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Nielsen has 32 points to give Redmen win over Groton Area

Sisseton's Nate Nielsen powered in four three-pointers, was six of seven from the line for 32 points and had a double-double night with 11 rebounds to lift Sisseton to a 52-39 win over Groton Area. The game was played in Groton.

Groton Area held a 15-9 lead after the first quarter and with the help of a 10-point rally, the Tigers took a 17-9 lead and upped it to 20-11. The Redmen started to battle back and it was a 24-18 Groton lead at half time. Sisseton would score seven straight points to tie the game at 27 and would take a 32-29 at the end of the third quarter. The Redmen would outscore the Tigers, 8-2, early in the fourth quarter and continued to outpace the Tigers for the final 52-39 win.

Jonathan Doeden led the Tigers with 16 points followed by Brodyn DeHoet with seven, Kaden Kurtz five, Tristan Traphagen and Treyton Diegel with four each and Austin Jones had three points.

As Nielsen had 32 points for Sisseton, that left 20 points for everyone else with Andrew Kranhold having five, Ramsey Heinecke and Sage Flute each had four, Ty Peterson had three and Xavier Donnell and Anthony Tchida each had two.

Groton Area made 16 of 57 field goals for 28 percent while Sisseton was 17 of 52 for 38 percent. In three-pointers, Groton Area was one of 15 for 7 percent and Sisseton was five of 14 for 35 percent. Groton Area made six of 12 free throws for 50 percent off of Sisseton's 13 team fouls. Sisseton made 13 of 16 free throws for 81 percent off of Groton Area's 16 team fouls. Groton Area had six turnovers with four of them being steals. Sisseton had eight turnovers with four of them being steals. DeHoet had a block and he led the rebounding with 11 of the team's 33 rebounds. Sisseton had 38 rebounds.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponosored by Allied Climate Professionals, Bahr Spray Foam, Blocker Construction, Doug Abeln Seed Company, James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgensen, John Sieh Agency, Locke Electric, Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.; Northeast Chiropractic Clinic, Professional Management Services, Inc.; Sanford Health, Tyson DeHoet Trucking, Weber Landscaping.

Sisseton won the junior varsity game, 37-31. Jayden Zak had 11 points, Abdimalik Mohamed had seven, Lane Tietz six, Cyruss DeHoet three and Isaac Smith and Chandler Larson each had two.

Groton Area won the C game, 28-10. Lane Tietz had eight points, Pierce Kettering and Jackson Cogley each had five, Tate Larson four, and Jackson Bahr and Wyatt Hearnen each had three.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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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 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@venturecomm.net. (1227.0111)

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Wolves fend off second half comeback and down Crookston

Aberdeen, S.D. – It went down to the wire, in Northern State's 72-70 victory over Minnesota Crookston on Friday evening. With the win, the Wolves improve to 12-3 overall and 8-1 in the NSIC, handing the Golden Eagles their seventh loss of the season.

Northern led 34-29 at the half, however Minnesota Crookston stormed back in the second. The Golden Eagles out-scored the Wolves 41-38 in the half shooting 51.7 percent from the floor. Northern did however make stops on defense when they needed to, forcing four missed field goals in the final three minutes.

The Wolves finished the game shooting 44.2 percent from the floor, 46.7 percent from the arc, and 61.3 percent from the free throw line. Northern out-rebounded Crookston 43-to-35 in the win, recording 13 second chance points. They combined for a game high 17 assists, seven made 3-poitners, and five steals, while adding two blocks. NSU notched 32 points in the paint, 19 points off the bench, and five points off turnovers.

Bo Fries led the team, matching his career high of 18 points. The senior hit 6-of-7 from the field, 3-of-3 from the 3-point line, and 3-of-3 from the foul line. He also added a team second best seven rebounds, as well as three assists, one block, and one steal.

Justin Decker was second on the team with 14 points, shooting 71.4 percent from the floor. Decker added three rebounds and one assist for the Wolves. Gabe King and Parker Fox each tallied 11 points, with Fox leading the team off the bench. King shot 50.0 percent in the win, and tallied seven rebounds and one steal. Fox notched his second double-double of the season with a team leading ten rebounds.

Ian Smith was the final Wolf in double figures with ten points, in addition to seven rebounds, four assists, and one steal. Despite being held scoreless in the game, Andrew Kallman was an asset to his teammates with a team high five assists.

Mason Stark and Cole Dahl grabbed the final team points for the Wolves with five and three respectively. Stark added two rebounds, one assist, and one steal, while Dahl went 1-for-2 from the 3-point line.

Northern returns to Wachs Arena and Don Meyer court this evening at 6 p.m. versus Bemidji State.

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Wolves sneak out one-point victory over Minnesota Crookston Friday evening

Aberdeen, S.D. – Lexi Wadsworth offensive rebound late in the fourth quarter sealed the 60-59 victory over Minnesota Crookston Friday Evening. With the win, the Wolves improve to 7-8 on the season and 4-5 in the NSIC.

Crookston started the game on an 8-0 run in the first four minutes of the game. Wolves trailed the Golden Eagles 18-9 after one quarter of play. Wolves went on an 8-0 run in the middle of the second quarter as the Wolves trailed the Golden Eagles by one heading into the intermission. In the first half, the Wolves shot 33.3 percent from the field, 50.0 percent from behind the 3-point line, picked up three steals.

NSU recorded a 10-2 run in the first four minutes of the third quarter to take a seven-point lead into the final quarter. Off the missed free-throw by Kusler with 16 seconds left in the game Wadsworth picked up the offensive rebound as Kusler hit two free-throws to give the Wolves a four point lead. Crookston hit a late three to cut the lead to one with two seconds but the Wolves dribbled out the game. Wolves in the game shot 35.6 percent from the field, 50.0 percent from behind the arc, recorded 44 rebounds, 10 assists as a team, forced 13 turnovers, and recorded five steals.

Brianna Kusler tallied a double-double with 13 points and a career high 16 rebounds in the game with one steal and one assist. Lexi Wadsworth was one rebound short of a double-double with 12 points and nine rebounds, she also recorded three assists, one block, and one steal. Anika Fredrick tallied double figures with 10 points and one rebound.

Zoe Hardwick was the leading scorer off the bench for the Wolves with 11 points and two rebounds. Alayna Johnson recorded nine points, five rebounds, one assist, and one steal. Joie Spier tallied five points and one steal off the bench. Jessie Marti tallied five rebounds, four assists, and one steal in her first start of the season. Tori Mekash was the last starter for the Wolves tallying one assist in the victory.

Wolves are back in action this afternoon at Wachs Arena, as Bemidji State comes into town for a NSIC doubleheader with tip-off scheduled for 4 p.m.



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Broadcast of this game is sponsored by the



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Today in Weather History

January 12, 1912: The all-time coldest temperature ever recorded at Aberdeen and Timber Lake were 46 degrees below zero on this date in 1912. On February 8th, 1895, 46 degrees below zero was also recorded in Aberdeen. The record low for this date was also set at Watertown with 38 degrees below zero.

January 12, 1997: On January 12th, 1997, some of the greatest snow depths were recorded across central and northeast South Dakota. Ipswich had 29 inches on the ground, Aberdeen had 30 inches, Timber Lake had 31 inches, Mobridge had 34 inches, and Waubay had 38 inches. Some of the highest snow depths were recorded at Summit, Sand Lake, and at Eureka. Summit had 42 inches of snow on the ground on January 12th, Sand Lake had 47 inches, and Eureka had a snow depth of 50 inches. The snow depth at Aberdeen was the all-time record snow depth and Mobridge was just an inch shy of their 35-inch record snow depth.

1886: With a reading of 26 degrees below zero, Bowling Green Kentucky recorded its coldest temperature on record.

1890: A tornado touched down at St. Louis, MO and crossed the Mississippi River, ending just south of Venice. The worst damage from this tornado occurred in St. Louis. Further east and northeast, one tornado in McLean County passed through downtown Cooksville, destroying at least a dozen buildings, while a tornado in Richland County destroyed four homes northeast of Olney. In all, over 100 homes and other buildings were unroofed or damaged. The storm caused four deaths and 15 injuries.

1985: A record snowstorm struck portions of western and south-central Texas. All snowfall records dating back to 1885 were easily broken. Austin measured 3.6 inches, and Del Rio received 8.6 inches. San Antonio saw a record-setting 13.5 inches from this event.

1888 - A sharp cold front swept southward from the Dakotas to Texas in just 24 hours spawning a severe blizzard over the Great Plains. More than 200 pioneers perished in the storm. Subzero temperatures and mountainous snow drifts killed tens of thousands of cattle. (David Ludlum)

1912 - The morning low of 47 degrees below zero at Washta IA established a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A record snowstorm struck portions of western and south central Texas. The palm trees of San Antonio were blanketed with up to thirteen and a half inches of snow, more snow than was ever previously received in an entire winter season. (Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1987 - Twenty-seven cities in the Upper Midwest reported new record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 72 degrees at Valentine NE and 76 degrees at Rapid City SD set records for the month of January. (National Weather Summary)

1988 - Parts of North Dakota finally got their first snow of the winter season, and it came with a fury as a blizzard raged across the north central U.S. Snowfall totals ranged up to 14 inches at Fargo ND, winds gusted to 65 mph at Windom MN, and wind chill readings in North Dakota reached 60 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A dozen cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s and 80s. Fort Myers FL reported a record high of 86 degrees. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - Gale force winds produce squalls with heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Totals in northwest Pennsylvania ranged up to eleven inches at Conneautville and Meadville. Barnes Corners, in western New York State, was buried under 27 inches of snow in two days. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



Published on: 01/12/2019 at 4:54AM

The forecast for today: Cloudy with highs in the 20s. Lingering light freezing drizzle or flurries to slowly exit this morning.

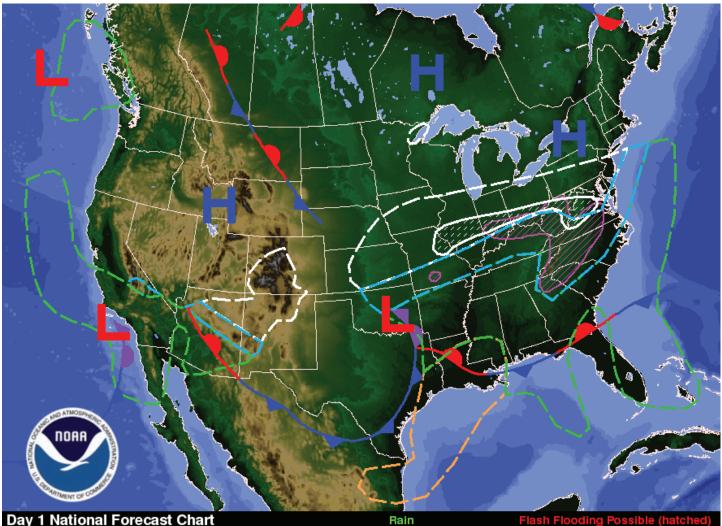
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Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 24 °F at 2:02 PM

High Outside Temp: 24 °F at 2:02 PM Low Outside Temp: 12 °F at 8:35 AM High Gust: 18 mph at 8:38 PM Precip:

Today's Info Record High: 58° in 1987

Record High: 58° in 1987 Record Low: -46° in 1912 Average High: 22°F Average Low: 1°F Average Precip in Jan.: 0.19 Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00 Average Precip to date: 0.19 Precip Year to Date: 0.00 Sunset Tonight: 5:13 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:11 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart Valid Sat, Jan 12, 2019, issued 3:38 AM EST DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center Prepared by Snell with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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LIVE IT HERE!

He was one of those deacons who spoke much more than was necessary and did much less than was needed. There was always a discrepancy between the way he lived, and the way he worked for the Lord.

One day he stopped by his pastors office in a state of great excitement. Pastor, he shouted, Im going to the Holy Land. Isnt that wonderful? Arent you happy for me?

Well, yes I am, said his pastor.

Do you know what Im going to do? he asked.

No, no I dont. But Im sure youre going to tell me, came the reply.

When my group gets to the top of the mountain where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, Im going to have the group sit in front of me in a half circle while I read them out loud to everyone. Isnt that exciting? Im thrilled, he continued.

Deacon, replied his pastor, I think it would be much better for God and your group if youd stay at home and live them.

The Psalmist came straight to the point: In keeping them, there is great reward.

Many of us have memorized them, given copies of them to others - perhaps even entered into arguments as to why or why not The Ten Commandments should be placed in public places where everyone could see them.

However, if God were involved in the conversation, Im sure Hed be with the pastor and say, Just live them!

Prayer: Father, its much easier to talk about You than live for You. Help us, please, to show others who You are. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 19:11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

• 05/27/2019 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)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 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
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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News from the Associated Press

Rosebud police recover cash, drugs and guns in bust

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — Police with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe say they recovered large amounts of cash, drugs and guns during an investigation that extended from the reservation to Nebraska.

The Rapid City Journal reports that more than \$40,000 in cash and large quantities of marijuana and methamphetamine were found on the reservation and in Valentine, Nebraska.

Police also found firearms, ammunition, high-capacity magazines and body armor.

No further details were available.

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

South Dakota health care system expands grief counseling

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota health care system is expanding its grief counseling program in the Black Hills region.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that Regional Health has offered grief counseling in Spearfish and Belle Fourche, but is now adding services to Lead, Deadwood and Sturgis.

Patti Aurand is a hospice chaplain, bereavement coordinator and social work associate with Regional Health. She says the group meetings are open to anyone who is actively grieving.

Aurand says processing grief can take a long time. She hopes the program will help people process lingering emotions they may face.

Regional Health is also offering an eight-week course for those dealing with a particularly difficult loss. The counseling services are part of Regional Health's Home and Hospice care program.

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

Friday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Arlington 63, Estelline/Hendricks 18 Baltic 68, Howard 62 Brandon Valley 52, Watertown 36 Britton-Hecla 60, Webster 52 Campbell County, Wyo. 62, Rapid City Central 59 Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 77, Todd County 53 DeSmet 55, Colman-Egan 41 Dell Rapids St. Mary 74, Deubrook 68 Elkton-Lake Benton 60, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 38 Gregory 54, Burke 44 Ipswich 49, Waubay/Summit 29 Kimball/White Lake 65, Corsica/Stickney 57 Lemmon 64, Tiospaye Topa 45 Madison 74, Flandreau 73 Omaha Nation, Neb. 97, Marty Indian 62 Pierre 52, Mitchell 50 Platte-Geddes 67, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 42

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Ponca, Neb. 63, Elk Point-Jefferson 40 Rapid City Stevens 46, Sturgis Brown 34 Tri-State, N.D. 75, Wilmot 49 Tri-Valley 54, Beresford 51 Jones County Tournament(equals) Consolation Semifinal(equals) Kadoka Area 65, Bennett County 39 Stanley County 68, Philip 61 Semifinal(equals) Colome 50, Jones County 43 White River 79, Lyman 54 West River Tournament(equals) Consolation Semifinal(equals) Edgemont 66, Moorcroft, Wyo. 51 Newell 45, New Underwood 22 Semifinal(equals) Hot Springs 56, Wall 14 Upton, Wyo. 47, Faith 45

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Beresford 44, Tri-Valley 34 Brandon Valley 50, Watertown 35 Campbell County, Wyo. 48, Rapid City Central 44 Castlewood 68, Great Plains Lutheran 30 Howard 59, Baltic 34 Lemmon 61, Tiospaye Topa 39 Lisbon, N.D. 59, Sisseton 41 New Underwood 54, Timber Lake 37 Ponca, Neb. 43, Elk Point-Jefferson 37 Rapid City Stevens 41, Sturgis Brown 31 Todd County 74, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 47 Tripp-Delmont/Armour 48, Platte-Geddes 27 Wakpala 68, Aberdeen Christian 59 Wall 48, Custer 35 West Central 62, St. Thomas More 45 Yankton 43, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 38 281 Conference Tournament First Round(equals) Highmore-Harrold 56, Wessington Springs 54 Hitchcock-Tulare 60, Sunshine Bible Academy 32 Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 57, Iroquois 13 Wolsey-Wessington 46, James Valley Christian 41 West River Tournament(equals) Consolation Semifinal(equals) Hot Springs 50, Oelrichs 38 Rapid City Christian 63, Upton, Wyo. 38 Semifinal(equals) Edgemont 48, Moorcroft, Wyo. 45 Faith 71, Newell 33

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Author shares secrets to making the 'Best Bread Ever' By CORA VAN OLSON, Yankton Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — In her quest for the perfect homemade loaf of bread, a local woman has published a book sharing her personal method for getting perfect results from your bread machine.

"Secrets to Baking the Best Bread Ever," by freelance writer Loretta Sorensen, came out in December and is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

"I started helping local authors publish their books in about 2005," Sorensen said to the Yankton Press and Dakotan . "I knew just enough to be dangerous. (With this book), I did all the graphic design on the inside, and Cindy Mason, who is a graphic designer here in town, actually did the cover. I took all pictures."

Taking her cue from her mother who made everything from scratch, Sorensen said she always wanted to bake bread.

"Over the years, I've tried all the traditional methods. I tried a mixer; I bought a food processor and tried that and nothing worked," Sorensen said. "When I bought the bread machine 20 years ago, I was never happy with it. I used it a few times and then I wound up giving it away."

In 2017, Sorensen's husband Alan was diagnosed with cancer. As he went through treatment and recovery, the couple tried to eat as little processed food as possible, and Sorensen decided to try her hand at bread making once again.

"I thought, 'You know, I should get a bread machine. I bet they are a lot better than they used to be,' she recalled. "Bread machines might have more features, but the basic bread machine is still the same." Returning temporarily to the traditional method, Sorensen had an epiphany.

"The thing that changed it was, I started using my digital thermometer to check the temperature of my liquid," she said. "That is the key: start it out at the perfect temperature range and try to maintain that warm environment right through to when it's time to start baking."

The bread machine, she realized, could be used to do the hard work, and combined with her newfound knowledge, could yield better results.

"I went traditional, which is a lot of work, and actually, no matter how good you are at it, the traditional way, I could never mix it as thoroughly as the bread machine does," Sorensen said. "It does it for 15 minutes at a time, two kneading cycles. I couldn't do that."

Current yeast has smaller granules than it did when her mother baked, so should be easier to activate, Sorensen said.

"However, my experience has been: activate it; get it started; make sure it's good," she said. "I did some research, too, on the chemistry. You've probably heard that baking bread is an art, and there's some truth to that, but there's also some science involved."

Sorensen's book begins with a bread-making cheat sheet that lists everything that she found contributed to a better loaf, including temperature and equipment specifics, as well as advice on bread-making machines. With her new bread-making method, Sorensen finally got consistent, delicious results.

"Bread is sensitive, so there is a little variation (in results)," Sorensen said. "The thing that is consistent for me is this: a high rising loaf and light, fluffy bread, that's 100 percent of the time. That is what sold me. I don't have to worry about, 'Will this time be flat and brick-like? No.""

Sorensen was so pleased with the way her bread was coming out that she started sharing her methods with friends.

"Everyone's like, 'What are you doing? I have the same trouble with my bread machine.' But there are so many little tips," Sorensen said. "I did a bread blog. I blog for Grit magazine about making bread, and as I went, I thought, 'I need to put this in book format so that, first off, I can give it to family and friends, and everyone that is really interested has all the information that I learned and I can just hand it off to them."

In the book, Sorensen recommends using a bread machine, but offers advice on using a mixer, or using the bread machine solely for mixing and kneading.

"In fact, there is one recipe in here from a friend of mine who uses a bread machine to do the first

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kneading and the first rise, but then she takes it out of the bread machine and rolls it out flat," Sorensen said. "I have tried that, too. It's contrary to logic that you would roll that dough out flat and squeeze out any air bubbles, but that will give you a pretty good loaf."

Using a bread machine to do the hard work will yield wonderful fresh-baked bread in about two hours, Sorensen said.

"Most of the time is at the front end, when you have to get everything in the machine," Sorensen said. "I recommend a bread machine for sure."

In the book, she also includes thorough discussions on flour and grinding, as well as recipes for bread, buns and rolls.

"This is a happy circumstance, and I do think it will help a lot of people," Sorensen said. "Bread machines are coming back, and if somebody buys one, at least they would know what their options are."

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, http://www.yankton.net/

SD Lottery By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions 04-05-31-62-69, Mega Ball: 20, Megaplier: 3 (four, five, thirty-one, sixty-two, sixty-nine; Mega Ball: twenty; Megaplier: three) Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$96 million

Democrat: Keystone XL developer should pay into cleanup fund By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers should require the Keystone XL pipeline's developer to pay into a state oil spill cleanup fund and impose more regulations on so-called man camps, the state Senate Democratic leader said Friday.

Sen. Troy Heinert, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, said that the state and legislators should sit down with the tribes to hear their concerns. The proposals come a day after Rosebud President Rodney Bordeaux addressed the Legislature, saying the pipeline gives his people great anxiety.

"We know that a lot of the resistance is going to come near tribal land," Heinert said of the pipeline that would go through South Dakota. "Nobody wants violence ... on any side, but nobody wants to be, you know, run over by private security forces either."

The project is being delayed by a federal court that found the Trump Administration didn't fully consider the environmental effects when it approved the permit for the 1,184-mile (1,900 kilometer) pipeline, intended to ship up to 830,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines to carry oil to Gulf Coast refineries. A hearing on the proposed pipeline is scheduled for Monday in Montana.

Heinert said he would "just as soon see it not built."

Measures targeting oil pipelines will face a difficult path in South Dakota's Republican supermajority Legislature. Heinert proposed unsuccessful legislation in 2017 that would have created an oil spill fund and sponsored a failed plan last year to require the state, after any oil spill, to immediately conduct a chemical analysis of the spill, the surrounding ground and the closest water source.

During his State of the Tribes message, Bordeaux said he watched with regret as South Dakota lawmakers passed an "anti-protest" measure in 2017 to address potential oil pipeline demonstrations.

Bordeaux said tribes believe the law was enacted to limit "our people and our right to protest." The

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measure imposed new penalties for standing in the highway to stop traffic or trespassing in posted emergency areas, coming after demonstrations over the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota that resulted in hundreds of arrests.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem, who was sworn in to office this month, said she supports a "peaceful build" of Keystone XL and that the state will make sure it is clean and efficient and protects the water and environment. Noem said she's asked her staff to review the protest law with her.

"Our Constitution guarantees us the right to peaceful protests, and that is something that we will certainly honor here in our state," Noem said.

Idaho company steals from South Dakota tribe, Alaska Natives

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — An Idaho company that sells posters to raise money for schools has admitted to defrauding a South Dakota tribe and at least two organizations tied to Alaska Natives.

All Around Sports, in Boise, and its owner, Chris Hoshaw, have "reached an agreement with the Department of Justice in South Dakota to resolve the matters set forth in the legal pleadings," according to the company's attorney, Scott McKay.

The company and Hoshaw "accept responsibility for these matters," McKay said. He said the company "has implemented changes to its business practices to ensure this does not occur again," the Idaho Statesman reported .

All Around Sports runs a call center in Boise, staffed with salespeople who try to get business to buy advertisements, federal prosecutors said.

Those advertisements are printed on posters and other products that promote nearby schools, with advertising proceeds going to the schools' athletic programs, according to the All Around Sports website.

All Around Sports devised a fraud scheme that it used between December 2015 and December 2016 to take more than \$360,000 from the victims, according to prosecutors.

The business took \$54,000 from the Oglala Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, prosecutors said. It convinced an employee at a local college, the Oglala Lakota College, to sign an authorization form. All Around Sports used that form to get money wired from the tribe's bank account, prosecutors said.

The business also took \$218,900 from Kokarmuit Corp., described as a Native retail company in Akiak, Alaska, and \$90,000 from the Alaskan city of Ambler, a small town of mostly Kuuvangmiut Inupiat residents. Prosecutors did not say how All Around Sports accomplished that, only that it was trying "to further the objectives of the conspiracy to commit wire fraud in 2016."

Under a plea agreement, Hoshaw said he would waive indictment and plead guilty to wire fraud. The maximum penalty is 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and three years of parole or probation.

The company admitted to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, with a maximum penalty of probation, a \$500,000 fine or both.

Under the plea deal, Hoshaw and the company agreed to "use their best efforts" to pay restitution to the victims at or before sentencing. All Around Sports must pay \$109,450 to the Kokarmuit Corp. and \$90,000 to the city of Ambler.

The company also is being sued by another Alaska Native corporation in a remote village. The complaint, filed by Mary's Igloo Native Corp., alleges unfair trade practices. The Statesman has requested copies of the lawsuit.

Information from: Idaho Statesman, http://www.idahostatesman.com

State lawmakers propose 'constitutional carry' legislation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State lawmakers are proposing legislation that would allow people to carry concealed handguns without a permit in South Dakota.

The so-called constitutional carry legislation was introduced Friday. The proposal languished under former

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Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard, but new GOP Gov. Kristi Noem offered support for such a law during her campaign.

Republican Rep. Drew Dennert is sponsoring a constitutional carry bill in the House. He says backers have the promise of the governor and support from the public and both legislative chambers.

Daugaard vetoed a constitutional carry bill in 2017, saying the state's current permitting process is "simple and straightforward." Another try failed the next year after he issued a veto threat.

The 2019 session runs into late March.

Supreme Court to hear case over stores' food stamp sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court says it will hear an appeal from a group representing food retailers to prevent the release of information about the federal food stamp program to a South Dakota newspaper.

The justices say they'll review an appellate ruling that said information maintained by the Agriculture Department about where people spend their food stamp dollars is public.

The Food Marketing Institute is trying to prevent what it considers confidential sales information from being handed to the Argus Leader newspaper in Sioux Falls. The paper filed a lawsuit for the data under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

The Supreme Court has blocked the release while it considers the appeal.

Sioux Falls construction notches biggest year ever in 2018

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's largest city achieved another record year for construction in 2018.

The Argus Leader reports that Sioux Falls dispensed building permits worth \$787 million, up slightly more than 6 percent the previous year.

The total marks a sixth consecutive year of record-breaking construction activity, fueled primarily by new commercial buildings, additions and renovations.

The top project in 2018 was the \$54.5 million Avera on Louise campus. The other biggest projects of the year include a \$40.7 million expansion to the Minnehaha County Jail, a new \$26.8 million Citi headquarters, the \$23.8 million Cascade Lofts and the \$18.2 million Village on the River multi-use building downtown.

Yearly building permit sums have risen progressively since 2012, from a low of \$283 million in 2010, during the Great Recession.

GOP leaders dismiss challenges against Democratic lawmakers

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Republican legislative leaders have dismissed allegations that two Democratic lawmakers didn't meet state residency requirements to get elected, saying both Pine Ridge legislators will continue to serve.

The GOP leaders said Friday that based on the information they have, Rep. Peri Pourier and Sen. Red Dawn Foster will keep their posts.

Republican Rep. Julie Frye-Mueller and GOP Sen. Phil Jensen sought last week to stop Pourier and Foster from being sworn in to office. They contended there's evidence Pourier and Foster weren't state residents for two years before the election, a constitutional requirement.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm says there's plenty of evidence Pourier is eligible to serve. Senate Majority Leader Kris Langer says her caucus is satisfied with the information it has received.

Senate Minority Leader Troy Heinert says Democrats were confident from the beginning.

Ipswich man gets 60 days in jail for sexual acts with calves

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — An Ipswich man who admitted engaging in sexual acts with two calves near Bath has been sentenced to serve 60 days in jail and spend five years on probation.

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Fifty-eighty-year-old James Schumacher pleaded guilty last July to two charges of felony bestiality, after unsuccessfully arguing earlier that the charges he faced were unconstitutional. Bestiality prohibits sexual acts with animals.

Authorities say the incidents happened in 2016 and 2017 on a Bath-area farm.

Prosecutors dropped four other charges under terms of a plea agreement. The American News reports Schumacher was sentenced Thursday. He must pay \$808 in fines and fees, \$726 in restitution for veterinary bills and \$2,100 to cover the cost of a psychosexual evaluation.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, http://www.aberdeennews.com

Regulators: Dakota Access company complied with settlement By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline has planted tens of thousands of trees and taken other steps to settle allegations that it violated North Dakota rules during construction, state regulators have concluded.

The September 2017 agreement between Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners and North Dakota's Public Service Commission settled allegations that ETP removed too many trees and that it improperly handled a pipeline route change after discovering Native American artifacts. The artifacts were not disturbed.

The company denied intentionally doing anything wrong but could have faced fines of up to \$200,000. Instead, it was required to plant a certain number of new trees and develop an industry handbook and conduct training on properly handling pipeline route adjustments.

The company last spring filed a nearly 80-page industry handbook it developed, and in October it filed documents detailing efforts by a contractor to plant 141,000 trees and shrubs over two years. The PSC in late November asked for more proof that ETP had complied with all conditions of the settlement.

The company filed numerous documents later that month and in December, including a letter in which attorney Lawrence Bender said he was "disappointed" that compliance had been questioned.

Public Service Commissioner Julie Fedorchak said the three-member group discussed the matter at a Wednesday meeting and concluded the company was in compliance.

ETP missed a year-end deadline to plant about 11,000 of a required 20,000 trees through soil conservation districts in counties along the pipeline route. A provision in the settlement agreement allows the company to extend the work into this year if there are problems with the tree supply "or other market conditions."

The company cited equipment and staffing issues, difficulties finding willing landowners and poor planting conditions. The PSC found that acceptable.

"We will continue monitoring the tree replacement until they have met the 20,000 threshold," Fedorchak said. "The rest of the settlement items are complete."

The company handling the work for ETP said it plans to plant nearly 17,000 more trees in 2019, exceeding the required threshold.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake

Saudi woman fleeing alleged abuse arrives in Canada By ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — An 18-year-old Saudi runaway who said she was abused and feared death if deported back home arrived in Canada Saturday arm-in-arm with the country's foreign minister.

Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun smiled broadly as she exited an arrival door at Toronto's airport sporting a Canada zipper hoodie, capping a dramatic week that saw her flee her family while visiting Kuwait and before flying to Bangkok, where she barricaded herself in an airport hotel to avoid deportation. The case grabbed global attention after she mounted a social media campaign for asylum.

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"This a very brave new Canadian," said Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Friday that Canada would accept Alqunun as a refugee in a case that has highlighted the cause of women's rights in Saudi Arabia, where several women fleeing abuse by their families have been caught trying to seek asylum abroad in recent years and returned home. Human rights activists say many similar cases go unreported.

"She had a very long and tiring journey so she would prefer not to take questions today," said Freeland, adding that she would take questions later.

Alqunun earlier tweeted two pictures from her plane seat — one with what appears to be a glass of wine and her passport and another holding her passport while on the plane with the hashtag "I did it" and the emojis showing plane, hearts and wine glass.

Canada's decision to grant her asylum could further upset the country's relations with Saudi Arabia.

In August, Saudi Arabia expelled Canada's ambassador to the kingdom and withdrew its own ambassador after Canada's Foreign Ministry tweeted support for women's right activists who had been arrested. The Saudis also sold Canadian investments and ordered their citizens studying in Canada to leave.

No country, including the U.S., spoke out publicly in support of Canada in that spat with the Saudis. On Friday, Trudeau avoided answering a question about what the case would mean for relations with the kingdom, but he said Canada is pleased to give her asylum because Canada is a country that understands how important it is to stand up for human rights and to stand up for woman's rights around.

Canadian officials were reluctant to comment further until she landed safely.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees welcomed Canada's decision.

"The quick actions over the past week of the government of Thailand in providing temporary refuge and facilitating refugee status determination by UNHCR, and of the government of Canada in offering emergency resettlement to Ms. Alqunun and arranging her travel were key to the successful resolution of this case," the agency said in a statement.

Several other countries, including Australia, had been in talks with the U.N.'s refugee agency to accept Algunun, Surachate said.

"She chose Canada. It's her personal decision," he said.

It wasn't immediately clear what prompted Alqunun to choose Canada over Australia. Australian media reported that UNHCR had withdrawn its referral for Alqunon to be resettled in Australia because Canberra was taking too long to decide on her asylum.

"When referring cases with specific vulnerabilities who need immediate resettlement, we attach great importance to the speed at which countries consider and process cases," a UNHCR spokesperson in Bangkok told The Associated Press in an email reply on condition of anonymity because the person wasn't authorized to discuss the case publicly.

Canada's ambassador had seen her off at the airport, Surachate said, adding that she looked happy and healthy.

She thanked everyone for helping her, he said, and added that the first thing she would do upon arrival in Canada would be to start learning the language. She already speaks more than passable English, in addition to Arabic.

Alqunun was stopped Jan. 5 at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport by immigration police who denied her entry and seized her passport.

She barricaded herself in an airport hotel room and took her plight onto social media. It got enough public and diplomatic support that Thai officials admitted her temporarily under the protection of U.N. officials, who granted her refugee status Wednesday.

Alqunun's father arrived in Bangkok on Tuesday, but his daughter refused to meet with him. Surachate said the father — whose name has not been released — denied physically abusing Alqunun or trying to force her into an arranged marriage, which were among the reasons she gave for her flight. He said Alqunun's father wanted his daughter back but respected her decision.

"He has 10 children. He said the daughter might feel neglected sometimes," Surachate said.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of Human Rights Watch, cited Alqunun's "courage and perseverance."

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"This is so much a victory for everyone who cares about respecting and promoting women's rights, valuing the independence of youth to forge their own way, and demanding governments operate in the light and not darkness," he said in a statement.

Associated Press writer Tassanee Vejpongsa in Bangkok contributed to this report.

After Wisconsin girl's safe return, question is: Why? By JEFF BAENEN and GRETCHEN EHLKE, Associated Press

BARRON, Wis. (AP) — The grandfather of a northwestern Wisconsin girl who was abducted during a home invasion that left her parents dead said Saturday that the family has no connection to the suspect and doesn't understand why he targeted her, deepening a mystery that has captivated the state for months. Someone blasted open the door of James and Denise Closs' home near Barron in October, gunned the

couple down and made off with their 13-year-old daughter, Jayme Closs.

Jayme was missing for nearly three months when she approached a stranger in the small, isolated north woods town of Gordon and pleaded for help. Officers arrested 21-year-old Jake Thomas Patterson minutes later based on Jayme's description of his vehicle. He was jailed on suspicion of kidnapping and homicide.

Investigators have said Patterson's goal was to kidnap Jayme, but he appears to have no connection to the family. Jayme's grandfather Robert Naiberg said in a telephone interview Saturday that the only thing the family knows for sure is no one knew Patterson. He said that Jayme told FBI agents she didn't know him at all.

"He didn't know Jayme, he didn't know Denise or Jim," Naiberg said. "(Jayme) don't know him from Adam. (But) he knew what he was doing. We don't know if he was stalking her or what. Did he see her somewhere?"

The news that Jayme was safe set off joy and relief in her hometown of Barron, population 3,300 and about 60 miles (96 kilometers) from where she was found. The discovery ended an all-out search that gripped the state, with many people fearing the worst the longer she was missing.

"My legs started to shake. It was awesome. The stress, the relief — it was awesome," Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald said, describing the moment he learned Jayme had been found.

Jayme told one of the neighbors in Gordon who took her in that she had walked away from a cabin where she had been held captive.

"She said that this person's name was Jake Patterson, 'he killed my parents and took me," said another neighbor, Kristin Kasinskas. "She did not talk about why or how. She said she did not know him."

The sheriff said investigators are trying to figure out what happened to Jayme during her captivity and why she was seized, and gave no details on how she escaped except to say Patterson was not home at the time. He said there is no evidence Patterson knew Jayme or her family or had been in contact with her on social media.

"I know all of you are searching for the answer why any of this happened," Fitzgerald said. "Believe me, so are we."

Patterson took such measures as shaving his head beforehand to avoid leaving evidence at the scene, the sheriff said. A shotgun was recovered from the home where Jayme was believed held, according to Fitzgerald.

Property records show that the cabin belonged to Patterson's father at the time of Jayme's disappearance. The sheriff said that he did not know whether Jayme had been physically abused.

Naiberg, Jayme's grandfather, said he spent a few hours with her on Friday. No one pressed her to talk, he said, adding that FBI agents and doctors advised them to let her speak when she's ready. He said she was largely silent and did not talk about how Patterson had kept her confined.

Patterson was scheduled for an initial court appearance Monday. It was not immediately known whether the unemployed Patterson had an attorney. Prosecutors anticipate filing homicide and kidnapping charges

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against him on Monday. With those charges will come a criminal complaint that could reveal more details. Patterson remained largely an enigma Saturday.

He has no criminal record, the sheriff said. He worked for one day in 2016 at the same Jennie-O turkey plant in Barron as Jayme's parents. But the sheriff said it did not appear Patterson interacted with the couple during his brief time there.

He graduated in 2015 from Northwood High School, where he was on the quiz bowl team and was a good student with a "great group of friends," said District Superintendent Jean Serum.

Kasinskas said she taught Patterson science in middle school, but added: "I don't really remember a ton about him."

"He seemed like a quiet kid," she said. "I don't recall anything that would have explained this, by any means."

Over the past few months, detectives pursued thousands of tips, watched dozens of surveillance videos and conducted numerous searches for Jayme, including one that drew 2,000 volunteers but yielded no clues.

In November, the sheriff said he kept similar cases in the back of his mind as he worked to find Jayme, including the abduction of Elizabeth Smart, who was 14 when she was taken from her Salt Lake City home in 2002. Smart was rescued nine months later after witnesses recognized her abductors on an "America's Most Wanted" episode.

Smart said in a telephone interview that Jayme's story is "why we can never give up hope on any missing child."

For more stories on Jayme's abduction and her parents' deaths: https://apnews.com/JaymeCloss

Associated Press writers Todd Richmond and Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin, Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City and Amy Forliti in Gordon also contributed to this report along with AP news researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York.

Selective shutdown? Trump tries to blunt impact, takes heat By JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government shutdown is wreaking havoc on many Americans: Hundreds of thousands of federal employees don't know when they'll see their next paycheck, and low-income people who rely on the federal safety net worry about whether they'll make ends meet should the stalemate in Washington carry on another month.

But if you're a sportsman looking to hunt game, a gas company planning to drill offshore or a taxpayer awaiting your refund, you're in luck: This shutdown won't affect your plans.

All administrations get some leeway to choose which services to freeze and which to maintain when a budget standoff in Washington forces some agencies to shutter. But in the selective reopening of offices, experts say they see a willingness to cut corners, scrap prior plans and wade into legally dubious territory to mitigate the pain. Some noted the choices seem targeted at shielding the Republican-leaning voters whom Trump and his party need to stick with them.

The cumulative effect is a government shutdown — now officially the longest in U.S. history — that some Americans may find financially destabilizing and others may hardly notice.

Russell T. Vought, deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, said the overarching message from Trump has been "to make this shutdown as painless as possible, consistent with the law."

"We have built on past efforts within this administration not to have the shutdown be used to be weaponized against the American people," he said.

Others say such a strategy suggests a lack of urgency and a willingness to let the political impasse in Washington drag on indefinitely.

"The strategy seems to be to keep the shutdown in place, not worry about the effect on employees and furloughed people and contractors, but where the public might be annoyed, give a little," said Alice Rivlin,

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who led OMB during the 21-day shutdown in 1996, the previous recordholder for the longest in history. That's a clear difference between then and now, Rivlin said.

"We weren't trying to make it better. We were trying to emphasize the pain so it would be over," she said. "We wanted it to end. I'm not convinced the Trump administration does."

The Trump administration earlier this week announced that the IRS will issue tax refunds during the shutdown, circumventing a 2011 decision barring the agency from distributing refunds until the Treasury Department is funded. The National Treasury Employees Union filed a lawsuit, arguing its workers are being unconstitutionally forced to return to work without pay.

Some agencies are finding creative ways to fund services they want to restore.

The administration has emphasized continued use of public lands in general, and particularly for hunters and oil and gas developers, angering environmental groups. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, using funds leftover from 2018, this week announced it will direct dozens of wildlife refuges to return staffers to work, ensuring planned activities on those lands, including organized hunts, continue.

Barbara Wainman, a spokeswoman for the agency, said most refuges have remained accessible to hunters throughout the shutdown, and the decision to staff them was made based on three criteria: resource management, high visitation and previously scheduled programming, which includes organized hunts and school field trips. Wainman said 17 of the 38 refuges have scheduled hunts that would have been canceled without the restaffing effort.

The IRS is using user fees to restore the income verification program, used by mortgage lenders to confirm the income of a borrower and considered a critical tool for the banking industry. After national parks were left open but unstaffed, causing damage to delicate ecosystems, the National Park Service announced it would take "an extraordinary step" and use visitation fees to staff some of the major parks. And despite the shutdown, the Bureau of Land Management is continuing work related to drilling efforts in Alaska.

Trump has refused to sign spending bills for nine of the 15 Cabinet-level departments until Congress approves his request for \$5.7 billion in funding to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Democrats have refused. The president initially said he would be "proud" to own the partial shutdown, but he quickly shifted blame onto Democratic leaders and has flirted with taking some extraordinary measures to find money for the wall. Although most Republicans have stood by the president, others have expressed discomfort with the strategy.

The focus on services that reach rural voters, influential industries and voters' pocketbooks is intended to protect Republicans from blowback, said Barry Anderson, who served as assistant director of the Office of Management and Budget from 1988 to 1998.

During the 1996 shutdown, Anderson said, he and others met each day to review which offices and services should be deemed essential. He said tax refunds never made the cut.

"A government agency may employ services in advance of appropriations only when there's a reasonable connection between the functions being performed and the safety of human life or protection of property," he said. "How does issuing tax refunds fall under either of those categories? It's not a human life or property issue. I don't know the proper word: surprised, aghast, flabbergasted.

"This," he said, "is to keep Republican senators' phones silent."

OMB has held regular conference calls with agencies and is fielding a high volume of requests for services they'd like to resume. In addition, OMB officials are intentionally working to legally reopen as much of the government as possible, according to a senior administration official, adding that agencies are permitted to update their lapse plans as the shutdown progresses. The official was not authorized to discuss the internal discussions publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Across the government, agencies are scrambling. The Food and Drug Administration has scaled back on food inspections. The Department of Agriculture recently announced that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides food aid to nearly 40 million low-income Americans, will continue to operate through February because of a loophole in the short-term spending bill, which expired Dec. 22. But should the shutdown stretch into March, the department's reserves for the program, \$3 billion, won't

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cover a month of benefits for all who need them. Other feeding programs, such as school lunch, food distribution and WIC, which provides nutrition aid to pregnant women, mothers and babies, are also in jeopardy should the shutdown last until March.

Hundreds of federal contracts for low-income Americans receiving housing assistance are expiring. The Department of Housing and Urban Development is unable to renew them and has instead directed private owners to dip into their reserves to cover shortfalls.

As time goes on, more and more programs will become vital, said Linda Bilmes, a public policy professor at the Harvard Kennedy School, and the meaning of what's essential will shift.

"Even apart from the fact that there may be particular instances of things that are being manipulated for political purposes," she said, "there are also realities that government agencies are facing as they reassess what is absolutely essential to do now that we're here, with no immediate end in sight."

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. government shutdown: https://apnews.com/GovernmentShutdown

Trump AG pick poised to reclaim old job in a changed capital By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When William Barr was attorney general in the early 1990s, he was outspoken about some of America's biggest problems — violent crime, drug addiction, teenage pregnancy. The "Age of Aquarius," he warned, had given way to crack babies and broken families, misery and squalor.

The rhetoric reflected Barr's deep-seated personal beliefs and was typical talk for a conservative Republican at a time when family values and tough-on-crime stances defined the party.

Now, as President Donald Trump's nominee for attorney general, Barr is poised to return to the same job in a dramatically different Washington.

Republicans just pushed through the biggest criminal justice overhaul in a generation, easing prison sentences. Family-values are seldom discussed while Trump, twice-divorced and accused of affairs and sexual misconduct, sits in the White House. Serving Trump, who faces intensifying investigations from the department Barr would lead, is unlikely to compare with his tenure under President George H.W. Bush.

Trump demands loyalty, breaking with the practice of shielding law enforcement from political influence. He publicly browbeats Justice Department leadership and ousted his first attorney general, Jeff Sessions, for not protecting him in the Russia investigation. Though the pressures on Barr are bound to be enormous if he is confirmed, allies describe him as driven by his commitment to the department and clear-eyed about what is ahead.

"I have no doubt that he's aware of any unique or unusual challenges that this Justice Department, his Justice Department, will confront," said longtime friend and former colleague Chuck Cooper, who is also Sessions' lawyer. "He approaches these challenges as a public servant who loves his country and who's answering the call to service. That's the spirit in which Bill Barr is accepting these challenges."

The first challenge comes Tuesday when Democrats press him at his Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on his broad views of presidential power, including an unsolicited memo he sent the Justice Department last year criticizing special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into whether the president had sought to obstruct the Russia investigation.

Barr is likely to win confirmation and, given his past experience, probably won't face challenges over his qualifications the way other Trump nominees have. Republicans control the Senate and could pick up some support from Democrats eager for the departure of acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker. Democrats wanted Whitaker to step aside from overseeing Mueller's investigation into links between Russia and the Trump campaign, citing Whitaker's criticism of the inquiry before he joined the department.

Barr would inherit that investigation as it reaches critical decisions and as Mueller's most prominent protector inside the department, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, expects to depart.

Though Barr's handling of the investigation is the most pressing issue confronting him, equally important will be stabilizing a department riven by leadership tumult — as well as his own dynamic with Trump.

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Though both Trump and Barr are plain-spoken native New Yorkers and generational contemporaries, the two appear to have little in common.

Barr, 68, is a practicing Catholic and longtime creature of Washington — a CIA alumnus who climbed the Justice Department ranks, associated with establishment figures long maligned by Trump and delivered legal reasoning behind some of the most consequential actions of the time, including the invasion of Panama.

Even if Barr doesn't introduce sweeping policy changes, he might nonetheless have to adjust to the shifting winds of the White House or fellow Republicans on Capitol Hill.

The administration, for instance, recently backed legislation reducing mandatory minimum punishments and giving judges more discretion when sentencing some drug offenders.

Barr will reassure lawmakers that he supports the law, according to a person close to the confirmation process who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. That's a striking departure from Barr's insistence as attorney general, in the face of homicide rates that dwarf today's totals, that "we are not punitive enough" about violent crime.

Recipients of mandatory minimum sentences richly deserve them, he once said, denouncing as a myth the notion sympathetic and "hapless victims of the criminal-justice system" are languishing in prison longer than they deserve.

Barr's pro-law enforcement stance is so entrenched, one friend said, that as a Columbia University student in the 1960s he brought police coffee as they encountered protesters.

"He's very much a law-and-order guy. He believes the primary responsibility of government is to maintain the security of its citizens," said longtime friend Andrew G. McBride, a former Justice Department colleague.

As attorney general, Barr connected violent crime to a "moral crisis" in society, decrying high rates of divorce and drug addiction, and rising secularism that he said prevented children from discerning right from wrong.

"The prophets of the sexual revolution and the drug culture proclaimed the dawn of a new era of maturity and freedom, of peace and love," he said at a 1992 Chicago event. "That's not what happened — not by a long shot. Today we can see the grim harvest of the Age of Aquarius: Broken families, venereal diseases, teenage pregnancies, crack babies. We see misery and squalor, confusion and loneliness."

In speeches, he repeatedly mocked Woody Allen's justification — "The heart wants what it wants" — for his relationship with partner Mia Farrow's adopted daughter.

Try that rationale, he said, "as a foundation for any sort of human behavior and you will see at once the danger and moral corruption it entails."

The perspective could create an awkward coexistence with a president known for misstatements and embellishments and who, prosecutors say, directed hush money payments to cover up claims of extramarital relationships with two women.

It's not clear how often he and Trump will interact and under what circumstances. Friends insist he won't easily bend to the president's will, describing Barr as principled, smart and strong-willed.

"Bill is not a shrinking violet," said former colleague Timothy Flanigan. "Bill is tough, tough in a good way." Barr didn't campaign for the job and even proposed other names to the White House instead of his own,

one friend. Returning as attorney general to stabilize the department could be a career capstone of sorts. "He can take this without worrying about career advancement," said C. Boyden Gray, White House counsel to George H.W. Bush. "If he were a lot younger, I'm not sure he would have done it."

AP FACT CHECK: Trump goes wall to wall on the wall

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Never mind the chants, the roars, the repetition. President Donald Trump acknowledged this past week he didn't mean it when he told crowds over and over that Mexico would pay — actually pay — for the wall.

 actually pay — for the wall.
Mexico will pay "indirectly," he now says. To support that claim, he indulged in creative accounting over the course of days marked by a prime-time speech, a trip to the border and a barrage of tweets painting

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dire threats from the south.

He said the wall will "very quickly pay for itself" by reducing the U.S. drug problem, and pay for itself "many times over" by the benefits he predicts will accrue to the U.S. economy from an updated trade deal with Canada and Mexico.

Neither of these supposed sources of wall payment dings Mexico's treasury or imposes any cost resembling what his campaign proposed. Back then, he wanted Mexico to hand over up to \$10 billion in a single payment or pay equivalent costs through higher tariffs, visa fees charged to its citizens or other punitive measures. Mexico has refused to pay anything toward a U.S. wall.

A look at Trump's wall-to-wall rhetoric on the wall, in a week when thousands of federal workers missed their first paycheck from the partial shutdown and the president weighed the option of declaring a national emergency at the border:

WALL CONSTRUCTION

TRUMP: "The Fake News Media keeps saying we haven't built any NEW WALL. Below is a section just completed on the Border. Anti-climbing feature included. Very high, strong and beautiful! Also, many miles already renovated and in service!" — tweet Friday, showing a section of bollard wall.

THE FACTS: No new miles of barrier construction have been completed under Trump. Existing fencing has been replaced or strengthened in a few areas. It's true that many miles of barrier are in service — about 650 miles or 1,050 kilometers of fencing — but that was done by previous administrations.

MEXICO AND THE WALL

TRUMP: "I never meant they're going to write out a check... . Mexico is paying for the wall indirectly. And when I said Mexico will pay for the wall, in front of thousands and thousands of people, obviously they're not going to write a check." — remarks Thursday.

THE FACTS: A Trump campaign policy paper envisaged an explicit payment from Mexico: "It's an easy decision for Mexico: make a one-time payment of \$5-10 billion," the paper said.

The plan outlined various ways for Trump to compel Mexico to pay for the wall, such as by Washington cutting off billions of dollars in remittances sent back to Mexico by immigrants living in the U.S., or by recouping the money through trade tariffs or higher visa fees. None of that has happened.

Although his campaign left open the possibility that Mexico might somehow contribute to the cost indirectly, Trump roused his crowds with the straight-ahead promise: "I will have Mexico pay for that wall." "Who?" he asked his supporters. "Mexico," they shouted.

Now he is saying his words were not meant to be taken literally.

TRUMP: "They're paying for the wall in a great trade deal." — remarks Thursday in Texas.

THE FACTS: Nothing in his trade agreement with Mexico and Canada would cover or refund the construction cost or require a payment from Mexico. Instead he is assuming a wide variety of economic benefits will come from the agreement that can't be quantified or counted on. For example, he has said the deal will dissuade some U.S. companies from moving operations to Mexico and he credits that possibility as a payment by Mexico.

The trade deal preserves the existing liberalized environment of low or no tariffs among the U.S., Mexico and Canada, with certain improvements for each country. The deal has yet to be ratified in any member country and its chances of winning legislative approval are not assured.

OBAMA VIDEO

TRUMP: "President Obama, thank you for your great support — I have been saying this all along!" — tweet Thursday, accompanied by video of Obama speaking as president in 2014.

THE FACTS: Trump's tweet is deceptive, linking to a video clip that shows Obama, as president, discussing "an actual humanitarian crisis on the border" — a surge of tens of thousands of unaccompanied children and youth, mostly from Central America, who tried to cross from Mexico in 2014. Obama's remarks do not support Trump's proposal for a border wall, which the former president has criticized, or endorse the path

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Trump is considering now: declaring a national emergency that might enable him to circumvent Congress and unilaterally spend money on wall.

Instead, Obama was asking Congress to approve an emergency appropriation to deal with the surge.

CRISIS?

TRUMP: "Tonight I am speaking to you because there is a growing humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border." — address to the nation Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Few would dispute that a humanitarian crisis is unfolding. A sharp increase in the number of families at the border, mostly from Central America, coupled with the Trump administration's hard-line stance is overwhelming border resources, adding to backlogs in the asylum system and leaving migrants in abysmal conditions on the Mexican side.

Trump, however, has been unable to convince Congress that the border poses a national security crisis. He has made a series of statements falsely claiming that terrorists are pouring in from Mexico, that a wall would choke off shipments of illicit drugs and that people who get into the U.S. illegally commit a disproportionate share of violent crime.

The number of border arrests — the leading gauge of how many people are trying to cross illegally — is actually one-quarter of what it was in 2000, dropping from 1.6 million then to 400,000 in 2018.

DEMOCRATS

TRUMP: "Democrats will not fund border security." — remarks Tuesday.

THE FACTS: They just won't fund it the way he wants. They have refused his demand for \$5.7 billion to build part of a steel wall across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Democrats passed legislation the day they took control of the House that offered \$1.3 billion for border security, including physical barriers and technology. Senate Democrats have approved similar funding year after year. Many Democrats backed 2006 legislation that has resulted in the construction of about 650 miles (1,050 kilometers) of border barrier. Many also supported failed legislation in 2013 that would have doubled the length of fencing and allowed immigrants living in the country illegally to apply for a provisional legal status if they paid a \$500 fine and had no felony convictions.

DRUGS

TRUMP: "We lose 300 Americans a week, 90% of which comes through the Southern Border. These numbers will be DRASTICALLY REDUCED if we have a Wall!" — tweet Thursday.

TRUMP: "Our southern border is a pipeline for vast quantities of illegal drugs, including meth, heroin, cocaine and fentanyl. Every week, 300 of our citizens are killed by heroin alone, 90 percent of which floods across from our southern border." — remarks Tuesday.

THE FACTS: What he's trying to say in the tweet Thursday is that a wall would stop most heroin from coming into the country and drastically reduce heroin deaths, which average about 300 per week. But the Drug Enforcement Administration says "only a small percentage" of heroin seized by U.S. authorities comes across on territory between land ports of entry. Most of it is smuggled through official border crossings.

The agency says the same is true of drugs generally. In a 2018 report, it said 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. though land entry ports, where they are stopped and subject to inspection. They also employ buses, cargo trains and tunnels, the report says, citing other smuggling methods that also would not be choked off by a wall.

Trump recently said drug smugglers don't use ports of entry, an assertion flatly contradicted by his drug enforcement personnel.

Despite that disconnect, Trump went so far as to say: "The border wall would very quickly pay for itself. The cost of illegal drugs exceeds \$500 billion a year, vastly more than the \$5.7 billion we have requested from Congress."

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THE EX-PRESIDENTS

TRUMP on a border wall: "This should have been done by all of the presidents that preceded me. And they all know it. Some of them have told me that we should have done it." — Rose Garden news conference Jan. 4.

THE FACTS: Three ex-presidents — Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush — denied discussing the wall with Trump; the fourth, Obama, declined to answer. His office sent past comments by Obama criticizing the wall, and the two have not spoken since the inauguration except for a quick exchange at President George H.W. Bush's funeral. Said Carter: "I have not discussed the border wall with President Trump, and do not support him on the issue."

VIOLENCE

TRUMP: "Over the years thousands of Americans have been brutally killed by those who illegally entered our country and thousands more lives will be lost if we don't act right now." — remarks Tuesday.

THE FACTS: His statement that people in the country illegally are a special menace to public safety is at odds with plentiful research.

Multiple studies from social scientists and the libertarian think tank Cato Institute have found that people in the U.S. illegally are less likely to commit crime than U.S. citizens — beyond the crime of illegal entry — and legal immigrants are even less likely to commit crime. A March study by the journal Criminology found "undocumented immigration does not increase violence."

IMMIGRANT COSTS/BENEFITS

TRUMP: "America proudly welcomes millions of lawful immigrants who enrich our society and contribute to our nation but all Americans are hurt by uncontrolled illegal migration. It strains public resources and drives down jobs and wages." — remarks Tuesday.

THE FACTS: The U.S. is not experiencing "uncontrolled" illegal immigration. The debate is over whether the controls are strong enough.

As for the costs, a major academic study in 2016 by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine found the job impacts of immigration, when measured over at least 10 years, are very small. It found immigration — legal and illegal — is an overall benefit to long-term economic growth.

Some evidence suggests that skilled immigrants boost wages. Native-born Americans without a highschool degree are most likely to suffer.

The academy study said estimating fiscal impacts of immigration is complex. Young and old immigrants tend to drain government resources while working-age immigrants contribute.

TERRORISM

TRUMP: "We have terrorists coming through the southern border because they find that's probably the easiest place to come through. They drive right in and they make a left." — Rose Garden news conference Jan. 4.

SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, White House press secretary: "We know that roughly, nearly 4,000 known or suspected terrorists come into our country illegally, and we know that our most vulnerable point of entry is at our southern border." — "Fox News Sunday" Jan. 6.

THE FACTS: If they're driving "right in" through border crossings, no wall would stop them. But as to the broader point, U.S. officials have produced no evidence of a terrorist influx from Mexico.

Trump and some of his aides have misrepresented statistics on foreigners who were stopped globally by Customs and Border Protection because they were on a watch list. They have suggested or plainly stated that they were stopped coming from Mexico.

Sanders acknowledged later in the week: "I should have said 4,000 at all points of entry, not just at the southern border."

Despite Trump's portrayal of Mexico as a teeming portal for terrorists, the State Department issued a

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report in September finding "no credible evidence indicating that international terrorist groups have established bases in Mexico, worked with Mexican drug cartels or sent operatives via Mexico into the United States."

It went on: "The U.S. southern border remains vulnerable to potential terrorist transit, although terrorist groups likely seek other means of trying to enter the United States."

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Jill Colvin, Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller and Kevin Freking in Washington and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

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US starts withdrawing supplies, but not troops, from Syria By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military says it has started pulling equipment, but not troops, out of Syria as a first step in meeting President Donald Trump's demand for a complete military withdrawal.

The announcement is fueling concern about how quickly the U.S. will abandon its Kurdish allies, amid contradictory statements recently by Trump administration officials on an exit timetable.

The withdrawal began with shipments of military equipment, U.S. defense officials said. But in coming weeks, the contingent of about 2,000 troops is expected to depart even as the White House says it will keep pressure on the Islamic State group. Once the troops are gone, the U.S. will have ended three years of organizing, arming, advising and providing air cover for Syrian, Kurdish and Arab fighters in an open-ended campaign devised by the Obama administration to deal the IS group a lasting defeat.

"The fact that a couple thousand uniformed personnel in Syria will be withdrawing is a tactical change. It doesn't materially alter our capacity to continue to perform the military actions that we need to perform," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Saturday in the United Arab Emirates.

Uncertainty over the timing and terms of the Syria pullout have raised questions about the Trump administration's broader strategy for fighting Islamic extremism, including Trump's stated intention to reduce U.S. forces in Afghanistan this summer.

U.S. airstrikes against IS in Syria began in September 2014, and ground troops moved in the following year in small numbers.

The U.S. military has a limited network of bases inside Syria. Troops work mostly out of small camps in remote parts of the country's northeast. Also, U.S. troops are among 200 to 300 coalition troops at a garrison in southern Syria known as al-Tanf, where they train and accompany local Syrian opposition forces on patrols to counter the IS group. Al-Tanf is on a vital road linking Iranian-backed forces from Tehran all the way to southern Lebanon — and Israel's doorstep.

Trump's decision to leave Syria, which he initially said would be rapid but later slowed down, shocked U.S. allies and angered the Kurds in Syria, who are vulnerable to attack by Turkey. It also prompted the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and drew criticism in Congress. Sen. Jack Reed, a Rhode Island Democrat, called the decision a "betrayal of our Kurdish partners."

The U.S. military command in Baghdad, which is managing the counter-IS campaign in Iraq and Syria, said Friday that it "has begun the process of our deliberate withdrawal from Syria," adding that, for security reasons, it would not reveal timetables, locations or troop movements. In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman, Navy Cdr. Sean Robertson, said in a statement, "We will confirm that there has been no redeployment of military personnel from Syria to date."

The withdrawal plan, whose details are classified, includes bringing hundreds of additional troops into Syria temporarily to facilitate the pullout. These include troops to provide extra security for those who are preparing to leave. The full withdrawal is expected to take several months.

The USS Kearsarge amphibious assault ship is now in the region and could provide troops and equip-

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ment to support the withdrawal.

U.S. troops are still working with a partner known as the Syrian Democratic Forces to stamp out the last IS holdouts in the Middle Euphrates River Valley near the Iraqi border. Trump has asserted that the IS group in Syria is defeated, but others have said a continued U.S. military presence is necessary to prevent a resurgence of the group. Two weeks before Trump announced he was ordering a pullout, Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the U.S. still had a long way to go in training local Syrian forces to stabilize areas ridden of the IS group. He said it would take 35,000 to 40,000 local forces in northeastern Syria to maintain security, but only about 20 percent had been trained.

Another complication is the fate of hundreds of foreign IS fighters being held in Syria. The U.S. doesn't want these prisoners to be released once U.S. forces are gone, since they could rejoin the militant cause in Syria or elsewhere.

There has been confusion over plans to implement Trump's pullout order amid threats from Turkey to attack the Kurdish fighters, who are seen by Ankara as terrorists because of their ties to insurgents within Turkey.

On a visit to Turkish troops stationed near the Syrian border Friday, Turkey's defense minister, Hulusi Akar, reiterated that Ankara is "determined" to fight Kurdish militias it considers terrorists and said military preparations were ongoing.

"When the time and place comes, the terrorists here will also be buried in the ditches and trenches they have dug," he said.

Earlier this week, Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, said American troops will not leave northeastern Syria until the IS group is defeated and American-allied Kurdish fighters are protected, signaling a slowdown in Trump's initial order for a rapid withdrawal.

In Cairo on Thursday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that although Trump has decided to bring troops home, he will keep up the fight against the IS group more broadly.

"Let me be clear: America will not retreat until the terror fight is over," Pompeo said.

The distinctive feature of the U.S. military campaign in Syria is its partnership with the Kurds and Arabs who were willing to act as American proxies by fighting the Islamic State group without U.S. troops having to take the lead combat role. U.S. forces took a similar approach in neighboring Iraq, starting in 2014, but in that case, they had a willing partner in the Iraqi government, whereas in Syria, the U.S. is present without the blessing of President Bashar Assad.

Syria also is complicated by the presence of Russian troops who are, in effect, propping up the Assad government, and by Iranian support for Assad. American and Russian warplanes have shared the skies over Syria, carrying out separate— and in some cases, conflicting — missions against the IS group and other targets.

The U.S. has about 5,200 troops in Iraq to assist its security forces, and Trump has given no indication he intends to withdraw them any time soon. He has, however, asserted that the U.S. must bring an end to the Mideast wars that began after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. He has questioned the wisdom of continuing the 17-year war in Afghanistan and recently demanded that about half of the 14,000 U.S. troops there be sent home.

Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor and Matthew Lee in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

Ex-kidnapping victims: Jayme Closs needs space, time to heal By TAMMY WEBBER and BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Katie Beers' joy quickly turned to deep concern when she learned 13-year-old Jayme Closs had been found alive in rural Wisconsin nearly three months after police say a man shot and killed her parents then abducted the girl from their home.

"She is going to have to grieve the loss of her parents and also come to terms with the fact she was

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abducted, escaped and whatever (other) hell she went through," said Beers. "And it's not going to be easy." Beers knows that better than most.

Sunday will mark 26 years since a then-10-year-old Beers was rescued from an underground concrete bunker in Bay Shore, New York, where she had been held captive for more than two weeks by a family friend who'd lured her to his home with the promise of birthday presents.

As Jayme begins to process her trauma, experts and former victims say what she needs most is space and time to discuss it on her own terms. And with the help of a supportive and understanding family, she likely will be able to recover and live a happy life.

"One of the things that helped me recover so quickly is that nobody forced me to talk about what happened," said Beers, 36, who is married and has two children. "I didn't even do interviews until I was 30. I didn't have to relive it every day."

Authorities said Jayme was skinny, disheveled and wearing shoes too big for her when she approached a stranger and pleaded for help Thursday in the small northwoods town of Gordon, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) from her hometown of Barron. Jake Thomas Patterson, 21, was quickly arrested and jailed on kidnapping and homicide charges.

It's unclear exactly what Jayme experienced — including whether she was coerced with threats or physically abused — so people must be careful how they interact with her, said Duane Bowers, a trauma therapist who works with families of missing and exploited children and adults.

Although friends and family might be eager to know details, the only control the victim has is when, to whom and how they tell their story, Bowers said, adding that's especially true of Jayme, who has lost so much.

For most child kidnapping victims, they have the hope that their parents will find them, "but in this case she knew her folks were dead and couldn't find her," Bowers said. So now, "she needs to feel ... in control and experience her memories in a way that ... doesn't retrigger" her trauma.

Elizabeth Smart, who was 14 when she was kidnapped at knifepoint from her Salt Lake City home in 2002, told The Associated Press that everyone endures different mental and psychological trauma after kidnappings, but Jayme will have to confront the fact that there "is no going back to the way things were."

"Probably one of the more difficult issues is going to be finding that new sense of normalcy in her life," said Smart, a 31-year-old mother of three. "Not recreating the old but (creating) the new and learning to be OK with that."

She cautioned questions that might seem harmless could be hurtful.

Smart said she would get defensive when people asked her why she didn't run or scream when her captors sometimes traveled with her out in the open. Smart was found nine months after her disappearance while walking with her kidnappers in a Salt Lake City suburb by people who recognized the couple from media reports.

As an adult she realized they didn't mean any harm, she said.

"My brain heard that question as, 'You should have tried harder. You should have run, you should have yelled, this is somehow your fault," Smart said. "So, I would just caution her community and anyone able to interact with her to really think about the questions they are asking her."

Beers and Smart said they are proof that trauma survivors can go on to live happy and fulfilling lives.

"It's never going to be easy, but with the correct support, the correct people to talk to and people there who love you, she's going to be able to survive and thrive," said Beers, who was raised by a foster family after her rescue because of abuse she'd suffered within her own family before the kidnapping.

"They just surrounded me with love and gave me a normal home and that to me ... was the most important thing," Beers said.

It won't happen quickly, though, Bowers said, and people need to realize that Jayme will relive her trauma in different ways throughout her life — including if she forms romantic relationships or has children of her own.

"People tend to think, 'OK, it's been a year now, you should be fine," Bowers said. "You might learn to cope and deal with it, but it will never go away."

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He said it's also important for Jayme to know that "anything you're thinking and feeling is normal. Don't be afraid of it; don't think there's something wrong with you. ... You're not the bad guy here."

Smart said she would tell Jayme that "she is a survivor and she is a hero. She's incredibly strong and incredibly brave and there's so many people who love her and are in awe of her and who want to help her and support her in any way.

"And I would tell her that this experience might feel like it's defining, it might feel like that's who she is now, but it doesn't have to be," Smart said.

What's more, she said, Jayme's escape and rescue are "the reason why we can never give up hope on any missing child."

McCombs reported from Salt Lake City.

US says time for new government in Venezuela By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United States stepped up its criticism of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro on Saturday with an explicit call for the formation of a new government in the South American country.

The U.S. State Department said in a statement that it stood behind the head of Venezuela's opposition-run congress, Juan Guaido, who said on Friday that he was prepared to step into the presidency temporarily to replace Maduro.

The statement was the latest in a series of Trump administration attacks on Maduro, whose inauguration to a new term as president on Thursday has been widely denounced as illegitimate.

"The people of Venezuela deserve to live in freedom in a democratic society governed by the rule of law," State Department spokesman Robert Palladino said. "It is time to begin the orderly transition to a new government. We support the National Assembly's call for all Venezuelans to work together, peacefully, to restore constitutional government and build a better future."

"The United States government will continue to use the full weight of U.S. economic and diplomatic power to press for the restoration of democracy in Venezuela," he said in the statement, released in Abu Dhabi where Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was visiting as part of a Mideast trip.

Pompeo spoke to Guaido earlier in the week shortly after the 35-year-old was elected to lead the National Assembly.

Pompeo told reporters traveling with him that the events taking place in Venezuela now were "incredibly important."

"The Maduro regime is illegitimate and the United States will continue ... to work diligently to restore a real democracy to that country," he said. "We are very hopeful that we can be force for good to allow the region to come together to deliver that."

Guaido, speaking to a crowd blocking a Caracas street a day after Maduro's inauguration, said he was willing to become interim leader. But he said he would need support from the public, the armed forces and other countries and international groups before trying to form a transitional government to hold new elections to replace Maduro.

The head of the Organization of American States, Secretary-General Luis Almagro, responded quickly, sending out a tweet recognizing Guaido as Venezuela's interim president.

U.S. national security adviser John Bolton then praised Guaido, although Bolton didn't echo Almagro's step of calling him the interim president.

Bolton reaffirmed the U.S. position that the May election that gave Maduro a second term was "not free, fair or credible." Bolton said "we support the courageous decision" of Guaido's declaration "that Maduro does not legitimately hold the country's presidency."

Guaido asked Venezuelans to mass in a nationwide demonstration on Jan. 23, a historically important

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date for Venezuelans - the day when a mass uprising overthrew dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez in 1958.

The constitution assigns the presidency to the head of the National Assembly if Maduro is illegitimate. The military generally has remained firmly behind Maduro so far despite some reports of small-scale attempts at revolt.

A once wealthy oil nation, Venezuela is gripped by a growing crisis of relentless inflation, food shortages and mass migration.

Seventeen Latin American countries, the United States and Canada denounced Maduro's government as illegitimate in a measure adopted Thursday at the OAS in Washington.

GOP rejected Obama's executive reach, but accepts Trump's By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Óbama stunned Republicans when he bypassed Congress and — relying on what he called his pen and his phone — used executive powers to enact his agenda, including protecting millions of young immigrants from deportation.

Now, with President Donald Trump proposing an even more dramatic end-run around Congress to build his promised border wall with Mexico, many Republicans are uneasily cheering him on.

The potential use of a national emergency declaration by Trump for the border wall shows the extent to which the party is willing to yield on treasured values — in this case, the constitutional separation of powers — to steer clear of confronting the White House and give the president what he wants.

It's a different accommodation from just a few years ago. Then Republicans often called out Obama as overstepping his authority in using executive actions when Congress failed to act on White House priorities. They complained about Obama as "king," 'emperor" or "tyrant."

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., a leader of the House Freedom Caucus, said most conservatives would go along with Trump's decision to declare a national emergency as "the last tool in the tool box" for building the wall.

"Does the president have the right and the ability to do it? Yes. Would most of us prefer a legislative option? Yes," Meadows told reporters this week. "Most conservatives want it to be the last resort he would use. But those same conservatives, I'm sure, if it's deployed, would embrace him as having done all he could do to negotiate with Democrats."

Other Republicans say Trump has few options left after talks broke down at the White House over his long-promised border wall.

"This is not something you would want to do," said Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, now the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee.

"But we've been put into this position," he said. "The Democrats are forcing him into a choice of doing the national emergency because they won't sit down and discuss it."

On Saturday, the partial government shutdown will stretch in its 22nd day and Trump's plans for ending the stalemate are shifting yet again.

Trump indicated he was slowing what had appeared to be momentum toward the national emergency declaration as the way out of the stalemate. Invoking the power would allow him to tap unspent Defense funds to build the long-promised wall along the border that was central to his presidential campaign.

On the campaign trail, the president often said at rallies that Mexico would pay for the wall. But Mexico has refused forcing Trump to ask Congress for the money instead. Trump walked out of negotiations this week when Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Democrats refused to give, saying they support dollars for border security just not the big wall Trump envisions. They call the wall ineffective and say it's a symbol that does not reflect the nation's values.

After having talked for days about invoking the national emergency power to unleash the funds, the president hit pause Friday. "I'm not going to do it so fast," Trump said during an event Friday at the White House.

Experts have said even though the president may have the authority to invoke powers under the 1976

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National Emergencies Act, using it will almost certainly bring on a court battle. The courts did not allow President Harry Truman to nationalize the U.S. steel industry during the Korean War.

Moreover, they say, it could lead the country into unchartered areas. Declaring an emergency could give the president access to many other powers, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.

"The president thinks that he can do whatever he wants by declaring something a national emergency," said Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii who serves on the Judiciary Committee. "I think it's a very dangerous thing."

But what cuts to the core of the concern on Capitol Hill is the executive branch wading into legislative domain to shift money Congress has already approved to the wall.

The constitution provides the Congress, not the White House, the power of the purse, and lawmakers are not eager to cede their role to the president, even for a wall many Republicans support.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill objected to the administration eyeing shifting unspent disaster funding Congress approved last year for Army Corps of Engineer projects to help hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico, Texas and other areas to pay for the wall. By Friday, lawmakers said they were being told those projects will not be touched and the White House was now looking for other funds to pay for the border wall.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, part of the GOP leadership, said at a forum Friday in Austin that the lawmakers "worked very hard to make sure that the victims of Hurricane Harvey - their concerns are addressed and Texas is able to rebuild."

He said, "I will tell you that I will oppose any reprogramming of Harvey disaster funds."

Republican Richard Shelby of Alabama, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, acknowledged the dilemma, especially as the shutdown continues with no end in sight.

Trump invoking a national emergency "might break an impasse and it needs to be broken one way or another," Shelby said as the Senate adjourned. But he prefers a negotiated settlement with Congress. "I'm still hoping we'll have a breakthrough, but right now I don't see one."

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For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. government shutdown: https://apnews.com/GovernmentShutdown

The shutdown today: Government closure is now longest ever By The Associated Press

Here's what's up with the partial government shutdown on Day 22. WHAT'S NEW TODAY

The shutdown officially is the longest in U.S. history, eclipsing a 21-day closure that ended Jan. 6, 1996, during President Bill Clinton's administration.

The House and Senate adjourned for the weekend, with lawmakers scattering to their states and districts before snow blankets the nation's capital. With no negotiations expected during the weekend, the shutdown will enter its fourth week next week.

Miami's airport will close one of its concourses most of Saturday, Sunday and Monday to make sure security checkpoints are adequately staffed as the shutdown begins to strain the aviation system. Security screeners who aren't being paid are staying home and safety inspectors are off the job.

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"This is where I ask the Democrats to come back to Washington and vote for money for the wall, the barrier. Whatever you want to call it, it's OK with me. They can name it whatever, they can name it peaches." - President Donald Trump.

"That is not a historical claim that I think any president or any Congress should want to make" - Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, on the shutdown becoming the longest ever in U.S. history.

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WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

The shutdown enters its fourth week next week, with Trump's threat to declare a national emergency still on the table.

Assessing the health of the U.S. economy may be complicated by an even more prolonged shutdown. The shutdown already has delayed or distorted key reports on growth, spending and hiring because workers who compile the data have been furloughed. Government data on home construction and retail sales won't be released next week, while the next report on the economy's overall growth - set for Jan. 30 - won't be released if the shutdown remains in effect.

WHAT REMAINS CLOSED

Nine of the 15 Cabinet-level departments have not been funded, including Agriculture , Homeland Security, State, Transportation, Interior and Justice. Some iconic National Park facilities are shuttered as are the Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo in Washington. Nearly everyone at NASA is being told to stay home, as are most at the Internal Revenue Service, which processes tax returns and issues refunds, though the administration says it will issue refunds during the shutdown.

WHO IS AT WORK BUT NOT GETTING PAID

Some 420,000 federal employees whose work is declared essential are working without pay, including the FBI, TSA and other federal law enforcement officers. Some staff at the State and Homeland Security departments are also working without compensation.

The House and Senate have voted to ensure that all federal employees will be paid retroactively after the partial government shutdown ends. The bill now heads to President Trump, who is expected to sign it.

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. government shutdown: https://apnews.com/GovernmentShutdown

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of 2019. There are 353 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 12, 1959, Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records (originally Tamla Records) in Detroit. On this date:

In 1828, the United States and Mexico signed a Treaty of Limits defining the boundary between the two countries to be the same as the one established by an 1819 treaty between the U.S. and Spain.

In 1915, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected, 204-174, a proposed constitutional amendment to give women nationwide the right to vote.

In 1932, Hattie W. Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate after initially being appointed to serve out the remainder of the term of her late husband, Thaddeus.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet forces began a major, successful offensive against the Germans in Eastern Europe. Aircraft from U.S. Task Force 38 sank about 40 Japanese ships off Indochina.

In 1948, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Sipuel v. Board of Regents of University of Oklahoma, unanimously ruled that state law schools could not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race.

In 1965, the music variety show "Hullabaloo" premiered on NBC-TV with host-of-the-week Jack Jones; guests included Joey Heatherton, the New Christy Minstrels and Woody Allen.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson said in his State of the Union address that the U.S. military should stay in Vietnam until Communist aggression there was stopped. The TV series "Batman," starring Adam West and Burt Ward as the Dynamic Duo, premiered on ABC, airing twice a week on consecutive nights.

In 1971, the groundbreaking situation comedy "All in the Family" premiered on CBS television.

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In 1986, the shuttle Columbia blasted off with a crew that included the first Hispanic-American in space, Dr. Franklin R. Chang-Diaz.

In 1998, Linda Tripp provided Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's office with taped conversations between herself and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

In 2000, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Illinois v. Wardlow, gave police broad authority to stop and question people who run at the sight of an officer.

In 2006, Mehmet Ali Agca (MEH'-met AH'-lee AH'-juh), the Turkish gunman who shot Pope John Paul II in 1981, was released from an Istanbul prison after serving more than 25 years in Italy and Turkey for the plot against the pontiff and the slaying of a Turkish journalist.

Ten years ago: Senate Democrats announced they would accept former Illinois Attorney General Roland Burris as President-elect Barack Obama's Senate successor. Acting at Obama's behest, President George W. Bush agreed to ask Congress for the final \$350 billion in the financial bailout fund. In the final news conference of his presidency, Bush vigorously defended his record but also offered an extraordinary listing of his mistakes — including his optimistic Iraq speech in 2003. Rickey Henderson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame on the first ballot, and Jim Rice made it in on his 15th and final try. French movie actor-writer-director Claude Berri died in Paris at age 74.

Five years ago: Officials announced that Iran had agreed to limit uranium enrichment and to open its nuclear program to daily inspection by international experts. Southwest Flight 4013, a Boeing 737 from Chicago, landed at the wrong Missouri airfield while enroute to Branson. Jeremy Abbott won his fourth U.S. figure skating title at the championships in Boston. At the Golden Globes, "12 Years a Slave" won for best motion picture drama while "American Hustle" was named best musical or comedy picture.

One year ago: President Donald Trump's White House physician, Dr. Ronny Jackson, declared him in "excellent health" after the president received his first checkup at Walter Reed military hospital. Sportscaster Keith Jackson, best known as the down-home voice of college football, died; he was 89. John Tunney, whose successful campaign for a California seat in the U.S. Senate was the basis for the Robert Redford film "The Candidate," died in Los Angeles at the age of 83.

Today's Birthdays: The Amazing Kreskin is 84. Country singer William Lee Golden (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 80. Actor Anthony Andrews is 71. Movie director Wayne Wang is 70. Actress Kirstie Alley is 68. Political commentator Rush Limbaugh is 68. Legal affairs blogger Ann Althouse is 68. Writer Walter Mosley is 67. Country singer Ricky Van Shelton is 67. Radio-TV personality Howard Stern is 65. Writer-producer-director John Lasseter is 62. Broadcast journalist Christiane Amanpour is 61. Actor Oliver Platt is 59. Basketball Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins is 59. Entrepreneur Jeff Bezos is 55. Rock singer Rob Zombie is 54. Actor Olivier Martinez is 53. Rapper TBird (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 52. Model Vendela is 52. Actress Farrah Forke is 51. Actress Rachael Harris is 51. Rock singer Zack de la Rocha is 49. Rapper Raekwon (Wu Tang Clan) is 49. Singer Dan Haseltine (Jars of Clay) is 46. Rock musician Matt Wong (Reel Big Fish) is 46. Singer Melanie Chisholm (Spice Girls) is 45. Contemporary Christian singer Jeremy Camp is 41. Actress Naya Rivera is 32. Actor Will Rothhaar is 32. Actor Andrew Lawrence is 31. Rock singer ZAYN is 26. Pop/soul singer Ella Henderson (TV: "The X Factor") is 23.

Thought for Today: "Censorship ends in logical completeness when nobody is allowed to read any books except the books that nobody reads." — George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright (1856-1950).

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