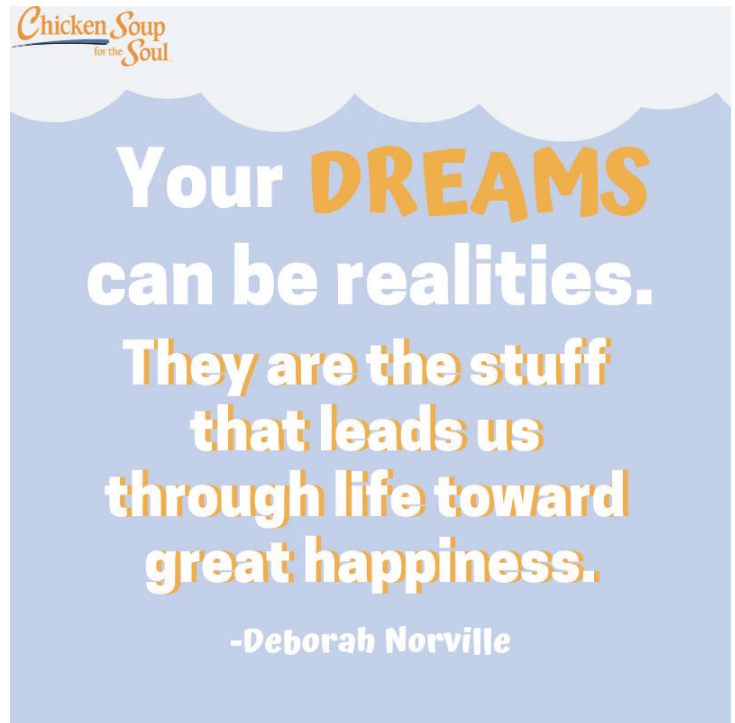


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OPEN! Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



Click on Ad to sign up!



Greenhouse Raffle

Prizes are:

- Greenhouse (12'x7.5', 2 shelves, 2 outlets, light)
- Hunting Blind (Hexagon with 6 shooting windows)
- Free delivery within 20 miles
- 2 Dairy Queen \$50 Gift Cards

Need not be present to win. \$10 Donation Drawing to be held April 15th

Contact any Robotics member for a ticket or call Jim Lane at 605/397-7013.

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Noem Funds Second Century Habitat Initiative Completes Work on Bills Passed During 2019 Legislative Session

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem signed SB176, a bill to increase habitat programs and strengthen the future of pheasant hunting in South Dakota.

“The first century of pheasant hunting put South Dakota on the map as a destination for every hunter,” said Noem. “In recent years, however, pheasant numbers have dropped and habitat lands have diminished. The bill I signed this week is a step to reverse those trends. By investing in habitat preservation and expansion, we can preserve our outdoor traditions and ensure the second century of pheasant hunting is as great as the first.”

Each year, 81,000 non-resident pheasant hunters spend more than \$156 million in South Dakota – a significant engine to tourism, the state’s second largest industry.

“As South Dakota’s Sportsman in Chief, I’m committed to expanding habitat and pheasant hunting opportunities for the next generation,” Noem continued. “My Second Century Initiative gets kids outside, protects our native grasslands, and continues our state’s incredible outdoor legacy.”

SB176 allocates \$1 million that may be matched with private donations and federal conservation programs. The money will be administered by officials with the Second Century Habitat Fund for the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

SB176 goes into effect on June 28.

Noem signed the following legislation on March 29:

HB1186 – An act to repeal the termination of the juvenile detention cost-sharing fund

SB176 – An act to make an appropriation for the second century habitat fund

With these bill signings, the governor has completed her work on the bills passed during the 2019 legislative session.

NOW HIRING!

Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts &
Class A CDL Drivers

New Starting Competitive Wages
Overtime Available

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
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- Paid Sick Leave
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To apply visit www.uslbn.com/careers or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Enhancing Our Energy Potential

With the winter months coming to a close, folks across the state are getting ready to turn off the heat, throw open the windows, and breathe in the fresh air of spring. And while the fresh air does good for the soul, it also does good for our monthly budgets.

Due in part to our long winters, South Dakotans pay higher energy bills than many people in the nation. An average South Dakota household will pay an energy bill of \$305 per month. To put that in perspective, a typical Mississippi household pays only \$122 each month. That means a family in Timberlake pays \$2,000 more each year than a family in Tupelo.

I've long supported an all-of-the-above approach when it comes to energy. Whether it's energy from coal, natural gas, the sun, wind, or other renewable sources, we need policies that support and encourage a diversified approach to meeting our state's energy needs. Working toward a balanced energy mix enhances our national security and helps us avoid price spikes associated with any one resource. You wouldn't put all your eggs in one basket, and you wouldn't put your retirement all in one stock... The same goes for energy sources.

And while our state doesn't have the coal, oil, or natural gas reserves that some of our neighbors have, we have plenty of wind, sun, and other renewable resources. Advancing local renewable energy creates jobs here at home.

During the legislative session, I was encouraged by the attention to energy development. In February, I signed a bill into law that expands energy potential by streamlining wind and solar energy development on state-owned lands. This is a small but important step toward better utilizing our state-owned lands. In March, I approved another bill that simplifies permit procedures and reduces regulatory redundancy surrounding solar energy production. It's important for us to harness these renewable resources so we can expand clean energy solutions and combat high energy bills.

Tackling energy costs in South Dakota will require a concerted effort, and these bills are solid steps in the right direction. I will continue working with energy providers and regulators, like the Public Utilities Commission, to ensure our state policies are encouraging the right mix of affordable energy sources that can be reliably provided to South Dakota families and businesses.

By taking an all-of-the-above approach to energy production, I believe we can tap into homegrown energy sources that will reduce prices, create jobs, and increase independence. We have the potential; it just needs to be unleashed.

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CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



Dignity in Work

I grew up in a large working-class family in central South Dakota. My parents worked hard, every single day. So did I, and so did my brother and my sisters.

Even with that hard work, there were times when we needed help from government to get by. I am who I am today because of the experiences of both welfare and hard work. Government assistance can help meet people's basic needs—we all know that. But on its own, welfare alone means surviving just barely, on the edges.

Welfare can meet basic short-term needs, but education and work – yes, education and work – they deliver long-term hope, dignity, purpose and opportunity.

That brings me to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, otherwise known as SNAP or “food stamps.” I know this program well, from both personal and professional experiences. Currently, under federal law, able-bodied non-seniors – people between the ages of 18 and 50 – without children at home are required to work, train, volunteer or go to school for 20 hours a week to receive their benefits.

To most Americans, these work requirements are common sense, just as they were when they were passed into law in 1996 in a bipartisan manner. Work requirements for able-bodied individuals are common sense because work isn't punishment, work is opportunity.

Despite the law, over the years some states have utilized loopholes to trigger waivers. Many of these waivers water down the work requirements I've mentioned, and today one-third of our nation lives in an area with no work requirements.

Despite a record-high seven million job openings, we have 2.7 million SNAP recipients who can work, but do not. There is a better way.

A few years ago, because of state waivers, too many Arkansans were not experiencing the kind of dignity and opportunity that comes from holding a job. So Arkansas changed course. They put their work requirements back into place – and the results were impressive.

People who left the program because they didn't work or didn't train or didn't volunteer ended up better off than they were on welfare. Necessity pushed them into a job path that brought them more resources than welfare alone could ever provide.

Now, with all of those people moving off of welfare and into the workplace, they were earning money, and the state saw their revenues go up. That kind of success can and is happening elsewhere. When Maine reimplemented work requirements, incomes of former enrollees more than doubled and caseloads declined by 90%. These results are a testament to what hard work can do.

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue should be commended for his efforts to do just that through a proposed rule – making sure that food stamp recipients are encouraged and rewarded for their work.

I want to make it very clear: these actions are not about taking aid away from areas that are struggling with high unemployment – there are clear exceptions for those areas. Instead, this is about prompting more states and more citizens to experience the successes that have been experienced by Maine and by Arkansas.

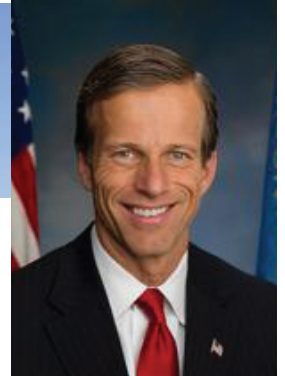
Every one of us does better when we are pushed, when we are moved past our comfort level. Growth requires effort. That is true in athletics, that is true in academics, that is true in raising children, and it is true in all other areas of life as well.

Denying millions of able-bodied SNAP recipients that growth, also denies them a chance at a better future. In states where work requirements have been reinstated, a clearer path out of poverty has reemerged. We have to do that elsewhere. We have to do that everywhere.

Work has dignity. Work is opportunity. Work is an American value.

As ranking member of the panel that oversees food stamps, I'm looking forward to making our policies better match our values.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



A Home Run for South Dakota

When the Air Force recently announced that Ellsworth Air Force Base would be the nation's first home to the new B-21 training and operational squadrons, South Dakota received what is nothing short of amazing news. It cannot be overstated what this means for the region, for the state, and for the entire nation. And if any base deserved this, it was Ellsworth, which is a fitting tribute to the community and its leaders.

Getting the B-21s represents an obvious strategic and military opportunity, but with hundreds of new personnel and their families coming to the Rapid City area, and with plenty of new infrastructure needs, like weapon storage facilities, hangars, schools, and housing, it will mean a huge shot in the arm for the economy, too. Ellsworth already contributes approximately \$1 million per day to the economy, so these new investments are bound to drive that number even higher.

After news broke about South Dakota soon becoming home to the new B-21s, several people asked me if I was surprised by the announcement – surprised that Ellsworth would be the first to welcome these fifth-generation bombers to its fleet. It's a fair but complicated question, and it requires a walk down memory lane.

I was a few short months into my Senate service when I received a call on May 13, 2005, that Ellsworth had been placed on the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list, which, if approved, would have been a disaster for the local economy and resulted in Ellsworth shuttering its doors and runways. After the initial call, I wasted no time in getting to work to spare the base from closure. I dropped everything and was on the phone with anyone in President Bush's administration who would take my call. I was not going to let the base close on my watch.

I worked non-stop and with anyone who was willing to join the fight, and, to simplify what amounted to a full-court press summer, on August 26, 2005, South Dakota prevailed. Ellsworth was officially removed from the BRAC list. It was an important victory, but I viewed it as a wake-up call more than anything. We needed to learn from what had happened and do everything we could to secure the base's future by ensuring it never again faced such a grim situation.

It was at that point when we began systematically working to enhance the base's value by attracting new missions, expanding the Powder River Training Complex – now the largest training air space in the continental United States – and, through my work as then-chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, securing altitude waivers to help the base's large force exercises expand upward, too.

So, to answer the question – was I surprised to hear the news? Well, had you told me in 2005 that we'd one day be the first to welcome these next-generation stealth bombers, I probably wouldn't have believed you. But today, with everything the base and its airmen have been able to accomplish, and with the community's support, I'm not surprised at all. In fact, the only thing that would have surprised me would have been if Ellsworth had not been considered at all.

With major milestones like this one, you sometimes need to take a step back and let it sink in for a little bit. In 14 years, Ellsworth went from facing imminent closure to now receiving the newest and most state-of-the-art bombers the world has ever known. From BRAC to B-21s. A total home run. It's an amazing and exciting story – one that required a lot of teamwork. The only thing that's more exciting, though, is that Ellsworth's story and the legacy it has created is far from over. With this latest news, we've merely turned the page to its next remarkable chapter.

Noem Approves a Balanced Budget for FY2020 Signs 28 Bills on Variety of Topics

PIERRE, S.D. – Last week, Governor Kristi Noem signed final appropriations bills for FY2020.

“When I took office in January, I promised South Dakota that my administration would remain rooted in fiscal integrity,” said Noem. “This week, I signed budget legislation that is balanced, addresses critical needs, and invests in the next generation. This budget does not spend money we don’t have, and it doesn’t increase taxes.”

“In South Dakota, our system of budgeting works,” said Liza Clark, South Dakota’s Chief Financial Officer. “The three branches of government work together to prioritize our citizens while responsibly using the resources available to us. South Dakota is on the right track, and this budget positions us well for the future. We should be proud of our hard work.”

The final appropriations bills Noem signed this week include:

10% inflation for nursing homes. This equates to nearly \$18.1 million in total ongoing funds for nursing homes.

6.5% inflation for community support providers (CSPs). This equates to over \$9.0 million in total ongoing funds for the CSPs.

Other community-based providers will get 3-4%. Non-community-based providers will get an average of 1.5%.

A 2.5% increase to the target teacher salary for K-12 general education and special education.

2.5% for technical institutes.

2.5% increase in salaries for our state employee workforce, plus funding to structurally balance the state’s health plan.

Funding to confront the meth epidemic, including: education, enforcement, and treatment.

Match funding for Statewide 211.

“After months of committee meetings with state agencies, meeting directly with agency staff to dive deep into the budget details, and a thorough review of our available revenues, we created a balanced budget. Our state constitution requires a budget that is balanced, and SB191 accomplishes this for the 130th consecutive year,” Noem concluded.

Noem signed the following bills on March 27:

SB8 – An act to provide for a statewide resource information system

SB118 – An act to establish certain provisions regarding advance care planning

SB123 – An act to provide for the adoption of privacy protection policies

SB128 – An act to make an appropriation to the gaming commission fund, to provide for the transfer of funds to the special racing revolving fund and the South Dakota-bred racing fund, and to declare an emergency

SB136 – An act to provide for the utilization of telehealth by a health care professional

SB137 – An act to provide for the payment of claims for covered services provided by a health care professional via telehealth

SB140 – An act to provide for the increase of higher education enrolled members of the nine federally recognized tribes in South Dakota at regental institutions

SB146 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding licenses for speech-language pathology services

SB167 – An act to establish a legislative study to study offenses regarding controlled substances

SB172 – An act to make an appropriation for costs related to disasters in the state and to declare an

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emergency

SB178 – An act to make an appropriation to the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to fund certain improvements to Palisades State Park and to declare an emergency

SB179 – An act to revise the property tax levies for the general fund of school districts and to revise the state aid to education formula

SB180 – An act to revise the General Appropriations act for fiscal year 2019

SB181 – An act to provide for the transfer of funds from the budget reserve fund and to declare an emergency

SB182 – An act to revise the special education property tax levy for school districts and to revise the state aid to special education formula

SB187 – An act to define electric bicycles and to provide for the regulation of electric bicycles

SB191 – An act to appropriate money for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, judicial, and executive departments of the state, the expenses of state institutions, interest on the public debt, and for common schools

HB1084 – An act to provide for specific classification of affordable housing structures for purposes of taxation

HB1099 – An act to provide for the designation of a caregiver to receive information regarding residents of treatment facilities

HB1187 – An act to authorize the Bureau of Administration to conduct a study of the Flaming Fountain on Capitol Lake, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency

HB1189 – An act to provide for a period to cure certain campaign finance violations

HB1201 – An act to revise provisions regarding group pheasant hunts for disabled veterans

HB1204 – An act to exempt certain sales of goods and services by minors from the sales tax

HB1209 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding vapor products

HB1216 – An act to increase certain civil penalties for fleeing from police

HB1219 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding surplus line insurance

HB1254 – An act to make appropriations from the water and environment fund and its revolving fund subfunds for various water and environmental purposes and to declare an emergency

HB1256 – An act to make an appropriation to fund tax refunds for elderly persons and persons with a disability, to revise the income eligibility requirements for property and sales tax refunds, and to declare an emergency



HARR
Motors

4255 6th Ave

Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!



B-21 Announcement Solidifies Ellsworth's Role in our Long-Term Defense Strategy

This week, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson announced that Ellsworth Air Force Base will be home to the B-21 Formal Training Unit and be the first base to receive an operational squadron of B-21 Raiders, which are the next-generation stealth bombers. This is great news for South Dakota and our national defense. It reaffirms the vital role Ellsworth will play in our defense strategy for years – if not generations – to come.

The B-21s are currently being developed as part of the Air Force's Long Range Strike Bomber program and will be capable of delivering conventional or thermonuclear weapons. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I've closely tracked the progress of the B-21 and even witnessed its development firsthand. I'm pleased that production is currently on schedule, with the first planes projected to be complete in the mid-2020s. Eventually, more than 100 B-21 bombers will be added to the force.

This announcement not only marks an important milestone for South Dakota and Ellsworth Air Force Base, it also reflects the progress being made to provide the Air Force with a state-of-the-art long range stealth platform. The strength of our bomber fleet will be a critical factor in our ability to reassure our allies, deter our adversaries and—if necessary—prevail in combat.

In times of crisis, America's long-range bombers can reach any point on the globe within hours. A bombers' ability to cover multiple theaters from a handful of secure locations will be critical to deterring aggression against our interests and allies. When they reach their targets, bombers can strike with many times the payload of a fighter. This is especially true of stealth bombers like the B-21, which will be able to penetrate enemy defenses while carrying large numbers of precision-guided weapons.

The cutting-edge technology of the B-21s is truly remarkable. With the B-21 Formal Training Unit and operational squadron coming to Ellsworth, South Dakota will have a vital role to play in the training and readiness of the B-21 crews as well as the housing and other needs of their families. We welcome this responsibility, which has been a long time in the making for many of us.

Solidifying Ellsworth as a vital piece of our long-term defense strategy has been a priority. While I was working as governor, we successfully removed Ellsworth from the Department of Defense's proposed closure list during a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round in 2005. Also during that time, we created the Ellsworth Development Authority. Now a permanent fixture, the Ellsworth Development Authority's mission is to protect, strengthen and promote the base.

Through the hard work of the Ellsworth Development Authority, the Ellsworth community and leaders at the state, local and federal level, Ellsworth's long-term role in our national defense strategy has grown exponentially. This week's announcement confirms that. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I look forward to continuing to monitor the progress of the B-21 program and supporting the Ellsworth community in any way possible.



Seventh Graders take first at Aberdeen Y Tournament

**Back row: Jacob Zak, Holden Sippel, Logan Ringgenberg,
and Colby Dunker.**

Front row: Braxton Imrie, Lane Tietz, and Dillon Abeln. (Photo

by Dawn Imrie)

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Today in Weather History

March 31, 1967: Heavy snow of 6 to 15 inches combined with 30 to 50 mph winds, caused blizzard conditions across most of northeast South Dakota. Many people were stranded, especially along Interstate-29 and Highway 12. In Hamlin County, a man was injured when his snowmobile struck a snowplow in Bryant in the early evening. Also, in the early afternoon, 4 miles west of Lake Norden on Highway 28, a car crossed the lane and hit a semi. The car was destroyed with thousands of dollars of damage to the semi. The driver of the car was injured. Many schools were let out early on the 31st and were canceled for April 1st. Many activities and sports events were either postponed or canceled. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Doland, Conde, and Castlewood, 7 inches at Turton and Clear Lake, 8 inches at Clark and Britton, 9 inches at Bryant and Webster, 10 inches near Peever, and 11 inches at Summit. Snowfall amounts of a foot or more included, 12 inches at Watertown and Big Stone City, 13 inches at Victor, the Waubay NWR, and Sisseton, 14 inches at Wilmot, and 15 inches at Milbank.

March 31, 2014: A strong surface low-pressure area moving across the region brought mixed precipitation to all of the area including rain, freezing rain, sleet, snow along with some thunder. As the precipitation changed to over to all snow, northwest winds increased substantially to 30 to 40 mph with gusts to 50 to 60 mph causing widespread blizzard conditions. Much of the area received a coating of ice with trace amounts up to a tenth of an inch with several locations receiving up to 2 inches of sleet. Snowfall amounts from 2 to as much as 10 inches occurred with this storm. The precipitation changed over to snow in the morning out west and into the late afternoon hours across the east. The light snow did not end in the eastern portion of South Dakota until the early morning hours of April 1st. Many schools, government offices, and businesses were closed or canceled early. Travel was not advised across much of region with Interstate-29 being closed for a time from Brookings to the North Dakota border.

1942: 107 inches of rain fell during the month at Puu Kukui at Maui, Hawaii to set the U.S. record for rainfall in one month. The same place also holds the annual rainfall record for the United States with 578 inches in 1950.

1962: A tornado struck the town of Milton, Florida killing 17 persons and injuring 100 others. It was the worst tornado disaster in Florida history.

1890 - Saint Louis, MO, received 20 inches of snow in 24 hours. It was the worst snowstorm of record for the St Louis. (David Ludlum)

1954 - The temperature at Rio Grande City, TX, hit 108 degrees, which for thirty years was a U.S. record for the month of March. (The Weather Channel)

1962 - A tornado struck the town of Milton, FL, killing 17 persons and injuring 100 others. It was the worst tornado disaster in Florida history. (David Ludlum)

1973 - A devastating tornado took a nearly continuous 75 mile path through north central Georgia causing more than 113 million dollars damage, the highest total of record for a natural disaster in the state. (The Weather Channel)






1987 - March went out like a lion in the northeastern U.S. A slow moving storm produced heavy snow in the Lower Great Lakes Region, and heavy rain in New England. Heavy rain and melting snow caused catastrophic flooding along rivers and streams in Maine and New Hampshire. Strong southerly winds ahead of the storm gusted to 62 mph at New York City, and reached 87 mph at Milton MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - March went out like a lion in eastern Colorado. A winter-like storm produced 42 inches of snow at Lake Isabel, including 20 inches in six hours. Fort Collins reported 15 inches of snow in 24 hours. Winds gusted to 80 mph at Centerville UT. Albuquerque NM received 14 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather from North Carolina to Pennsylvania. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 76 mph at Cape Henry VA. While squalls blanketed northwest Pennsylvania with up to 9 inches of snow, thunderstorms in eastern Pennsylvania produced golf ball size hail at Avondale. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Slight Chance Snow and Breezy then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 46 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 46 °F

A Look Ahead

Today: 41 to 57° 

Tonight: 24 to 29° 

Monday: 40 to 47° 

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
www.weather.gov/abr
Published on: 03/31/2019 at 5:47AM
graphic created: 3/31/2019 4:43 AM

Dry and warm weather is expected today. A weak low pressure system will move through the region on Monday bringing some light rain and snow. Parts of central SD could see snow accumulations up to half an inch before temperatures warm.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 33 °F at 5:53 PM

Low Outside Temp: 20 °F at 7:17 AM

High Gust: 24 mph at 12:05 AM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 86° in 1946

Record Low: 0° in 1899

Average High: 48°F

Average Low: 26°F

Average Precip in Mar.: 1.11

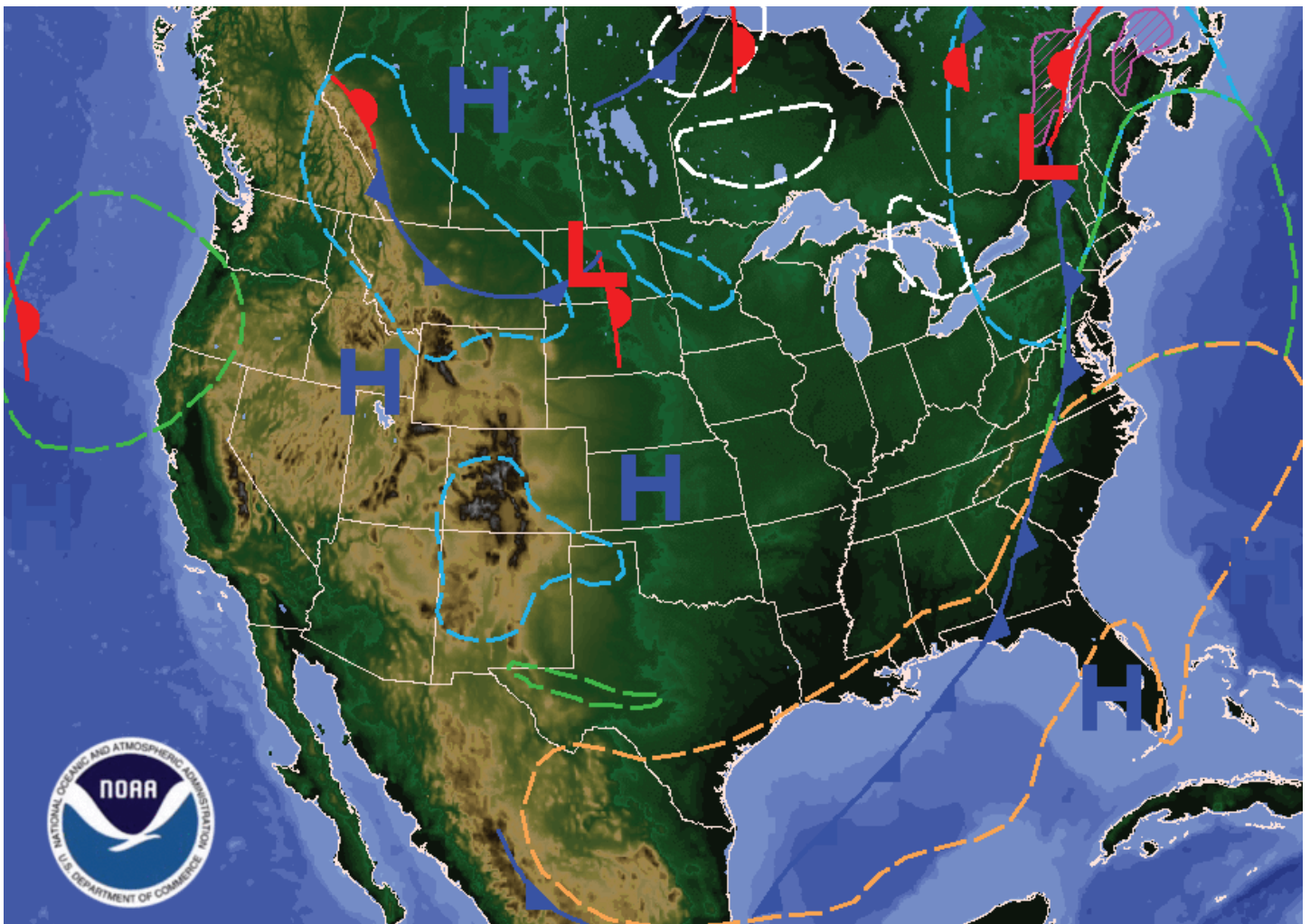
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.87

Average Precip to date: 2.13

Precip Year to Date: 3.06

Sunset Tonight: 8:00 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:14 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Mar 31, 2019, issued 4:27 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kebede with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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LIFE WITHOUT GODS WISDOM

Finds life or loves death. From one extreme to another. A contrast that is unmistakable and a choice that is crystal clear. It is one of the great either/or in God's Word. There is a way of life or a path to death. And it is strange that some would not search for a way to live wisely and enjoy the blessings of God.

One translation recognizes the choice as one who finds me...vshe who misses me. There is a reward for searching for and applying God's wisdom: life and favor from the Lord.

Conversely, those who fail to find God's wisdom - or those who sin against God - harm themselves; all who hate me love death. Can the extremes be more clearly defined? Described?

Here is a clear picture of a self-centered life - a picture of one who has made a willful, thoughtful choice after careful deliberation. It is a choice that is void of emotions or feelings. But, a choice, nonetheless.

Earlier in the chapter wisdom is described as a tree of life. And if one chooses the other path, it is a path to death. Unfortunately, at the time the decision is made, the one making the decision may not be aware of that choice. Life may be too exciting, or too much fun, or too enjoyable, or death is so far away there is nothing to fear.

The choice should matter to us. If we know someone, anyone who is without Christ, we are responsible to God to take His message of love, salvation, hope and eternal life. Otherwise, we contribute to that one's death without hope of God. Witness and share His grace constantly!

Prayer: Awaken us, Father, to our obligation to speak to those who are on the wrong path and unsaved. May we recognize our responsibility to You as well as others. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 8:35-36 For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord. But those who miss me injure themselves. All who hate me love death.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

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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

09-20-25-29-32

(nine, twenty, twenty-five, twenty-nine, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$217,000

Lotto America

09-17-25-27-30, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 3

(nine, seventeen, twenty-five, twenty-seven, thirty; Star Ball: two; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$17.27 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$88 million

Powerball

21-52-54-64-68, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 3

(twenty-one, fifty-two, fifty-four, sixty-four, sixty-eight; Powerball: four; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

2 men standing near crashed vehicle killed when hit by semi

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say the driver of a vehicle that had slid into a ditch near Hot Springs and a man who stopped to help are dead after they were hit by a semitrailer while standing outside the vehicle.

The Highway Patrol says the accident happened at 9:20 p.m. Friday on U.S. Highway 18 a mile west of Hot Springs. The driver of the car lost control of the vehicle, entered the east ditch and rolled.

The driver was able to get out of the car and a second driver stopped to provide assistance. That's when the semi lost control due to icy road conditions and the trailer jackknifed, entered the ditch and struck the two men.

Both victims, ages 25 and 27, were pronounced dead at the scene. The 27-year-old truck driver suffered serious non-life threatening injuries.

Man who shot at people in vehicle sentenced to 10 years

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of shooting at people in a vehicle has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Thirty-four-year-old Charles Kieffe, of Kyle, was convicted in federal court of discharging a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence. The incident happened in March 2018 near Kyle.

Authorities say Kieffe used his vehicle to block another vehicle with people inside whom he believed sold him \$1,500 worth of bad drugs. Kieffe exited his vehicle and fired shots from a .270 caliber rifle into the windshield and passenger side window.

One woman in the car sustained a shrapnel injury to her leg.

Kieffe was ordered to pay more than \$3,800 in restitution.

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Retailers, customers hail end to Sunday sale restrictions

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Business owners and their customers are applauding the repeal of North Dakota's longstanding restrictions on Sunday sales.

Gov. Doug Burgum signed the "Blue Law" repeal on Monday, which reverses rules that require most retailers to close from midnight to noon on Sundays. The law was established during statehood and is entrenched in religious tradition.

The repeal takes effect Aug. 1, KVRR-TV reported. Starting Aug. 4, retailers can open up before noon. It gives local business a "more level playing field" to compete with online retailers and neighboring states South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana, Burgum said.

Amber Sander, owner of Boots & Heel, said restrictions on when you can do business can make a significant difference.

"Especially when we have stores trying to compete with online," Sander said. "We have small businesses that are trying to make sure they're available to people as often as they can be. That Sunday, I think, is huge."

Ashlen Morken, Unglued owner, said local vendors hope the change will help them see an uptick in business as a result.

"We have so many visitors that come through on Sundays, whether they're from Canada or just they're driving through Fargo. There are so many people who say time and time again they wish we were open earlier or they can't believe how little downtown shopping there is to do on a Sunday, even later on in the day."

Erin Knudtson of Fargo said it will make running errands in her area easier.

"It's great because sometimes you don't want to drive all the way to Moorhead. It'll be nice to do some shopping in Fargo and West Fargo," said.

Susan Grass, a Fargo resident, said longer Sunday shopping hours have been a long time coming.

"It's about time," Grass said. "I think it's kind of an antiquated idea and for those of us that work full time, it'll be nice."

___ Information from: KVRR-TV, <http://kftv.com>

Sioux Falls man surprises girlfriend with tasty proposal

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman recently visited her favorite bakery on the premise that she had won free cupcakes, but she left the shop with an engagement ring.

Paige TeGantvoort, 24, was excited when she received an email notification that she was the winner of a free prize from the Oh My Cupcakes! bakery in Sioux Falls, the Argus Leader reported. She planned to spend March 23 getting her first manicure, having lunch with her boyfriend, 27-year-old Chase Weeden, and claiming her prize.

TeGantvoort didn't think twice about her boyfriend's mother asking her to get a manicure, and she quickly forgot that Weeden didn't have much of an appetite that day. TeGantvoort said she had her eyes set on the free cupcakes, failing to catch on to her boyfriend's nerves.

When TeGantvoort entered the bakery, the owner met her with a box containing six cupcakes.

"I was going to wait my turn in line," TeGantvoort said. "(The owner) said, 'Oh Paige we have your cupcakes.' I was like, 'Jeez this is a big deal.'"

She opened the box to find that her name was written on one cupcake, while the rest read "Will you marry me?"

She turned around to find Weeden on one knee.

"I was very, very nervous," Weeden said of the moments leading up to the proposal. But his nerves passed as soon as TeGantvoort said yes, while other customers erupted in applause.

"Celebrating people's special moments is what we live for," said Oh My Cupcakes! owner Melissa Johnson. "It was so cool to be a part of it."

The couple said they ate the cupcake with the question mark first, since it was no longer a question.

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

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Sioux Falls man rescued from river hours after park reopens

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls authorities say an intoxicated man was rescued from the Big Sioux River in Falls Park less than six hours after the park reopened from being shut down by floodwaters.

Police say an officer on patrol in the park heard a man in the water yelling about 11:30 p.m. Friday. Rescue crews used a ladder to get down a 12-foot retaining wall and a rope to pull the man to safety. He was treated for exposure to the cold.

Authorities say the man was standing in 3 to 4 feet of water and did not have the strength to aid in his own rescue.

Falls Park was closed for more than a week because of flooding and safety concerns. The park reopened at 5 p.m. Friday.

South Dakota man's \$89,000 bid wins tag for bighorn sheep

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man bid \$89,000 at an auction to win a chance to hunt bighorn sheep in the Black Hills.

The Rapid City Journal reports that it's the seventh straight year the state wildlife officials have auctioned off the tag to help raise funds for bighorn sheep research and development.

Game, Fish & Parks regional supervisor John Kanta says the event has raised an average of \$83,000 a year. The first year the tag was offered, in 2013, it was sold to a Watertown businessman for \$103,000.

Officials aren't releasing the name of the winner until the license is issued. Kanta said the person who wins the auction can select who gets the tag and Kanta said this year's top bidder may issue it to his son.

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

Ukraine presidential vote begins under bribe claim cloud

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Voters in Ukraine are casting ballots in a presidential election Sunday after a campaign that produced a comedian with no political experience as the front-runner and allegations of voter bribery.

Opinion polls have shown Volodymyr Zelenskiy who stars in a TV sitcom about a teacher who becomes president after a video of him denouncing corruption goes viral, leading a field of 39 candidates. The polls also had Zelenskiy outpacing incumbent President Petro Poroshenko and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, the other top candidates, by a broad margin.

"Zelenskiy has shown us on the screen what a real president should be like," voter Tatiana Zinchenko, 30, who cast her ballot for the comedian, said. "He showed what the state leader should aspire for — fight corruption by deeds, not words, help the poor, control the oligarchs."

If no candidate secures an absolute majority of Sunday's vote, a runoff between the two top finishers would be held April 21.

Concern about the election's legitimacy spiked in recent days after the interior minister said his department was "showered" with hundreds of claims that supporters of Poroshenko and Tymoshenko offered money in exchange for votes.

Campaign issues included endemic corruption in Ukraine, the struggling economy and a seemingly intractable conflict with Russia-backed separatists in the east of the country of 42 million people.

Like the popular character he plays, Zelenskiy, 41, made corruption a focus of his candidacy. He proposed a lifetime ban on holding public office for anyone convicted of graft. He also called for direct negotiations with Russia on ending the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

"A new life, a normal life is starting," Zelenskiy said after casting his ballot in Kiev. "A life without corruption, without bribes."

His lack of political experience helped his popularity with voters amid broad disillusionment with the current generation of politicians.

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"There is no trust in old politicians. They were at the helm, and the situation in the country has only got worse — corruption runs amok and the war is continuing," businessman Valery Ostrozhsky, 66, another Zelenskiy voter, said.

Poroshenko, 53, who was a confectionary tycoon when he was elected five years ago, pushed successfully for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to be recognized as self-standing rather than a branch of the Russian church.

However, he saw citizen approval of his governing sink amid Ukraine's economic woes and a sharp plunge in living standards. Poroshenko campaigned on promises to defeat the rebels in the east and to wrest back control of Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014 in a move that Ukraine and almost all the world views as illegal.

Speaking at a polling station Sunday, the president echoed his campaign promises of taking Ukraine into the European Union and NATO. He said holding a fair and free election was "a necessary condition for our movement forward, to Ukraine's return to the European family of nations," and was confident about the balloting despite the bribery allegations.

"I'm sure that the election was well-organized," Poroshenko said. "The expression of the will of the citizens will be protected."

The president's priorities persuaded schoolteacher Andriy Hristenko, 46, to vote for his re-election.

"Poroshenko has done a lot. He created our own church, bravely fought with Moscow and is trying to open the way to the EU and NATO," Hristenko said.

The former prime minister, Tymoshenko, shaped her message around the economic distress of millions of Ukrainians.

"Ukraine has sunk into poverty and corruption during the last five years, but every Ukrainian can put an end to it now," she said after voting.

During the campaign, Tymoshenko denounced price hikes introduced by Poroshenko as "economic genocide" and promised to reduce prices for household gas by 50 percent within a month of taking office.

"I don't need a bright future in 50 years," Olha Suhay, a 58-year old cook. "I want hot water and heating to cost less tomorrow."

A military embezzlement scheme that allegedly involved top Poroshenko's associates and a factory controlled by the president dogged Poroshenko ahead of the election. Ultra-right activists shadowed him throughout the campaign, demanding the jailing of the president's associates accused of involvement in the scheme.

Zelenskiy and Tymoshenko both used the alleged embezzlement to take hits at Poroshenko, who shot back at his rivals. He described them as puppets of a self-exiled billionaire businessman Igor Kolomoyskyi, which Zelenskiy and Tymoshenko denied.

However, many political observers described the presidential election as a battle between Poroshenko and Kolomoyskyi, who was on Forbes Magazine's list of billionaires with a net worth of \$1.3 billion in 2014 before dropping off the following year.

Both the president and Kolomoyskyi relied on an arsenal of media outlets under their control to exchange blows. Just days before the election, the TV channel Kolomoyskyi owns aired a new season of the "Servant of the People" TV series in which Zelenskiy stars as Ukraine's leader.

"Kolomoyskyi has succeeded in creating a wide front against Poroshenko," said Vadim Karasyov, head of the Institute of Global Strategies, an independent Kiev-based think tank. "Ukraine has gone through two revolutions, but ended up with the same thing — the fight between the oligarchs for the power and resources."

Mstyslav Chernov in Kiev, Ukraine and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this report.

US struggling with growing number of asylum seekers

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Border officials are aiming to more than quadruple the number of asylum seekers sent back over the southern border each day, a major expansion of a top government effort to address the swelling number of Central Americans arriving in the country, a Trump administration official said Saturday.

It was the latest attempt to ease a straining immigration system that officials say is at the breaking point. Hundreds of officers who usually screen cargo and vehicles at ports of entry were reassigned to help manage migrants. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen asked for volunteers from non-immigration agencies within her department, sent a letter to Congress late this past week requesting resources and broader authority to deport families faster, and she met with Central American and Mexican officials.

The efforts are being made while President Donald Trump is doubling down on threats to shutter the U.S.-Mexico border entirely, a move that would have serious economic repercussions for both the U.S. and Mexico but wouldn't stop migrants from crossing between ports. His administration also announced it was cutting aid to the Central American countries home to most of the migrants.

Right now, about 60 asylum seekers a day are returned to Mexico at the San Ysidro, Calexico and El Paso ports to wait out their cases, the official said. They are allowed to return to the U.S. for court dates. The plan was announced Jan. 29, partially to deter false claimants from coming across the border. With a backlog of more than 700,000 immigration cases, asylum seekers can wait years for their cases to progress, and officials say some people game the system in order to live in the U.S.

Officials hope to have as many as 300 people returned per day by the end of the week, focusing particularly on those who come in between ports of entry, said the official, who had knowledge of the plans but was unauthorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

But the process so far has been slow-going, and such a sizeable increase may be difficult to achieve. The plan has already been marred by confusion, scheduling glitches and an inability by some attorneys to reach their clients. In San Ysidro alone, Mexico had been prepared to accept up to 120 asylum seekers per week, but for the first six weeks only 40 people per week were returned.

Plus, U.S. officials must check if asylum seekers have any felony convictions and notify Mexico at least 12 hours before they are returned. Those who cross illegally must have come as single adults, though the administration is in talks with the Mexican government to include families. Children are not returned.

Homeland Security officials have been grappling with an ever-growing number of Central American children and families coming over the border. Arrests soared in February to a 12-year-high and more than half of those stopped arrived as families, many of them asylum seekers who generally turn themselves in instead of trying to elude capture. Guatemala and Honduras have replaced Mexico as the top countries, a remarkable shift from only a few years ago. Migrants from Central America cannot be easily deported, unlike people crossing from Mexico.

Mexico has been treading lightly on the subject. After Trump lashed out, saying Mexico and the Central American nations were "doing nothing" about illegal immigration, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said his country would do everything it could to help to maintain a "very respectful relationship" with the U.S. government and Trump.

Meanwhile, Nielsen sent a letter to the heads of other agencies within her sprawling, 240,000-person department, asking for volunteers to help with border duties. And she wrote to Congress asking for more temporary facilities to process people, more detention space, and the ability to detain families indefinitely and to deport unaccompanied minors from Central America. While children from Mexico can be returned over the border, laws prohibit deportation to other countries.

Democratic congressional leaders expressed deep concern, saying the administration wanted to revive "horrific" and "immoral" plans, noting its failed hardline border policies have created "senseless heartbreak and horror."

"Democrats reject any effort to let the administration deport little children, and we reject all anti-immigrant and anti-family attacks from this President," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a statement.

___Associated Press Writer Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

Mayoral races test Turkey's Erdogan amid economic downturn

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Mayoral elections are underway in 30 large cities in Turkey along with other municipal races Sunday that are seen as a barometer of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's popularity amid a sharp economic downturn in the nation straddling Europe and Asia.

More than 57 million voters were eligible to take part in choosing the mayors of major cities, 51 provincial capitals and 922 districts in Turkey. They also were casting ballots at 200,000 polling stations across the country to elect local assembly representatives, as well as tens of thousands of neighborhood and village administrators.

Economic prosperity provided Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party with previous electoral successes. With Turkey's weakening currency, inflation at double-digit figures and food prices soaring, the conservative, Islamic-based ruling party could lose control of key mayors' posts.

Opposition parties coordinated strategies and put forward candidates under alliances in an effort to maximize the chances of unseating members of the Justice and Development Party, known in Turkish by the acronym AKP.

A main battleground appears to be the capital, Ankara. Opinion polls suggested the candidate of an opposition alliance, Mansur Yavas, could end the 25-year rule of AKP and its predecessor. A former government environment minister, Mehmet Ozhaseki, is running for mayor under the banner of Erdogan and his nationalist allies.

Another closely watched mayoral election is in Istanbul. Erdogan began his rise to power as the city's mayor in 1994 and has said at campaign rallies that "whoever wins Istanbul, wins Turkey."

Erdogan named former Prime Minister Binali Yildirim to run against opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu in the Istanbul mayor's race. The president spoke at six rallies in Istanbul on Saturday.

Erdogan has campaigned tirelessly for AKP's candidates, portraying the country's economic woes as an attack by enemies at home and abroad, and framed the municipal elections taking place across Turkey on Sunday as matters of "national survival."

Gonul Ay, 38, said she voted for the ruling party and Yildirim in Istanbul because of his experience.

"I voted for the AKP for continuity and so that their services continue," the homemaker said. "God willing, this crisis and chaos will be fixed and we'll see healthier, happier days."

Volkan Duzgun, 32, said he voted for opposition candidate Imamoglu.

"Everyone is either running against Erdogan or running for Erdogan," he said. Duzgun added, "All elections have turned into a race against the one-man regime, and people we call the opposition is trying to carve out some breathing space."

The ruling party accused Ankara mayoral candidate Yavas of forgery and tax evasion while also threatening to not accept results in the southeast if candidates with alleged "terror" links from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party — the second-largest opposition group in parliament — win there.

Since 2016, Erdogan's government has replaced elected mayors from the pro-Kurdish party in nearly 100 municipalities, installing in their place government-appointed trustees and alleging the ousted officials had links to outlawed Kurdish militants.

The pro-Kurdish party is seeking to win back the offices. However, it strategically sat out critical mayoral races in major cities, including Istanbul and Ankara, with the aim of sending votes to a rival secular opposition party to help challenge Erdogan's party.

Since the previous local elections in 2014, Turkish citizens have gone to the polls in five different elections. In last year's presidential and parliamentary elections, Erdogan garnered 52.6 percent of the votes and his party and its nationalist ally won 53.7 percent of the parliamentary vote.

Sunday's municipal elections are also a first test for Erdogan since he won elections last year that ushered in a new system that gave him wide powers.

Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey.

AP Investigation: No longer turning a blind eye?

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER** and **TERRY SPENCER** Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — When Florida authorities shut down 10 massage spas last month and charged hundreds of men with buying sex, they broke a longstanding pattern of meting out minor charges and punishment for owners, letting patrons off scot-free and turning a mostly blind eye to signs of human trafficking.

An Associated Press review of state records over the past decade shows that while police officers and sheriff's deputies in Florida have investigated hundreds of individual massage parlors within their own counties for illegal sexual activity, it was usually low-level massage therapists who were arrested, while owners mostly were exempted or charged with misdemeanors resulting in fines and probation. Johns usually were not charged at all.

In stark contrast, the investigation announced last month spanned several jurisdictions between Palm Beach and Orlando and focused heavily on the possibility of widespread human trafficking. Several spa owners, most of them women originally from China, were charged with felony racketeering and money laundering and could face years in prison.

Authorities also charged 300 men accused of being patrons, including New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and former Citigroup President John Havens. Authorities say Kraft was twice recorded on video engaging in and then paying for sex acts at the Orchids of Asia Day Spa, located in a shopping center in Jupiter. Both men have denied wrongdoing.

Florida has more than 8,600 licensed massage therapy establishments. It's difficult to know how many of them sell sex, based on the records. Nationwide, the anti-trafficking advocacy group Polaris estimates there are 9,000 massage establishments with therapists who are trafficked from other places and forced to provide sex acts.

The AP reviewed records from more than 150 Florida Department of Health cases involving massage parlors whose licenses had been revoked, suspended or voluntarily surrendered in the past decade.

Of the spas that lost their licenses, almost 40 percent had massage therapists involved in sexual activity, the AP found. Sex cases were found statewide, in 26 of the state's 67 counties, with the tourism-heavy Orlando area having the most.

Few of the cases resulted in charges of human trafficking, and those that did ended with only minor punishments.

In 2017, Mi Cha Jones, owner of the Jee Jee spa in Miami Beach, was charged with two felony counts of human trafficking and one felony count of deriving support from the proceeds of prostitution. Jones was sentenced to only two years of probation after pleading guilty to the latter count in 2018.

Nearly five years ago, investigators found clear evidence of prostitution and a potential sign of human trafficking — women living on the premises — at the O Asian Wellness Spa and Massage in Boca Raton. The spa's owner was facing a minimum of four years and maximum of 35 years in prison, but was sentenced to only nine months in jail and probation after a plea deal. None of the johns who patronized the parlor were charged at all.

In 2013, an inspector found three rooms with beds, clothes, computers, cellphones, desks and a refrigerator full of food at Serenity Massage in Tampa. The owner admitted massage therapists were living there but was ultimately only fined. There was no indication any investigation into human trafficking was ever launched.

Florida Department of Health spokesman Brad Dalton said revoking a spa's license is the most severe punishment available to the department's Board of Massage Therapy. "Any action above that would have to come from law enforcement," Dalton said.

A tougher stance is being championed by Martin County Sheriff William Snyder, whose agency spearheaded the current investigation after receiving a tip from a state health investigator.

"When I saw the videos of the women being used ... I began to change my whole thoughts and view of it," said Snyder, a former state lawmaker who sponsored a 2012 bill that made human trafficking illegal

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in Florida. He was elected sheriff that same year.

Still, it remains to be seen whether anything will truly change.

No one has yet been charged with human trafficking, something Snyder said can be difficult to prove, especially if women don't testify against their abusers. He said many of the women fear deportation, even though they could be eligible for a visa if they cooperated. They also fear traffickers will harm their families back home, he said.

And while hundreds of men identified as johns have been accused, Kraft and others have been charged only with misdemeanors that prosecutors have offered to drop if they agree to participate in a diversion program. Jail time for johns, what Snyder sees as the "holistic" answer to stemming human trafficking, looks highly unlikely.

Still, the sheriff says he hopes the national spotlight that has shone on the Kraft case will make other potential clients think twice before risking a visit to an illicit massage parlor.

"I have come to understand that as long as there is a demand, there will be a supply," he said. "Even if the demand diminishes microscopically and a few women in some forlorn province in China are not enticed to come here under false pretenses and trafficked, it will all be worthwhile."

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

Follow Terry Spencer on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/terrysten>

This story corrects that Kraft, Havens and many others accused were charged but not arrested. With AP Photo

Beyonce, 'Black Panther' wins at 50th NAACP Image Awards

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Beyonce was named entertainer of the year at the 50th annual NAACP Image Awards that highlighted works by entertainers and writers of color.

After Beyonce accepted the award Saturday night, the superstar paid homage to the people who were nominated in the same category as her. She beat out Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James, Regina King, Chadwick Boseman and director Ryan Coogler.

"Regina King, I love you so much. You taught us patience, persistence and how to be masterful in your craft," she said. "Chadwick Boseman is teaching children to dream and to be seen as kings. LeBron James has taught us the strength of all forms, leading by example and providing education to our kids. Ryan Coogler tells our stories in a way that celebrates our history and proves we do have power."

Beyonce added: "I'm honored to be included among all of you, and to be a part of a vital and thriving community. Thank you to the NAACP."

Beyonce released a joint album last year with her husband, Jay-Z, called "Everything is Love." The prolific singer also paid tribute to historically black colleges and universities, as well as the dance troupes and step teams during her groundbreaking two-hour Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival performance. She also performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which is known as the national black anthem, at the festival and donated \$100,000 to four black universities shortly after her performance.

The awards ceremony aired live on TV One at the Dolby Theatre, the same venue that hosts the Academy Awards.

Jay-Z received the President's Award for the rapper's public service achievements. He was recognized for his efforts through his Shawn Carter Foundation and serving as co-founder of the REFORM Alliance.

The rapper executive produced the documentaries "Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story" and "Time: The Kalief Browder Story," along with an animated documentary short called "The War on Drugs is an Epic Fail." That documentary highlighted the unfavorable treatment of black and Latino people when it comes to drug-related crimes.

Jay-Z quoted Abraham Lincoln after he accepted his award and dedicated his trophy to his 93-year-old

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grandmother Hattie White, saying: "She's so full of life." He also paid homage to the women in his life, including his wife, Beyonce, who smiled while her husband made his speech.

"It's not the amount of years in your life. It's the amount of life in your years," he said. "That quote embodies my beautiful grandmother."

"Black Panther" was awarded best motion picture. The Marvel blockbuster hit beat out "BlacKkKlansman," "Crazy Rich Asians," "If Beale Street Could Talk" and "The Hate U Give."

The superhero film was a cultural phenomenon. It earned \$700 million domestically during its theatrical run.

"Black Panther" won in several other categories, including best actor in a motion picture (Boseman), supporting actor in a motion picture (Michael B. Jordan) and directing in a motion picture (Coogler).

Jussie Smollett, who lost to "Grey's Anatomy" star Jessie Williams in the supporting actor in a drama series category, did not attend the awards.

It has been a tumultuous week for the "Empire" star after a felony case against him was dropped in Chicago. The handling of the case, which accused Smollett of falsely reporting to police that he was assaulted by two men in downtown Chicago on Jan. 29, has drawn widespread condemnation.

Actor-comedian Chris Rock took verbal jabs at Smollett before he presented outstanding comedy series to ABC's "black-ish."

"They said no Jussie Smollett jokes," Rock said. "Yeah, I know, but what a waste of light skin. Do you know what I could do with that light skin? That curly hair, my career would be out of here. I would be running Hollywood. What the hell was he thinking? You are known as 'Jessie' for now on. You don't even get the 'u' anymore. That 'u' was for respect. You ain't getting no respect from me."

In response to Rock's jokes, "black-ish" star Yara Shahidi made her stance in the Smollett controversy obvious.

"I stand with Jussie," Shahidi said before she handed the microphone to Marcus Scribner and ducked into her crowd of castmates including Anthony Anderson and Tracee Ellis Ross

Anderson returned as host of the show and won for best actor in a comedy series. He opened the awards speaking about "black excellence" in film, hoping his behavior wouldn't get him removed as host and made several jokes including one about Kanye West not being invited to cookouts.

Anderson brought his mother onstage with him and dedicated his award to "the woman who raised me in Watts (California) and pushed me to become an actor."

"Everything I do on screen is for you momma," Anderson said of his mother, who clutched his award. He also shouted out U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, who sat in the first row.

Waters received the NAACP Chairman's Award for public service. She spoke about young voters taking a stance at the polls, her thoughts on getting rid of the Electoral College and President Donald Trump's presidency.

"I still think he needs to be impeached," Waters said of Trump. "This president has defined himself as a liar."

Donald Glover, who won four Grammys this year, won for his directing on "Atlanta." On the music side, his alter-ego Childish Gambino's song "This is America" won for best music video.

Online: <http://www.naacpimageawards.net>

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Jonathan Landrum Jr. on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MrLandrum31>

O'Rourke champions US-Mexico border during Texas kickoff

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke declared that immigrants make the country safer as he staged rallies across Texas on Saturday to formally kick off his 2020 White House bid, looking to shore up his deeply conservative home state and champion the U.S.-Mexico border at a

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time when President Donald Trump has threatened to shut it.

The former congressman, who represented El Paso for three House terms until last year, began the day addressing 1,000-plus supporters in his hometown, across the border from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. He later spoke at historically black Texas Southern University in Houston, before finishing with a late-night Austin event, addressing a large crowd a stone's throw from the pink-granite state Capitol.

Bounding onto a makeshift El Paso stage in a blue-button-down shirt to The Clash's "Clampdown," O'Rourke declared: "We are safe, not despite the fact that we are a city of immigrants and asylum seekers. We are safe because we are a city of immigrants and asylum seekers."

"We have learned not to fear our differences, but to respect and embrace them," he told a crowd that waved small American flags and black-and-white signs reading "Viva Beto" while often interrupting their candidate to chant his first name. O'Rourke also spoke at length in his native Spanish, eliciting loud and sustained cheers.

In a series of tweets Friday, Trump warned he could close the U.S. southern border next week "if Mexico doesn't immediately stop ALL illegal immigration coming into the United States." In later comments to reporters he added: "We'll keep it closed for a long time. I'm not playing games."

O'Rourke has made promoting the border as culturally rich and economically powerful the centerpiece of his campaign and spoke on a downtown street corner a few blocks from it. He decried federal officials' recent decisions to hold people who crossed into the U.S. to seek asylum "in cages" under El Paso's international bridge, saying those detainees "are our fellow human beings and deserve to be treated as our fellow human beings."

O'Rourke entered the race March 14 and already has visited nine states, but had promised to return to El Paso for an official kickoff.

As he has previously, he renewed calls to work with Republicans and Democrats, saying "before anything else, we are Americans first" and prompting chants of "USA! USA!" But he also made bolder predictions than in the past, saying that if his campaign can bring people from across the ideological spectrum together he can top the rest of the crowded Democratic 2020 presidential field and "defeat Donald Trump."

A small but vocal group of El Paso Trump supporters had other ideas, gathering a few blocks away from the event to shout anti-O'Rourke sentiments for hours.

O'Rourke represented the city in Congress for six years, but gave up his seat while nearly upsetting Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz in November. The Democrat who replaced him in the House, Rep. Veronica Escobar, welcomed those on hand to the "beautiful, magical, safe and secure U.S.-Mexico border," adding, "When the border sends America her people, we are sending them our best in Beto O'Rourke."

Amy O'Rourke, who has largely avoided the spotlight since her husband began running for president, gave a short speech too, telling the crowd, "Listening to people is what gives Beto strength. It fuels him and it gives him context (with) which he can think about policies and the things he wants to do for this great country."

Despite such nods to bipartisanship, however, O'Rourke offered many positions Saturday that were liberal enough to make moderates nervous. He vowed to legalize marijuana nationally, defend abortion rights, sign new sweeping voting rights legislation to end partisan gerrymandering and allow automatic and same-day voter registration, institute federally financed, universal pre-kindergarten programs, strengthen unions and bring home all troops from the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He also renewed his support for a House proposal called "Medicare for America," which he says will guarantee universal health care coverage while allowing people who like getting insurance through their employer to continue doing so.

O'Rourke hit many of the same points hours later in Houston, but recalled a school shooting near that city last year to advocate for nationwide federal background checks on firearms purchases. He added that assault weapons "sold to the United States military with the sole purpose of killing people as effectively, as efficiently and in as great a number as possible" should be "kept on the battlefield" and not "sold into our communities."

Addressing thousands and wearing a Texas Southern baseball cap, O'Rourke also recalled the devastation

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in Houston of 2017's Hurricane Harvey, saying the U.S. must do more to combat climate change and that the nation's fourth-largest city understands the phenomenon's dangers "better than just about anyone in this country."

Concluding in Austin, he called that city's liberal politics "the center and the source of so much of what is good for Texas and for the United States of America."

Texas hasn't elected a Democrat to statewide office in 25 years. But O'Rourke came within 3 percentage points of topping Cruz, and his party is hoping that a booming Hispanic population and large numbers of new residents moving in from other states could keep Texas close in 2020 — potentially reshaping the electoral college. California Sen. Kamala Harris drew a large crowd last weekend when she too visited Texas Southern.

"This state and its 38 electoral votes count like they've never counted before," O'Rourke said in El Paso. "All of us matter."

Virginia shakes off Purdue 80-75 in OT to win South Region

By GARY B. GRAVES AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — From embarrassment to exhilaration. From early exit to regional champ. From bracket busters to net cutters.

Virginia, the first No. 1 seed to lose to a 16 seed a year ago, survived overtime and Carsen Edwards' staggering 3-point show Saturday night to make it to the Final Four for the first time since 1984.

The top-seeded Cavaliers needed a last-ditch buzzer-beater to send the game to overtime and finally contained Edwards in the extra period to hang on for an 80-75 victory over Purdue in the South Region final.

The Cavaliers (33-3) redeemed themselves from last year's loss to UMBC by relying on veterans, sound defense, poise, controlling the ball and a failure to be rattled even when the Boilermakers had the chance to ice the game in regulation at the foul line.

Their balance and experience allowed them to overcome a brilliant performance by Edwards, whose 10 3-pointers were one shy of the NCAA Tournament record. Edwards finished with 42 points for third-seeded Purdue (26-10) and none of his teammates scored more than seven each.

Edwards was named the Most Outstanding Player of the South regional, becoming the first player to win the honor from a losing team since Stephen Curry in 2008. Fitting, too, since Edwards scored the most points (139) through four NCAA Tournament game since 2000; Curry had the previous most with 128 points for Davidson.

De'Andre Hunter scored four points in overtime, including the go-ahead layup with 29 seconds remaining, while Kyle Guy and Kihei Clark each added two free throws as Virginia finally broke free from Purdue.

"I was definitely flashing back to when I was on my knees last year, and I did it again," Guy said of the celebration. "Just overflowing with joy. So happy for my teammates and my coaches and myself to be able to break through in the way that we did this year."

Virginia got a last-gasp jumper from Mamadi Diakite as time expired to force overtime and the Cavaliers got clutch baskets from Ty Jerome and Hunter, who also had two free throws, before Guy and Clark sealed the victory.

Guy injured his ankle in the first half and his return was uncertain. But he came out from the break and hit back-to-back 3s and finished with 25 points — 21 after halftime — and 10 rebounds. Jerome had 24, Diakite 14 and Hunter 10 as the Cavaliers outlasted the high-scoring Boilermakers.

Edwards had been unstoppable until overtime, and although he connected on a jumper, he missed a late 3 and committed a turnover that ultimately led to Clark's game-sealing foul shots.

"I tried to get a catch and we were down three so we were expecting the foul," Edwards said of his mistake. "We had a screen for Ryan (Cline) and I was just trying to kick it ahead before he fouled me, and I just, just kind of... it was a tough catch for Ryan, and just how it happens."

The win put coach Tony Bennett in the Final Four for the first time in a decade with the Cavaliers. His father, Dick Bennett, coached Wisconsin to the Final Four in 2000 — beating Purdue in the regional finals.

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"No one knows what this team has been through," Bennett said in a TV interview. "I do. And it's good." Purdue had its chances and the momentum at times. But the Boilermakers were beat 39-31 on the boards, giving Virginia opportunities that ultimately made the difference.

"Give them credit, because when we were getting stops from them, we couldn't secure the basketball," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "If we could have done a better job defensive rebounding, it would have really helped us."

PAIN, THEN JOY

Guy went down quick and hard with the ankle injury and lay on the floor for a moment before walking to the bench.

"I stepped on someone's foot, I don't know, and I heard a pop," Guy said. "That's mostly why I was rolling around like I was because I was really scared. I thought what was best for me was to get up and let everybody know I was fine."

He was taped up and returned to start the second half, quickly shaking off the injury to nail those key 3s.

REGIONAL HONORS

Joining Edwards on the South All-Tournament Team was Purdue teammate Ryan Cline, with Guy, Diakite and Jerome rounding it out from Virginia.

BIG PICTURE

Purdue: The Boilermakers looked like they would shoot Virginia out of the building and made clutch 3s. But they went cold for stretches and allowed the Cavaliers to get critical rebounds ending with an 18-10 advantage in second-chance points.

Virginia: The Cavaliers have finally shed the shadow of last year's historic first-round exit and lived up to its No. 1 seeding. It wasn't easy but they didn't flinch as Edwards made 3s with regularity. Guy and Jerome took care of that with Guy making a gutsy recovery after going down in pain with the ankle injury late in the first half.

UP NEXT

Virginia faces either Auburn or Kentucky, the Midwest Region winner, at the Final Four next weekend in Minneapolis.

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Rockets from Gaza Strip hit Israel; 4 die at border protest

By FARES AKRAM Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Militants fired five rockets from Gaza into Israel early Sunday, the Israeli military said, following a day of Palestinian mass protests along the Israel-Gaza perimeter fence. Four Palestinians, including three teen-agers, were shot dead and dozens were wounded by Israeli soldiers.

The rocket fire threatened to undermine Egyptian-mediated efforts to cement a deal that the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers hope will ease a crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the crowded territory.

No casualties were reported from the rockets and no Palestinian group claimed responsibility.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians rallied in the Gaza Strip on Saturday to mark the anniversary of their mass protests along the Israeli border.

Most demonstrators kept their distance from the border, though small crowds of activists approached the perimeter fence and threw stones and explosives toward Israeli troops on the other side. The forces fired tear gas and opened fire, killing four Palestinians and wounding 64.

Hamas had pledged to keep the crowds a safe distance from the fence to avoid inflaming the political atmosphere during negotiations of a possible easing of the blockade.

Hamas officials say that Israel is offering a package of economic incentives in exchange for calm along the volatile border.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official, said the group had received "positive signs" from the Egyptians. He added that the Egyptian team was to return to Israel on Sunday to continue the talks. "We will continue

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our marches until all our goals are achieved," he said.

Saturday's protest came at a sensitive time, with Israel and Hamas, bitter enemies that have fought three wars and dozens of smaller skirmishes, both having a strong interest in keeping things quiet.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking his fourth consecutive term in April 9 elections, but is facing a serious challenge from a group of ex-army chiefs who have criticized what they say is his failed Gaza policy. With a lack of alternatives, Netanyahu has been forced at times to rely on Hamas to maintain stability along Israel's volatile southern front.

In the final stretch of the campaign, Netanyahu needs to keep the Israel-Gaza frontier quiet, without seeming to make concessions to Hamas. Netanyahu took heavy criticism this week for what was seen as a soft response to renewed rocket fire out of Gaza.

Hamas, meanwhile, faces growing unrest in Gaza as a result of worsening conditions after more than a decade of an Israeli-Egyptian blockade. The two countries imposed the blockade in 2007 after Hamas, an Islamic militant group that seeks Israel's destruction, seized control of Gaza from the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority.

The blockade has helped drive unemployment over 50 percent, led to chronic power outages and made it extremely difficult for Gazans to travel out of the territory.

Earlier this month, Hamas violently suppressed several days of public protests, staged under the slogan "We want to live," over the dire conditions.

Speaking on the group's Al-Aqsa TV station, Hamas' top leader in Gaza, Yehya Sinwar, praised the protesters. "With this big turnout, our people say, 'We want to live!'"

His use of the protesters' slogan appeared to be aimed at diverting the recent criticism of his group. Hamas blames the blockade and punitive measures by its West Bank-based Palestinian Authority for worsening the living conditions.

The fence protests, which began exactly a year ago, have been aimed in large part at breaking the Israeli-Egyptian blockade on Gaza, but haven't delivered major improvements.

Saturday's demonstrations were held at five rallying points along the border with Israel. Dozens of volunteers in fluorescent vests were deployed to restrain demonstrators, and cool rainy weather also appeared to affect enthusiasm.

But as the crowds swelled throughout the afternoon in response to Hamas' calls for a large turnout, dozens of protesters approached the fence, unfurling Palestinian flags and throwing rocks and explosives toward Israeli soldiers. The Israeli forces responded with tear gas and live fire.

The Israeli military estimated 40,000 Palestinians were gathered at the marches.

"The rioters are hurling rocks and setting tires on fire. In addition, a number of grenades and explosive devices have been hurled at the Gaza Strip security fence," it said in a statement.

In a statement, Prime Minister Netanyahu praised the army's preparation and performance in maintaining "calm."

Gaza's Health Ministry said that a 17-year-old protester died immediately after being shot in the face in east Gaza City. In the evening, the ministry said another 17-year-old died hours after being shot in the chest in a different protest location.

A third teenager, also aged 17, succumbed to his wounds and died in the late evening. A 21-year-old Palestinian also died around dawn after sustaining injuries in overnight protests before the main demonstration.

While bloodshed was not avoided, it was far less than previous high-profile protests. Over 60 people were killed during intense protests on May 14, the day the U.S. moved its embassy to Jerusalem.

As Saturday's protest was winding down, organizers vowed to continue the marches and said they would gather again as usual next Friday.

The military released video footage showing large crowds of protesters gathered near the fence and hurling objects.

In one scene, a group of activists went up to the fence and hurled stones at the other side. In another scene, a youth could be seen trying to pull apart barbed wire along the fence.

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The army also said it caught two young Palestinian children who had tried to cross the border with a knife. The children were returned to Gaza through a border crossing.

Earlier on Saturday, Gaza health officials said Israeli troops shot and killed a 21-year-old Palestinian man near the perimeter fence, hours before the mass rally.

The army said about 200 Palestinians "rioted during the night along the fence" and that the army used riot dispersal means against them.

The marches near were initially organized by grassroots activists who were calling for a mass return to ancestral homes in what is now Israel.

Hamas quickly took the lead in the protests, using the gatherings to call for an easing of the blockade.

The border marches routinely ended in confrontations, with some of the Palestinian demonstrators burning tires, hurling fire bombs or setting off explosives and Israeli troops firing live rounds and tear gas.

According to a Gaza rights group and a count by The Associated Press, 196 Palestinians were killed in the demonstrations over the past year, including 41 minors, and thousands were wounded by live fire. An Israeli soldier was also killed in the context of the marches.

Israel says the army has been defending the border. The army accuses Hamas of using the large crowds as cover and encouraging demonstrators to hurl explosives, incendiary balloons and grenades across the border. But Israel has come under heavy international criticism for the large number of unarmed people who have been harmed.

Egypt has repeatedly tried to broker a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas, stepping up efforts in recent days after a Gaza rocket struck a house in central Israel earlier this week, injuring seven Israelis and threatening renewed escalation.

Associated Press writer Isabel DeBre contributed reporting from Jerusalem.

Trump seeks to cut foreign aid to 3 Central American nations

By **JONATHAN LEMIRE, NOMAAN MERCHANT and COLLEEN LONG** Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Taking drastic action over illegal immigration, President Donald Trump moved Saturday to cut direct aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, whose citizens are fleeing north and overwhelming U.S. resources at the southern border.

The State Department notified Congress that it would look to suspend 2017 and 2018 payments to the trio of nations, which have been home to some of the migrant caravans that have marched through Mexico to the U.S. border.

Amplified by conservative media, Trump has turned the caravans into the symbol of what he says are the dangers of illegal immigration — a central theme of his midterm campaigning last fall. With the special counsel's Russia probe seemingly behind him, Trump has revived his warnings of the caravans' presence.

Trump also has returned to a previous threat he never carried out — closing the border with Mexico. He brought up that possibility on Friday and revisited it in tweets Saturday, blaming Democrats and Mexico for problems at the border and beyond despite warnings that a closed border could create economic havoc on both sides.

"It would be so easy to fix our weak and very stupid Democrat inspired immigration laws," Trump tweeted Saturday. "In less than one hour, and then a vote, the problem would be solved. But the Dems don't care about the crime, they don't want any victory for Trump and the Republicans, even if good for USA!"

As far as Mexico's role, he tweeted: "Mexico must use its very strong immigration laws to stop the many thousands of people trying to get into the USA. Our detention areas are maxed out & we will take no more illegals. Next step is to close the Border! This will also help us with stopping the Drug flow from Mexico!"

When reporters asked Trump on Friday what closing the border could entail, he said "it could mean all trade" with Mexico and added, "We will close it for a long time."

Trump has been promising for more than two years to build a long, impenetrable wall along the border

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to stop illegal immigration, though Congress has been reluctant to provide the money he needs. In the meantime, he has repeatedly threatened to close the border, but this time, with a new group of migrants heading north, he gave a definite timetable and suggested a visit to the border within the next two weeks.

A substantial closure could have an especially heavy impact on cross-border communities from San Diego to South Texas, as well as supermarkets that sell Mexican produce, factories that rely on imported parts, and other businesses across the U.S.

The U.S. and Mexico trade about \$1.7 billion in goods daily, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which said closing the border would be "an unmitigated economic debacle" that would threaten 5 million American jobs.

Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, spoke out Saturday against cutting off aid to Central America, declaring that "foreign assistance is not charity; it advances our strategic interests and funds initiatives that protect American citizens."

And a group of House Democrats visiting El Salvador denounced the administration's decision to cut aid to the region.

"As we visit El Salvador evaluating the importance of U.S. assistance to Central America to address the root causes of family and child migration, we are extremely disappointed to learn that President Trump intends to cut off aid to the region," said the statement from five lawmakers, including Rep. Eliot L. Engel of New York, who chairs the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "The President's approach is entirely counterproductive."

The Trump administration has threatened before to scale back or cut off U.S. assistance to Central America. Congress has not approved most of those proposed cuts, however, and a report this year by the Congressional Research Service said any change in that funding would depend on what Congress does.

Short of a widespread border shutdown, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said the U.S. might close designated ports of entry to re-deploy staff to help process parents and children. Ports of entry are official crossing points that are used by residents and commercial vehicles. Many people who cross the border illegally ultimately request asylum under U.S. law, which does not require asylum seekers to enter at an official crossing.

Border officials are also planning to more than quadruple the number of asylum seekers sent back over the border to wait out their immigration cases, said an administration official. The official said right now about 60 migrants per day are returned and officials are hoping to send as many as 300 per day. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about internal plans and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Friday his country was doing its part to fight migrant smuggling. Criminal networks charge thousands of dollars a person to move migrants through Mexico, increasingly in large groups toward remote sections of the border.

"We want to have a good relationship with the government of the United States," Lopez Obrador said. He added: "We are going to continue helping so that the migratory flow, those who pass through our country, do so according to the law, in an orderly way."

Marcelo Ebrard, Mexico's foreign relations secretary, tweeted that his country "doesn't act based on threats" and is "the best neighbor" the U.S. could have.

Alejandra Mier y Teran, executive director of the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce in San Diego, said the mere threat of border closures sends the wrong message to businesses in Mexico and may eventually scare companies into turning to Asia for their supply chains.

"I think the impact would be absolutely devastating on so many fronts," said Mier y Teran, whose members rely on the Otay Mesa crossing to bring televisions, medical devices and a wide range of products to the U.S. "In terms of a long-term effect, it's basically shooting yourself in your foot. It's sending out a message to other countries that, 'Don't come because our borders may not work at any time.' That is extremely scary and dangerous."

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Merchant reported from Houston, Lucey from Washington. Associated Press writers Peter Orsi in Mexico City, Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Colleen Long, Catherine Lucey and Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

Stones postpone tour as Jagger receives medical treatment

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Rolling Stones are postponing their latest tour so Mick Jagger can receive medical treatment.

The band announced Saturday that Jagger was told by doctors "he cannot go on tour at this time." The band added that Jagger "is expected to make a complete recovery so that he can get back on stage as soon as possible."

No more details about 75-year-old Jagger's condition were provided.

The Stones' No Filter Tour was expected to start April 20 in Miami. Other stops included Jacksonville, Florida; Houston; the New Orleans Jazz Festival; Pasadena and Santa Clara in California; Seattle; Denver; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; Foxborough, Massachusetts; East Rutherford, New Jersey; Chicago; and Ontario, Canada.

"I really hate letting you down like this," Jagger tweeted Saturday. "I'm devastated for having to postpone the tour but I will be working very hard to be back on stage as soon as I can."

Tour promoters AEG Presents and Concerts West advise ticketholders to hold on to their existing tickets because will be valid for the rescheduled dates.

Investigation clouds Oklahoma icon's distinguished legacy

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — David Boren's appointment as president of the University of Oklahoma two decades ago was the capstone of a storied career. Born into a prominent Oklahoma political family, he became a Rhodes scholar, then governor at age 33 and later a U.S. senator respected for his expertise in intelligence.

His arrival on campus marked a heady time for the school, which set out to achieve his vision for a flagship institution.

But now, less than a year after retiring, Boren's reputation is at risk. The 77-year-old Democrat finds himself ensnared in allegations that he sexually harassed male subordinates, and he's on the defensive in a red state now solidly controlled by political adversaries.

The university has hired a law firm to investigate the accusations, and state authorities confirmed this week they have opened a similar probe.

Bob Burke, one of Boren's attorneys, has characterized the inquiry as a "fishing expedition based on vicious rumors." But at least one former student has come forward and said Boren touched him and kissed him on multiple occasions in 2010 and 2011 after he began working as Boren's teaching aide.

The allegations by Jess Eddy, now 29, which he detailed in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press, contradict previous statements Eddy gave to investigators denying inappropriate behavior by Boren. Eddy's new allegations were first reported on Tuesday by the online news site NonDoc.

Another Boren attorney, Clark Brewster, has dismissed Eddy's new account, saying Eddy "was carefully examined, asked about anything that he had ever witnessed or had seen or had experienced and not only said that didn't occur, but he gave specific factual detail as to why it couldn't have been true."

Eddy said he was untruthful earlier to protect Boren, but then "started to realize the implications of what I was doing by concealing my truth."

Boren has denied any inappropriate behavior but declined a request for an interview, citing poor health, Burke said. Boren, who underwent heart surgery two years ago, suffered a minor stroke last year before stepping down.

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He has two children from his first marriage and has been married to his second wife, Molly Shi Boren, for more than 40 years.

The sex abuse investigation adds to a tumultuous transition from Boren's time at the university, during which he won widespread regard as one of the 129-year-old institution's greatest presidents. During his 24 years at the helm, the university added dozens of new buildings, raised more than \$3 billion from private donors and added an honors college and additional degree programs.

But after a new administration took over, he was suddenly accused of making the university financially unstable. His successor, James Gallogly, a retired energy industry executive chosen by a conservative-dominated board of regents, declared that he found the university was \$1 billion in debt, and he quickly fired six senior administrators, including the chief financial officer.

He later forced out more after it was revealed that OU tweaked alumni donations data to improve its U.S. News & World Report college ranking.

Gallogly also scaled back several signature Boren initiatives, including tuition waivers and stipends for National Merit scholars and the university's international studies program named in Boren's honor.

Since then, the open rancor between the two presidents has reverberated across the state and the university's large alumni network.

"We don't know what to think, really," said Alan Livingston, an OU alum and retired energy industry executive from Houston. "It bothers me very much, because I don't like to see people that probably have the same goals for the university be on different roads."

Boren's political clout declined over the years as Oklahoma's politics shifted rightward and the GOP came to hold 116 of the Legislature's 149 seats. In 2016, he infuriated lawmakers by spearheading an unsuccessful 1-cent sales tax initiative for education funding as the Legislature cut higher education appropriations by 16 percent.

"Behind closed doors, it was a total joke in a lot of ways how inefficient higher education had become, but they still had this huge pull on the Legislature," said former state Rep. Jason Murphey, a Republican critical of how the university's lobbyists worked to influence his colleagues.

Burke, Boren's attorney and longtime friend, said he believes much of the ill will stems from an ideological clash.

Boren's "theories of government and education are ... certainly more liberal than that of conservative leaders," he said.

Disclosure of the sexual abuse allegation provided a reminder of a bizarre episode from Boren's earlier political career. During his campaign for Senate in 1978, an obscure fringe candidate named Anthony Points publicly accused Boren of being gay. Boren responded with a news conference at the state Capitol where he swore on a family Bible that he was not gay or bisexual.

"I further swear that I have never engaged in any homosexual or bisexual activities, nor do I approve of or condone them," Boren said at the time.

Boren went on to win the Senate seat. His son, Dan Boren, also served three terms in the U.S. House and was the last Democratic congressman from Oklahoma until Kendra Horn's upset win last year.

At the university, many now wonder about Boren's legacy.

Boren "was very much loved by the community," sophomore Taylor Putman said, "especially by the students," who appreciated his ambition for the university and flocked to the political science classes he taught.

However, amid the waves of layoffs, "I'd say there's kind of a demoralized, uncertain, nervous atmosphere on campus," said Rick Tepker, a longtime professor at OU's College of Law. "I think there's a growing awareness that Boren left us in a financial mess, and that makes people nervous."

Follow Sean Murphy at <https://twitter.com/apseanmurphy>

Senate GOP wary in Trump's revived health care battle

By LISA MASCARO and CATHERINE LUCEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's decision to revive the fight over the Affordable Care Act has stirred a political and policy debate among Republicans on how best to approach the divisive issue heading into the 2020 election.

Failing to repeal and replace the ACA, otherwise known as Obamacare, is one of the biggest shortcomings of the president's first term in meeting its goals. It left Republicans with a broken campaign promise, dismal approval ratings and a narrative they haven't been able to shake — that they don't support protecting those with pre-existing medical conditions from high-cost care. In some races, it cost Republican seats last fall, flipping House control to Democrats.

For Trump, the reset he wants is clear. "The Republican Party will soon be known as the party of health care," he said on Capitol Hill. "You watch!"

But among Republican senators, there's reluctance to embrace Trump's new priority. Usually tight-lipped Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who was given little advance notice of the president's new push, spoke volumes when asked about it.

"I look forward to seeing what the president is proposing," McConnell told Politico.

And in the House, it's a mixed bag. Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy initially panned Trump's move, questioning the timing that collided with Trump's bounce from the end of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election. But the GOP leader does see value in kick-starting a health care debate, said a person granted anonymity to discuss the situation. House Republicans continue to be asked about it back home and a new GOP health care bill could improve their standing with voters, the person said.

What's unclear is whether a Trump-Care bill will emerge from the White House or Capitol Hill to replace the Affordable Care Act or if the president's push for a policy outcome fades to little more than a topic for the campaign trail.

Trump discussed health care at length during a rally in Michigan Thursday and again during an appearance in Florida Friday.

"We are going to have a plan that's so much better than Obamacare," the president promised after touring an aging dike in South Florida.

For Trump, returning to health care shows his commitment to a 2016 campaign pledge and his desire to frame the 2020 debate on his terms.

Stung by the Democratic gains in November and sparked by another ACA legal challenge that could make its way to the Supreme Court, the president dug into the issue this past week, deciding to fight. He feels that it is an important battle to take on, said two people familiar with White House thinking who were not authorized to speak publicly.

The president has been actively engaged in conversations about health care, dialing up lawmakers in the House and Senate, and the White House is expected to lay out further details on his goals in the coming days.

"We are working very hard on that," said Trump as he was heading out to the Michigan rally, singling out Republican senators John Barrasso, Rick Scott and Bill Cassidy among those involved.

"They are going to work together to come up with something that's really spectacular," the president said.

But in truth, there is no grand Republican plan on Capitol Hill to replace Obamacare.

The day after Trump dropped the new priority during a private Senate GOP lunch, a top ally, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., convened an evening meeting of senators to discuss options, according to those familiar with the talks.

Graham had helped spark the idea with Trump during a golf outing at Mar-a-Lago. The group he assembled back on Capitol Hill included two former governors well versed in health care policy — Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, whose Romney-care in Massachusetts was a precursor to Obamacare, and Sen. Rick Scott of Florida, a former health care executive.

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But McConnell has made it clear he would rather see Republicans spend their time attacking the Democratic plans to expand existing health care programs, namely the Medicare for All plans embraced by some of the Democrats running to unseat Trump. He sees it as their best option for reversing public opinion heading toward 2020 when he, too, faces re-election. McConnell derides the high cost of a government-run system as "Medicare for None."

The thinking among McConnell and other leading Republicans is that it's best to avoid another messy legislative battle. Republicans are loath to repeat the undertaking that consumed much of 2017. At that time, Republicans could never agree on a new health care plan and the months-long exercise ended in failure when John McCain joined others in rejecting one last-ditch effort, dooming the years-long campaign to repeal and replace Obamacare.

They would rather simply wait out the White House with an expectation that no actual legislation emerges, according to those familiar with the GOP thinking.

House Republicans, though, face a different calculus. They lost dozens of seats last fall in part because Democrats successfully attacked them over the GOP proposals to replace Obamacare. Americans have warmed to the 2010 health care law and, in particular, its provision that prevents insurers from charging more to patients pre-existing conditions.

McCarthy wants the majority back, the person said. Even though he questioned Trump's sudden shift to health care, it has promise. The day after Trump announced his health care push, the GOP leader convened the top House Republicans from various committees to dig into the issue.

"I'll make this promise to you — and it's a conversation I had with the president — the Republicans will make sure pre-existing conditions are protected," McCarthy told reporters. "The president and I have talked numerous times. We talked quite often. But this is one of the conversations we have, greatly, that we support protecting pre-existing conditions."

But Republicans lost their chance to revise Obamacare when they controlled both chambers in Congress. Now, any bill will need Democratic backing to clear the House with Speaker Nancy Pelosi's majority.

At most, lawmakers envision a modest package of health care bills that could lower prescription drug prices and other reforms that have wide bipartisan support.

That may or may not be enough for Trump.

And if not, he can continue advocating for more on the campaign trail.

At the rally in Michigan, he vowed, "It's going to be far better than Obamacare."

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Britain faces calls for unity govt amid Brexit impasse

By **DANICA KIRKA** Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The U.K. may be forced to create a national unity government to end the impasse over Britain leaving the European Union, as Prime Minister Theresa May clings to the Brexit divorce agreement that Parliament has rejected three times, a senior Conservative suggested Saturday.

Former Education Secretary Nicky Morgan's comments came a day after the House of Commons rebuffed the prime minister's call for lawmakers to "put aside self and party," sending her Brexit deal to its latest defeat. The rejection leaves the U.K. facing the stark prospect of a chaotic departure from the EU in just two weeks — unless squabbling politicians can put aside their differences and engineer a long delay in the process of leaving the bloc.

The British Parliament will vote Monday on a variety of Brexit alternatives in an attempt to find an idea that can command a majority. But May's government is considering a fourth vote on her deal, bolstered by their success in narrowing her margin of defeat to 58 votes Friday from 230 votes in January.

"If the government refused and Theresa May felt she could not implement what Parliament had identified as a way of leaving the EU, then I think we would have to think very hard about whether a cross-party coalition ... could do that in order to make sure that the U.K. does leave the EU in an orderly fashion,"

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Morgan told the BBC.

Britain has in the past had national unity governments in times of national crisis, such as World War II. But critics point out that such coalitions were forged when there was a single goal — such as defeating Nazi Germany. It is unclear now how Britain's political parties would agree to cooperate on an issue like Brexit, which has split the country and its two major political parties, May's ruling Conservatives and the opposition Labour Party.

As a result of Friday's vote, the U.K. is now scheduled to leave the EU on April 12, regardless of whether the two sides have reached an agreement to cushion the impact. That has led to concerns about crippling tariffs, border gridlock and shortages of food and medicines.

EU officials have suggested, however, they may agree to a lengthy delay to Britain's departure from the bloc if U.K. politicians agree on a plan.

The House of Commons on Wednesday began the process of debating alternatives to the prime minister's deal but rejected all eight proposals they considered. Two ideas, a customs union with the EU and a second referendum on any deal, achieved significant support. Lawmakers are expected to hold a second round of votes Monday on Brexit proposals.

Hilary Benn, a Labour Party lawmaker who chairs Parliament's Brexit committee, dismissed criticism that the parliamentary process was a failure because it didn't deliver a majority in the first round of voting. Benn said he hopes the latest defeat for May's deal will "concentrate minds" and help build a clear majority for one of the Brexit options.

"Since it took 2 3/4 years for the government to get what it had negotiated defeated three times, it's a little bit harsh on Parliament, when it started the process last Wednesday, for not having immediately solved the problem in 24 hours," Benn said. "So I think a little bit more time is a perfectly reasonable thing to provide as we try and find a way forward."

While Benn and Morgan are pushing for compromise, others are demanding that the Conservative-led government not cave in.

Some hard-line Conservative Party lawmakers have written to May insisting that she not agree to a Brexit extension beyond May 22, which would force the U.K. to take part in the May 23-26 European Parliament elections, The Sun newspaper reported. The letter, signed by 170 members of the prime minister's party, called on May to bring her deal back to Parliament for a fourth vote, with the threat of a general election if it is rejected again, the newspaper said.

Brandon Lewis, a Cabinet member and chairman of the Conservative Party, said he was aware of the letter, though he had not seen the final text or the signatures.

"We should be doing everything we can to leave the European Union in good order as quickly as we can, as we said in our manifesto and as we've said to Parliament," Lewis said. "I think the deal is the right way to do that."

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Batman fan Sen. Patrick Leahy writes comic book's foreword

By WILSON RING Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Vermont U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy has spent much of his adult life crusading for the issues that are important to him and now he's helping to commemorate the 80th birthday of his childhood hero, Batman, the caped crusader, who Leahy credits with helping him win a ban on the export of land mines.

For more than two decades, the Vermont Democrat has sprinkled his fascination with the superhero who has no superpowers into his work in the United States Senate, including working with DC Comics to produce a 1996 Batman issue that highlighted the dangers of land mines, which Leahy credits with helping the Senate pass one of a series of anti-land mine measures he has worked on over the years.

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Saturday is the 80th anniversary of when Batman first appeared in the Detective Comics edition released March 30, 1939. Earlier this year DC Comics published an 80th Anniversary coffee-table book and on Wednesday DC released the 1,000th issue Batman comic book issue.

Leahy, who turns 79 on Sunday and has had small roles in five Batman movies, wrote the foreword to the anniversary edition.

In the foreword, Leahy, who was born a year after the first Batman comic was released in 1939, said Batman, a millionaire who turned into a fully human superhero after his parents were murdered, turned to crime fighting and in the process helped people, mostly children, cope with unsettling times in the world of the 1940s and 1950s.

"We saw the Batman as a hero who could protect us from forces that we couldn't control — but that he could," Leahy wrote in the foreword to the book, "80 Years of Batman," that came out March 13. "He had been seared by unspeakable tragedy when his parents were murdered before his eyes. His war against evil focused on protecting others from tragedy."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Leahy said he began reading Batman comic books when he was a child in the early 1940s. One local comic-book seller in his hometown of Montpelier even knew to tap on the window of her store to let the young Leahy know the latest edition had arrived as he walked by.

Fast forward half a century and Leahy recalls a discussion on copyright issues with officials from DC Comics. Someone made a reference to Batman and Leahy corrected a reference to an early Batman issue, down to the page. The officials from DC checked their archives and Leahy was right.

That led to a foreword by Leahy for an earlier Batman anthology. Leahy asked them for help in getting Congress to pass the land mine ban.

"They loved the idea," Leahy said.

When the vote came up in the Senate, copies of the Batman land mine edition, "Death of Innocence," were placed on the desks of all of Leahy's Senate colleagues. Initially Leahy felt he had the support of at best seven or eight colleagues.

"It was one of those rare things, all 100 senators voted for the ban," Leahy said.

Pope in Morocco: Walls, fear-mongering won't stop migration

By NICOLE WINFIELD and AMIRA EL MASAITI Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Pope Francis praised Morocco as a model of religious moderation and migrant welcome as he kicked off a trip to the kingdom Saturday, warning that border walls and fear-mongering won't stop people from exercising their rights to seek a better life elsewhere.

King Mohamed VI welcomed Francis as he arrived during an unusual rainstorm and began a visit aimed at boosting Christian-Muslim ties and showing solidarity with Morocco's growing migrant community.

Morocco last year became the main destination for sub-Saharan African migrants seeking to reach Europe via Spain. The influx has strained the kingdom's resources and fueled anti-migrant sentiment in Spain ahead of the European Union nation's April 28 general election.

Francis met with some of Morocco's newest arrivals and assured them: "You are not the marginalized. You are at the center of the church's heart."

After an airport greeting, the king and pope took separate vehicles — Francis in his popemobile and the king in a Mercedes with a retracted roof — and paraded in tandem into town for a formal welcome ceremony at the complex where two of Morocco's former monarchs are buried. Women ululated as Francis and the king walked along the promenade of the Hassan Tower complex under umbrellas.

Francis told the king that he hoped Morocco would continue to be a model of humanity, welcome and protection for migrants.

"The issue of migration will never be resolved by raising barriers, fomenting fear of others or denying assistance to those who legitimately aspire to a better life for themselves and their families," Francis said.

Later Saturday, Francis repeated the sentiment during an encounter with migrants from Nigeria, Guinea, Cameroon and other countries, telling them they deserved to be welcomed, protected and integrated into

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their new homes. He called for expanded legal channels for migration and for protections for the most vulnerable, regardless of their refugee status.

"This shared commitment is needed in order to avoid presenting new opportunities to those merchants of the human flesh who exploit the dreams and needs of migrants," he told the gathering at the Catholic-run Caritas charity.

Many sub-Saharan Africans in Morocco head north to cross the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain or climb over high fences to reach Spain's North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. Those who make it across the 6-meter (20-foot) fences end up in crowded migrant centers from which they are eventually repatriated or let go.

Francis has made the plight of refugees a hallmark of his papacy, and has used many of his foreign visits to insist on the need to welcome them, protect them and integrate them into society.

Spain became the leading migrant entry route into Europe last year with over 57,000 unauthorized arrivals, after Italy essentially closed its borders to migrants leaving Libya. Nearly 2,300 people died crossing the Mediterranean Sea last year and over 310 have already died this year on the dangerous journey, according to the International Organization for Migration.

The EU agreed this summer to give Morocco \$275 million to halt flows of illegal migrants, pushing the country to take a more violent approach in stopping them from leaving for Europe, activists say.

Francis opened his remarks to the king by praising Morocco's tradition of interfaith coexistence and its efforts to promote a moderate form of Islam.

Morocco, a Sunni Muslim kingdom of 36 million, reformed its religious policies and education to limit the spread of fundamentalism in 2004, following terrorist bombings in Casablanca in 2003 that killed 43 people.

Key to that effort has been the Mohammed VI Institute, a school of learning for imams that teaches a moderate Islam and exports it via preachers to Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Francis praised the school, saying it "seeks to provide effective and sound training to combat all forms of extremism, which so often lead to violence and terrorism, and which in any event, constitute an offense against religion."

The king said education was the key to fighting radicalism — not military crackdowns.

"What all terrorists have in common is not religion, but rather ignorance of religion," he said.

The two leaders visited the institute together, where they heard from students and were treated to a stunning and symbolic vocal and orchestral performance that opened with a Muslim call to prayer, and blended Christian and Hebrew musical traditions.

Nigerian microbiologist Hindu Usman told the pope and king that when she graduates and returns home, she hopes to work to deter religious extremism and promote coexistence with Christians, Muslims and people of other faiths. Her education, she said, made her able to "argue and convince others that religion is for peace and goodness ... that women are equal with men in their rights."

The trip follows Francis' February visit to the United Arab Emirates, where the pope and the imam of Cairo's Al Azhar, the seat of Sunni learning, signed a landmark joint statement establishing Catholics and Muslims as brothers with a common mission to promote peace. The "Human Fraternity" document outlines a shared set of principles, focusing on the dignity of every person and rejecting violence committed in God's name.

Muslims, Christians and Jews have long lived peacefully in Morocco, with Catholics a tiny minority of about 23,000. Francis will minister to them on Sunday when he celebrates Mass in Rabat's sports stadium.

Joseph Wilson contributed from Barcelona, Spain.

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Today in History By the Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, March 31, the 90th day of 2019. There are 275 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 31, 2005, Terri Schiavo (SHY'-voh), 41, died at a hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed in a wrenching right-to-die court fight.

On this date:

In 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain issued an edict expelling Jews from Spanish soil, except those willing to convert to Christianity.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act, which created the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1943, "Oklahoma!" the first musical play by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, opened on Broadway.

In 1968, at the conclusion of a nationally broadcast address on Vietnam, President Lyndon B. Johnson stunned listeners by declaring, "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President."

In 1975, "Gunsmoke" closed out 20 seasons on CBS with its final first-run episode, "The Sharecroppers."

In 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that Karen Ann Quinlan, a young woman in a persistent vegetative state, could be disconnected from her respirator. (Quinlan, who remained unconscious, died in 1985.)

In 1986, 167 people died when a Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashed in a remote mountainous region of Mexico.

In 1991, the Warsaw Pact was formally dissolved.

In 1993, actor Brandon Lee, 28, was accidentally shot to death during the filming of a movie in Wilmington, North Carolina, when he was hit by a bullet fragment that had become lodged inside a prop gun.

In 1995, Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, 23, was shot to death in Corpus Christi, Texas, by the founder of her fan club, Yolanda Saldivar, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

In 2004, Four American civilian contractors were killed in Fallujah, Iraq; frenzied crowds dragged the burned, mutilated bodies and strung two of them from a bridge.

In 2008, HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced his resignation amid the wreckage of the national housing crisis.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama arrived in London with his wife, Michelle, at the start of a trip to Europe, his first journey across the Atlantic since taking office two months earlier. Benjamin Netanyahu took office as Israel's new prime minister after the Knesset approved his government. Former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin died at age 82.

Five years ago: In a flood of last-minute sign-ups, hundreds of thousands of Americans rushed to apply for health insurance as deadline day for President Barack Obama's overhaul brought long waits and a new spate of website ills. An umpire's call was overturned for the first time under Major League Baseball's expanded replay system, with Milwaukee Brewers star Ryan Braun ruled out instead of safe in a game against the Atlanta Braves. (The Brewers won, 2-0.) Charles H. Keating Jr., 90, the notorious financier who'd served prison time and was disgraced for his role in the costliest savings and loan failure in the U.S., died in Phoenix.

One year ago: Amid tight security, Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai and her family returned to her hometown in Pakistan for the first time since she was shot in the head in 2012 for her work as an advocate for young women's education. The Mormon church injected some diversity into what had been an all-white leadership panel by selecting the first-ever Latin American apostle and the first-ever apostle of Asian ancestry. Hundreds of well-wishers lined the streets of Cambridge, England, as a hearse carried

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the remains of physicist and author Stephen Hawking to a private funeral.

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Daniels is 92. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 85. Actress Shirley Jones is 85. Musician Herb Alpert is 84. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 79. Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., is 79. Actor Christopher Walken is 76. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 75. Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, is 75. Rock musician Mick Ralphs (Bad Company; Mott the Hoople) is 75. Former Vice President Al Gore is 72. Author David Eisenhower is 71. Actress Rhea Perlman is 71. Actor Robbie Coltrane is 69. Actor Ed Marinaro is 69. Rock musician Angus Young (AC/DC) is 64. Actor Marc McClure is 62. Actor William McNamara is 54. Alt-country musician Bob Crawford (The Avett (AY'-veht) Brothers) is 48. Actor Ewan (YOO'-en) McGregor is 48. Actress Judi Shekoni is 41. Rapper Tony Yayo is 41. Actress Kate Micucci is 39. Actor Brian Tyree Henry (TV: "Atlanta" Stage: "Book of Mormon") is 37. Actress Melissa Ordway is 36. Jazz musician Christian Scott is 36. Pop musician Jack Antonoff (fun.) is 35. Actress Jessica Szohr is 34.

Thought for Today: "The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries." — Rene Descartes (ren-AY' day-KART'), French philosopher and mathematician (born this date in 1596, died in 1650).