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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Swimming Pool Hours

Open Swim Daily: 1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Fun Night is every Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Monday through Thursday: 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Friday-Sunday: 4:50 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Swimming Lessons: First Session: June 17-27



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

June 7-9

Legion at Milbank Tourney

Junior Teeners at Watertown Coke Tournament

U12 Midgets at Watertown Coke Tournament

Sunday, June 9

1:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs host Aberdeen

4:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs host Northville

Monday, June 10

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Clark, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Hannigan at Manor Park, (DH) (B)

6:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets at Warner, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Webster, (DH) (R,B)

President Trump Approves South Dakota Disaster Request

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem yesterday announced that President Trump has approved the State's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. This will allow federal money to be used to help citizens and local governmental entities recover from property damage sustained during the statewide winter weather and flooding this spring. The President signed the declaration late on June 7, 2019. The state made the request May 22, 2019.

"This is great news for our state as it means that those still recovering from the severe weather will get much needed assistance," said Noem. "We thank the President for his actions."

The declaration means FEMA teams will soon be coming to the state to document all damage sustained to both individual and public properties. More details on that process will be announced at a later date.

In May, the Governor requested FEMA assistance to help with repairs for damage done to both public property as well as to individual homes and businesses. A preliminary damage assessment indicates about \$43 million in damage to public infrastructure in 58 counties and on three reservations. The preliminary damage assessment for individual assistance is about \$3 million covering 12 counties and three reservations.

Public property damage assistance has been approved for the counties of: Aurora, Beadle, Bennett, Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Charles Mix, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Dewey, Douglas, Edmunds, Fall River, Faulk, Grant, Gregory, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Hughes, Hutchinson, Hyde, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Lyman, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Mellette, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Potter, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Sully, Todd, Tripp, Turner, Union, Walworth, Yankton, and Ziebach, as well as the Cheyenne River, Lake Traverse, and Rosebud Indian Reservations.

Individual assistance has been approved for the counties of: Bennett, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Dewey, Hutchinson, Jackson, Mellette, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Todd, Yankton, and Ziebach counties as well as the Cheyenne River, Pine Ridge, and Rosebud Indian Reservations. Individual assistance was not approved for Brookings, Kingsbury, Hamlin, and Turner counties as additional information is needed. It is possible those counties could be added at a later time.

In her letter requesting a disaster declaration, Noem said the severe weather this spring affected all parts of the state. People had to be rescued from their flooded homes, highways and roads were damaged, city infrastructure systems were overwhelmed by the high water, and the state's agricultural industry was impacted.

"South Dakotans, as they always do, have helped each other recover from the winter storms and flooding," Noem said. "But this federal assistance is the extra boost individuals, businesses, and governments need to recover from this disaster."

South Dakota last received an Individual Assistance declaration in 2011 for widespread damage from Missouri River flooding. The last Public Assistance declaration was granted in 2016 following a Christmas ice storm.

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



The Weekly Windup

There Needs to Be Common Ground - This week was a split ticket with some bipartisan wins and some bipartisan failures. The first vote of the week was on disaster funding. States like South Dakota need this funding to move forward from the unprecedented and ongoing flooding, so I was grateful to see the House pass that bill with more than 300 votes.

There was also legislation on the floor that I could not support. I voted against legislation that would have led to amnesty for millions of individuals, but didn't contain resources to secure our border or fix our immigration system. This was not a serious proposal by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Their approach didn't have any compromise or common ground. We need to put forth serious proposals that can solve our immigration problems.

Constituent Spotlight - I enjoy when constituents from back home make their way to Capitol Hill, especially the young people of our state. This week I was able to meet with students from Patrick Henry Middle School on the House floor to answer questions about what it's like to work in Congress.

Weekly Windup - I introduced several new bills this week, one being the Farm and Ranch to School Act, which would amend the National School Lunch Act, Farm to School Program, to include funding to make local livestock and meat procurement for school lunch programs a priority.

Currently, the USDA doesn't prioritize existing funding for local farm to school meat product sales. The Farm and Ranch to School Act will give South Dakota producers a fair shake at serving their product in the lunchroom. South Dakota's students deserve the best and freshest quality meat in their lunches and this legislation will make that a reality.

Back Home - On Thursday, I traveled to Madison to speak at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership camp where over 100 of South Dakota's best and brightest rising juniors are spending the next couple of days exploring what it means to be a leader. The students had great questions. For more information, check out my social media pages.

I'll join the South Dakota American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary on Saturday for their annual conventions. Seventy-five years ago, thousands ventured into cold waters and through the air at Normandy on a mission to free the world from tyranny. It's unlikely these young men knew their act of duty would turn into an extraordinary act of bravery, which makes me wonder - what can we do today that will be extraordinary tomorrow?



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Addressing the Stigma Around Mental Health

In South Dakota today, about 30,000 adults and 9,000 kids live with serious mental health conditions. With nearly every family and every community impacted, it's overloaded the system. As a result, too many are falling through the cracks.

Too often, there is a stigma surrounding mental health. While this is true across the board, it's especially true when we talk about mental health among agriculture producers. That's unfair. Life is tough, and when you feel like you're playing a losing hand, depression or anxiety is more common than you may think.

In fact, a recent study conducted by Morning Consult found a strong majority of farmers said financial issues, farm problems, and fear of losing the farm impact their mental health. More than half of adults in rural communities say they are experiencing more mental health challenges than they were a year ago. The Farm Bureau lists stress, weather, the economy, isolation, and social stigma as other contributors to mental health challenges among ag producers.

As a lifelong farmer and rancher, I understand what it's like to look over flooded fields and know that there's nothing you can do except wait for the land to dry out. I know what it's like to lose livestock and know that one storm can wipe out thousands of dollars of crops. I also understand the added pressure of trying to keep the family farm viable, feeling as though your entire family's legacy is riding on your shoulders. It can all add up to a heavy burden of stress. Especially in a year like this where the weather is unpredictable and the markets are unstable.

And ag producers aren't the only people who face mental health challenges every day. As I travel the state, I repeatedly hear from folks that we need more mental health services in our schools. This year, I worked with the legislature to expand the number of System Care Coordinators. These professionals will work with our school systems to identify youth at risk for mental health crisis and connect families to needed services to prevent more costly interventions in the future.

I've also worked with the Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court to provide funding for a mental health court for Minnehaha County. This court will focus on clients with mental health needs to stabilize them with both treatment and medication so they can exit the justice system and contribute to their communities in meaningful ways.

If someone you know is struggling with their mental health, act now. If it's an emergency, dial 911 immediately. If not, contact the Farmer Stress Hotline at 1-800-691-4336 or the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. These resources are completely confidential and open around the clock for help. Don't wait to call. You don't have to go through this alone. Together we can work to overcome this.

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When it Comes to Educating our Youth, Local Control is Best

A strong education system is vital to giving our young people the tools they need to grow and create a prosperous future for themselves. I believe students are best served when states and local governments, along with individual school boards, parents and teachers, are empowered to make education decisions. Unfortunately, for too long, the federal government has taken a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to education decisions. We know that what works best for one school system may not be the best choice for another one.

Throughout my time working in public service, I've said that the federal government's role in education should be limited and well-defined. I've worked with President Trump to return K-12 decision making back to the states and local school boards. In fact, I've even called for the complete elimination of the Department of Education, and would eagerly support a bill to eliminate it if it were called up for a vote in the Senate. In the meantime, I've supported the A-PLUS Act, which takes the first steps toward doing exactly that. This measure is outlined later in this column.

In last week's column, I wrote about the need for less federal government, and the Department of Education is a prime example. The Department of Education is comprised of more than 80 sub-agencies and employs more than 4,000 bureaucrats. It is the agency responsible for programs such as Common Core and No Child Left Behind, which while originally well-intentioned, morphed into devices that allowed the federal government to centralize the education of our children. We believe these resources could be better spent if they were diverted directly to the states.

Since coming to the Senate, we've made strides in returning control of education decisions back to the local level. In 2015, Congress passed and the president signed the Every Student Succeeds Act, a comprehensive, bipartisan overhaul of our education system that began to restore decision-making to the local level, including accountability standards. It also provided more flexibility to our education system so that local educators could tailor the curriculum to better meet the needs of their students.

Additionally, President Trump has taken steps to get the federal government out of K-12 education. Shortly after taking office, he signed the "Education Federalism Executive Order" to review education regulations and modify or repeal those which are deemed an overreach by the federal government.

I recently joined a number of my colleagues in introducing the Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success (A-PLUS) Act. The A-PLUS Act takes important steps to restore local control of education decisions by giving state and local governments the option to decline participation in certain onerous federal education requirements. Instead, the A-PLUS Act would allow state and local governments to tailor their education programs to meet the needs of their individual communities. The Senate has actually voted on this measure before, in 2015 when we were debating amendments to the Every Students Succeeds Act. I voted for it that time, although it ultimately didn't get enough votes to be included. We have to get Washington out of the way, especially when it comes to raising our youth. While the votes are not there today to successfully eliminate the Department of Education, this is a good step to bring education decision-making back to state and local governments.

Like other entities, education flourishes best through innovation. South Dakota's parents, teachers and local school boards know the needs of our children and are better equipped to make education decisions than a Washington bureaucrat. If we can't eliminate the Department of Education completely, I'm glad we're able to take steps to mitigate its impact. We'll continue to seek solutions in the Senate to get Washington out of the way, especially when it comes to raising our youth. They are the future leaders of our state and nation. The fewer federal roadblocks they face on their way toward achieving their dreams, the more prosperous our future.

ACLU to Argue in U.S. District Court on Wednesday in Challenge to South Dakota Anti-Protest Laws

The U.S. District Court in Rapid City will hear a case on Wednesday challenging three South Dakota laws, including the newly-enacted "Riot Boosting" Act, that threaten activists who encourage or organize protests – particularly protests of the Keystone XL pipeline – with fines, civil liabilities, and/or criminal penalties of up to 25 years in prison.

In the case, *Dakota Rural Action v. Noem*, the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of South Dakota represent four organizations: Dakota Rural Action, Indigenous Environmental Network, NDN Collective and the Sierra Club; and two individuals: Nick Tilsen with NDN Collective and Dallas Goldtooth with Indigenous Environmental Network. All are planning to protest the Keystone XL pipeline and/or encourage others to do so. The hearing will take place at 3 p.m., June 12, at the Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, Room 301, 515 Ninth St., Rapid City.

Because the challenged laws expose the plaintiffs to immediate and irreparable harm, the plaintiffs are asking the court to block the state from enforcing the anti-protest laws as the case goes forward. The case asserts that the laws violate the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution by chilling protected speech and failing to adequately describe what speech or conduct could subject protesters and organizations to criminal and civil penalties.

"By equating peaceful organization and support of protest with 'riot boosting' and incitement to riot, the plaintiffs' ability to speak out against the Keystone XL Pipeline is stifled," said Courtney Bowie, ACLU of South Dakota legal director. "No one should have to fear the government coming after them for exercising their First Amendment rights. We hope the court will recognize this effort to undermine South Dakotans' right to peaceful assembly and free speech for what it is and reject these dangerous laws."

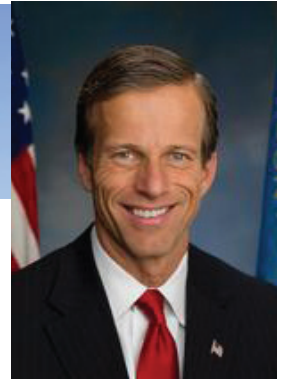
The Riot Boosting Act, which became law this in March, gives the state the authority to sue any individual or organization for "riot-boosting," or encouraging a protest where acts of violence occur. The law mirrors two existing state laws that criminalize similar speech. Under the laws, individuals and organizations — regardless of their intent to incite violence, the likelihood that their speech or conduct would result in violence, or the imminence of the intended violence — could be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties. Moreover, the laws do not clearly describe what conduct or speech is considered "riot-boosting" or "encouraging" a riot. The ACLU argues that such vague and broad language invites arbitrary enforcement, will chill protected speech, and will result in indiscriminate targeting of peaceful organizers.

"This is a blatantly unconstitutional attempt to suppress protests of the Keystone XL pipeline before they even begin," said Dallas Goldtooth with the Indigenous Environmental Network. "Indigenous voices have long protected Mother Earth's biodiversity and we will not be silenced. We refuse to live in fear for demanding climate justice and protecting our sovereignty as Native nations and its peoples. We're happy that our views will be heard in court."

During Wednesday's hearing, Judge Lawrence L. Piersol also will consider three motions from the defendants: their motion for judgement on the pleadings, their motion to certify the question to the South Dakota Supreme Court, and Sheriff Kevin Thom's motion to dismiss.

Construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is currently on hold. In mid-March, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the appeal from TC Energy (formally known as TransCanada) to overturn a decision made last year to stop pre-construction of the pipeline.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakota's Farmers and Ranchers: I Hear You

It would be an understatement to say it's been a rough year for South Dakota's farmers and ranchers. Yes, the broader economy is doing well – very well, in fact – but today's agriculture economy is lagging too far behind, and the effects are real, they are painful, and they are only getting worse. My message to farmers and ranchers is loud and clear: I hear you, and I'm with you. I've always been in your corner. It's where I'll be today and throughout this fight as we work to ensure you have access to the support and the resources you need to continue feeding the world.

When Paul Harvey described what God needed on the eighth day – a caretaker – he said, "It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church ... So God made a farmer."

Harvey's decades-old address, which reads more like a sermon, echoes how most Americans feel about farmers and ranchers. They share his sentiment because farmers and ranchers are a special breed, cut from a cloth that's soaked in generations of blood, sweat, and tears; people who aren't governed by a time clock or office hours and aren't bothered by the inability to just roll over and pull the covers over their eyes after the alarm clock rings.

Farmers and ranchers are tough and hardworking people who, even during the hardest of times, aren't looking for a handout. They simply want a hand up. In the face of low commodity prices, protracted trade disputes, late-winter storms, and a wet spring, now is one of those times, unfortunately. This perfect storm of events has pushed net farm income to half of what it was in 2013. Folks in the agriculture community are struggling to make ends meet, and they're worried about the future.

You don't have to travel far in South Dakota to see these effects firsthand. Many fields remain unplanted – underwater or too soggy to even get anything in the ground. Last year at this time, nearly all of the state's corn crop had been planted. Today, fewer than one out of every two rows have made it into the ground. For soybeans, the situation is even worse.

While there's plenty of darkness, there are a few bright spots. For example, the Trump administration followed through on its promise to lift the ban on the year-round sale of E15 fuel, a huge boon to producers in corn-producing states like South Dakota and something for which I've fought for more than a decade. Also, Japan recently announced it would lift age limits on U.S. beef imports, giving South Dakota ranchers full access to a major foreign market.

A win is a win, but we have a long way to go, particularly as it relates to giving the agriculture community the certainty it needs to effectively plan for the future. That's why I'm relaying their concerns directly to President Trump and his administration, especially as they work to wrap up trade deals around the world, including the one between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. I'm also monitoring and keeping pressure on the administration as it implements the 2018 farm bill, and I'm doing everything I can to ensure folks are treated fairly under crop insurance prevent plant and cover crop rules.

Please know that when you call, email, or write my office, I hear about it. When you stop me in the grocery store or at a basketball game, I listen. When you ask for help, I act. And when you do what you do, whether you're free from the burden and anxiety of most days' work or you're praying for Mother Nature to intervene on your behalf, you help feed the world and inspire the next generation of farmers and ranchers. That, as Paul Harvey would say, is the rest of the story – the story defined by hard work, pride, faith, humility, and optimism. All of the qualities God looked for on the eighth day.

California Raids Christian School, Seeks to Change Its Beliefs or Shut It Down

Sacramento, CA—Pacific Justice Institute (PJI) is fighting for the future of a Christian boarding school in Northern California that has been targeted by State officials. PJI believes the case has chilling implications for Christian schools throughout California.

On January 18, 2019, a raid was conducted of River View Christian Academy (RVCA), located in rural Northern California. The raid, which terrified students and staff, consisted of 16 armed law enforcement from the California Highway Patrol (CHP), 2 canine units, and 17 social workers. The State later admitted the raid was prompted by an internet rumor put forward by an online left-wing tabloid. The State was duped into thinking the school housed illegal drugs, stockpiled weapons, and was preparing for an end-times apocalypse. Yet the Waco-style raid turned up no such evidence.

Instead of apologizing for its dangerous blunder, the State doubled down and began imposing daily fines against the school for allegedly operating as an “unlicensed community care facility.” RVCA has actually operated as a private school for the past 25 years, filing an annual affidavit with the California Department of Education as do other private schools and homeschools in the State.

The State is now taking the position that, due to recent legislation, it is no longer possible for a private boarding school to operate without extensive licensing and oversight by the Department of Social Services. But licensing is more than just an administrative headache—it would require the Christian school to relinquish its moral standards. For instance, the State requires that licensed facilities allow students to have the right to engage in spiritual and sexual exploration, which contradicts the goals of many parents who enroll their kids in RVCA.

The school operates under the ministry of Teen Rescue, a non-profit that comes alongside parents who think a change of scenery and alternative educational environment is just what their teenagers need. Teen Rescue was founded in 1989 by Phil Ludwig and launched the school in 1993. After a wildfire destroyed its campus in Southern California, it moved to its present, 250-acre location in rural Northern California. The campus includes dormitories, classrooms, a cafeteria, athletic field, library, and offices.

PJI’s lead attorney in this case, Kevin Snider, commented, “Reading the State’s search warrant and legal filings in this case is chilling. This armed incursion on a faith-based school shows that the State wants nothing less than to take jurisdictional control over Christian education in California. This is rooted in its disagreement with millennia-old religious values.”

PJI filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of the school in mid-March and sought a restraining order to prevent imposition of the fines. In April, the federal judge abstained and dismissed part of the case, believing it should first go through the State’s administrative process. With daily fines mounting, and as PJI then began vigorously pursuing an administrative appeal, the State abandoned its own process and filed suit against the school in Shasta County Superior Court. PJI is now defending against that suit.

“In 25 years of practice, I have never seen this level of aggressive, militant, and ideologically-driven conduct by a State agency against a religious institution,” Snider said. “For years, as the public schools have become increasingly hostile toward parents, the courts have insisted that the parents’ option is to instead choose private education. Now, that fundamental right is also under attack.”

Highway 212 Construction

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation says shoulder widening work has begun on Highway 212 from west of Seneca east for 10 miles.

Work includes setting signs, stripping topsoil and paving asphalt concrete shoulders.

The shoulder widening operations will reduce traffic to one lane with an 11-foot width restriction. Traffic is being controlled with flaggers and pilot car at the earthwork operations and motorists can expect delays.

The expected completion date for this phase of the work is mid-October, with an overall completion date of Nov. 1, 2020.

This is a 21.5-mile project that will be completed over two years. The prime contractor on this \$12.3 million project is Loiseau Construction, Inc. of Flandreau.



PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

FEED GREATNESS®

Event

JUNE 11 - JUNE 12

- Play our Feed Greatness® game for deals!
- Orion® Cooler Giveaway!
- Specials on Purina® Feeds in stock!
- Grandpa's cheese samples available on Tuesday starting at 8 AM
- On Wednesday at 11 AM, rib-eye sandwiches and chips will be available upon donation to SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center. Make sure to visit with their volunteers, riders and their parents, board members and the director of this very special organization!

Is Herbicide Carryover a Concern in Wet Weather

BROOKINGS, S.D. – For many South Dakota farmers, wet conditions have forced the need to change planting plans. In some cases, crops are being planted in areas that were not planned for that crop this year. One factor in the moving of crops that should not be overlooked is carryover, explained Paul Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Science Coordinator.

“With the cool damp spring, chemicals do not break down fast but after the weather warms up and then it is wet the breakdown is increased,” he explained. “So just because there was a lot of moisture this spring does not mean there is no concern about carryover.”

Johnson encourages producers to review records to understand whether the ground being planted have a carryover restriction for the crop planning to plant.

Fortunately, when it comes to carryover concerns, last year’s weather is more important than this year. “If it was warm, which it was in most of the state, that is good for carryover,” Johnson explained. “Again, if it was wetter than normal, that also will help with carryover concerns.”

If the field is located in an area that was warm and wet, Johnson said this year’s risk of carryover is decreased. “This does not mean carryover restrictions should not be followed, but if the timing is real close, there is not as much concern that carryover will be a problem.”

When growers apply residuals this year, Johnson reminds them that if the rotation has changed, carryover for next year also needs to be taken into account for next year’s crop.

Franklin Graham: Turning to God in a Godless Era

By Franklin Graham



Dear Friend,

The Northeast is one of the most secular regions of our country. Many people there do not believe in God. Many more don't believe the Bible is accurate. Some even believe Jesus committed sins. Many only attend church at Christmas or Easter—if at all. It's all part of a nationwide trend in our increasingly godless society.

I just returned from preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in seven cities across the Northeast, from Syracuse, New York, to Portland, Maine—ranked as the single most secular city in the nation.

More than 31,000 people heard the Gospel during the Decision America Northeast Tour from May 19–30. Hundreds stood up or walked forward to indicate making

a decision for Christ.

We praise the Lord for moving powerfully across New England and New York. The Northeast desperately needs to turn back to God, as does our entire country.

Recently, presidential candidate Cory Booker mocked the idea of offering prayers in response to violent crimes. He said that "thoughts and prayers" after gun violence is BS (but he didn't abbreviate!).

That couldn't be further from the truth. Cory Booker doesn't understand that at our lowest point, God puts His arms around us and brings us comfort as only He can. When people have lost loved ones, they need the comfort and strength that can only come from God. I'm sorry that some of our politicians have turned their backs on God. I'm going to continue to pray for victims of violence and their loved ones, and I'm going to continue to urge others to pray for them when these tragedies occur.

Unless our nation calls on God and we turn our hearts toward Him, violence of all types will only continue to escalate. On April 30, a gunman killed two students and injured others at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), in the same city as our headquarters and the Billy Graham Library. This marked the eighth school shooting to occur in the USA in 2019. Chaplains from the BGEA Rapid Response Team (RRT) responded shortly after UNCC went on lockdown. Our chaplains prayed with students, staff, and community members who were grieving and shocked in the aftermath of the shooting.

Four days later, our chaplains also responded to a community 30 miles north of Charlotte where a police officer was shot and killed.

Just a few weeks after that, a gunman in Virginia Beach opened fire inside a city building, killing 12 people. A team of RRT chaplains responded immediately after the shooting and continues to minister to hurting people in that community.

Billy Graham chaplains provide emotional and spiritual care for those affected by crisis situations throughout the country and in other parts of the world. Will you pray for God to work through these trained volunteers to bring the hope and truth of Jesus Christ to the lives of many people?

On the opposite side of our country, my son, Will Graham, and I preached at an evangelistic event in Kaua'i, Hawaii, May 3–5. This was the first time that he and I have spoken from the same platform. My father also preached—to an overflow audience—at the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall in February of 1965, and we were happy to return to Kaua'i to continue offering the hope found only in Jesus Christ.

Thousands attended the Celebration, where hundreds of people made spiritual decisions for Jesus Christ. The Gospel is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16, ESV), and we praise God for all those who responded to the Gospel and made the decision to put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

On Easter weekend, over 90,000 people attended the Festival of Hope in Cúcuta, Colombia, a city on

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the border between Colombia and Venezuela. The city's General Santander Stadium was filled to capacity, and when I preached the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and invited people to respond, more than 4,000 people made spiritual decisions for the Lord. Another 10,000 from 34 countries watched the events online nightly.

Fourteen-year-old Angie came to three events over the Festival of Hope weekend in Cúcuta. On Saturday night when I extended the invitation, she walked to the front of the stage with her family and told a prayer counselor named Glency that she was ready to begin her life with Jesus. We praise God for changing lives like Angie's. Pray with us for the churches who are following up with new believers. To God be all the glory!

We live in a culture that makes light of sin—we continue to see and hear this from many entertainers, athletes, and politicians. It is truly a battle for the soul of our nation, and believers need to pray for our country. The hope for America doesn't lie in politics, but in God. Rather than turn our back on Him, we need to look to Him for answers to the problems our nation faces.

Many people today do not take God at His Word. They want to make up a belief system to fit a secular society. This is where we get into trouble—listening to what others say instead of what God says.

In the midst of dark times for the nation of Judah, God told his prophet, "You shall say to them, 'This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the Lord their God or accept correction; truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth' " (Jeremiah 7:28, NASB).

Christianity is defined by God's Word—not man's. For 2,000 years the church has taken its instructions from the Bible. The Bible doesn't contain God's Word—the Bible is God's Word. That is why for nearly 80 years my father often started his statements with, "The Bible says" He stood firm, by faith, on what the Bible says.

Sin is anything we do that is against God's commands in His Word. The Bible says that we are all guilty of sin—every person. God has put the entire human race under a death sentence because of man's sins. But God loves us and has provided a way of escape. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to take our sins to the cross. He took our punishment on Himself, died on the cross, was buried, and by the power of Almighty God was raised to life on the third day.

It doesn't matter who you are or what you have done—we are all guilty and need God's forgiveness. God is willing to forgive our sins if we will repent (turn from those sins, leave them, and go the other direction).

The Bible shaped much of the morality and ethics of young America and her Founding Fathers. Yet the political correctness that has emerged in our culture has hurled our nation into a different realm than what previous generations would have thought possible. As freedom of speech became the highest priority of our society, pleasing God and living righteously has fallen on hard times. The more culturally sensitive we become, the easier it is to make compromises and concessions.

The prophet Jeremiah experienced this reality in his day. He wrote, "To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear? Behold, their ears are closed and they cannot listen. Behold, the word of the Lord has become a reproach to them; they have no delight in it" (Jeremiah 6:10, NASB).

We live in days where truth is rejected by many people. With the time God leaves me here, I am passionately committed to speaking God's Word and showing the love of Christ every opportunity I have. Will you join with me in sharing God's truth with people everywhere God opens the door?

This fall the Decision America Tour will return to my home state Oct. 1–15. The work of BGEA has deep roots in North Carolina, and I am excited to have the opportunity to preach the Gospel in cities across the Tar Heel state.

Will you join us in asking God to work by His Holy Spirit? Ask God for many lives to be changed and souls saved for eternity through the preaching of His word at each of the places He sends us. Thank you for partnering with us through your prayers and gifts. Both are vital for carrying out the tasks God has given us, and we are grateful.

May God richly bless you,
Franklin Graham
President

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Today in Weather History

June 9, 1957: Southwest of Faulkton, one of four funnel clouds finally touched down and cut an unusual path to the northeast. One home was reduced to "matchsticks and tidbits." The tornado strength was an F3.

June 9, 1968: A brief F2 tornado moved northeast from 6 miles northeast of Britton. Barns were destroyed, and trees were uprooted on three farms. Two cars were picked up and thrown into a ditch. One person in a car was hospitalized. Damage was estimated at \$150,000 to property and another \$80,000 to crops.

June 9, 1972: A steady flow of warm moist air near the surface fed storms and anchored them against the Black Hills for six to eight hours. A flash flood killed 238 people in the Rapid City area after as much as fifteen inches of rain fell over the eastern Black Hills.

1966: Hurricane Alma made landfall over the eastern Florida panhandle becoming the earliest hurricane to make landfall on the United States mainland.

1953 - A tornado hit the town of Worcester MA killing ninety persons. The northeastern states usually remain free of destructive tornadoes, however in this case a low pressure system, responsible for producing severe thunderstorms in Michigan and Ohio the previous day, brought severe weather to New Hampshire and central Massachusetts. The tornado, up to a mile in width at times, tracked 46 miles through Worcester County. It mangled steel towers built to withstand winds of 375 mph. Debris from the tornado fell in the Boston area, and adjacent Atlantic Ocea. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1972 - A cloudburst along the eastern slopes of the Black Hills of South Dakota produced as much as 14 inches of rain resulting in the Rapid City flash flood disaster. The rains, which fell in about four hours time, caused the Canyon Lake Dam to collapse. A wall of water swept through the city drowning 237 persons, and causing more than 100 million dollars property damage. (David Ludlum)

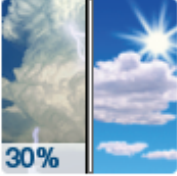




1987 - Lightning struck Tire Mountain near Denver CO, destroying two million tires out of a huge pile of six million tires. Thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes around Denver, and a man was killed at Conifer CO when strong thunderstorm winds lifted up a porch and dropped it on him. A thunderstorm near Compton MD produced two inch hail, and high winds which destroyed twenty barns and ten houses injuring five persons. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from North Carolina to the Central Gulf Coast Region. Hail in North Carolina caused more than five million dollars damage to property, and more than sixty million dollars damage to crops. Hail three and a half inches in diameter was reported at New Bern NC. Thunderstorms in the Central High Plains produced eighteen inches of hail at Fountain CO. The temperature at Del Rio TX soared to an all-time record high of 112 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe weather abated for a date, however, showers and thunderstorms continued to drench the eastern U.S. with torrential rains. Milton, FL, was deluged with 15.47 inches in 24 hours. Record heat and prolonged drought in south central Texas left salt deposits on power lines and insulators near the coast, and when nighttime dew caused arcing, the city of Brownsville was plunged into darkness. (The National Weather Summary)


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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	T-storms Likely
High: 71 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 72 °F

Today

Partly Cloudy
Highs:
Near 70


AM Showers in
the East

Cooler This Week
Highs in the 60s and 70s



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
6/9/2019 4:38 AM

Published on: 06/09/2019 at 5:44AM

A trailing cold front will exit the region this morning taking the remaining showers with it. Cooler temperatures will settle in behind the front with highs near 70 today. Temperatures will remain in the 60s and 70s through Thursday.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 10:45 AM

Low Temp: 55 °F at 9:27 PM

Wind: 33 mph at 11:03 AM

Day Rain: 0.17

Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 2016, 1933

Record Low: 33° in 1915

Average High: 75°F

Average Low: 52°F

Average Precip in June.: 0.93

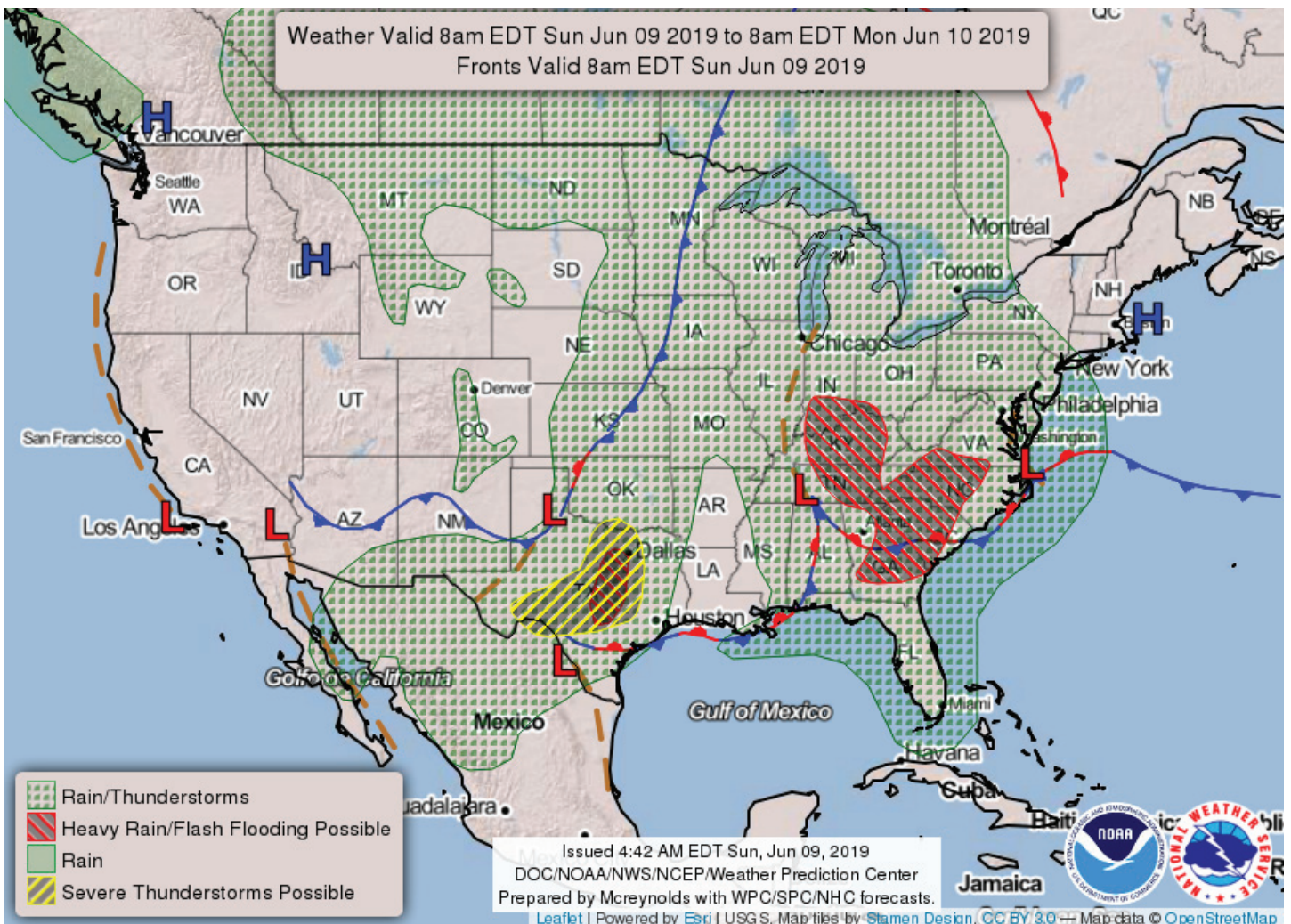
Precip to date in June.: 0.17

Average Precip to date: 8.07

Precip Year to Date: 8.14

Sunset Tonight: 9:21 p.m.

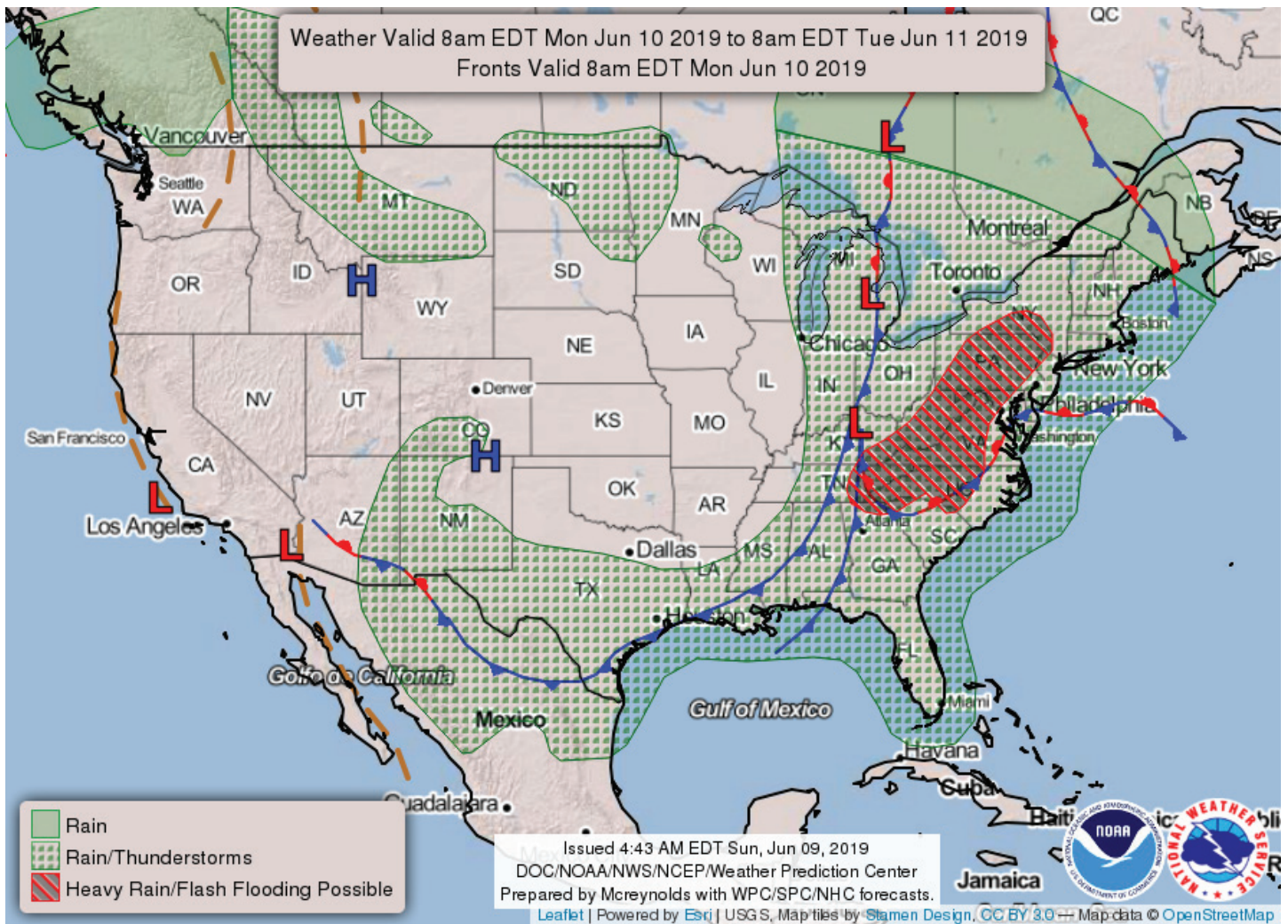
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



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Tomorrow's Weather Map





RIGHT WAY - WRONG WAY

Have you ever made the same mistake twice? he asked.

What is this, I asked in a taunting voice, a trick question?

No, Im serious. Youre a doctor; youre supposed to be smart. I was just wondering, was his response as he shook his head.

Of course I have, I replied. In fact, Ive made the same mistake several times.

You have? he responded in surprise. I really thought you were smarter than that. Im shocked.

Im sure Im not the only one who has repeated a mistake more than once. And it doesnt make me feel comfortable to think about it, either. But its true.

Perhaps thats why Solomon wrote the same Proverb twice: There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death. We need to be reminded of this fact.

There is an inherent danger in being successful: we tend to think of ourselves more highly than we should. Its easy to do. We have a new opportunity, or there are some new challenges, and we rise to the occasion. We get a new burst of energy, we are excited about a second chance, and we are off and running, believing that we will succeed! No limits for me!

And, thats the time we need to pause and remind ourselves that There is a way that may seem right Its very important to acknowledge the sovereignty of God and to admit our own limitations. When things go well, we must thank God for blessing us and give Him the credit. When they dont, we need to be aware that God is trying to get our attention.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for this reminder. All too often we give ourselves credit when the glory is all Yours! May we do what we do through Your guidance. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

20-21-26-32-34

(twenty, twenty-one, twenty-six, thirty-two, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$494,000

Lotto America

14-24-37-38-48, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 2

(fourteen, twenty-four, thirty-seven, thirty-eight, forty-eight; Star Ball: ten; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$20.54 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball

09-13-42-48-60, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2

(nine, thirteen, forty-two, forty-eight, sixty; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$53 million

Amber Hulse of Hot Springs crowned Miss South Dakota

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A Hot Springs woman has been crowned the new Miss South Dakota. Amber Hulse is a 20-year-old student at South Dakota State University where she is studying political science.

Hulse was the first runner-up last year.

She will represent South Dakota in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in September.

Buttigieg's high college debt draws attention to the issue

By MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg knows firsthand the burden of six-figure student loan debt. He and his husband, Chasten, are far from alone, though, and their personal college indebtedness is helping to keep the issue on the national stage.

With loans totaling more than \$130,000, they are among the 43 million people in the United States who owe federal student loan debt.

The debtors are so numerous and the total debt so high — more than \$1.447 trillion, according to federal statistics — that several of the Democratic candidates have made major policy proposals to address the crisis. Their ideas include wiping away debt, lowering interest rates, expanding programs that tie repayment terms to income and making college free or debt-free.

Student loan debt is often discussed as an issue that mostly affects millennials, but it cuts across age groups. Federal statistics show that about 7.8 million people age 50 and older owe a combined \$291.9 billion in student loans. People age 35 to 49, a group that covers older millennials such as Buttigieg as well as Generation X, owe \$548.4 billion. That group includes more than 14 million people.

One of the most detailed plans to address the problem has come from Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who says she would entirely erase student debt for 75% of borrowers while making public colleges and universities free. Her plan would be paid for by a tax on "ultra-millionaires," those households with a net worth of \$50 million or more. Warren wants to cancel \$50,000 in student loan debt for each borrower with a household income under \$100,000 and would cancel smaller amounts for those who earn more.

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Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont has outlined a plan to make public universities tuition-free and says he wants to lower student loan rates and "substantially lower student debt."

Former Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas stops short of advocating for programs to cancel all debt, like Warren wants to do. Instead, he has suggested wiping away debt for people who go into jobs where there's a manpower shortage, such as doctors in rural areas, but it's not clear which professions would qualify.

He also has said he wants to give Americans two years of free tuition at community colleges, make four-year state universities debt-free for those with low and modest incomes and allow borrowers to refinance student loans at lower interest rates.

Julian Castro, housing secretary in the Obama administration, says he wants to eliminate tuition at public colleges and universities. He has issued a plan that would not require loan repayment until borrowers earn more than 250% of the federal poverty level, currently \$25,750 for a family of four. It would cap monthly payments at 10% of their income after that.

Sen. Kamala Harris of California has publicly called for debt-free college, wants to allow people to refinance their loans at a lower interest rate, base repayment on income and simplify financial aid applications to make it easier for needy students to apply.

If elected, Buttigieg, the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, would likely be the first president with student loan debt. Barack and Michelle Obama said they paid off their student loans a few years before he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006.

Buttigieg often speaks about the experience that he and his husband have had with student loan debt. Buttigieg graduated from Harvard in 2004, then won a Rhodes scholarship and graduated from Oxford in 2007. The mayor previously told Vice that he got through school without much debt, but that Chasten racked up loans while getting bachelor's and master's degrees to become a teacher.

In his financial disclosure filed with the Office of Government Ethics in mid-May, Buttigieg reported that he and his husband have between \$110,000 and \$265,000 in student loan debt. The report requires a range rather than a specific dollar amount. Chris Meagher, a campaign spokesman, said the exact amount is \$131,296.

Americans with student loans owe on average \$33,000, so the Buttigiegs' debt is on the high end. They are among the 2.8 million Americans who owe more than \$100,000 in federal student loan debt.

Meagher did not answer questions about whether the loans belong to Buttigieg or his husband, or both.

The disclosure statement shows that the couple has 20 loans outstanding, with interest rates ranging from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent, on loans that were opened between 2009 and 2017. Fifteen of those accounts, more than \$100,000 of the balance, were reported to be on an income-based repayment plan.

Buttigieg has spoken about making it easier to refinance student loan debt. During a town hall hosted by Fox News, he discussed expanding the federal Pell grant program and making it easier to pay off debt through public service. On his website, he called for middle- and low-income families to pay "zero tuition" at public colleges, or to attend them "debt free."

Buttigieg has also called for more support for students who enter public service, such as teaching.

Seven 2020 presidential contenders have proposed legislation in the Senate to do that. The bill would simplify and expand a program that forgives federal loans for public service workers who make 120 monthly loan payments while working for a government agency or qualified nonprofit. Only about 1% of borrowers who applied to the program were approved. The candidates backing the legislation are Warren, Sanders, Harris, and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Michael Bennet of Colorado.

Former Vice President Joe Biden made a call for a similar simplification and expansion Tuesday in a speech in Houston before one of the nation's largest teachers' unions.

Associated Press writers Collin Binkley in Boston and Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

Sex abuse crisis tops agenda as Southern Baptists convene

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

The Southern Baptist Convention gathers for its annual national meeting Tuesday with one sobering topic — sex abuse by clergy and staff — overshadowing all others.

Inside the meeting hall in Birmingham, Alabama, delegates representing the nation's largest Protestant denomination will likely vote on establishing criteria for expelling churches that mishandle or cover up abuse allegations. They also may vote to establish a new committee which would review how member churches handle claims of abuse.

Outside the convention center, abuse survivors and other activists plan a protest rally Tuesday evening, demanding that the SBC move faster to require sex-abuse training for all pastors, staff and volunteers, and to create a database of credibly accused abusers that could be shared among its more than 47,000 churches. They will also be urging the church, which espouses all-male leadership, to be more respectful of women's roles — a volatile topic that's sparked online debate over whether women should preach to men.

Sex abuse already was a high-profile issue at the 2018 national meeting in Dallas, following revelations about several sexual misconduct cases. Soon after his election as SBC president at that meeting, the Rev. J.D. Greear formed an advisory group to draft recommendations on how to confront the problem.

However, pressure on the church has intensified in recent months, due in part to articles by the Houston Chronicle and San Antonio Express-News asserting that hundreds of Southern Baptist clergy and staff have been accused of sexual misconduct over the past 20 years, including dozens who returned to church duties, while leaving more than 700 victims with little in the way of justice or apologies.

"For years, there were people who assumed abuse was simply a Roman Catholic problem," said the Rev. Russell Moore, who heads the SBC's public policy arm. "I see that mentality dissipating. There seems to be a growing sense of vulnerability and a willingness to address this crisis."

As evidence of that willingness, Greear's advisory group issued a detailed report Saturday about sexual abuse within the SBC.

It contained several first-person stories by sexual abuse survivors, and acknowledged a variety of failures in how the SBC has responded to abuse — including inadequate training of staff, failure to believe and support victims, failure to report abuse to law enforcement, and recommending suspected perpetrators to new employment.

The scandals have created a major distraction at a time when recent political events have thrilled many Southern Baptist members. The convention is happening in the state that passed the strictest abortion ban in the country, an issue near and dear to many Baptists. And President Donald Trump has advanced an agenda that has pleased many conservative Christians, including a remade U.S. Supreme Court.

With the abuse scandal spreading, Greear's study committee issued 10 recommendations, and some action has been taken.

For example, a nine-member team has been developing a training curriculum to be used by churches and seminaries to improve responses to abuse. The team includes a psychologist, a former prosecutor, a detective, and attorney and abuse survivor Rachael Denhollander, the first woman to go public with charges against sports doctor Larry Nassar ahead of the prosecution that led to a lengthy prison sentence.

The study group also is considering new requirements for background checks of church leaders. And it is assessing options for a database listing abusers, though Baptist leaders say that process has been difficult because of legal issues.

Greear, in an email to The Associated Press, said he was "thankful for the light" that the articles by the Houston Chronicle and San Antonio Express-News "shined on a dark area of our Convention."

"Only when sin is exposed to the light of truth, true repentance, healing, and change can begin," he wrote.

Activist and writer Christa Brown, who says she was abused by a Southern Baptist minister as a child, has been advocating for a database since 2006, and is frustrated by the slow pace. She says any eventual database might be ineffective unless it is run by outsiders, not by SBC officials.

"It has to be independently administered to provide survivors with a safe place to report," she said.

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The study group's No. 1 recommendation is for Southern Baptists to "enter a season of sorrow and repentance."

Ahead of next week's meeting, there's been a surge of debate — much of it waged on social media — related to the Southern Baptist Convention's doctrine of "complementarianism" that calls for male leadership in the home and the church.

Particularly contentious is a widely observed prohibition on women preaching in Southern Baptist churches. Those recently defying that policy include Beth Moore, a prominent author and evangelist who runs a Houston-based ministry for women.

Beth Moore hinted on Twitter in April that she was preaching a Mother's Day sermon at a Southern Baptist church, which drew rebukes from some SBC theologians.

"For a woman to teach and preach to adult men is to defy God's Word," wrote Owen Strachan, a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Elders must not allow such a sinful practice."

Beth Moore responded with a series of tweets on May 11, questioning the motives of SBC leaders seeking to limit women's roles.

"All these years I'd given the benefit of the doubt that these men were the way they were because they were trying to be obedient to Scripture," Beth Moore tweeted.

"Then I realized it was not over Scripture at all. It was over sin.... It was over misogyny. Sexism. It was about arrogance. About protecting systems. It involved covering abuses & misuses of power."

Several male Southern Baptist pastors have aligned themselves with activist women in decrying sex abuse and limits on women's leadership roles.

Among them is Wade Burlison, a pastor from Enid, Oklahoma, who contends that gifted women should be encouraged to serve in the ministry on an equal basis with men.

"The sooner we learn that men can learn spiritual truths from women, the better off we are," Burlison wrote on his blog, adding that he would welcome Beth Moore preaching at his church.

The Rev. Al Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, says SBC leaders will not soften the prohibition on women serving as pastors.

"When it comes to questions short of that, there's going to be a robust Southern Baptist discussion," he said.

Mexico-US tariff deal: Questions, concerns for migration

By PETER ORSI and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — As Washington and Mexico City both took victory laps Saturday over a deal that headed off threatened tariffs on Mexican imports, it remained to be seen how effective it may be and migration experts raised concerns over what it could mean for people fleeing poverty and violence in Central America.

Other than a vague reiteration of a joint commitment to promote development, security and growth in Central America, the agreement focuses almost exclusively on enforcement and says little about the root causes driving the surge in migrants seen in recent months.

"My sense is overall the Mexican government got out of this better than they thought. The agreement though leaves a lot of big question marks," said Andrew Selee, president of the Migration Policy Institute. "It's good that the two sides reached an agreement which allows both of them to save face, but it's not clear how easy it is to implement."

The deployment of 6,000 National Guard troops appears to be the key commitment in what was described as "unprecedented steps" by Mexico to ramp up enforcement, though Interior Secretary Olga Sánchez Cordero said that had already been planned and was not a result of external pressure.

"I have said before, migration into Mexico also has to be regulated ... orderly, legal and safe," Sánchez Cordero told The Associated Press. "So the National Guard that we were going to deploy anyway, we're going to deploy. It's not because they tell us to, but rather because we're going to do it anyway."

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Mexico was already increasing enforcement such as detentions, deportations and checkpoints. In recent weeks it broke up the latest migrant caravan, snuffing out most appetite for traveling in large, visible groups.

If Mexico does more as promised, it's likely to be seen in intensifications of those same efforts, experts said — raids on hotels where migrants stay or on bus companies transporting them north to the U.S. border. The two countries also agreed to collaborate to share information on and disrupt people-smuggling networks, a new focus seen earlier this week when Mexico arrested two migration activists and froze accounts of over two dozen people alleged to have organized caravans.

Observers said a concern is that even more aggressive enforcement could put migrants with legitimate asylum claims at risk of being deported from Mexico to the dangers they fled in the first place. Also, Mexican security forces are known for often being corrupt and shaking migrants down for bribes. A renewed crackdown is seen as making migration through Mexico more difficult and more dangerous, but doing little to discourage Central Americans desperate to escape poverty, hunger and violence.

At the Movimiento Juventud 2000 shelter in Tijuana, across from San Diego, migrants were camped out Saturday in dozens of orange tents in the warehouse-like space with corrugated metal roofs and siding. Reyna Vázquez, from Honduras, urged people to reflect on why people like her leave home, family and country.

"If they were to think about that and instead of closing the door give us an opportunity to show that we are people who want to work and all we want is a future for our children and our family," Vázquez said.

Maureen Meyer, an immigration expert at the Washington Office on Latin America, said people are fleeing their home "regardless of what the journey might mean and regardless of what chance they may have for seeking protections in Mexico or in the United States."

"It seems like in all these discussions (over tariffs and immigration) the human reality of these people and why they're leaving Central America was lost," she continued. "It was 'what can we do to stop them,' and not 'what can we really do to create the conditions in their home countries so that people don't have to leave.'"

Another key element of the deal is that the United States will expand a program known as the Migrant Protection Protocol, or MPP. According to Mexican immigration authorities, since January there have been 10,393 returns by migrants to Mexico while their cases wend their way through U.S. courts.

MPP has been plagued by glitches and so far has been introduced only in California and El Paso, Texas, and Selee said there are logistical hurdles to further expansion. Right now the MPP figure of 10,000 or so represents "a drop in the bucket" compared to overall migration, he added.

Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, who led the negotiations, said the agreement does not include any quotas.

If MPP does roll out on a mass scale along the United States' entire southern border, it could overwhelm Mexican border cities. Mexico promised to offer jobs, health care and education for returnees, but has little infrastructure to do so. Currently most shelters and support programs are run by the likes of NGOs and the Roman Catholic Church.

And if the program were to include places like Tamaulipas, the Gulf coast state where cartels and gangs control large swaths of territory, migrants could be at even greater risk.

"You know this is an area that the U.S. government considers that it's not safe for any American citizen," Meyer said, referring to the State Department's highest-level warning against all travel to Tamaulipas due to crime and kidnappings. "And yet it's OK for us to send people back there?"

Still, the deal was hailed by many in Mexican industry and politics.

Arturo Rocha, a Foreign Relations Department spokesman, tweeted late Friday that it was "an unquestionable triumph for Mexico." Avoiding tariffs sends a calming message to ratings agencies worried about a possible trade war, he said, adding that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's government had won U.S. recommitment to Central American development and resisted "safe third country" designation, a concession sought by Washington that would have required asylum seekers to apply first in Mexico.

However Abdel Camargo, an anthropologist at the Frontera Sur College in southern Mexico, said that by

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accepting MPP returnees, "Mexico does not become a safe third country but de facto is going to act as one."

Some such as Felipe Calderón, who was president as a member of the conservative National Action Party, questioned whether Mexico was truly master of its own migratory policy. But José Antonio Meade, a five-time Cabinet minister who lost last year's election to López Obrador, praised Ebrard for avoiding damaging tariffs "in the face of very complex conditions."

In San Jose del Cabo for a summit of North American mayors, Juan Manuel Gastelum of Tijuana, across from San Diego, said he's fine with more migrants being returned to his city as long as the federal government invests in caring for them. He added that the threat of tariffs may have been necessary to force his country's hand.

"How else was Mexico going to understand that it is not right to leave migration uncontrolled?" said Gastelum, who is a member of National Action.

In the far southern Mexican town of Ciudad Hidalgo, across the river border from Guatemala, Reynoldo Reyes Gavidia, sat in the main square. A native of Honduras, he's been in and out of Mexico over the years and said he was returning this time due to violence back home.

Gavidia said he didn't know much about the National Guard beyond rumors that it was coming, but he wasn't concerned about being deported — his documents were in order. Not so for many other migrants.

"Most are worried," Gavidia said, "because they could be set upon at any time. ... There will be no sleeping here today."

Orsi reported from Mexico City, and Sherman reported from San Jose del Cabo, Mexico. Associated Press writer María Verza in Mexico City, video journalist Jordi Lebrija in Tijuana and video journalist Benjamín Alfaro in Ciudad Hidalgo contributed.

US-Mexico deal offers few new solutions, political victory

By JILL COLVIN, ZEKE MILLER and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's deal to avert his threatened tariffs on Mexico includes few new solutions to swiftly stem the surge of Central American migrants flowing over America's southern border.

But it delivers enough for Trump to claim a political win.

The decision — announced by tweet late Friday — ended a showdown that business leaders warned would have disastrous economic consequences for both the U.S. and one of its largest trading partners, driving up consumer prices and driving a wedge between the two allies. And it represented a win for members of Trump's own party who had flooded the White House with pleading calls as well as aides who had been eager to convince the president to back down.

But ultimately, it gives Trump the ability to claim victory on a central campaign promise that has been largely unfulfilled as he prepares to formally launch his 2020 campaign.

"In the face of naysayers, President Trump yet again delivered a huge victory for the American people," Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh said in a statement, applauding the president for using "the threat of tariffs to bring Mexico to the table" and "showing that he is willing to use every tool in his toolbox to protect the American people."

Trump ran in 2016 pledging to crack down on illegal immigration, but instead has watched as the number of border crossings has spiked to its highest level in over a decade — with U.S. Border Patrol apprehending more than 132,000 people in May, including a record 84,542 adults and children traveling together. That surge has been straining federal resources, leaving officials struggling to provide basic housing and health care to families fleeing violence and poverty in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

With Trump overseas and an unproductive opening negotiating session with Mexican officials Wednesday, many at the White House had expected Trump to move forward with the 5% tariff he'd threaten to slap on all Mexican goods on Monday in an effort to strong-arm the country into action, according to

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people familiar with the deliberations. Aides including Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo were no personal fans of the policy, but they understood Trump's frustration and presented several suggestions to the Mexican delegation to walk him back. They also made clear that Trump was dead set on the tariffs without dramatic action.

U.S. officials were nonetheless surprised when talks resumed Thursday and Mexico agreed to some of the things Pence had put on the table, including an expansion of a program that forces some asylum-seekers to return to Mexico as they wait for their cases to be adjudicated. And while such a measure never made it into the agreement, Mexican officials also expressed an openness to discussing something they had long opposed: having Mexico become a "safe third country," which would make it harder for asylum-seekers who pass through the country to claim refuge in the U.S.

Conversations continued Friday during a marathon session at the State Department led by White House counsel Pat Cipollone, with Trump briefed by phone aboard Air Force One.

A final decision was made during an evening conference call once Trump return to the White House on Friday evening, and shortly thereafter he fired off his tweet announcing the deal.

The decision was a relief for Trump aides— nearly all of whom were united in opposition to the tariffs, disagreeing on principle and in practice. It also came as relief for Republican lawmakers and their allies in the business community, who'd spent the week burning up White House phones and personally nudging the president to back down. In a rare rebuke, several had threatened to block the effort, with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell saying publicly there was little support.

Still, one Republican who discussed the situation on condition of anonymity said the outreach from Capitol Hill appeared to play far less a role than the concessions made by the Mexicans — particularly the agreement to expand the remain-in-Mexico policy.

Critics, meanwhile, pointed out that little announced on Friday appeared to be new.

A joint statement released by the State Department said Mexico had agreed to "take unprecedented steps to increase enforcement to curb irregular migration," including the deployment of its new National Guard, with a focus on its porous southern border with Guatemala. Mexico, however, had already intended to deploy the National Guard to the southern border and had made that clear to U.S. officials.

The U.S. also hailed Mexico's agreement to embrace the expansion of a program under which some asylum-seekers are returned to Mexico as they wait out their cases. But the remain-in-Mexico program was implemented earlier this year and, from the start, U.S. officials have vowed to rapidly expand it, even without Mexico's public support. Indeed, officials from the Department of Homeland Security were working to spread the program, which has already led to the return of about 10,000 to Mexico, before the latest blowup, though it has been plagued with scheduling glitches and delays. Immigration activists also have challenged the program in court, arguing that it violates migrants' legal rights. An appeals court recently overturned a federal judge who had blocked the program as it makes its way through the courts.

Administration officials noted the deal leaves open the possibility of "further actions" if "the measures adopted do not have the expected results." And while the "third safe country" agreement did not make it into the deal, it is something officials plan to continue to discuss in the coming months.

The reversal nonetheless sparked mocking from Democrats, including Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, who sarcastically declared Friday "an historic night!" after Trump claimed the deal would "greatly reduce, or eliminate, Illegal Immigration coming from Mexico and into the United States."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also weighed in, calling the tariff threat "reckless" and panning the remain-in-Mexico policy as a violation of migrants' legal rights.

"Threats and temper tantrums are no way to negotiate foreign policy," she said.

Associated Press writer Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Mexico: Country has 'dignity intact' after US tariff deal

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said he was reluctantly prepared to slap retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods if negotiators in Washington had failed to strike a deal, addressing a boisterous celebratory rally Saturday in the border city of Tijuana.

The president's comments came shortly after his foreign minister and chief negotiator, Marcelo Ebrard, told the rally the country had emerged from the high-stakes talks that avoided U.S. tariffs on Mexico's exports with its "dignity intact."

López Obrador said that as an admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, he opposes retaliation but had been prepared to impose tariffs on U.S. goods. "As chief representative of the Mexican state I cannot permit that anyone attacks our economy or accept an unjust asymmetry unworthy of our government."

The rally in Tijuana, a short walk from the border, was originally scheduled as an act of solidarity in the face of President Donald Trump's threat to impose a 5% tariff on Mexico's exports if it did not stem the flow of Central American migrants crossing its territory toward the U.S.

But after Mexican and U.S. officials reached an accord late Friday that calls on Mexico to crackdown on migrants in exchange for Trump backing off his threat, officials here converted the rally into a celebration.

Ebrard, who helped negotiate the deal, said when he gave the president his report, he told López Obrador: "There are no tariffs, Mr. President, we emerged with our dignity intact."

López Obrador has said consistently that Mexico's immigration policy will be guided by respect for human rights. How that is integrated with the more proactive enforcement Mexico has promised Trump is yet to be seen.

"We take advantage of being here in Tijuana to say to the people of the United States once more that we do not harbor any intention nor will we harbor any intention to harm them, and we are resolved to collaborate with them in all areas, especially on the concern spurred by the growth of the migratory flow to their country," he said.

"At the same time, we ask for their understanding because the migratory phenomenon doesn't come from nowhere, it comes from the material needs and the insecurity in the Central American countries and in marginalized sectors and regions of Mexico, where there are human beings who need to set out on a pilgrimage to mitigate their hunger and their poverty or to save their lives."

A series of speakers at the government-organized gathering spoke of the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship and applauded Mexico's negotiating team. The rally had the feeling of a campaign event with paraphernalia from López Obrador's ruling Morena party spread throughout the crowd.

The event was held in an intersection of Tijuana's gritty downtown surrounded by pharmacies and currency exchange shops. Prostitutes lined the street a block away from the stage filled with dignitaries.

Lopez Obrador spoke of the long and intertwined histories of the two countries, noting that they "are protagonists in the largest demographic exchange in the world."

Tijuana residents at the rally said they supported the terms of the agreement. But residents just a block away expressed concern the deal could mean more asylum seekers having to wait in Tijuana and other Mexican border cities for the resolution of their cases in the U.S. That process can take months or even years.

Angelica López, 41, has worked at a U.S. assembly plant in Tijuana that makes motors of all kinds for more than 20 years. The threatened tariffs would have directly impacted her family's well-being, she said.

"Honestly, we were worried," she said. "That's how we eat, how we provide for the family, our home."

As for the possibility that it means more Central American migrants have to wait out their asylum process in Tijuana, López noted that she had arrived in Tijuana as an economic migrant from another part of Mexico.

"The opportunities are for everyone, we simply support one another as human beings."

But a block away, masseuse Omar Luna, said he believed many of the Central American migrants waiting in Tijuana were not there to work and were causing problems.

"This part affects us a little," he said. "A lot of them don't come to work, they're criminals, (but) not all of them."

Critics of the deal in Mexico say that other than a vague reiteration of a joint commitment to promote development, security and growth in Central America, the agreement focuses almost exclusively on enforcement and says little about the root causes driving the surge in migrants seen in recent months.

The deployment of 6,000 National Guard troops appears to be the key commitment in what was described as "unprecedented steps" by Mexico to ramp up enforcement, though Interior Secretary Olga Sánchez Cordero said that had already been planned and was not a result of external pressure.

Another key element of the deal is that the United States will expand a program known as the Migrant Protection Protocol, or MPP. According to Mexican immigration authorities, since January there have been 10,393 returns by migrants to Mexico while their cases wend their way through U.S. courts.

Observers said a concern is that if the MPP rolls out on a mass scale along the United States' entire southern border, it could overwhelm Mexican border cities.

Harris' husband takes on growing public role in 2020 race

By JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Doug Emhoff was on the stage seconds after an activist rushed his wife, Kamala Harris, and snatched the microphone from her hands. Shortly after he helped remove the activist, Emhoff tweeted that he and Harris were "good" and that he would "do anything for her."

The incident quickly turned viral, bringing attention to someone who is often at Harris' side but rarely front and center.

He was back in the spotlight on Saturday, when he spoke at the Florida Democratic Party's Leadership Blue Gala in Orlando. The speech was his first solo appearance since Harris launched her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in January.

Emhoff's increasingly public role is a reminder of the historic diversity of the Democratic field, which includes a half dozen women as well as an openly gay man. And coming three years after Hillary Clinton became the first woman to be a major party's presidential nominee, it shows how the role of political spouses is evolving and could produce America's first "first gentleman."

"I think we're rewriting the rules on presidential spouses," said Jess Morales Rocketto, a Democratic operative who worked for Clinton in 2016. "Historic candidates also mean we have spouses who can play a historic role."

Already, the spouses of other candidates seeking the presidency have taken on a variety of roles. The humor and candor of Chasten Buttigieg, the husband of South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, has quickly made him a social media star. Jane Sanders, wife of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has been involved in her husband's political career for decades and continues to play a key role in his second presidential campaign.

This week alone, Jill Biden, the wife of former Vice President Joe Biden, was in South Carolina. Amy O'Rourke, wife of Beto O'Rourke, joined her husband in Iowa. And Chasten Buttigieg was to speak in Florida at the same event as Emhoff, as was John Delaney's wife, April McClain-Delaney.

"This is a new experience for Kamala and me, but our family is having so much fun crossing the country and meeting people from every walk of life," Emhoff, who is a lawyer at DLA Piper, told The Associated Press. "It's amazing to see so many people get to know the Kamala I love, and I can't wait for every American to get that chance when she's president."

For the first five months of Harris' campaign, Emhoff's presence has been constant, yet low-key. Although he still lives and practices law in Los Angeles, he is frequently by his wife's side on the campaign trail.

He was in Baltimore to visit campaign headquarters and greet staff for the first time on Thursday.

One aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Emhoff's role in the campaign candidly, said

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Emhoff does not regularly participate in staff meetings or have a significant hand in discussing strategy. Instead, the aide said, Emhoff is supportive of his wife's campaign and willing to take on a more public campaign role when asked.

On Twitter, Emhoff often offers behind-the-scene glimpses into campaign life and his relationship with Harris.

There are photos of him with a "Kamala Harris For The People" T-shirt layered under a blazer, Harris on Mother's Day with his two children, and even a selfie with Chasten Buttigieg as their spouses participated in a night of back-to-back CNN town halls.

And though he has far fewer followers than Chasten Buttigieg, he has his own fans. Social media supporters of Harris often use the hashtag #KHive, a nod to Beyoncé's loyal fans, known as the BeyHive. Now, Harris' followers have bestowed Emhoff with his own: #Doughive.

Emhoff is a native of Brooklyn who attended California State University-Northridge and later the USC Gould School of Law. He opened his own law firm in 2000 before it was acquired by Venable in 2006.

Harris and Emhoff were set up by her close friend Chrisette Hudlin on a blind date in 2013, while Harris was serving as California's attorney general. In her memoir, "The Truths We Hold," Harris wrote about the challenges of dating in the public eye, acknowledging that "dating wasn't easy" and that "single women in politics are viewed differently than single men."

After meeting Emhoff, Harris said there was "no pretense or posing with Doug, no arrogance or boasting." "He seemed so genuinely comfortable with himself. It's part of why I liked him immediately," she wrote.

The couple got engaged in 2014 and married at the courthouse in Santa Barbara, California, later that year. The ceremony was officiated by Harris' sister, Maya, who is now the chair of her presidential campaign.

Emhoff has two children from a previous marriage, Cole and Ella. In her memoir, Harris wrote about her friendship with his first wife, Kerstin, saying that "we sometimes joke that our modern family is almost a little too functional."

Another Triple Crown surprise: Sir Winston takes Belmont

By TOM CANAVAN AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sir Winston provided a perfect finish to a crazy Triple Crown.

After a disqualification in the Kentucky Derby and a runaway horse in the Preakness, of course the Belmont Stakes goes to a 10-1 long shot.

Sir Winston captured the \$1.5 million race Saturday, holding off favored Tacitus by a length.

The win gave trainer Mark Casse the final two jewels in the showcase for 3-year-old thoroughbreds. He won the Preakness with War of Will, who was expected to battle Tacitus in the 1 1/2 mile Belmont.

Instead, Casse's other's colt took the lead after a ground-saving ride by Joel Rosario.

It wasn't really a shock to Casse.

"I said all week he was doing really well," Casse said. "He had a race over the track. What can I say? It's just exciting."

Sir Winston, who was making his Triple Crown debut, finished second in the Peter Pan Stakes, the traditional prep for the Belmont.

Rosario rode him for the first time in that race, and the two put on a show Saturday in front of a crowd of 56,217, earning \$800,000 for owner Tracy Farmer.

Long shot Jovia finished third and Tax was fourth.

The Triple Crown grind caught up to Preakness winner War of Will, who ran in all three races. He finished ninth in the 10-horse field.

"I could see where War of Will was struggling a little bit," Casse said. "He looked like maybe he was a little flat today."

The Belmont capped an entertaining Triple Crown highlighted by the disqualification of Maximum Security in the Kentucky Derby. It sparked interest in thoroughbred racing despite no possibility of the third Triple

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Crown winner in five years, coming on the heels of Justify last year and American Pharoah in 2015.

It was all positive. There were no tragedies on the track. No horses died.

The Belmont was a jockey's race and Rosario was the right rider on a horse full of run.

Breaking from the No. 7 post, Rosario guided the chestnut colt to the rail for an energy-saving trip. Sir Winston was eighth for the first half-mile and then started to rally on the final turn.

Up front, 21-1 long shot Joevia continued to set the pace with Tax closely tracking. In the stretch, Rosario angled Sir Winston — named for Winston Churchill — off the rail and slightly bothered stablemate War of Will.

This time, there was no inquiry or objection. Sir Winston surged to the lead with an eighth of a mile to go and held off a late run from Tacitus, who had an extremely wide trip under jockey Jose Ortiz.

The second-place finish denied trainer Bill Mott two-thirds of the Triple Crown. His Country House was awarded first place in the Kentucky Derby.

Sir Winston paid \$22.40, \$8.80 and \$6.10. Tacitus returned \$3.90 and \$3.20 as the 9-5 favorite. Joevia hung on for third, paying \$8.70.

After Tax, Master Fencer was fifth followed by Spinoff, Everfast, Intrepid Heart, War of Will and Bourbon War. The winning time was 2:28.30 on the fast track under sunny skies.

The win was the third in 10 starts for the slow-developing Sir Winston. Casse always believed in the horse despite early struggles.

"We're very proud of him," the 58-year-old trainer said. "He's kind of what our operation represents. We develop horses. The first two times he ran, he got beat 10 or 20 lengths. I can remember having a conversation with Mr. Farmer up at Saratoga and I said 'Don't give up on him.'"

The feeling paid off — big time.

This unpredictable Triple Crown season started with a wild result in the Kentucky Derby. Maximum Security crossed the finish line first and become the first apparent winner to be disqualified, taken down for interfering with War of Will in the stretch. Country House was elevated to first, giving Mott his first Derby win and becoming the second longest shot (65-1) to win the Derby.

War of Will came back two weeks later to win the Preakness, but his impressive performance was overshadowed when a rival threw his jockey and ran around the track as the race continued.

There were three major races on the Belmont undercard.

Mitole extended his winning streak to seven with a gutsy victory in the \$1.2 million Metropolitan Handicap. Pressing the pacesetter Coal Front every step, Mitole put away that rival in midstretch and held off the late challenge by 8/5 favorite McKinzie to prevail by three quarters of a length. Thunder Snow, the richest active thoroughbred with over \$16 million in earnings, was third.

Trainer Chad Brown dominated the Manhattan Stakes as his horses swept the first three spots in the \$1 million Manhattan turf race. Bricks and Mortar rallied to extend his winning streak to five, besting stablemate Robert Bruce by 1½ lengths. Raging Bull was third.

Guarana, also trained by Brown, beat Kentucky Oaks winner Serengeti Empress by six lengths in the \$700,000 Acorn for 3-year-old fillies.

For more Belmont coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/Horseracing>

Scientists feel chill of crackdown on fetal tissue research

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, MALCOLM RITTER and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — To save babies from brain-damaging birth defects, University of Pittsburgh scientist Carolyn Coyne studies placentas from fetuses that otherwise would be discarded — and she's worried this kind of research is headed for the chopping block.

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The Trump administration is cracking down on fetal tissue research, with new hurdles for government-funded scientists around the country who call the special cells vital for fighting a range of health threats. Already, the administration has shut down one university's work using fetal tissue to test HIV treatments, and is ending other fetal tissue research at the National Institutes of Health.

"I knew this was something that's going to trickle down to the rest of us," said Coyne. She uses the placenta, which people may not think of as fetal tissue but technically is classified as such because the fetus produced it, to study how viruses such as Zika get past that protective barrier early in pregnancy.

"It seems to me what we're moving toward is a ban," she added. If so, when it comes to unraveling what happens in pregnancy and fetal development, "we're going to stay ignorant to a lot of things."

Different types of tissue left over from elective abortions have been used in scientific research for decades, and the work has been credited with leading to lifesaving vaccines and other advances. Under orders from President Donald Trump, the Health and Human Services Department abruptly announced on Wednesday the new restrictions on taxpayer-funded research, but not privately funded work.

Aside from the cancellation of an HIV-related project at the University of California, San Francisco, university-led projects that are funded by the NIH — estimated to be fewer than 200 — aren't affected right away.

But as researchers seek to renew their funding or propose new studies, HHS said it will have to pass an extra layer of review, beyond today's strict scientific scrutiny. Each project will have a federal ethics board appointed to recommend whether NIH should grant the money.

HHS hasn't offered details but under the law authorizing the review process, that board must include not just biomedical experts but a theologian, and the nation's health secretary can overrule its advice.

"I predict over time we will see a slow and steady elimination of federal funding for research that uses fetal tissue, regardless of how necessary it is," said University of Wisconsin law professor Alta Charo, a nationally recognized bioethics expert.

Necessity is the crux of a fierce debate between abortion foes and scientists about whether there are alternatives to fetal tissue for research.

Zika offers a glimpse at the difficulty. Somehow, the Zika virus can sneak from the mother's bloodstream across the placenta, which protects and nourishes the fetus, and target the fetus' brain. It's something researchers hope to learn to block.

Studying the placentas of small animals or even monkeys isn't a substitute because they differ from the human organ, said Emory University researcher Mehul Suthar. For example, the specific type of placental cell where Zika can lurk in humans isn't thought to be present in mouse placentas.

And because the placenta continually changes as the fetus that created it grows, first-trimester tissue may show a very different vulnerability than a placenta that's expelled during full-term birth, when it's no longer defined as fetal tissue but as medical waste.

Suthar recently submitted a new grant application to study first- and second-trimester placental tissue, and is worried about its fate under the still uncertain ethics provision.

It "sounds a bit murky as to what the impact could be," he said. It could be small, "or it could be an outright ban on what we're doing."

Anti-abortion groups argue there are alternatives, such as stem cells, growing organ-like clumps of cells in lab dishes, or using tissue taken from newborns as they have heart surgery.

Indeed, NIH is funding a \$20 million program to research alternatives to fetal tissue and to prove whether they work as well.

"Taxpayer funding ought to go to promote alternatives that are already being used in the production of treatments, vaccines and medicines, and to expand approaches that do not depend on the destruction of unborn children," said Mallory Quigley of the Susan B. Anthony List, which works to elect anti-abortion candidates to public office.

But dozens of medical and science organizations have told HHS there is no substitute for fetal tissue in studying certain — not all — health disorders, such as HIV, Zika, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, spinal cord

injury, and a variety of eye diseases.

To Pittsburgh's Coyne, part of the political debate is a "completely unsubstantiated belief that not allowing research and science is going to prevent or stop abortions, which is not the case."

Medical research using fetal tissue won't stop but will move to other countries, said Charo, who advised the Obama administration. The United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore and China are among the countries using fetal tissue to seek breakthroughs.

"Other countries work with this in a regulated fashion and they will continue to outstrip us," she said. "We have allowed patients' interests to become collateral damage in the abortion wars."

Ritter reported from New York.

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Virginia man back in US after court questions deportation

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT** Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A northern Virginia man who says he fears torture at the hands of Israeli authorities is back in the U.S. after a judge's order forced immigration authorities to reverse his deportation and bring him back from Israel before he ever got off the plane.

Abdelhaleem Ashqar recently served 11 years in prison for refusing to testify to a grand jury investigating the Palestinian militant group Hamas. In 2005, he ran to succeed Yasser Arafat as president of the Palestinian National Authority, all while confined to his Alexandria home on house arrest as he awaited trial. He finished fourth in a field of seven.

According to court papers and interviews, U.S. authorities arrested Ashqar on Tuesday and quickly deported him on a chartered flight after misleading him about his need to report to an immigration office to process paperwork.

By Thursday, though, Ashqar, 60, was back in the U.S. He's now at a detention facility in Bowling Green, Virginia, as his case awaits an expedited ruling from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond.

The turnaround followed a late-night emergency hearing Tuesday in federal court in which the judge inquired about turning around the plane carrying Ashqar mid-flight.

Ultimately, though, the plane landed in Israel, where U.S. officials say they planned to make arrangements to turn him over to Palestinian authorities.

But deportations to Palestinian territory must be conducted through Israel, said Ashqar's immigration lawyer, Patrick Taurel. So Israel could either intercept and interrogate Ashqar before handing him over to the Palestinians, or the Palestinians might simply hand Ashqar over to the Israelis, Taurel said.

Ashqar, who was born in the West Bank and came to the U.S. in 1989 on a temporary visa to study at the University of Mississippi, has a credible fear of torture at the hands of Israel, Taurel said. Ashqar says he was imprisoned and beaten by Israeli interrogators in the 1980s after protesting the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

After the hearing, U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III issued a ruling in which he largely said he said he had no authority to intervene in the deportation. He did say, though, he was concerned that Immigration and Customs Enforcement was not carrying out the deportation properly. Ashqar's removal order specifies he be deported to Jordan, so Ellis barred immigration officials from turning Ashqar over to Israeli authorities in any way.

In doing so, he stated in a footnote that his ruling "must not be construed in any way as accepting as true petitioner's (Ashqar's) claim that he was tortured by Israeli officials in the past and that he has a bona fide fear that he will be tortured."

ICE officials issued a statement Saturday saying the bureau fully complied with Ellis' order. The state-

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ment said officers returned Ashqar to the U.S. Thursday because they were "prohibited from executing the removal if Ashqar was delivered to Israeli authorities."

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, which is defending the government's actions in court, declined comment Saturday.

Taurel said authorities can't deport Ashqar to Jordan because the Jordanians won't accept him. Indeed, Taurel said records in one of Ashqar's court proceedings show that then-Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen raised the issue directly to her Jordanian counterparts to no avail.

Taurel expressed frustration about the way in which the deportation was conducted. He said ICE agents will often conduct deportations unannounced when people make regular check-ins at immigration offices. But he said this is the first time that a client was deported after he had received explicit assurances that would not occur.

Ashqar's family said they accompanied him to the immigration office in Fairfax on Tuesday when he was deported. His wife, Asmaa, said agents assured her everything was fine even as they took him away in handcuffs. She said she waited four hours before an agent came out and told her her husband had been deported and was going to Israel.

"It's like a movie. It's unbelievable," she said.

After he finished serving his prison sentence, Ashqar spent another 18 months in immigration custody as officials looked for a way to deport him. He was finally released in December after his lawyers successfully petitioned to get him out. During the five months he was free, Asmaa said, "he didn't like to leave the house. He wanted to just stay home with us."

Ashqar's son, Ahmad Mohammed, likened his father's deportation to a kidnapping. He said the family was able to speak to him by phone after he was brought back to the U.S.

"He's hanging in there," he said. "He's thinking about us more than he's thinking about himself."

Hamas issued a statement Thursday condemning the deportation and holding the U.S. accountable for his treatment.

The statement said Ashqar "is a national icon who is known for his sense of nationalism and loyalty for his people. ... Indeed, all the Palestinian people are proud of him."

An email seeking comment from the Israeli Embassy in Washington was not immediately returned Saturday.

US-China trade war sparks worries about rare minerals

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Rising trade tensions between the U.S. and China have sparked worries about the 17 exotic-sounding rare earth minerals needed for high-tech products like robotics, drones and electric cars.

China recently raised tariffs to 25% on rare earth exports to the U.S. and has threatened to halt exports altogether after the Trump administration raised tariffs on Chinese products and blacklisted telecommunications giant Huawei.

With names like europium, scandium and ytterbium, the bulk of rare earth minerals are extracted from mines in China, where lower wages and lax environmental standards make production cheaper and easier.

But trade experts say no one should panic over China's threats to stop exporting the elements to the U.S.

There is a U.S. rare minerals mine in California. And Australia, Myanmar, Russia and India are also top producers of the somewhat obscure minerals. Vietnam and Brazil both have huge rare earth reserves.

"The sky is not falling," said Mary B. Teagarden, a China specialist, professor and associate dean at the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Phoenix. "There are alternatives."

Simon Lester, associate director of the center for trade policy studies at the Cato Institute think tank in Washington, agreed. "Over the short term, it could be a big disruption, but companies that want to stay in business will find a way," he said.

Although the U.S. is among the world's top 10 countries for rare earths production, it's also a major

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importer of the minerals, looking to China for 80% of what it buys from other countries, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. China last year produced some 120,000 metric tons of rare earths, while the United States produced 15,000 metric tons.

The United States also depends on China to separate the minerals pulled from Mountain Pass Mine, the sole rare earths mine in the U.S., which was bought two years ago by the Chicago-based JHL Capital Group LLC .

"We need to develop a U.S.-based supply chain so there is no possibility we can be threatened," said Ryan S. Corbett, managing director of JHL Capital.

The mine's top products are neodymium and praseodymium, or NdPr, two elements which are used together to make the lightweight magnets that help power electric cars and wind turbines and are found in electronics such as laptop hard drives.

Mountain Pass, located in San Bernardino County, California, was once top supplier of the world's rare earth minerals, but China began taking over the market in the 1990s and the U.S. mine stopped production in 2002.

Mountain Pass later restarted production only to close again amid a 2015 bankruptcy. Corbett said extraction resumed last year after JHL Capital purchased the site with QVT Financial LP of New York, which holds 30%, and Shenghe Resources Holding Co., Ltd. of China, a non-voting shareholder with 9.9%.

Since then, Mountain Pass has focused on achieving greater autonomy with a \$1.7 billion separation system set to go online late next year that would allow it skip sending rare earths ore to China for that step.

China could hurt itself in the long run by cutting off the U.S., specialists said.

David Merriman, a rare earths analyst for Roskill commodity research in London, said that during a similar trade flap with China in 2011, Japan began looking to other countries including Australia for the minerals needed to manufacture electronics.

Australian rare earths production giant Lynas Corp. Ltd. this month announced a proposed deal with Blue Line Corp. of Texas for a separation facility at an industrial site in Hondo, Texas.

There may be other options, too. Deposits of rare earths have been detected in other U.S. states including Wyoming and Alaska, as well in several remote areas of Canada. The Interior Department is calling for more prospecting and mining of "critical minerals," including on public lands currently considered off-limits, and even in oceans.

"We have to be more forward thinking," said Alexander Gysi, an assistant professor in geology and geological engineering at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden. "It would be better for the U.S. to have a greater range of sources for rare earths."

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US carrier in Persian Gulf region sends clear signal to Iran

By **ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer**

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (AP) — Under a starry sky, U.S. Navy fighter jets catapulted off the aircraft carrier's deck and flew north over the darkened waters of the northern Arabian Sea, a unmistakable signal to Iran that the foremost symbol of the American military's global reach is back in its neighborhood, perhaps to stay.

The USS Abraham Lincoln , with its contingent of Navy destroyers and cruisers and a fighting force of about 70 aircraft, is the centerpiece of the Pentagon's response to what it calls Iranian threats to attack U.S. forces or commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf region. In recent years, there has been no regular U.S. aircraft carrier presence in the Middle East.

U.S. officials have said that signs of heightened Iranian preparations to strike U.S. and other targets in the waters off Iran as well as in Iraq and Yemen in late April emerged shortly after the Trump administration announced it was clamping down further on Iran's economy by ending waivers to sanctions on

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buyers of Iranian crude oil.

The administration went a step beyond that on Friday, announcing penalties that target Iran's largest petrochemical company.

On Saturday the Lincoln was steaming in international waters east of Oman and about 200 miles from Iran's southern coastline. One month after its arrival in the region, the Lincoln has not entered the Persian Gulf, and it's not apparent that it will. The USS Gonzalez, a destroyer that is part of the Lincoln strike group, is operating in the Gulf.

Rear Adm. John F. G. Wade, commander of the Lincoln strike group, said Iran's naval forces have adhered to international standards of interaction with ships in his group.

"Since we've been operating in the region, we've had several interactions with Iranians," he said. "To this point all have been safe and professional — meaning, the Iranians have done nothing to impede our maneuverability or acted in a way which required us to take defensive measures."

The Lincoln's contingent of 44 Navy F-18 Super Hornets are flying a carefully calibrated set of missions off the carrier night and day, mainly to establish a visible U.S. "presence" that Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the head of Central Command, said Saturday seems to have caused Iran to "tinker with" its preparation for potential attacks.

He said on Friday that he thinks Iran had been planning some sort of attack on shipping or U.S. forces in Iraq. Two other officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details, said Iran was at a high state of readiness in early May with its ships, submarines, surface-to-air missiles and drone aircraft.

"It is my assessment that if we had not reinforced, it is entirely likely that an attack would have taken place by now," McKenzie said.

In an interview on the bridge, or command station, of the Lincoln with reporters who are traveling with him throughout the Gulf region, McKenzie said the carrier has made an important difference.

"We believe they are recalculating. They have to take this into account as they think about various actions that they might take. So we think this is having a very good stabilizing effect," he said.

"They are looking hard at the carrier because they know we are looking hard at them," McKenzie said.

He said earlier in the week that he had not ruled out requesting additional defensive forces to bolster the deterrence of Iran, whose economy is being squeezed hard by U.S. sanctions after President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. last year from the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers. The U.S. already has announced plans to send 900 additional troops to the Mideast and extend the stay of 600 more as tens of thousands of others also are on the ground across the region.

Iran's influential Revolutionary Guard has said it doesn't fear a possible war with the U.S. and asserted that America's military might has not grown in power in recent years. "The enemy is not more powerful than before," the Guard spokesman, Gen. Ramazan Sharif, said in late May.

The U.S. has accused Iran of being behind a string of recent incidents, including what officials allege was sabotage of oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

McKenzie spent two days aboard the Lincoln to confer with naval commanders, observe both daytime and nighttime flight operations, and to thank crew members. Their deployment plans were disrupted when the White House approved McKenzie's request in early May that the Lincoln cut short its time in the Mediterranean Sea and sail swiftly to the Arabian Sea.

"I am the reason you are here," the general said in an all-hands announcement to the nearly 6,000 personnel on the Lincoln Friday night shortly after he flew aboard by Navy helicopter from Oman.

"I requested this ship because of ongoing tensions with Iran," he said. "And nothing says you're interested in somebody like 90,000 tons of aircraft carrier and everything that comes with it. Our intent by bringing you here was to stabilize the situation and let Iran know that now is not the time to do something goofy."

McKenzie also requested, and received, four Air Force long-range B-52 bombers. They were in the region 51 hours after being summoned and were flying missions three days later. They are now operating from al-Udeid air base in Qatar. There had been no U.S. bomber presence in the Gulf region since late February.

In an interview Friday after speaking with B-52 pilots at al-Udeid, McKenzie said it's hard to know whether

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that gap in a bomber presence had emboldened the Iranians.

"Cumulatively, the fact that we had drawn down in (the Mideast) may have had an effect on Iranian behavior," he said. "We do know that bringing stuff back in seems to have had an effect on their behavior," noting that there have been no Iranian attacks on U.S. forces.

On Saturday aboard the Lincoln, McKenzie was asked whether there have been any incidents between Iranian and American naval force in recent weeks.

"No, actually I think things are pretty quiet right now," he said.

9 hospitalized when subway car derails in Boston

BOSTON (AP) — A subway car has derailed in Boston, sending nine people to the hospital.

Local emergency officials said none of the injuries are life-threatening.

Officials with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority said the accident occurred at about 11 a.m. Saturday when a Green Line subway car derailed inside a tunnel near Kenmore Square.

A 10th individual was reported injured but declined treatment. Among the injured was the train's operator. About 50 firefighters responded to the scene.

Emergency workers said they were told by witnesses that everything went dark and they were thrown around the car.

The cause is under investigation.

The derailment caused major delays on the public transit system.

The accident came as Boston was gearing up for its annual Pride Parade and a Red Sox game at Fenway Park.

It's a Barty party: Australian wins 1st major at French Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Ash Barty knew she needed a break from tennis, from the pressure and expectations, from the week-in, week-out grind. So she stepped away in 2014 and wound up trying her hand at cricket, joining a professional team at home in Australia.

After almost two years away, Barty was pulled back to the tour. Good choice. Now she's a Grand Slam champion.

Taking control right from the start of the French Open final and never really letting go, the No. 8-seeded Barty capped a quick-as-can-be rise in her return to the sport by beating unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-3 Saturday for her first major championship.

"I never closed any doors, saying, 'I'm never playing tennis again.' For me, I needed time to step away, to live a normal life because this tennis life certainly isn't normal. I think I needed time to grow as a person, to mature," Barty said.

And as for why she came back three years ago?

"I missed the competition. I missed the 1-on-1 battle, the ebbs and the flows, the emotions you get from winning and losing matches," said Barty, who will jump to a career-best No. 2 in the rankings Monday behind Naomi Osaka. "They are so unique and you can only get them when you're playing and when you put yourself out on the line and when you become vulnerable and try and do things that no one thinks of."

That last part is an apt description of how she approaches each point, looking for just the right angle or speed, understanding where an opponent might be most vulnerable at any given moment. After using her slice backhand, topspin forehand and kick serve to do just that to Vondrousova, she called it a "kind of 'Ash Barty brand' of tennis."

Vondrousova's take?

"She's mixing things up. And she has a huge serve," Vondrousova said. "So it's all, like, very tough to

play against.”

Barty raced to a 4-0 lead and then held on, showing that she learned her lesson after blowing a 5-0 edge in the opening set of her quarterfinal victory a day earlier against another unseeded teenager, 17-year-old American Amanda Anisimova.

“An absolute roller-coaster,” Barty called it.

Her coach, Craig Tyzzer, said the two of them huddled with Ben Crowe, who helps Barty with the mental side of things, and they had a “really good discussion about it” to make sure she’d avoid that sort of trouble in the final.

Neither Barty, 23, nor Vondrousova had ever played in a Grand Slam final before. Neither had even been in a major semifinal until this week, either. But it was only Vondrousova who seemed jittery at the outset; she was playing at Court Philippe Chatrier for the first time.

Barty wound up with a 27-10 edge in winners to become the first Australian to win the trophy at Roland Garros since Margaret Court in 1973.

“I played the perfect match today,” Barty said.

Pretty close to it, particularly at the beginning. By the end, Barty compiled a 27-10 edge in winners.

It took all of 70 minutes to wrap things up.

“She gave me a lesson today,” said Vondrousova, who is ranked 38th. “I didn’t really feel good today, because she didn’t let me play my game.”

The women’s final started about 1½ hours later than scheduled because it followed the resumption of Dominic Thiem’s 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, 5-7, 7-5 victory over Novak Djokovic in the men’s semifinals, a match suspended Friday evening because of rain.

Thiem will face 11-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal on Sunday in a rematch of last year’s final.

In a women’s draw filled with surprises, Barty faced only one seeded player, No. 14 Madison Keys of the U.S., along with the women who eliminated Serena Williams and defending champion Simona Halep.

After the U.S. Open five years ago, Barty left competitive tennis. She had been a successful junior, winning the 2011 Wimbledon girls’ title, and played in three doubles finals by then, too.

But she needed to get away and reconsider how to approach her job and all that came with it.

Look where she is now.

“If she didn’t take a break, I’m not sure she’d still be playing. So I think the time away was the best thing for her,” Tyzzer said. “She got her head around that this is what she missed and this is what she wanted to do.”

AP Sports Writer Andrew Dampf contributed to this report.

More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

D-Day veterans choke back tears to ensure memories live on

By **DANICA KIRKA** Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, England (AP) — I make old soldiers cry.

Old sailors, too. And airmen. Even Marines. Makes no difference.

That sounds cruel, I know. There’s comfort knowing the men in their 90s and older saw their tears as part of a duty they took on in their 20s and younger.

I’ve spent the past few months interviewing veterans about D-Day and the Allied invasion of Normandy that ultimately liberated France. This was a turning point in World War II. As one veteran put it, “Europe would be one big Auschwitz otherwise.”

But winning doesn’t make war easy. And these veterans have been walking around for 75 years after seeing and living things that many of us can’t bear to watch in movies like “Saving Private Ryan.”

These former servicemen had wildly different D-Days. Some had a tougher time than others. But the

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more interviews I put in my notebook the more I realized they shared one abiding characteristic: a sense of duty.

They use walkers and wheelchairs and canes now, these men who once carried guns and drove tanks into battle. They don't see as well as they once did, and they sometimes struggled to hear my questions. But no matter what, they all felt a responsibility to tell their stories so that those who died were not forgotten and that those who weren't there could understand the horrors of war.

I was by no means alone. Dozens of journalists were chasing the same people as the wartime Allies prepared to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the landings this week. That made it more challenging for them. It's hard enough to tell your story once; excruciating to tell the same painful stories again and again and again. But it didn't stop them.

During one interview, a well-meaning press officer from the Ministry of Defense tried to cut short a conversation with 94-year-old Ted Emmings — a Royal Navy coxswain who ferried Canadians to Juno Beach — because a cab had arrived to take him home. Emmings refused to go. The car could wait. He wasn't finished, and he wasn't going anywhere until he had.

No matter what one might think of war, it's impossible to hear someone like Emmings talk about seeing his friends die "more or less in front of you" and not feel deep respect for a man who, 75 years later, refuses to let his friends down. Not remembering their sacrifice? Now that would be unthinkable.

There are no rose-tinted glasses that make it all go away for these veterans. Nor is it an ego trip. When you are 95 or so, you have different concerns. Most of them told me they feel uncomfortable wearing their medals and berets in France because wherever they go the French want to shake their hands and hug them in gratitude. These men aren't looking for gratitude, they just want to make sure their memories don't die with them.

Jack Woods is one of these people. He's 95, once a member of the 9th Royal Tank Regiment — a Tankie in his parlance. Woods recalled getting to France with no battle experience whatever after training in England. Then all of a sudden it got nasty as they pushed forward in Churchill tanks. Those ahead of him didn't fare well, and he could see them up ahead.

"You could see tanks burning on the skyline. They burned for more than two days. They were going off like fireworks as the ammunition in them was blowing."

"Those tanks I see burning on the skyline?" he said through tears. "I see them burning all the time."

Fred Lee wasn't going to let his hearing difficulties get in the way of telling his story. He struggled to hear me, but once he got the drift of what I wanted to know, he just started talking. I couldn't even interrupt. He joined the Navy when he was just 17, and was on the command ship HMS Nith on D-Day.

"All I can say is, it was hell," he said. "There were dead bodies all over the seas. We wondered why we were doing this."

But Lee's most searing memory was from a few weeks later, when he was ordered to trade places with another man on a watch, switching to the port side rather than his usual starboard post.

A German guided bomb hit the starboard side of the ship that day, killing nine people. That's not something that ever leaves you. And it isn't something you share in your first conversation with someone unless you really want them to know.

And then there was Mervyn Kersh of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, a spritely fellow with bright eyes who seems far younger than his 94 years. Kersh experienced anti-Semitism in the British military even before he crossed the channel to fight the Nazis. But he refused to remove his religion from his dog tags — even though some Jewish soldiers did so to protect themselves in case they were captured.

That sort of thing was not for Kersh, who wasn't about to give in to the Nazis.

Kersh said there is a lesson, even now, from WWII that we seem to be missing.

"Don't allow bullies to grow strong ... because then they turn against anyone they want to," he said, "Don't wait to see if they carry out their words — if they are bluffing."

Donald Hitchcock never really told me why he was crying.

Hitchcock, a 94-year-old Royal Navy veteran, was desperate to get to Omaha Beach to honor the Ameri-

cans he fought with after finding himself stuck on a tour that was only going to the beaches where British troops led the way.

When I asked what he wanted to do when he got there, a big fat tear rolled down his cheek. He looked down, shuffled his papers and changed the subject. Some things are just too painful, even now.

These stories made me wonder about heroism and heroes, and how these guys — men who tell you they are just ordinary people — were able to keep moving forward even though other men were shooting at them. How do you do that? How do you even put one foot in front of the other? How do you deal with the fear?

Most said they didn't have time to be scared. What scares them now — what makes them cry — is the thought that those who died may be forgotten, that they would have died in vain.

So perhaps it was cruel. But I came to think of the tears as necessary.

Otherwise how would they tell their stories? How would we know what to remember?

Follow all the AP's coverage of D-Day at <https://apnews.com/WorldWarII>

Trade disruptions, taxing tech companies are talk of G-20

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — How to reorder the global financial system in an era of trade stand-offs and technological change held the attention of financial officials from the Group of 20 major economies on Saturday.

The central bank governors and other financial regulators meeting in this southern Japanese port city flagged risks from upsets to the global economy as Beijing and Washington clash over trade and technology.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said "no" when asked if other financial leaders attending the meetings in Fukuoka were raising concerns over the impact on global markets and trade from President Donald Trump's crusade against huge, chronic U.S. trade deficits, especially with China.

But Mnuchin acknowledged that growth has been slowing in Europe, China and other regions.

"I'm hearing concerns if we continue on this path there could be issues. There will be winners and losers," he said.

Trump and members of his administration contend that the ripple effects of the billions of dollars in tariffs imposed by Washington on Chinese exports over the past year are creating new business opportunities for other businesses in the U.S. and other countries.

The G-20 officials were expected to express their support for adjusting monetary policy, for example by making borrowing cheaper through interest rate cuts, in a communique to be issued as meetings wrap up on Sunday.

Their official agenda on Saturday was focused on longer-term, more technical issues such as improving standards for corporate governance, policing cyber-currencies and reforming tax systems to ensure they are fair for both traditional and new, online-based industries.

Ensuring that governments capture a fair share of profits from the massive growth of businesses like Google and Amazon has grown in importance over the many years the G-20 finance chiefs have been debating the reforms aimed at preventing tax evasion and modernizing policies to match a financial landscape transformed by technology.

One aim is to prevent a "race to the bottom" by countries trying to lure companies by offering unsustainably and unfairly low tax rates as an incentive.

Mnuchin said he disagreed with details of some of the proposals but not with the need for action.

"Everyone, we are now facing a turning point," Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso told the group. "This could be the biggest reform of the long established international framework in over 100 years."

Some European members of the G-20, especially, want to see minimum corporate tax rates for big

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multinationals. France and Britain have already enacted stop-gap tax systems for digital businesses, but they are not adequate, said French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire.

"For the time being there is no fair taxation of this new economic model," Le Maire said, adding that the hope is to have an agreement by the year's end.

The issue is not confined to the wealthiest nations. Indonesia, a developing country of 260 million with more than 100 million internet users, is also struggling to keep up.

"The growth has been exponential but we cannot capture this growth in our GDP as well as in our tax revenue," said Indonesian Finance Minister Mulyani Indrawati.

Mobile banking, big data, artificial intelligence and cloud computing are among many technologies that are expanding access to financial services for many people who in the past might not have even used banks.

But such innovations raise questions about protecting privacy and cybersecurity, Aso said.

"We need to stay vigilant against risks or challenges," Aso said.

Japan, the world's third-largest economy, is hosting the G-20 for the first time since it was founded in 1999. The venue for the annual financial meeting, Fukuoka, is a thriving regional hub and base for startups.

The G-20 group includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 9, the 160th day of 2019. There are 205 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 9, 1954, during the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings, Army special counsel Joseph N. Welch berated Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., asking: "Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

On this date:

In A.D. 68, Roman Emperor Nero committed suicide, ending a 13-year reign.

In 1588, construction began on the present-day Rialto Bridge in Venice, Italy, with the laying of the first stone; the structure was completed in 1591.

In 1732, James Oglethorpe received a charter from Britain's King George II to found the colony of Georgia.

In 1940, during World War II, Norway decided to surrender to the Nazis, effective at midnight.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Current Tax Payment Act of 1943, which reintroduced federal income tax withholding from paychecks.

In 1953, 94 people died when a tornado struck Worcester (WU'-stur), Massachusetts.

In 1969, the Senate confirmed Warren Burger to be the new chief justice of the United States, succeeding Earl Warren.

In 1972, heavy rains triggered record flooding in the Black Hills of South Dakota; the resulting disaster left at least 238 people dead and \$164 million in damage.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner in 25 years.

In 1978, leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints struck down a 148-year-old policy of excluding black men from the Mormon priesthood.

In 1986, the Rogers Commission released its report on the Challenger disaster, criticizing NASA and rocket-builder Morton Thiokol for management problems leading to the explosion that claimed the lives of seven astronauts.

In 2004, the body of Ronald Reagan arrived in Washington to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda before the 40th president's funeral. The FCC agreed to a record \$1.75 million settlement with Clear Chan-

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nel to resolve indecency complaints against Howard Stern and other radio personalities.

Ten years ago: Under heavy guard, a Guantanamo Bay detainee walked into a civilian U.S. courtroom for the first time; Ahmed Ghailani, a Tanzanian accused in two American Embassy bombings in 1998, pleaded not guilty before the judge in New York. (Ghailani was convicted in 2010 of a single count of conspiring to destroy government buildings and acquitted of 280 charges that he'd taken part in the bombings; he is serving life at the United States Penitentiary in Florence, Colorado.) A bankruptcy judge approved Chrysler's plan to terminate 789 of its dealer franchises, the same day the Supreme Court cleared the way for Chrysler LLC's sale to Fiat.

Five years ago: In a wide-ranging review, the Veterans Affairs Department said more than 57,000 U.S. military veterans had been waiting 90 days or more for their first VA medical appointments, and an additional 64,000 appeared to have fallen through the cracks, never getting appointments after enrolling and requesting them. Five American special operations troops were killed by a U.S. airstrike called in to help them after they were ambushed by the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

One year ago: After leaving the annual G-7 summit in Canada, President Donald Trump pulled out of a joint statement with other summit leaders, citing what he called "false statements" by the host, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Trudeau warned that he wouldn't hesitate to retaliate against new U.S. tariffs. Justify, ridden by Mike Smith and trained by Bob Baffert, won the Belmont Stakes to become horse racing's 13th Triple Crown winner and the second in the past four years. Simona Halep won her first Grand Slam trophy, beating Sloane Stephens in the women's final at the French Open.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Jackie Mason is 91. Media analyst Marvin Kalb is 89. Former baseball manager and player Bill Virdon is 88. Sports commentator Dick Vitale is 80. Author Letty Cottin Pogrebin is 80. Rock musician Mick Box (Uriah Heep) is 72. Retired MLB All-Star Dave Parker is 68. Film composer James Newton Howard is 68. Mystery author Patricia Cornwell is 63. Actor Michael J. Fox is 58. Writer-producer Aaron Sorkin is 58. Actor Johnny Depp is 56. Actress Gloria Reuben is 55. Gospel singer-actress Tamela Mann is 53. Rock musician Dean Felber (Hootie & the Blowfish) is 52. Rock musician Dean Dinning is 52. Musician Ed Simons is 49. Actress Keesha Sharp is 46. Country musician Shade Deggs (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 45. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Dailey (Dailey & Vincent) is 44. Actress Michaela Conlin is 41. Actress Natalie Portman is 38. Actress Mae Whitman is 31. Actor Lucien Laviscount is 27.

Thought for Today: "It's innocence when it charms us, ignorance when it doesn't." — Mignon McLaughlin, American journalist (1913-1983).

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