

Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup
for the Soul.

*"Labels are
for cans, not
people."*

-Anthony Rapp

Click on Ad to sign up!

OPEN: Re-
cycling Trailer in
Groton

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



Greenhouse Raffle

Prizes are:

Greenhouse (12'x7.5', 2 shelves, 2 outlets, light)
Hunting Blind (Hexigon 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.**

Noem Declares Today Statewide Day of Prayer

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem has declared today a Statewide Day of Prayer for South Dakotans affected by the flooding and disastrous conditions.

“In the last few weeks, South Dakota has been deeply impacted by extreme weather and severe flooding,” said Noem. “As a result of these storms, many communities have been left with destroyed roads, bridges, and culverts, stranded livestock, and flooded homes.”

“This coming Sunday, I am asking South Dakotans to join me in praying for the well-being of our state, our first responders, and all those who’ve been affected by this disaster,” Noem continued. “By the grace of God, our communities will emerge from this challenge stronger than ever.”

**Both Performances of the Pops Concert will be broadcast live on
GDILIVE.COM.**

Performances are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

NOW HIRING!

Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts

*** New Starting Wage - \$15/hr day shift and
\$16/hr night shift
Overtime Available**

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- Short-term Disability and Long-term Disability
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit www.uslbm.com/careers or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

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Community Events

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Pops Concert at Groton Area High School (2:00 PM and 7:00 PM)

Monday, April 8, 2019

7:00pm: School Board Meeting, Groton Area High School

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Track meet in Groton is cancelled

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

5:00pm: FCCLA Banquet, Library Conference Room

Thursday, April 11, 2019

4:00pm: Junior High Track Meet at Sisseton

6:00pm: Indoor Track Meet at Northern State University, Aberdeen

Friday, April 12, 2019

8:30am- 3:30pm: KG Roundup (Screening) at the Groton Area Elementary School

2019 Groton Area Elementary Kindergarten Roundup (Screening) for children turning 5 on/or before Sept. 1, 2019

Friday, April 12

Parents of children who will be turning 5 on or before September 1, 2019, in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.

*Students currently attending Junior Kindergarten will not be screened at this time.

Packets will be sent home this week with a scheduled time and additional paperwork that will need to be completed.

Kindergarten Roundup will take place at the Groton Area Elementary School. Please check in at the office.



 **HARR**
Motors

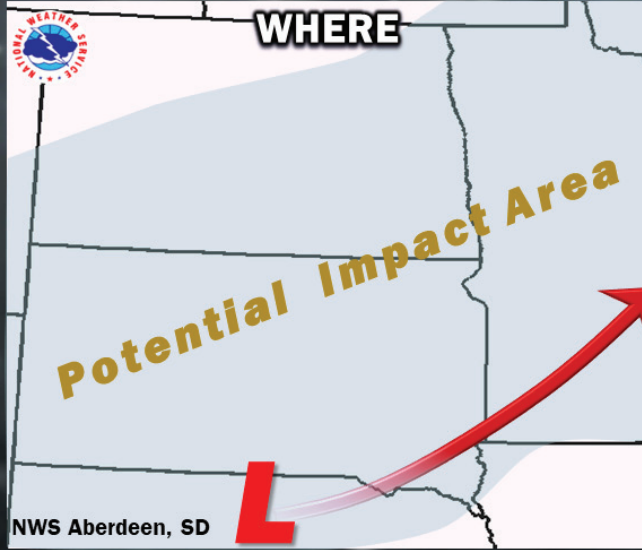
4255 6th Ave

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!!!

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Major Storm Possible Tuesday Night into Thursday



WHAT

- Rain/Snow Possible
- Snow Accumulations Possible
- Potential for Strong Winds

WHEN



Begins: Tuesday Night

Ends: Thursday Night

CONFIDENCE

Storm Track:
Low

Precipitation Potential:
Moderate

Exact Amounts:
Low

ACTIONS



While details are still sketchy, it remains a good idea to keep up-to-date with the latest forecasts.

Published on: 04/06/2019 at 3:14PM

A potent storm is possible mid-week across the Northern Plains. Snow, rain and strong winds are all possible. If you have travel planned over the middle and latter part of the week, keep up-to-date with the latest forecasts.

Groton City Notice

Sump Pumps must
be discharged
OUTSIDE!

Failure to comply will result in fines.

Hiring High Schoolers!

If you are 16 or older and need a summer job, the Groton Rehabilitation Center has the job for you!

During the summer, you can work inside and get some experience for a CNA career in the future!

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

Corrected Date



Sky Warn Storm Spotter Classes

The National Weather Service and Brown County Emergency Management will be hosting storm spotter training class. This class will cover topics discussing severe thunderstorms that produce damaging winds, large hail, tornadoes and flash floods. Other types of severe weather and lightning safety will also be discussed

This class is free and open to the public on the following date:

April 11th, 2019

6:00pm-8:00pm

Brown County Courthouse Community Room
25 Market Street Aberdeen

No registration needed.

More information call:

Brown County Emergency Management Office
605-626-7122



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AGENDA

**JOINT ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL/BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION
ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 123 S LINCOLN STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

**MONDAY
APRIL 8, 2019**

5:30 p.m. – Joint Aberdeen City/County Meeting in City Council Chambers – Airport High Volume Pump retaining pond drainage

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX
25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

**TUESDAY
APRIL 9, 2019**

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Opening Chemical Bids for Weed & Pest
9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. – Derek Ricci, Fair Manager - Personnel
9:10 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. – Densley Zambo – Discuss Wildlife
9:20 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. – Discuss Declaration of Emergency
9:25 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – Mike Scott, Landfill Manager – Waive Fees for Free Spring Residential Cleanup
9:30 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. – Incode Financial Regional Training

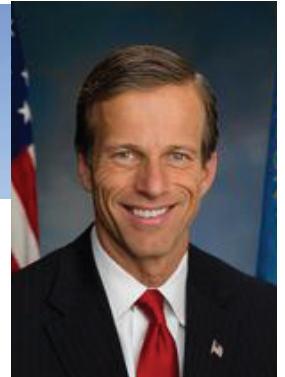
- Approve County General Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2019
- Claims
- HR Report
- Fair Contract
- Leases
- Indigent Defense Counsel Contract
- Special Malt Beverage Permit
- Lottery Permit
- Appraisal Agreement

Any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion

11:00 a.m. – Brown County Board of Equalization

1:00 p.m. – Consolidated Board of Equalization

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



I'm Listening

When I'm home in South Dakota, I always hear from a wide range of people about how they view what's happening in Washington, D.C. For example, if I'm at a local event, I might hear from one person who thinks I'm doing too much about something, then I turn around to hear from someone else who thinks I'm not doing enough about the same issue.

While that hopefully means I'm striking the right balance, I understand there's often a healthy dose of concern and skepticism about what happens in Washington – and usually rightfully so. It's easy to point to the headline-grabbing negativity, but I also think it's important to share positive stories about what's working, and I have a great example.

Having served on the House Agriculture Committee and now the Senate Agriculture Committee, I'm familiar with farm bills. In fact, the 2018 farm bill was the fourth farm bill I've helped write during my time in Congress. I pride myself in being in tune with what farmers and ranchers need and want, but regardless of the issue, I'm frequently reminded about several lessons I've learned over the years: You can learn something new every day, and you learn best by listening.

Last year at this time, Congress was in the middle of the 2018 farm bill debate, and I was in the process of coming up with various farm bill-related proposals to introduce in the Senate (I ended up drafting approximately 40, of which 20 ultimately became part of the new law). I was traveling across the state and hearing from agriculture stakeholders when a rancher approached me with a concern she had about the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Having lived and worked through the 2017 drought, she told me the Drought Monitor had provided inaccurate and inconsistent precipitation data and drought designations, which had an adverse effect on determining livestock grazing loss assistance and stocking rates. In one case, the U.S. Forest Service had determined its federal grasslands were too dry, which affected stocking rates, while at the same time, the Drought Monitor designated those same areas as not dry enough, which prevented folks from accessing grazing loss disaster assistance and insurance assistance. She made a great point. How can the same area be both too dry and not dry enough? It didn't make any sense.

I gave a lot of thought to what she said, and when I returned to Washington, D.C., I was determined to come up with a solution. A little more than a month later, I introduced the Improved Soil Moisture and Precipitation Monitoring Act of 2018, which was aimed specifically at correcting the problem this rancher raised with me in South Dakota. As I've often said, no one knows agriculture policy better than South Dakota's farmers and ranchers.

I fought hard, and several provisions of that South Dakota-inspired bill were included in the final farm bill, and they're now the law of the land. Just recently, I directly encouraged the secretary of agriculture to prioritize these important provisions as the U.S. Department of Agriculture implements the new farm bill. I know dry weather is the least of folks' concerns right now, but it will be here before we know it, and I want to be sure we're prepared.

I use this example for several reasons, not the least of which is to highlight that I'm listening to what you're telling me. I hope it also encourages you to share what's on your mind. If you're experiencing something with a federal government agency that just doesn't make sense, I want to hear about it. You never know, your idea might just land on the president's desk, too.



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR **KRISTI NOEM**



Advancing Habitat

I've always loved being outside. Whether it was fishing with my dad, bow hunting with my daughters, or shooting birds with Booker, being under the South Dakota sky clears my head. I know many of you feel the same way. It's part of our South Dakota way of life.

Whether or not you take part in the sport, pheasant season is a major economic engine for South Dakota and a significant contributor to tourism, our second largest industry. Each year, 91,000 non-resident hunters flock to our state for hunting season and spend more than \$310 million in our restaurants, gear shops, hotels, gift shops, and gas stations. That money makes a real difference for families and small businesses.

If we're committed to this heritage and want to preserve our outdoor culture, we need to proactively protect habitat. In recent years, pheasant numbers have dropped and habitat lands have diminished largely because of fewer CRP acres. Predators are impacting our bird populations as well. Having recently celebrated 100 years of pheasant hunting in South Dakota, we must now be intentional about sustaining our wildlands and grasslands to ensure the second century of pheasant hunting is just as successful as the first.

At the beginning of this year, I launched my Second Century Initiative – a strategy to increase resources for habitat management. As part of this plan, I proposed a \$1 million state investment to expand habitat and pheasant hunting opportunities. In March, the legislature approved this bill, and I was proud to sign it into law. These dollars, along with additional funds from private donations and federal conservation programs, will help establish some real momentum in habitat advancement.

And we're already moving forward, putting practical ideas into action.

On April 1, we launched the nest predator bounty program that will focus on increasing trapping. Although this is a new program, trapping predators during nesting season has been practiced in South Dakota for decades. I'm excited to implement this plan to get our kids outside – away from the x-box and into the live box. This program will be extremely beneficial in enhancing duck and pheasant nest success.

What's more, my newly expanded Hunt for Habitat program taps into how we can help raise money to fund habitat efforts across South Dakota. This program will include an auction tag and raffle licenses. Right now, we're looking at the possibility of expanding the area where the current bighorn sheep auction license is valid. This would be an incredible revenue source for habitat.

These are just the start of our plans to expand habitat, and we know that the best ideas don't have to come from Pierre. Since mid-February, we've been crowdsourcing for habitat solutions. This has sparked a conversation that has led to over 750 emails and an online dialogue that has over 300 group members thinking, talking, and exploring habitat solutions.

As South Dakota's Sportsman in Chief, I'm thrilled to see habitat making headlines and generating discussion around the dinner table. My Second Century Initiative is about families, introducing kids to the adventure of the outdoors, and preserving our culture for the next generation. Let's advance habitat and work together to strengthen the next 100 years of our outdoor traditions.

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Green New Deal is a Bad Deal for South Dakota

The Green New Deal is an extreme proposal introduced earlier this year by a number of our Democrat colleagues in a misguided attempt to reduce carbon emissions. It would require the U.S. to switch to 100 percent renewable energy within 10 years and would dramatically change nearly every aspect of our lives—from how we consume and produce energy to how we use transportation to how farmers manage their crops and raise livestock. It will also cost roughly \$93 trillion over the next ten years. That is more money than the federal government has spent in the entire history of our nation.

Under this plan, each household in the country would have to cough up \$65,000 per year to cover the tab. Keep in mind, the median yearly household income in South Dakota is \$54,126. The Green New Deal would bankrupt our nation and allow the government to control most parts of our lives. When I talk with South Dakotans, the majority of them tell me they want less government intrusion into their lives, not more. Clearly the authors of the Green New Deal didn't check with rural America before they introduced their plan.

The Green New Deal calls for the total elimination of carbon emissions, including methane emissions from cows, chickens and other livestock. Many families in South Dakota make their livelihood raising livestock. Farmers and ranchers in the U.S. are producing more food and fuel for an ever-growing global population while using less water and conserving their land for future generations. Farmers and ranchers should be commended for working toward greater sustainability. Instead, the Green New Deal would put them out of business. At a time when farm income is down 50 percent over the past five years, implementing ridiculous rules to stop livestock methane emissions is the last thing ag producers should have to worry about.

The Green New Deal supporters won't tell you this, but even if their plan were implemented, it wouldn't change the earth's climate and there would be no real effect on the earth's temperature. This is because other high-population countries are emitting greenhouse gases at a far faster rate than the U.S. In 2017, the U.S. produced just 13 percent of global emissions. Conversely, China and India produced 33 percent of global emissions and their numbers continue to rise. Without drastic emissions cuts from other countries, the overall emissions number will continue to rise—even if the economy-crushing Green New Deal was implemented in the U.S.

The Senate recently voted on the Green New Deal, but it failed with a vote of 0-57. Republicans all voted against moving forward with the resolution, while 43 of our Democrat colleagues voted "present" rather than "yes," even though 13 of them cosponsored the Green New Deal.

The Green New Deal would send our strong, healthy economy into a tailspin in an attempt to address climate change concerns. It would dramatically increase the size and scope of the federal government and give Washington more control of our everyday lives. It is not a serious proposal.

When it comes to climate change, we agree that the climate is changing, just as it has since the dawn of time. However, I believe the best way to address the changing climate is through American innovation, not by unrealistic, unaffordable government mandates. Reducing pollution, including many of the emissions blamed for climate change, makes sense but we cannot destroy our nation's economy in doing so.



Volleyball Awards

Awards were presented Thursday evening for volleyball. Pictured left to right are Portia Kettering (Most Improved), Nicole Marzahn (Most Valuable Offensive Player), Taylor Holm (Spirit of Tiger, Academic All-State), Jennie Doeden (Academic All-State, Northeast Conference All-Conference, Most Valuable Player), Payton Maine (Northeast Conference All-Conference, Most Valuable Defensive Player), and Kaylin Kucker (Rookie of the Year). Not pictured are Samantha Menzia and Alexis Simon who both were Academic All-State recipients. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Shop the Rural Route Road Trip

April 6th 9am-6pm
April 7th 12-6pm

Shop over 20 businesses who specialize in handmade and vintage goods! Pick up a Rural Route Road Trip ticket at any location, collect punches at each business to be entered to win a door prize. For more information check out this event on Facebook.

Groton

- Front Porch 605 - 1506 W. Aspen Ave.

Turton

- Dusty Décor 57 - 40336 161st St.
- Doland
- Just Beecuz Floral & Gifts - 205 Dakota St. W.
- Out of the House - 205 Dakota St. W.

Redfield

- Spink Co. Mercantile - 6 E. 7th
- Stuck on Scrapbooking - 632 Main St.
- Hardie Homespun - Main St. Mini Plaza

Tulare

- Prairie Pickers - 37485 183rd St.

Chelsea

- JB's Country Store - 36836 155th St.

Aberdeen

- Junque Shack - 422 S. Illinois St. - Suite 3

Ipswich

- Love Repurposed - 3585- 133rd St.
- Styles by Sylte - 921 Prairie View Ave.

Faulkton

- Oil Up Buttercup - 710 Main St.
- Quiller's Corner - 148 8th Ave. S.
- The Lazy Way Café - 117 8th Ave. S.
- 212 Flea Market - 708 Main St.
- The Shops - 600 Main St. - Unit 4
 - 163rd St. Design
 - R Duo Designs
 - By The Creek Boutique
 - The Steel Barn
 - Tiny House Boutique
 - Stepping Stone Embroidery
 - Designs by Deliah

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Today in Weather History

April 7, 2001: Ten inches to two feet of snow fell in central South Dakota in a five-day period, beginning April 8th. Many roads became impassable. Several businesses, government offices, and schools closed on the 11th. Twenty-four inches fell at Ree Heights and Gettysburg, 20.0 inches at Faulkton, 18.0 inches at Kennebec, 16.0 inches at Pierre, and 10.0 inches at Doland.

1857 - A late season freeze brought snow to every state in the Union. Even as far south as Houston TX the mercury plunged to 21 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1926: Lightning started a disastrous oil fire at San Luis Obispo, California, which lasted for five days, spread over 900 acres, and burned over six million barrels of oil. Flames reached 1000 feet, and the temperature of the fire was estimated at 2,500 degrees. The fire spawned thousands of whirlwinds with hundreds the size of small tornadoes. One vortex traveled one mile to the east-northeast of the blaze, destroying a small farmhouse and killing two people. Damage totaled \$15 million.

1929 - Record heat prevailed across New England. Hartford CT reported an afternoon high of 90 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1935 - Amarillo, TX, reported dust obscuring visibility for twenty hours. Blowing dust was reported twenty-seven of thirty days in the month. On several days the visibility was reduced to near zero by the dust. (The Weather Channel)

1948: Six tornadoes ripped through Northern Illinois and Indiana; mainly across the southern and eastern suburbs of Chicago. The hardest hit was from a tornado that moved east from near Manteno, IL to near Hebron, Indiana. This storm left four people dead; three in Grant Park, IL and one near Hebron, IN with 67 injuries and over a million dollars damage. Other strong tornadoes in the area moved from near Coal City, IL to Braidwood, IL and from Calumet City, IL into Indiana. Further south, two strong tornadoes occurred across the northern parts of Champaign and Vermilion Counties in Illinois.

1980 - Severe thunderstorms spawned tornadoes which ripped through central Arkansas. The severe thunderstorms also produce high winds and baseball size hail. Five counties were declared disaster areas by President Carter. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - International Falls, MN, with record warm afternoon high of 71 degrees, was warmer than Miami FL, where the high was a record cool 66 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - High winds in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region gusted to 172 mph atop Grandfather Mountain NC. Twenty-nine cities in the southwest and north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Yankton SD with a reading of 91 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

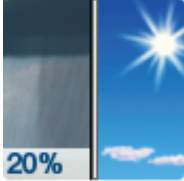




1989 - Twenty-seven cities in the southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 92 degrees in Downtown San Francisco and 104 degrees at Phoenix AZ established records for April. Highs of 78 degrees at Ely NV and 93 degrees at San Jose CA equalled April records. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Low pressure brought strong winds to the Alaska peninsula and the Aleutian Islands. Winds gusted to 68 mph at Port Heiden two days in a row. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across central Alaska. Yakutat reported a record high of 54 degrees. Unseasonably cold weather prevailed over central sections of the Lower Forty-eight states. A dozen cities from Kansas to Indiana and Alabama reported record low temperatures for the date. Evansville IN equalled their record for April with a morning low of 23 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


2010: The record heat that affected the region on April 6-7 included 93 degrees at the Washington-Dulles Airport on April 6, the earliest 90-degree reading on record. On April 7, Newark, New Jersey, shattered its daily record by seven degrees when the maximum temperature rose to 92 degrees. The Northeast ended up with its second warmest April in 116 years.

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Slight Chance Showers and Areas Dense Fog then Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Chance Rain
High: 67 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 65 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 51 °F

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 4/7/2019 5:52 AM Central



Today
Breezy. Morning showers over eastern SD/western MN.
63 to 71°

Monday
Breezy.
62 to 71°

Tuesday
Daytime: **Rain** mainly west of the Missouri River.
Nighttime: **Wintry mix** of Rain & Snow. Breezy.
58 to 64°

Wednesday & Thursday
Wintry mix of Rain & Snow, changing to mainly Snow Wednesday night into Thursday.
Accumulating Snow likely. Windy.
35 to 40°

COLD & WET WEATHER mid-week

Published on: 04/07/2019 at 7:09AM

Showers will exit into Minnesota this morning, with temperatures rising mainly into the 60s this afternoon and Monday afternoon. A storm system moving across the Central Plains will bring a wintry mix of precipitation to the area, with windy conditions and accumulating snow likely Tuesday night into Thursday. Stay tuned to the latest forecast for this evolving storm system, especially if you have travel plans Tuesday night into Thursday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 65 °F at 1:39 PM

Low Outside Temp: 42 °F at 7:50 AM

High Gust: 21 mph at 3:26 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 86° in 1988

Record Low: 2° in 2018

Average High: 52°F

Average Low: 28°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.27

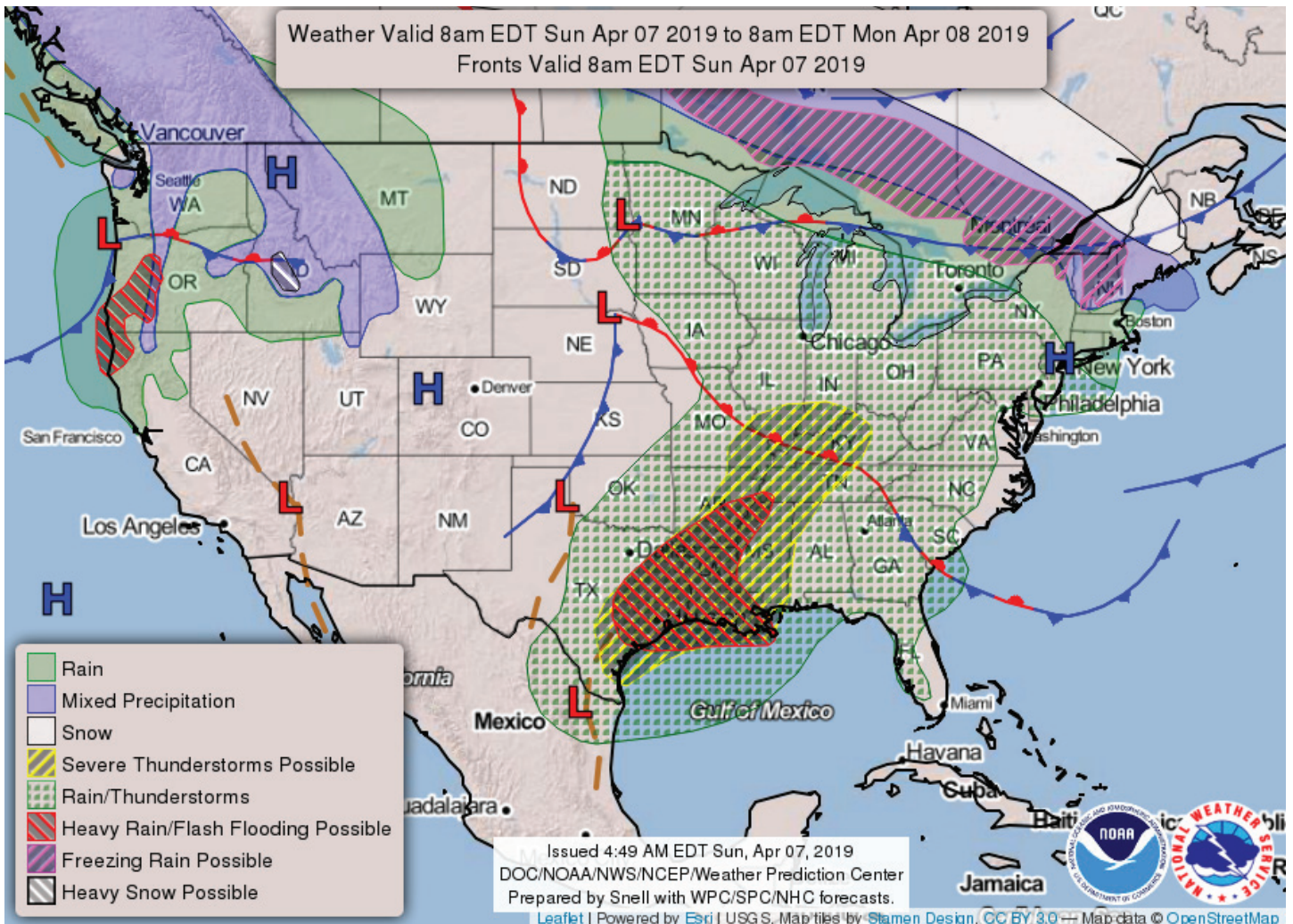
Precip to date in April.: 0.87

Average Precip to date: 2.45

Precip Year to Date: 3.06

Sunset Tonight: 8:09 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:01 a.m.



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WHO ARE THE REAL HEROES?

It is fascinating to walk through any community or mall - or even down a city street - and noticing the vast number of football jerseys that people of all ages and sexes wear. The names and numbers of their heroes vary as much as the sizes and shapes of the persons wearing the jersey.

And, the dollar amount of this way of identifying with an athlete is growing. In 2015, four years ago, the total amount of money spent on sports clothing was more than six billion dollars.

Sadly, many of those names and numbers represent felons, drug addicts, wife or child abusers, murderers, and violent criminals. Yet, their names and numbers are held in high esteem, even worshiped, because of their accomplishments in their area of sports.

Walk through a mall or down any street and count the number of individuals wearing a T-shirt that has the name of Jesus or Paul or Stephen or Jeremiah written across the front or back. Only now and then will a T-shirt appear with some reference to something Christian on it. Sadly, too, its message is usually unclear or confusing to the non-believer.

Solomon talked about heroes who walked Godly lives. Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to a godly life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray. What a timely, challenging verse to identify the criteria for a hero. People look for, want, and even need heroes. Where can we find heroes for Christ?

Hopefully, in His disciples. By their fruits you will be able to identify them.

Prayer: Lord, we cant hide who we are or what we believe or our values. May our lives represent You well. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 10:17 Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to a godly life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.

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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

05-07-11-29-33

(five, seven, eleven, twenty-nine, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$240,000

Lotto America

12-28-32-34-45, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 2

(twelve, twenty-eight, thirty-two, thirty-four, forty-five; Star Ball: one; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$17.45 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$120 million

Powerball

15-33-43-59-60, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 3

(fifteen, thirty-three, forty-three, fifty-nine, sixty; Powerball: eight; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$68 million

Patrol identifies man who died when van crashed into river

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a man who died after his van left a road and wound up in the James River near Mitchell.

The Highway Patrol says 22-year-old Abraham Ramos-Ramirez, of Huron, died after the vehicle entered the ditch, went through a barbed wire fence and into the river. His body was discovered Wednesday along the river's west shore, about a quarter of a mile away from the van.

Ramos-Ramirez had been reported missing on March 30. The actual time and date of the crash are still under investigation.

The patrol says Ramos-Ramirez was the only occupant of the vehicle.

Farm aid group prepares to truck more hay to Nebraska

JAMESTOWN, N.D. (AP) — A farm aid nonprofit is planning to bring more hay from North Dakota to producers in flood-stricken Nebraska.

The North Dakota-based Farm Rescue recently activated "Operation Hay Lift" to haul livestock feed to Nebraska ranchers affected by high water. A similar program was first used nearly two years ago to help cattle producers facing drought conditions in the Upper Midwest.

The hay convoy will depart from the Walmart parking lot in Jamestown about 1 p.m. Sunday. Farm Rescue officials are expecting to send as many as 10 semitrailer trucks of hay donated by local farmers. The trucks are expected to arrive in Elkhorn, Nebraska after 9 p.m. Sunday.

Farm Rescue helps farm and ranch families in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska and Iowa.

Mom pleads guilty to using pepper spray on 11-year-old son

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Rapid City woman accused of pepper spraying her 11-year-old son has pleaded guilty to attempted child abuse.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the plea deal finalized Friday for Ashley Ellis calls for prosecutors to

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drop charged of child abuse, simple assault and nonsupport of child by parents.

Authorities say the 33-year-old Ellis admitted using the pepper spray on her son three times on April 1, 2018, once when he talked back to her during a scolding and once to stop him from damaging her vehicle.

Ellis face up to five years in prison, but prosecutors said they will agree to ask the judge for local jail time and probation.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 17.

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

After 2016 loss, Democrats know they need white male voters

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

UPPER ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP) — When he moved to Pennsylvania about five years ago, it was a coin toss which party Brian Heitman would register with.

No longer.

Since Donald Trump's election in 2016, Heitman, who is 42 and white, has become a reliable Democrat. Last week, he voted for the Democratic candidate in a special state Senate election in Pittsburgh's affluent southern suburbs.

"A decade ago I probably wouldn't have even noticed this election was happening," Heitman said, "but I'm making a point in voting in every one I can nowadays."

The Democrats' 2020 presidential primary may feature a historically diverse field of women and minorities, but in some ways it is testing how the party appeals to white men such as Heitman. Many Democratic politicians went into the last presidential campaign cycle taking little account of those voters, and banked on a coalition of women and minorities to carry them to victory. Trump's victory proved that thinking wrong. Many in the party are determined now not to make the mistake again.

That's left Democrats wondering whether the nominee should be someone who can cut deep into Trump's base, picking off large numbers of working-class whites, whether it's enough to win over affluent, college-educated, suburban men and whether party is moving to far left to win them both.

"The white male vote is indispensable, it's a part of any winning coalition," said Democratic pollster Ronald Lester, who worked for Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016. He noted that successful national Democrats perform well with white men, and that includes Barack Obama, whose strength among white men in the Rust Belt helped fuel his White House victories in 2008 and 2012.

Several candidates have jumped in with their own suggestions of how to do that.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, who hasn't said whether he is running, spoke to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in an appearance Friday that seemed designed to show how he could win back white working-class voters. Biden said some of his "sophisticated friends" don't understand the need to treat laborers with respect.

"How the hell do we get to the place where a lot of you think the rest of the country doesn't see you, or know you?" Biden asked the mostly male crowd.

When Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, announced his campaign earlier in the week, he said his more centrist approach could appeal to working-class voters like those in his district, which embodies the Rust Belt terrain that Trump won.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., said her no-frills style has delivered white Midwestern voters before, while former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas, uses his star appeal that helped him in Texas' well-educated suburbs. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has said his economic populism will bring rural white voters back to the Democratic fold.

Polling makes clear why Democrats are searching for the right messenger.

White men typically make up about one-third of the electorate. In 2018, 41 percent of them voted for Democrats, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the national electorate. While Democrats' strength among women won headlines and was often credited with Democrats' strong showing, white

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men also moved to the Democrats column. VoteCast showed Democrats won the votes of 46% of white male college graduates, a figure that has given some in the party hope.

"The revolt in these suburban districts wasn't just about white women, it was also about white men," said Anna Greenberg, a Democratic pollster advising the campaign of former Gov. John Hickenlooper, D-Colo. "Just as there's been a movement of white, college-educated women, there's been a movement of white college-educated men."

That shift is part of a long-term trend.

According to the American National Election Survey, white men without college degrees have consistently supported the GOP over the past two decades, while those with degrees — roughly one-fifth of the 2018 electorate — have increasingly moved toward Democrats. In 1996, when President Bill Clinton overwhelmingly won re-election, he only received 36% of the votes of white male college graduates, according to ANES. Hillary Clinton lost her race in 2016 but won 43% of them.

Strategists generally find that college-educated white men are more moved by social issues and Trump's violations of political norms, while those without degrees are more concerned about economic issues and like candidates who may shake up the establishment. In Pennsylvania, Democrats have gained ground among both groups since Trump's election, but some see the college-educated cohort as the most promising.

Democrats picked up three U.S. House seats in Pennsylvania in November, flipping suburban districts while also easily defending a U.S. Senate seat and the governor's mansion.

"The current coalition — urban, suburban women and these college-educated males — will likely put Pennsylvania back in the Democratic column," said Mike Mikus, a veteran Democratic strategist who lives in the affluent suburbs of the 37th state Senate district.

Trump won the traditionally Republican district by 6 percentage points in 2016. But after its Republican state senator was elected to Congress in November, Democrats targeted the seat. They counted on flipping its educated populace of lawyers, consultants and doctors who fill its colonial-style houses and shopping centers that spill over the ridgelines outside Pittsburgh.

"There are college-educated men who have, at least temporarily, put their Republican Party membership card in their pocket for a while," Mikus said of his neighbors. But, he warned, these new Democratic voters may only be willing to tolerate so much in a party swinging to the left. "They are somewhat conservative. They don't like paying a lot of taxes."

Alfred Schnabel is one of them. The 42-year-old business analyst has kept his GOP registration but feels unwanted in either party. He is turned off by Trump and wary of Democratic presidential hopefuls such as Sanders.

"There seems to be a push to go super-progressive," he said of Democrats.

Still, Schnabel volunteered for a local Democratic legislative candidate last year because he was infuriated at his state representative's criticism of gay people, and his frustration at the GOP outweighs his concerns about Democrats. He chalks up his ability to evolve politically to his education.

"Going to college, I met people who were gay, people from other cultures," Schnabel said. "That stayed with me."

Mike Wessell is still a registered Republican but he was comfortable at the victory party last Tuesday night for the Democrat, Pam Iovino, who won the state Senate race comfortably.

"I'm not happy with the way President Trump has been running the country, or his ideology," said Wessell, a corporate lawyer. He cited Trump's immigration stance and denial of climate science.

Wessell worked on the campaign of Conor Lamb, the Democrat whose special election victory last year in a congressional district that overlaps with the 37th presaged Democrats' new strength in the state. He even appeared in an ad for Democratic Sen. Bob Casey's re-election campaign later that year with his wife, who is an active Democrat.

Wessell is also wary of Sanders, but he knows he won't be voting Trump in 2020. He's still hanging onto his Republican registration, though.

"I haven't given up on my party," Wessell said as a roomful of Democrats cheered their latest win.

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AP Polling Editor Emily Swanson and Associated Press writer Hannah Fingerhut in Washington contributed to this report.

Senate GOP game plan means more Trump nominees, fewer bills

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitch McConnell says the Senate will be in the “personnel business” this year. But the majority leader’s focus on confirming President Donald Trump’s nominees is coming at the expense of any big legislative priorities.

Nearly 100 days into the new Congress, the drive to confirm is adding more conservatives to the courts and putting more Trump appointees in government offices. But Trump’s promises to replace the Affordable Care Act, invest in infrastructure or cut middle class taxes have been essentially shelved.

The result is that the GOP-controlled Senate is on a very different path heading into the 2020 election than is the House, where the Democratic majority is churning out a long list of bills on ethics, gun violence and other topics that, while unlikely to become law, show voters their priorities.

Sara Binder, an expert on Congress at George Washington University, said there doesn’t seem to be much room in the Senate “to set out a policy agenda and make some progress toward it.” She added: “It does leave on the table quite a number of issues that don’t get any progress.”

Underlying his strategy, McConnell, R-Ky., engineered a rules change last week to speed the confirmation process, pushing past Democrats’ stalling of Trump’s picks for administration jobs and district courts.

“Look, we know you don’t like Donald Trump, but there was an election,” McConnell argued on the Senate floor to the Democrats, saying the president “is at least entitled to set up the administration and make it function.”

Democratic senators see a much more deliberative strategy. Rather than try to work with Democrats — and Trump — to pass bills that can be turned into law, they say McConnell is simply blocking bills from the House while spending his time packing the courts with conservatives judges as part of a broader legacy of reshaping the judiciary.

Already McConnell spent the first two years of the administration confirming a record 30 circuit court nominees. With seven more confirmed this year, he’s now turning to the district courts; four nominees already are teed up for Senate action.

“What Leader McConnell, President Trump and Republicans in the Senate are trying to do is use the courts to adopt the far-right agenda that Republicans know they cannot enact through the legislative process,” Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said during the floor debate.

In an earlier time, McConnell was an advocate of capitalizing on divided government to foster deal-making. Compromises between Democrats and Republicans ended a budget crisis during President Barack Obama’s administration and produced bills on other education and topics.

But so far this year, the big-ticket items have been elusive. Trump wanted GOP senators to try again to replace Obama’s health care law, but without a substantive plan, McConnell quashed that effort until after the 2020 election.

Republicans are quick to blame House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., saying there’s almost nothing Senate Republicans and House Democrats can agree on. As if to prove the point, McConnell forced the Senate into a vote on the Green New Deal from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., highlighting Democratic tensions with the liberal flank of their party.

Yet it’s clear that Republicans have had their own difficulty with Trump, whose shifting positions have left them without fully shared policy priorities. For example, many Republicans oppose Trump’s tariffs as leverage in trade negotiations. One major bill that did pass the Senate rebuked Trump’s plan to withdraw troops from Syria.

Trump opposed two substantive measures that cleared both chambers of Congress. He vetoed one that went against his national emergency to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall and has threatened to veto

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another that's opposing U.S. involvement in the war in Yemen.

"If you're talking about a big bold vision, yea, I'd like to do entitlement reform, I'd like to do tax reform 2.0 — there are a whole bunch of things on the economic agenda that I think we can do, but those things aren't going to move in a Democrat House," said Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the second-ranking Republican.

"It's just hard right now," he said. "In terms of legislative expectations I think we're being realistic and not setting the bar too high, but there are some things that I think can get done."

One of the only jobs McConnell ever wanted was in the Senate, he says in his biography, "The Long Game." But after more 30 years in office, the majority leader often seen as an institutionalist is steadily changing the way the chamber operates.

In many ways, he's simply building on the moves made by a predecessor, Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada, who used the "nuclear option" to change the rules to more easily approve Obama's Cabinet officials and most judges with a majority, rather than the 60-vote threshold in the 100-member Senate.

McConnell took it further, going "nuclear" to usher through Trump's Supreme Court nominees, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, and again with last week's changes that slashed debate time on most nominees from 30 hours to two.

Some say it's only a matter of time before the legislative filibuster, which sets a 60-vote threshold to advance most legislation, becomes the next to fall.

Not everyone opposes such changes. On Friday, presidential contender Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaking at the National Action Network, said if Democrats take control they should end the filibuster. She cited the filibuster's role in stopping anti-lynching and civil rights legislation.

Even some Democrats see the hours of idle debate on lower-level picks as a waste of time.

"Our obligation as senators is not to try to revive the old Senate, but rather to figure out how we can build a new Senate that has its own customs and rules and institutional prerogative that will work in a modern era," said Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii.

But for now, the Senate has a singular focus.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, who faces re-election next year, isn't sure confirmations will be enough for voters. But in divided Washington, he sees few other options.

"The personnel business may be the whole game," he said.

Follow on Lisa Mascaro on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/lisamascaro>

US says reuniting separated families laborious process

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Trump administration wants up to two years to find potentially thousands of children who were separated from their families at the border before a judge halted the practice last year, a task that it says is more laborious than previous efforts because the children are no longer in government custody.

The Justice Department said in a court filing late Friday that it will take at least a year to review about 47,000 cases of unaccompanied children taken into government custody between July 1, 2017 and June 25, 2018 — the day before U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw halted the general practice of splitting families. The administration would begin by sifting through names for traits most likely to signal separation — for example, children under 5.

The administration would provide information on separated families on a rolling basis to the American Civil Liberties Union, which sued to reunite families and criticized the proposed timeline on Saturday.

"We strongly oppose a plan that could take up to two years to locate these families," said Lee Gelernt, the ACLU's lead attorney. "The government needs to make this a priority."

Sabraw ordered last year that more than 2,700 children in government care on June 26, 2018 be reunited with their families, which has largely been accomplished. Then, in January, the U.S. Health and Human

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Services Department's internal watchdog reported that thousands more children may have been separated since the summer of 2017. The department's inspector general said the precise number was unknown.

The judge ruled last month that he could hold the government accountable for families that were separated before his June order and asked the government submit a proposal for the next steps. A hearing is scheduled April 16.

Sheer volume makes the job different than identifying children who were in custody at the time of the judge's June order, Jonathan White, a commander of the U.S. Public Health Service and Health and Human Services' point person on family reunification, said in an affidavit.

White, whose work has drawn strong praise from the judge, would lead the effort to identify additional families on behalf of Health and Health and Human Services with counterparts at Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement. Dr. Barry Graubard, a statistics expert at the National Cancer Institute, developed a system to flag for early attention those most likely to have been separated.

The vast majority of separated children are released to relatives, but many are not parents. Of children released in the 2017 fiscal year, 49 percent went to parents, 41 percent to close relatives such as an aunt, uncle, grandparent or adult sibling and 10 percent to distant relatives, family friends and others.

The government's proposed model to flag still-separated children puts a higher priority on the roughly half who were not released to a parent. Other signs of likely separation include children under 5, younger children traveling without a sibling and those who were detained in the Border Patrol's El Paso, Texas, sector, where the administration ran a trial program that involved separating nearly 300 family members from July to November 2017.

Saturday marks the anniversary of the administration's "zero tolerance" policy to criminally prosecute every adult who enters the country illegally from Mexico. The administration retreated in June amid an international uproar by generally exempting adults who come with their children. The policy now applies only to single adults.

In possible first, Cuba allows march by animal activists

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — On Sunday morning a group of animal-lovers will march a mile down one of Havana's main thoroughfares waving placards calling for an end to animal cruelty in Cuba.

Short, seemingly simple, the march will write a small but significant line in the history of modern Cuba. The socialist government is explicitly permitting a public march unassociated with any part of the all-encompassing Communist state, a move that participants and historians call highly unusual and perhaps unprecedented since the first years of the revolution.

"It's a historic event," said Beatriz Del Carmen Hidalgo-Gato Batista, a 21-year public communications student who received the permit for the march from the Plaza of the Revolution borough of Havana.

There is no indication Cuba is moving toward unfettered freedom of assembly: The state still clamps down on unapproved political speech with swift and massive police mobilizations, waves of arrests and temporary detentions. So a march by independent civil society groups seeking government action will be a remarkable sight in a country where, for nearly 60 years, virtually every aspect of life was part of a single chain of command ending in a supreme leader named Castro.

"It's unprecedented," said Alberto Gonzalez, a co-organizer of the march and publisher of The Ark, an online Cuban animal-lovers magazine. "This is going to mark a before and an after."

Since shortly after its foundation, the Cuban Communist government has only permitted the existence of what it calls "legitimate civil society" — groups overseen, sponsored and managed by the state and Communist Party. Those groups are fixtures in the mass marches and gatherings organized by the state on public holidays. On the other end of the spectrum are dissident groups, often with close ties to anti-Castro forces in Miami who want to overthrow the socialist government and reinstall a capitalist system with close ties to Washington. Their attempts at street protests and other forms of organizing are almost

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instantly quashed by state security.

The animal-rights march is part of a wider change in the relationship between the Cuban state and independent civil society — Cubans trying to effect change in their society while making clear to everyone, particularly the authorities, that they have no interest in crossing the red line known as “politics.”

In the year since Raul Castro handed the presidency to longtime party technocrat Miguel Diaz-Canel in April 2018, churches, civil society groups and loose associations of like-minded acquaintances have been using the growing availability of internet in Cuba to organize for various causes, and the state has been ceding them a small degree of freedom to operate.

Artists pushed back successfully against a new law regulating artistic expression. Evangelical churches prodded the government to rescind a proposal to legalize gay marriage. Thousands organized online to get private aid to victims of a tornado in Havana in January. Biologist Ariel Ruiz Urquiola was freed from prison after an online campaign by a wide range of Cubans against his one-year sentence for “disrespecting a forest ranger” during a broader campaign against illegal logging and other environmental violations in western Cuba.

“It’s part of a trend toward recognizing civil society, in a tacit manner, sometimes a timid one, but one that’s growing, little by little,” said Yassel Padron Kunakbaeva, a blogger and intellectual who describes him as a Marxist revolutionary.

A 10-year-old private group known as Forest Guardians regularly organizes tree plantings and cleanups of rivers that cross the city of Havana, said organizer Isbel Diaz, a biologist. Last year, the group used \$11,000 in small donations to buy a headquarters where it holds workshops and study groups with what it calls a leftist, anti-capitalist orientation.

Diaz said that the group’s first cleanup of the Malecon promenade in 2010 had 14 members picking up trash as several dozen state security agents filmed, took photos and called out threats and insults.

“Activism in Cuba has taken place despite the state,” Diaz said. “In my opinion, it’s not because the state has felt the need to open up, but because it’s had no other option than to accept reality and people with a lot of courage have defied the limits and pushed the boundaries back a little.”

In contrast, when self-employed taxi drivers went on an informal strike to protest new regulations, they were met with a flood of inspections that forced many to stop working.

Animal-rights activism has been a fertile field for organizing in Cuba, where these are no laws against animal abuse and virtually every neighborhood has a resident or two who dedicate hours to feeding, treating and sterilizing street dogs and cats, sometimes with the help of foreigners donating supplies and funds.

The country has one officially recognized animal-rescue group, Aniplant, and perhaps a dozen other small, non-state organizations in Havana and other major cities. In recent years the groups have collected thousands of signatures asking for an animal-protection law, with no success to date.

“What I believe is that, if I live in this country I should try to fight for what I want in this country, and what I want is to help Cuban animals,” said Grettel Montes de Oca Valdes, a professional dancer and founder of the group Cubans in Defense of Animals, whose members will march on Sunday. “I don’t think that we should stop speaking out because if we stop speaking out nothing happens. That method is useless.”

The march is planned to end at the grave of Jeannette Ryder, an American who fought for animal rights in Cuba at the start of 20th century. Aniplant has typically organized what it calls pilgrimages to the grave every April.

In a sign of remaining tensions between the official and unofficial in Cuba, many volunteers from the government-backed animal group are boycotting Sunday’s march and holding their own event next week.

Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

Associated Press writer Andrea Rodriguez contributed to this report.

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Virginia, Texas Tech get defensive to move to title game

By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Slap the floor, bend those knees and get both hands up.

This national championship game is going to be a clinic on defense.

Virginia and Texas Tech are the last two teams alive in the NCAA Tournament, and they're here because they barely let their opponents breathe with the ball.

Two of the three best defenses in the nation will meet for the title on Monday night, the first appearance in the final for each program. So after surviving a low-scoring semifinal on Saturday, here come the Cavaliers and the Red Raiders for another clash of the paint packers and ball hawkers.

Virginia stunned Auburn 63-62, when Kyle Guy sank three free throws with 0.6 seconds left after a late foul call. Then Texas Tech grinded past Michigan State 61-51, buoyed by 22 points from Matt Mooney and bolstered by coach Chris Beard's smothering defensive approach.

"I have a lot of respect for Virginia," Beard said. "I watch them on TV all the time, and we study the things they do defensively."

The Red Raiders are now Ph.D. level defenders, too.

No matter the number of shots made, the trophy will be lifted and the confetti will be dropped either way at U.S. Bank Stadium, where 72,711 fans packed the 3-year-old football facility for the semifinal games. The last time the national title was awarded in Minneapolis was in 2001, when Duke beat Arizona at the Metrodome.

"Hopefully we won't have to have a close game like that on Monday, but if we do, we have experienced it and I feel like we're going to be ready," Virginia's De'Andre Hunter said.

The last big-time sporting event held in this building was the Super Bowl just 14 months ago when the Philadelphia Eagles beat the New England Patriots 41-33 in the second-highest-scoring NFL title game in league history.

The chance of Virginia and Texas Tech establishing a similar feat will be slim at best, considering the record for combined points in an NCAA championship game is 182, when Kentucky beat Duke 94-88 in 1978. The Cavaliers (55.4) and Red Raiders (59.0) entered the Final Four ranked first and third, respectively, in the country in average points allowed per game.

To no surprise, gamblers seized on the under.

The projected scoring total for this NCAA final opened at 121 and bettors quickly drove it down to 117½ within an hour. Virginia opened as a 2-point favorite, and early action tightened the spread to 1 over Texas Tech.

"We just want to continue to be the underdog," Red Raiders backup guard Brandone Francis said.

Virginia has been a fixture in the top 10 of basketball data expert Ken Pomeroy's defensive efficiency rankings since the team's breakout 2014 season under coach Tony Bennett. The Cavaliers entered the weekend fifth nationally with 88.7 points per 100 possessions, a metric factoring out their slower offensive pace and offering a sharper measure of performance than scoring averages depressed by low-possession games.

Texas Tech has made a rapid rise in three seasons under Beard, entering the Final Four with the best defensive efficiency rating (84.0) ever recorded in the KenPom ratings that date back to the 2002 season.

Virginia, the No. 1 seed from the South Region, gives the Atlantic Coast Conference a representative in the championship game for the fourth time in five years.

Even with this six-year run as one of the best teams in the country, the Cavaliers don't have that Duke-North Carolina cachet. They're best remembered for losing to UMBC last season, the only No. 1 seed to ever be beaten by a No. 16 seed. They're also the program guilty of one of the biggest regular season upsets in history, when the Cavs lost to tiny Chaminade in 1982 as the No. 1 team in the Associated Press poll with all-time great Ralph Sampson in the paint.

Bennett beamed next to guards Kyle Guy and Ty Jerome at the podium afterward, recalling the pain of one year ago.

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"Now to sit with them here brings great joy to my heart, it really does, because it's good. That's all I can say, and I'm so thankful," Bennett said.

Texas Tech, the No. 3 seed in the West Region, has even less of a hoops history.

"Why not us? We've got good players. We've got a great university. We play in arguably the best league in the country," Beard said, making the argument that, of course, coaches from three or four other conferences would. "We won the Big 12 regular season title. We're a good team."

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

For India's prime minister, symbolism is political strategy

By EMILY SCHMALL Associated Press

VARANASI, India (AP) — In the Indian city Hindus consider the center of the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commissioned a grand promenade connecting the sacred Ganges River with the centuries-old Vishwanath temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, the god of destruction.

It's a project dripping with equal parts symbolism — Modi, the devout Hindu, restoring the ancient connection between two religious icons — and political calculation. In his five years as prime minister, Modi has pushed to promote this secular nation of 1.3 billion people and nine major religions — including about 170 million Muslims — as a distinctly Hindu state.

The \$115 million promenade is just one of a number of Modi's religious glamour projects, aimed squarely at pleasing his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party's base ahead of elections that start on Thursday. While India is majority Hindu, critics say such projects undermine India's multiculturalism, potentially stoke religious tension, and come at the expense of far more pressing infrastructure needs.

The project is also part of a larger Hindu nationalist effort to erase evidence of India's diverse past.

Modi, 68, has long understood how politics and religion intertwine in Varanasi. Despite hailing from the western state of Gujarat, he has chosen to run for a second time as the parliamentary candidate for Varanasi.

There are those who say the money could have been better spent in one of the world's oldest living cities, where men relieve themselves in public on trash-strewn streets and sewage flows into the Ganges near religious bathers, funeral pyres and crowds of devotees who gather by its waters for nightly prayers.

And some Varanasi Muslims fear the project could embolden Hindu hard-liners who have demanded for decades that the 17th century Gyanvapi mosque — which they claim was built over an earlier Vishwanath temple demolished in the Mughal era — should itself be torn down.

The demolition of around 300 commercial and residential buildings to make way for the promenade has left a gaping hole in Varanasi's urban core, a congested maze of zig-zagging brick lanes full of religious shrines.

Outside the heavily guarded temple and mosque complex ringed with barbed wire, where photography is prohibited, Aijaz Mohammed Islahi, the mosque's caretaker, said he fears the new clearing could allow right-wing Hindus to form a mob and attack the mosque.

Around a Hindu festival day in March, Islahi said, a group tried to install a Hindu statue near the mosque to assert a claim on the property.

"They thought they would quietly garland the statue and people will accept the change after a couple of days," he said.

The Vishwanath project is part of a broader campaign to downplay the Muslim Mughal dynasty's place in Indian history. The campaign includes restoring the Hindu names of cities that were renamed by Mughals centuries ago and excluding the Taj Mahal, a Muslim tomb, from government tourism materials.

At the same time, Hindu nationalists are demanding that a temple to the god Lord Ram be built at the site of a mosque rioters destroyed in 1992 that they say was built only after Muslims destroyed an ancient temple there.

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Thus, Modi's messaging around the Vishwanath temple project is hard to miss.

"Enemies had their sight on Shri Kashi Vishwanath. Many a times it was under attack," Modi said at a promenade groundbreaking ceremony in March. "But there is power in the faith here and this great temple continues to give strength to people."

Deepak Agarwal, the city commissioner overseeing the Vishwanath project, said that residents had been paid at least twice the market rate for their properties and that no one had been forced to leave.

Modi's directive was "to restore the glory back to this area," Agarwal said, including rehabilitating about 40 Hindu temples or shrines uncovered in the demolition, and investing in public amenities.

Though Varanasi draws millions of devout Hindus each year, scholars and residents emphasize its identity as a city where people of many faiths have long lived together harmoniously.

But the temple project is a BJP-led effort to stamp India's Hindu mores onto a multicultural society, historians and political scientists say.

"It's a bid to rewrite the ground rules of Indian republican politics by either implicitly or explicitly arguing that India needs to be remade as a state defined by its majority faith," said writer and professor Mukul Kesavan.

Other examples abound. Last October, Modi unveiled another dream project: a statue in Gujarat of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, an Indian independence leader, politician and Hindu. The Statue of Unity is the world's largest, almost twice as high as the Statue of Liberty.

And in January, the central government in New Delhi and the BJP-led government of Uttar Pradesh state spent an unprecedented \$650 million on a Hindu mega-fest, advertising the event on CNN and plastering the festival grounds with posters of Modi and the state's chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, a Hindu monk who was arrested but not prosecuted for allegedly inciting a deadly 2007 anti-Muslim riot.

Modi's BJP took power in 2014 elections on a pledge to rapidly expand India's economy.

A master marketer, Modi has branded some government programs as personal successes — constructing millions of toilets to reduce open defecation, and improving roads and electricity in rural areas — while distancing himself from failures.

But in the lead-up to the polls, his government's economic performance has come under scrutiny.

Modi's administration was accused in January of suppressing unemployment data that showed joblessness had reached its highest level in 45 years.

A demonetization program aimed to curb black market money by taking some rupee notes out of circulation. But it ultimately hurt the poor, and India's central bank later said that most of the illicit funds had re-entered the banking system.

Public subsidies to support India's distressed agricultural sector failed to stem a pattern of suicides among farmers facing mounting debt for purchases of seeds, fertilizer and cattle feed.

Even in Modi's constituency of Varanasi, the government's record is uneven, most visibly on the prime minister's signature Swachh Bharat, or Clean India, program.

But with the Vishwanath temple and other symbolic projects, one of Modi's undisputed successes has been to insert religion into the center of the political debate in India.

Even leaders of the opposition Congress party, which has stood for secularism since before India's independence, are trying to prove their Hindu credibility.

Priyanka Gandhi, sister of Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, spent three days in March traveling by boat on the Ganges, a trip billed as a "yatra," or religious journey, that culminated with a visit to the Vishwanath temple in Varanasi.

Yet criticizing Modi's development projects, she said that "the prime minister should stop thinking that people are fools," and "should understand that they see through this," arguing that the prime minister's showmanship lacks substance.

In the demolition zone, Sonu Khanna sits cross-legged amid stacks of pashmina shawls and silk saris.

Khanna and his siblings, parents and grandfather live and run a wholesale garment business near the Vishwanath temple that deeds on weathered paper show the family has owned since Mughal times.

If the government offers them cash to move, the Khannas, practicing Hindus, will probably join most of

their neighbors uprooted in Modi's dream project.

But Modi won't have won their votes.

"Friends and family used to live all around us, and now we're alone in all this dust and noise," 25-year-old Khanna said.

Follow South Asia correspondent Emily Schmall at www.twitter.com/emilyschmall

The Latest: Trump boasts of Israel support to Jewish group

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Latest on President Donald Trump's appearance before the Republican Jewish Coalition (all times local):

8:30 p.m.

Republicans are hoping to narrow the gap in 2020 with Jewish voters, who have traditionally backed Democrats by a large margin. President Donald Trump is leading the charge. He warned members of the Republican Jewish Coalition Saturday in Las Vegas that a Democratic victory in 2020 could "leave Israel out there." Trump highlighted his pro-Israel actions at the group's annual meeting in an effort to win support from Jewish voters.

3:30 p.m.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham says he wants the United States to enter into a mutual defense agreement with Israel to tell the world that "an attack against Israel would be considered an attack against the United States."

Graham said at the annual meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition in Las Vegas Saturday that it's time for the U.S. to declare to the world how important its relationship is with Israel.

The Republican says America should tell Israel's enemies that if they seek "to destroy the one and only Jewish state, you have to come through us to get them."

Graham also suggested the Republican-controlled U.S. Senate would vote in a month or so to formally recognize Israeli sovereignty over the disputed Golan Heights and force Democrats to go on the record on the issue.

2:45 p.m.

President Donald Trump is ridiculing some of the people seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border, claiming they look like mixed martial arts fighters yet are coached by lawyers to say they fear for their lives if forced to return home.

Trump says, "The asylum program is a scam. Some of the roughest people you've ever seen. People that look like they should be fighting for the UFC."

He tells members of the Republican Jewish Coalition in Las Vegas: "We don't love the fact that he's got tattoos on his face. That's not a good sign. We don't love the fact that he's carrying the flag of Honduras or Guatemala or El Salvador, only to say he's petrified to be in his country."

2 p.m.

Former Republican National Committee chairman and casino mogul Steve Wynn met with President Donald Trump at the Las Vegas airport following the president's speech to the Republican Jewish Coalition on Saturday.

Wynn last year resigned his roles at the RNC and the casino company he built after sexual misconduct allegations emerged against him.

Nevada gambling regulators in February fined his former company Wynn Resorts a record \$20 million for failing to investigate the allegations before Wynn resigned.

Wynn has denied all allegations against him.

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12:50 p.m.

President Donald Trump says it's shaping up to be a "close" race in Tuesday's election in Israel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (neh-ten-YAH'-hoo) is seeking a fourth consecutive term in office as Israel's leader. And if he's re-elected, he'd be his country's longest serving prime minister.

But he's facing major opposition from his former army chief of staff, Benny Gantz.

How does Trump see the election: "I think it's going to be close. Two good people," he tells the members of the Republican Jewish Coalition who are meeting in Las Vegas.

12:25 p.m.

President Donald Trump is hearing chants of "four more years" from members of the Republican Jewish Coalition after detailing his decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Trump is saying that "unlike other presidents, I keep my promises" and he calls the embassy move an example of a "historic action that had been decades in waiting."

As he mentions the embassy decision, he's calling out two members of the audience at his speech in Las Vegas — major GOP donors Sheldon and Miriam Adelson.

Trump says he thinks "that is the most important thing I think that's ever happened in their life. They love Israel."

12:05 p.m.

President Donald Trump is thanking members of the Republican Jewish Coalition for backing him in 2016 and he says they have an important role to play in his re-election campaign in 2020.

Trump says in a speech at the group's annual meeting in Las Vegas that he's grateful to members for "your incredible support and your outstanding commitment to our country to our safety and to electing more Republicans."

The president says "we need more Republicans. Let's go, so we can win everything."

Trump says that as 2020 election nears, "I know that the Republican Jewish Coalition will help lead our party to another historic victory."

12 p.m.

President Donald Trump has met privately with a major GOP donor, casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, before speaking at the Republican Jewish Coalition conference in Las Vegas.

Adelson is chairman and CEO of the Las Vegas Sands Corp. He and his wife, Miriam, received a standing ovation when they entered the ballroom where Trump was set to speak. Trump praised Adelson from the stage.

Adelson's company revealed earlier this year that Adelson is receiving treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The Adelsons gave President Donald Trump's campaign \$30 million in 2016. They followed that by contributing \$100 million to the Republican Party for the 2018 midterm elections.

In November, Trump recognized Miriam Adelson with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor the nation reserves for a civilian. She's a doctor and philanthropist.

8:55 a.m.

President Donald Trump is trying to make the case for Jewish voters to back his re-election as he takes a victory lap with Republican donors in Las Vegas.

Trump is appearing at the annual meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition, which supported his 2016 campaign and is preparing to spend millions on his 2020 effort.

Jewish voters in the U.S. have traditionally sided heavily with Democrats, but Republicans are hoping to narrow the gap next year, in part as Trump cites actions that he says show he's more pro-Israel.

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Trump's speech comes weeks after he suggested Democrats "hate" Jews. His remark came as Democrats engaged in an internal fight over how to respond to comments by Ilhan Omar, a Minnesota congresswoman, that were criticized by some as anti-Semitic.

Ex-Sen Ernest 'Fritz' Hollings of South Carolina dies at 97

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Ernest F. "Fritz" Hollings, the silver-haired Democrat who helped shepherd South Carolina through desegregation as governor and went on to serve six terms in the U.S. Senate, has died. He was 97.

Family spokesman Andy Brack, who also served at times for Hollings as spokesman during his Senate career, said Hollings died at his home on the Isle of Palms early Saturday.

Hollings, whose long and colorful political career included an unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, retired from the Senate in 2005, one of the last of the larger-than-life Democrats who dominated politics in the South.

He had served 38 years and two months, making him the eighth longest-serving senator in U.S. history.

Nevertheless, Hollings remained the junior senator from South Carolina for most of his term. The senior senator was Strom Thurmond, first elected in 1954. He retired in January 2003 at age 100 as the longest-serving senator in history.

In his final Senate speech, made in 2004, Hollings lamented that lawmakers came to spend much of their time raising money for the next election, calling money "the main culprit, the cancer on the body politic."

"We don't have time for each other, we don't have time for constituents except for the givers. ... We're in real, real trouble."

Hollings was a sharp-tongued orator whose rhetorical flourishes in the deep accent of his home state enlivened many a Washington debate, but his influence in Washington never reached the levels he hoped.

He sometimes blamed that failure on his background, rising to power as he did in the South in the 1950s as the region bubbled with anger over segregation.

However, South Carolina largely avoided the racial violence that afflicted some other Deep South states during the turbulent 1960s.

Hollings campaigned against desegregation when running for governor in 1958. He built a national reputation as a moderate when, in his farewell address as governor, he pleaded with the legislature to peacefully accept integration of public schools and the admission of the first black student to Clemson University.

"This General Assembly must make clear South Carolina's choice, a government of laws rather than a government of men," he told lawmakers. Shortly afterward, Clemson was peacefully integrated.

In his 2008 autobiography, "Making Government Work," Hollings wrote that in the 1950s "no issue dominated South Carolina more than race" and that he worked for a balanced approach.

"I was 'Mister-In-Between. The governor had to appear to be in charge; yet the realities were not on his side," he wrote. "I returned to my basic precept ... the safety of the people is the supreme law. I was determined to keep the peace and avoid bloodshed."

In the Senate, Hollings gained a reputation as a skilled insider with keen intellectual powers. He chaired the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and held seats on the Appropriations and Budget committees.

But his sharp tongue and sharper wit sometimes got him in trouble. He once called Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, the "senator from the B'nai B'rith" and in 1983 referred to the presidential campaign supporters of former Sen. Alan Cranston, D-California, as "wetbacks."

Hollings began his quest for the presidency in April 1983 but dropped out the following March after dismal showings in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Early in his Senate career, he built a record as a hawk and lobbied hard for military dollars for South Carolina, one of the poorest states in the union.

Hollings originally supported American involvement in Vietnam, but his views changed over the years as

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it became clear there would be no American victory.

Hollings, who made three trips to the war zone, said he learned a lesson there.

"It's a mistake to try to build and destroy a nation at the same time," he wrote in his autobiography, warning that America is now "repeating the same wrongheaded strategy in Iraq."

Despite his changed views, Hollings remained a strong supporter of national defense which he saw as the main business of government.

In 1969 he drew national attention when he exposed hunger in his own state by touring several cities, helping lay the groundwork for the Women, Infants and Children, or WIC, feeding program.

A year later, his views drew wider currency with the publication of his first book "The Case Against Hunger."

In 1982, Hollings proposed an across-the-board federal spending freeze to cut the deficit, a proposal that was a cornerstone of his failed presidential bid.

He helped create the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and write the National Coastal Zone Management Act. Hollings also attached his name to the Gramm-Rudman bill aimed at balancing the federal budget.

Hollings angered many of his constituents in 1991 when he opposed the congressional resolution authorizing President George Bush to use force against Iraq.

In his later years, port security was one of his main concerns.

As he prepared to leave office, he told The Associated Press: "People ask you your legacy or your most embarrassing moment. I never, ever lived that way. ... I'm not trying to get remembered."

He kept busy after the Senate helping the Medical University of South Carolina raise money for the cancer center which bears his name and lecturing at the new Charleston School of Law.

Hollings' one political defeat came in 1962 when he lost in a primary to Sen. Olin Johnston. After Johnston died, Hollings won a special election in 1966 and went to the Senate at age 44, winning the first of his six full terms two years later.

Ernest Frederick Hollings was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on Jan. 1, 1922. His father was a paper products dealer but the family business went broke during the Depression.

Hollings graduated from The Citadel, the state's military college in Charleston, in 1942. He immediately entered the Army and was decorated for his service during World War II. Back home, he earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1947.

The next year, he was elected to the state House at age 26. He was elected lieutenant governor six years later and governor in 1958 at age 36.

As governor, he actively lured business, helped balance the budget for the first time since Reconstruction and improved public education.

Hollings had four children with his first wife, the late Patricia Salley Hollings. He is survived by three of his four children. His second wife, "Peatsy," died in 2012.

A funeral home handling arrangements said that after a three-hour visitation April 14 in Charleston, the senator's body will lie in repose Monday, April 15, at the South Carolina Statehouse in Columbia, with a funeral service to follow the next day at the Citadel in Charleston.

Former Associated Press Writer Bruce Smith contributed to this story.

Netanyahu vows to annex West Bank settlements if re-elected

By **KARIN LAUB Associated Press**

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged Saturday to annex Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank if re-elected, a dramatic policy shift apparently aimed at rallying his nationalist base in the final stretch of the tight race.

Netanyahu has promoted Jewish settlement expansion in his four terms as prime minister, but until now refrained from presenting a detailed vision for the West Bank, seen by the Palestinians as the heartland of a future state.

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An Israeli annexation of large parts of the West Bank is bound to snuff out any last flicker of hope for an Israeli-Palestinian deal on the terms of a Palestinian state on lands Israel captured in 1967.

A so-called two-state solution has long been the preferred option of most of the international community. However, intermittent U.S. mediation between Israelis and Palestinians ran aground after President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital early in his term. The Palestinians, who seek Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem as their capital, suspended contact with the U.S.

More recently, Trump recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, a plateau Israel captured from Syria in 1967. The move was viewed in Israel as a political gift by Trump to Netanyahu who is being challenged by former military chief Benny Gantz.

The U.S. State Department declined to comment on Netanyahu's statement.

Polls have indicated a close race, though Netanyahu's Likud Party is expected to have a better chance than Gantz's Blue and White slate to form a ruling coalition. Polls forecast more than 60 out of 120 parliament seats for the Likud and smaller right-wing and ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties.

On Saturday, Netanyahu gave an interview to Israel's Channel 12 TV at the top of the prime-time newscast. Netanyahu portrayed the U.S. policy shifts on Jerusalem and the Golan Heights as his achievements, saying he had managed to persuade Trump to take these steps.

Netanyahu pledged that he would not dismantle a single Jewish settlement and that Israel would retain control of the territory west of the Jordan River — the West Bank. More than 600,000 Israelis now live on war-won lands, two-thirds in the West Bank.

The interviewer asked why he hadn't annexed some of the larger settlements during his current term. "The question you are asking is an interesting question, whether we will move to the next stage and the answer is yes," he said, adding that the next term in office would be fateful. "We will move to the next stage, the imposing of Israeli sovereignty."

"I will impose sovereignty, but I will not distinguish between settlement blocs and isolated settlements," he said. "From my perspective, any point of settlement is Israeli, and we have responsibility, as the Israeli government. I will not uproot anyone, and I will not transfer sovereignty to the Palestinians."

In any partition deal, the more isolated Jewish settlements would likely have to be uprooted to create a viable Palestinian state.

Saeb Erekat, a veteran former Palestinian negotiator, said he held the international community, especially the Trump administration, responsible for Israel's policies.

"Israel will continue to brazenly violate international law for as long as the international community will continue to reward Israel with impunity, particularly with the Trump administration's support and endorsement of Israel's violation of the national and human rights of the people of Palestine," he said in a statement.

Associated Press Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

Mooney scores, Texas Tech clamps down in 61-51 win over MSU

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — For those who thought Texas Tech only plays defense, it's time to meet Matt Mooney.

While the Red Raiders were locking down Michigan State on one end, the graduate transfer shooting guard was raining in 3s on the other, lifting Tech one win away from a title Saturday night with a 61-51 victory over the Spartans in the Final Four.

Mooney matched his season-high with 22 points, including three 3-pointers over the span of 3 minutes to give Texas Tech a 13-point lead midway through the second half.

With the kind of 'D' Texas Tech plays, it was too much to overcome, and now the Red Raiders are getting ready for another defensive battle, in a Monday final against Virginia, and its vaunted pack line defense. The Cavaliers are a slight 1-point favorite, and the over/under was at 117½ and falling late Saturday night.

Texas Tech wins by doing just enough on the offensive end. On this night, Mooney did the major damage.

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"He's obviously very, very talented, but the thing that impressed me tonight was just his courage, wanting to make those big plays in big moment," Texas Tech coach Chris Beard said.

Mooney's first two shots in the stretch capped a 5-for-5 hot streak by Texas Tech (31-6) that stood as the game's only true blast of offense. His third 3 gave Texas Tech a 48-35 lead with 9:38 left.

Before and after that, it was all about defense — a game filled with air balls, blocked shots and clogged-up passing lanes. At one point, over a two minute stretch late in the first half, eight shots went up. Six of them didn't touch the rim.

It was, to put it Texas Tech's way, perfectly ugly.

"It's like they never make mistakes," Michigan State forward Kenny Goins said. "They got us kind of caught in that trap today."

Michigan State (32-7) leaves coach Tom Izzo's eighth Final Four with its seventh loss — the 2000 title is still the only time the Spartans have taken it all the way under their veteran coach.

But they did not go away easily.

After Mooney put them down by a baker's dozen, the Spartans trimmed it to 3. Matt McQuaid had a wide-open look from the corner — one of the very few on this night — that would've tied it with 1:50 left, but the ball rimmed out and the Red Raiders pulled away.

Jarrett Culver (10 points, five boards) finished it off. He made one free throw on the next trip down, then Norensse Odiase swiped the ball from MSU's Xavier Tillman — one of Tech's four steals on the night — and the Red Raiders worked the ball to Culver, who made his only 3 to push the lead to 58-51 and start the celebration.

Culver shot 0 for 6 in the first half, and scored six of his 10 points over the last 2:30.

"When you've got a whole team that trusts you on the court, you keep shooting with confidence," he said.

Meanwhile, a defense that led the nation in efficiency and held teams to under 37% shooting this season — second best in the country — held Michigan State to 31.9% from the floor.

Most tellingly, it stymied Big Ten player of the year Cassius Winston. Yes, Winston led the Spartans with 16 points, but it came on 4-for-16 shooting, and he was held scoreless in second half for more than 10 minutes — not perking up until after Mooney had given the Red Raiders their big cushion.

Mooney is the fifth-year senior who made his way to Texas Tech after graduating from South Dakota — the school he transferred to after a rough year at Air Force.

Most all these Red Raiders have a story like that.

Beard is on his 12th stop in a travelogue of a career — and he's been recruiting grinders like him to help him take this most-unexpected ride.

Culver wasn't in the top 300 among high school recruits, and chose his hometown college over a few other places. He kept battling despite the rough start, and Texas Tech overcame his cold first half to head to the locker room leading by the not-so-scintillating score of 23-21. It was the lowest scoring first half at the Final Four since the Spartans took a 19-17 lead over Wisconsin in a 2000 slugfest.

"We threw a lot of punches tonight," Beard said. "We tried a lot of things on defense, and fortunately most of them worked."

Culver had one block and rim protector Tariq Owens, also a grad transfer, had three more before leaving late in the second half with a leg injury.

Owens came jogging back in toward the end to the cheers of the Texas Tech crowd, which included alum Patrick Mahomes, the high-flying QB for the Chiefs.

"Pretty cool to have the MVP of the NFL on our side, cheering for us," Mooney said.

Turns out, the quarterback isn't the only Red Raider who can light up that scoreboard.

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

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Guy sinks FTs on disputed foul, Virginia shocks Auburn 63-62

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Hard to call Virginia basketball boring after the last two games. And the Cavaliers have pretty much put the choker label to rest, too.

From one-and-done to NCAA Tournament miracle men, Virginia will play for the national title for the first time after pulling off another last-second stunner. Kyle Guy made three free throws with 0.6 seconds left, steadily swishing each one as debate immediately started over the sequence that sent him to the line, and Virginia beat Auburn 63-62 Saturday in the Final Four.

A year after becoming the first No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 16, these top-seeded Cavaliers now look like destiny's team.

"It's a great story," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said. "It is."

The Cavaliers (34-3) will face Texas Tech on Monday night as the slight favorite to win the tournament.

Bennett has built a powerhouse in 10 years in Charlottesville on a style of play that is often about as exciting as a trip to the campus library. The Cavaliers have gotten straight A's in the regular season with stingy defense and walk-it-up offense, but NCAA success has been hard to come by. Blown leads and early exits have been their story — never more than when the Cavaliers lost to UMBC, a school known for chess, not hoops.

Something has gotten into these Wahoos the last two weeks, though. They reached the Final Four for the first time since 1984 with a wild buzzer-beater by Mamadi Diakite to send their Elite Eight game against Purdue to overtime. Beating the Tigers took an even crazier finish.

Fifth-seeded Auburn (30-10) had erased a 10-point deficit in the final five minutes and taken a 4-point lead. Heartbreak was again at hand for Virginia.

The Tigers led 61-60 after Guy made an off-balance 3 with 7.6 seconds left. The shot snapped a drought of more than five minutes by the Cavaliers, who then immediately sent Jared Harper to the line.

Harper made one and Auburn, with fouls to give, did so twice. On one of them, it looked as if Ty Jerome might have double-dribbled into a decisive turnover. Jerome also might have been fouled before the mishandle. But there was no whistle for either.

"We knew there was a disruption," Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said.

With 1.5 seconds left and in need of some magic, Virginia got the ball to Guy in the corner. He turned and fired and Samir Doughty, hands straight up in the air, bumped into Guy's hip. The shot was short, bouncing off the rim. Game over? Auburn started to celebrate and the PA announcer in U.S. Bank Stadium even announced the Tigers had won.

Guy pulled his jersey over his face. But not in angst. He said he exactly knew why official James Breeding had blown his whistle.

"I heard him call it right away," Guy said. "That was me focusing."

Meanwhile, Pearl lost it on the sideline, pumping his fist and screaming.

"We kind of thought we had it sealed," said Bryce Brown, who led the Auburn comeback with three 3s in the final 4:30. "It's not why we lost the game. I just didn't agree with the call."

Pearl said he didn't want the final call to define a great game, but he did say the officials seemed to be letting physical play go throughout.

"My advice ... if that's a foul, call it," Pearl said. "Call it at the beginning of the game, call it in the middle of the game, call it at the end of the game. Don't call it any more or less at any other time during the game."

Guy swished the first two free throws to tie it and Auburn called a timeout to ice him. Didn't work. He hit one more for the lead.

"I just literally told myself that we dream of these moments, and to be able to make one happen was special," Guy said.

Auburn threw a long inbound pass to Brown, but his desperation 3 was short.

The Cavaliers mobbed Guy on one end. Brown sat on the court, head hanging on the other. Auburn, in the Final Four for the first time, had its 12-game winning streak and season end in a most painful way.

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NCAA national coordinator of officials J.D. Collins declined comment on the potential double dribble, but said Breeding's call was correct.

The foul violated the rule that "verticality applies to a legal position and also to both the offensive and defensive players," Collins said. "The defender may not 'belly up' or use the lower part of the body or arms to cause contact outside his vertical plane or inside the opponent's vertical plane."

Jerome scored 21 points for Virginia and De'Andre Hunter had 10 of his 14 in a stellar second half.

Doughty led Auburn with 13 points and Brown had 12 for Auburn, which survived the first round against New Mexico State when Terrell Brown of the Aggies missed two of three free throws with 1.1 seconds remaining in the Tigers' 78-77 victory.

Auburn wasn't so fortunate this time, and Virginia, the team that made UMBC a household name — at least for a little while — in the first round of last year's tournament would not be denied. Being on the receiving end of maybe the most humbling NCAA Tournament upset ever has been Virginia's cross to bear all season. Even after beating Auburn, the Cavaliers had to recall the feeling of their offseason routine starting unexpectedly early last year.

"I feel like I get asked this question every single round, every round we advance, and every round I say the same thing almost," Jerome said, "and it feels a little bit sweeter, a little bit sweeter."

Then Guy said: "Not much to add. Just you guys can ask that question again on Monday."

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

Trump: Democrats would 'leave Israel out there'

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — President Donald Trump warned on Saturday that a Democratic victory in 2020 could "leave Israel out there," as he highlighted his pro-Israel actions in an effort to make the case for Jewish voters to back his re-election.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition, Trump touted his precedent-shredding actions to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv and recognition last month of Israeli sovereignty over the disputed Golan Heights, a strategic plateau that Israel seized from Syria in 1967.

"We got you something that you wanted," Trump said of the embassy move, adding, "Unlike other presidents, I keep my promises."

The group, backed by GOP megadonor Sheldon Adelson, supported Trump's 2016 campaign and is preparing to spend millions on his 2020 effort.

"I know that the Republican Jewish Coalition will help lead our party to another historic victory," Trump said. "We need more Republicans. Let's go, so we can win everything."

Jewish voters in the U.S. have traditionally sided heavily with Democrats — and are often ideologically liberal — but Republicans are hoping to narrow the gap next year, in part as Trump cites actions that he says demonstrate support for Israel.

The Jewish Democratic Council of America on Saturday said American Jews leaving the Democratic Party are a Republican fantasy.

"Trump's presidency has only solidified the fact that the Democratic Party has been - and will remain - the political home of the American Jewish electorate," JDCA Executive Director Halie Soifer said in a statement. "This is because Trump's policies and rhetoric are antithetical to Jewish values, and because anti-Semitism has increased to unprecedented levels due to Trump's divisive words, policies, and willful blindness."

But at the RJC, Trump earned standing ovations for recounting both the embassy move and the Golan Heights recognition.

Trump noted it had long been a priority for Adelson and his wife, Miriam. "That is the most important thing that's ever happened in their life," Trump said. "They love Israel."

Trump's speech comes weeks after he suggested Democrats "hate" Jews. His remark followed an internal fight among Democrats over how to respond to comments by Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., that some

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criticized as anti-Semitic.

Trump mockingly thanked Omar as he began his speech, before adding, "Oh, I forgot. She doesn't like Israel, I forgot, I'm sorry. No, she doesn't like Israel, does she? Please, I apologize."

He also accused Democrats of allowing anti-Semitism to "take root" in their party.

Before Trump's appearance, people assembled for the event carried signs with "We are Jews for Trump" and "Trump" written in Hebrew. Dozens of men and several women wore red yarmulkes with "Trump" in white that were distributed at the event.

Trump also took credit for eliminating hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinians and for pulling the U.S. out of several U.N. organizations, the U.N. Human Rights Council and UNESCO, citing anti-Israel bias in their agendas.

Trump criticized some 2020 Democrats who have suggesting they would re-enter the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, from which Trump withdrew the United States. The agreement was fiercely opposed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has cheered as Trump re-imposed stringent new sanctions on the country that Israel regards as an existential threat. Trump is closely aligned with Netanyahu, who's seeking to return power in Tuesday's national election.

Trump predicted that election is "gonna be close," adding it features "Two good people," seemingly referring to Netanyahu and his chief threat to Netanyahu's coalition, former Israeli army chief of staff, Benny Gantz.

Despite his criticism of Democrats, Trump has faced his own criticism from the Jewish community. Trump was slow to condemn white supremacists who marched violently in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017. The previous year, he circulated an image of a six-pointed star alongside a photo of Hillary Clinton, a pile of money and the words "most corrupt candidate ever."

When he addressed the RJC in 2015 he said he didn't expect to earn their support because he wouldn't take their money. "You want to control your politicians, that's fine," Trump said at the time. Ultimately, the group and many of its donors backed Trump.

Trump met privately with Adelson before speaking, according to an official. Adelson has cancer and has been in poor health, but he and his wife attended Trump's remarks — receiving a standing ovation when they entered the ballroom.

The Adelsons gave Trump's campaign \$30 million in 2016. They followed that by contributing \$100 million to the Republican Party for the 2018 midterm elections.

Introducing Trump, former Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., the chairman of the RJC, led the audience in an adapted version of the Passover reading "Dayenu," as he recounted what Trump had done for Israel.

Stuart Weil, a Jewish man from Fresno, California, said Americans have traditionally been very supportive of Israel but "the progressive, liberal wing of the Democratic Party" is changing that.

Weil, who wore a blue Trump-style hat that read, "Making Israel & America Great Again," says he's a Republican because of the party's strong stance on Israel.

According to AP Votecast, a survey of more than 115,000 midterm voters and 3,500 Jewish voters nationwide, voters who identified as Jewish broke for Democrats over Republicans by a wide margin, 72 percent to 26 percent, in 2018.

Over the past decade, Jewish voters have shown stability in their partisanship, according to data from Pew Research Center. Jewish voters identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party over the Republican Party by a roughly 2-1 ratio.

Associated Press writer Michelle L. Price contributed to this report.

This story corrects year of AP VoteCast survey to 2018, not 2016.

Mormon leaders talk spirituality, not changes, at conference

By BRADY McCOMBS Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Leaders with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints delivered spiritual guidance aimed at strengthening members' faith amid a world of temptation and immorality and reaffirmed the faith's opposition to gay marriage during a church conference Saturday in Utah.

Many church members had been bracing for more announcements of change during the two-day conference because church President Russell M. Nelson has made a flurry of moves in his first year at the helm. Those decisions included the surprising repeal Thursday of 2015 policies that banned baptisms for children of gay parents and labeled people in same-sex marriages as sinners eligible for expulsion.

But through the first three sessions Saturday, faith leaders instead focused speeches on how members can become better followers of the faith. During an all-men's session Saturday night, Nelson encouraged men to be better husbands by making their wives a higher priority than watching sports.

"Your first and foremost duty as a bearer of the priesthood is to love and care for your wife. Become one with her. Be her partner," Nelson said. "Make it easy for her to want to be yours. No other interest in life should take priority over building an eternal relationship with her."

Neil L. Andersen, a member of a top governing panel called the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, spoke about the importance of one of the religion's signature proclamations that states marriage should be reserved for relationships between man and a woman and that a person's God-given gender is an essential part of a person's eternal identity.

"If we pick and choose what we accept in the proclamation, we cloud our eternal view," Andersen said.

He acknowledged that not all church members fit within the proclamation's boundaries and seemed to suggest there is room for LGBTQ members by offering an example of a gay member who follows church teachings to not engage in same-sex relationships to remain a faithful member.

"Some will say, 'You don't understand my situation.' I may not, but I testify that there is one who does understand," Andersen said. "There is one who, because of his sacrifice made in the garden and on the cross, knows your burdens. As you seek him and keep his commandments, I promise you that He will bless you and lift the burdens too heavy to bear alone."

The Utah-based faith widely known as the Mormon church has long opposed gay marriage and same-sex intimacy. But it has spent much of the last decade trying to carve out a more compassionate and welcoming stance toward LGBTQ members.

The conference brings about 100,000 people to Salt Lake City to watch five sessions in person. Millions more watch live broadcasts and livestreams.

Ulisses Soares, a Brazilian-born member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, cited Nelson's recent remarks about a world with "rampant immorality and addictive pornography" as he told members to root their families in the teachings of Christ and never reject family members or friends who stray from the correct path.

"Fill your hearts with compassion, run to them, fall on their neck, and kiss them, like the father of the prodigal son did," Soares said.

Becky Craven, a member of the Young Women General Presidency, dovetailed on Soares' speech by instructing members not to fall victim to temptation and be diligent following the faith's teachings. Craven advised members to make sure they don't let modern fashion prevent them from dressing modestly, especially in worship settings.

"As a covenant people, we are not meant to blend in with the rest of the world," Craven said. "We have been called a peculiar people - what a compliment."

The Utah-based faith teaches abstinence from alcohol, instructs members to wait until marriage to engage in sexual relations and encourages a modest dress code. The faith opposes same-sex relationships. The religion, widely known as the Mormon church, also asks members to avoid coffee and hot drinks as part of its health code.

Dieter Uchtdorf, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, issued a plea for members to openly

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discuss their faith with others in ways that feels normal and natural and embrace the proselytizing component of the faith. He said church members can share their faith through an act of kindness or by posting testimonials on social media.

Uchtdorf encouraged members to talk about the new shortened Sunday worship schedule, from three hours to two, or explain the faith's push for use of the full name that emphasizes the faith's belief it is the "Church of Jesus Christ." The religion is trying to end the use of previously accepted shorthand names "Mormon" and "LDS."

Church membership growth and the number of convert baptisms have slowed in recent years. The new total membership announced Saturday of 16.3 million marked a mere 1.2 % increase from 2017 — the slowest membership growth rate since 1937 according to independent church researcher Matt Martinich.

Uchtdorf advised members not to get discouraged by people who don't immediately accept an invitation to join, suggesting patience is key.

"If we interact with people with the sole expectation that they soon will don a white jumpsuit and ask for directions to the nearest baptismal font, we're doing it wrong," said Uchtdorf, referring to a baptismal ceremony for new members. "Some who come and see will, perhaps, never join the church; some will at a later time. That is their choice. But that doesn't change our love for them."

Nelson, 94, ascended to the presidency in January 2018 after nearly three decades in a governing body called the Quorum of the Twelve that helps the president lead the faith.

He launched a campaign calling on people to stop using the shorthand names "Mormon" and "LDS," severed the faith's ties with the Boy Scouts of America after a century, revised how leaders handle closed-door interviews with young people and changed rules to allow missionaries to speak with their families more often.

Quorum of the Twelve member M. Russell Ballard said Nelson is "carrying the Lord's work forward at a breathtaking pace."

"I worry that the spiritual purposes of these adjustments might become lost in the excitement about the changes themselves," said Ballard, adding later: "Let's not complicate things with additional meetings, expectations, or requirements. Keep it simple. It is in that simplicity that you will find the peace, joy, and happiness."

Sanders, O'Rourke face off in Iowa; other hopefuls in NH, NV

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Iowa (AP) — They became notable presidential candidates in Iowa after narrow losses that nonetheless put them on the national political stage. They're competing for some of the same young voters. And this weekend, they've been driving around this first-in-the-nation caucus state reintroducing themselves to voters as others in the 2020 Democratic field dispersed to New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

It's been Bernie versus Beto all weekend in Iowa, with both hopefuls reintroducing themselves as the man with a plan to deny President Donald Trump a second term. Sanders swept back into the state as the early front runner after raising \$18 million in 41 days during the first quarter of the year, the most of any candidate. O'Rourke raised \$9.4 million in 18 days.

In dueling rallies, town halls and house parties, they spoke most of improving health care and affording college tuition.

Other hopefuls fanned out to political hot spots elsewhere, with much the same mission: Gauging early strength in a crowded field and raising enough money to secure a coveted spot in the presidential debates that begin in June.

Republican leaders have relished the jockeying among Democrats.

"I'd be happy with any of 'em, to be honest," the president said of the Democratic derby.

Here's a roundup of the crowded Democratic campaign.

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Iowa Democrats know Sanders, the Vermont senator who lost the state — and the Democratic presidential nomination — to Hillary Clinton in 2016. At two town halls in counties he won during that caucus fight, Sanders' questioners asked most about making health care more affordable.

Over and over, people told Sanders grim stories about medical bills putting them deeply in debt. He empathized, at one point putting an arm around a young woman who had begun weeping as she spoke. Sanders told his audience that he supports "Medicare for All" and a single-payer health care system. But he didn't get into specifics.

Shannon Abel, a 28-year-old coordinator at a nonprofit organization in Muscatine, Iowa, said she still liked what she heard from Sanders. Then again, she had only begun seriously paying attention to politics after nearly a year of being ill and seeing the medical bills — with an \$80 co-pay — put her family deeply in debt.

Of Sanders, Abel said, "He knows what it's like to not have money."

O'Rourke is calling for a range of educational changes to alleviate college debt, including providing free community college and allowing students to potentially eliminate or refinance their debt through public service.

"The cost of higher education, and not just tuition, is out of reach for so many of our fellow Americans," O'Rourke told a crowd gathered for a campaign house party in Polk City, Iowa. He said the tens of thousands in debt that students carry when they graduate "is a weight that literally sinks them into the ground."

To solve the problem, he offered a number of proposals to help students "stop digging the hole" and stop taking on debt when they go for a college degree: Making community college free, allowing students to earn an associate degree while they're in high school so they're "ready to earn a living wage on day one," increase access to union apprenticeships. For those already saddled with student loan debt, O'Rourke said he'd like to "re-up the public service student debt forgiveness program" — a federal program that currently accepts only a fraction of applicants and is eliminated altogether in President Donald Trump's latest budget proposal.

If students are willing to work in in-demand jobs at places like the Department of Veterans Affairs, or "willing to teach school or be in a support role in a community that needs your talent and human capital, I want to wipe clean your student loan debt. At a minimum I want to refinance what you have at a much lower rate."

Sanders says he wants to make college free and pay for it by getting rid of tax havens and lowering taxes for the richest Americans.

That's been received with some skepticism among budget and deficit hawks. But to Trevor Meyers, 19, it sounds right.

Meyers, like Sanders, is a democratic socialist. The Muscatine County resident attends a nearby college and lives at home with his family, which owns a farm. A sibling, he said, is five figures in debt from college.

"How is anybody in our society going to get started in life?" he wondered.

He liked Sanders, but said he's going to check out one of O'Rourke's events too.

Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper is discussing gun control and death penalty issues with survivors of a massacre that claimed nine Bible study participants at a historic black church in South Carolina.

Hickenlooper sat down on Saturday with Anthony Thompson and Polly Sheppard during a visit to Mother Emanuel AME Church in downtown Charleston.

Thompson's wife was slain in the June 2015 shooting. Sheppard, who survived the ordeal but lost her son and aunt, has said the shooter told her he was sparing her life so she could tell others what happened. He is now on federal death row.

The church has become a place of pilgrimage for some 2020 presidential candidates as they campaign in the state, home of the first primary in the South.

Hickenlooper is known as a staunch advocate for gun control legislation. Following the fatal 2012 shoot-

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ings in an Aurora, Colorado, movie theater, the then-governor called for and signed bills requiring universal background checks and limiting magazine capacity to 15 rounds.

Both Thompson and Sheppard told Hickenlooper they want those kinds of reforms in South Carolina and elsewhere.

Sen. Michael Bennet told reporters in Nashua, New Hampshire, that he hopes to be on the move again a few weeks after surgery for prostate cancer.

"I don't think there's any point in dwelling on it," said the Colorado Democrat. "If it turns out to be worse than I think, I'll deal with it then."

The cancer diagnosis has "slowed us down a little bit," Bennet said when asked about how it would impact him getting on the debate stage for the Democratic presidential debates, with well over a dozen candidates now running.

"It's obviously slowed down our ability to raise money and at some point it could have an effect on whether we get to the debate stage or not, but I think we have a good chance to get there," he said.

And with how he's feeling right now, Bennet said he's likely to run.

"I mean, I didn't pick this particular set of circumstances," he said. "This is not how I would have rolled it out."

Democrats running for president will have to do more than campaign on an anti-Trump message if they want to take back the White House in 2020, Sen. Elizabeth Warren said on Saturday.

"If your message is 'not-Trump,' it's not going to work," the Democratic presidential hopeful told about 500 supporters who packed a high school gymnasium in Reno, Nevada. "Our job is to talk about our vision."

Warren, D-Mass., blasted Trump's economic and environmental policies and touted her plan to invest \$500 billion over the next 10 years to build, preserve and rehabilitate affordable housing for low-income families. She said she would pay for it by returning the estate tax thresholds to where they were during President George W. Bush's administration and imposing a new "wealth" tax on the nation's 17,000 wealthiest families.

"Washington is working for the ultra-super-duper rich, and until we change that we are going to stay on this path. This is our moment," she told the cheering crowd.

Warren was making her second campaign stop this year in the early caucus state, which on Feb. 22 follows only New Hampshire and Iowa in the nominating process. She spoke for about 30 minutes, took questions from the audience and posed for photographs for another half hour. More than half the crowd lined up to take selfies with her.

South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg headed to New Hampshire after his campaign announced he'd raised more than \$7 million this year.

Hundreds of voters interested in the mayor attended his two events in the state; some were turned away because the venues were at capacity.

The mayor gave short speeches at both his Friday and Saturday events and did not take town hall style questions from the two crowds.

Speaking at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord on Saturday morning, the 37-year-old Buttigieg said he understands people's difficulty in avoiding the spectacle of politics these days.

"As hard as it is to take our eye off what we see on cable, because grotesque things have the quality of drawing your eye, and we can't take our eye off that show, but the show's not what matters," he said. "What matters is our everyday life."

He later told voters, "We've got to change the channel, and that's what we're about."

Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe in Polk City, Iowa, Scott Sonner in Reno, Nevada, Meg Kinnard in Charleston, South Carolina, and Hunter Woodall in Nashua, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

UK's May concedes Brexit deal won't pass 'in near future'

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May acknowledged that the government's strategies to get her Brexit deal approved in Parliament failed, saying Saturday there's little prospect lawmakers will back the thrice-rejected divorce agreement "in the near future."

With the U.K. once again days away from a deadline for leaving the European Union, May pressured opposition lawmakers to help her find a compromise agreement instead, saying voters "expect their politicians to work together when the national interest demands it."

After May's deal with the EU out for a third time in the House of Commons, the prime minister invited the opposition Labour Party this week to discuss alternatives. But three days of talks ended with no agreement and the left-of-center Labour accusing May's Conservative government of not offering real change.

"I haven't noticed any great change in the government's position so far," Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said Saturday. "I'm waiting to see the red lines move."

Labour favors a softer form of Brexit than the government has advocated. The party says Britain should remain closely bound to EU trade rules and maintain the bloc's standards in areas such as workers' rights and environmental protection.

Britain is due to leave the EU on Friday unless May can secure another delay from the EU, which already agreed to postpone the Brexit day originally set for March 29.

May now is asking for Britain's departure to be pushed back until June 30, hoping to reach a compromise with Labour and a deal through Parliament in a matter of weeks.

"The longer this takes, the greater the risk of the U.K. never leaving at all," May said in a statement.

But EU leaders favor a longer delay to avoid another round of cliff-edge preparations and politics. And they say the U.K. needs to put forward a concrete plan to end the stalemate to get any further postponement.

An extension requires unanimous approval from the 27 remaining leaders, some of whom are fed up with Brexit uncertainty and reluctant to prolong it further.

Last month, the EU gave Britain until April 12 to approve the withdrawal agreement it reached with the May's government, to change course and seek a further delay to Brexit, or to crash out of the EU with no deal in place or transition period to cushion the shock.

The leaders of EU member countries are due to meet in Brussels Wednesday — two days before the April 12 deadline — to consider Britain's request for a second extension.

Economists and business leaders have warned a no-deal Brexit would severely disrupt trade and travel, with tariffs and customs checks causing gridlocked British ports and possible shortages of some foods, medicines and other products.

Worries about a chaotic British exit are especially acute in Ireland, the only EU member that shares a land border with the U.K. Any customs checks or other obstacles along the currently invisible frontier would hammer the Irish economy and could undermine Northern Ireland's peace process.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said Saturday that it was "extremely unlikely" any of the 27 countries would veto a delay.

"If one country was to veto an extension and, as a result, impose hardship on us, real problems for the Dutch and Belgians and French as neighboring countries (to the U.K.)...they wouldn't be forgiven for it," he told Ireland's RTE radio.

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

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Venezuela street rallies show deep divide in power struggle

By SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Rival political factions took to the streets across Venezuela on Saturday in a mounting struggle for control of the crisis-wracked nation, where U.S.- backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó is attempting to oust socialist President Nicolás Maduro.

It was the first march Guaidó has led since Maduro loyalists stripped him of legal protections he's granted as a congressman, opening a path to prosecute and possibly arrest him for allegedly violating the constitution.

The rallies also follow crippling power failures that left most of the country scrambling in the dark for days and without running water or phone service, which Maduro blamed on "terrorists" acts launched by political opponents.

Speaking before several thousand people who packed a broad Caracas avenue, Guaidó urged them to stay united and to keep up pressure until Maduro leaves power.

"Something is evident today," Guaidó said. "Venezuela is not afraid and continues taking the streets until we achieve freedom."

Guaidó tried to channel Venezuelans' ire by calling crowds in the capital to march to the headquarters of the national power utility, Corpoelec. His supporters said the blackout is another failure of the socialist government.

"This regime has made big mistakes," said Beatriz Cisneros, a 62, critical of Venezuela's deteriorated petroleum industry, its broken educational system and hospitals that fail to provide basic care. "We're fighting for Venezuela to have liberty."

Many opposition supporters marched along a sunny main avenue carrying Venezuelan flags. A nun draped the national colors around her shoulders. Another protester carried a sign listing the lack of power, water and other basic services, along with the slogan: "Don't get used to it."

Across the country in Maracaibo, the hub of Venezuela's once-thriving oil production, members of the National Guard fired tear gas at anti-government protesters, causing some injuries, local media reported. The area has been among those hardest hit by blackouts over the past two years.

Meanwhile, large crowds of Maduro backers, many dressed in bright red and gathered in the center of Caracas, waved flags and danced to blasting music as they marched to the presidential palace.

Maduro made a new call for dialogue toward reaching peace in Venezuela with help from the fellow Latin American countries, including Mexico and Uruguay. But he also accused his opponents inside Venezuela of staging attacks and said they should stop.

"Do you believe that through terrorism you will achieve political power?" Maduro said. "Never! Not with electric terrorism, not with political terrorism, not with mercenary terrorism. No!"

Guaidó, 35, rose from relative obscurity in January when he was named head of Venezuela's opposition-dominated National Assembly and said he was assuming presidential powers to force Maduro from power. He says Maduro is illegitimate due to allegedly fraudulent elections last year.

He has gained support from Washington and roughly 50 nations, but he has yet to budge Maduro, who maintains control over the government and military and is backed by foreign allies including China, Cuba and Russia.

Washington on Friday added to pressure on Maduro by imposing financial sanctions on two companies involved in shipping oil from Venezuela to Cuba, along with nearly three dozen ships. Maduro blames the recent blackouts on U.S. "cyber-attacks" as part of a coup attempt to topple his government.

Guaidó, meanwhile, has come under increasing pressure from Maduro's government, which recently jailed his chief of staff and has taken legal actions that could lead to his own arrest, though the administration of President Donald Trump has warned of a strong response if the opposition leader is harmed.

Socialist party chief Diosdado Cabello told reporters on Saturday that the authorities acted in accordance with the laws in taking the legal action against Guaidó. Cabello also dismissed the new sanctions, saying the United States has to resort to such measures because "it has no more arguments."

Amid several thousand Maduro supporters was Ana Margarita Urbina, 57, who wore a bright red shirt,

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the color of Venezuela's socialist party, saying she marched to defend the country she said is under threat from the imperialist United States.

"We're on a mission," said Urbina. "We have a common cause. Our country is our mother."

Associated Press writers Christopher Torchia and Fabiola Sánchez contributed to this report.

Rival Libyan forces say they have captured Tripoli airport

BY RAMI MUSA Associated Press

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — Forces loyal to rival Libyan army commander Khalifa Hifter said Saturday they seized control of the main airport in Libya's capital Tripoli, two days after Hifter ordered his forces to seize the seat of Libya's U.N.-backed government.

Hifter's media office said in a post online that they took full control of the Tripoli international airport and were working to secure the facility. They posted photos of troops apparently inside the airport, saying "we are standing at the heart of the Tripoli international airport."

Hifter's offensive on Tripoli could plunge the oil-rich country into another spasm of violence, possibly the worst since the 2011 civil war that toppled and later killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. The country is governed by rival authorities: The internationally backed government in Tripoli and the government in the east, which Hifter is aligned with. Each is backed by an array of militias.

Fayez Sarraj, chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya, said his government had offered concessions to Hifter "to avoid bloodshed and to end divisions" and was surprised by Hifter's order to take the capital.

"We were stabbed in the back," he said Saturday in televised comments, adding that his forces would confront Hifter's troops with "force and determination."

The Tripoli airport has not been functional since fighting in 2014 destroyed much of the facility.

The media office said that troops also captured the area of Wadi el-Rabeia, south of Tripoli, amid clashes with militias loyal to Sarraj.

Ahmed al-Mesmari, spokesman for the self-styled Libyan National Army led by Hifter, said 14 troops had been killed since Hifter declared the offensive. He said rival militias launched four airstrikes Saturday targeting Hifter's position in the town of al-Aziziya, but that no casualties had been reported.

Al-Mesmari said Hifter's forces declared Tripoli a no-fly zone for warplanes.

Hifter announced Thursday he was deploying his forces toward Tripoli, sparking fears that the tensions could be escalating out of control as militias from the western cities of Zawiyah and Misrata said that they have mobilized to confront Hifter.

He also put at risk upcoming peace talks between Libyan rivals brokered by the U.N. aimed at drawing a roadmap for new elections.

The U.N. Security Council on Saturday called on Hifter forces to halt all military movements and urged all forces in Libya "to de-escalate and halt military activity."

The U.N. envoy for Libya, Ghassan Salame, said the UN is determined to hold the planned national conference later this month to set time for possible elections.

Speaking at a news conference in Tripoli, he said he was striving to prevent the new crisis from getting out of control. "We have worked for one year for this national conference, we won't give up this political work quickly," he said.

G-7 ministers reveal 'clear differences' on Middle East

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

DINARD, France (AP) — Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven nations failed to reach consensus on key Middle East issues on Saturday as they wrapped up a meeting in France that was shaken by the absence of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The diplomats in attendance projected a united front while walking side-by-side along a seaside prom-

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enade before they released the agreement from their two-day meeting in Dinard. The agreement included mildly worded joint commitments on issues such as fighting cybercrime, giving women bigger peacemaking roles, and engaging with countries in Africa's Sahel region to combat migrant trafficking.

But what was omitted from the G-7's positions said as much as what was included. The differences could set the stage for tensions at an August summit of the leaders of the G-7 advanced economies — the United States, France, Canada, Japan, Germany, Italy and the U.K.

A European Union official expressed "regret" the document had what she considered to be several glaring omissions that conflicted with non-negotiable positions of the EU. They included "no reference to a two-state solution" in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and "no mention" of the U.N. Security Council resolution in favor of the Iran nuclear deal, she said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not allowed to speak to the news media, said the language used to described the G-7's deep concern over Iran's "continuing support for terrorist organizations and armed militias" was not language EU members tend to use. Four of the G-7 nations are in the European Union.

The foreign ministers' joint statement itself acknowledged "clear differences" on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after "an exchange of views."

The agreement included an initiative to help countries share best practices on encouraging responsible online behavior. Also, the group pledged to encourage the creation of funds to help survivors of sexual violence in danger spots, and to encourage Sahel countries to take steps to end trafficking. It also reaffirmed the G-7's "commitment to a rules-based international order."

Discord is becoming a theme for the group.

Last June, U.S. President Donald Trump roiled the G-7 meeting in Canada by first agreeing to a group statement on trade, then withdrawing support from it and sending a string of negative tweets about the summit and its host, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

On Saturday in Dinard, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt was missing from the final group photo after attending Friday's session. Combined with Pompeo's absence, Hunt's status raised questions about the G-7's relevance.

U.S. officials acknowledged points of discord at the talks hosted by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan, who went in Pompeo's place, said Washington would use the G-7 forum to galvanize support for Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, whose claim to the presidency is backed by the U.S. and about 50 other countries.

But the meeting failed to change the position of Italy, the sole G-7 member state not to back Guaido.

"We spoke about it. The Italian position on Venezuela is pretty clear," said Italian Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero. "It is an extremely difficult situation, especially in light of the humanitarian emergency that weighs the most in in our hearts."

Guaido has set out to topple the socialist administration of President Nicolas Maduro amid deepening unrest in the country, which has been plagued by nearly a month of power outages.

Italy also has irked EU and U.S. allies by becoming the first G-7 member to sign up to a Chinese plan to build a Silk Road-style global trade network, the Belt and Road Initiative.

Any reference to the contentious trillion-dollar plan was missing in Saturday's texts.

This story has been corrected to show French foreign minister's surname is Le Drian, not Le Drain.

Trisha Thomas and Masha Macpherson contributed to this report.

For American Jews, Trump is key figure in Israeli election

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump isn't on the ballot for Israel's national election, yet he's a dominant factor for many American Jews as they assess the high stakes of Tuesday's balloting.

At its core, the election is a judgment on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has won the post four times but now faces corruption charges. In his battle for political survival, Netanyahu has aligned closely with Trump — a troubling tactic for the roughly 75% of American Jewish voters who lean Democratic.

"The world has come to understand that Netanyahu is essentially the political twin of Donald Trump," said Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of the liberal pro-Israel group J Street. "Unlike his previous elections, there is a much deeper antagonism toward Netanyahu because of that close affiliation between him and Trump and the Republican Party."

Netanyahu featured Trump in a recent campaign video, while Trump has made a series of policy moves viewed as strengthening Netanyahu in the eyes of Israeli voters, including relocating the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and officially recognizing the Golan Heights as Israeli territory.

"It's troubling," said Halie Soifer, executive director of the Jewish Democratic Council of America. "The U.S.-Israel relationship should not be about any two leaders or any two parties. The American Jewish community wants the relationship to remain on a bipartisan basis."

Though it leans Democratic overall, the American Jewish community — numbering 5.5 million to 6 million — is not monolithic. Most older Jews remain supportive of Israel's current Middle East policies, as does the roughly 10% of the Jewish population that is Orthodox. Jewish billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson has been a staunch financial supporter of Trump and the GOP.

Trump extended his personal thanks to Adelson on Saturday in a speech to the Republican Jewish Coalition in Las Vegas. The president also boasted extensively about his Israel-related policy moves.

"Unlike other presidents, I keep my promises," he said, referring to the embassy relocation.

Trump mentioned Netanyahu only briefly in his speech, predicting the election would be close and describing both the prime minister and his main challenger, former army chief of staff Benny Gantz, as "good people."

Divisions among U.S. Jews have been exacerbated by recent allegations of anti-Semitism directed at the Democrats' two Muslim congresswomen — Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. Seizing on the controversy, Trump tweeted his support for a purported "Jexodus" movement that would encourage Jews to leave the Democratic Party.

"Republicans are waiting with open arms," Trump tweeted on March 15.

Morton Klein, president of the conservative Zionist Organization of America, predicts such an exodus will take place because of the Democrats' decision to avoid explicit condemnation of the congresswomen.

Ben-Ami scoffed at the notion, suggesting that Jexodus was a fantasy of pro-Trump operatives.

"I've yet to meet an actual Obama/Clinton voter who's said publicly they're switching to vote for Donald Trump," he said. "This is not real. It's completely made up."

New York-based journalist Jane Eisner, former editor of *The Forward*, a Jewish newspaper, said many American Jews have "Netanyahu fatigue" — even some who supported him in past.

Among liberal Jews, Eisner said, there are strong worries that Netanyahu will push Israel's government even further to the right if he wins, perhaps moving to annex some land in the occupied West Bank with confidence that the Trump administration will not object.

Morton Klein conceded that some Jews have grown weary of Netanyahu, but predicted he would prevail.

"People would be nervous if he's not there," Klein said.

Jack Rosen, president of the American Jewish Congress, said any surge in Netanyahu fatigue should not be interpreted as a weakening of American Jews' support for Israeli.

"There is a sense of fatigue having one leader for 10 years," Rosen said. "Just as we've had Clinton fatigue and Bush fatigue."

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Among liberal and centrist American Jews, dismay with Netanyahu extends beyond his alliance with Trump. Some say he's been too harsh in his treatment of migrants, and they bemoan his backtracking on a promise to allow mixed-gender prayer at the Western Wall. Perhaps most disturbing has been Netanyahu's alliance with an ultranationalist political party linked to a movement previously banned for anti-Arab racism and incitement.

That political alliance was assailed as "repugnant" by Eric Yoffie, a rabbi from Westfield, New Jersey, in a March 27 op-ed in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz. Yoffie also decried Netanyahu's "excessive enthusiasm" for Trump.

"Cordial relations are essential," wrote Yoffie, president emeritus of the Union for Reform Judaism. "But the sycophantic buddy movie that Bibi has produced with America's unbalanced and unpredictable president is something else altogether ... Bibi's egregious and unnecessary embrace of everything Trump will cost Israel dearly."

In Israel, a prevalent view, at least in pro-Netanyahu ranks, is that the prime minister's friendship with Trump is paying unprecedented dividends. There is widespread sentiment that liberal American Jews, as a constituency, are dissipating due to intermarriage, and that the evangelical Christian community in the U.S. is a more dependable ally for Israel.

At last year's ceremony in Jerusalem celebrating the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv, evangelical Christian pastors allied with Trump delivered the opening and closing blessings.

Netanyahu's main challenger in the election is popular in Israel but has a relatively low profile in the United States. American Jews who dislike Netanyahu view Gantz as preferable, due in part to a less combative personality, but liberals note with frustration that the platform of Gantz's Blue and White party makes no mention of Palestinian statehood, and says that Israel will maintain control of parts of the West Bank.

Emily Mayer of IfNotNow, a group of youthful American Jewish activists opposed to Israel's treatment of Palestinians, is dismayed at how that issue has been marginalized in the Israeli election campaign.

"Regardless of the winner, the utter erasure of Palestinian humanity from this election cycle and the normalization of an undemocratic and immoral military occupation should alarm any Jew who cares about freedom and dignity of Israelis and Palestinians," Mayer said in an email.

Associated Press writer Josef Federman in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

Missing boy's grandmother hopes hoax will generate new leads

WOOSTER, Ohio (AP) — The grandmother of a boy who went missing in 2011 from Illinois said she believes her grandson is still alive and hopes publicity surrounding a hoax perpetrated by an Ohio man claiming to be the 14-year-old boy will generate new leads in the authorities search for him.

Linda Pitzen, 71, told The Wooster Daily Record she tried to manage her expectations when she heard Wednesday that Timmothy Pitzen, missing since age 6, might be the teenager who told police he was Timmothy. She said she found it frightening to wonder whether Timmothy would remember his name after "supposedly being kept captive" for so long.

"You don't want to get your hopes up, but yet you are hoping that it could be him," Linda Pitzen said.

The teen was in fact 23-year-old Brian Rini, of Medina, Ohio, a convicted felon released from prison in March after serving a sentence for burglary and vandalism. Rini has been charged with make false statements to authorities in federal court in Cincinnati.

Timmothy vanished after his mother, Amy Fry-Pitzen, pulled him out of kindergarten in Aurora, Illinois, nearly eight years ago, took him on a two-day road trip to the zoo and a water park, and then killed herself at a hotel. She left a note saying that her son was safe with people who would love and care for him, and added: "You will never find him."

Rini was found wandering the streets Wednesday in northern Kentucky and told authorities he had just escaped his captors after years of abuse, officials said. He claimed he had been forced to have sex with men, according to the FBI.

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When confronted with DNA results proving he wasn't Timmothy, Rini acknowledged his identity, saying he had watched a story about the missing boy on ABC's "20/20" and wanted to get away from his own family, the FBI said.

"I just hope this young man who claimed to be Tim realizes how much hurt he caused," Linda Pitzen said. "And now everybody is hurting. And I just don't understand how somebody could be so sick to do this."

She said she hoped Rini would get mental health treatment so that he would never hurt a family like this again.

A court docket shows a Medina Municipal Court judge in 2013 ordered Rini to be "compliant" in taking his psychiatric medication. In 2017, Rini was treated at an Ohio center for people with mental health or substance abuse problems, according to court documents.

Rini's brother, 21-year-old Jonathan Rini, told The Associated Press on Saturday that his family struggled while growing up. He said it has been four years since he has spoken to his brother.

"I wasn't surprised he did something stupid," Jonathan Rini said. "I was just surprised he stooped that low for attention."

Jonathan Rini said that while he has no compassion for his brother, he has "deep sorrows" for Timmothy's family.

"It's too much for them," he said. "They shouldn't have to go through this. "No one in the world should have to go through this."

A 2016 hangover: Some Bernie Sanders supporters still upset

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE, HUNTER WOODALL and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — It was hard to miss Cheri Pichone's excitement about Bernie Sanders' second presidential run. She showed up to a recent Iowa rally decked out in Sanders gear, complete with a figurine of the Vermont senator and progressive icon.

But underneath her exuberance, the 36-year-old was still mad about the last Democratic primary, when Sanders' bid for the presidency fell short to Hillary Clinton.

"They cheated," she said, directing much of her anger at the Democratic National Committee. The party establishment, she lamented, was "actively working against us."

Pichone voted for Green Party candidate Jill Stein in 2016 and said she may vote for a third party again if Sanders doesn't clinch the nomination.

She's emblematic of a persistent group of Sanders supporters who won't let go of the slights — real and perceived — from the last campaign. The frustration is notable now that Sanders is a 2020 front-runner, raking in \$18.2 million in the first quarter, downplaying concerns about DNC bias and highlighting his success in bringing the party around on liberal policies it once resisted.

Some establishment-aligned Democrats worry the party could lose in 2020 if lingering concerns about the last primary aren't put to bed.

"It has the potential to escalate, and it has the potential to help re-elect Donald Trump," said Mo Ellei-thee, a former spokesman for Clinton and the DNC.

The acrimony stems from a fiercely fought campaign and a sense among Sanders loyalists that party leaders privately favored Clinton. DNC leaders at the time scheduled fewer debates than Republicans and sometimes slated them for nights with low television viewership. Often opaque delegate allocation rules also contributed to a belief among some Sanders supporters that the primary was essentially rigged.

According to data from the Pew Research Center, the tension took a toll. About 81% of people who consistently supported Sanders during the primary season and were confirmed to have voted in the general election said they ultimately voted for Clinton, while 11% said they supported Stein or Libertarian nominee Gary Johnson, and 3% supported Trump.

In a closely contested election, those moves away from Clinton may have factored into the results.

Since the election, party leaders have sought to smooth things over with Sanders and his supporters. DNC Chairman Tom Perez is planning a robust debate schedule. The rules governing superdelegates —

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party insiders who overwhelmingly backed Clinton — have changed.

Sanders has publicly expressed confidence in the process this time around, but in terms that suggest he won't soon forget 2016.

"In 2016, I think I will not shock anybody to suggest that the DNC was not quite evenhanded," he said during a CNN town hall in February. "I think we have come a long way since then, and I fully expect to be treated quite as well as anybody else."

In an interview Friday, Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir echoed that optimism.

"If you're talking to anyone at the Democratic National Committee who's there now, I'm sure they will tell you that their relationship with the Bernie Sanders campaign is great and that we are operating in good faith and we are talking to each other on an almost daily basis," he said. "Anyone suggesting that there's any kind of friction there is living in the past. They are living with some grudges that they are holding onto from a bygone time."

Still, the campaign has made some moves that raise questions about whether resentments from 2016 will linger. Briahna Joy Gray, formerly a liberal journalist who voted for Stein, is Sanders' national press secretary. Nina Turner, who called the DNC "dictatorial and pompous" in 2017, is one of his national campaign chairs.

And some of Sanders' most loyal supporters in the crucial early voting states say they're not ready to fully move on.

Nicholas Shaw, a 39-year-old from Concord, New Hampshire, spent his recent birthday watching Sanders speak. Like Pichone, he said he wouldn't support the Democratic nominee if it's anyone other than Sanders.

"If they steal it from him again, I'll go independent or something other than that," he said. "The Democratic Party's on their last edge of me if they kind of try to screw him again."

Even in South Carolina, where Sanders lost momentum after a 47-point drubbing from Clinton, some supporters are still smarting over a process they believe was rigged.

"Lost might be a stretch," said Tom Amon, of Summerville, when asked how he felt about Sanders' ability to perform better in South Carolina than he did in the 2016 primary. "It was stolen from him."

Woodall reported from Manchester, New Hampshire, and Kinnard reported from North Charleston, South Carolina. Associated Press writer Juana Summers in Davenport, Iowa, contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to reflect that Sanders' campaign manager is Faiz Shakir, not Fiaz Shakir.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 7, the 97th day of 2019. There are 268 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 7, 1927, the image and voice of Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover were transmitted live from Washington to New York in the first successful long-distance demonstration of television.

On this date:

In 1798, the Mississippi Territory was created by an act of Congress, with Natchez as the capital.

In 1862, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

In 1915, jazz singer-songwriter Billie Holiday, also known as "Lady Day," was born in Philadelphia.

In 1953, the U.N. General Assembly ratified Dag Hammarskjöld (dahg HAWM'-ahr-shoold) of Sweden as the new secretary-general, succeeding Trygve Lie (TRIHG'-vuh lee) of Norway.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower held a news conference in which he spoke of the importance of containing the spread of communism in Indochina, saying, "You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very

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quickly." (This became known as the "domino theory," although Eisenhower did not use that term.)

In 1959, a referendum in Oklahoma repealed the state's ban on alcoholic beverages.

In 1962, nearly 1,200 Cuban exiles tried by Cuba for their roles in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason.

In 1966, the U.S. Navy recovered a hydrogen bomb that the U.S. Air Force had lost in the Mediterranean Sea off Spain following a B-52 crash.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he was deferring development of the neutron bomb, a high-radiation weapon.

In 1983, space shuttle astronauts Story Musgrave and Don Peterson went on the first U.S. spacewalk in almost a decade as they worked in the open cargo bay of Challenger for nearly four hours.

In 1994, civil war erupted in Rwanda, a day after a mysterious plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi; in the months that followed, hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsi and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu extremists.

In 2008, anti-China protesters disrupted the Olympic torch relay in Paris, at times forcing Chinese organizers to put out the flame and take the torch onto a bus to secure it. Kansas won the NCAA championship, defeating Memphis 75-68 in overtime.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama capped his eight-day European trip by addressing college students in Istanbul, Turkey; he then made an unannounced trip to Baghdad, where he visited with U.S. troops and Iraqi officials. Vermont became the fourth state (after Connecticut, Massachusetts and Iowa) to legalize same-sex marriage. Three members of the Congressional Black Caucus met with former Cuban President Fidel Castro in Havana. Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori was sentenced to 25 years in prison by a Lima court for death squad killings and kidnappings during his struggle against Shining Path insurgents.

Five years ago: Pro-Russian activists barricaded inside government buildings in eastern Ukraine proclaimed their regions to be independent and called for a referendum on seceding from Ukraine, an echo of events that had led to Russia's annexation of Crimea. Alonzo Mourning, a seven-time NBA All-Star, and NCAA championship-winning coaches Nolan Richardson and Gary Williams were voted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Connecticut won its second NCAA men's title in four years, beating Kentucky 60-54 in the championship game. Model and media personality Peaches Geldof was found dead at her home in Wrotham, Kent, England, at age 25.

One year ago: Opposition activists and local rescuers said at least 40 people were killed in a suspected poison gas attack on the last remaining foothold for the Syrian opposition in the eastern suburbs of Damascus. Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was taken into police custody after a showdown with his own supporters, who tried to keep him from surrendering to face prison time for a corruption conviction.

Today's Birthdays: Media commentator Hodding Carter III is 84. Country singer Bobby Bare is 84. Rhythm-and-blues singer Charlie Thomas (The Drifters) is 82. Former California Gov. Jerry Brown is 81. Movie director Francis Ford Coppola is 80. Actress Roberta Shore is 76. Singer Patricia Bennett (The Chiffons) is 72. Singer John Oates is 71. Former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is 70. Singer Janis Ian is 68. Country musician John Dittrich is 68. Actor Jackie Chan is 65. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett is 65. Actor Russell Crowe is 55. Christian/jazz singer Mark Kibble (Take 6) is 55. Actor Bill Bellamy is 54. Rock musician Dave "Yorkie" Palmer (Space) is 54. Rock musician Charlie Hall (The War on Drugs) is 45. Former football player-turned-analyst Tiki Barber is 44. Actress Heather Burns is 44. Christian rock singer-musician John Cooper (Skillet) is 44. Actor Kevin Alejandro is 43. Retired baseball infielder Adrian Beltre is 40. Rock musician Ben McKee (Imagine Dragons) is 34. Christian rock singer Tauren Wells is 33. Actor Ed Speleers is 31. Actor Conner Rayburn is 20.

"Verba movent, exempla trahunt." (Words move people, examples compel them.) — Latin proverb.