former President Barack Obama exchanged tough words Friday as they sought to rally their parties' base voters in the final days before the midterm elections.

Obama urged Democrats in Miami to turn against "a politics based on division" and expressed hope that "we will cut through the lies, block out the noise and remember who we are called to be." Trump said in West Virginia he watched Obama's speech aboard Air Force One, reminding some of his most loyal supporters of what he called Obama's broken promises on health care, the freedom of the press and global trade.

"Lie after lie, broken promise after broken promise, that's what he did," Trump said during an outdoor rally in Huntington, West Virginia.

The competing campaign rallies, including Friday evening events in Georgia and Indiana, placed Trump in a virtual split-screen moment with Obama and set the stage for weekend campaign events for both party heavyweights.

Trump covets the Senate seats held by Democrats Joe Donnelly of Indiana and Joe Manchin of West Virginia, two states that the president won handily in 2016. Democrats, meanwhile, could make history by electing black governors in Florida and Georgia, and are turning to the nation's first black president to help make their case.

During the weekend, Trump will head to Montana and Florida on Saturday and Georgia and Tennessee on Sunday. Obama will return to the trail on Sunday, headlining rallies for Donnelly in Gary, Indiana, and in his hometown of Chicago for J.B. Pritzker, who is running for Illinois governor.

A look at campaign activities Friday:

OBAMA

In Miami, Obama said democracy can't work when words stop having meaning, encouraging a crowd of about 3,000 to vote for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum and Sen. Bill Nelson.

Obama said voters shouldn't be bamboozled by misinformation while Republicans allow polluters to poison the environment, give tax cuts to billionaires and take health care away from millions.

During the former president's speech, a protester shouted that Obama should "denounce ANTIFA" — the protesters who square off against neo-Nazis. Obama responded by citing anger among Trump supporters despite their candidate's win and asked, "Why are they so mad?"

That protester and two others were escorted from the venue.

TRUMP'S REBUTTAL

Trump quickly fired back at his White House predecessor, saying the former president didn't keep his promises to voters.

Trump said that Obama's assertion that "if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor" under the Affordable Care Act proved false. Some Americans were forced to change providers or health plans under the law.

Trump also said "nobody was worse to the press than Obama," after Obama spoke in defense of the First Amendment. "He's talking about how I should be nice to the fake news," Trump said. "No, thank you!"

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TRUMP'S ECONOMY

Trump received the type of jobs report that any president would envy heading into the final days before the midterm elections. But will he use it to his advantage?

The October economic data released Friday packed a wallop, finding that U.S. employers added 250,000 jobs during the past month and unemployment remained at a five-decade low of 3.7 percent. More people entered the labor force and wages made their biggest gains since 2009.

Yet it landed at the end of a week in which the president has made immigration and border security the paramount issue for Republicans in the midterms, warning without offering evidence that a caravan of immigrants is preparing an "invasion" of the U.S. southern border.

Trump called the economic numbers "incredible" on Twitter, but it raised the question of whether the president will pivot back to the economy — an approach favored by embattled House Republicans — or keep up his drumbeat on immigration before the election.

BOB KNIGHT

During his Indiana rally, Trump said he and Hall of Fame basketball coach Bob Knight had developed a "great romance."

Knight, the former coach of the Indiana Hoosiers, embraced Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, often appearing with the future president at rallies in the state.

In Indianapolis, Trump recalled that Knight was "with me from the beginning" and praised him as a "tough cookie."

Knight said Trump was a "great president" in the mold of Harry S. Truman, and led the crowd in a chant of "Go get 'em, Donald."

Trump, Knight and Vice President Mike Pence, a former Indiana governor, rallied supporters behind Republican Mike Braun, who is running against Donnelly in a closely watched Senate contest.

FLORIDA HISPANICS

A group of high-powered Latinas are campaigning in Florida this weekend in two largely Latino neighborhoods to drive turnout in the midterm elections.

Actresses America Ferrera, Eva Longoria, Gina Rodriguez, Rosario Dawson and Zoe Saldana will appear at rallies in Kissimmee and Miami on Sunday.

Also attending the Kissimmee rally will be the wife of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum and two U.S. representatives of Puerto Rican background — Darren Soto of Florida and Nydia Velazquez of New York. Kissimmee is home to many transplants from Puerto Rico.

Associated Press writer Ellis Rua in Miami contributed.

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics>

States setting early turnout records ahead of Election Day

By **BILL BARROW** and **GLADYS NEGRETE**, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — More than 30 million Americans have cast early ballots ahead of Tuesday's midterm elections, eclipsing the 2014 early totals nationally and suggesting a high overall turnout for contests that could define the final two years of President Donald Trump's term.

At least 28 states have surpassed their 2014 early votes. And perhaps even more indicative of the unusual enthusiasm this midterm cycle, some states are approaching their early turnout from the 2016 presidential election.

Here's a look at some highlights:

MASSIVE TURNOUT

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The 30.6 million ballots includes data from 48 states, with several of those still collecting absentee ballots and welcoming in-person early voters. The total early vote in 2014 was 28.3 million in an election where more than 83 million Americans voted. That was a low turnout (about 36 percent) even by usual standards of a midterm, when there's an expected drop off from presidential elections.

Forecasters aren't predicting that overall turnout this year will hit 2016 levels (137.5 million; more than 60 percent of the electorate), but Democratic and Republican analysts, along with independent political scientists, say turnout could approach 50 percent, levels not seen for a midterm since the turbulent 1960s.

BOOMS IN STATES NOT USED TO EXCITING MIDTERMS

It's one thing to see Virginia more than doubling its 2014 early turnout. Voters there showed their intensity last year in their governor's race, with record absentee ballot requests and returns and a solid turnout for both parties.

But then there's Tennessee. The state has settled firmly into Republican-dominated territory. In 2014, there wasn't a single statewide race that received national attention or a truly competitive House election.

But with an open Senate seat thanks to the retirement of Republican Bob Corker, voters are more than eager this year. Through Thursday, early turnout was 217 percent of what it was in 2014. It's even approaching early turnout from 2016, at more than 80 percent of that presidential-year mark.

Several other states with competitive Senate or governor's races — Texas, Nevada, Georgia, among others — are nearing double the 2014 early totals.

DEMOCRATS EDGING REPUBLICANS NATIONALLY

In states that require party registration, Democrats have cast 41 percent of the early ballots, compared to 36 percent for Republicans. Party strategists on both sides say they are far exceeding their usual numbers in key locales — urban strongholds for Democrats and more rural counties for Republicans.

A word of caution from prognosticators: The party analysis isn't always an indicator of final outcomes. There are crossover voters, even in this hyperpartisan era. And there are independents and third-party voters, as well. For the record, those latter groups account for about 23 percent of the ballots in party registration states.

For the scorekeepers, though, Virginia, among the states that doesn't have party registration, is replicating its 2017 voting boom — and Democrats swept the top offices last year even amid strong GOP turnout.

YOUNG VOTERS IN FLORIDA

Trends in Florida's early voting suggest a surge in young voters, a group that historically has low turnout in midterm cycles.

Of the 124,000 Floridians aged 18 to 29 who had voted in person at early polling stations as of Thursday, nearly a third did not vote in the presidential election in 2016, according to analysis by University of Florida political science professor Daniel Smith. About half of those new voters were newly registered.

"There are newly energized voters who sat out in 2016, or have registered since then, who are turning out. There's no question about that," Smith said.

In contrast, for people 65 and older who had voted early and in person, about 7 percent didn't vote in 2016.

NEW VOTERS IN GEORGIA

It cannot be said enough: It's the voters who don't often participate in midterms who can make the big difference. There's plenty of evidence that both major parties' bases are enthusiastic, but a frequent Election Day voter being so excited that they vote early doesn't change the math.

So candidates like Democrat Stacey Abrams and Republican Brian Kemp in the Georgia governor's race are keeping their eye on how many non-2014 voters have cast ballots.

An analysis by Georgia-based data analyst Ryan Anderson finds that 36 percent of the 1.8 million early votes in Georgia are new voters. If that held through Election Day, it would be a huge number. Abrams' campaign believes it would benefit them, though Republicans nationally note that President Donald Trump brought many new voters to the polls in 2016 — and those voters are still "new" midterm voters.

That said, at least in Georgia, the racial and gender breakdown of the new voters bodes well for Abrams, who is trying to spike turnout among nonwhites, women and millennials.

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Anderson's analysis finds that barely more than half of the new voters are white in a state where the GOP wants the white share of the electorate to be pushed toward the mid-60s. Among the other findings: new female voters outnumber men by more than 70,000.

The bright spot for Kemp: More than half of early votes come from voters over 65 (though that total includes all races), and there is intense turnout in many of the state's most conservative areas beyond metro Atlanta.

Negrete reported from New York. Gary Fineout, Jonathan Mattise, Ryan Dubicki, J.J. Gallagher, Alyssa Maurice, Atticus O'Brien-Pappalardo, and Logan Ulrich contributed to this report.

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Obama urges Florida voters to support Democratic candidates

By ELLIS RUA, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Former President Barack Obama told attendees at a Friday campaign event for Florida's Democratic candidates that democracy can't work when words stop having meaning.

Obama encouraged a crowd of more than 4,000 to vote for gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and others during the event in Miami.

"We need leaders who will actually stand up for what's right, regardless of party," Obama said. "Leaders who represent the best of the American spirit. Patriots who will stand up for anyone whose fundamental rights are at stake."

Obama warned voters not to get bamboozled by misinformation while Republicans allow polluters to poison the environment, give tax cuts to billionaires and take health care away from millions.

"It's like the con where a door-to-door salesman says you need a security system while his buddy sneaks in the back and steals your stuff," Obama said. "But it's not just the practical effect in terms of policy. When words stop meaning anything, when truth doesn't matter, when people can just lie with abandon, democracy can't work."

Besides encouraging Democrats to vote, Obama also tried to bring Republicans to his side.

"It shouldn't be Democratic or Republican to say we're not going to target certain groups based on what they looked like or how they pray," Obama said. "It shouldn't be Democrat or Republican to know that climate change is real and threatens our futures and our kids' futures."

During Obama's speech, a protester shouted that Obama should "denounce ANTIFA" — the protesters who square off against neo-Nazis. Obama responded by citing anger among Trump supporters despite their candidate's win, and asked, "Why are they so mad?"

Obama drew boos from critics, but they were silenced by supporters who chanted "Obama" and "Bring it Home!"

That protester and two others were escorted out of the venue.

Loretta McNeir, a 65-year-old retired civil servant, attended the rally with a group of friends. Like many others in attendance, she had to wait in line under the warm Florida sun before the doors opened.

"I went through the civil rights movement, so this is nothing compared to what my people paid the price for to be able to vote," McNeir said.

She said she has a special feeling about Gillum.

"I haven't found this much excitement since Obama ran," she said.

Gillum asked the large crowd of supporters if they were ready to flip Florida blue.

"We now find ourselves in this moment where we set the precedent of something great — something transformational in our state," he said. "(We have) the opportunity to put the voice of everyday working people of our state at the centerfold of public policy and decision making — and results inside Tallahassee."

Gillum said he wanted voters to give him the chance to provide pay raises for the state's teachers. He said he wants to fight climate change and outlined his plans for Medicaid expansion and criminal justice

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reform. He also called for stricter background checks for gun buyers.

Nelson said Republicans are attempting to undo the legacy of President Obama. Citing the cutting of environmental regulations and medical coverage spending for citizens, he claimed that both he and Gillum could successfully direct the state into a progressive direction.

"Now more than ever, the country, indeed Florida, needs people that they can trust," Nelson said.

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No. 1 Alabama expects toughest test yet at No. 4 LSU

By BRETT MARTEL, AP Sports Writer

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — As quarterback sensation Tua Tagovailoa tries to envision what awaits him and top-ranked Alabama at LSU's Tiger Stadium, he could use recent history as a guide.

Even during this decade of dominance, the Crimson Tide hasn't so much thrived as survived at deafening Death Valley, where a crowd exceeding 102,000 is expected for the historical rivals' 83rd meeting on Saturday night.

T.J. Yeldon's last-minute touchdown on a screen lifted Alabama to a dramatic, comeback win in 2012. LSU appeared to have the 2014 game in Tiger Stadium locked up, but a personal foul pushed the Tigers back as they neared a game-sealing score. They wound up missing a field goal, and Alabama responded with a tying kick to set up its overtime triumph. In 2016, it took a 21-yard scramble by Jalen Hurts to break a scoreless tie in the fourth quarter.

Odds makers apparently expect the Tide to have it easier this time, listing Alabama (8-0, 5-0 SEC, No. 4 CFP) as a two-touchdown favorite at No. 4 LSU (7-1, 4-1 SEC, No. 3 CFP).

Tagovailoa has been that good, passing for 2,066 yards and 25 touchdowns without an interception despite taking fewer than 60 percent of Alabama's offensive snaps.

"He's quick with the ball. He's quick with the release. He's smart," LSU coach Ed Orgeron said. "He can throw the ball deep. He can run the football. This is a very dangerous football player. I believe he's the best player in the country."

LSU quarterback Joe Burrow, a graduate transfer from Ohio State, hasn't been nearly as prolific, but he has largely produced as needed while drawing praise for his poise, toughness, decision-making and leadership. Although Burrow's passing stats — 1,544 yards and six TDs — rank near the bottom of the SEC, he has demonstrated he can fire or finesse throws into tight windows, throw deep and run.

"Joe has played very, very well," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "People try to stop the run, and they make a lot of explosive plays on people — probably have as good a balance as anybody we've played this year."

Alabama has won every game by 22 or more points. Sometimes much more — with Tagovailoa resting on the sidelines during anticlimactic fourth quarters.

If there is any knock on Alabama, it's that the Tide hasn't been tested. No. 22 Texas A&M is the only currently ranked team Alabama has beaten. Three weeks ago, Georgia entered Death Valley unbeaten and ranked second — and lost by 20.

"You come into Tiger Stadium, it's loud, you're going to be under some stress," said Orgeron, who'd be a hero in his native state if he presides over the end of Alabama's seven-game winning streak in the series. "Play our defense, you're going to be under some stress."

Saban said his players "realize the challenge that they have against a very good LSU team, who had some very impressive wins this year.

"It will be interesting to see how they respond playing a very good team on the road."

Some other things to now about the Top 25 Alabama-LSU showdown:

WHITE'S PLIGHT

Saban said LSU's Devin White is "as good a linebacker as there is anywhere."

But during the first half, LSU must endure the absence of their Butkus Award candidate, who was flagged

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for targeting in the fourth quarter of the Tigers' last game when he leveled Mississippi State quarterback Nick Fitzgerald. Some analysts questioned the call and LSU protested the partial-game suspension, but to no avail. White ranks third in the SEC in tackles with 76, including seven tackles for loss, a sack and a forced fumble. He also has six quarterback hurries and two fumble recoveries.

"That is a big loss for them," Tagovailoa said.

HURTS & SMITH

The status of Alabama backup quarterback Jalen Hurts, who's played in every game, is uncertain for the game with a high ankle sprain sustained against Tennessee. Receiver DeVonta Smith missed the Tennessee game with a hamstring injury but has been practicing this week.

SENSATIONAL SECONDARY

LSU leads the nation with 14 interceptions. The Tigers' secondary — starring Thorpe Award candidates Grant Delpit at safety and Andraez "Greedy" Williams at cornerback — sounds eager to see how it stacks up against Tagovailoa and Co.

"I think we match up to them," said Delpit, who has five interceptions and four sacks. "We're playing very well this year and we can affect the quarterback."

HEADING HOME

Alabama has six starters and a handful of backups from Louisiana, and linebacker Mack Wilson thinks he knows which one is most fired up. Fellow linebacker Dylan Moses, a Baton Rouge native.

"He's ready to smash somebody," Wilson said.

The six include defensive end Isaiah Buggs, defensive back Shyheim Carter, tight end Irv Smith Jr., DeVonta Smith and placekicker Joseph Bulovas. Also, cornerback Saivion Smith played one season at LSU before transferring to a junior college.

AP Sports Writer John Zenor in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, contributed to this report.

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

Official hopes staffing boost deters Arizona voting problems

By **ASTRID GALVAN, Associated Press**

PHOENIX (AP) — It's the week before the general election and poll workers for the Arizona county with 2.2 million of the state's 3.7 million registered voters gathered to train for their mission: Making sure Maricopa County's August primary nightmare doesn't happen again.

That's when dozens of polling stations for the sprawling area that includes Phoenix and its suburbs opened late and people who showed up early to vote couldn't cast ballots.

A group of about 15 mostly older workers at first appeared dazed and confounded as they received their initial instructions from a county elections trainer on how to work the voter check-in machines, printers and ballot tabulators used at all polling stations. But most quickly got the hang of it.

"I'm ready," declared Ruthie Jones, who never set up the machines during her previous stint as a temporary elections worker.

That's what the Democratic county elections chief, Adrian Fontes, hopes will be the case for the beefed-up roster of 4,000 people he's assigned to midterm election polling precincts — to fulfill his pledge that there won't be a repeat of the primary voting problems.

He received most of the criticism following the primary debacle, when 62 of the county's approximately 500 polling stations opened late. It happened two years after Fontes' predecessor, a Republican, was ousted over her decision to drastically reduce presidential primary polling locations, resulting in extremely long lines.

Fontes took heat from the county's Board of Supervisors for not warning voters ahead of time that some locations might not open on time, and they chided his contingency plan of using 40 vote centers as backup locations for voters whose normal precincts were not operational.

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The polling station troubles served as a reminder that at a time when Russian hacking is a major concern in elections, human or technological errors often lead to voting problems.

In Los Angeles County, about 120,000 voters were left off the printed voting rolls in June because of a software error. That same month in South Dakota, officials could not get their equipment to connect to the internet, and voters had to cast provisional ballots.

Fontes, a former Marine and criminal lawyer, says the criticism of the polling station late openings doesn't concern him because voter turnout in Maricopa County hit a record high of 31 percent in the primaries and is expected to reach at least 55 percent Tuesday.

"I'm not so worried about the politics of it, because once you look at what actually happened, and you look at the numbers, we're doing a darned good job over here," he said.

Some polling stations will be set up Sunday, although most will be on Monday.

"We've got multiple layers of redundancy that we're deploying this time around," Fontes said.

An internal audit of the primary election faulted Fontes for not having an efficient system for setting up voting machines and a good enough backup plan for what to do if polling stations did not open. It also said workers did not properly track the lengths of the lines of voters.

An independent analysis released Friday said there isn't a high risk that check-in machines will fail. The analysis focused on the county recorder's office progress on the recommendations made by the internal auditor.

Fontes blames himself for hiring a contractor to set up the machines in August that checked in voters at the polls. He has said the contractor did not send enough workers in time for the poll openings, delaying them. The contractor has said it sent more technicians than were required.

Fontes said he is not taking any chances by having about 4,000 county workers setting up machines and working at the precincts. The county had roughly 2,400 poll workers in August, although primaries typically have lower turnout than general elections.

"We may have a little bit of overkill in our staffing. I'd rather have a couple of people standing around for an hour or two than have a contractor not show up at all," Fontes said.

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Heat, exhaustion, illness: 1 day with the migrant caravan

By JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

PIJIJIAPAN, Mexico (AP) — On the 15th day of their journey, Joel Eduardo Espinar and his family were hurting. And they still had a country to traverse before they got to the United States.

A little more than two weeks before, they had fled Honduras and joined the migrant caravan of Central Americans snaking toward the border. Now, they assembled in the 3 a.m. darkness by a southern Mexico highway.

Jason, 11 years old, complained of stomach pains as he lay on the highway's shoulder. His 12-year-old sister Tiffany Diana sat beside him, her head between her knees. The baby, Eduardo, was in his stroller, burning with fever, his eyes watery and his nose running. Espinar's wife, Yamilet Hernandez, could not shake a nagging cough and sore throat.

The Honduran farmer and his wife watched dozens of fellow travelers scramble to board trucks that stopped to help their caravan. Hundreds of others had already left on foot, starting out at 2 a.m. to get an early start on what would be the most ambitious single-day trek since they crossed into Mexico, setting their sights for reaching Arriaga, about 62 miles (100 kilometers) up the coast.

So Espinar had to decide what to do quickly, or he and his family would find themselves alone, trying to navigate their way to America.

To get a ride, the five would have to race to the trucks and muscle aboard with their two strollers — one for 2-year-old Eduardo, the other carrying three blankets and three small backpacks containing all their belongings.

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The alternative seemed less difficult. Their feet were still holding up despite two weeks of walking in plastic sandals. Miraculously not one had a blister after traveling mostly on foot more than 95 miles — 150 kilometers — since crossing the Mexican border.

What's 62 miles more, Espinar thought, pushing his stroller forward. Get up, he told his kids.

"The only way to get ahead is to make sacrifices," he said.

President Donald Trump has ordered thousands of troops to the border to meet the caravan and prevent the arrival of "Many Gang Members and some very bad people" he says it includes. They're more likely to encounter people like Espinar and his family — desperate, fearful, and stumbling in plastic shoes toward what they hope will be a new life. This is the story of that family, and one day in the caravan, and why they keep going.

They had already sacrificed so much. Yamilet's elder daughters, ages 16 and 18, had refused to join them. They were left with Espinar's parents.

Espinar broke down crying when he hugged his mother goodbye. Three years before, he had confronted his alcoholism with her help; now he was leaving her behind.

She assured him he was doing the right thing. His homeland could not provide a future.

The family lived in La Conce in Olancho, one of the most violent areas in one of Latin America's most violent countries — for more than two decades, a drug-trafficking hub with warring gangs. Four of Espinar's friends died from stabbings, and his wife was robbed twice at knifepoint on her way home from the stand where she sold rosquillas, a traditional Honduran snack made of cornmeal and cheese.

In every way, it grew harder and harder to survive there. Espinar, 27, grew up in La Conce, leaving the fifth grade to work with his father cultivating watermelons bound for the U.S. But in the past two years, prices had shot up and it was becoming impossible to raise his children on his 1,500 Honduran Lempira (\$62) weekly salary.

Tiffany Diana had to drop out of school for lack of tuition. Jason never went. His wife sold their television to buy food.

Yamilet, 37, inquired about getting a U.S. visa from a friend who got one and realized she would not qualify. They owned no land, had no bank account and no stable work.

Then the couple's neighbor and close friend was shot by a stray bullet while sleeping next to her 4-year-old son. Three days later, a Honduran TV news station reported that a caravan for migrants was heading to the U.S. The report said hundreds had joined and they would be arriving at Santa Rosa de Coapan.

Espinar felt fate was calling. His brother had paid a smuggler \$6,500 to get to the U.S. border eight months ago and he knew he would never have that much money. Nor could he risk taking them alone.

The brother, Byron, now in Florida, urged him to take the rare opportunity.

Within hours of hearing the news, Espinar bought five bus tickets to Santa Rosa de Coapan. Yamilet packed one change of clothes for each family member. Abruptly, Eduardo would have to start drinking from a cup; there was no room to carry bottles and formula.

The family arrived at Santa Rosa de Coapan at 3 a.m. They walked seven hours with the caravan to the Guatemalan border with Mexico, and slept on the international bridge.

They were caught in a downpour that drenched their clothes. A Guatemalan immigration official gave them an Ozark Trail tent to get out of the rain. It would become their home for the next two weeks when they would pitch it in the plazas of Mexican towns that welcomed a caravan that had grown to several thousand as they inched forward.

They tossed everything they had packed from home because the items were too wet to carry, but people along their route gave them new clothes, backpacks, strollers, plastic sandals and a green ball that Jason kicked as they walked. Espinar said it felt like they were being carried along by a wave of kindness and generosity.

But the walking was tough. Seven hours one day. Five hours the next. They slept only a few hours, rising well before dawn to beat the heat. One night they awoke to screams and people running amid rumors

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child snatchers had taken some migrant kids.

Some 2,300 children were traveling with the caravan at one point, according to UNICEF. After they arrived at the sizzling plaza of Pijijiapan to stay the night, a mother clutched her 2-month-old girl with one hand, searching through a pile of donated clothes for a onesie.

Nearby, another baby in diapers nursed as his mother reclined on a plastic tarp.

"I have never seen so many children migrating," said Dr. Jesus Miravete who has been treating migrants in Chiapas for more than a decade.

For families, the trip is painfully slow and difficult. Children fall ill, suffer injuries in the suffocating heat.

Day 15. After missing most of the caravan, they set out on foot again along the moonlight route shortly after 3 a.m.

"People are getting tired and deciding to go back," Yamilet told Espinar, with a worried look.

Espinar agreed it was a problem. "If so many go back, there'll be only a few in the caravan. Then what are we going to do if we come across Zetas?" — members of the notorious Mexican drug cartel. "They're supposed to be around here."

The couple had heard the stories of Central Americans being kidnapped and killed by gangs in Mexico. They felt protected by traveling in numbers.

Minutes later, another family pushing kids in strollers emerged and walked past them. Up ahead, they saw more people from the caravan, many sleeping along the highway shoulder. They passed a mother changing her infant's diapers; the scene was lit by the headlights of semi-trailers roaring past.

A half hour after they started, the back wheel of one stroller, started vibrating badly and seemed to be about to fall off. Espinar stopped and tied it together with a plastic bag.

"My feet hurt," Tiffany said, kicking off her Crocs-style sandals.

"Little by little," her dad told her. "We have to keep going."

They trudged on. Tiffany was now walking barefoot. Fifteen minutes later, Eduardo woke up crying and said his tummy hurt. Yamilet rubbed his belly and put him back in the stroller. Then Jason had had enough and climbed in.

"I don't like anything about this trip" Tiffany said flatly.

What does she miss about Honduras? "Everything," she said.

Then Eduardo sat up in his stroller and took charge, his tiny voice steady through the tears.

"Come on," he said. "Let's get going."

By 7 a.m., after four hours of walking, they reached a Mexican immigration checkpoint and stopped to rest. The temperature was already reaching 80 degrees. Hundreds of the migrants were lined up for bags of water and sandwiches being handed out by locals wanting to help.

Others were jumping on trucks that offered rides. Yamilet decided there was no way to make it by foot. She found a cargo truck where the migrants helped load the strollers — one with Eduardo still in it — and the two other children.

They huddled in the back with more than hundred people. The driver left the back door open, so they wouldn't suffocate.

After two hours, they were dropped off in the outskirts of Arriaga. And an hour later, they walked into the main plaza. They used their two strollers to stake out a tiny spot on the artificial turf of a playground to pitch their tent and collapsed in the 104-degree heat. They slept for three hours.

Espinar insists that America will be worth the hardships.

He had heard the Trump administration was tightening the restrictions on the types of cases that can qualify someone for asylum, making it harder for Central Americans who say they're fleeing the threat of gangs or drug smugglers to pass even the first hurdle for securing U.S. protection. He has heard, too, that Trump was sending troops to the U.S. border to confront the caravan.

His plan is to request asylum rather than cross the border illegally. "I'm kind of fearful of what will hap-

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pen once we get to the U.S. border," he said. Regardless, he says, they will not go back to Honduras.

His brother, who now lives in Miami with an ankle monitor while his own asylum case proceeds, said he would pray for him. Byron Espinar knows that Trump could try to block the way.

"But God is bigger, and we are with God," he said.

When they awakened in the late afternoon, Eduardo's fever seemed to be worsening. They went to see doctors who set up tables outside City Hall. Eduardo squirmed and cried as he was examined.

A marimba band played on a balcony overhead. Nearby, a row of nurses bandaged blistered and battered feet of dozens of migrants propped up on wooden crates. A toddler in diapers crawled under the tables. Another was on his back, blowing bubbles.

Espinar carefully read his son's medication before administering it to him back at the tent, where three men, one with a bandaged foot, were sleeping outside its door.

Around sunset, the couple bathed their children with buckets of water next to a water truck the local government had parked at the plaza, while the caravan's coordinators called a meeting to ask if the migrants wanted to keep going. Mexico was offering the chance to stay and apply for refugee status, but they would have to remain in the southern states of Chiapas and Oaxaca.

With a show of hands, the crowd voted to continue, shouting "We can do it!"

As he put Jason to sleep in the tent for another steamy night, Espinar said he felt revived.

"Today actually was easy," he said.

He figured they only had a month and a half left to go.

IS attack on Christian pilgrims in Egypt kills 7, wounds 19

By SAMY MAGDY and HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press

MINYA, Egypt (AP) — Islamic militants on Friday ambushed three buses carrying Christian pilgrims on their way to a remote desert monastery south of the Egyptian capital of Cairo, killing seven and wounding 19, according to the Coptic Orthodox Church and the Interior Ministry.

All but one of those killed were members of the same family, according to a list of the victims' names released by the church, which said among the dead were a boy and a girl, age 15 and 12 respectively.

The local Islamic State affiliate which spearheads militants fighting security forces in the Sinai Peninsula claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement, according to SITE, a U.S.-based group that monitors and translates militants' statements. It said the attack was revenge for the imprisonment by Egyptian authorities of "our chaste sisters." It did not elaborate.

It said the attack left 13 Christians killed and another 18 wounded, but it was not immediately possible to independently verify the claim or reconcile the discrepancy in the number of dead and wounded given by the group and the church.

The Islamic State has repeatedly vowed to go after Egypt's Christians as punishment for their support of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. As defense minister, el-Sissi led the military's 2013 ouster of an Islamist president, whose one-year rule proved divisive. It has claimed responsibility for a string of deadly attacks on Christians dating back to December 2016.

El-Sissi, who has made the economy and security his top priorities since taking office in 2014, wrote on his Twitter account that Friday's attack was designed to harm the "nation's solid fabric" and pledged to continue fighting terrorism. He later offered his condolences when he spoke by telephone with Pope Tawadros II, spiritual leader of Egypt's Orthodox Christians and a close el-Sissi ally.

In a somber message of his own, Tawadros said in a video clip released by the church that the latest attack would only make the Christians stronger. "We also pray for the assailants. They are misled because all the grief, pain and frustration they cause will achieve absolutely nothing."

The attack is likely to cast a dark shadow on one of el-Sissi's showpieces — the World Youth Forum — which opens Saturday in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh and hopes to draw thousands of local and foreign youth to discuss upcoming projects, with Egypt's 63-year-old leader taking center stage.

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"They want to embarrass el-Sissi and show that the state is unable to protect the Copts," said Fr. Be-gemy Naseem Nasr, the priest of the church of Saint Mary in Minya. "Egypt is the target here and we all know that."

Friday's attack is the second to target pilgrims heading to the St. Samuel the Confessor monastery in as many years, indicating that security measures in place since then are either inadequate or have become lax. The previous attack in May 2017 left nearly 30 people dead. It is also the latest by IS to target Christians in churches in Cairo, the Mediterranean city of Alexandria and Tanta in the Nile Delta north of the capital.

Those attacks left at least 100 people dead and led to tighter security around Christian places of worship and Church-linked facilities. They have also underlined the vulnerability of minority Christians in a country where many Muslims have since the 1970s grown religiously conservative.

The Interior Ministry, which oversees the police, said Friday's attackers used secondary dirt roads to reach the buses carrying the pilgrims, who were near the monastery at the time of the attack. Only pilgrims have been allowed on the main road leading to the monastery since last year's attack.

The Interior Ministry maintained that only one bus was attacked, but the latest statement by the church said three buses were targeted and put the death toll at 7 and the wounded at 19, including two in critical condition.

The Interior Ministry said police were pursuing the attackers, who fled the scene.

Egypt's Christians, who account for some 10 percent of the country's 100 million people, complain of discrimination in the Muslim majority country. Christian activists say the church's alliance with el-Sissi has offered the ancient community a measure of protection but failed to end frequent acts of discrimination that boil over into violence against Christians, especially in rural Egypt.

In Minya, the scene of Friday's attack, Christians constitute the highest percentage of the population — about 35 percent — of any Egyptian province. It's also in Minya where most acts of violence, like attacks on churches and Christian homes and businesses, take place.

Christians there often claim that the local police is soft on Muslims accused of attacking Christians and, in their pursuit of keeping the peace between the two communities, insist on resolving differences through tribal-like reconciliation meetings rather than rule of law.

Friday's attack comes at a time when the church is still reeling from the July killing inside another desert monastery of its abbot. Two monks, one of whom has been defrocked, are on trial for the killing of the abbot, Bishop Epiphanius.

___ Hendawi reported from Cairo.

A look at the troops being sent to US-Mexico border

By ROBERT BURNS and LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump ordered troops to the border in response to a caravan of migrants slowly making its way through Mexico toward the United States and still about 900 miles away, with many dropping out. Here's what we know so far about the military's mission:

WHAT TROOPS ARE INVOLVED?

More than 7,000 active duty troops have been told to deploy to Texas, Arizona and California. They are a mix of forces, including military police, an assault helicopter battalion, various communications, medical and headquarters units, combat engineers, planners and public affairs units.

As of Friday, one week after the Pentagon acknowledged that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had approved a Department of Homeland Security request for military support at the border, the troop deployment was still unfolding, with about 3,500 at staging bases in the Southwest. Of those, about 2,250 active duty troops are at staging bases in Texas, about 1,100 Marines are at Camp Pendleton in California and fewer than 200 are in Arizona. About 100 troops are actually on the border, at the port crossing near McAllen, Texas.

Most of the troops are being used to facilitate the movement of border patrol agents, house them, feed them and provide some of their protection.

WHAT IS THEIR ROLE ON THE BORDER?

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The Pentagon is adamant that active duty troops will not do law enforcement, which they are forbidden from doing under the Posse Comitatus Act in the Constitution. Troops can't arrest people at the border. Their main job will be to support the Border Patrol.

This means the military will transport border patrol agents to and along the border, help them erect additional vehicle barriers and fencing along the border, assist them with communications and provide some security for border agent camps. The military also will provide the border patrol agents with medical care, pre-packaged meals, and temporary housing.

WILL TROOPS BE ARMED?

Yes, many of them will be, mainly for self-protection.

Military police at the border will be armed, although they will have non-lethal options for dealing with unexpected conflict. Pentagon officials say they are planning for a worst-case scenario of violence that could force soldiers to rely on their training to make split-second decisions to defend themselves or civilians. MPs might, for example, be dispatched to provide armed security for military engineers placing barricades at locations where there are no border patrol agents to provide protection.

One day after Trump suggested soldiers on the southwest border may open fire if migrants throw rocks at them, he insisted Friday that he meant that rock-throwers would be arrested. "I didn't say 'shoot,'" he told reporters at the White House. Either way, his scenario of violence captures in a nutshell the risk of using active duty troops for domestic security: Their mission does not include confronting migrants, but some may be unable to avoid it.

The commander in charge of the military operation, Air Force Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, head of U.S. Northern Command, said earlier this week that handling migrants will be primarily the job of the Customs and Border Protection agency. But he acknowledged "there could be incidental interaction" between migrants and soldiers. In light of that possibility, the soldiers "are going to be fully trained in how to do that," he said.

Lt. Col. Jamie Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said the military will not disclose details of its rules on the use of force.

DOES CONGRESS SUPPORT THIS MISSION?

With members of Congress focused mainly on Tuesday's midterm elections, reaction has been mild. A group of senior House Democrats wrote a letter to Mattis on Thursday expressing opposition to the military mission and demanding answers on its cost. The deployment of active duty troops, they wrote, "only exacerbates the potential to unnecessarily escalate the situation."

Chuck Hagel, a former Republican senator and Army combat veteran who served as defense secretary under President Barack Obama, told CNN the mission is "folly" because there is "no need, no threat."

Retired Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, who preceded Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, took double-barreled aim at the border mission. Writing on Twitter Thursday, he called the military mission a "wasteful deployment of over-stretched Soldiers and Marines" that would be "made much worse" if they used force disproportional to the threat they face on the border.

Congregations attacked at synagogue to hold joint service

By MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The three congregations attacked at a Pittsburgh synagogue will gather for a joint service Saturday, while a prayer vigil is planned outside their desecrated worship space to mark the time the massacre began one week earlier.

Meanwhile, Friday brought the end of a wrenching series of funerals as the oldest victim, 97-year-old Rose Mallinger, was laid to rest.

"We will reopen, but it will not be for quite a while," Rabbi Jeffrey Myers said Friday morning, as he prepared for the last funeral service. Myers himself survived the attack that began just as Shabbat services got underway. In the end, 11 people were gunned down in the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history.

Mallinger's daughter attended her mother's funeral at Rodef Shalom synagogue, accompanied by a nurse,

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Rabbi Aaron Bisno said. The 61-year-old daughter had been hospitalized since the massacre Saturday at the Tree of Life synagogue. Bisno didn't know if she returned to the hospital after the funeral.

The suspect, Robert Bowers, pleaded not guilty Thursday to federal hate crime charges that accuse him of killing 11 people and injuring six others as they tried to practice their religion. He could face the death penalty.

The hearing, held to advise him of the 44-count indictment returned Wednesday, marked his second brief court appearance since he allegedly opened fire at the synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

"Yes!" Bowers said in a loud voice when asked if he understood the charges.

Authorities say Bowers raged against Jews during and after the massacre. He remains jailed without bail.

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center said Friday that the two most seriously injured victims have been moved out of the intensive care unit. Hospital officials said a 70-year-old man was upgraded from critical to stable condition, while a 40-year-old police officer remains in stable condition.

The officer was previously identified as Timothy Matson, who suffered multiple gunshot wounds. The wounded congregant is Daniel Leger, a nurse and hospital chaplain.

The city's Jewish community had begun burying its dead Tuesday as thousands of mourners attended services for a beloved family doctor and two brothers. The funerals have continued each day since, and included services for Bernice and Sylvan Simon, who were married in 1956 at Tree of Life, and killed there Saturday.

Mallinger, whose funeral was Friday, had also attended Tree of Life for more than 60 years.

It was the "center of her very active life," her family said in a statement distributed by University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. "Her involvement with the synagogue went beyond the Jewish religion. ... It was her place to be social, to be active and to meet family and friends."

Though advanced in years, Mallinger always stood during services. She faithfully attended, accompanied by her whole family on major holidays.

"She retained her sharp wit, humor and intelligence until the very last day," the family statement said. "She did everything she wanted to do in her life."

Also Friday, Allegheny County authorities released the redacted 1979 court file of a man believed to be Bowers' father. The court files and press clips showed the man, 27-year-old Randall Bowers, had killed himself while out on bail in a rape case.

He had been charged with abducting a 20-year-old woman as she left a pizza shop, forcing her to drive him to a location where he then sexually assaulted her. He was released on \$5,000 bail signed by his mother, a hospital supervisor in California. The files were released Friday with the victim's name redacted after a court hearing sought by several media groups.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports that divorce records suggest Randall Bowers was the synagogue suspect's father.

Florida again the epicenter of nation's polarizing politics

BY GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida is emerging as an epicenter of the nation's polarizing politics in the final days of the 2018 campaign.

In the closely contested campaign for governor, President Donald Trump and GOP nominee Ron DeSantis have used what has been called racially coded language to slam Democrat Andrew Gillum. The battles for the governor's mansion and a key U.S. Senate seat are playing out in communities still recovering from a killer hurricane and one of the nation's deadliest school shootings.

Virtually every hot-button cultural issue tearing at the nation — including guns, race and the environment — is unfolding in a deeply personal way here.

That's a sharp change in a state where elections notoriously come down to the wire. Politicians in both parties traditionally focus on winning over moderate voters, especially those living along Interstate 4 in the shadow of Disney World, to eke out a win. Not so in the Trump era as each side scrambles to mobilize

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its strongest supporters.

"This election is truly a choice between results and resistance," Trump told a crowd during a rally in southwest Florida. "This is really an election between greatness and gridlock."

Trump's visit is just one of two stops planned this week to bolster DeSantis and Gov. Rick Scott's U.S. Senate campaign.

The Democrats are out in force in the Sunshine State, as well. Former President Barack Obama visited Democratic-vote-rich South Florida on Friday, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders visited college campuses mid-week, urging students to vote for Democratic nominee Gillum, the Tallahassee mayor who could become the state's first black governor.

Speaking to a crowd of about 3,000 in Miami, Obama warned voters not to get bamboozled by misinformation while Republicans allow polluters to poison the environment, give tax cuts to billionaires and take healthcare away from millions.

"We need leaders who will actually stand up for what's right regardless of party," Obama said. "Leaders who represent the best of the American spirit. Patriots who will stand up for anyone whose fundamental rights are at stake."

During his stop at the University of Central Florida, Sanders railed at Trump and contended he was coming to the state because he is worried that DeSantis will lose the governor's race. DeSantis, a former congressman, won the GOP primary over a much-better-funded opponent largely based on Trump's backing.

"I say to Donald Trump: This country has struggled with discrimination of all kinds for too many years," Sanders said. "We say to Trump today, 'We are not going backwards into more discrimination. We are going forward to celebrate our diversity.'"

The ramped-up campaign rhetoric in the closing days shows signs of bringing a surge of voters with it.

This election is on pace to significantly surpass the turnout of Florida's past five midterm elections, stretching back two decades. By Friday, nearly 4.1 million people had either voted by mail or at an early voting location.

Election Day will wrap up a bitter campaign season that witnessed the battle between DeSantis and Gillum veer into racial politics and heated exchanges over a long-simmering FBI investigation involving Gillum's home city.

Right after the primary, DeSantis said Florida voters shouldn't "monkey this up" by electing Gillum, a comment Democrats contend was racially charged. Trump also called Gillum a "thief" and corrupt, a move the mayor says is meant to reinforce negative stereotypes of black men.

The Gillum campaign, meanwhile, cut ties with a Democratic Party vendor and a campaign volunteer caught on video calling Florida a "cracker" state and saying the campaign was taking advantage of "white guilt."

The Senate race between Scott and incumbent Democrat Bill Nelson has taken a back seat to the governor's race, but it too has centered largely on name-calling and insults lobbed in tens of millions of dollars' worth of negative television ads. Scott has painted Nelson as an ineffective career politician, while Nelson has labeled Scott untrustworthy because of questions about how the multimillionaire governor has handled his finances while in office.

For months, Scott had kept his distance from Trump and even disagreed with the president on items such as the death toll in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. But he joined Trump in southwest Florida and plans to be with him again Friday in Pensacola. For some voters, that may prove to be all the difference.

"I'm not a huge Rick Scott supporter," said Allison Chiddo, a West Palm Beach resident who attended Trump's Estero rally. "He's part of the swamp. ... I'm not going to sit here and BS you. I don't trust either one. I'm going to vote the way Trump sees it."

During Trump's mid-week rally, DeSantis took the stage, where he bashed Gillum as a "failed mayor" who was "hanging out with Bernie Sanders." DeSantis also railed at Gillum for saying that Trump should be impeached.

Gillum, during a stop this week at a bayside restaurant in Destin, barely mentioned Trump or DeSantis but still got in a jab.

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"I don't care who's on the other side of us, I am always going to be team Florida, so whether it's Donald Trump or Ron DeSantis, if you come after Florida, if you come after Floridians, you're gonna have to go through me," he said.

___ Associated Press writers Tamara Lush in Estero, Mike Schneider in Orlando and Brendan Farrington in Destin contributed to this story.

US economy looks strong heading into congressional elections

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For a U.S. economic expansion now in its 10th year, hiring remains robust, growth has picked up and the outlook is a mostly bright one on the eve of congressional elections.

On Friday, the government reported that employers added a strong 250,000 jobs in October and that the unemployment rate remained 3.7 percent, the lowest level in nearly 50 years. Pay also rose at a healthy pace. Consumers are confident, spending freely, fueling brisk economic growth and encouraging employers to keep hiring.

"Unemployment at 3.7%. Wages UP!" President Donald Trump tweeted Friday morning. "These are incredible numbers. Keep it going, Vote Republican!"

Yet one surprising element of the midterm campaign season has been how little the sunny economic picture appears to be benefiting Trump and Republican congressional candidates. Polls show that while voters broadly approve of the economy, they give low ratings to Trump himself. Many appear motivated by non-economic factors. And nationally, voters prefer Democrats to Republicans in elections for the House, according to surveys of voters' generic preferences.

Here are five gauges of the U.S. economy as Election Day nears:

WAGES REV UP

Many employers have long complained that they can't find enough workers to fill jobs. But in recent months it appears they have finally taken the step economists have long recommended: Pay more. Average hourly earnings rose 3.1 percent in October from a year earlier, the sharpest year-over-year gain since 2009.

Inflation has also increased in the past year, eroding some of the value of that increase. And a storm-related drop in average wages a year ago, resulting from Hurricane Harvey, helped inflate October's gain. Still, the pay growth suggests that the benefits of a healthy economy are rippling out to more people.

MORE JOBS AT HIGHER PAY MEANS MORE PEOPLE WORKING

With the unemployment rate so low, many economists have expected hiring to decline as businesses face a dwindling supply of unemployed people. Yet that hasn't happened. Average monthly hiring this year is above the pace of 2017.

The vigor of the job market is helping lead some Americans who were neither working nor looking for work to begin seeking a job. (People who don't have a job aren't counted as unemployed unless they're actively looking for work.) In October, the proportion of Americans with jobs reached its highest level in 10 years.

Many of employers' most recent hires had struggled through much of the nation's 10-year recovery from the Great Recession. The proportion of people without a high school diploma who are now working is the highest on records dating to 1992. And the proportion of teenagers with jobs is at the highest level in a decade.

CONSUMERS SPENDING FREELY

More jobs at higher pay have helped underpin a burst of consumer spending. The Trump administration's tax cuts have likely also contributed. Americans increased their spending by 4 percent in the July-September quarter, the biggest acceleration in nearly four years. That spending helped the economy grow at a 3.5 percent annual rate last quarter.

Yet Americans are still saving a decent chunk of their income, with little sign that most people are amass-

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ing a risky level of debt. Savings equaled roughly 6.4 percent of income in the third quarter, up from a low of 2.5 percent in 2005.

HOUSING IS A WEAK SPOT

Rising borrowing costs are weighing on home sales, providing a preview of what might happen in the economy more broadly as interest rates rise and make loans more expensive.

The Federal Reserve has been raising short-term rates to try to prevent the economy and inflation from expanding too fast. The Fed's credit tightening has led to higher rates for the average 30-year fixed mortgage — 4.8 percent, up from 3.9 percent a year ago.

As mortgage rates have risen, coinciding with higher home prices, sales of existing homes have fallen for six straight months. The Fed is expected to raise rates for a fourth time this year in December, and economists expect at least two further hikes next year.

OTHER SHADOWS LOOM

Businesses are nearly as optimistic as consumers. But they aren't spending as rapidly. Corporate investment in machinery, computers and other equipment barely rose in the July-September quarter, after two quarters of solid gains.

Spending on factories and other buildings fell. Some of the third quarter's weakness reflected lower spending on oil and gas drilling equipment as oil prices fell.

But it also suggests that the Trump administration's tax cuts for businesses haven't spurred as much investment spending as the administration had predicted. More investment in machinery and computers would help make the workforce more efficient and spur faster growth.

Surveys of manufacturers suggest that Trump's trade war with China may have caused some of them to delay purchases of new equipment. Higher tariffs on Chinese imports have raised costs for many manufacturers.

For all the positive news, these trends have caused many economists to forecast slower growth in the final months of this year and into 2019. The economy appears on track to expand 3 percent this year, the fastest since 2005. But Fed policymakers expect growth to slide to 2.5 percent rate next year and to 2 percent in 2020.

Turkey: Highest level of Saudi govt ordered writer's slaying

By SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The order to kill Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi came from the highest level of the Saudi government, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday, adding that the international community had the responsibility to "reveal the puppet masters" behind the slaying.

In an op-ed in The Washington Post, Erdogan said he did not believe that Saudi King Salman had ordered the killing of Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate on Oct. 2. He said Turkey's close ties to Saudi Arabia did not mean that Turkey could turn a blind eye to the killing of the journalist.

"We know that the order to kill Khashoggi came from the highest levels of the Saudi government," Erdogan said.

Erdogan wrote: "As responsible members of the international community, we must reveal the identities of the puppet masters behind Khashoggi's killing and discover those in whom Saudi officials — still trying to cover up the murder — have placed their trust."

Istanbul's chief prosecutor announced Wednesday that Khashoggi, who lived in exile in the United States, was strangled immediately after he entered the consulate as part of a premeditated killing and that his body was dismembered before being removed.

Turkey is seeking the extradition of 18 suspects who were detained in Saudi Arabia so they can be put on trial in Turkey. They include 15 members of an alleged Saudi "hit squad" that Turkey says was sent to Istanbul to kill The Washington Post columnist who had written critically of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince

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Mohammed bin Salman.

Some of those implicated in the killing are members of the crown prince's entourage.

In the opinion piece, Erdogan did not mention the prince. But few in Turkey and elsewhere believe that the crime could have been carried out without the knowledge of the kingdom's powerful heir apparent.

Meanwhile, a Turkish official said he believes Khashoggi's body was dissolved in acid or other chemicals after it was mutilated.

Yasin Aktay, a ruling party adviser to Erdogan, told The Associated Press on Friday that "there can be no other formula" to explain why Khashoggi's remains have not been found a month after he was killed.

Aktay, who was friend of Khashoggi's, said he believes that the body was cut into pieces so that it could be dissolved in chemicals. He said: "all the findings point to his body parts being melted." But the official did not offer any proof for his comments.

Khashoggi had entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to collect a document he needed to marry his Turkish fiancée.

In Bulgaria on Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Khashoggi's slaying a horrendous act that "should be duly dealt with" in a way that doesn't undermine Saudi Arabia's stability.

Netanyahu said at a news conference that Iran is a bigger threat than Saudi Arabia and those who want to punish the Middle East kingdom need to bear that in mind.

"A way must be found to achieve both goals, because I think that the larger problem is Iran," said the Israeli leader, who attended a meeting of the prime ministers of Bulgaria, Greece and Romania and the president of Serbia at a Black Sea resort.

Uber wants to resume self-driving car tests on public roads

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Nearly eight months after one of its autonomous test vehicles hit and killed an Arizona pedestrian, Uber wants to resume testing on public roads.

The company has filed an application on with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to test in Pittsburgh, and it has issued a lengthy safety report pledging to put two human backup drivers in each vehicle and take a raft of other precautions to make the vehicles safe.

Company officials acknowledge they have a long way to go to regain public trust after the March 18 crash in Tempe, Arizona, that killed Elaine Herzberg, 49, as she crossed a darkened road outside the lines of a crosswalk.

Police said Uber's backup driver in the autonomous Volvo SUV was streaming the television show "The Voice" on her phone and looking downward before the crash. The National Transportation Safety Board said the autonomous driving system on the Volvo spotted Herzberg about six seconds before hitting her, but did not stop because the system used to automatically apply brakes in potentially dangerous situations had been disabled. A Volvo emergency braking system also had been turned off.

"Our goal is to really work to regain that trust and to work to help move the entire industry forward," Noah Zych, Uber's head of system safety for self-driving cars, said in an interview. "We think the right thing to do is to be open and transparent about the things that we are doing."

Among the other precautions, San Francisco-based Uber will keep the autonomous vehicle system engaged at all times and activating the Volvo's automatic emergency braking system as a backup.

In addition, Uber is requiring more technical training and expertise of employees sitting behind the wheel of the vehicles, according to a 70-page safety report the company released Friday.

The report comes after the ride-hailing company shut down autonomous vehicle testing to do an internal review of its safety procedures, as well as an outside review by risk management firm LeClairRyan.

Although the report covered all the main bases, Uber should have gone even further given its self-driving car killed Herzberg, said Bryant Walker Smith, an assistant law professor at the University of South Carolina who has been studying the issues affecting autonomous vehicles. In its most glaring omission, Uber didn't accept responsibility for Herzberg's death — the first involving a fully autonomous vehicle, he said.

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"Frankly, I'm looking for more from Uber than from other companies, and I suspect that governments may be as well," Walker Smith said.

Under Pennsylvania's voluntary autonomous guidelines, the Transportation Department has until Nov. 13 to approve or deny Uber's application, or to ask further questions.

Pennsylvania law at present doesn't allow testing of autonomous vehicles without human backup drivers. Google's Waymo already is carrying passengers in the Phoenix area without human drivers, and General Motors' Cruise Automation expects to do that next year.

Pittsburgh officials can't legally prevent testing, but they are in safety talks with Uber and four other entities that have permits to test autonomous vehicles, said Karina Ricks, the city's director of the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure.

For instance, the city wants to limit self-driving vehicle speeds to 25 miles per hour in urban settings, even if the posted speed is higher.

"Lower rates of speed give more time for the vehicle and the safety driver to react and prevent a crash," said Ricks, who characterized the talks as fruitful.

Pittsburgh is home to Uber's autonomous vehicle development center, making it a logical choice for the resumption of robotic car tests.

"We are engaging with the city, with the officials, and are very eager, I think, to ensure that we make a return to the road in self-driving mode in consultation and close partnership with them," said Miriam Chaum, head of public policy for Uber's self-driving vehicles.

Later it will discuss bringing its self-driving cars back to Arizona, California and Toronto, Ontario, its other test sites. Arizona suspended the company's permission to test after the crash.

Stocks end a strong week with losses as Apple shares skid

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks slipped Friday as Apple absorbed its worst loss in more than four years. Thanks to gains over the previous three days, the S&P 500 index finished with its biggest weekly increase since March.

Apple, the world's largest technology company, forecast weak revenue in the current quarter and startled investors by saying it will stop disclosing quarterly iPhone sales. That pulled technology stocks lower. Other high-growth stocks held up well after the U.S. and China said they had made some progress in trade talks, and Asian indexes surged on reports that China's government plans to cut taxes.

The Department of Labor said employers added 250,000 jobs in October, with no sign that hiring was going to slow down. The proportion of Americans with jobs is at its highest level since January 2009, and hourly wages also grew by the most since then. Along with high consumer confidence, those are all good signs for economic growth and consumer spending in the months to come.

Bond yields surged following the strong jobs report as investors bet on continued economic growth, which would push the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates more quickly.

"It clearly was a good report," said David Lefkowitz, senior equity strategist Americas at UBS Global Wealth Management.

Growth in wages, while stronger than anything that's been reported recently, was about what investors were expecting, Lefkowitz said. That's important because investors are still sensitive to signs that inflation could flare up, forcing the Federal Reserve to be more aggressive in raising rates. If inflation grows moderately, as it appeared to in October, that's not as likely.

The S&P 500 index slid 17.31 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,723.06. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 109.91 points, or 0.4 percent, to 25,270.83.

The Nasdaq composite, which has a high concentration of technology companies, lost 77.06 points, or 1 percent, to 7,356.99. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks rose 3 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,547.98.

Stocks had surged over the previous three days and finished the week 2.4 percent higher. They skidded in October, suffering their worst monthly loss in seven years. The S&P 500 will have to rise another 7.6

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percent to match the all-time high it reached on Sept. 20.

Bond prices dropped, sending yields sharply higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note jumped to 3.22 percent, from 3.14 percent. A jump in interest rates last month started the market's downturn, but investors on Friday didn't seem as worried. Interest rates will also be in focus when the Federal Reserve meets next week. It's not expected to raise rates in November.

Apple's sales in its latest quarter and its estimates for the holiday season disappointed investors. Other big smartphone makes don't disclose how many phones they sell each quarter or what the sale price is. The change raised suspicions that Apple might be trying to mask a downturn in the phone's popularity. The company says the quarterly numbers don't necessarily tell investors how strong its business has been.

Apple gets most of its revenue from iPhone sales and lately it's boosted its profits by selling higher-priced models.

Apple sagged 6.6 percent to \$207.48. Chipmakers also fell. Qorvo lost 5.7 percent to \$74 and Broadcom fell 4 percent to \$220.77.

The governments of the U.S. and China both said they were making some progress in trade talks. It's been months since the two sides made any visible progress and fears that the dispute was getting worse contributed to the big losses for global markets in October. Chinese state media also said President Xi Jinping promised tax cuts and other help to China's entrepreneurs.

"In September, before earnings season started ... the market was kind of complacent about tariff issues," said Lefkowitz. "It's something I think the market was ignoring and is now more attuned to."

Germany's DAX rose 0.4 percent and the CAC 40 in France added 0.3 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.3 percent.

The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong soared 4.2 percent and Japan's Nikkei 225 index surged 2.6 percent while South Korea's Kospi climbed 3.5 percent.

Starbucks' sales were better than expected, and customers spent more after it raised prices for brewed coffee. It said revenue from cold drinks improved as well, and revenue also improved in China. The stock jumped 9.7 percent to \$64.42, its biggest gain since 2011.

Kraft Heinz sank 9.7 percent to \$50.73 after its profit in the third quarter fell way short of analyst forecasts. The maker of Oscar Mayer meats, Jell-O pudding and Velveeta cheese said costs grew and it's continuing to make major investments in its business. Prices in the U.S. fell as stores ramped up discounts, especially for cheeses and drinks. That led to its worst loss in three years.

The dollar rose to 113.28 yen from 112.69 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.1398 from \$1.1409.

Oil prices continued to slip. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 0.9 percent to \$63.14 a barrel in New York and Brent crude shed 0.1 percent to \$72.83 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline lost 0.5 percent to \$1.71 a gallon and heating oil fell 1.3 percent to \$2.17 a gallon. Natural gas rose 1.5 percent to \$3.28 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold fell 0.4 percent to \$1,233.30 an ounce. Silver dipped 0.1 percent to \$14.75 an ounce. Copper climbed 3.1 percent to \$2.81 a pound.

_____ AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Nov. 3, the 307th day of 2018. There are 58 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 3, 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton was elected the 42nd president of the United States, defeating President George H.W. Bush. In Illinois, Democrat Carol Moseley-Braun became the first black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

On this date:

In 1839, the first Opium War between China and Britain broke out.

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In 1900, the first major U.S. automobile show opened at New York's Madison Square Garden under the auspices of the Automobile Club of America.

In 1903, Panama proclaimed its independence from Colombia.

In 1908, Republican William Howard Taft was elected president, outpolling William Jennings Bryan.

In 1911, the Chevrolet Motor Car Co. was founded in Detroit by Louis Chevrolet and William C. Durant. (The company was acquired by General Motors in 1918.)

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won a landslide election victory over Republican challenger Alfred "Alf" Landon.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 2, the second manmade satellite, into orbit; on board was a dog named Laika (LY'-kah), who was sacrificed in the experiment.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson soundly defeated Republican Barry Goldwater to win a White House term in his own right.

In 1970, Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) was inaugurated as president of Chile.

In 1979, five Communist Workers Party members were killed in a clash with heavily armed Ku Klux Klansmen and neo-Nazis during an anti-Klan protest in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair came to light as Ash-Shiraa, a pro-Syrian Lebanese magazine, first broke the story of U.S. arms sales to Iran.

In 1997, the Supreme Court let stand California's groundbreaking Proposition 209, which banned race and gender preference in hiring and school admissions.

Ten years ago: On the eve of Election Day 2008, Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain wrapped up their two-year campaign for the White House. Ali Hamza al-Bahlul, a video maker for Osama bin Laden, was sentenced at Guantanamo to life in prison for encouraging terrorist attacks. Authorities announced they had positively identified some of Steve Fossett's remains found a half-mile from where the adventurer's plane had crashed in California's Sierra Nevada.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama stepped into Virginia's gubernatorial race, throwing the political weight of the White House behind Democrat Terry McAuliffe, who ended up defeating Republican Ken Cuccinelli. Houston Texans coach Gary Kubiak collapsed from a mini-stroke while leaving the field at halftime of a game with the Indianapolis Colts, who rallied for a 27-24 victory. Miami Dolphins offensive lineman Richie Incognito, accused of bullying fellow player Jonathan Martin, was suspended for conduct detrimental to the team. (Incognito missed the final eight games of the season before becoming a free agent when his contract with Miami expired.)

One year ago: Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who walked away from his post in Afghanistan and triggered a search that left some of his comrades severely wounded, was spared a prison sentence by a military judge in North Carolina; President Donald Trump blasted the decision as a "complete and total disgrace." Netflix said it was cutting all ties with Kevin Spacey after a series of allegations of sexual harassment and assault, and that it would not be a part of any further production of "House of Cards" that includes him. A massive report from scientists inside and outside the government concluded that the evidence of global warming is stronger than ever. Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky suffered five broken ribs in an attack by a longtime next-door neighbor as Paul did yard work at his home. (Rene Boucher pleaded guilty to assaulting a member of Congress and was sentenced to 30 days in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lois Smith is 88. Actress Monica Vitti is 87. Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 85. Actor-dancer Ken Berry is 85. Actor Shadoe Stevens is 72. Singer Lulu is 70. Comedian-actress Roseanne Barr is 66. Actress Kate Capshaw is 65. Comedian Dennis Miller is 65. Actress Kathy Kinney is 65. Singer Adam Ant is 64. Director-screenwriter Gary Ross is 62. Actor Dolph Lundgren is 61. Rock musician C.J. Pierce (Drowning Pool) is 46. Actor Francois Battiste (TV: "Ten Days in the Valley") is 42. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evgeni Plushenko is 36. Actress Julie Berman is 35. Actress Antonia Thomas (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 32. Alternative rock singer/songwriter Courtney Barnett is 31. TV personality Kendall Jenner (TV: "Keeping Up with the Kardashians") is 23.

Thought for Today: "Among these things but one thing seems certain — that nothing certain exists, and that nothing is more pitiable or more presumptuous than man." — Pliny the Elder, Roman scholar.