

Groton Daily Independent

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



Groton Area Schedule of Events

Sunday, November 4, 2018

7:00pm: Snow Queen, GHS Gymnasium

Monday, November 5, 2018

Debate at Watertown High School

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Volleyball: Girls Varsity Round of 16

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

NCRC Testing Seniors at Groton Area High School

6:00pm: FCCLA Food Drive at GHS Gymnasium

Thursday, November 8, 2018

5:30pm: Financial Aid Information Night at Groton Area High School

✓ **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

Wolves drop season opener in overtime to No. 5 Northwest Missouri State

St. Joseph, Mo. – The Northern State University men's basketball team opened the 2018-19 season with an overtime thriller at the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame Classic. The Wolves ultimately fell to No. 5 Northwest Missouri State 72-70, in a game where neither team led by more than eight points.

Northern led 34-28 at the half, however was out-scored by Northwest Missouri in the second. The Wolves led by three with 1:29 left to play in regulation, however the Bearcats tied things up with 24 seconds remaining and the Wolves were unable to regain the lead, sending the game to overtime. It was a closely contested final five minutes with the Bearcats just edging out the Wolves.

The Wolves shot 45.0 percent from the floor, 40.9 percent from the 3-point line, and 50.0 percent from the foul line in the game. Defensively, they held the Bearcats who shot just 33.8 percent from the field and 28.6 percent from the arc. NSU recorded 30 points in the paint, 22 points off the bench, 12 second chance points, ten points off turnovers, and four fast break points.

They held the largest lead of the game, eight points, with 6:12 left in the first. Northern was out-rebounding by just five boards in the game, recording 41 total, including nine offensive grabs. They combined for a game high 13 assists and five blocks, while adding four steals.

Ian Smith led three Wolves in double figures with 15 points. He also tallied a team high six assists and two steals, and added seven defensive boards. Parker Fox was second on the team with 14 points, and recorded the first double-double of his career with a team high 12 rebounds. Fox shot 46.2 percent from the field and led the team with two blocks, leading the team off the bench.

Bo Fries was the final starter in double figures, notching 11 points, as well as five rebounds, four assists, and two blocks. The senior hit 3-of-5 from the floor and 4-of-5 from the foul line. Andrew Kallman, Justin Decker, and Gabe King rounded out the starting five with nine, eight, and five points respectively. Kallman shot 75.0 percent from the 3-point line with a team high three made field goals from beyond the arc. King was second on the team at the rim, recording eight rebounds, while adding two assists. Roko Dominovic scored the final eight points from the Wolves, hitting 3-of-5 from the field and 2-of-3 from the arc.

Northern returns to the court for the night cap on Sunday evening in St. Joseph. Tip-off is set for 8 p.m. between the Wolves and Queens (NC).

Wrestling notches six wins with small squad at Jimmie Open

Jamestown, N.D. – Four Wolves competed for Northern State University wrestling on Saturday at the Jimmie Open, hosted by the University of Jamestown. All four Wolves came away with a match victory, while Hudson Pearman and Caleb Lefferdink led the team with two wins each.

David Opheim went 1-2 at 141 pounds, recording a 16-0 technical fall win over Remington Tschetter of the University of Saskatchewan. Garret Thompson, who wrestled unattached at 149 pounds, also recorded a 1-2 record on the day. The freshman notched a victory by fall over Jacob Fritz of the University of Saskatchewan just 19 seconds into his first match of the tournament.

Pearman wrestled at 157 pounds for the Wolves and finished the day with a 2-2 record. After falling in his opening match, the freshman tallied a victory by fall over Jonathan Risto of the University of Saskatchewan at 4L37 in the match. He followed that up with a 3-2 decision win over conference opponent Joel Berg of Minot State.

Lefferdink opened his day with a 1:32 victory by fall over Kalin Langford of the University of Saskatchewan. He then fell in a close 3-2 decision battle with Gerardo Jaime of UMary, before bouncing back with his second win by fall. The freshman defeated Tyson Cisenros of Wayne State at 6:08 in the match.

The Northern State Wolves open full team action at home next Thursday, November 8. Northern will face off against Concordia Moorhead at 7 p.m. from Wachs Arena.

Wolves sweep Beavers en route to first NSIC Conference Championship in program history

Bemidji, Minn. – The 3-0 sweep of Bemidji State, sealed the first NSIC Conference Championship in program history for the No. 5 Northern State University volleyball team on Saturday afternoon. The Wolves defeated the Beavers with set scores of 25-13, 25-8, and 25-17, improving to 17-3 in the league. The win gave NSU a share of the NSIC title alongside Minnesota Duluth.

The conference championship is the first for the Wolves since joining the NSIC, and first for the volleyball program since the 1982 district crown. In addition, Northern tied the single season school record for wins recording their 25th of the year. They conclude the regular season with a 25-3 record overall.

The Wolves offense was firing on all cylinders hitting .485 as a team with 55 kills and just five hitting errors in 103 attempts. Northern compiled a match high 50 assists, 44 digs, five blocks, and five service aces. Defensively they held the Beavers to a .140 attack percentage, forcing 11 BSU hitting errors.

Ashley Rozell was serving up dimes for the Northern State front line, dishing out 48 total assists, and averaging 16.00 per set. The junior added eight digs, as well as one block and one kill.

Jenna Reiff and Sally Gaul led the team with 12 kills apiece, while Laura Snyder and Hailey Busch each notched 11. Reiff was potent offensively, hitting a team high .750 without giving up an attack error. Snyder and Gaul followed hitting .563 and .500 respectively, while Busch hit at a .303 clip. Morgan Baufield added eight kills on 15 swings with just one hitting error for a .467 attack percentage.

Jaiden Langlie led the Wolves defense as the lone player in double figures, recording 11 total digs. She also added a team high two service aces. Alyssa Deobler was second on the team with eight digs, and added one ace. Baufield and Busch notched an ace each in the win, while Lexi Boesl rounded out the NSU defensive specialists with five digs.

Baufield led the team at the net with three blocks, including one solo stuff. Reiff was second on the team with one solo and one assisted block, while Rozell, Gaul, and Snyder notched a block each.

Northern will host the opening round of the NSIC Tournament on Tuesday, November 6. Seeding is yet to be announced by the NSIC, however first serve will be set for 6 p.m. from Wachs Arena. Follow Wolves Athletics on Twitter, Facebook, and at nsuwolves.com for seeding and opponent announcements later this evening. Fans are reminded that NSIC tournament games are not included in their Wolves Club season ticket packs.



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.

Wolves football shuts out Minnesota Crookston on senior day

Aberdeen, S.D. – In their final home game of the 2018 season, the Northern State University football team shutout Minnesota Crookston 27-0. The Wolves recorded their first shutout since the 2015 season. NSU improves to 4-6 overall and 3-3 in the NSIC North.

The Wolves scored first on their second drive of the afternoon as Hunter Trautman hit Spencer Johnson for a 7-yard touchdown. Dakota Larson also scored in the quarter, notching his second rushing touchdown of the season. The 15-yard run put the Wolves up 14-0 with 5:09 left to play.

Northern added two more scores in the second, but this time off the foot of senior Jacob Wiedrich. The Moorhead native recorded two field goals from 33 and 22 yards out. He led the team in the win with nine points scored. Boston Bauer tallied the final touchdown of the game as the clock wound down in the fourth. Trautman connected with a drifting Bauer for the 34-yard touchdown pass with just 3:34 left in regulation.

As a team, NSU tallied 18 first downs, 174 yards rushing, and 172 yards passing. They averaged 4.4 yards per carry and 7.8 yards per catch, with 346 yards of total offense. The defense recorded four sacks for a total loss of 55 yards, as well as one interception. They held the Golden Eagles to just 3-of-20 on third down and 3-of-7 on fourth down.

Trautman threw for 172 total yards, completing 12 of his 21 attempts on the afternoon. He recorded two touchdowns and a 39-yard long. Gerald Maxwell led the Wolves rushers with 80 yards, averaging 6.2 yards per carry with a 15-yard long. Larson was second on the team with 63 yards rushing, and led the Wolves with 41 yards receiving. He was closely followed by senior Zech Culbreath with 40 yards receiving as well.

Chuck Chandler and Brayden McNeary led the defense with six tackles apiece. McNeary recorded 2.5 tackles for a loss of 17 yards, including one sack. Etienne Ezeff and Noah MacPherson added five tackles each, with MacPherson recording a team high 4.5 tackles for a loss. He also added a sack, as well Chase Teiken and Bryce Zawatzke. TJ Roberts grabbed the team's only interception and returned it for 12 yards, and led the team alongside Ezeff with three pass breakups.

Wiedrich recorded 168 yards punting and 287 yards on kickoffs. He averaged 42.0 yards per punt with a 60-yard long and three inside the 20. The senior also went 3-for-3 in PATs and 2-for-3 in field goal attempts. Culbreath and Roberts led the returners with 28 and 12 yards respectively.

Northern concludes the season next Saturday on the road at Minnesota Duluth. Kick-off is set for 1 p.m. versus the Bulldogs.



South Dakota Honors Its Veterans

As South Dakotans, we are fortunate to live in the greatest state in the greatest nation in the world. The people who live here are what make South Dakota so great. They work hard, give back to their communities and care about their family and friends. South Dakotans also have a long history of honoring our military members and veterans, whose sacrifice and bravery allows us to go about our lives freely and safely each and every day.

Nearly every town in the state does something special to thank those who serve, whether it is a parade on Independence Day, a public ceremony for our military members when they deploy and when they return home or a memorial to commemorate those we lost. Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who have served our country. On Veterans Day, and every day, South Dakota honors them.

Veterans Day takes place in the United States every year on November 11, the day the armistice was signed that ended World War I. The holiday was originally called Armistice Day, but was changed to Veterans Day by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, in which more than four million Americans served. Veterans Day is a special time to honor our veterans.

Making life better for veterans is important to many people in South Dakota. In the Senate, I serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, where we work on legislation to make sure the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is fulfilling its duties to our nation's veterans. My office also works directly with South Dakota vets and their families to cut through the bureaucracy to get them the care and benefits they are owed. If you or a veteran you know is having any trouble with the VA, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We also participate in a program to honor Vietnam-era veterans with a ceremony and a commemorative lapel pin. For more information on casework or the lapel pin program, please visit my website, www.rounds.senate.gov.

During the eight years that I worked as governor, the U.S. was fighting the War on Terror. I'll never forget the young men and women we sent off to fight. I will also always remember the family and friends of those we lost while attending 31 of the funerals for those who did not return. All who fought to defend our freedoms are forever recognized and honored for their service. One way we sought to honor our veterans was by organizing memorials for those who have served their country. We dedicated the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials in Pierre in 2004 and 2006, respectively. Many of the veterans who live in South Dakota served during these two wars, and the memorials that still stand in Pierre today are one of the ways we let them know how grateful we are to them and to say thank you.

On Veterans Day, we honor our living veterans as well as those who are no longer with us. We recently received word that the VA has prioritized a plan for a veterans cemetery in the eastern part of the state. There is still more work to do, but once it is completed this cemetery will serve as a final resting place for those who fought for our country and will be a place for all Americans to honor those who served. I am thankful to the South Dakota Veterans Council, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and our local Veterans Service Organization chapters for their work to advance this project.

To all South Dakota veterans, Jean and I thank you. Because of your service, our country remains the greatest in the world and our people remain free. This Veterans Day, I encourage South Dakotans to give a special thanks to the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States of America.

End of Daylight Saving Time Means Increased Driving Danger, Warns AAA South Dakota

Annual "Fall Back" means sun glare for the AM commute, darkness for the PM commute and potential for drowsy drivers.

Nov. 2, 2018 – As we prepare to turn our clocks back an hour at 2 a.m. this Sunday, with the end of Daylight Saving Time, many may rejoice for the extra hour of sleep. However, AAA South Dakota is reminding drivers to be prepared for potential challenges, such as changes in sleep patterns, that may increase chances of drowsy driving.

"Shorter days starting next week means many of us will be driving home from work in the dark," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA South Dakota spokesman. "The risk of drowsy driving also increases with the time change, so drivers should begin taking proper precautions now to ensure they get adequate rest."

Sleep-deprived drivers cause more than 6,400 deaths and 50,000 debilitating injuries on American roadways each year (1). Symptoms of drowsy driving can include having trouble keeping eyes open, drifting from lanes or not remembering the last few miles driven. However, more than half of drivers involved in fatigue-related crashes experienced no symptoms before falling asleep behind the wheel.

"Drivers should not rely solely on their bodies to provide warning signs of fatigue and should instead prioritize getting plenty of sleep in their daily schedules and simply be aware that the shorter days this time of year can create more drowsiness behind the wheel," continued Buskohl of AAA South Dakota.

Research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety report on sleep deprivation and motor vehicle crashes shows that drivers who miss between one to two hours of the recommended seven hours of sleep in a 24-hour period nearly double their risk for a crash.(2) With drowsy driving involved in more than one in five fatal crashes on U.S. roadways each year, getting less than seven hours of sleep may have deadly consequences.

In addition, data from the 2016 AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety Culture Index study, shows that "nearly all motorists (95.9%) view drowsy driving as a serious threat to their safety and a completely unacceptable behavior; yet, approximately 3 in 10 (28.9%) admit to driving when they were so tired that they had a hard time keeping their eyes open at some point in the past month."

"Although the risks of driving while drowsy are well documented, that still does not stop drivers from practicing this dangerous behavior," added Buskohl. "With traffic death rates three times greater at night than during the day, drivers can prevent these tragedies by being proactive with getting adequate rest and being mindful of other traveling drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians."

AAA South Dakota offers the following tips to help drivers avoid potential crashes:

Rest Up: Get plenty of rest before getting behind the wheel of a vehicle. If you do begin to feel drowsy while driving, pull over immediately and rest or call a family member or friend for assistance.

Be prepared for morning/afternoon sun glare: Sun glare in the morning or late afternoon can cause temporary blindness. To reduce the glare, AAA South Dakota recommends wearing high-quality sunglasses and adjusting the car's sun visors as needed. Use of the night setting on rearview mirrors can reduce glare from headlights approaching from the rear.

Car Care Maintenance: Keep headlights, tail lights, signal lights, and windows (inside and out) clean.

Ensure headlights are properly aimed: Misaimed headlights blind other drivers and reduce visibility.

Keep headlights on low beams when following another vehicle, so other drivers are not blinded.

Reduce your speed and increase your following distances. It is more difficult to judge other vehicles' speeds and distances at night.

Be mindful of pedestrians and crosswalks: Yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks and do not pass vehicles stopped at crosswalks.

Five Wolves named to NSIC All-Conference teams, Aldridge crowned NSIC Coach of the Year

Burnsville, Minn. – For the first time in Northern State volleyball history, five Wolves have been named to the NSIC All-Conference teams as released by the league. Hailey Busch, Ashley Rozell, Jenna Reiff, and Laura Snyder were named to the first team, while Jaiden Langlie grabbed second team honors. Head coach Brent Aldridge, also earned the third NSIC Coach of the Year honors of his career.

Busch has started all 26 matches for the Wolves this season and leads the team with 352 kills, averaging 3.83 kills per set. The senior is hitting .257 on the year, and has added nine assists, 22 aces, 40 blocks, and 258 digs. Busch ranks seventh in the NSIC in kills per set against league opponents, averaging 3.69. She was named the NSIC Offensive Player of the Week back on August 27.

Rozell has started all 26 matches for the Wolves, accumulating 1141 total assists. She currently ranks fourth in the nation averaging 12.40 assists per set. She is also fifth in the nation with 54 service aces, and third in the nation in service aces per set. The junior has added 44 kills, 42 blocks, and 221 digs. Rozell recorded a single match career high of four blocks versus MSU Moorhead earlier this year. Rozell has earned NSIC Setter of the Week honors three times in 2018.

Reiff has started all 26 matches for NSU, recording a team third best 233 kills. She is hitting .375 on the year, averaging 2.53 kills per set. The junior leads the team with 78 blocks, averaging nearly one per set. She has tallied five assists and 30 digs. Reiff ranks in the top-20 in the NSIC in blocks per set against league opponents (0.78) and 28th nationally in attack percentage. The Chester native was named the NSIC Offensive Player of the Week back on September 4.

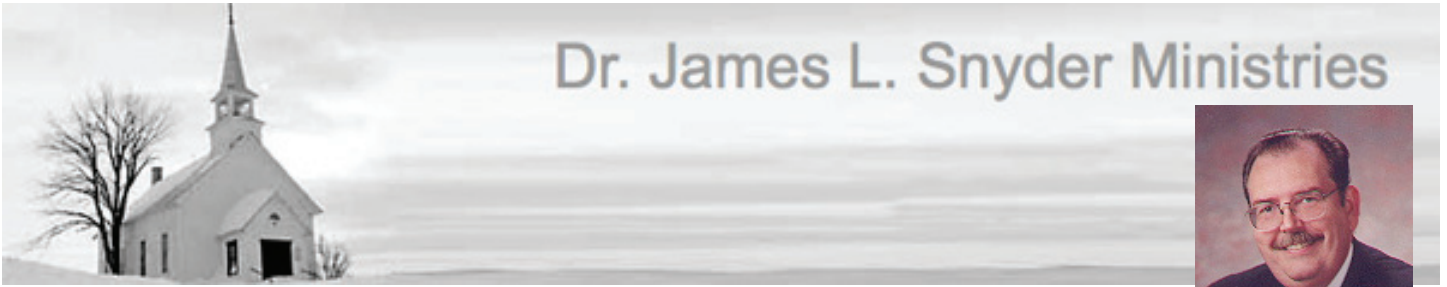
Snyder has appeared in all 26 matches for the Wolves, and leads the team and sits 13th in the nation hitting .394 this season. She is hitting a league third best .398 against NSIC opponents as well. The reigning NSIC Freshman of the Year is second on the team with 284 kills, averaging 3.19 per set. She has also tallied 37 assists, 43 blocks, and 30 digs. Snyder is also 12th in the league averaging 3.24 kills per set against NSIC teams. She hit a single match career high .727 in the Wolves 3-0 win over Wayne State.

Langlie has started all 26 matches as the team's libero, and leads the Wolves with 428 digs. She is averaging 4.65 digs per set and is second on the team this season with 22 service aces. The junior has added 16 assists, and holds a .962 serve receive percentage. Langlie has climbed her way up the NSIC ranks, and sits seventh in the league averaging 4.72 digs per set against NSIC teams. She tallied a single match career high of 34 digs versus Upper Iowa on the road. Langlie earned back-to-back NSIC Defensive Player of the Week honors on October 8 and 15.

Aldridge was last named the NSIC Coach of the Year in 2015 and 2013. The Wolves are 23-3 on the year, and on track to tie or break multiple school records. They have remained in the AVCA Top-10 throughout the 2018 season, reaching the No. 1 ranking for two weeks. Aldridge and the Wolves currently lead the nation in hitting percentage and rank top-10 in kills and assists per set. In addition they sit in the top-5 in the NSIC (in games played against league opponents) in hitting percentage, opponent hitting percentage, total assists, assists per set, total kills, kills per set, total digs, and digs per set. Northern is currently tied for first place in the NSIC with Minnesota Duluth and Concordia-St. Paul.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Why Did I Ever Grow Up?

At times, I have to do some errands for the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. It's not that I like to do these errands, but I have learned this is one secret to getting along with her.

The errand she had for me was to go to the Mall and pick up something she had ordered. In my own way I tried to finagle out of that errand, but the more I finagled the more insistent she was. So, I decided to finagle no more.

As the pop song says, "I have a million reasons not to go, give me one reason to go." I tried to play this on her and her response was, "Because I asked you to."

You just cannot get any better than that. I know, because I have tried.

Since I do not go to the mall that often, I thought I would stop in at a coffee shop and have myself a cup of coffee and just chill out a little. Taking my coffee out in the main area of the mall, I sat in one of the lounge chairs and watched the people go by.

As a young person, my favorite author was Ernest Hemingway. In one of his books he says that the important thing for a writer is to, "listen, listen, listen." I tried to practice that throughout my life so I thought here at the mall would be a good opportunity to do just that.

It was rather noisy, but I tried my best to listen. Some of the things I heard I wished I would not have heard, but that is the price you pay for listening.

In my situation, I could not hear much of a conversation, but the little that I did hear I tried to figure out what they were trying to say. I know I got some things wrong, but I laughed very discreetly at some things I heard.

Halfway through my coffee something struck me that I never thought of before.

So many young people and children were racing through the mall. I did not know there were that many children on planet Earth. They were running and laughing and whatever else they could think of.

I just sat back and watched. I tried to listen, but there was so much noise I really could not listen so I watched. Here these young people were having the time of their life. They were laughing and joking among themselves and just having a good time.

Occasionally I caught the joke and laughed to myself, but most of the jokes I did not understand. I guess that has to do with an age difference.

It was right after Halloween and so a lot of the gibberish in the mall had to do with the Halloween spirit. I thought several were dressed for Halloween, but realized that that is exactly what they wear every day.

I saw one young girl wearing blue jeans with so many holes that they really lack purpose. I was later to find out that you buy these blue jeans with all the holes in them. Moreover, the more holes they have, the more expensive they are.

When I was young I had blue jeans with lots of holes, but I earned every one of those holes.

My spirits were beginning to rise and I was enjoying my visit in the mall. Do not let that get out, I do not want anybody to know I was having a good time, particularly, you know who.

It seemed the more I watched, the more young people and children flooded the mall. And, the laughter rang from one end of the mall to the other with me in between.

As I was enjoying this little episode, a thought snuck into my mind. I must confess that it is a rare occasion when a thought actually comes to my mind. This time a thought did come to my mind.

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What I wanted to know was, why were all of these kids happy? Why were they having so much fun? Don't they know how miserable the world is today? Don't they know how sad and horrific things are on the outside? The hatred, the anger, the putrefaction of the world as we know it.

Quickly my smile turned upside down and I frowned.

It then came to me. These kids in the mall having a wonderful time were not all caught up with what is going on out in the world. Their world is a world of fun and excitement. It is only the "old geezers" that know about all of the terrible things going on in the world. The young only see the good.

In pondering this, I asked myself a very serious question. Why in the world did I grow up?

Why couldn't I have stayed young and naïve and only focused on having a good time? If I had stayed young, I probably would not be so depressed by everything that is going on "out in the world."

In pondering this, I thought of what David once said. "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread"(Psalms 37:25).

I can appreciate what these young people see, but they really cannot appreciate what I have seen through the years. That is simply, God always takes care of his people.

STAND UP FOR SCHOOL SAFETY.

ANONYMOUSLY TEXT 'SAFE' TO 82257

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

PROJECT
STANDUP

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
November 5, 2017 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. Department reports
4. Surplus Danby 50 pint dehumidifier
5. Electric Utility Easement with NW Energy
6. Baseball and swimming pool reports
7. Skating rink employees
8. Santa Day at PMS city donation
9. Gravel bids for 2019 to be open December 17
10. 2019 health insurance discussion
11. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
12. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
13. Temporary Police Officer
14. Adjournment

S.D. News Watch chosen for national matching grant program

South Dakota News Watch has been selected to participate in NewsMatch, a national campaign providing funding to non-profit news organizations.

South Dakota News Watch is among more than 150 non-profit news organizations chosen to receive funding through the NewsMatch program. The matching gift campaign has helped non-profit newsrooms across the country raise more than \$5 million in its three years.

Donations from \$1 to \$5,000, made in November and December, will be matched 1:1 up to a total of \$50,000. The pool of matching funds is underwritten equally by NewsMatch (www.NewsMatch.org), a consortium of national foundations, and by South Dakota philanthropists Dan and Arlene Kirby.

That means for the rest of the year, a donation to South Dakota News Watch can be doubled.

"We are honored and grateful to receive this vote of confidence from inside and outside South Dakota," said Randell Beck, co-chair of South Dakota News Watch. "The need for intelligent journalism is greater than ever. This will be a big part of our fundraising for our second full year."

South Dakota News Watch reports in-depth news stories on topics of statewide interest. Since the organization's launch in February 2018, South Dakota News Watch has published 50 stories on topics including mining expansion and river quality, drug epidemics and school funding.

The stories are available free at www.sdnewswatch.org and have been published and broadcast by many of the state's print, digital and broadcast media. Their articles have been published in the Groton Daily Independent.

To contribute to South Dakota News Watch, go to www.sdnewswatch.org and click the "Donate" button. Contributions can be made by check as well. Mail to South Dakota News Watch, PO Box 90205, Sioux Falls, SD 57109.

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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
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Today in Weather History

November 4, 1992: Significant snow blanketed much of the state except the southwest between November 1st and November 4th. The snow and slush caused numerous minor traffic accidents and further delayed the fall harvest in many areas. The highest snowfall amounts included over a foot in north central and northeast South Dakota, and the northern Black Hills, with generally 3 to 7 inches reported elsewhere. Some of the more significant storms total snowfall reports were 25.2 inches at Lead, 15 inches at Eureka, 14 inches near Summit, 13 inches near Victor, 12.6 inches at Roscoe, and 12 inches in Leola and 23 miles north of Highmore.

1935: Called the Yankee Hurricane, this Category 2 storm affected the Bahamas and South Florida. This storm remains the only tropical cyclone to hit Miami from the Northeast in November.

1985: Heavy rains from the remnants of tropical storm Juan dropped 10 to 19 inches of rain on West Virginia and surrounding states, causing 62 deaths. A maximum of 19.77 inches was recorded near Montebello in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The flood in West Virginia was considered the worst in the State's history.

1927 - A great Vermont flood occurred. Tropical rains deluged the Green Mountain area of Vermont causing the worst flood in the history of the state. Torrential rains, up to 15 inches in the higher elevations, sent streams on a rampage devastating the Winooski Valley. Flooding claimed 200 lives and caused 40 million dollars damage. The town of Vernon reported 84 deaths. Flooding left up to eight to ten feet of water in downtown Montpelier VT. (2nd-4th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A super wet Gulf storm dumped upwards of fifteen inches of rain in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia causing devastating damage and claiming forty lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern and south central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 74 degrees at Portland ME and 86 degrees at Fort Smith AR equalled November records. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Beckley WV, Memphis TN and Paducah KY. A cold front ushered much colder air into the north central U.S. Gale force winds lashed all five Great Lakes. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a fast moving cold front produced severe weather over the Tennessee Valley and the Central Gulf Coast States during the afternoon and evening hours, and into the next morning. Thunderstorms spawned nineteen tornadoes, including eleven in Mississippi. The last of the nineteen tornadoes killed a woman in her mobile home in Lee FL. A tornado in Culbert AL injured sixteen people, and caused two million dollars damage. Thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail in Alabama. Unseasonably hot air prevailed south of the cold front. McAllen TX was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds plagued parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 71 mph near Wheatland WY, and reached 80 mph west of Fort Collins CO. Up to five inches of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY closing many roads. Snow also blanketed northern Minnesota, with seven inches reported at Baudette. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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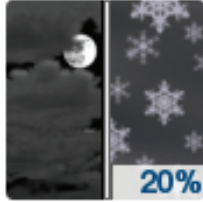
Today



Areas Fog
then Cloudy

High: 42 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance Snow

Low: 32 °F

Monday



Chance
Rain/Snow
then Chance
Rain

High: 43 °F

Monday
Night



Slight Chance
Rain/Snow
then Mostly
Cloudy

Low: 27 °F

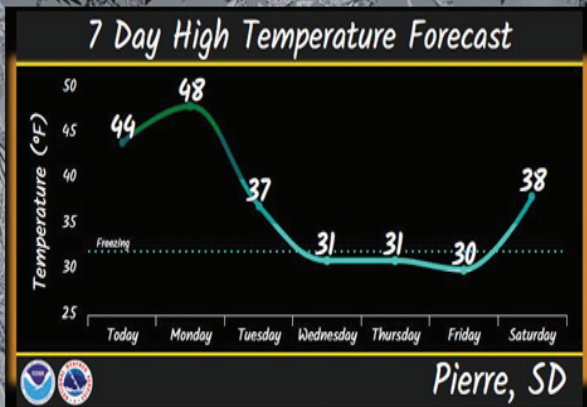
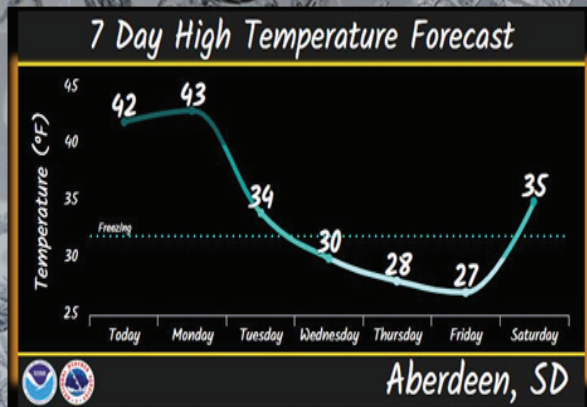
Tuesday



Breezy.
Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
Snow

High: 33 °F

Light Rain/Snow (And Maybe A Little Sleet Or Freezing Rain) Tonight; Becoming Plain Rain On Monday



Note The Dramatic Cool Down Over The Next 7 Days!

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 11/4/2018 4:48 AM Central

Published on: 11/04/2018 at 5:00AM

Dry, but cloudy, weather today will be replaced by more precipitation chances later tonight into Monday while the next installment of low pressure systems works its way through the region. It's possible a little sleet or freezing rain could mix in with rain or snow later tonight, but it's more probable that just plain rain or snow will develop later tonight before becoming an all rain event during the day on Monday. Then, temperatures take a nose dive for the second half of the week.

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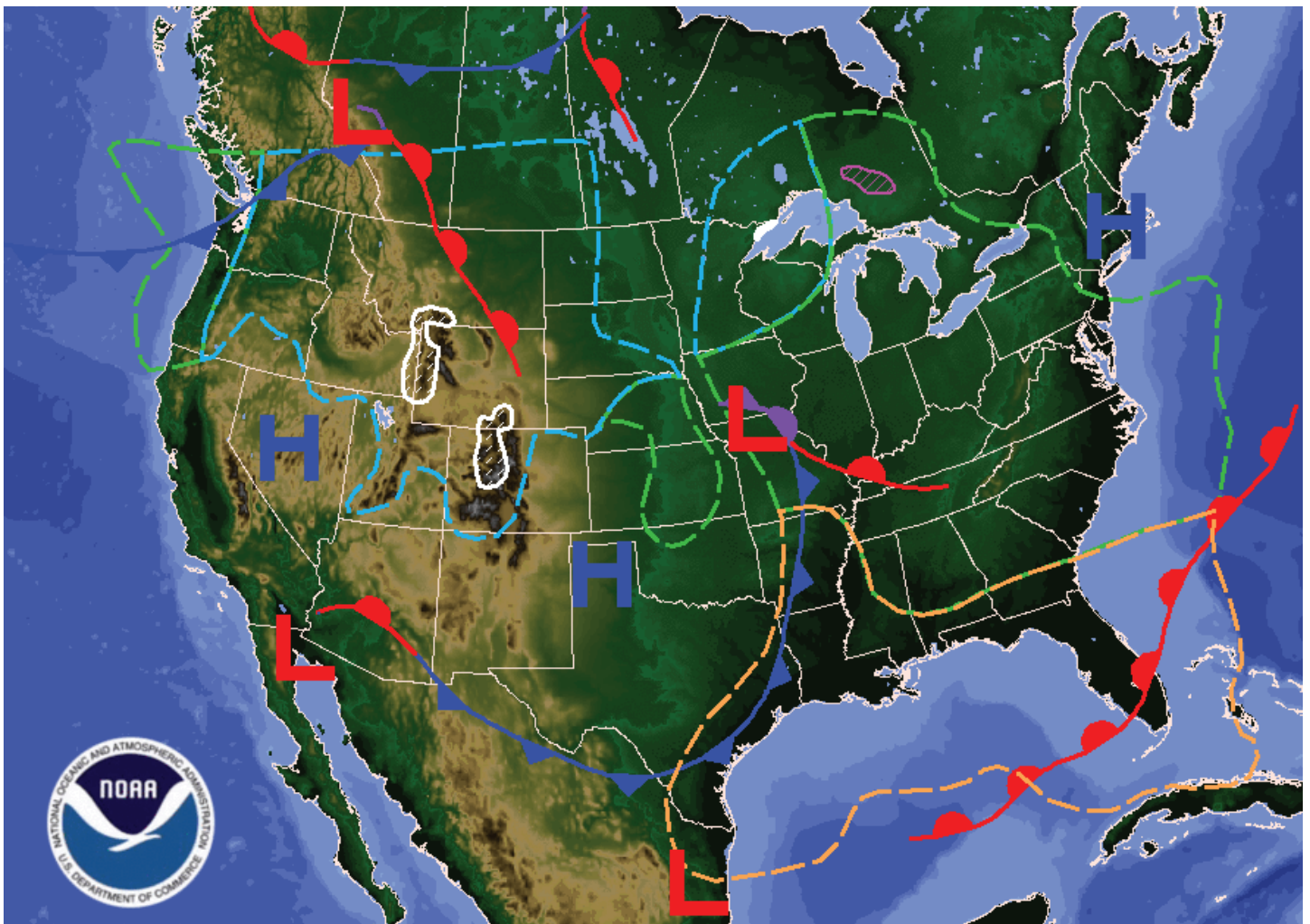
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 39 °F at 4:40 AM
Low Outside Temp: 36 °F at 4:10 PM
High Gust: 15 mph at 10:04 AM
Precip: 0.32

Today's Info

Record High: 78° in 1975
Record Low: -2 in 1991
Average High: 47°F
Average Low: 25°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.09
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.33
Average Precip to date: 20.56
Precip Year to Date: 15.38
Sunset Tonight: 5:17 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:19 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Nov 04, 2018, issued 3:57 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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PROMISES? NO! PROMISES!

Years ago a firm handshake and a sincere look in the eye meant that my word is my bond as long as I live. No more questions were required, and no exceptions were included. If I said it I meant it, and I will do it. I will not deny what I said nor offer any excuses if I fail!

How different it is today. Contracts, warranties, and agreements are written with clauses that are vague, difficult to understand, and often need the interpretation of an attorney. Word of mouth promises rarely last longer than the time it takes to speak them.

How different it is with God. In Psalm 105 we are reminded of His faithfulness to Israel. If He said it He did it. If He promised something, there is proof in His Word that He made it happen. All of the promises He made have been fulfilled, and provide proof that God is a Man of His Word. This should give us courage for today and hope for the future.

Some Biblical scholars who have carefully researched His word have identified 3,000 promises in the Bible! Furthermore, all of them, except one Christ's second coming - has been fulfilled. And, we can be confident that He will fulfill that promise at the appointed time. If He said it, He did it or, we know, will certainly do it!

So, here are two great promises we can claim right now:

The Lord is a stronghold in the day of trouble! Whenever we can't handle things, we have His unfailing word that He certainly can! We can claim this promise!

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in My name. What a wonderful, never-ending, open-ended promise if we call on Him in faith and trust.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to take You at Your Word: To claim Your promises and know that You will fulfill them. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 105:8a He always stands by his promise.

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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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
17-19-21-25-30
(seventeen, nineteen, twenty-one, twenty-five, thirty)
Estimated jackpot: \$55,000

Lotto America
11-33-40-47-51, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 3
(eleven, thirty-three, forty, forty-seven, fifty-one; Star Ball: two; ASB: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$10.61 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$70 million

Powerball
15-21-24-32-65, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 3
(fifteen, twenty-one, twenty-four, thirty-two, sixty-five; Powerball: eleven; Power Play: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$53 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball
Huron def. Pierre, 20-25, 25-19, 25-18, 25-23
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Brandon Valley, 25-22, 21-25, 22-25, 25-20, 15-5

South Dakota St. has no trouble with Missouri St., wins 59-7

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Taryn Christian threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score to lead South Dakota State to a 59-7 rout of Missouri State on Saturday.

Christian was 15-of-28 passing for 259 yards. His 32-yard touchdown run made it 38-7 late in the second quarter.

Pierre Strong Jr. had touchdowns runs from 54 and 55 yards and finished with 136 yards rushing on nine carries for South Dakota State (6-2, 4-2 Missouri Valley Conference). Cade Johnson had two touchdown receptions and finished with 130 yards receiving. Adam Anderson also caught a pair of TDs and finished with 85 yards.

The Jackrabbit defense held Missouri State to 183 yards of offense and forced three quarterbacks into four interceptions.

Peyton Huslig threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Currie for Missouri State (4-5, 2-4 Missouri Valley Conference), which has lost 12 straight games in the Dakotas dating to 2010.

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Boyle's 7 TDs help Indiana St. past S. Dakota 51-48 in 3 OT

TERRA HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — Ryan Boyle had seven touchdowns on Saturday, including a 3-yard scoring pass to Dante Hendrix in triple overtime that gave Indiana State a 51-48 win over South Dakota.

South Dakota took a 48-45 edge in the third overtime on a Mason Lorber 27-yard field goal before Boyle started his team off with a 15-yard rush, then hit Hendrix three plays later for the winning touchdown.

Boyle finished with 193 yards and five touchdowns passing and 187 yards and two scores rushing for the Sycamores (5-4, 3-3 Missouri Valley Football Conference). Titus McCoy added 123 yards rushing. Hendrix had 111 yards and two touchdowns receiving.

Indiana State led 21-14 at halftime and took a 31-24 lead with 2:54 remaining in regulation on a 25-yard run by Boyle. But Austin Simmons took the Coyotes (3-6, 2-4) 81 yards in 13 plays after that, capping the drive with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Brett Samson to even it up with 16 seconds left and force overtime.

Simmons had 375 yards and three touchdowns passing for the Coyotes.

Small plane crash in northeastern South Dakota kills pilot

BRADLEY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say the pilot of a small plane is dead after a crash in northeastern South Dakota.

Clark County Sheriff Robert McGraw tells KSFY-TV that 47-year-old John Shoemaker was killed when the Cessna 210 went down northwest of Bradley. It happened about noon on Friday.

McGraw says the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash.

Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

Trump presidency faces high stakes in midterm elections

By ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has been acting like a candidate on the ballot this week, staging daily double-header rallies and blasting out ads for Republicans up for election on Tuesday. Given the stakes for his presidency, he might as well be.

A knot of investigations. Partisan gridlock. A warning shot for his re-election bid. Trump faces potentially debilitating fallout should Republicans lose control of one or both chambers in Congress, ending two years of GOP hegemony in Washington. A White House that has struggled to stay on course under favorable circumstances would be tested in dramatic ways. A president who often battles his own party, would face a far less forgiving opposition.

On the flip side, if Republicans maintain control of the House and Senate, that's not only a victory for the GOP, but a validation of Trump's brand of politics and his unconventional presidency. That result, considered less likely even within the White House, would embolden the president as he launches his own re-election bid.

White House aides insist the president doesn't spend much time contemplating defeat, but he has begun to try to calibrate expectations. He has focused on the competitive Senate races the final days of his scorched-earth campaign blitz, and has distanced himself from blame should Republicans lose the House. If that happens, he intends to claim victory, arguing his efforts on the campaign trail narrowed GOP losses and helped them hold the Senate, according to a person familiar with Trump's thinking who asked for anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss White House conversations by name.

Throughout the campaign, Trump has been tested out other explanations — pointing to historical headwinds for the party of an incumbent president and complaining about a rash of GOP retirements this year. He told the AP last month that he won't bear any responsibility should Democrats take over.

At a rally in West Virginia Friday a defiant Trump brushed off the prospect of a Democratic House takeover. "It could happen," he said, adding "don't worry about it. I'll just figure it out."

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Meanwhile his staff has begun preparations to deal with a flood of subpoenas that could arrive next year from Democrat-controlled committees and the White House counsel's office has been trying to attract seasoned lawyers to field oversight inquiries.

Should they take the House, Democrats are already plotting to reopen the House Intelligence Committee's investigation into Trump campaign's ties to Russia. Other committees are plotting aggressive oversight of Trump's administration and his web of business interests. Some Democrats are looking at using the House Ways and Means Committee to obtain copies of the president's tax returns after he broke with decades of tradition and withheld them from public scrutiny during his campaign for the White House.

A slim Republican majority in the House would also present challenges, likely inflaming simmering intraparty disputes. First among them would be a potentially bitter leadership fight in the House to replace retiring Speaker Paul Ryan. But a narrowed majority would also exacerbate divisions over policy — and continued unified control could leave the GOP facing the blame for gridlock.

"Clearly there's an awful lot on the line in terms of the legislative agenda," said Republican consultant Josh Holmes. "The prospect of a Democratic controlled House or Senate puts a serious wrinkle in getting anything through Congress."

Some in the White House think losing to Democrats might actually be preferable. They view Democrats eagerness to investigate the president as a blessing in disguise in the run-up to 2020. They view House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as a potent foil for Trump, and believe they can tag the party responsibility for Washington dysfunction.

Ari Fleischer, George W. Bush's press secretary, said Democratic control of the House "has both peril and promise for the president."

"The peril is subpoenas, investigations, legal bills and headaches," he said. "The promise is Trump will have an easy foil to run against: Pelosi and Democratic leadership."

White House aides have discussed floating popular legislative issues, such as infrastructure, to tempt Democrats and test the unity of the Democratic opposition.

While keeping the House remained an uphill battle for the GOP, in the closing days of the campaign, Trump and Republicans have tried to sell voters on the possibilities of another two years of GOP control. They promised hardline immigration policies and more tax cuts, arguing that Democrats would erase two years of progress.

In the closing weeks of the midterms, Trump has unleashed a no-holds-barred effort to boost Republicans as he dipped into the same undercurrents of unease that defined his 2016 campaign. From stoking fears about illegal immigration to warning of economic collapse if Democrats are victorious.

But a House loss will prompt GOP hand-wringing about the divides in the party and the struggles for moderate Republicans to run in the Trump, as well as raise questions about whether the Democratic gains point to a path for presidential hopefuls in 2020.

Democratic consultant Jim Manley said Tuesday may reveal if Democrats are having any success recapturing white working class voters in the Midwest who backed Trump in 2016.

"Trump is helping. He's becoming more and more radioactive," Manley said. "There's a chance to try and win them back over."

But while the results may reveal weaknesses in the Republican coalition, midterm elections are very different than presidential years. Republicans were quick to point out that the party in power typically suffers defeats in midterms. Former President Barack Obama was in his words "shellacked" in 2010 and went on to win re-election in 2012.

Said Fleischer: "In the aftermath people with exaggerate its meaning and in 2 years' time everything will have changed."

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

Vote shows New Caledonia leaning against independence

By CHARLOTTE ANTOINE, Associated Press

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (AP) — Voters turned out in exceptional numbers Sunday for an independence referendum in the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia, with early results suggesting that voters favored keeping ties with France.

With results declared from 202 of the 284 polling stations, the “Non” vote against independence from France was leading with 60 percent of the 123,000 votes that had been counted, the office for the French High Commissioner said.

More than 174,000 registered voters were invited to answer the question: “Do you want New Caledonia to gain full sovereignty and become independent?” France has ruled New Caledonia since the mid-19th century.

Voter turnout was so high that some polling stations in Noumea, the capital, had to stay open about an hour later than planned because they had large lines of people still waiting to vote, the commissioner’s office said.

Close to three-quarters of the territory’s registered voters had cast ballots an hour before polls closed Sunday evening, a far more robust turnout than in New Caledonia’s provincial election in 2014.

The high commissioner’s office reported limited outbreaks of unrest in Noumea as votes were counted, with seven cars set ablaze and two instances of stone-throwing. But otherwise, the vote was overwhelming peaceful.

From Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron was to speak about the territory’s future and its choice in a televised address.

The independence vote marked a milestone for the archipelago that lies east of Australia and has sun-kissed lagoons as well as a mining industry for nickel, a metal used in electronics manufacturing.

Voters were given two slips of paper to choose from, one marked “OUI” (“Yes”) and the other “NON.”

Voter Monette Saihulinwa said she opposed independence.

“I don’t necessarily want our lives to change,” the 50-year-old said.

Others hailed the ballot as a landmark.

“We’ve been waiting for 30 years for this vote,” said Mariola Bouyer, 34. “This vote must demonstrate that we want to live in peace, no matter our race, our roots. It’s building a country together.”

New Caledonia relies on France for its defense, law enforcement, foreign affairs, justice and education, yet has a large degree of autonomy. New Caledonia receives about 1.3 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) in French state subsidies every year, and many fear its economy would suffer if ties are severed.

The cluster of islands is home to about 270,000 people. They include the native Kanaks, about 40 percent of the population; people of European descent, about 27 percent; and others from Asian countries and Pacific islands.

The archipelago became French in 1853 under Emperor Napoleon III — Napoleon’s nephew and heir — and was used for decades as a prison colony. It became an overseas territory after World War II, with French citizenship granted to all Kanaks in 1957.

Most Kanaks have tended to back independence, while most descendants of European settlers have favored keeping the French connection. Under French colonial rule, the Kanaks suffered under strict segregation policies and faced discrimination.

The referendum is the result of a process that started 30 years ago to end years of violence between supporters and opponents of separating from France.

The violence, which overall claimed more than 70 lives, prompted a 1988 deal between rival loyalist and pro-independence factions.

If voters say no to independence on Sunday, the 1998 agreement allows two more self-determination referendums to be held by 2022.

AP writer John Leicester contributed from Paris.

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Anxious politicians and volunteers make final election push

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press**

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The Republican, Rep. Martha McSally, wore a maroon and gold Arizona State University T-shirt and jeans as she belted out the national anthem at the school's homecoming game Saturday. The Democrat, Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, wore a canary-yellow dress and eight-inch platform shoes with cactus applique as she presided over the coin toss.

But the crowd of 46,000 greeted both U.S. Senate candidates the same way: with a mix of cheers and boos.

It was a fitting kickoff to the anxious final weekend before the 2018 midterms, a campaign that seemingly launched the day after Donald Trump was elected president two years ago that is climaxing in the shadow of a bomb plot targeting Democratic leaders and the worst anti-Semitic shooting in the nation's history. Each side is doing everything it can to mobilize voters this weekend, warning of the dire consequences of failure.

Democrats are counting on wresting control of the U.S. House from Republicans and hoping for a long-shot series of wins to win back the Senate as well. But Republicans are optimistic they can gain seats in a Senate map heavy on red states and haven't given up on holding the House.

Neither side wanted to leave anything on the field in the final weekend. "I've never been so sleepless, so restless as I have been" since Trump was elected, Sudi Farokhnia, a risk manager in Orange County, California, said before leaving a rally to volunteer for Democratic congressional candidate Katie Porter. Farokhnia has spent hours phone-banking for Porter, who is challenging Republican Rep. Mimi Walters.

Brandon Evans, 36, was cleaning out his parents' storage room in the Salt Lake City suburb of West Jordan on Saturday when he got an unexpected visit from his congresswoman, Republican Mia Love. Love, who faces a tough re-election challenge, traveled through her largely suburban district in an orange-and-blue modified motor scooter, knocking on every door she could.

Evans assured her she had his vote because of gun rights. "I feel like they're under attack more than they've ever been," Evans said.

Campaigns pulled out the heavy hitters. Trump continued to hopscotch the nation, holding a rally in Montana for GOP Senate candidate Matt Rosendale, who is challenging Democratic Sen. Jon Tester, and another rally for GOP candidates in Florida. Vice President Mike Pence traveled from Kansas to Wisconsin to Florida getting out the vote for Republicans.

At a Pence event outside Kansas City on Friday, Ronald Solomon, a 59-year-old investment banker from Las Vegas who sells Trump memorabilia and was dropping in out of curiosity, was incredulous that the GOP could lose seats given the economy.

"There are better jobs. There are more jobs. People are getting bonuses — they're getting raises," Solomon said.

At a Pence rally Saturday on behalf of embattled Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Sue Hodgson of River Falls said she was more "nervous more than excited." The group around Hodgson, who was sporting a star-spangled, down-filled winter jacket, nodded, with hands jammed into jacket pockets against the 40-degree chill inside a massive warehouse.

"We're here to show our support," Hodgson said. "I just hope it's enough."

In West Palm Beach, Florida, three miles (five kilometers) from Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, legendary singer Jimmy Buffet tried to fire up local Democrats for gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum and Sen. Bill Nelson. He tweaked the words to some of his old favorites.

"Come Tuesday, things will change," Buffett sang, swapping the date in his famous song "Come Monday." "Come Tuesday, we're making a change. It's been two insane years and it's time to really switch gears ..." He also played a version of "Margaritaville" slamming the state's Republican governor, Rick Scott, who is running against Nelson for the Senate, over an algae infestation that's killed millions of fish and closed beaches along the state's western coast.

"Some people say there's a red tide to blame," Buffett sang, "but I know that it's all Rick Scott's fault."

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Harvey Rosenfeld, 68, attended the rally in his usual attire — a red, white and blue outfit topped with an Uncle Sam hat and a sign around his neck reading, “Be Patriotic, Respect Democracy, Honor America.”

“All my life I have studied all of the candidates in determining for whom I would vote,” said Rosenfeld, a retired publicist and former Republican. “But this time, I think the Republican Party has caved into Trumpism and it has gone so far astray that the only way that we can return to having a strong, vibrant Republican Party is for them to have a sharp wakeup call by seeing a strong rejection of their current platform.”

In Arizona, the nasty Senate race has dominated the state. McSally, a former combat pilot, has accused Sinema of “treason” for comments about the Afghanistan war in 2002 while Democrats have been hammering the GOP candidate over her vote to repeal President Barack Obama’s health care law.

Lately, as Trump has tried to raise fear of a caravan of Central American migrants trying to cross Mexico on foot to reach the U.S. border, McSally has taken to hammering Sinema on immigration. Those thoughts were on the mind of Stephen Ovanessoff, a retired church deacon and pathologist at a church visited by Republican Rep. David Schweikert as part of the congressman’s own get-out-the-vote efforts Saturday.

“There should definitely be a strong border, especially for a country like the United States,” said Ovanessoff, who immigrated from Iraq. “Because if you go outside to other countries there are millions and millions of people everywhere that want to come and live in this country.”

In Tempe, outside Sun Devil Stadium, where thousands gathered wearing the team’s bright yellow colors, Sinema was mobbed by well-wishers asking for hugs and selfies. The Democrat posed with voters as a band played a punk version of Elvis Presley’s “Fools Rush In.” Sinema teaches two courses on social work at the university and has multiple degrees from the school, and was widely recognized, even by ticket scalpers.

One student gushed to Sinema, “I’ve heard your ads on Spotify.” One man confided to her: “You’re the most qualified candidate, but I can’t vote for you — I’m a Republican, my wife would kill me.”

Gina Kilker was making her way through the crowd when she cried out, “Oh, my god, that’s Kyrsten Sinema.” Soon the candidate was posing with Kilker, her husband, daughter and son-in-law.

“We did not expect to see her,” Kilker said. She tried to quickly sum up her emotions about the last two years to a passing reporter, and boiled it down to this: “We’re hoping and praying for a blue wave.”

Tom Beaumont in Hudson, Wisconsin; Michael Blood in Orange County, California; Bob Christie in Scottsdale, Arizona; John D. Hanna in Topeka, Kansas; Juana Summers in Kansas City, Missouri; Terry Spencer in West Palm Beach, Florida; and Lyndsay Whitehurst in West Jordan, Utah, contributed to this report.

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

Why it’s still in Russia’s interest to mess with US politics

By ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Sweeping accusations that the Kremlin tried to sway the 2016 U.S. election haven’t chastened Russian trolls, hackers and spies — and might even have emboldened them.

U.S. officials and tech companies say Russians have continued online activity targeted at American voters during the campaign for Tuesday’s election, masquerading as U.S. institutions and creating faux-American social media posts to aggravate tensions around issues like migration and gun control.

Russia denies any interference. So far U.S. authorities haven’t announced any huge hacks or the kind of multipronged campaign suspected in the 2016 election, and it’s hard to judge whether the more recent Russian actions have any link to the Kremlin or will have any electoral impact.

But why do they appear to be at it again? Dozens of Russians suspected of meddling in 2016 have been hit with U.S. charges or sanctions, including well-placed magnates. Moscow’s ties with the West have deteriorated badly amid ever-more-shocking allegations of Russian interference abroad.

And some argue that Russian meddlers don’t need to mess with the U.S. midterms this year because they got what they wanted in 2016: Donald Trump in the White House and mass disillusionment with the democratic process.

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The Kremlin likes Trump because he's one of the rare Western leaders to embrace Russian President Vladimir Putin, but its hoped-for Russian-American rapprochement hasn't really materialized. A Democratic House or Senate after Tuesday's U.S. election would make that an even more distant prospect.

"Russians have a preference and they will do what they can to swing (the result) in their favor, especially if margins are tight," said James Nixey, head of the Russia and Eurasia program at the London-based think tank Chatham House.

He cautions, however, that "Russia is not responsible for all of America's problems. America has splits and fissures like all of us, and Russia puts in a lever and pries them open."

Some Russians, meanwhile, wear the U.S. accusations as a badge of honor, a sign that their country is a fearsome world power again.

The first person charged with foreign interference in the 2018 midterms, Elena Khusyaynova, said "my heart filled with pride" at the news. Speaking last week on Russian TV after being indicted in the United States for a covert social media campaign for both the 2016 and 2018 votes, she added, "It turns out that a simple Russian woman could help citizens of a superpower elect their president."

Pavel Koshkin of Moscow's USA and Canada Institute called accusations of meddling "a gift to Russian propaganda and Russian politicians," who can use U.S. anti-Russian sentiment "as a tool in stirring anti-Americanism and increasing their approval ratings."

The 2016 U.S. election thrust Russian foreign interference into the spotlight, but it wasn't an isolated project. It fit into a yearslong effort by Putin's Kremlin to take revenge over what's seen as the U.S.-led humiliation of post-Soviet Russia, through crippling loan programs and NATO's post-Cold War expansion.

The Kremlin also resents what it considers U.S. interference in the politics of countries once under Moscow's sphere of influence, from Ukraine to the Caucasus. To many Russians, what's happening now in the U.S. is just payback.

The resulting U.S. sanctions have damaged the Russian economy, but if the goal was changing Russian foreign policy, "this goal certainly hasn't been achieved," said analyst Masha Lipman. "In fact, the opposite is true. The more pressure (on Russia), the lower the desire or willingness to concede."

As special counsel Robert Mueller has investigated possible Russian collusion with Trump's 2016 campaign, Moscow has increased efforts to make its mark elsewhere — in Syria, Libya, and in political debates across Europe.

So far in 2018, Russian agents have been accused of a nerve agent attack in Britain, trying to hack the world's chemical weapons watchdog in the Netherlands, and seeking to derail a referendum in Macedonia to stop the country from joining NATO and the European Union.

Even after Mueller's team in February indicted a dozen Russians linked to the Internet Research Agency, the so-called troll farm in St. Petersburg, its sponsors openly continued to target U.S. audiences.

One of its projects, a news site called USAReally, covers tight U.S. congressional races and is closely following the migrant caravan heading north from Latin America.

"Yes, we are a Russian site. We talk to Americans about America. But is that forbidden?" its chief editor Alexander Malkevich, an avowed Trump fan, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Influence readers? Every media wants to do that. ... and so what?"

He acknowledged that Russian-American relations are unlikely to improve quickly no matter the outcome Tuesday — and expressed interest in the 2020 U.S. presidential race.

Malkevich also assails what he calls the myth of American democracy. That's one more way that alleged Russian manipulation of U.S. social media serves the Kremlin's interests: By discrediting Western democracy, that strengthens Putin's argument to his own voters that his authoritarian model of governance is best.

"The growing confrontation with the West and a focus on it on national television channels probably helped consolidate this effect of a fortress under siege," one of Putin's metaphors for modern Russia, Lipman said. "And pledging allegiance to the leader is a matter not only of loyalty but even of national security and national identity."

Many of the Russians accused of interference in the 2016 U.S. campaign have moved underground or

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moved on. Some shut down their social media presence. Some have changed jobs.

One of the indicted troll factory workers, Sergei Polozov, announced on the Russian social network VKontakte that he was "using his notoriety for a good cause" and had persuaded Russian censors to block four Ukrainian news sites. He vowed to continue fighting those who "try to drag Russia through the mud" and thanked "those who want to join me in the fight against informational enemies."

The troll factory, meanwhile, has moved to bigger offices in St. Petersburg, just 2.5 kilometers (a mile and a half) across town.

[—]Iuliia Subbotovska in Moscow contributed.

WWI centenary to be marked in London and Paris, not Berlin

By DAVID RISING, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on French soil, and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will be in London at a ceremony in Westminster Abbey with Queen Elizabeth II.

But while the leaders visit the capitals of Germany's wartime enemies, at home there are no national commemorations planned for the centenary of the Nov. 11 armistice that brought an end to the four-year war that killed more than 2 million of its troops and left 4 million wounded.

Next week, German parliament is holding a combined commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the first German republic, the 80th anniversary of the brutal Nazi-era pogrom against Jews known as the Night of Broken Glass, and the 29th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Almost as an afterthought, parliament notes there's also art exhibition in the lobby called "1914/1918 - Not Then, Not Now, Not Ever."

More than just being on the losing side of the World War 1, it's what came next that is really behind Germany's lack of commemorative events.

For Germany, the Nov. 11 armistice did not mean peace like it did in France and Britain. The war's end gave rise to revolution and street fighting between far-left and far-right factions. It also brought an end to the monarchy, years of hyperinflation, widespread poverty and hunger, and helped create the conditions that brought the Nazis to power in 1933.

The horrific legacy of the Holocaust and the mass destruction of World War II simply overshadows everything else in Germany, said Daniel Schoenpflug, a historian at Berlin's Free University's Friedrich-Meinecke-Institute. His new book, "A World on Edge," explores the immediate aftermath of the war through individual perspectives.

"One can't reduce it to the simple fact that one country won the war and the other lost," Schoenpflug said. "Germany is a country that draws practically its entire national narrative out of the defeat of 1945" — and not the defeat of 1918.

By contrast in Turkey, which was also on the losing side in World War I, the war's end produced a similar collapse of the Ottoman empire and a war of independence, but also gave rise to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who founded the modern Turkish republic.

In Germany, even though the end of World War I is now viewed through the prism of Hitler and the Holocaust, in the immediate postwar period there actually was a period of utopianism, with movements promoting idealistic visions of peace and democracy, Schoenpflug said.

Yet on the other side of the political spectrum, utopianism on the right also gave birth to fascism, he said.

And as initial euphoria over the end of World War I faded, hopes for the future quickly gave way to feelings of resentment at the reparations and conditions imposed on Germany by the victorious axis powers. The Nazis and right-wing nationalists were able to garner support by propagating the "stab-in-the-back" myth, which held that Germany's civilian leaders sold out the army by agreeing to the Nov. 11 surrender.

"There was a war of dreams, a clash of utopias" between the right and the left, Schoenpflug said.

Although there aren't any national commemorations in Germany marking the war's end, individual events

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are planned, including an exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin. A special World War I religious service is also being organized by the German Bishops Conference at the Berliner Dom cathedral.

And in addition to German officials taking part in the events in London and Paris, the Foreign Ministry said they and their British counterparts have worked together to coordinate the ringing of church and secular bells around the world on Nov. 11 to mark the war's centenary.

"The bells will ring at midday to commemorate the more than 17 million victims of World War I and as a call for understanding and reconciliation across borders," the ministry said.

Tired and angry, migrant caravan splinters in Mexican state

By SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

ISLA, Mexico (AP) — A 4,000-strong caravan of Central American migrants traveling through Mexico split up into several groups with one spending the night in a town in the coastal state of Veracruz and other migrants continuing toward the country's capital.

The divisions came during a tense day in which tempers flared and some migrants argued with caravan organizers and criticized Mexican officials. They were upset that Veracruz Gov. Miguel Angel Yunes had reneged on an offer late Friday to provide buses on Saturday to leapfrog the migrants to Mexico City.

The migrants trekked to the town of Isla, about 700 miles (1,126 kilometers) south of the U.S. border, where several thousand stopped to rest, eat and receive medical attention. They planned to spend the night there before departing at 5 a.m. Sunday en route to the town of Cordoba.

But other migrants, mainly men and the younger members of the group, kept on walking or hitching rides toward Puebla and Mexico City. They hunkered down for the night in Juan Rodriguez Clara or Tierra Blanca farther along the route.

"We think that it is better to continue together with the caravan. We are going to stay with it and respect the organizers," Luis Euseda, a 32-year-old from Tegucigalpa, Honduras who is traveling with his wife Jessica Fugon, said in Isla. "Others went ahead, maybe they have no goal, but we do have a goal and it is to arrive."

Caravan organizers have pleaded for buses in recent days after three weeks on the road, hitching rides and walking. With the group scattered, some have raised questions about whether the caravan would stick together.

In a statement, the migrants lambasted Mexican officials for directing them northward through the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz, calling it the "route of death." A trek via the sugar fields and fruit groves of Veracruz takes them through a state where hundreds of migrants have disappeared in recent years, falling prey to kidnappers looking for ransom payments.

Authorities in Veracruz said in September they had discovered remains from at least 174 people buried in clandestine graves. Some security experts have questioned whether those bodies belonged to migrants.

Gerardo Perez, a 20-year-old migrant, said he was tired. "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," he said.

The caravan's "strength in numbers" strategy has enabled them to mobilize support as they move through Mexico and has inspired subsequent migrants to try their luck via caravan.

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

On Friday, a caravan from El Salvador waded over the Suchiate River into Mexico, bringing 1,000 to 1,500 people who want to reach the U.S. border.

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

Another caravan, also of about 1,000 to 1,500 people, entered Mexico earlier this week and is now in Chiapas. That group includes Hondurans, Salvadorans and some Guatemalans.

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The first, largest group of mainly Honduran migrants entered Mexico on Oct. Mexican officials appear conflicted over whether to help or hinder their journeys. Immigration agents and police have at times detained migrants in the smaller caravans. But several mayors have rolled out the welcome mat for migrants who reached their towns - arranging for food and camp sites.

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.

With or without the government's help, uncertainty awaits.

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 ahead of the midterm elections.

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.

Associated Press writer Amy Guthrie in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Anxious politicians and volunteers make final election push

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press**

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The Republican, Rep. Martha McSally, wore a maroon and gold Arizona State University T-shirt and jeans as she belted out the national anthem at the school's homecoming game Saturday. The Democrat, Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, wore a canary-yellow dress and eight-inch platform shoes with cactus applique as she presided over the coin toss.

But the crowd of 46,000 greeted both U.S. Senate candidates the same way: with a mix of cheers and boos.

It was a fitting kickoff to the anxious final weekend before the 2018 midterms, a campaign that seemingly launched the day after Donald Trump was elected president two years ago that is climaxing in the shadow of a bomb plot targeting Democratic leaders and the worst anti-Semitic shooting in the nation's history. Each side is doing everything it can to mobilize voters this weekend, warning of the dire consequences of failure.

Democrats are counting on wresting control of the U.S. House from Republicans and hoping for a long-shot series of wins to win back the Senate as well. But Republicans are optimistic they can gain seats in a Senate map heavy on red states and haven't given up on holding the House.

Neither side wanted to leave anything on the field in the final weekend. "I've never been so sleepless, so restless as I have been" since Trump was elected, Sudi Farokhnia, a risk manager in Orange County, California, said before leaving a rally to volunteer for Democratic congressional candidate Katie Porter. Farokhnia has spent hours phone-banking for Porter, who is challenging Republican Rep. Mimi Walters.

Brandon Evans, 36, was cleaning out his parents' storage room in the Salt Lake City suburb of West Jordan on Saturday when he got an unexpected visit from his congresswoman, Republican Mia Love. Love, who faces a tough re-election challenge, traveled through her largely suburban district in an orange-and-blue modified motor scooter, knocking on every door she could.

Evans assured her she had his vote because of gun rights. "I feel like they're under attack more than they've ever been," Evans said.

Campaigns pulled out the heavy hitters. Trump continued to hopscotch the nation, holding a rally in Montana for GOP Senate candidate Matt Rosendale, who is challenging Democratic Sen. Jon Tester, and another rally for GOP candidates in Florida. Vice President Mike Pence traveled from Kansas to Wisconsin to Florida getting out the vote for Republicans.

At a Pence event outside Kansas City on Friday, Ronald Solomon, a 59-year-old investment banker from Las Vegas who sells Trump memorabilia and was dropping in out of curiosity, was incredulous that the GOP could lose seats given the economy.

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"There are better jobs. There are more jobs. People are getting bonuses — they're getting raises," Solomon said.

At a Pence rally Saturday on behalf of embattled Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Sue Hodgson of River Falls said she was more "nervous more than excited." The group around Hodgson, who was sporting a star-spangled, down-filled winter jacket, nodded, with hands jammed into jacket pockets against the 40-degree chill inside a massive warehouse.

"We're here to show our support," Hodgson said. "I just hope it's enough."

In West Palm Beach, Florida, three miles (five kilometers) from Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, legendary singer Jimmy Buffet tried to fire up local Democrats for gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum and Sen. Bill Nelson. He tweaked the words to some of his old favorites.

"Come Tuesday, things will change," Buffett sang, swapping the date in his famous song "Come Monday." "Come Tuesday, we're making a change. It's been two insane years and it's time to really switch gears ..." He also played a version of "Margaritaville" slamming the state's Republican governor, Rick Scott, who is running against Nelson for the Senate, over an algae infestation that's killed millions of fish and closed beaches along the state's western coast.

"Some people say there's a red tide to blame," Buffett sang, "but I know that it's all Rick Scott's fault."

Harvey Rosenfeld, 68, attended the rally in his usual attire — a red, white and blue outfit topped with an Uncle Sam hat and a sign around his neck reading, "Be Patriotic, Respect Democracy, Honor America."

"All my life I have studied all of the candidates in determining for whom I would vote," said Rosenfeld, a retired publicist and former Republican. "But this time, I think the Republican Party has caved into Trumpism and it has gone so far astray that the only way that we can return to having a strong, vibrant Republican Party is for them to have a sharp wakeup call by seeing a strong rejection of their current platform."

In Arizona, the nasty Senate race has dominated the state. McSally, a former combat pilot, has accused Sinema of "treason" for comments about the Afghanistan war in 2002 while Democrats have been hammering the GOP candidate over her vote to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law.

Lately, as Trump has tried to raise fear of a caravan of Central American migrants trying to cross Mexico on foot to reach the U.S. border, McSally has taken to hammering Sinema on immigration. Those thoughts were on the mind of Stephen Ovanessoff, a retired church deacon and pathologist at a church visited by Republican Rep. David Schweikert as part of the congressman's own get-out-the-vote efforts Saturday.

"There should definitely be a strong border, especially for a country like the United States," said Ovanessoff, who immigrated from Iraq. "Because if you go outside to other countries there are millions and millions of people everywhere that want to come and live in this country."

In Tempe, outside Sun Devil Stadium, where thousands gathered wearing the team's bright yellow colors, Sinema was mobbed by well-wishers asking for hugs and selfies. The Democrat posed with voters as a band played a punk version of Elvis Presley's "Fools Rush In." Sinema teaches two courses on social work at the university and has multiple degrees from the school, and was widely recognized, even by ticket scalpers.

One student gushed to Sinema, "I've heard your ads on Spotify." One man confided to her: "You're the most qualified candidate, but I can't vote for you — I'm a Republican, my wife would kill me."

Gina Kilker was making her way through the crowd when she cried out, "Oh, my god, that's Kyrsten Sinema." Soon the candidate was posing with Kilker, her husband, daughter and son-in-law.

"We did not expect to see her," Kilker said. She tried to quickly sum up her emotions about the last two years to a passing reporter, and boiled it down to this: "We're hoping and praying for a blue wave."

Tom Beaumont in Hudson, Wisconsin; Michael Blood in Orange County, California; Bob Christie in Scottsdale, Arizona; John D. Hanna in Topeka, Kansas; Juana Summers in Kansas City, Missouri; Terry Spencer in West Palm Beach, Florida; and Lyndsay Whitehurst in West Jordan, Utah, contributed to this report.

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

Yoga shooter appeared to have made misogynistic videos

By GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A brooding military veteran and former teacher appeared to have made videos in which he railed at women and blacks, years before he fatally shot two women at a Florida yoga studio, wounded five other people and then killed himself.

The Friday evening shooting at a busy upscale shopping plaza jolted the state capital and police said they were still searching for a motive that led to the deaths of a Florida State University student and a well-known local doctor who was a member of the school faculty.

But details about 40-year-old Scott Paul Beierle began to emerge in the hours after, including that he had once been banned from FSU's campus and had been arrested twice for grabbing women even though the charges were ultimately dropped.

Beierle, who had moved to the central Florida town of Deltona after getting a graduate degree from FSU, appeared to post a series of videos on YouTube in 2014 where he called women "whores" if they dated black men, said many black women were "disgusting" and described himself as a misogynist.

A Tallahassee police spokesman would not confirm or deny the videos were Beierle's. However, the man speaking in the videos looks like Beierle and biographical details mentioned in the videos match known facts about Beierle, including details about his military service. Also, the poster's YouTube username included the word "Scott," Beierle's first name. The existence of the videos was first reported by BuzzFeed.

In one video, the man said promiscuous women deserved to be crucified and he suggested putting up land mines to keep people from crossing into the U.S. from Mexico.

In another video, the man who appeared to be Beierle likened his adolescent self to Elliot Rodger, a 22-year-old who killed six students and wounded more than a dozen others near the University of California, Santa Barbara, before killing himself in 2014. Rodger was a self-identified "incel," short for "involuntary celibate."

Tallahassee police say Beierle shot six people and pistol-whipped another after walking into the yoga studio that sits on the second floor of a shopping center located near the city's fashionable midtown neighborhoods. Tallahassee Police Chief Michael DeLeo said some in the studio showed courage by trying to stop him.

Witnesses at the shopping center described how people who had been in the studio ran away, seeking shelter in nearby bars and restaurants as shots rang out.

Police responded within a few minutes, but by then Beierle had fatally shot himself, leaving police to search for a motive and a community to wonder what prompted the violence.

"It's a place that brings me joy and peace, and I think it's ruined," said Katie Bohnett, an instructor at the yoga studio who skipped her normal Friday practice to meet a friend for dinner. "This monster ruined it."

Police said Beierle acted alone but they were still looking into what prompted the shooting. He was originally from New York, had served in the military and once was a teacher in Maryland. After his military service, he wound up attending FSU.

Kristi Malone, who had a graduate class with Beierle, said in a Facebook message that she did not interact with him outside of the classroom because of "his odd leering, inappropriate comments and general demeanor."

"I know that myself and several of my female colleagues made a point to never be alone with him even at school because of his odd behavior," Malone said.

Mike Orgo, who was friends with Beierle on Facebook, said he met him back in 2011 at comedy night open microphone sessions held at a Tallahassee restaurant. He said that he did not know him well but said he "definitely seemed angry and on edge."

Witnesses told police that Beierle posed as a customer to gain entrance to the studio, then started shooting without warning. Police have not yet said what kind of gun he used. Bohnett said she did not recognize Beierle.

The two slain Friday were a student and faculty member at Florida State University, according to uni-

versity officials. The department identified them as Dr. Nancy Van Vessem, 61, and Maura Binkley, 21. Binkley was a student from Atlanta who was due to graduate in May. Police said two other victims were in stable condition, and three had been released from the hospital.

Van Vessem was an internist who also served as chief medical director for Capital Health Plan, the area's leading health maintenance organization.

Court records show that Beierle was charged by police with battery in 2016 after he slapped and grabbed a woman's buttocks at an apartment complex pool. Records show that the charges were eventually dismissed after Beierle followed the conditions of a deferred prosecution agreement.

Beierle was also charged with battery in 2012 for grabbing women's buttocks in a university campus dining hall. A FSU police report shows that Beierle told police he may have accidentally bumped into someone, but denied grabbing anyone.

In 2014, Beierle was charged with trespassing at FSU. He had been seen following an FSU volleyball coach near the campus gym and was told that he was banned from campus. A month later police found him at a campus restaurant.

Conservatives want to bypass usual way to amend 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

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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 Hobert 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.

Nancy MacLean, a Duke University historian and author of "Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America," views the prospect of an Article V convention with fear — the next chapter of decades of work on the far right transforming the federal judiciary and supporting cases that go on to make broad constitutional points, all while suppressing votes and gerrymandering districts.

"The ultimate project," MacLean said of conservatives, "is to transform our primary rules book, which is the Constitution."

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

In that view, it's baffling to some observers that conservatives are the ones pushing a convention.

"I don't know what exactly they're unhappy with. When I look at the current politics, it seems to me things for them are going really well," said constitutional law professor Michael Klarman of Harvard University. "They're already getting what they want from the Supreme Court. Gerrymandering is fine. Unlimited money in politics is fine. The Electoral College is OK. Voter purges, photo ID laws are OK. So I don't know exactly what they're looking for."

Meckler acknowledges the loudest voices calling for a convention are conservative. ("You look at our website, it's all right-wingers," he says.) But he sees that as a reflection of a conservative culture in which the Constitution is more frequently discussed, not a reflection of the politics of it.

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.

"It's a dangerous route and an unpredictable one," said Laurence Tribe, another Harvard University constitutional law expert.

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

"That suggests a failure of institutions that is so massive that the last thing we need to worry about is a constitutional amendment," she said. "That would suggest that Congress failed in its duty to say, 'Look, you dealt with an issue that is not contained in the resolution.' That would require the judiciary to also not step in. It would require a failure of all of our democratic institutions and it would require a failure of the American people not to rise up."

Still, several states have rescinded previous calls for a convention as lawmakers grew fearful of what it

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could bring.

Over the years, Nevada lawmakers have made various calls for a convention to consider a ban on abortion, to prohibit racial integration of schools and to abolish the 17th Amendment.

But when Democratic state Sen. Tick Segerblom saw how close advocates were to hitting the 34-state mark, he realized the idea was no longer far-fetched and that it would be safer to back off its Article V votes rather than take the chance of a runaway convention. So last year, he sponsored a resolution to do just that.

The goals of convention backers "are not the Democratic Party's goals or even the Republican Party's goals," he said. "It's some fringe groups."

In fact, while some conservatives have voiced the greatest support for a convention, others strongly oppose it.

At an October hearing in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Kim Stolfer of the gun rights group Firearms Owners Against Crime told lawmakers that the push for a convention "scares the dickens out of me." Andy Schafly of the conservative Pennsylvania Eagle Forum called a convention "a Pandora's box."

A Republican who sponsored an Article V resolution and supports it so passionately that she calls it "my baby," Arizona state Rep. Kelly Townsend once shared those misgivings.

Now, though, she believes it could both put the country on the right path and unite the parties. She thinks an amendment on term limits could bring Democrats and Republicans together. That, in turn, could lead to another amendment that merges issues of opposing sides — perhaps, say, overturning of Citizens United to appeal to liberals while mandating a balanced budget to bring in conservatives.

"This isn't red vs. blue," she said, "this is about states' rights and an overspending, overbearing federal government that is out of control."

Harvard's Tribe rejects that as naive.

"The idea that we could have a kumbaya moment in which a convention would produce a stable republic with some respect for the rule of law," he said, "seems like a fantasy."

Sedensky can be reached at msedensky@ap.org or <https://twitter.com/sedensky>

Legal decisions and a racist robocall in Georgia gov. race

By **BILL BARROW** and **BEN NADLER**, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Last-minute legal decisions, a racist robocall and a protester wearing a giant chicken suit holding a sign that reads "too chicken to debate."

These are the scenes playing out amid the final furious days of the hotly contested and historic race for Georgia governor between Democrat Stacey Abrams and Republican Brian Kemp.

A robocall apparently from a white supremacist group is injecting racism directly into the race, which has already been fraught with a race-laden debate over ballot access and voter suppression. Abrams would be the first black female governor in U.S. history. Kemp, who oversees elections as Georgia's secretary of state, vehemently denies charges that he's used his office to make it harder for minorities to vote.

Abrams and Kemp are both condemning an automated telephone call filled with racist and anti-Semitic statements. The call, sent to an unknown number of Georgians, impersonates Oprah Winfrey, the billionaire media titan who came to Georgia on Thursday to support Abrams.

The robocall says it was paid for by The Road to Power, a group organized by Scott Rhodes of Idaho. He has been linked to several other racist robocalls, including a recent effort in Florida, where Democratic nominee Andrew Gillum would become the first black governor in his state's history.

Kemp issued a statement calling the tactic "vile" and "contrary to the highest ideals of our state and country," and condemning "any person or organization that peddles this type of unbridled hate and unapologetic bigotry."

The Abrams camp likewise blasted the move but took a shot at Kemp and his highest profile supporter, President Donald Trump, who is coming to Georgia to campaign Sunday. A top Abrams aide said both

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Kemp and Trump have contributed to a poisonous atmosphere, and that Kemp has been silent on previous racially loaded attacks on Abrams.

"These automated calls are being sent into homes just days before President Trump arrives, reminding voters exactly who is promoting a political climate that celebrates this kind of vile, poisonous thinking," said Abrams' spokeswoman Abigail Collazo.

Abrams sidestepped the issue Saturday in brief public remarks as she greeted voters at an Atlanta shopping complex along with her local congressman, civil rights icon John Lewis.

"Georgia has long been on a path of change and evolution," Abrams said. But she also said the election is about issues like expanding Medicaid insurance and focusing state spending on public education, job training and small business startups.

"I'm the only candidate with a plan to get that done and to do that without vitriol, without vilifying people," she added.

Lewis, the 78-year-old congressman who as a young man was severely beaten by police as he fought for voting rights in the Jim Crow South, put Georgia's choice in the broadest context: "This young lady is playing a major role in helping liberate all of us, liberate the state of Georgia, liberate the South, liberate America."

Kemp did not address the robocalls at his only scheduled campaign stop Saturday at a Cuban restaurant in a diverse north-Atlanta suburb.

Kemp told the packed crowd of supporters that the race for governor was a simple choice: one between continued economic prosperity under Republican leadership, or a turn to "socialism" under Democrats.

Kemp said the election was about "this generation and generations to come and the kind of state that we leave them." He then blasted Abrams' policy pitches on health care and education.

The Kemp event was also hit by a number of protesters. Two men protesting Kemp's immigration policy while Kemp was onstage were forcibly removed from the restaurant.

As a TV crew from MSNBC tried to film the hecklers being removed, a Kemp supporter physically blocked their path and the view of their lens.

And someone out front was wearing a giant chicken suit holding a sign that reads "too chicken to debate," alluding to Kemp withdrawing from a debate scheduled Sunday in favor of appearing in Macon with President Donald Trump.

Much of the final stretch of the race was consumed by a bitter battle over race and access to the polls.

Tensions grew after an Associated Press report in early October that more than 53,000 voter applications — nearly 70 percent of them from black applicants — were on hold with Kemp's office ahead of the election.

Many of the applications were flagged for failing to pass the state's "exact match" verification process, which requires that identification information on voter registration applications precisely match information already on file.

Kemp's office says that eligible voters on the "pending" list can still vote if they bring a proper ID that substantially matches their registration information. He called the controversy "manufactured."

But critics say county officials aren't always trained to make the proper determination and the system can be particularly hard to navigate for recently naturalized citizens.

In response to a lawsuit brought by civil rights groups, a judge on Friday ruled the state unfairly burdens about 3,100 possible voters whose registration was flagged for citizenship issues.

She ruled that Georgia must immediately start allowing poll managers — not just deputy registrars — to clear flagged voters who show proof of citizenship.

In a statement, Kemp said the lawsuit forced the state "to waste time and taxpayer dollars for the judge to tell us to do something that we already do."

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Migrant caravan in Mexico trudges through 'route of death'

By SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

ISLA, Mexico (AP) — Hundreds of Central American migrants from a 4,000-strong caravan winding its way through southern Mexico and toward the U.S. border splintered off on their own Saturday after broken promises of bus transportation.

Patience appeared to be wearing thin among the exhausted trekkers after Veracruz Gov. Miguel Angel Yunes reneged on an offer Friday to provide buses to leapfrog the migrants to the Mexican capital. Tempers flared as the migrants struggled with exhaustion, blisters, sickness and swollen feet.

Caravan organizers have pleaded for buses in recent days after three weeks on the road, hitching rides and walking. The group scattered between several towns in Veracruz Saturday, raising questions of whether they would stick together.

Several thousand planned to spend the night in Isla, about 700 miles (1,126 kilometers) south of the U.S. border, while another large contingent hunkered down in Juan Rodriguez Clara and yet another reached Tierra Blanca, 80 miles (129 kilometers) to the north.

In a statement, the migrants lambasted Mexican officials for directing them northward through the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz, calling it the "route of death." Some migrants branched off in the belief that they were near the metropolises of Puebla and Mexico City, where they aimed to rest and receive medical attention.

A trek via the sugar fields and fruit groves of Veracruz takes them through a state where hundreds of migrants have disappeared in recent years, falling prey to kidnappers looking for ransom payments.

Authorities in Veracruz said in September they had discovered remains from at least 174 people buried in clandestine graves. Some security experts have questioned whether those bodies belonged to migrants.

Ibis Villanueva, 32, said he decided to strike out on his own for Puebla because he felt frustrated by the lack of organization in the caravan.

"We don't believe the coordinators anymore. Yesterday they said we were going on bus, today no," said the sunburned welder from Honduras.

Gerardo Perez, a 20-year-old migrant, said he was tired. "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," he said.

The caravan's 'strength in numbers' strategy has enabled them to mobilize support as they move through Mexico and has inspired subsequent migrants to try their luck via caravan.

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

On Friday, a caravan from El Salvador waded over the Suchiate River into Mexico, bringing 1,000 to 1,500 people who want to reach the U.S. border.

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

Another caravan, also of about 1,000 to 1,500 people, entered Mexico earlier this week and is now in Chiapas. That group includes Hondurans, Salvadorans and some Guatemalans.

The first, largest group of mainly Honduran migrants entered Mexico on Oct. 19. At its peak that caravan swelled to an estimated 7,000 participants.

Mexican officials appear conflicted over whether to help or hinder their journeys.

Immigration agents and police have at times detained migrants in the smaller caravans. There has also been pressure on the main caravan, with federal police pulling over freight trucks and forcing migrants off, saying that clinging to the tops or sides of the trucks was dangerous.

But several mayors have rolled out the welcome mat for migrants who reached their towns - arranging for food and camp sites. 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.

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With or without the government's help, uncertainty awaits.

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 ahead of the midterm elections.

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.

Associated Press writer Amy Guthrie in Mexico City contributed to this report.

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, who he called a "liberal Democrat, for darn sure."

"She votes with (Sen.) Chuck Schumer almost 90 percent of the time, she voted against Justice (Brett) Kavanaugh, against Justice (Neil) Gorsuch, against middle-class tax cuts, against border security," Hawley said Saturday at a Columbia campaign stop. "She's against standing up to China and trade cheaters. I mean any issue that's important to Missourians, she's with her party down the line."

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.

He got some conservative backup from National Rifle Association President Oliver North, who campaigned

for him Saturday in Imperial, Missouri, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of St. Louis. The NRA endorsed Hawley and aired ads against McCaskill, even as the organization nationally adopted a lower profile in this year's high-stakes midterms as the dynamics shift in the gun debate.

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."

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Trump, Democrats vying for support in final midterm push

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Democrats are delivering competing closing arguments during the final weekend before Tuesday's elections, but their messages are complicated by a deadly shooting in a politically pivotal state.

Trump aimed to drum up voter turnout with events Saturday in Belgrade, Montana, and Pensacola, Florida, about 200 miles west of Florida's capital, Tallahassee, where two people were shot to death and five others wounded at a yoga studio on Friday night.

Vice President Mike Pence helped embattled Gov. Scott Walker, R-Wis., and then was meeting up with Trump in Florida to rally Republicans behind Rick Scott, who is trying to unseat Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson, and former Rep. Ron DeSantis, who hopes to succeed Scott as governor.

DeSantis has been in a tight contest against Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who broke off campaigning after the shooting in his hometown. Gillum had appeared earlier Friday with former President Barack Obama.

Democrats were fanning out across the country to help the party stoke turnout in their effort to capture seats in Congress and win several races for governor. Former Vice President Joe Biden was campaigning in Ohio with former Obama administration official Richard Cordray, who is attempting to become governor in a high-profile contest.

A look at campaign activities on Saturday:

FLORIDA SHOOTING

The final stretch of the Florida campaign was briefly disrupted by the shooting Friday evening at a Tallahassee yoga studio.

Scott and Gillum both rushed back to the state capital after the gunman killed two people and injured five others before killing himself.

Shortly before midnight, Gillum and Scott met with victims who had been taken to a hospital near the shopping center where the shooting took place. Gillum, who has clashed with Scott in the past, thanked the governor for his "care and consideration" by visiting the victims.

Both Gillum and Scott planned to return to campaigning on Saturday with stops in central Florida. Scott was expected to be with Trump when he holds a rally later in the day in Pensacola, while Gillum was to attend a get out the vote concert with Jimmy Buffett in West Palm Beach.

DeSantis, Gillum's Republican opponent in the governor's race, has repeatedly criticized Tallahassee's crime rate in his campaign speeches. Police have not yet identified a motive behind the shooting.

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IMMIGRATION

In Montana, Trump pushed back on criticism that he is focusing too much on immigration rhetoric during the closing days of the election season.

Trump said during his rally that he also talks about economic gains, but can only "go for 4 or 5 minutes." After that, he said, "what I do is talk about some of the problems."

Said Trump: "When we're fixing a problem or fixed a problem there's no reason to go on about it for 45 minutes."

Trump has focused his closing midterm argument on immigration, stoking anxiety about several caravans of Central American migrants traveling to the southern border. He's also threatening constitutionally enshrined birthright citizenship.

GEORGIA ROBOCALL

In Georgia, a robocall apparently paid for by a white supremacist group directly injected racism into a governor's race already fraught with race-laden debates over ballot access and voter suppression.

Democrat Stacey Abrams and Republican Brian Kemp joined together in condemning the automated telephone call that featured a voice impersonating Oprah Winfrey, the billionaire media star who campaigned in Georgia for Abrams Thursday.

The call concluded by saying it was paid for by The Road to Power, a group organized by Scott Rhodes of Idaho, who has been linked to several other incendiary robocalls, including a recent effort in Florida, where Gillum would become the first black governor in state history.

Kemp issued a statement calling the tactic "vile" and "contrary to the highest ideals of our state and country," adding a condemnation of "any person or organization that peddles this type of unbridled hate and unapologetic bigotry."

Abrams' campaign also blasted the move but criticized Kemp and Trump, who will campaign together in Georgia Sunday. The campaign said Trump and Kemp had contributed to a poisonous atmosphere and Kemp has been silent on previous racially loaded attacks on Abrams.

PENCE

Campaigning in Wisconsin, Pence pushed back against the notion that Democrats will sweep to victory in Tuesday's elections.

"I keep hearing about this blue wave," Pence said. "Let's make sure that blue wave hits a red wall in the Badger State."

Pence and Walker addressed more than 500 supporters in northwest Wisconsin, where the two-term governor told them, "I need your help now more than ever." Walker noted that recent polls have shown him tied with Democrat Tony Evers.

Pence pointed to the caravan of immigrants traveling through Mexico toward the U.S. southern border and claimed it was "being driven by the dangerous policies of Democrats." The audience chanted, "Build that wall!"

WISCONSIN REPUBLICANS

Hundreds of northwest Wisconsin Republicans huddled together in 40-degree temperatures waiting to enter the shipping warehouse in Hudson, Wisconsin, where Pence rallied supporters for Walker.

Walker is in a fight for his political career just three days before the election. Polls show Walker knotted with Evers, Wisconsin's superintendent of schools.

Walker supporter Sue Hodgson described herself as "nervous, more than excited." "We're here to show our support," Hodgson, of nearby River Falls, Wisconsin, said. "I just hope it's enough."

Walker needs to shore up northern Wisconsin and turn out conservatives in the suburban counties around Milwaukee to overcome intensity among Democratic-leaning voters in Milwaukee and Madison. Walker has defied the odds before, beating a recall election in 2012 mounted after he signed controversial legislation

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in 2011 stripping public employees of union rights.

"It's going to be very close," said Ronald Godden, who traveled more than two hours north from near LaCrosse to attend the rally. "People know he got us out of the hole. We know he's a Godly man. That's the most important thing to me."

TEXAS VOTING

Nearly 4.9 million people voted in Texas' 30 largest counties during the early-voting period, surpassing the total number of votes cast throughout the state in the last midterm election.

Texas secretary of state figures released Saturday found that more than 540,000 people in those 30 counties voted early on Friday, which was the last day of early voting in the state. Although Texas has 254 counties, the 30 largest are home to nearly 80 percent of the state's residents.

The nearly 4.9 million early votes exceed the 4.7 million total votes cast in Texas in the 2014 midterm election.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz and Democrat Beto O'Rourke, his Senate challenger, have said strong turnout would benefit them. O'Rourke, a rising Democratic Party star, is trying to become Texas' first Democrat to win statewide office since 1994, but he faces long odds given Republicans' advantages in statewide elections.

Associated Press writer Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Florida, Darlene Superville in Belgrade, Montana, Thomas Beaumont in Hudson, Wisconsin, and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

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Trump presidency faces high stakes in midterm elections

By **ZEKE MILLER** and **CATHERINE LUCEY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has been acting like a candidate on the ballot this week, staging daily double-header rallies and blasting out ads for Republicans up for election on Tuesday. Given the stakes for his presidency, he might as well be.

A knot of investigations. Partisan gridlock. A warning shot for his re-election bid. Trump faces potentially debilitating fallout should Republicans lose control of one or both chambers in Congress, ending two years of GOP hegemony in Washington. A White House that has struggled to stay on course under favorable circumstances would be tested in dramatic ways. A president who often battles his own party, would face a far less forgiving opposition.

On the flip side, if Republicans maintain control of the House and Senate, that's not only a victory for the GOP, but a validation of Trump's brand of politics and his unconventional presidency. That result, considered less likely even within the White House, would embolden the president as he launches his own re-election bid.

White House aides insist the president doesn't spend much time contemplating defeat, but he has begun to try to calibrate expectations. He has focused on the competitive Senate races the final days of his scorched-earth campaign blitz, and has distanced himself from blame should Republicans lose the House. If that happens, he intends to claim victory, arguing his efforts on the campaign trail narrowed GOP losses and helped them hold the Senate, according to a person familiar with Trump's thinking who asked for anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss White House conversations by name.

Throughout the campaign, Trump has been tested out other explanations — pointing to historical headwinds for the party of an incumbent president and complaining about a rash of GOP retirements this year. He told the AP last month that he won't bear any responsibility should Democrats take over.

At a rally in West Virginia Friday a defiant Trump brushed off the prospect of a Democratic House takeover. "It could happen," he said, adding "don't worry about it. I'll just figure it out."

Meanwhile his staff has begun preparations to deal with a flood of subpoenas that could arrive next year

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from Democrat-controlled committees and the White House counsel's office has been trying to attract seasoned lawyers to field oversight inquiries.

Should they take the House, Democrats are already plotting to reopen the House Intelligence Committee's investigation into Trump campaign's ties to Russia. Other committees are plotting aggressive oversight of Trump's administration and his web of business interests. Some Democrats are looking at using the House Ways and Means Committee to obtain copies of the president's tax returns after he broke with decades of tradition and withheld them from public scrutiny during his campaign for the White House.

A slim Republican majority in the House would also present challenges, likely inflaming simmering intraparty disputes. First among them would be a potentially bitter leadership fight in the House to replace retiring Speaker Paul Ryan. But a narrowed majority would also exacerbate divisions over policy — and continued unified control could leave the GOP facing the blame for gridlock.

"Clearly there's an awful lot on the line in terms of the legislative agenda," said Republican consultant Josh Holmes. "The prospect of a Democratic controlled House or Senate puts a serious wrinkle in getting anything through Congress."

Some in the White House think losing to Democrats might actually be preferable. They view Democrats eagerness to investigate the president as a blessing in disguise in the run-up to 2020. They view House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as a potent foil for Trump, and believe they can tag the party responsibility for Washington dysfunction.

Ari Fleischer, George W. Bush's press secretary, said Democratic control of the House "has both peril and promise for the president."

"The peril is subpoenas, investigations, legal bills and headaches," he said. "The promise is Trump will have an easy foil to run against: Pelosi and Democratic leadership."

White House aides have discussed floating popular legislative issues, such as infrastructure, to tempt Democrats and test the unity of the Democratic opposition.

While keeping the House remained an uphill battle for the GOP, the in the closing days of the campaign, Trump and Republicans have tried to sell voters on the possibilities of another two years of GOP control. They promised hardline immigration policies and more tax cuts, arguing that Democrats would erase two years of progress.

In the closing weeks of the midterms, Trump has unleashed a no-holds-barred effort to boost Republicans as he dipped into the same undercurrents of unease that defined his 2016 campaign. From stoking fears about illegal immigration to warning of economic collapse if Democrats are victorious.

But a House loss will prompt GOP hand-wringing about the divides in the party and the struggles for moderate Republicans to run in the Trump, as well as raise questions about whether the Democratic gains point to a path for presidential hopefuls in 2020.

Democratic consultant Jim Manley said Tuesday may reveal if Democrats are having any success recapturing white working class voters in the Midwest who backed Trump in 2016.

"Trump is helping. He's becoming more and more radioactive," Manley said. "There's a chance to try and win them back over."

But while the results may reveal weaknesses in the Republican coalition, midterm elections are very different than presidential years. Republicans were quick to point out that the party in power typically suffers defeats in midterms. Former President Barack Obama was in his words "shellacked" in 2010 and went on to win re-election in 2012.

Said Fleischer: "In the aftermath people with exaggerate its meaning and in 2 years' time everything will have changed."

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Sen. Jon Tester pushes to make race about Montana, not Trump

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — With President Donald Trump clamoring to defeat U.S. Sen. Jon Tester and conservative groups spending heavily against him, the Democrat is falling back on a well-worn strategy in his pursuit of a third term: make the election about Montana, not Washington.

Trump's feud with Tester, triggered by the lawmaker's opposition to Trump's choice for Veterans Affairs secretary, has blossomed into an all-out presidential campaign to install Republican Matt Rosendale. Trump is making a record fourth visit to Montana on Saturday.

Instead of fighting back, Tester has sought to ingratiate himself with Trump's supporters, reminding them of legislation on veterans that he sponsored and the president signed and touting his understanding of the state as a lifelong resident and farmer.

Tester avoids almost any mention of Trump in campaign speeches. He speaks about health care and Republican proposals to make it harder to get coverage for pre-existing conditions. He talks about protecting public lands in the state, while demonizing his opponent as "Maryland Matt," a real estate developer from Maryland who falsely claims to be a rancher.

"Look, Montanans know who I am: They know I'm a lifetime Montanan, they know I understand rural America, they know I understand public lands and not privatizing them, they know I understand the importance of public education," Tester said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Matt Rosendale isn't any of that."

Rosendale, Montana's state auditor and insurance commissioner, has looked to score points by using the GOP playbook — plugging a hardline immigration stance and highlighting Tester's opposition to Trump's Supreme Court nominees. But his primary strategy seems to be riding the president's coattails.

"How can you argue about the tax cuts and the benefits being provided to the people of Montana and the nation?" Rosendale said during an interview. "We're seeing national security in a better place. We're starting to work on securing our southern border. ... These are things that are working for people across the state and across our nation."

A Rosendale victory would give Montana an all-GOP congressional delegation and could cement the party's control of a closely divided Senate.

Rosendale, 58, moved to Glendive, Montana, with his wife and three sons in 2002. He won a seat in the state Legislature in 2010. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House in 2014, became state Senate majority leader the next year and was elected in 2016 as state auditor.

Tester, 62, is married with two children. He took over his family's farm in the town of Big Sandy after college and taught music at an elementary school. He was elected to the state Senate in 1998 and the U.S. Senate in 2006. In 2012, Tester beat back a challenge from a Republican congressman.

Libertarian Rick Breckenridge rounds out Tuesday's Senate ballot. He hasn't been actively campaigning and on Thursday threw his support behind Rosendale. The move caught Libertarian leaders off guard and was disavowed by the party's chairman, Francis Wendt, who said Rosendale was weak on personal privacy protections.

The GOP is hopeful the move will prevent a repeat of Tester's 2012 re-election, when a Libertarian candidate peeled away enough votes that they could have changed the outcome if they had gone to the Republican.

Trump's appearance Saturday in Belgrade will mark the most visits to Montana by any sitting president. He took a personal interest in the race after Tester released allegations of workplace misconduct against Trump's first nominee for VA secretary, Ronny Jackson, who withdrew from consideration in April.

Jackson has denied the allegations and they are being investigated by Pentagon officials.

At Saturday's rally, Trump railed against Tester for three minutes for attempting to "ruin" Jackson, "the most clean-cut, wonderful person that you've ever met," the president said.

"He tried to destroy him, and I've never forgotten," Trump said. "It's honestly one of the reasons I've been here so much."

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The president's attentions have helped boost a candidate who wasn't the GOP's first or even second choice to take on the two-term incumbent. The White House blitz in Montana also included multiple trips by the president's son, Vice President Mike Pence and a parade of Republican senators.

The visits have fired up interest in the race but that could backfire if it motivates voters who disapprove of the president, said David Parker, a political analyst at Montana State University.

"They're putting all their chips on the table with the Trump brand," Parker said, adding that Rosendale's campaign had no choice, with Tester outraising him 4-to-1 in donations.

Outside groups and donations to the candidates have reached \$60 million, a record for Montana politics.

In Rosendale's view, Tester embodies the same corrupt Washington establishment that the Democrat pledged to change when he first ran in 2006. Tester now ranks as one of the top recipients of cash donations from lobbyists among all members of Congress, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics.

"How can you stand there 12 years ago and say that I won't be encumbered by lobbyists, and this is the number one recipient?" Rosendale said of Tester. "People spend too much time in Washington, D.C., and they become intoxicated with the power and privilege that's presented to them."

Tester has made a name for himself as a proponent of campaign finance reform and says the amount of money going into the race is out of his control.

"Look, this is the landscape," Tester said. "The difference is, I will push and I will work hard for campaign finance reform. I think it hurts our democracy badly."

Associated Press reporter Matt Volz in Helena contributed to this report.

Follow Matthew Brown on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MatthewBrownAP>

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About 100 gather for 'healing service' outside synagogue

By RAMESH SANTANAM, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Parents clutched their children, couples leaned on each other and bystanders wept as about 100 people gathered in a steady drizzle outside the desecrated Tree of Life synagogue for what a former rabbi called a healing service one week after the worst attack targeting Jews in U.S. history.

Rabbi Chuck Diamond led a service of prayers, songs and poetry and reminisced about some of the worshippers killed, as Show Up For Shabbat services honoring the 11 dead and six wounded were held at synagogues across the United States.

"I almost expected Cecil to greet me this morning," Diamond said of Cecil Rosenthal, 59, killed along with his brother, David, 54, in the Oct. 27 shooting at Tree of Life synagogue in the city's Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

Diamond called the victims "angels given to us, full of love and life."

In the past week, people told him of weddings, bar mitzvahs and other ceremonies they've held at the synagogue. "This is a place, a building that has stood for joy, but now it is forever stained," Diamond said. But the shooting "cannot overshadow (that) this building is and will be into the future a place of joy."

He said he took great comfort in seeing people of all faiths come together since the shooting and for his prayer vigil on Saturday.

"It's important to come and take care of your community when something like this happens. I want to be in solidarity," said Andrew Allison, who attended Saturday's service.

Before coming to the outdoor service, Steve Irwin, 59, and a friend stopped by a Squirrel Hill coffee shop. "When we went to pay, we were told all the coffee was paid for by the Sandy Hook community," referring to Newtown, Conn., where a gunman killed 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012.

"It brought tears to my eyes," Irwin said, standing outside Tree of Life on Saturday with his dog. "It

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shows how incumbent it is upon us to pay it forward to the next community this happens, which we hope never happens, but we know it will happen.”

The outdoor service “gives you a sense of normalcy, which is impossible to find right now,” he said.

Meanwhile, the pews were packed at Central Synagogue in New York City, where Jews and non-Jews alike gathered for a special Show Up for Shabbat service.

“It’s such a tragedy that happened in Pittsburgh, and I was touched by the calling of the Jewish community to welcome non-Jews into their synagogues today, so I couldn’t resist and I came,” said Steven Kent, an Episcopalian. “It was a wonderful feeling.”

The suspect, Robert Bowers, 46, pleaded not guilty Thursday to federal charges that could result in a death sentence. He was arraigned on a 44-count indictment charging him with murder, hate crimes, obstructing the practice of religion and other crimes.

“This is not a Jewish problem, although Jews were targeted. This is a human problem,” said Rev. Lee Clark, a retired Presbyterian pastor who took part in Saturday’s service outside the Tree of Life synagogue. “The only way to confront hate is to face it with love.”

About a half-mile away at Congregation Beth Shalom, worshippers, including several members of Tree of Life, gathered for Shabbat services.

They honored Augie Siriano, 59, the 25-year Tree of Life custodian, who witnessed the shooting. “I had tea with Cecil (Rosenthal) 10 minutes before I found him,” Siriano said later, wiping away tears.

“Augie just loved them,” said Siriano’s girlfriend, Rose Battista.

Scott Priester, 48, a Lutheran, came to Beth Shalom on Saturday — his first ever Shabbat service. “The shooting rocked me to the core, more than anything in my personal life,” he said.

Gary Friedman, 65, called the massacre “a blow, a stab to the heart.”

He had no doubt the community will recover. “We’ll get over it,” he said. “We always do. What other choice do we have?”

Associated Press reporter Julie Walker in New York contributed.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2018. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Nov. 4, 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of them, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

On this date:

In 1879, humorist Will Rogers was born in Oologah, Oklahoma.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen’s tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1939, the United States modified its neutrality stance in World War II, allowing “cash and carry” purchases of arms by belligerents, a policy favoring Britain and France.

In 1942, during World War II, Axis forces retreated from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Bernard Montgomery.

In 1956, Soviet troops moved in to crush the Hungarian Revolution.

In 1964, comedian Lenny Bruce was convicted by a three-judge panel in New York of obscenity charges stemming from his performances at the Cafe Au Go Go in Greenwich Village. (Bruce received a posthumous pardon in 2003 from New York Gov. George Pataki.)

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1985, to the shock and dismay of U-S officials, Soviet defector Vitaly Yurchenko announced he was returning to the Soviet Union, charging he had been kidnapped by the C-I-A.

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In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; attending were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon — the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

In 2001, Hurricane Michelle roared across Cuba, forcing the government to shut down power for much of the communist island and evacuate 750,000 people. The Arizona Diamondbacks won their first World Series by beating the New York Yankees 3-2 in Game 7.

In 2007, King Tutankhamen's face was unveiled for the first time to the public more than 3,000 years after the pharaoh was buried in his Egyptian tomb.

Ten years ago: Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first black president of the United States, defeating Republican John McCain. California voters approved Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage, overturning a state Supreme Court decision that gave gay couples the right to wed just months earlier. Author Michael Crichton (KRY'-tuhn) died in Los Angeles at age 66.

Five years ago: In Tehran's largest anti-U.S. rally in years, tens of thousands of demonstrators joined in chants of "death to America" as hard-liners directed a major show of resolve against President Hassan Rouhani's outreach to Washington.

One year ago: China's rubber-stamp legislature made it a criminal offense to disrespect the country's national anthem, punishable by up to three years in prison; the move came amid rising nationalist appeals from the ruling Communist Party. Saudi Arabian authorities began a wave of arrests of dozens of the country's most powerful princes, military officers, businessmen and government ministers in a purported anti-corruption sweep; they included potential rivals or critics of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Loretta Swit is 81. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 80. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 78. Former first lady Laura Bush is 72. Actress Ivonne Coll is 71. Actress Markie Post is 68. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 64. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 58. Actress-comedian Kathy Griffin is 58. Actor Ralph Macchio is 57. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 57. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 49. Rapper-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs is 49. Talk show host Bethenny Frankel is 48. Actor Anthony Ruivivar is 48. Soul/jazz singer Gregory Porter is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 47. Celebrity chef Curtis Stone is 43. Actress Heather Tom is 43. Rhythm-and-blues/gospel singer George Huff is 38. Actress Emme Rylan is 38. Actor Chris Greene (Film: "Loving") is 36.

Thought for Today: "No one is so eager to gain new experience as he who doesn't know how to make use of the old ones." — Marie Ebner von Eschenbach, Austrian writer (1830-1916).