

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 1 of 40

Groton Administration, Staff and members of the Groton Community:

I write today to express my sincere apology for my actions in Hamlin. I in no way feel my actions were right, nor will I make an excuse for them. I will give you an explanation as to why. I commit a lot of time, effort and emotion into coaching because I am very passionate about the sport of basketball and even more passionate about the young men, I have the pleasure of spending 2-3 hours every day with in the gym. With that compassion comes a lot of emotion, which for those of you who know me, I wear on my sleeve. In this isolated incident, at the time I felt someone was wronging the boys whom I felt were working very hard to keep themselves into a hard-fought game. My actions were simply a defense mechanism showing compassion and emotion for the group of boys I am proud to be the Coach of. Now, this doesn't make it right, nor do I condone any of the actions that the boys expressed. What I can promise you is that each one of us learned something very important from our actions Friday night, and that we will not allow our emotions to get the best of us moving forward. Our goal is to be a respected, hard working team, which I strongly feel we are. In closing I want to just say the words 'I am sorry' for the actions by myself and our players in Hamlin. I am sorry to the Groton Administration and the Groton Community. We are proud to wear GROTON on our chests and it will be my sole purpose to make sure that we live by our words!

#TigerProud

Sincerely,

Coach Justin Hanson

Groton Boys Basketball

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

- 2- Skating Rink opens today
- 2- Groton Area Schedule of Events
- 2- GROW SD Supporting Homeless Count January 22, 2019
- 2- Help Wanted Ads
- 3- Wolves starting five lights up Winona State on the road
- 4- Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
- 5- Doeden has double-double against Warbirds
- 5- Viborg-Hurley overcomes Groton Area in second half for win
- 6- Noem 2019 Inaugural Address
- 9-11- Weather Pages
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13- SD Community Events Calendar
- 14- News from the Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 2 of 40

Skating Rink Hours

Open Monday - Thursday: 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Sunday, January 6, 2019

2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym at GHS Arena (Grades JK-8 2pm - 4pm; Grades 6-12 4pm - 6pm)

Monday, January 7, 2019

5:15pm: Boys Basketball at Webster Area High School (C game at 5:15 p.m. followed by JV and Varsity games)

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys JH Tournament vs. TBA @ Groton Area High School

7:00pm: City Council meeting at Groton Community Center

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

6:30pm: Girls Basketball vs. Waubay-Summit at Waubay.

Thursday, January 10, 2019

6:00pm: Girls Basketball at Sisseton

Friday, January 11, 2019

Debate Silver Bowl at Sioux Falls

5:15pm: Boys Basketball hosts Sisseton. (C game at 5:15 p.m. followed by junior varsity and varsity)

Saturday, January 12, 2019

Debate Silver Bowl at Sioux Falls

9:00am MT: Varsity Wrestling Tournament at Philip

10:00am: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Jamboree vs. Leola-Frederick, Northwestern @ Groton Area School

1:00pm: Basketball: Boys Varsity Classic vs. Little Wound @ Redfield Jr-Sr High School

Homecare Services Caregivers

Flexible, part time positions available in the Groton area. Home Care Services is looking for friendly dependable people to provide care and companionship for elderly and disabled people in their homes. You will be assisting our clients with personal care needs, meal preparations, light housekeeping, errands and other tasks. If you have a passion for helping others and need a flexible schedule, please call our office at (605) 225-1076 or 1-800-899-2578. (1218.0101)

Front Porch Manager Wanted

Immediate opening for Restaurant General Manager at The Front Porch Bar & Grill in Langford SD. Hiring bonus available! Salary DOE. Must be 21 years old. Contact Suzie Easthouse at (605) 493-6570 or email resume by to langfordfrontporch@venture-comm.net. (1227.0111)

Wolves starting five lights up Winona State on the road

Winona, Minn. – The Northern State University men's basketball team rolled to their second straight victory over a South Division opponent on Saturday evening, defeating Winona State 79-68. Northern improves to 11-3 overall and 7-1 in the NSIC following the weekend sweep.

Northern led for over 75.0 percent of the contest, notching 45 points in the first and another 34 in the second. The Wolves out-shot and out-rebounded the Warriors in the win, adding 19 assists, 10 made 3-pointers, two blocks, and one steal. They tallied 31 rebounds to Winona's 27 and shot 58.0 percent from the floor, 47.6 percent from the arc, and 91.7 percent from the free throw line.

Defensively the Wolves held the Warriors to 35.7 percent from the floor and 33.3 percent from the 3-point line. As a team, they recorded 34 points in the paint, 19 points off the bench, four points off turnovers, and two points from their only offensive board of the game.

Bo Fries led the team and matched his career high of 18 points. The senior added a team high eight rebounds, and shot 71.4 percent from the floor and 60.0 percent from the 3-point line, with three made from beyond the arc.

Ian Smith and Andrew Kallman each tallied a team second best 11 points. Smith led the team with five assists, and added four rebounds. Kallman notched two rebounds and one assist of his own. Gabe King and Justin Decker rounded out the starting five, who were all in double figures, with ten points each. King dished out four assists of his own, and knocked down two long range buckets.

Parker Fox led the Wolves off the bench with eight points and a team second best seven rebounds. The redshirt freshman was one of four Wolves to shoot 66.7 percent from the floor, and added two assists. Jordan Belka and Mason Stark were the final point scorers in the win with six and five apiece.

The Wolves return home next Friday and Saturday, resuming North Division play with Minnesota Crookston and Bemidji State. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. on Friday versus the Golden Eagles and 6 p.m. on Saturday against the Beavers.

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

January 7, 2019 – 7:00pm

Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. Employee salaries and volunteer list
4. Department reports
5. Clark Engineering – Request for authorization to advertise for bids
6. Reappoint Planning and Zoning member term through 2024
Gordon Nelson
7. 2019 Municipal Government Day at the Legislature – February 6
8. Annual Report Workshop – January 9 in Fort Pierre
9. 2019 Municipal Government Day at the Legislature – February 5, 2019
10. First Reading of Ordinance #724 – City Council Meeting Dates
11. Election Date April 9, 2019
 - 3-Year Term Ending:
Scott Hanlon - Mayor
 - 2-Year Terms Ending:
Peterson – Ward 1
Wells – Ward 2
Babcock – Ward 3
 - 1-Year Term Ending:
McGannon – Ward 2
12. Donation to the American Legion for the Spring Fundraiser – March 17th
13. February meeting dates
14. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
15. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
16. Adjournment

Doeden has double-double against Warbirds

Jennie Doeden had a double-double on Saturday as the Lady Tigers rolled to a 50-44 win over Wolsey-Wessington. The game was part of a series of games played Saturday at the Redfield Holiday Classic. Doeden had 15 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Tigers.

Groton Area jumped out to a 7-0 lead and scored the last eight points of the first quarter to lead it, 17-6, at the break. Groton Area had a seven-point run in the second quarter to take a 29-18 lead at half time. The Tigers led, 38-31, after the third quarter. The Warbirds closed to within four points, 44-40, late in the game, but the Tigers stopped the rally and went on for the win.

Jennie Doeden led the Tigers with 15 points followed by Eliza Wanner with 11 points, Payton Maine had eight, Miranda Hanson and Allyssa Locke each had five points, Kaycie Hawkins had four and Gracie Traphagen added two points.

Raquel Nelson led the Warbirds with nine points followed by Lizzi Brandt with eight, Cortney Sprecher and Brynn Haider each had six points, Changel Haider five and Ally Boomsma added four points. The Tigers were eight of 12 from the line off of Wolsey-Wessington's 16 team fouls while the Warbirds were five of 14 from the line off of Groton Area's 15 team fouls. Both teams had 17 turnovers. Groton Area made 15 of 31 field goals and four of 10 three-pointers. Groton Area had the edge in rebounds, 28-26.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center. It is archived for GDI subscribers at 397news.com.

Viborg-Hurley overcomes Groton Area in second half for win

Three players hit double figures on Saturday in Groton Area's 61-48 loss to Viborg-Hurley. The game was part of the series of games played Saturday at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls.

Groton Area held a 20-17 lead after the first quarter and led by as many as eight points with 4:45 left in the first half. Viborg-Hurley rallied to tie the game at half time at 31. Viborg-Hurley outscored Groton Area, 15-9 in the third quarter and 15-8 in the fourth quarter to win the game. The game was tied three times and the lead changed hands six times.

Jonathan Doeden, Kaden Kurtz and Treyton Diegel each had 14 points to lead the Tigers while Brodyn DeHoet, Tristan Traphagen and Austin Jones each added two points.

Brodee Sherman led Viborg-Hurley with 26 points and 10 rebounds. He was followed by Gradee Sherman with 15 points, Grant Mikkelson 12 and Kaden Gerdes and Shane Anderson with four apiece.

Groton Area had fewer rebounds, 27-24, with DeHoet having eight for Groton Area and fewer assists, 18-8, with Doeden having three. Groton Area had 18 turnovers with 10 of them being steals. Viborg-Hurley had 14 turnovers with 11 of them being steals as Jones and DeHoet each had three steals.

The Tigers made 39 percent of their field goals while Viborg-Hurley made 43 percent. The Tigers made five of 12 three-pointers in the first half and missed seven three-pointers in the second half. Viborg-Hurley missed 10 three-pointers in the first half and was two of 10 in the second half. Groton Area was seven of 13 from the line for 54 percent off of Viborg-Hurley's 15 team fouls. Viborg-Hurley was 13 of 25 from the line off of Groton Area's 20 team fouls with Doeden fouling out.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 6 of 40

Noem 2019 Inaugural Address

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem gave the following address today after taking the Oath of Office yesterday.

Mr. Chief Justice, honorable members of the Supreme Court, Lt. Governor Rhoden, legislators, constitutional officers, family, friends, and fellow South Dakotans:

I am deeply honored to stand here in this beautiful rotunda surrounded by all of you as we participate in this peaceful passing of responsibility from one Governor to the next.

The oath that I just took is a promise and a commitment to everyone in this state. I promise to govern in a manner that will benefit all South Dakotans. From Rapid City to Sioux Falls. From Buffalo to North Sioux City. From Pine Ridge to Sisseton. My door will always be open to listen. I believe I have a good sense of where we need to go as a state but that doesn't mean I won't keep the dialogue open. I've always believed it takes courage to stand up and speak, but it also takes courage to sit down and listen.

It is a great privilege and a solemn honor to serve as this state's chief executive. It is one that do not take lightly because I believe that, as the Old Testament book of Daniel states, it is our God in heaven that puts leaders into place and it is He that removes them. As an elected leader, one of the most encouraging things that a citizen can do is to come up and say, "I'm praying for you." Each and every time, I am encouraged and strengthened by those comments. So from this podium, on my first day in this high office, I ask for your prayers. Keep praying.

Many people have asked me what I want to be remembered for as Governor. Now that's a tough question to grasp and to consider. In some ways it's a distraction. Like any good farmer or rancher, I get up most mornings before the sun comes up, put one foot in front of the other and get to the day's work – whether it's feeding horses or negotiating a piece of legislation.

But, as the saying goes, a good way to live is for one to consider what they want said at their own funeral and work backward from there. In the same way, the question about how a governor wants to be remembered can serve as a tool to sharpen our focus.

To that end, when this is all over, I want to be a governor for the next generation.

For the next generation. For our kids, teenagers and young adults. That is what motivates so many of us, across many walks of life – to work that extra shift, to stay up late putting together that bicycle or forgo a new car so we can help pay for their school. Nothing makes my day like spending time with kids. Nothing motivates me more in public service than solving problems for our next generation.

Now whether it's tackling the meth crisis that is hurting so many families and children, strengthening our schools and revitalizing civics in the classroom, keeping taxes and regulation low, or creating more habitat for wildlife so that our hunting traditions can be passed on – the north star that I want to follow with each decision I make as governor is the impact on the next generation. How does this policy, this legislation, this program, impact the next generation of South Dakotans?

Our state is in tremendous shape in many ways. We have had the blessing and good fortune of strong leadership at the executive and legislative level in many ways for many years. There are policies in place, including our low taxes, low regulation and open-for-business approach that have served our state well. We have Governor Dennis Daugaard and many leaders in the state legislature to thank for this. Thank you, Dennis. Thank you, legislators.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 7 of 40

But that isn't to say there aren't areas where we can improve. In poll after poll, we see data showing that many Americans believe that our greatest days are not ahead of us. That the next generation won't have the same opportunities that we had. That might be the national sentiment, but I won't let that become the reality in South Dakota. Not on my watch. We are going to create opportunities for the next generation that help guarantee our best days are still before us as a state.

That is why I am surrounding myself with a team that has a mix of leadership experience. They have previous government experience at all levels, public and private sector experience and military experience. I want to bring the best and the brightest together to help us preserve the core of what makes South Dakota great, while innovating on policy solutions for the next generation. As I look at the team I am assembling for staff and cabinet, I see faces that know state government. I also see faces that know how other institutions and companies are achieving success and we'll bring that to bear on state government.

There's one person on our team that I want to call out specifically. Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhoden. Thank you for agreeing to serve with me, Larry. If you don't know Larry, he has a strategic mind when it comes to how the legislature works. He understands how to get things done here in Pierre. He also has a lifetime of experiences on the ranch and in public service that will be extremely helpful as we make decisions. I look forward working with him.

I cannot let this day go by without also commenting on the historic nature of it. As you may know, this last November 5th was the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in South Dakota. So 100 years and 1 day after this great state extended women the right to vote, they elected the first woman as governor. I am proud of how far we have come.

As you know, I offered up my experience and my vision to the people of South Dakota to earn their vote. I did not campaign on gender. It wasn't an issue, either way, in my mind. I was raised in a household where there weren't any boy chores or girl chores. This sentiment is nothing new though.

On May 29, 1851, a slave woman from New York, who changed her name to Sojourner Truth, gave a speech at a conference on women's rights. She responded with passion to the argument that women were too weak to be given the right to vote. She gave examples of strength in adversity from her own life. She said that she ploughed and planted and gathered as much as any man. She also said she could eat as much as any man. Weakness wasn't a good enough argument to keep women from voting in her mind. Sojourner Truth was ahead of her time. But we caught up eventually. And soon we will be celebrating 100 years since the right to vote was extended to women.

It is a distinct honor to serve as our state's first woman governor, first and foremost because of the message it sends to our state's girls and young women, but really boys and young men as well. So all of you boys and girls out there watching, remember, anything is possible if you set your mind to it. Find role models, find mentors and go for it.

In closing, I would like to thank a few special people. First, I would like to thank Governors Farrar, Rounds and Daugaard for being here today. I am thankful for the strong foundation you have laid in this role. I would also like to recognize Don Ackerman. He is a Vietnam veteran with a very special place in my heart. We have stood together in policy fights and I am thankful for his friendship. Don, would you stand and be recognized? Will all our military men and women, retired and currently serving stand? Let's thank them for their service.

As many of you know my role model early in life was always my dad. I wanted to farm and ranch with

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 8 of 40

him as many of you know. But that dream was cut short. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about him, the accident, the life he lived and the example he gave to us kids. The older I get, the more pain and suffering I see around me. The question isn't if we will endure hardships, it's when. And how we respond. How we get up off the floor and find our way forward. I wish my dad could be here today to see this. I can't imagine what he might say about having his daughter as governor. But God had other plans. I know that loss shaped me and my family. The fire refined us.

My mom and my siblings and their families are here. And many other extended family members as well. We're kind of a big group. Growing up with all of you made me into the person I am today. Hard work, prioritizing family and community and faith, keeping your head down and staying humble. These are the lessons I learned from my family. For that I am thankful. And now you all have stepped up to help me with my kids and my chores and my duties at home, when I've been away. Thank you.

My three children, Cassidy, Kennedy and Booker have had many unique experiences because of the path of public service we've chosen but they have also had to endure more than any mom would want. Thank you for persevering and for your help along the way. Thank you for your good attitudes and your ability to always put a smile on my face. Being a mom might be the title that has the most impact on how we govern during the next four years; how we improve this state for the next generation.

And of course, my husband Bryon. When he married me, he thought he was marrying a farmer and rancher. He has been the solid rock of our family. Our foundation. He has stepped up when I've been on the road and been there to listen, at any hour. He is going to make an amazing first First Gentleman. You can count on that.

I want to thank each and every one of you here today and for those listening in at home. Thank you for your interest in our state. Thank you for investing in our future with your time and your talents and your concern. Please, stay engaged. Stay connected. It is my goal to be the most connected Governor our state has ever had. I want to hear from you early and often. Together, we can build upon our state's solid foundation with innovative new policies that will help make South Dakota into an example for the nation. For today. And for the next generation.

Thank you. May God bless you all. And May God bless the great State of South Dakota.

###

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 9 of 40

Today in Weather History

January 6, 1962: Snow, high winds, and sub-zero temperatures along with near blizzard conditions caused hazardous driving conditions across the area from the 6th into the 9th. Snowfall of generally 2 to 6 inches with winds of 30 to 40 mph caused widespread low visibilities along with drifts up to 4 foot high across central and northeast South Dakota.

January 6, 2010: A strong Alberta Clipper system tracked southeast through the northern plains on Tuesday night, January 5th through Thursday, January 7th. Sufficient Pacific moisture interacted with bitter cold Arctic air surging south from Canada resulting in widespread heavy snowfall over much of northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts ranged from 6 to 11 inches. The snow began across northeastern South Dakota in the late evening of the 5th into the early morning hours of the 6th. Many schools closed on the 6th and the 7th. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches in Andover and Doland; 7 inches in Britton, Sisseton, and near Milbank; 8 inches in Aberdeen, Bryant, and near Summit; 9 inches at Wilmot and Castlewood; 10 inches in Clear Lake and 11 inches at Watertown.

January 6, 2014: The coldest air in recent history moved into the region during the early morning hours of the 5th and continued into the afternoon hours of the 6th. The combination of sub-zero temperatures with north winds produced dangerously cold wind chills from 40 below to around 55 degrees below zero. Winds gusted to over 40 mph at times. Several area activities were canceled, as well as many schools on Monday the 6th. Some of the coldest wind chills include; 56 below in Summit; 55 below near Hillhead; 54 below in Brandt and Webster; 53 below in Clear Lake; 52 below in Herreid; 51 below in Leola; 50 below in Watertown, Sisseton, Bowdle, and McIntosh.

1886: The "Great Blizzard of 1886" struck the Midwest with high winds, subzero temperatures, and heavy snowfall. These conditions caused as many as 100 deaths and 80% of the cattle in the state of Kansas.

1996: A more recent Great Blizzard was a severe nor'easter that paralyzed the East Coast on January 6 to the 8th. In Washington D.C., this storm is also known as the "Great Furlough Storm" because it occurred during the 1996 federal government shutdown. Snowfall amounts from this event includes: 47 inches in Big Meadows, Virginia; 30.7" in Philadelphia; 27.8" in Newark; 24.6" at the Dulles International Airport; 24.2" in Trenton; 24" in Providence; 22.5" in Baltimore; 18.2" in Boston; 17.1" in D.C.; and 9.6" in Pittsburgh.

1880 - Seattle, WA, was in the midst of their worst snowstorm of record. Hundreds of barns were destroyed, and transportation was brought to a standstill, as the storm left the city buried under four feet of snow. (David Ludlum)

1884 - The temperature dipped to one degree below zero at Atlanta, GA. It marked the final day of a severe arctic outbreak in the South and Midwest. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm moving across the western U.S. spread heavy snow into the Central Rockies. Casper WY received 14 inches of snow in 24 hours, a January record for that location. Big Piney WY reported 17 inches of snow. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






1988 - It was a bad day for chickens. Heavy snow in Arkansas, with totals ranging up to 16 inches at Heber Springs, claimed the lives of 3.5 million chickens, and snow and ice up to three inches thick claimed the lives of another 1.75 million chickens in north central Texas. Up to 18 inches of snow blanketed Oklahoma, with Oklahoma City reporting a record 12 inches of snow in 24 hours. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A "bonafide blizzard" ripped through south central and southeastern Idaho. Strong winds, gusting to 60 mph at the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, whipped the snow into drifts five feet high, and produced wind chill readings as cold as 35 degrees below zero. The blizzard prompted an Idaho Falls air controller to remark that "the snow is blowing so hard you can't see the fog".(National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Rain and gale force winds prevailed along the Northern Pacific Coast. Winds at Astoria OR gusted to 65 mph. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed over Florida. Five cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Miami with a reading of 86 degrees. The hot spot in the nation was West Palm Beach with a high of 87 degrees. (National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 10 of 40

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Slight Chance Drizzle/Freezing Drizzle and Patchy Dense Fog	Chance Wintry Mix and Patchy Fog	Decreasing Clouds	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 33 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 26 °F

Wintry Mix Possible Late Today

Overview

A light wintry mix of freezing drizzle, light freezing rain, and snow is possible late this afternoon into tonight.

Threat area includes north central through northeast SD into west central MN.

Impacts

Roadways may become slick from ice/snow accumulations, leading to hazardous travel.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

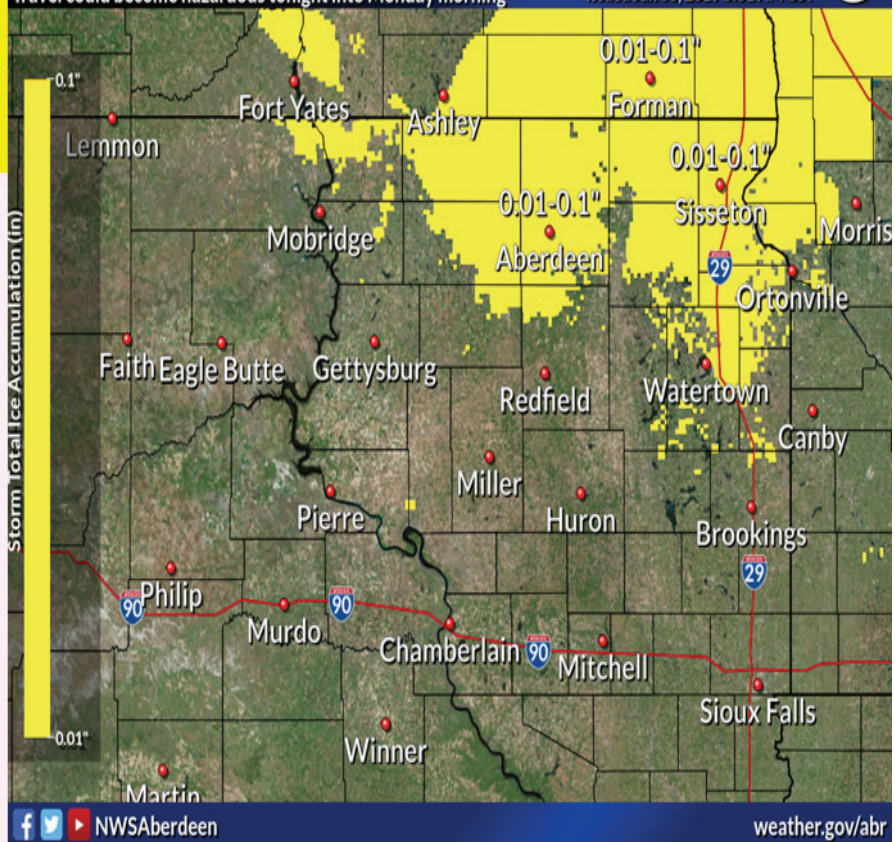
Light Icing Possible Late This Afternoon Into the Evening

Travel could become hazardous tonight into Monday morning

Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Issued Jan 06, 2019 5:31 AM CST



f t NWSAberdeen

weather.gov/abr

Published on: 01/06/2019 at 5:45AM

A trough of low pressure moving into the region later today is expected to bring light mixed precipitation across the area, mainly over northern and eastern portions of the forecast area. Snow accumulations are expected to be less than an inch, but light ice accumulations are possible due to the potential for freezing drizzle and/or light freezing rain. Travel could become hazardous this evening into Monday morning, so stay tuned to the latest forecasts.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 11 of 40

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 39 °F at 2:31 PM

Low Outside Temp: 19 °F at 4:53 AM

High Gust: 16 mph at 5:32 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 49° in 2012

Record Low: -30° in 1909

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.09

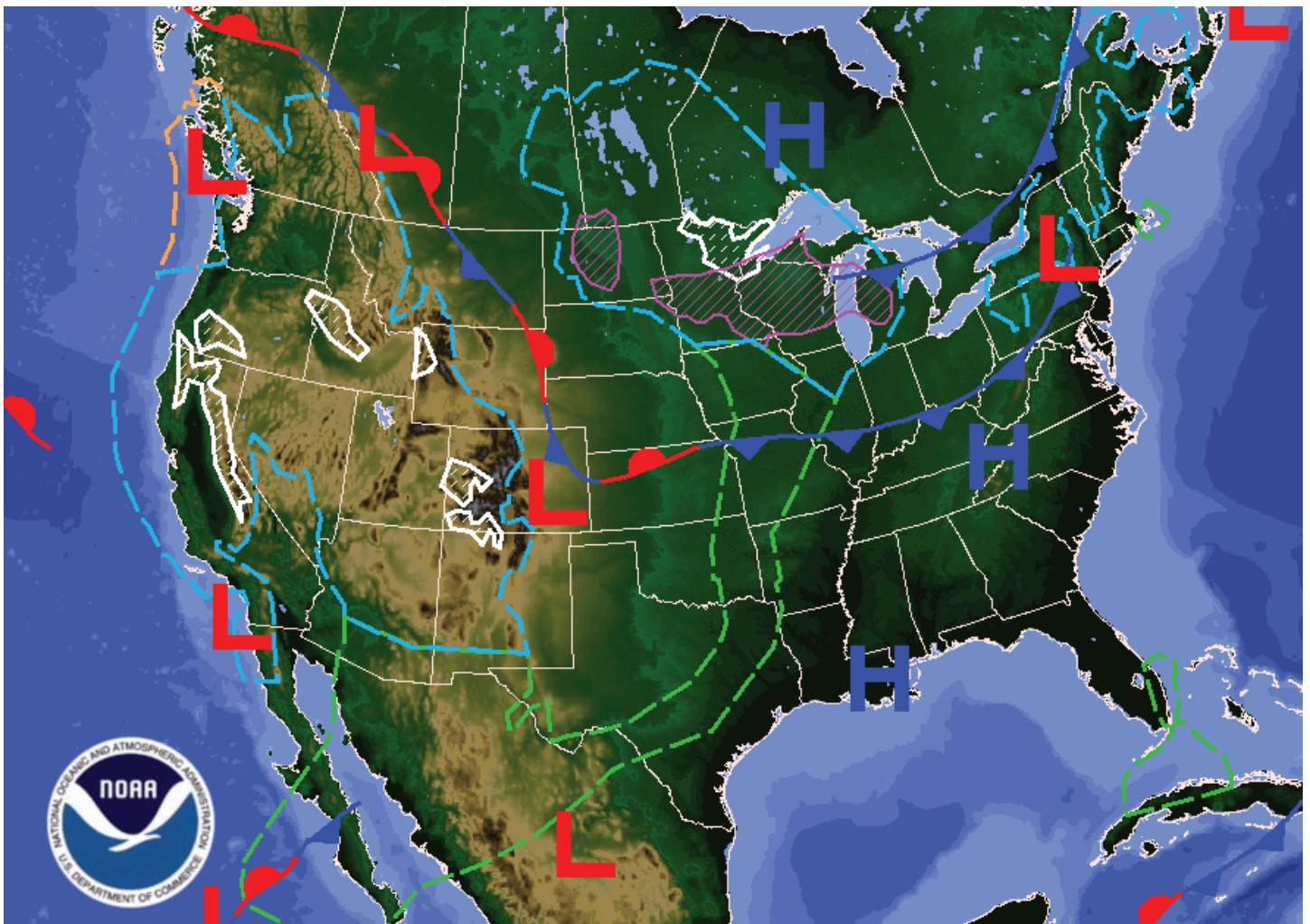
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.09

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jan 06, 2019, issued 3:30 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kebede with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 12 of 40



WHERE DOES YOUR GOD COME FROM?

We can live without oxygen for minutes, without water for days and without food for months. But we cannot live at all without God or a god of our own design. We either live with the God Who is revealed to us in Scripture or create a god who we believe will meet our needs.

If we choose to live without the God Who is revealed in Scripture, we will create a god out of some thing that we believe has power over us, or one whose power we believe we need to exist.

Many turn their careers into a god. For them, work becomes a time of worship, and money, and the things that money can buy become their blessings and the rewards they seek. Yet, they find no satisfaction in the things they accumulate because they bring no lasting satisfaction.

There are some who make pleasure their god. They seek the thrill of an adventure, the journey to a far land, a life filled with bright lights and endless entertainment or death-defying experiences as the sum and substance of a life worth living. In the end, it is a life that becomes empty because enough is never enough.

Some look for the resolution to the emptiness of life in mind or mood alternating chemicals. Whether it is an alcoholic beverage, an upper or a downer or new high or a different reality does not matter. The next fix or the bigger dose is never enough. Life ends unfulfilled and empty. The god in chemicals cannot bring peace.

Their sorrows increase...who run after other gods, wrote the Psalmist.

Prayer: Father, apart from You, there are no other gods who can satisfy the longing of a heart that You created. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 16:4 Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 13 of 40

2019 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 9/8/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 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
- 11/9/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 14 of 40

News from the  Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 62, Ipswich 46
Bennett County 52, Wall 50
Bridgewater-Emery 82, Colman-Egan 57
Britton-Hecla 63, Castlewood 60
Canistota 59, Parkston 43
Clark/Willow Lake 68, Wilmot 40
Corsica/Stickney 71, Wagner 37
Douglas 46, Spearfish 36
Edgemont 59, Sioux County, Neb. 33
Edgemont 59, Sioux County, Neb. 33
Elkton-Lake Benton 67, Alcester-Hudson 37
Faith 62, Harding County 38
Faulkton 57, Eureka/Bowdle 22
Florence/Henry 62, Deubrook 48
Freeman Academy/Marion 46, Mitchell Christian 41
Huron 63, Mitchell 52
Kimball/White Lake 68, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 54
Leola/Frederick 66, Waubay/Summit 48
Newell 65, McIntosh 44
Philip 54, Oelrichs 51
Potter County 71, Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 64
Rapid City Central 38, Pierre 29
Rapid City Stevens 55, Aberdeen Central 39
Red Cloud 51, Belle Fourche 40
Redfield/Doland 57, Lake Preston 35
Sioux Falls Christian 77, Unity Christian, Iowa 58
Sioux Falls Lincoln 69, Yankton 53
St. Paul Central, Minn. 70, Lennox 64
Sturgis Brown 59, Custer 31
Sully Buttes 59, James Valley Christian 45
Sunshine Bible Academy 56, Dupree 40
Winner 66, Gregory 48
Big East Conference Tournament
Championship
Parker 63, Sioux Valley 50
Fifth Place
Baltic 74, McCook Central/Montrose 73
Seventh Place
Chester 59, Garretson 43
Third Place
Flandreau 58, Beresford 51

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 41, Colome 27

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 15 of 40

Avon 52, Marty Indian 22
Belle Fourche 48, Red Cloud 45
Bridgewater-Emery 57, Colman-Egan 52
Chamberlain 65, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 45
Clark/Willow Lake 53, Wilmot 25
Corsica/Stickney 63, Wagner 46
Douglas 52, Spearfish 34
Faith 56, Harding County 21
Faulkton 60, Eureka/Bowdle 22
Mitchell 67, Huron 46
Mitchell Christian 58, Freeman Academy/Marion 20
Newell 54, McIntosh 34
Pine Ridge 66, Lower Brule 63
Rapid City Central 48, Pierre 36
Rapid City Christian 50, Jones County 17
Rapid City Stevens 59, Aberdeen Central 54
Sioux County, Neb. 41, Edgemont 32
Sioux Falls Christian 58, Unity Christian, Iowa 49
Sioux Falls Lincoln 45, Yankton 42
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 37, Watertown 25
St. Thomas More 56, Tea Area 46, OT
Sturgis Brown 52, Custer 45
Sully Buttes 58, James Valley Christian 21
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 58, Kimball/White Lake 36
Wall 50, Bennett County 34
Waubay/Summit 58, Leola/Frederick 20
Winner 73, Gregory 27
CNOS Foundation Classic
West Monona, Iowa 48, Dakota Valley 45
Redfield Pheasant Classic
Groton Area 50, Wolsey-Wessington 44
Irene-Wakonda 62, Northwestern 27
Langford 59, Wessington Springs 25
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 72, St. Francis Indian 58

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
07-09-16-17-23
(seven, nine, sixteen, seventeen, twenty-three)
Estimated jackpot: \$24,000

Lotto America
01-19-29-32-50, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 3
(one, nineteen, twenty-nine, thirty-two, fifty; Star Ball: nine; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$13.3 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

03-07-15-27-69, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 2

(three, seven, fifteen, twenty-seven, sixty-nine; Powerball: nineteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$69 million

Kristi Noem sworn in as South Dakota's 1st female governor

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican Gov. Kristi Noem said Saturday it's a "distinct honor" to serve as South Dakota's first female governor after taking her oath of office to lead state government for the next four years.

In her inaugural address, Noem departed from a campaign in which she didn't emphasize the milestone, saying she couldn't let the day pass without commenting on its "historic nature." Noem's election to her first term as governor in November came 100 years and one day after women's suffrage passed in South Dakota.

"I offered up my experience and my vision to the people of South Dakota to earn their vote. I did not campaign on my gender," said Noem, who focused on her farming and ranching roots and congressional achievements to claim the historic victory. "It is a distinct honor for me as our state's first woman governor."

Noem said the achievement sends a message to children in South Dakota that anything is possible. She said she wants to be remembered as a governor for the next generation.

Noem said it will be her "north star" as she makes decisions as governor, whether she's working to address meth addiction, improve schools or keeping regulation and taxes low.

"Nothing motivates me more in public service than solving problems for our next generation," Noem said.

State legislators and other officials, including Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden, were also sworn in Saturday. Republican Rep. Scyller Borglum, of Rapid City, said Noem has the tenacity and determination needed to move South Dakota forward.

"I'm so proud that my first full session is with her as our governor," said Borglum, who is among an



FILE - In this Nov. 20, 2018, file photo, South Dakota Gov.-elect Kristi Noem waves in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. Organizers of South Dakota Gov.-elect Kristi Noem's inaugural celebration have raised at least \$162,500 from roughly 30 large donors including major health systems, big energy companies and state industry groups. Top-tier donations to the city of Pierre's inaugural committee include \$12,500 from Avera Health, \$10,000 from biofuels producer POET and \$10,000 from Keystone XL oil pipeline developer TransCanada. (AP Photo/

Andrew Harnik, File)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 17 of 40

almost-record number of women who will serve in the state Legislature in the 2019 session.

Borglum called it "tremendously exciting," saying the Legislature needs a variety of perspectives. Borglum's priorities include education, fighting meth and ensuring South Dakota's Ellsworth Air Force Base gets the next-generation B-21 bomber.

Susan Froschheuser and her husband decided at the last minute to bring her 93-year-old mother, Gale Peterson, from Sioux Falls to attend the inauguration. Shortly after shaking Noem's hand, Peterson said she was excited about South Dakota's first female governor.

Froschheuser, also a Noem supporter, said she doesn't focus on gender but thought Noem would be the top person for the job.

"I just felt that Kristi was the best person," said Froschheuser. "But it is exciting that she is the first female governor, and it's historic."

Noem's work building her administration will switch to policymaking Tuesday with the start of her first legislative session as governor. The 2019 session will kick off with Noem's State of the State address. She plans to release policy priorities at the speech and to propose a state budget in the coming weeks.

Noem campaigned on "four pillars" of protection, pledging to not raise taxes nor grow state government and to improve transparency and fight federal intrusion. Democratic Party Executive Director Sam Parkinson said in a statement that he hopes Noem's inauguration will show young women in the state that they also can grow up to win South Dakota's highest office.

He urged Noem to reach out to the "half of South Dakota that didn't vote for her," saying she could work with Democrats on priorities including funding early childhood education, removing the sales tax on food and expanding Medicaid. Noem held off a surprisingly strong challenge from former Democratic state Sen. Billie Sutton to win her race.

A four-term congresswoman, Noem, 47, is trading Washington for Pierre as the 33rd governor of South Dakota. She took the oath of office with her hand on a Bible belonging to her late father, who died in a farming accident when she was 21.

Noem replaces Republican Dennis Daugaard, who couldn't run for again because of term limits.

U.S. Sen. John Thune, who served with Noem in South Dakota's federal delegation, said it's a new beginning for the state. Noem has "vast" experience in agriculture and business, Thune said, adding that he expects Noem to be focused and aggressive in recruiting businesses to South Dakota.

"It took a long time for South Dakota to get our first woman governor," Thune said. "It's an exciting day and a historic day, and one that I think all South Dakotans ought to celebrate no matter which side of the aisle you're on."

A ball in the Capitol rotunda and another at a Pierre event center will cap Noem's inaugural celebration. The estimated budget of \$150,000 is funded by donations and ticket sales.



Gov.-elect Kristi Noem is sworn in as South Dakota's 33rd governor, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019 in Pierre, S.D. Noem is the first woman to hold the position of governor in South Dakota. (Loren Townsley/The Argus Leader via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 18 of 40

South Dakota county preps for Keystone XL pipeline protests

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — Officials in a South Dakota county are preparing for the possibility of protests over the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline by securing more jail cells.

The Butte County Commission approved an agreement last month to use Faulk County jails for \$85 per day per inmate, should the need arise, the Black Hills Pioneer reported.

The move comes as TransCanada plans to start construction on the oil pipeline this year, a timeline that could be delayed after a federal judge in November blocked the \$8 million project to allow more time to study its potential environmental impact. Many environmental groups and Native American tribes view the 1,184-mile (1,900-kilometer) pipeline as a threat to the environment.

Part of the pipeline is slated to be built through the northeastern corner of Butte County. The county currently holds its inmates at the Meade County Jail in Sturgis. The pipeline will also run through that county.

Butte County Sheriff Fred Lamphere said he's concerned that the jail would fill up quickly should civil disturbances occur. He expects other nearby areas to also have limited space, so officials struck an agreement with a county nearly 270 miles (435 kilometers) east.

Lamphere said the pipeline company plans to begin construction in four different locations at the same time to spread out the location of potential protests.

The Keystone XL pipeline would transport up to 830,000 barrels of crude a day from Alberta, Canada and Montana to facilities in Nebraska.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Sentencing delayed for man who killed family in crash

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Sentencing for a Porcupine man convicted in a drunken driving crash that killed a family on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has been delayed because he tested positive for marijuana.

The Rapid City Journal reports that U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken said during Friday's hearing he would not go through with sentencing for Tyler Makes Him First due to the risk of an appeal. Viken said a defendant on drugs could claim not to understand his or her rights.

Makes Him First pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter for the 2017 crash that killed 42-year-old Waylon Red Elk Sr.; his pregnant wife, 34-year-old Jaylene Pretends Eagle; and their son, 1-year-old Waylon Red Elk Jr.

Makes Him First was ordered to jail for violating conditions of his release.

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

Sioux Falls man sentenced to 9 years for tax fraud scheme

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former Sioux Falls businessman convicted in what authorities called a massive tax scheme has been sentenced to nine years in prison.

The Argus Leader says 37-year-old Jacques Eviglo was accused of inflating federal tax returns of more than 1,400 victims while doing business as Global Income Tax Services.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier called the case the largest and most sophisticated tax fraud case she's seen in her 19-year career. She ordered Eviglo to pay back more than \$2.5 million to the Internal Revenue Service.

A jury in August convicted Eviglo of 30 total counts of making false claims and wire fraud after a five-day trial. It's estimated he skimmed over \$860,000 over about three years.

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

Trump aide: Syria withdrawal waiting on 'conditions'

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — President Donald Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, said Sunday that the U.S. military withdrawal from northeastern Syria is conditioned on defeating the remnants of the Islamic State group, and on Turkey assuring the safety of Kurdish fighters allied with the United States.

Bolton, who traveled to Israel to reassure the U.S. ally of the Trump-ordered withdrawal, said there is no timetable for the pullout of American forces in northeastern Syria, but insisted it's not an unlimited commitment.

"There are objectives that we want to accomplish that condition the withdrawal," Bolton told reporters in Jerusalem. "The timetable flows from the policy decisions that we need to implement."

Those conditions, he said, included the defeat of remnants of IS in Syria, and protections for Kurdish militias who have fought alongside U.S. troops against the extremist group.

Bolton's comments mark the first public confirmation that the drawdown has been slowed, as Trump faced widespread criticism from allies and the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis for a policy that was to have been conducted within weeks.

Trump announced in mid-December that the U.S. will withdraw all of its 2,000 forces in Syria. Trump's move has raised fears over clearing the way for a Turkish assault on Kurdish fighters in Syria who fought alongside American troops against IS extremists. Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, a terrorist group linked to an insurgency within its own borders.

Bolton, who is to travel on to Turkey on Monday, said the U.S. is insisting that its Kurdish allies in the fight against the Islamic State group are protected from any planned Turkish offensive. He is to deliver a warning to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan this week.

"We don't think the Turks ought to undertake military action that's not fully coordinated with and agreed to by the United States," Bolton said. He said in meetings with Turkish counterparts, he will seek "to find out what their objectives and capabilities are and that remains uncertain."

Trump has stated that he would not allow Turkey to kill the Kurds, Bolton said. "That's what the president said, the ones that fought with us."

Bolton said the U.S. has asked its Kurdish allies to "stand fast now" and refrain from seeking protection from Russia or Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government. "I think they know who their friends are," he added, speaking of the Kurds.

He said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford would continue negotiations with his Turkish counterparts this week to seek protection for America's Kurdish allies in Syria.

Additionally, Ambassador Jim Jeffrey, who has been serving since August as the special representative for Syrian engagement and was named last week as the American special envoy for the anti-Islamic State coalition, is to travel to Syria this week in an effort to reassure the U.S.'s Kurdish allies that they are not being abandoned, Bolton said.

Bolton said U.S. troops would remain at the critical area of al-Tanf, in southern Syria, to counter growing Iranian activity in the region. He defended the legal basis for the deployment, saying it's justified by the president's Constitutional authority, adding "I'm a strong believer in Article II."

The U.S. is also seeking a "satisfactory disposition" for roughly 800 Islamic State prisoners held by the U.S.-backed Syrian opposition, Bolton said, adding talks were ongoing with European and regional partners about the issue.

Bolton is to have dinner Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, Sunday evening to discuss the pace of the U.S. drawdown, American troop levels in the region, and the U.S. commitment to push back on Iranian regional expansionism. Bolton was expected to explain that some U.S. troops based in Syria to fight IS will shift to Iraq with the same mission and that the al-Tanf base would remain.

Bolton also was to convey the message that the United States is "very supportive" of Israeli strikes against Iranian targets in Syria, according to a senior administration official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss Bolton's plans before the meetings and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bolton on Sunday also toured the ancient tunnels beneath the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City. He

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 20 of 40

watched a virtual reality tour of the historic site and dined there with his Israeli equivalent, as well as U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and Israel's ambassador to the U.S., Ron Dermer.

Visiting American officials typically avoid holding official meetings in parts of east Jerusalem, which is contested between Israelis and Palestinians. Trump himself, however, also toured the area in a previous visit.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem after capturing it from Jordan in the 1967 war, a move not recognized by most of the international community. Palestinians seek east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

Russia: Too early to consider exchange of US spy suspect

By JIM HEINTZ, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's deputy foreign minister has brushed back suggestions that an American being held in Moscow on suspicion of spying could be exchanged for a Russian citizen.

The brother of Paul Whelan, however, tells The Associated Press that he can't help but question whether the events are connected.

"You look at what's going on and you wonder if this is just a large game of pieces being moved around," David Whelan told the AP via Skype from Newmarket, Ontario. "You start to wonder if all of these things are connected. But at the same time, they could just be arbitrary events."

Paul Whelan, a former U.S. Marine who also holds Canadian, British and Irish citizenship, was detained in Moscow in late December. His arrest has led to speculation that Russia could be using him to bargain for a Russian woman who has pleaded guilty to acting as a foreign agent in the United States.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Saturday that discussing a possible swap involving Whelan and Maria Butina would be premature because Whelan hasn't been formally charged, according to Russian news agencies.

"As to the possibility of exchanges of one sort of another, it's impossible and incorrect to consider the question now when an official charge hasn't even been presented," Ryabkov was quoted as saying by state news agency RIA-Novosti.

"Charges will be presented in the near future," he said, according to the Interfax agency.

Some Russian news reports earlier cited unnamed sources as saying Whelan had been indicted on espionage charges that carry a possible prison sentence of 20 years.

Russian officials haven't given details of Whelan's suspected activities and he was initially identified only as an American. His concurrent Canadian, British and Irish citizenships became known on Friday.

U.S. Ambassador Jon Huntsman Jr. visited Whelan on Wednesday in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison, a 130-year-old facility noted for strict conditions. Britain, Canada and Ireland have applied for consular access to him.

Whelan, 48, was discharged from the Marines for bad conduct. He works as the global security director for a U.S. automobile parts manufacturer and lives in Michigan. His family has said he was in Moscow to attend a wedding.

His brother, David, told the AP that Whelan loves to travel and likes to "interact with the people in the places that he goes," but that Whelan would be too "conspicuous" to be selected as a spy.

David Whelan said his family had had no direct contact with Paul and had received no details about the alleged espionage charges from either the Russian or U.S. governments.

"He likes to go places and Russia happens to be a place where he knows people and when he's there, he does go and visit," David Whelan said.

Paul Whelan established an account on VKontakte, a social media service similar to Facebook that is popular among Russians, which showed he had scores of contacts in Russia. Many attended universities affiliated with the military, civil aviation or technical studies. Many share his interest in sports and firearms.

Also Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said it was seeking information about a Russian who was arrested Dec. 29 in Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, a United States commonwealth in the Pacific. The ministry said Sergei Makarenko was sent to Florida after his arrest and it wants consular access to him.

The Saipan Tribune reported that Makarenko was indicted in 2017 in Florida for the alleged illegal ship-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 21 of 40

ment of military goods to Russia.

Konstantin Kosachev, head of the international affairs committee of the upper house of the Russian parliament, said Makarenko's arrest was "the latest attack on a citizen of Russia outside the frame work of international law," Interfax reported.

Bridget Virgo, senior producer with Associated Press television, contributed from London.

With US leaving, rival powers seek to move into Syria's east

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The planned U.S. troop withdrawal opens up a void in the north and east of Syria, and the conflicts and rivalries among all the powers in the Middle East are converging to fill it.

The sudden American decision to pull out its 2,000 troops has forced a reassessment of old alliances and partnerships. The Syrian government, the Kurds, Russia, Iran, Israel and Turkey have all had a hand in the country's nearly eight-year war — each in a way, fighting its own war for its own reasons within Syria. Now all of those conflicts play out in the territory being abandoned by the Americans, creating new tensions, potential chaos and bloodshed.

To reassure jittery allies, Washington sent national security adviser John Bolton to Israel on Sunday, to be followed by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who is planning an eight-country tour of Arab allies this coming week.

Here is a look at what's at stake.

THE TERRITORY

The area up for grabs is around a third of Syria, forming a rough triangle. To the north is the border with Turkey, to the east the border with Iraq, and the third side is the Euphrates River. This was the heart of the Islamic State group's foothold in Syria until the United States partnered with a Kurdish militia, creating a force of some 60,000 fighters —including some Syrian Arabs and Christian Assyrians — that wrested it away from the militants.

The territory is strategically important. For the Syrian government of President Bashar Assad and its allies Russia and Iran, regaining it means re-establishing sovereignty. The territory was once the source of Syria's wheat and barley, its dams generated electricity and it holds some of Syria's richest oil resources. Without it, Assad will have a harder time with reconstruction and operating long term. For the same reasons, it's been a source of income for the Kurdish militia.

For the Kurds, their hold gave weight to their long-sought goal of autonomy. For the U.S., the troop presence ensured American influence. Turkey sees Kurdish autonomy on its border as an existential threat and has vowed to prevent this, accusing the U.S. of empowering the militia Ankara says is linked to Kurdish insurgents in Turkey.

ASSAD and RUSSIA

Without the Americans, the door opens for Assad and his Russian backers to move in.

"The only obstacle preventing Assad from gaining control of the east was the U.S. presence and the cover that it provided to the (Kurdish militia). With that gone ... there is simply no real challenge that would prevent the regime from re-establishing control over those areas," said Ayham Kamel, of the Eurasia group.

Abandoned by the U.S., the Kurdish fighters are forced to move toward Russia and Assad for protection against their more feared enemy, Turkey. Their force, armed and equipped by the U.S.-led coalition, is unlikely to disappear. Instead, it is seeking an arrangement with Assad to continue operating as the government extends control over the territory.

Syrian officials boast that the withdrawal is a defeat to America. Controlling the east would help seal Assad's victory in the civil war. The American move also accelerates a trend by Arab states to normalize relations with Assad, whom they shunned for years. The United Arab Emirates, a close U.S. and Saudi ally,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 22 of 40

recently reopened its embassy in Damascus.

TURKEY vs. KURDS, RUSSIA and ASSAD

Turkey's military, along with some 15,000 allied Syrian rebel fighters, is poised to launch an offensive in the east to break Kurdish control over the border.

But an offensive risks creating friction with Russia. In particular, it could wreck a cease-fire agreement the two reached over Idlib, the northwestern province held by rebels and Islamic militants where Turkey has influence — enabling a Syrian government assault on the province. Russian and Turkish officials have been holding talks, trying to avert tensions.

"A massive Turkish operation is not in Russia's interest. It destabilizes the situation, risks undermining Idlib agreements and talks on reconstruction. Plus, if Turkey decides to capture all of the Kurdish areas it will inevitably clash with Russia and Iran," said Yury Barmin, a Russia analyst.

Turkey is equally concerned over the prospect of Syrian government control over the east. In the past, Damascus has used the Kurdish militia as leverage against Ankara and could do so again. For nearly 20 years, Syria hosted the main Kurdish leader until he was captured in 1998, now imprisoned in Turkey.

IRAN and ISRAEL

A Syrian government move east means the spread of Iran as well. It will dramatically widen the land corridor where Iran enjoys free rein for its allied fighters, weapons and supplies across Iraq and Syria to Lebanon. Already, Iranian-backed militias have expanded control over areas near Syria's border with Iraq and freely cross back and forth.

That has alarmed Israel. The likely result will be increased Israeli airstrikes against suspected Iranian-linked targets in Syria.

THE U.S., TURKEY and the ISLAMIC STATE GROUP

President Donald Trump dismissed the idea that the U.S. needs influence in the conflict, saying Syria was nothing but "sand and death." He claims the U.S. mission there — to fight IS — has largely been completed. But IS still holds pockets and U.S.-led coalition officials warn it could surge again.

There has also been growing unrest among Arab tribes in the east, disgruntled by the Kurdish-led administration. They too are likely to be a source of tension and may be leveraged by the different players for their own advantages.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Trump his forces could take over fighting IS. In two previous offensives, Turkish forces and their Syrian allies retook territory in the northwest from IS and Kurdish fighters. But their track record of abuses, forced displacement of Kurds and lawlessness raises concern over whether they can exercise authority in the east.

"The force that Erdogan has to offer Trump to replace the (Kurdish militia) in eastern Syria is not large enough, locally legitimate enough, and quite frankly not vettable enough, for the standards of the U.S. military," said Nick Heras, a Syria expert with the Center for a New American Security.

Gaga, 'A Star Is Born' poised to dominate Golden Globes

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When the 76th annual Golden Globe Awards get underway Sunday night, who takes home statuettes is only a small part of the intrigue.

What the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Beverly Hills, California, ceremony lacks in gravitas it usually makes up for in freewheeling frivolity and fun. The free-flowing booze helps.

This year's show, which will be broadcast live Sunday on NBC at 8 p.m. EST following an hour of red-carpet pre-show coverage, likely has awards in store for Bradley Cooper's Oscar front-runner "A Star Is Born," Yorgos Lanthimos' period romp "The Favourite," the Amazon comedy series "The Marvelous Mrs.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 23 of 40

Maisel" and Ryan Murphy's anthology series "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story." Lady Gaga is poised to win not just one but two awards, for best actress in a drama and for the song "Shallow," from "A Star Is Born." (Gaga, who won a Globe in 2016 for her "American Horror Story: Hotel" performance, would still fall short of the three Globes won by Barbra Streisand for the 1976 version of "A Star Is Born.")

But the ceremony might hinge most on just what kind of party the Globes can muster this year. Last year's ceremony, atypically serious for the Globes, was the first major awards show after the birth of the #MeToo movement following the Harvey Weinstein revelations. Female attendees wore black in solidarity. Presenter Natalie Portman pointedly introduced the "all male" directing nominees.

A year later, little dust has settled. Hollywood remains consumed with gender inequality and highly placed men have continued to fall. This year's best director nominees are also all male again.

How much these subjects will be discussed in the broadcast, to be hosted by the unexpected pairing of Andy Samberg and Sandra Oh, is unknown. Samberg and Oh have said they're hoping to set a lively and carefree tone. Oh, the star of the BBC America drama series "Killing Eve," is also a nominee.

Last year's show, like a lot of recent awards shows, saw ratings decline. Some 19 million tuned in to the Seth Meyers-hosted broadcast, an 11-percent decline in viewership.

This year, NBC has one thing in its favor: an NFL lead in. Ahead of the Globes, NBC is broadcasting the late afternoon Wild Card game between the Chicago Bears and the Philadelphia Eagles.

The array of nominees that have been sizable box office hits may potentially help the Globes, none more than Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther," up for best picture (drama) and score. "A Star is Born," which is expected to dominate the drama side of the movie awards, recently passed \$200 million in domestic ticket sales.

Adam McKay's highly critical Dick Cheney portrait "Vice," starring Christian Bale, comes in with a leading six nominations. While music-heavy films "A Star Is Born" and "Bohemian Rhapsody" opted to contend in the Globes' drama categories, "Vice" tops the comedy-musical nominees, though it's closely trailed by multiple nominees, including "The Favourite" and "Green Book," Peter Farrelly's interracial road trip tale starring Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali.

At stake are not just Golden Globes awards but Oscar momentum. Voting for the Academy Awards nominations begins Monday.

Jeff Bridges will receive the Globes' honorary Cecil B. DeMille Award. A similar television achievement award is also being launched, dubbed the Carol Burnett Award. Its first honoree will be Burnett, herself.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

For complete coverage of the Golden Globes visit: www.apnews.com/GoldenGlobeAwards

Police: Man, 20, charged with capital murder in girl's death

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities in Texas have charged a 20-year-old man in the shooting death of a 7-year-old black girl who was killed while riding in a vehicle with her family.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office announced early Sunday that Eric Black Jr. was charged with capital murder in the death of Jazmine Barnes. Investigators identified Black as a suspect after receiving a tip, the office said in a statement.

"Investigators do not believe Jazmine's family was the intended target of the shooting," the statement said. "They were possibly shot as a result of mistaken identity."

Jazmine was fatally shot in Houston on Dec. 30 after authorities said a suspect pulled alongside the vehicle the girl was riding in and opened fire. Jazmine died at the scene, while her mother was shot in the arm. The shooting occurred as the family was heading to the store.

Following his arrest in east Harris County, the sheriff's office said Black admitted to taking part in the shooting. Officials also said investigators are looking into the possibility that others could be charged in

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 24 of 40

the case.

Late Saturday, the sheriff's office said on Twitter that the investigation had "taken a new direction." The post did not elaborate, and the sheriff's office did not immediately respond to phone messages.

Jazmine's mother, LaPorsha Washington, has said she believes the shooting was racially motivated. The alleged shooter was earlier described as a white man in a red truck, but the sheriff's office did not immediately identify Black's race.

Hundreds of people gathered at a rally Saturday afternoon for the girl near where the shooting happened. People held up balloons and stuffed animals, as well as signs that said "Justice for Jazmine."

A \$100,000 reward was being offered for information leading to an arrest in Jazmine's case.

Prescott, Cowboys push past Seahawks for 24-22 wild-card win

By SCHUYLER DIXON, AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott saw an opening up the middle, then three defenders between him and the first down.

The Dallas quarterback found a way to get there, and get his first playoff victory two years after a sensational rookie season ended in disappointment.

Ezekiel Elliott rushed for 137 yards and the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter, Prescott scored on a sneak after his dazzling head-over-heels run and the Cowboys hung on for a 24-22 wild-card win over the Seattle Seahawks on Saturday night.

The win for the Cowboys (11-6) was the first for Elliott and Prescott after losing a divisional game in their playoff debut as first-year stars two years ago. Dallas will play at either New Orleans or the Los Angeles Rams in the divisional round next weekend.

"It's really just a chance to keep going on, simple as that," Prescott said. "Me and this whole team, we want to win it all. You can't do that without taking care of the first one. A lot of excitement, but my goal is bigger than just one playoff win."

The loss ended a run of nine straight victories in playoff openers for the Seahawks (10-7). The Elias Sports Bureau says it was the longest streak in NFL history.

Leading 17-14, Prescott faced third-and-14 from the Seattle 17 with the 2-minute warning approaching. He took off up the middle on a QB draw, barged through a trio of defenders 6 yards short of the first and went down at the 1 when he was flipped head-first by Tedric Thompson.

Prescott, who also had an 11-yard scoring pass to Michael Gallup in the first half, scored on the next play in the eighth win in nine games for the Cowboys.

"He's just a rare guy," coach Jason Garrett said. "His leadership, his toughness, just his way, his spirit. It's like none other. Somehow, some way, he's going to figure this thing out for us."

Dallas' defense, ranked in the top 10 most of the season, stifled the NFL's No. 1 rushing offense and mostly kept quarterback Russell Wilson under control and handed him his first loss in four wild-card games.

The Seahawks had finished the regular season with six wins in seven games to secure Wilson's sixth playoff trip in seven years despite a roster overhaul and 0-2 start.

"This has been a special, special year," Wilson said. "Just the growth of our team, the men in the locker room, just the way that we've played together, just eliminating the doubters and the things that people thought that we could only do."

Prescott, the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2016 when the Cowboys lost to Green Bay at home as the top seed in the NFC, threw for 226 yards, and his sneak for what appeared to be a clinching score because Dallas burned more than five minutes while taking 24-14 lead.

But Tyler Lockett's 53-yard catch set up a quick Seattle touchdown — Wilson's 7-yard scoring pass to J.D. McKissic. The Seahawks got within two on their second 2-point conversion following an injury to Sebastian Janikowski.

The missing kicker left the Seahawks no good options on an onside kick with 1:18 remaining. Punter Michael Dickson's drop kick was caught by Cole Beasley at the Dallas 31, sealing the first playoff win for

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 25 of 40

the Cowboys since beating Detroit in the wild-card round in the 2014 season.

After Wilson ran for 4 yards for a touchdown and Mike Davis' 2-point conversion run put Seattle up 14-10 late in the third quarter, Prescott led a 67-yard drive to put the Cowboys back in front for good.

A 34-yard pass to Amari Cooper, who had seven catches for 106 yards, led to Elliott's 1-yard plunge after an apparent touchdown by the quarterback was overturned on replay.

Prescott then had a chance to give the Cowboys a 10-point lead, but K.J. Wright made a juggling interception in the end zone.

Dallas' defense came through again, though, forcing a punt and giving Elliott a highlight play before Prescott added his. The NFL rushing leader stiff-armed Shaquill Griffin on a 17-yard run to get inside the 20.

Seattle got a double dose of bad news at halftime when Janikowski missed a 57-yard field goal on the final play and injured his left hamstring. He yelled as he grabbed the back of his leg and limped to the locker room, unable to return.

Still, the Seahawks took their first lead basically because the 40-year-old's injury forced them to try.

Facing fourth-and-5 in Janikowski's range from the Dallas 39, Doug Baldwin made a toe-dragging catch on the sideline for 22 yards. After Wilson's TD run, the Seahawks pushed their lead to 14-10 on Mike Davis' run.

But the Cowboys never did lose control of the Seattle running game after allowing Chris Carson's first career 100-yard game in a Week 3 Seattle win that turned the season for the Seahawks, who finished the regular season with six wins in seven games.

Carson had just 20 yards on 13 carries. Wilson was 18 of 27 for 233 yards, with Lockett getting four catches for 120 yards. The Seahawks had 73 yards rushing after averaging 160 during the season. Dallas came in with the No. 5 rushing defense.

"Once we go up, we do a pretty good job of getting ourselves back down, knowing that we've got to start over next week and we've got to be able to do it again," linebacker Leighton Vander Esch said. "It's a full attack mode."

INJURIES

Cowboys receiver Allen Hurns fractured his left ankle in a gruesome first-quarter injury. Owner and general manager Jerry Jones said after the game that Hurns was "probably in surgery at this time." Hurns was being dragged down by Seahawks safety Bradley McDougald at the end of a 14-yard catch for a first down when his lower left leg appeared to buckle. ... Seahawks cornerback Neiko Thorpe left in the first half with a shoulder injury.

UP NEXT

Cowboys: New Orleans or the Los Angeles Rams on the road in the divisional round next weekend.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Talks on government shutdown continue on Sunday

By CATHERINE LUCEY and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House officials and congressional aides are returning to discussions Sunday to find a way to reopen the government after emerging from the first round of weekend talks without a breakthrough.

President Donald Trump tweeted Saturday: "Not much headway made today." The president later tweeted that he planned to go to his retreat at Camp David, Maryland, on Sunday morning to discuss borders security and other topics with senior staff in a meeting separate from the negotiations.

Democrats agreed there had been little movement Saturday, saying the White House did not budge on the president's key demand, \$5.6 billion to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The White House said funding was not discussed in-depth, but the administration was clear they needed funding for a wall and that they wanted to resolve the shutdown all at once.

Accusations flew after the more than two-hour session led by Vice President Mike Pence. Acting chief of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 26 of 40

staff Mick Mulvaney, in an interview with CNN's "State of the Union," accused Democrats of being there to "stall." Democrats familiar with the meeting said the White House position was "untenable."

A White House official said the meeting included a briefing on border security by Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. Democrats sought written details from the Department of Homeland Security on their budget needs, which the White House said it would provide.

With talks stalled, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that House Democrats plan to start approving individual bills to reopen shuttered departments starting with Treasury to ensure Americans receive their tax refunds.

"While President Trump threatens to keep the government shut down for 'years,' Democrats are taking immediate further action to re-open government, so that we can meet the needs of the American people, protect our borders and respect our workers," Pelosi said.

In an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," set to air Sunday, Mulvaney argued that the administration was willing to deal. He said Trump was willing to forgo a concrete wall for steel or other materials.

"If he has to give up a concrete wall, replace it with a steel fence in order to do that so that Democrats can say, 'See? He's not building a wall anymore,' that should help us move in the right direction," Mulvaney said.

The president has already suggested his definition of the wall is flexible, referring to slats and other "border things." But Democrats have made clear they see a wall as immoral and ineffective and prefer other types of border security funded at already agreed upon levels.

Trump had campaigned on the promise that Mexico would pay for the wall. Mexico has refused. He's now demanding the money from Congress.

Trump, who did not attend the discussions, spent the morning tweeting about border security.

Showing little empathy for the hundreds of thousands of federal workers furloughed or working without pay, Trump declared — without citing evidence — that most are Democrats. He also asserted: "I want to stop the Shutdown as soon as we are in agreement on Strong Border Security! I am in the White House ready to go, where are the Dems?"

One Democrat, Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, said in his party's weekly radio address that the shutdown "is part of a larger pattern of a president who puts his personal whims and his effort to score political points before the needs of the American people. ... He is pointing fingers at everyone but himself."

Trump says 'not much headway' in talks as shutdown drags on

By CATHERINE LUCEY and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House officials and congressional aides emerged from talks to reopen the government without a breakthrough Saturday, though they planned to return to the table the following day.

President Donald Trump tweeted: "Not much headway made today." The president later tweeted that he planned to go to his retreat at Camp David, Maryland, on Sunday morning to discuss border security and other topics with senior staff.

Democrats agreed there had been little movement Saturday, saying the White House did not budge on the president's key demand, \$5.6 billion to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The White House said funding was not discussed in-depth, but the administration was clear they needed funding for a wall and that they wanted to resolve the shutdown all at once.

Accusations flew after the more than two-hour session led by Vice President Mike Pence. Acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, in an interview with CNN's "State of the Union," accused Democrats of being there to "stall." Democrats familiar with the meeting said the White House position was "untenable."

A White House official said the meeting included a briefing on border security by Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. Democrats sought written details from the Department of Homeland Security on their budget needs, which the White House said it would provide.

With talks stalled, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that House Democrats plan to start approving individual bills to reopen shuttered departments starting with Treasury to ensure Americans receive

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 27 of 40

their tax refunds.

"While President Trump threatens to keep the government shut down for 'years', Democrats are taking immediate further action to re-open government, so that we can meet the needs of the American people, protect our borders and respect our workers," Pelosi said.

In an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," set to air Sunday, Mulvaney argued that the administration was willing to deal. He said Trump was willing to forgo a concrete wall for steel or other materials.

"If he has to give up a concrete wall, replace it with a steel fence in order to do that so that Democrats can say, 'See? He's not building a wall anymore,' that should help us move in the right direction," Mulvaney said.

The president has already suggested his definition of the wall is flexible, referring to slats and other "border things." But Democrats have made clear they see a wall as immoral and ineffective and prefer other types of border security funded at already agreed upon levels.

Trump had campaigned on the promise that Mexico would pay for the wall. Mexico has refused. He's now demanding the money from Congress.

Trump, who did not attend the discussions, spent the morning tweeting about border security.

Showing little empathy for the hundreds of thousands of federal workers furloughed or working without pay, Trump declared — without citing evidence — that most are Democrats. He also asserted: "I want to stop the Shutdown as soon as we are in agreement on Strong Border Security! I am in the White House ready to go, where are the Dems?"

One Democrat, Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, said in his party's weekly radio address that the shutdown "is part of a larger pattern of a president who puts his personal whims and his effort to score political points before the needs of the American people. ... He is pointing fingers at everyone but himself."

Luck has 2 TDs to lead Colts over Texans 21-7 in wild card

By KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — A year ago at this time Andrew Luck was at home struggling with an injured shoulder that cost him the entire season.

On Saturday he wrote a happy ending to the latest chapter of his comeback season, throwing for 222 yards and two touchdowns and the Indianapolis Colts raced out to a big lead and cruised to a 21-7 win over the Houston Texans in the wild-card game.

Luck put on a show in his hometown in a stadium where he'd attended games throughout childhood and played in them since high school, throwing for 191 yards and two touchdowns before halftime to help the Colts (11-6) build a 21-0 lead.

He denied feeling "at home" at NRG Stadium, but admitted to having warm feelings for the city he grew up in and where his grandparents and many friends still reside.

"But it's still an away stadium," he said. "It was very loud, very energetic, but fun to win, certainly."

Running back Marlon Mack had 148 yards and a touchdown for Indianapolis, which advances to face the top-seeded Kansas City Chiefs in the divisional round next weekend.

"We know we have an elite quarterback and we can throw it for 400 and win when we have to," Indianapolis coach Frank Reich said.

"But the margin for error in playoff football when you try to do it that way is very thin. When you can win like this — running the football and stopping it — that's just everything."

Houston (11-6), which overcame a 0-3 start to win the AFC South, gave up too many big plays and couldn't get anything going on offense in the first half to fall into the huge hole.

Deshaun Watson, who was sacked an NFL-leading 62 times in the regular season, was sacked three times and hit eight more times in a disappointing playoff debut. He finished with 235 yards passing with a touchdown and an interception.

"Just a lack of execution on our part," Watson said. "We didn't make plays. I didn't make plays. Communication was a little off. You just got to give the Colts the credit."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 28 of 40

The Colts, who opened the season 1-5, continued an impressive run by winning their fifth straight and for the 10th time in 11 games. Saturday was their first playoff appearance since the AFC championship game loss at New England in the "Deflategate" game in the 2014 season.

It was another good game in a splendid season for Luck. He threw for 4,593 yards and 39 touchdowns in the regular season after missing all of 2017 with a shoulder injury.

The Texans didn't score until rookie Keke Coutee grabbed a 6-yard touchdown pass to cap a 16-play, 89-yard drive that included a fourth-down conversion that cut it to 21-7 with about 11 minutes left.

They led the NFL with nine comeback wins this season, but their attempt at a rally ended on their next possession when Watson's pass on fourth-and-10 from the Indianapolis 24 fell short with about four minutes left.

Luck threw for 863 yards with six touchdowns as the teams split two meetings in the regular season. He picked up right where he left off in this one, when he found Eric Ebron on a 6-yard TD pass on their first drive. That play was set up by a 38-yard catch by T.Y. Hilton, who had 63 yards receiving on that drive.

"We didn't have a lot of guys that made the playoffs so the guys that made the playoffs wanted to go out there and set the tone early, try to get the crowd out of the game," Hilton said. "That's what we did."

Hilton didn't have any catches on the next drive, but the Colts still drove down the field easily and made it 14-0 on a 2-yard run by Mack later in the first.

Houston went for it on fourth-and-4 from the Indianapolis 45 on its second possession and Watson was intercepted by Kenny Moore II. It was his first interception since he threw two against the Redskins on Nov. 18.

The Colts got to the 17 after that before J.J. Watt deflected Luck's pass and he was intercepted by Brandon Dunn. But the Texans couldn't move the ball and had to punt.

Indianapolis pushed the lead to 21-0 when Luck connected with Dontrelle Inman on an 18-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter.

"It's very frustrating when they're able to execute and get their job done," Watt said. "We had a couple of big penalties early in the game as well. But you have to overcome it and you have to find a way to win."

The Texans had a fourth-and-1 from the 9 late in the second quarter and went for it again instead of settling for a field goal. The gamble didn't pay off when Watson's pass to DeAndre Hopkins was low and bounced in front of him in the end zone.

INJURIES

Colts: Safety Malik Hooker left in the third quarter with a foot injury. ... S Mike Mitchell injured his calf in the third quarter and didn't return.

Texans: Safety Justin Reid injured his ribs in the second quarter and didn't return. ... Hopkins said he played most of the game with a Grade 3 AC sprain of his right shoulder after injuring it in the first half.

UP NEXT

Colts: Travel to Kansas City where the Chiefs were 7-1 in the regular season.

Texans: The Texans have some decisions to make in the offseason with defensive end Jadeveon Clowney and safety Tyrann Mathieu both becoming free agents. They might use the franchise tag to keep Clowney, who was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2014 draft.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Airports seeing rise in security screeners calling off work

By ALEXANDRA OLSON and JULIE CARR SMYTH, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The federal agency tasked with guaranteeing U.S. airport security acknowledged an increase in the number of its employees calling off work during the partial government shutdown.

Employees of the Transportation Security Administration are expected to work without pay during the shutdown because their jobs are considered essential.

The TSA said in a statement Friday that call outs that began over the holiday period have increased. The

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 29 of 40

agency did not say how many of its employees have called out, but it said the call outs have had "minimal impact given that there are 51,739 employees supporting the screening process." The statement said wait times "may be affected" but so far "remain well within TSA standards."

"TSA is closely monitoring the situation," the agency statement said. "Security effectiveness will not be compromised."

The Department of Homeland Security and President Donald Trump pushed back Saturday on suggestions that the call outs represented a "sickout" that was having significant consequences on U.S. air travel. White House officials and congressional aides were in talks Saturday to end the shutdown, which entered its 15th day. Negotiations are at an impasse over Trump's demands for \$5.6 billion to fund a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

TSA spokesman Michael Bilello tweeted that 5.5 percent of the TSA workforce at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport called out Friday, compared with 3.5 percent on a normal day. He said wait times "may be affected" but that all passengers would be screened as normal.

Hydrick Thomas, president of the national TSA employee union, told CNN that up to 170 TSA employees at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport have called out each day this week. Union officials did not respond to requests for comment Saturday.

Airport officials said no unusual screening delays were being experienced at JFK, Chicago's O'Hare and Midway airports, or Miami International Airport.

National parks struggle to stay open, safe during shutdown

By BRADY McCOMBS and JOHN FLESHER, Associated Press

Nonprofits, businesses and state governments nationwide are putting up money and volunteer hours in a battle to keep national parks safe and clean for visitors as the partial U.S. government shutdown lingers.

But such makeshift arrangements haven't prevented some parks from closing and others from being inundated with trash. Support groups say donations of money and time could run short if the budget impasse between President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats lasts much longer. Some are calling for parks to close for the duration of the standoff, which Trump said Friday could last "months or even years."

"Our national parks deserve better than an improvised patchwork of emergency care," Diane Regas, CEO of the Trust for Public Lands, said in a letter to Trump that noted reports of theft, poaching and accumulating piles of garbage and human waste. "They need robust funding and full-time protection, or they should be closed."

Ryan Zinke, who recently stepped down under fire as Interior Department secretary, had ordered many national parks to stay open, saying visitors should not be penalized for the political feud over a border wall with Mexico. During an interview with The Associated Press, Zinke said visitors should take action to keep parks clean.

"Grab a trash bag and take some trash out with you," he said. "In order to keep them open, everybody has to pitch in."

The park service has reached deals with more than 60 partner groups, concessionaires and states to handle trash removal, restroom cleanup and other basic tasks at more than 40 parks — and, in a few cases, to keep park staffers on the job, spokesman Jeremy Barnum said Friday.

The state of New York was footing the bill to operate the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island National Monument, while a private company donated portable toilets at several locations on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The National Park Foundation took charge of repairing and operating the National Christmas Tree.

Another nonprofit donated more than \$50,000 to keep 15 rangers temporarily on the job at Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee and North Carolina.

At Joshua Tree National Park in Southern California, volunteers have hauled away garbage, cleaned restrooms and restocked them with toilet paper, said John Lauretig, executive director of Friends of Joshua Tree.

"We've been dubbed the 'Toilet Paper Angels,'" he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 30 of 40

Yosemite National Park in California reported Friday that a man died after falling into a river on Christmas Day, and a spokesman said a statement was not issued more promptly and the investigation is taking longer than usual because of the shutdown.

People living near Yosemite have organized work crews, while businesses in neighboring towns are offering incentives for visitors to remove their rubbish.

The Rush Creek Lodge in Groveland gave a complimentary coffee, cocktail or dessert to all bringing a full trash bag from the park. Spokeswoman Teri Marshall said the lodge was trying to devise a slogan for the promotion.

"Turning garbage into goodies' is where I think I might be hanging our hat," Marshall said.

People visiting Yosemite on Saturday will be receiving garbage bags and tips on how best to use the park during the shutdown, courtesy of the Tuolumne County Visitors' Bureau. One recommendation: "Go before you go," a reference to the limited number of open bathrooms, executive director Lisa Mayo said.

Grand Canyon National Park is open with help from Arizona, which was paying about \$64,000 a week to cover restroom cleaning, trash removal and snow plowing. Anyone with permits to hike in the back-country or raft on the Colorado River could go, but the park wasn't issuing new permits, spokeswoman Emily Davis said.

Utah chipped in about \$7,500 a day from Dec. 22 to 31 to keep Zion, Bryce Canyon and Arches national parks running. Since then, the nonprofit Zion Forever Project has committed \$16,000 to keep a skeleton crew on hand and the bathrooms and visitor center open at Zion, which was drawing several thousand people a day, executive director Lyman Hafen said.

"It's extremely demoralizing for the park service folks who want to be doing their job and caring for the park the way they do," Hafen said.

Three Republican congressmen from Utah — Chris Stewart, Rob Bishop and John Curtis — sent a letter Friday to Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt asking him to take emergency measures to restart regular operations at the state's five major national parks.

Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park raised \$114,000 to keep the park for open for nine days with limited service, executive director Elizabeth Fien said. The money was used to pay law enforcement staff and rangers, including one who monitors endangered nene, or Hawaiian goose.

The Death Valley Natural History Association said it would pay to keep the visitor center at Death Valley National Park open until at least Thursday. Winter is a busy time at the park straddling the California-Nevada line, drawing visitors to its salt flats, dunes and canyons when the usual scorching temperatures are at bay.

A support group for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in northern Michigan was cleaning toilets and grooming a popular trail for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. But snow-covered parking lots weren't plowed, and the visitors center near Lake Michigan was closed, leaving the volunteer group to consider putting up an information tent.

"A lot of people who go to the park are looking for advice about where to go — what areas are good for snowshoeing and which might be dangerous, and there's no one here to tell them," said Kerry Kelly, the group's chairman. "It's extremely frustrating."

Another nonprofit was paying a private company to clean portable toilets near two popular trailheads at Shenandoah National Park, which includes a 101-mile (163-kilometer) section of the Appalachian Trail.

Some parks have closed, including Arches and Canyonlands in Utah, where a snowstorm made roads impassable. Park officials posted on Twitter that the shutdown left no money for snowplowing. In California, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park has closed and Muir Woods National Monument will shut down Monday because of overflowing trash and human waste.

At the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Florida's Everglades, no rangers were available to empty a metal tube where visitors deposit \$5 entry fees on the honor system. After a canoe rental company notified authorities, officers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service emptied the cash box and were monitoring it as part of their limited operations.

Conservation groups warned that volunteers could provide only a minimum level of service. Without full-time, professional staffing, natural resources and cultural artifacts could be damaged and people could

be injured, they said.

"The political pressure to keep the parks open needs to come off so managers can evaluate what they're capable of protecting and whether they can keep visitors safe," said Kristen Brengel, vice president of government affairs for the National Parks Conservation Association.

McCombs reported from Salt Lake City and Flesher from Traverse City, Michigan. Associated Press writers Matthew Brown in Billings, Montana; Felicia Fonseca in Flagstaff, Arizona; Krysta Fauria in Los Angeles; Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco; Audrey McAvoy in Honolulu; Jonathan Matisse in Nashville, Tennessee; Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; and Jennifer Kay in Miami contributed.

3 killed, 4 injured in California bowling alley shooting

By **SCOTT FAIN AND SOPHIA ROSENBAUM, Associated Press**

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — Three men were fatally shot late Friday and four injured when a brawl at a popular Los Angeles-area bowling alley and karaoke bar erupted into gunfire that had terrified patrons, some children, running for their lives.

Police in the coastal city of Torrance responded shortly after midnight to calls of shots fired at the Gable House Bowl. They found seven people with gunshot wounds.

Three men were pronounced dead at the scene and two were taken to a hospital, Sgt. Ronald Harris said. Two other men were struck by gunfire but "opted to seek their own medical attention."

Authorities have not identified the victims nor suspects or released details about what led to the shooting. Witnesses said it stemmed from a fight between two large groups.

Dwayne Edwards, 60, of Los Angeles, said he received a call from his nephew that his 28-year-old son, Astin Edwards, was one of those killed. His nephew told him his son was attempting to break up a fight when a gunman "just started unloading."

"I'm thinking this is a dream and I'll wake up," Edwards told the Orange County Register. "He was a good kid. I don't understand it."

A grieving mother told KABC-7 her 28-year-old son, Robert Meekins, was also trying to break up the fight and that Meekins and Astin Edwards were friends.

"They were friends, so I know he probably jumped in and helped Astin and whoever he was with ... but I don't think my son deserves to die," Anglean Hubbard said.

"My son was a loving person. He loved life, he loved his son, and he loved his family. Nobody can imagine what I'm going through right now," Hubbard said.

The third victim was 20-year-old Michael Radford, his sister Latrice Dumas told the Torrance Daily Breeze.

"He was happy. He was always a protector," Dumas said. "That's how he got into this, he was trying to protect others."

Wes Hamad, a 29-year-old Torrance resident, said he was at the bowling alley with his 13-year-old niece and cousin when he saw a "huge fight" break out. Hamad said the brawl, which lasted about five minutes, blocked the entrance and spiraled into "complete chaos."

"I grabbed my niece and started running toward the far end of the bowling alley," he said. "As we were running, we heard 15 shots."

As he was leaving, Hamad said he saw a woman weeping over a man who was had gunshot wounds to his head and neck.

Damone Thomas was in the karaoke section of the bowling alley, a regular stop for him and his friends after work on Fridays, when people ran in saying there was a shooting. The 30-year-old Los Angeles resident said his friend flipped a table to shield them as they heard gunshots.

Thomas said he didn't feel scared because he was "just trying to survive." But when he was driving home, he said he realized how traumatic the situation was and said he wasn't been able to fall asleep.

"Closing my eyes, all I can see is the women against the wall crying, not knowing what to do," he said.

Thomas and Hamad said they had never witnessed any violence there in the past. But Hamad said he

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 32 of 40

had stopped going for a while because he heard someone with a gun was recently seen there.

"I definitely won't be going back anymore," he added.

In a tweet, California U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris said her heart breaks for the victims.

"We must do more to address gun violence," she said. "Americans should be able to go to a bowling alley and be safe."

This version corrects the spelling of Hubbard's name to Anglean instead of Angeline.

Rosenbaum reported from New York City. Associated Press writer Daisy Nguyen reported from San Francisco.

Wall debate obscures other struggles at the border

By COLLEEN LONG and ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — In Washington, it's all about the wall. At the border, it's only part of the story.

Border authorities are struggling with outdated facilities ill-equipped to handle the growing increase in family migrants, resulting in immigrants being released onto the streets every day. The immigration court system is so clogged that some wait years for their cases to be resolved, and lacks funding to pay for basic things like in-person translators. An increase in sick children arriving at the border is putting a strain on medical resources.

But the Washington debate has focused almost exclusively on the \$5 billion in wall spending that President Donald Trump wants. Other proposals being discussed keep the rest of the Homeland Security department funding at existing levels.

"The wall is a tool. Unfortunately even if it's implemented across the border it isn't a solution to all the problems," said Victor M. Manjarrez, a former Border Patrol sector chief with more than 20 years of experience, now a professor at the University of Texas-El Paso.

Trump has suggested migrants won't bother to come if he gets his way, making other immigration issues less problematic. Walls and fencing currently blanket about one-third of the border — mostly built under President George W. Bush — and the president wants to extend and fortify them. But contracting, designing and building new wall systems complete with updated technology could take years.

Trump met Friday with Congressional leaders who said the president threatened the shutdown could go on for "years." Trump later said he'd considered using executive authority to get a wall built on the border.

"You can call it a barrier, you can call it whatever you want," Trump said a day earlier, flanked by immigration union heads. "But essentially we need protection in our country. We're going to make it good. The people of our country want it."

Meanwhile, the House passed a bill Thursday evening to fund the government without the \$5 billion, with new Democratic Speaker Nancy Pelosi calling the wall an "immorality."

The debate overlooks major bottlenecks in the immigration system as more families and children traveling alone turn themselves in to authorities to seek asylum, instead of trying to elude capture as almost everyone did just a few years ago. In some cases, migrants are climbing existing border fence and seeking out agents to surrender.

The backlog in immigration courts has more than doubled to 1.1 million cases since shortly before Trump took office, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. Families and children now account for about six of 10 Border Patrol arrests, but there are only about 3,300 family detention beds and the number of unaccompanied children in government care has soared under Trump.

Border crossers are stuck in short-term holding cells for days and there has been a spike in sick migrant children, including two who died in custody.

In addition, the wall will do little to address the issue of visa overstays — when immigrants come to the country legally and remain here after their papers expire. Authorities say there were nearly 740,000 overstays during a recent 12-month period.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 33 of 40

And border agents continue to struggle with growing numbers children and families. Officials say they are stopping about 2,000 people a day, more than 60 percent children and families, higher than during many periods under President Barack Obama. They referred 451 cases to a medical provider from Dec. 22 to Dec. 30, more than half children.

David Aguilar, the Border Patrol chief from 2004 to 2010 and a former acting Customs and Border Protection commissioner, said agencies that oversee long-term immigration custody need more funding to immediately step in after the Border Patrol makes an arrest. He says the agency is "overwhelmed" in dealing with all the children and families coming across the border now, much different from 1990s and 2000s.

"The demographics and the flows that are crossing the southern border are very different from the demographics and flows when we built the original walls ... back in 2006 and 2008," he said.

Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee last month, said stations were not built to manage the crush of families coming over. The wall was important, he said, but so were these other issues. He said they needed budgeting for medical care and mental health care for children in their facilities.

Trump has significantly increased the number of immigration judges but, A. Ashley Tabaddor, president of the National Association of Immigration Judges, said it came without enough support staff. About a week before the shutdown, judges were told the courts ran out of money for many in-person translators and that, as a result, it would have to reach them telephonically. A hearing that might last three minutes would last 20 minutes.

The shutdown is already having an impact on the immigration system. E-Verify, the online government system where employees can confirm eligibility of their employees to work legally in the U.S. is down.

Courts were only functioning for those who were detained. Other cases will be reset for a date once funding resumes, according to the website for the courts, which are overseen by the Department of Justice.

Immigration lawyers said that will only worsen the already overwhelming backlog. Immigration attorney Jeremy McKinney said he expects cases in Charlotte, North Carolina will be moved to 2020 because this year's docket is already full.

"The situation is a lose-lose," he said.

In contrast, the funding problems have only minimally affected the U.S. government agency tasked with reviewing immigrants' applications for green cards and other benefits. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which is a fee-based agency, said its offices are open and immigrants should attend appointments as expected.

Long reported from Washington, DC. Associated Press Writer Amy Taxin in Santa Ana, Calif. contributed to this report.

US sends troops for possible 'violent' Congo vote protests

By MATHILDE BOUSSION, Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — On the eve of the first expected results of Congo's long-delayed presidential election, President Donald Trump said military personnel had deployed to Central Africa to protect U.S. assets from possible "violent demonstrations," while the country's powerful Catholic church warned of a popular "uprising" if untrue results are announced.

Congo faces what could be its first democratic, peaceful transfer of power since independence from Belgium in 1960, but election observers and the opposition have raised concerns about voting irregularities as the country chooses a successor to longtime President Joseph Kabila.

The first results are expected on Sunday, and the United States and the African Union, among others, have urged Congo to release results that reflect the true will of the people. The U.S. has threatened sanctions against those who undermine the democratic process. Western election observers were not invited to watch the vote.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 34 of 40

While Congo has been largely calm on and after the Dec. 30 vote, Trump's letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said about 80 military personnel and "appropriate combat equipment" had deployed to nearby Gabon to support the security of U.S. citizens and staffers and diplomatic facilities. More will deploy as needed to Gabon, Congo or neighboring Republic of Congo, he wrote.

The U.S. ahead of the vote ordered "non-emergency" government employees and family members to leave the country.

The Catholic church, an influential voice in the heavily Catholic nation, caused surprise on Thursday by announcing that data reported by its 40,000 election observers deployed in all polling stations show a clear winner. As regulations say only the electoral commission can announce election results, the church did not give a name.

The electoral commission on Friday said the church's announcement could incite an uprising. The church on Saturday, in a letter to the commission seen by The Associated Press, replied that releasing untrue results could cause the uprising instead.

Congo's ruling party, which backs Kabila's preferred candidate Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, has called the church's attitude "irresponsible and anarchist."

Leading opposition candidate Martin Fayulu, a businessman and lawmaker, has accused Congolese authorities of impeding his campaign. His campaign manager, Pierre Lumbi, on Saturday accused the electoral commission of being "in the process of postponing the publication of the results."

The commission's rapporteur, Jean-Pierre Kalamba, said "we will see tomorrow" and that 44 percent of the results had been compiled.

At stake is a vast country rich in the minerals that power the world's mobile phones and laptops, yet desperately underdeveloped. Some 40 million people were registered to vote, though at the last minute some 1 million voters were barred as the electoral commission cited a deadly Ebola virus outbreak. Critics said that undermines the election's credibility.

The vote took place more than two years behind schedule, while a court ruled that Kabila could stay in office until the vote was held. The delay led to sometimes deadly protests as authorities cracked down, and Shadary is now under European Union sanctions for his role in the crackdown as interior minister at the time.

Kabila, who took office in 2001 after his father was assassinated, is barred from serving three consecutive terms but has hinted that he could run again in 2023. That has led many Congolese to suspect that he will rule from the shadows if Shadary takes office.

Internet and text messaging services were cut off the day after the election in an apparent effort by the government to prevent social media speculation about the results. The United States has urged that internet service be restored, and a United Nations human rights spokeswoman has warned that "these efforts to silence dissent could backfire considerably when the results are announced."

Follow Africa news at https://twitter.com/AP_Africa

Federal agencies directed to hold off on shutdown raises

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal agencies have been directed to hold off enacting pay raises for top administration officials during a government shutdown that has left hundreds of thousands of federal workers without pay.

The guidance was issued Friday in a memo from Margaret Weichert, the acting director of the Office of Personnel Management.

The raises were the result of a pay freeze for top federal officials, including the vice president and cabinet secretaries, that was on the verge of expiring because of the shutdown.

In the memo, Weichert writes that, "In the current absence of Congressional guidance," OPM "believes it would be prudent for agencies to continue to pay these senior political officials at the frozen rate until

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 35 of 40

appropriations legislation is enacted that would clarify the status of the freeze.”

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders had said earlier Friday that the administration was “aware of the issue” and “exploring options to prevent this from being implemented while some federal workers are furloughed.”

Trump had also told reporters at a press conference that he “might consider” asking cabinet secretaries and other top officials to forgo the raises. Vice President Mike Pence committed to doing so.

The raises, which were first reported by The Washington Post, appear to be an unintended consequence of a shutdown that is affecting hundreds of thousands of federal employees, forcing many to work without pay. Trump and congressional leaders met again Friday to try to hash out a resolution, but emerged no closer to a deal. Trump is demanding billions of dollars for his long-promised wall along the southern border. Democrats refuse to give him the money.

Sanders, in her statement, called the raises “another unnecessary byproduct of the shutdown” and put the onus on Congress, saying it “can easily take care of this by funding the government and securing our borders.”

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, a Democrat, also called on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to hold a vote on the measures passed by the House Thursday night to re-open the government and provide back pay to those affected by the shutdown.

Follow Colvin on Twitter <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

AP FACT CHECK: Trump’s super-talkative, fact-busting week

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump held forth on all manner of things this past week as he emerged from a “lonely” spell over the holidays. He opined for more than 90 minutes to the press, at the top of a Cabinet meeting, on the shutdown, immigration, drug prices, the Soviet history in Afghanistan, his approval ratings, Syria, oil prices, the nature of walls, the attractiveness of his generals (“better looking than Tom Cruise”), and much more.

He capped the week with a Rose Garden news conference that stretched for an hour. And he’s been tweeting a lot.

Trump’s accounts did not show tremendous fealty to the facts. Here’s a sampling of what he said:

THE WALL

TRUMP: “We’ve already built a lot of the wall.” — Rose Garden news conference Friday.

THE FACTS: He hasn’t.

Trump’s claim is only supported when counting work done under past presidents and ignoring the fact that fences from prior administrations are not the towering walls he promised. The 2006 Secure Fence Act has resulted in about 650 miles (1,050 kilometers) of border barrier. Money approved by Congress in March 2018 is to pay for 84 miles (135 km), but that work is not done. Trump has achieved some renovation of existing barrier.

TRUMP: “The drugs are pouring into this country. They don’t go through the ports of entry. When they do, they sometimes get caught.” — Rose Garden news conference.

THE FACTS: He’s wrong in saying drug smugglers don’t or only rarely use official border crossings for their trafficking. Land ports of entry are their primary means for getting drugs into the country, not stretches of the border without barriers, says the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The agency said in a November report that the most common trafficking technique by transnational criminal organizations is to hide drugs in passenger vehicles or tractor-trailers as they drive into the U.S. through entry ports, where they are stopped and subject to inspection. They also employ buses, cargo trains and tunnels, the report says, citing smuggling methods that would not be choked off by a border wall.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 36 of 40

TRUMP: "The new trade deal we have with Mexico and Canada — what we save on that, just with Mexico, will pay for the wall many times over, just in a period of a year, two years or three years. So I view that as absolutely Mexico is paying for the wall." — Rose Garden news conference.

THE FACTS: Mexico is not paying for the wall and nothing in the trade agreement would cover or refund the construction cost.

Trump is assuming a wide variety of economic benefits will come from the agreement, but they can't be quantified or counted on. For example, he said the deal will dissuade some U.S. companies from moving operations to Mexico and he credits that possibility as a payment by Mexico for his wall.

The deal updates the North American Free Trade Agreement, in the main preserving NAFTA's liberalized environment of low or no tariffs among the U.S., Mexico and Canada, while making certain improvements for each country. Trump stated inaccurately that it's "brand new. It's totally different."

Moreover, it's not in effect. The deal has yet to be ratified in any member country and its chances of winning legislative approval are not assured.

Trump has argued repeatedly that Mexico is footing the bill even while insisting on \$5.6 billion from the U.S. treasury to go toward wall construction. His demand and the refusal of Democrats to satisfy it are behind the budget standoff that has closed parts of the government.

SYRIA

TRUMP: "We had a fantastic meeting with the generals and the Syria situation. I mean, I'm the only person in the history of our country that could really decimate ISIS, say we're bringing the troops back home over a period of time. I never said so quickly, but over a period of time." — Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

THE FACTS: He's wrong about his past statements regarding the pace of withdrawal. In a video posted to his Twitter account on Dec. 19, for instance, Trump said of the roughly 2,000 troops in Syria: "They're all coming back, and they're coming back now."

TRUMP: "I read, when we pull out, 'Oh, Russia is thrilled.' Russia is not happy. You know why they're not happy? Because they like it when we're killing ISIS, because we're killing them for them, and we're killing them for Assad, and we're killing ISIS also for Iran." — Cabinet meeting.

THE FACTS: Russia says it's happy. A U.S. withdrawal opens opportunities for Moscow and Tehran to increase their influence and may help the Syrian government survive as a Kurdish-led opposition force loses its military ally on the ground.

Russian President Vladimir Putin says the U.S. "has done the right thing" in planning to pull out.

AFGHANISTAN

TRUMP: "The reason Russia was in Afghanistan was because terrorists were going into Russia. They (the Soviets) were right to be there." — Cabinet meeting.

THE FACTS: His assertion that the Soviet Union was experiencing a terrorist influx from Afghanistan when it invaded in 1979 is out of step with history. And his belief that the Soviets were right to invade is a stark departure from U.S. and world opinion.

The Soviets were trying to bolster communists in Afghanistan and possibly expand their influence against the United States and the West.

World condemnation was swift: The U.N. General Assembly voted 104-18 to deplore the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The U.S. supported the anti-communist rebels, giving them shoulder-fired rockets to down Soviet aircraft. The Soviets withdrew in 1989.

TRUMP: "Russia used to be the Soviet Union. Afghanistan made it Russia, because they went bankrupt fighting in Afghanistan." — Cabinet meeting.

THE FACTS: Afghanistan was far from the sole reason for the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. The dissolution occurred in a time of ethnic and political troubles, economic woes and a series of revolutions

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 37 of 40

that led Soviet republics to seek their independence. The Soviet demise was accelerated by the heavy cost of competing with the West to wield influence around the world, including in Afghanistan.

OIL PRICES

TRUMP: "Do you think it's just luck that gas prices are so low, and falling? Low gas prices are like another Tax Cut!" — tweet Tuesday.

TRUMP: "It's not luck. It's not luck. I called up certain people, and I said, 'Let that damn oil and gasoline — you let it flow — the oil.' It was going up to \$125. If that would've happened, then you would've had a recession, depression." — Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

THE FACTS: It's not all about him, or even mostly about him.

While Americans may end up paying somewhat less for gasoline this year, Trump's suggestion that he deserves all the credit and averted a U.S. economic depression is an exaggeration. Oil prices, which peaked Oct. 3, have been generally falling on the realization that U.S. sanctions against Iran would not create a shortage and on fear that a global oversupply of oil will spill into 2019 if slower international economic growth depresses energy demand.

The president's supposed "let it flow" edict did not stop OPEC and its Russia-led allies from agreeing last month to cut oil production. That initially failed to stop oil prices from sliding further; they have since rebounded a few dollars in the past week. Continued OPEC production cuts would push prices higher.

Trump has pointed to his positive relations with Saudi Arabia, which remains the biggest oil exporter. As a so-called swing producer with the ability to adjust production up or down relatively quickly, it can indeed influence the price of crude. But the market is complex: Canada, for example, is actually the top source of U.S. oil imports, with Saudi Arabia second.

TARIFFS

TRUMP: "The United States Treasury has taken in MANY billions of dollars from the Tariffs we are charging China and other countries that have not treated us fairly. In the meantime we are doing well in various Trade Negotiations currently going on." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump is off on two major issues. First, tariffs are taxes paid largely by U.S. business and consumers, not foreign countries. And while Trump's "MANY billions" might sound like a lot, it's doing little to nothing to improve the federal balance sheet. The U.S. government spent \$4.1 trillion last fiscal year and the budget deficit shot up, according to Trump's own Treasury Department.

Customs and duties generated \$41.3 billion in revenues last year, up from \$34.6 billion in 2017.

That \$6.7 billion increase occurred in part because of the president's tariffs. But it amounted to just 0.16 percent of federal spending.

MATTIS

TRUMP, on Jim Mattis: "I wish him well. I hope he does well. But, as you know, President (Barack) Obama fired him and essentially so did I. I want results." — Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Actually, Mattis resigned as defense secretary in protest over Trump's decision to pull U.S. troops from Syria.

The retired Marine general announced on Dec. 20 in a resignation letter that he was stepping down after Trump's decision to withdraw 2,000 U.S. troops from Syria. Mattis said he would stay on the job until the end of February. Three days later, Trump said he was replacing Mattis with the second-ranking defense official, Pat Shanahan, on Jan. 1.

As to the tenure under Obama, Mattis served as commander of the military's Central Command. He departed a few months earlier than expected in 2013, in part because of disagreements over Iran.

DRUG PRICES

TRUMP: "I think you're going to see a tremendous reduction in drug prices." — Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 38 of 40

THE FACTS: Prices continue to rise. Administration policies announced last year and currently being completed don't seem to have shifted that trend.

Figures on U.S. prescription drug price changes compiled by health data company Elsevier show that from Dec. 20 through Jan. 2, there were 1,179 product price changes. Of those, 30 were price cuts and the remaining 1,149 were price increases, with 328 of them between 9 percent and 10 percent. All but one of the rest were by lower percentages. Elsevier spokesman Chris Capot said more companies will be announcing price increases this month.

Separately, a data firm whose software can help patients find the most cost-effective medications says its information shows price increases on many commonly used drugs for conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

"In the first two days of January, prices have increased on more than 250 different products," said Michael Rea, CEO of Rx Savings Solutions. The average increase is about 6 percent, he added.

IMMIGRATION

TRUMP, on the number of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally: "I used to hear 11 million all the time. It would always stay right at 11. I said, 'Does it ever increase or go down?' 'No, it's 11.' Nobody knows. It's probably 30, 35 million people. They would flow in, mostly from the southern border, they'd come in and nobody would talk about it, nobody would do anything about it." — Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

THE FACTS: It's nowhere close to 30 million to 35 million, according to his own Homeland Security secretary as well as independent estimates.

The nonpartisan Pew Research Center estimates there were 10.7 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally in 2016, the most recent data available. Advocacy groups on both sides of the immigration issue have similar estimates.

At a House hearing last month, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen acknowledged the number was "somewhere" between 11 million and 22 million, significantly lower than Trump's claim of 35 million.

According to Pew, the number of immigrants in the U.S. illegally had reached a height of 12.2 million in 2007, representing about 4 percent of the U.S. population, before declining in part because of a weakening U.S. economy.

TRUMP: "The coyotes are using children to gain access into this country. They're using these children. They're not with families. They're using the children. They're taking the children. And then they dispose of the children after they're done. This has been going on for years. This isn't unique to us. But we want to stop it." — Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

THE FACTS: This does happen, though it's not as common as Trump suggests by talking about it so often. He is referring to adults who come with children they falsely claim to be theirs, so that they won't be detained under a no-child-separation policy.

But such cases of fraud are rare. According to the Homeland Security Department, about 500 immigrants were found to be not a "legitimate family unit" and thus separated upon detention from April 19 to Sept. 30 of last year. That's a small fraction of the 107,000 families apprehended in the last budget year, which ended Sept. 30.

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Michael Balsamo, Colleen Long, Jill Colvin, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Robert Burns and Deb Riechmann in Washington, David Koenig in Dallas, Kathy Gannon in Islamabad and AP Medical Writer Linda A. Johnson in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kbx8bd>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 39 of 40

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 2019. There are 359 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 6, 1945, George Herbert Walker Bush married Barbara Pierce at the First Presbyterian Church in Rye, New York.

On this date:

In 1759, George Washington and Martha Dandridge Custis were married in New Kent County, Virginia.

In 1838, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail gave the first successful public demonstration of their telegraph in Morristown, New Jersey.

In 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state.

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay, New York, at age 60.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, outlined a goal of "Four Freedoms": Freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of people to worship God in their own way; freedom from want; freedom from fear.

In 1968, a surgical team at Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California, led by Dr. Norman Shumway performed the first U.S. adult heart transplant, placing the heart of a 43-year-old man in a 54-year-old patient (the recipient died 15 days later).

In 1974, year-round daylight saving time began in the United States on a trial basis as a fuel-saving measure in response to the OPEC oil embargo.

In 1993, authorities rescued Jennifer Stolpa and her infant son, Clayton, after Jennifer's husband, James, succeeded in reaching help, ending the family's eight-day ordeal after becoming lost in the snow-covered Nevada desert. Jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, 75, died in Englewood, New Jersey; ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev died in suburban Paris at age 54.

In 1994, figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg by an assailant at Detroit's Cobo Arena; four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's rival, Tonya Harding, went to prison for their roles in the attack. (Harding pleaded guilty to conspiracy to hinder prosecution, but denied any advance knowledge about the assault.)

In 1998, In a new bid to expand health insurance, President Clinton unveiled a proposal to offer Medicare coverage to hundreds of thousands of uninsured Americans between the ages of 55 to 64.

In 2001, with Vice President Al Gore presiding in his capacity as president of the Senate, Congress formally certified George W. Bush the winner of the bitterly contested 2000 presidential election.

In 2003, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accused U.N. inspectors of engaging in "intelligence work" instead of searching for suspected nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in his country.

Ten years ago: Congress opened for business at the dawn of a new Democratic era with vows to fix the crisis-ridden economy; Republicans pledged cooperation in Congress as well as with President-elect Barack Obama — to a point. Obama vowed to "bring a long-overdue sense of responsibility and accountability to Washington" and called the need for budget reform "an absolute necessity." Cheryl Holdridge, one of the original Mouseketeers on "The Mickey Mouse Club," died in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 64.

Five years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court stayed a decision by a federal judge striking down Utah's ban on same-sex marriage so that the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver could decide the issue. (In June 2014, the Court of Appeals overturned the ban; in October, the U.S. Supreme Court turned away appeals from five states seeking to preserve their bans, including Utah.) By a vote of 56-26, the U.S. Senate confirmed Janet Yellen as the first woman to lead the Federal Reserve. No. 1 Florida State beat No. 2 Auburn 34-31 in the BCS National Championship Game.

One year ago: Pushing back against a new book that said his own aides questioned his competence, President Donald Trump defended his mental fitness in a series of tweets, saying that he is "like, really

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 181 ~ 40 of 40

smart" and "a very stable genius." Japanese air bag maker Takata said it was recalling an additional 3.3 million faulty air bag inflators, expanding the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. About 100 million Americans were faced with a gusty deep freeze that followed a whopping East Coast snowstorm; the wind chill was close to minus 100 on New Hampshire's Mount Washington.

Today's Birthdays: Country musician Joey, the CowPolka King (Riders in the Sky) is 70. Former FBI director Louis Freeh is 69. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 68. Singer Jett Williams is 66. Actor-comedian Rowan Atkinson is 64. World Golf Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez is 62. Actor Scott Bryce is 61. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kathy Sledge is 60. TV chef Nigella Lawson is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eric Williams (BLACKstreet) is 59. Movie director John Singleton is 51. Actor Aron Eisenberg is 50. Actor Norman Reedus is 50. TV personality Julie Chen is 49. Actor Danny Pintauro (TV: "Who's the Boss?") is 43. Actress Cristela Alonzo is 40. Actress Rinko Kikuchi (RINK'-oh kih-KOO'chee) is 38. Actor Eddie Redmayne is 37. Retired NBA All-Star Gilbert Arenas is 37. Actress-comedian Kate McKinnon is 35. Actress Diona Reasonover is 35. Rock singer Alex Turner (Arctic Monkeys) is 33.

Thought for Today: "Simplicity is an acquired taste. Mankind, left free, instinctively complicates life." — Katharine Fullerton Gerould, American author (1879-1944).

Copyright 2019, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.