

Groton Daily Independent

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Hunter Schaller Update

Yesterday (Saturday) was a rough day for Hunter, he couldn't get himself calmed down and nothing the nurses/doctors tried would help so they ended up having to give him two muscle relaxer shots throughout the day for his agitation. This hits on and off still some days better than others. When he does therapy he continues to excel and has obtained quite the balance. with his speech he has become easy to understand and almost always uses full sentences even though at times what he says does not make sense. These days can be long and emotionally draining but Time, patience, and faith are nothing new for a brain injury. please continue to pray for Hunter for the light switch to flip up so that he is fully here in his mind! Here's to a great start of the week for Not only Hunter, but everyone else!

P.S. this soccer player still has it!!!

- Jasmine Schaller Facebook Page

Ava Tunheim Update

Ava is in the icu. Her blood pressure plummeted. They are trying to stabilize it she has a infection somewhere they are trying to locate and get it taken care of

Thank you for all the support I will try to update when things change.

- Nathan Tunheim facebook page

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Monday, January 14, 2019

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Langford @ Langford High School

7:00pm- 9:00pm: School Board Meeting, Groton Area High School

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Boys Basketball at Ipswich. (7th grade game at 3 p.m., 8th grade game at 4 p.m., C game at 5 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity to follow.)

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli (7th grade game at 3 p.m., 8th grade game at 4 p.m., C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity to follow.)

5:00pm: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Triangular vs. Clark/Willow Lake, Hamlin @ Clark Junior-Senior High School (We will wrestle C/WL and Hamlin. We will NOT wrestle Webster.)

Friday, January 18, 2019

Speech Fiesta Debate at Watertown High School

No School - Faculty Inservice at Warner High School

6:30pm: Girls Varsity Basketball Game vs. Aberdeen Roncalli @ Aberdeen Roncalli High School.

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.



81st Annual

Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, January 27th—2:00 and 6:30

Groton Ice Rink—West Side of Groton, SD

Join us for a fun “Road Trip”!

Admission: 13 & older—\$3.00 / 6-12—\$2.00

Parking: Provided around the rink and on the ice or cozy up on the bleachers
(Ice parking begins at 10 am, then again at 4:30 pm)

**Check us out on Facebook at “Silver Skates”

Homecare Services Caregivers

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

Front Porch Manager Wanted

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

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It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Langford Area
Lions**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

Monday, Jan. 14, 2019

8:00 p.m.

in Langford

Broadcast of this game is sponsored by

Aberdeen
Chrysler Center

901 Auto Plaza Drive
Aberdeen, SD

800.874.9173

www.aberdeenchrysler.com

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

Playoff Edition

By Jordan Wright

The divisional round of the NFL playoffs has concluded, and the conference championship matchups are set. Before we investigate the games that will decide who plays in the Super Bowl, let's look back at the games that happened this past weekend.

The first game on Saturday, January 12 was between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Indianapolis Colts. The game was supposed to be an offensive showcase between two of the better young quarterbacks in the league, but it ended up being a one-sided affair. The Chiefs jumped out to a 24-7 lead by halftime, and the Colts didn't score an offensive touchdown until there was less than six minutes left in the game. The Chiefs won 31-13 and are headed to the conference championships.

The second Saturday game featured two of the best running backs in the NFL going head to head, but only one team was able to run the ball effectively. The Rams ran the ball 48 times for 273 yards, while the Cowboys could only muster 50 yards on 22 carries. The Rams dominated the game, and sent the Cowboys packing with a 30-22 win.

The two Sunday matchups started with the red-hot Los Angeles Chargers traveling to New England, where the Patriots are nearly invincible. Tom Brady and the rest of the Patriots' offense scored a touchdown on each of their first four possessions and took a 35-7 lead into halftime. The Chargers couldn't get anything going on offense, and their star running back Melvin Gordon only had 15 yards on nine carries. The Patriots won easily, 41-28.

The final game of the divisional round of the playoffs was the Philadelphia Eagles versus the New Orleans Saints. The Eagles intercepted Drew Brees' first pass of the game, which helped them jump out to a 14-0 lead early in the first quarter. Brees ended up with 283 passing yards and two touchdowns, the Saints ran for 137 yards, and the Eagles got sent home by the final score of 20-14.

Looking ahead, the first game of the conference championships will start on Sunday at 2:05pm (CT), with the Rams traveling to New Orleans. The game should be a shootout, since the Rams have the number two offense in the NFL (32.9 points per game), and the Saints are third (31.5 ppg). This game will be close, but the Saints are in a better position to reach the Super Bowl because of their slight edge on defense and homefield advantage.

The other conference Championship game, Patriots at Chiefs, will start at 5:40pm (CT). The Chiefs at home are a good bet to win this one, especially since the Patriots are only 3-5 on the road this season, but you can't count out Tom Brady and Bill Belichick – the two have won more playoff games than anyone in NFL history.

On a quick Vikings' related note, the team officially made Kevin Stefanski the offensive coordinator. Kevin took over the offense after John DeFillipo was let go during the regular season and will now get a chance to put his own personal touches on the team. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)

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Today in Weather History

January 14, 1916: Record cold continued on this date in weather history in 1916 across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Aberdeen, Kennebec, Mobridge, Timber Lake, Watertown, and Wheaton all set record lows. The record lows were 24 degrees below zero at Kennebec, 28 degrees below zero at Wheaton, 31 degrees below zero at Timber Lake, 35 degrees below zero at Mobridge, 36 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, and 38 degrees below zero at Watertown.

1882: A cold winter storm that started on 1/1 and ended on this day brought lots of snow to the lowlands. 15 inches of snow fell at San Bernardino. 3 feet of snow fell in Campo over four days and produced 8 foot drifts in spots. Two to five inches fell in outlying San Diego, including four inches along Poway Grade, 3 inches at El Cajon and one inch in Poway. 5 inches fell in Riverside. Light snow fell in Del Mar. Snowflakes fell, but did not stick at San Diego Lindbergh Field. Birds and livestock were killed, telegraph lines were knocked down and citrus crops were damaged.

1972: In Loma, Montana, the temperature soared from 54 degrees below zero to 49 degrees above zero on January 14-15, 1972. The 103 degree change is the greatest ever recorded in the world for a 24 hour period.

2009: In Washington State, freezing fog and freezing drizzle enveloped much the Inland Northwest during the period of 13-23 January 2009. The area most affected by this was the high plateau region along Highway 2 between Wenatchee and Spokane. Below are some of the pictures taken at the NWS Spokane office showing the accumulation of rime on various objects.

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Today



Patchy Fog
then Cloudy

High: 25 °F

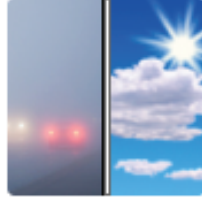
Tonight



Cloudy then
Patchy Fog

Low: 15 °F

Tuesday



Patchy Fog
then Mostly
Sunny

High: 31 °F

Tuesday
Night



Partly Cloudy

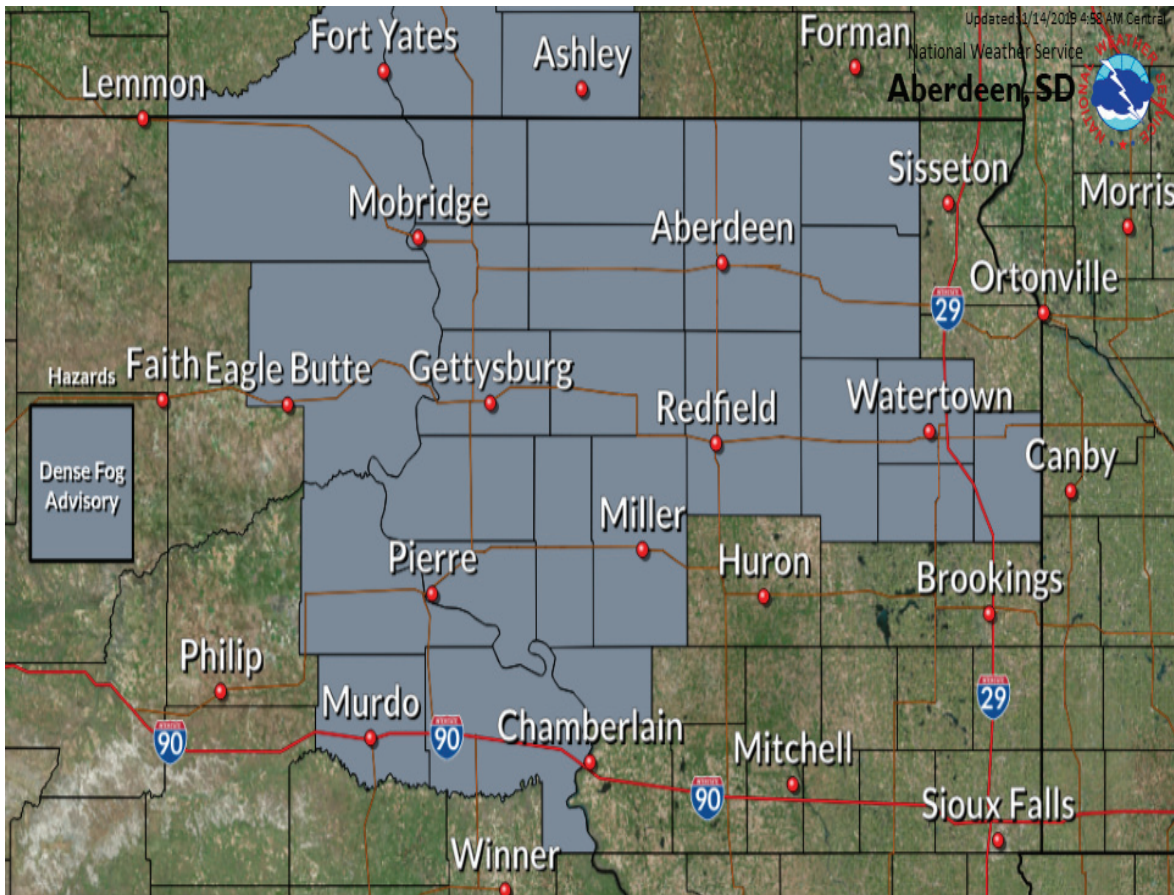
Low: 0 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 12 °F



Cloudy today, with areas of dense fog across parts of central, north central and northeast South Dakota. Still looks to turn sharply colder heading into the middle of the week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 29 °F at 10:17 PM

Low Outside Temp: 19 °F at 10:01 AM

High Gust: 19 mph at 12:34 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 50° in 1901

Record Low: -36° in 1916

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.23

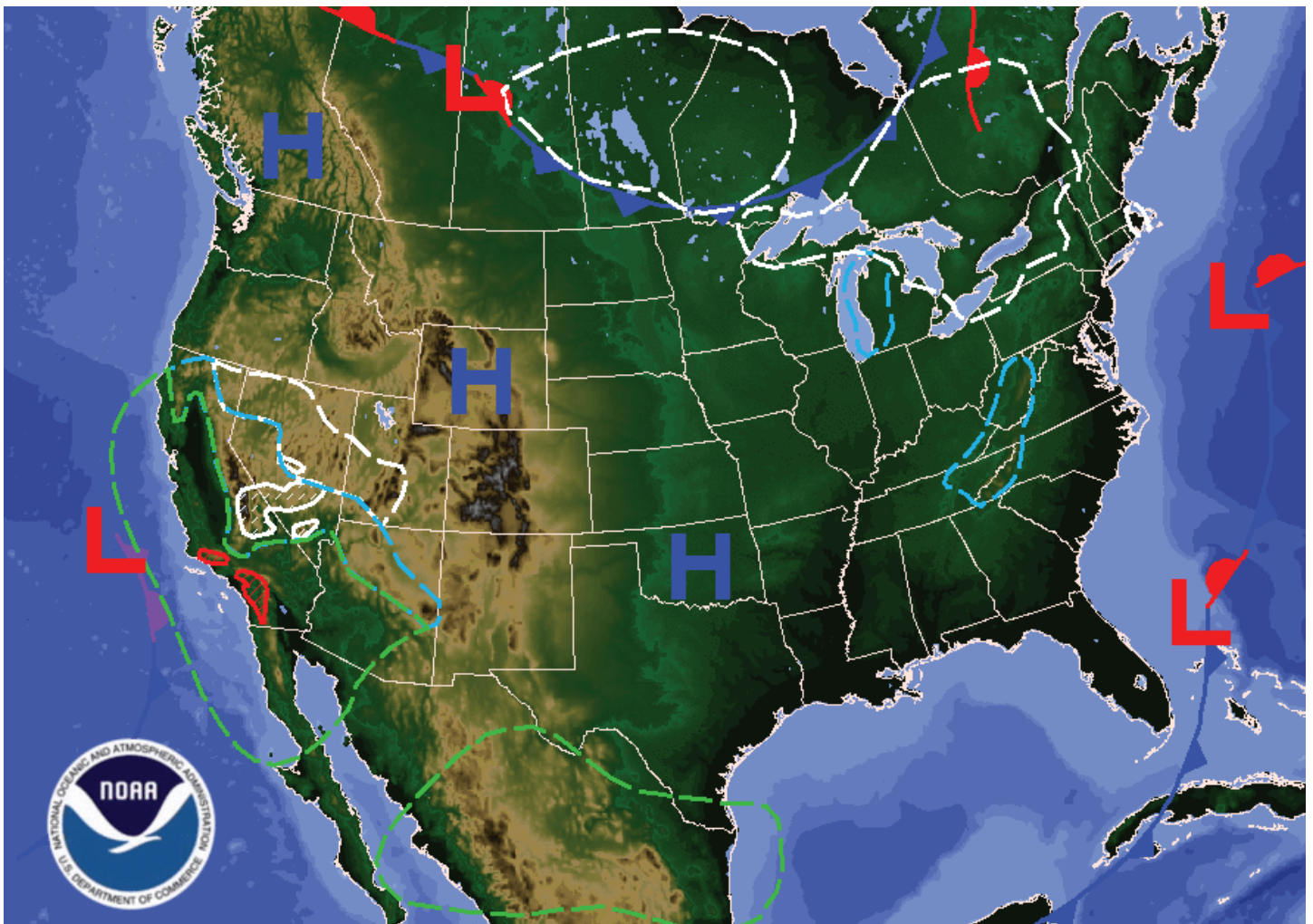
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.23

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:15 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:10 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jan 14, 2019, issued 4:44 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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IT DEPENDS ON THE NAME

Alberts dad thought it was time he understood how to write checks. So, he took him to the bank, withdrew his checkbook from his coat pocket and said, Son, I want you to learn how to cash checks today.

He then filled out the blank check and explained every step to Albert. When he finished, he said, Now, Im going to go to the cashier and give her this check, and she will give me the amount of money I am going to withdraw. Theres a rather long line waiting for the cashier, so you stay here and wait for me.

Albert watched others do the same thing: give the cashier a piece of paper and get money in return. Amazed, he decided to do the same with a check from his fathers checkbook.

Very carefully, he completed a check the way his father had taught him. However, when it was his turn at the window, the cashier said, Im sorry, but your check is no good.

But, Albert protested, its the same as my Dads.

Not quite, she responded. His check has value because his name is on it, and he has money in the bank that we can give him for the check.

When you think about it, prayer is like going to the bank and exchanging our need for Gods rewards. But, unlike a bank, the rewards are in Gods name, and He is waiting for us to ask Him to present them to us.

Jesus said, Ask anything in My Name, and I will do it. The Psalmist said, Remember the Name of the Lord.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, whatever we need is in Your hands. May we remember what we have in Your Name. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

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

News from the Associated Press

Pilot had medical issue before crash

SALEM, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say the pilot found dead following the crash of a small plane in south-eastern South Dakota told air traffic controllers of a medical issue shortly before the aircraft went down.

McCook County sheriff's officials say the pilot was the only one on board the single-engine plane that crashed about 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Controllers say they asked the pilot to put the plane down on a road or field to avoid losing consciousness while airborne. But the pilot didn't respond and crashed a short time later.

The pilot has not yet been identified. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

Driver's license examiners unite as a team until the end

By J.T. FEY, Watertown Public Opinion

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — In mid-November one of Watertown's best teams called it quits. You probably didn't know them, and for sure you won't find their successes in any record book.

But listen to Ruby Reichling, Terry Weaver and Ken Hejl talk about their time together and one realizes they were a good team.

They were all driver's license examiners at the State of South Dakota's facility in Watertown. Reichling had the longest reign at 34 years. Weaver joined her in 1991, and Hejl was the newcomer, arriving in 2010. They served a combined 70 years.

They all retired on Nov. 16, 2018, a date chosen by Hejl, after they learned they didn't have to wait until the end of the year to receive the benefits they had already earned.

"I knew I had their backs, and I hoped they felt the same way," said Hejl to the Watertown Public Opinion . "We weren't ever against each other. We worked as a team."

While anyone who drives may have a story about their experiences receiving a license, the three examiners each have dozens, including how much more complicated the process of earning a license has become for examiners and students.

The Sept. 11, 2001 suicide attacks brought about the biggest changes. By 2010 prospective drivers needed three forms of identification to prove who they were, especially since a driver's license is one of the key tools against fraud. Also required was a certified birth certificate.

"The hospital birth certificate has those cute little footprints on the back, and people would wonder how much more certified that can be," said Reichling. "But it was certified by the hospital. It didn't have the state seal on it."

Women had perhaps the toughest time because they needed official proof of any changes in marital status. The Watertown examiners twice dealt with women who had been married seven times and divorced six.

"Can you imagine how someone would feel getting this one from California, this one from Nevada, this one from Utah, and so on?" Reichling said.

Weaver told how people would wait for hours to start the licensing process and then, after speaking with an examiner, learn they didn't have the right documentation and couldn't proceed.

"When all of this started it was misery for Terry and me," said Reichling, who estimates that 85 percent of those seeking licenses didn't have the proper documents. "People were absolutely crude about it."

Following complaints to Pierre about the workload, Hejl was hired to serve as the guy who greeted people and checked their documents. Hejl's career in retail management prepared him for what he was about to face.

"He caught a lot of crap, but because of his background he could defuse people, and I'm not kidding," Weaver said. "By the time they caught up to us, most of them had calmed down."

Reichling said people would also be irritated about the amount of time the examiners stood behind a counter, seemingly not doing anything. What they were doing were all the background checks required

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by the new U.S. Homeland Security department.

"People would think we were just sitting there, waiting to take their picture, give them the test and give them their license," she said. "There was a lot of law enforcement involved, too."

Not everyone left the building angry.

"Everything could have been perfect and they still would have come in upset," Hejl said. "Sometimes they were very irate and they'd say some things, and I'd say we don't want to hear any swearing.

"But so many times when they'd leave they'd be smiling and say thank you. They'd be 180 degrees different. That wasn't just to me. It was also for these two people who were taking care of them."

The driving test could bring about tense moments, especially if a new driver didn't fully understand the concept of right-of-way. Some didn't realize that oncoming traffic wasn't going to stop just to allow them to turn. The route the examiners used included going south on S.D. Highway 20 and turning left onto Kemp Avenue.

"Right then and there you had to decide whether you can stop them in time or tell them to hit the gas and go, go, go, go!" Reichling said. "That happened a lot."

Reichling also remembers an older woman driving into the ditch because she couldn't turn the steering wheel fast enough.

"I had a real big problem with grabbing the steering wheel. In case there was an accident, who's driving?" she explained. "I did grab it in this case, and I said, 'No, no we're in the ditch. She didn't pass the test.'"

Younger drivers also presented problems, especially if they weren't accustomed to four-lane traffic.

"Anytime you gave an instruction, the younger generation would absolutely think that they had to do it," Reichling said. "I'd tell them to take a left turn up at the light, and they'd think no matter what, they had to do it."

Weaver remembered when a 14-year-old from a small town took his test and then went for a drive. When he pulled onto Highway 20 he started crying because he had never been on a four-lane street before.

There were other oddities. Weaver recalled one test that he ended within a few blocks of starting. The reason — a very foul smell.

"I asked him what stunk so bad, and he said he had dead chickens in his trunk that he used for trapping," Weaver said. "He said he didn't even notice the smell anymore. We didn't go any farther."

Another test never got started. Weaver got into the car and noticed a white python sunning itself in the back window.

"We weren't allowed to take pets," Weaver said. "And besides, I hate snakes."

Despite the problems, all three former examiners said they enjoyed their jobs in part because they worked together so well.

"Twenty-eight years you work with somebody and you never have an argument," said Weaver. "Not once did we have a spat. I'll tell you what; you can't say that about too many people now. We got along great."

Hejl recalls when he interviewed and was offered the job.

"The last thing the northeast supervisor asked me if I was sure I wanted to do this. But so many times people would come in and we'd be laughing and joking. People would say this is the best license place in the state."

The three considered retiring in 2013 but Reichling had to stay on because her family needed the health insurance. She told both men to go ahead with retirement, but they said they wouldn't leave until she did.

"That's why we became such a great team," she said. "We never fought, and those two made it fun. They made it a blast. I can't say enough good things about either one, and if I keep talking I'll start to cry."

Information from: Watertown Public Opinion, <http://www.thepublicopinion.com>

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1 dies in small plane crash in southeastern South Dakota

SALEM, S.D. (AP) — One person is dead after a small plane crashed in southeastern South Dakota. The crash happened just after 2:30 p.m. Sunday south of Salem. The McCook County Sheriff's Office confirms one person died. KSFY-TV reports the pilot of the single-engine plane was having health issues during the trip. Air traffic controllers told the pilot to circle around the area until he could land, but lost contact with him. The National Transportation Safety Board has been notified.

South Dakota hands Mastodons first Summit League loss

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Stanley Umude scored 26 points and South Dakota handed Purdue Fort Wayne its first Summit League loss with an 87-73 victory on Sunday.

The Coyotes shot 54 percent, including 63 percent in the second half when they overcame a five-point halftime deficit. They scored 14 straight points, 10 from Triston Simpson, over four minutes to lead by 16 with a half-minute left.

Simpson made all 10 of his free throws and scored 19 points while Tyler Peterson had 14 points and 10 rebounds for South Dakota.

South Dakota (8-9, 2-2) played without leading scorer Trey Burch-Manning, who missed his second game with a foot injury.

Matt Weir scored 20 points, making all five his 3-pointers, to lead the Mastodons (12-8, 4-1), who had a six-game win streak snapped. Other than Weir, the Mastodons, the nation's leaders in made 3-pointers, were 4 of 23 from the arc.

USS South Dakota submarine to soon join US Navy fleet

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A \$2.6 billion submarine named for the state of South Dakota is getting ready to join the U.S. Navy fleet.

The 377-foot (115-meter) USS South Dakota will be commissioned on Feb. 2 at the Navy base in Groton, Connecticut, the Argus Leader reported. The vessel will be the 17th Virginia-class attack submarine to join the fleet and the first submarine to be commissioned with the name South Dakota.

The submarine force's primary role is to stay forward-deployed, undetected and ready to deliver a warfighting capability when needed, said Craig Liddy, the ship's commanding officer, in a video interview released by the Department of Defense.

The Defense Department recently released footage of the submarine ahead of its commissioning ceremony next month, including photographs of the ship's sailors and a tour of the vessel. Some rooms on the ship are decorated with images of South Dakota cities and wildlife, a state license plate and stickers from Deadwood bars.

The last ship named after the state of South Dakota was the BB-57, a World War II-era battleship that won numerous honors in combat before it was decommissioned in 1947. Parts of the battleship are on display at the U.S.S. South Dakota Battleship Memorial in Sioux Falls.

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

US tells Saudis to hold Khashoggi's murderers accountable

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Trump administration expects Saudi Arabia to hold "every single person" responsible for the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi accountable, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday after talks with senior Saudi officials that also focused on Mideast crises and countering threats from Iran.

Pompeo, speaking to reporters at the end of a trip to Riyadh, said he had raised the Khashoggi case in

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his meetings with Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as well as other human rights concerns, and the fate of women's rights activists who have been detained in the kingdom.

"We spoke about human rights issues here in Saudi Arabia, women activists," he said. "We spoke about the accountability and the expectations that we have. The Saudis are friends and when friends have conversations you tell them what your expectations are."

"Our expectations have been clear from early on: every single person who has responsibility for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi needs to be held accountable," Pompeo said. He said the Saudis understood and had reiterated pledges to pursue the case wherever it leads. He would not comment on U.S. intelligence suggesting the crown prince may have ordered the killing.

The relationship between Riyadh and Washington remains tense following Khashoggi's brutal slaying and dismemberment at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in October. Members of Prince Mohammed's entourage have been implicated in the killing and U.S. lawmakers have demanded America pull back its support of the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

On the detained women rights activists, Pompeo said the Saudis had committed that the "lawful judicial process would take place and they would do so quickly and that they would continue down that path."

"They understand the concerns that some have and they are going to do their best to communicate as appropriate," he said.

Pompeo travelled to Saudi Arabia as part of a broader Middle East tour that has already taken him to Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. He was to depart from the kingdom for Oman shortly after his meetings in Riyadh but cancelled plans to wrap up the trip in Kuwait on Tuesday, due to a death in his family.

At each stop, Pompeo has sought to reassure Arab leaders that President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. forces from Syria does not mean Washington is abandoning the Middle East or the fight against the Islamic State group.

Pompeo said he believed he had been successful in explaining Trump's position despite a lack of detail on exactly how and when the withdrawal will take place and differences with Turkey over the fate of U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters after American forces leave.

He also tried to impress upon leaders the importance of a political solution to the conflict in Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished country, and the need to step up efforts to counter Iran's increasing assertiveness in the region, manifested by its support for Lebanon's militant Hezbollah movement, Syria's government of President Bashar Assad, Shiite militias in Iraq and the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

In Riyadh, Pompeo lamented that the Houthis were not living up to pledges they made at U.N.-brokered peace talks in Sweden. "We need both sides to honor those commitments and to date the Iranian-backed Houthis have chosen not to do that," he said.

Pompeo also pressed the Saudis on bringing an end to the near two-year-old dispute with its Gulf neighbor Qatar, which has badly hindered U.S. efforts to create a united Arab military alliance to counter Iran.

"It diminishes our ability to all work together," he said of the spat that began in June 2017 with Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates boycotting of Qatar, alleging it funds extremist groups and has too-cozy ties to Iran.

In Doha on Sunday, Pompeo made similar remarks, but he said that while the United States could try to play peacemaker, it is ultimately up to the countries involved to resolve the situation.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump isn't holed up nonstop at White House

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eager to defend a prolonged government shutdown over his border wall, President Donald Trump is pretending that he's holed up nonstop at the White House waiting for a deal with Democrats. He's also rewriting history regarding his promise to make Mexico pay for the wall.

Trump says he hasn't left the White House in "months," including during the partial shutdown that began Dec. 22. Actually, he has ventured out numerous times — to the Mexico border just this past week, for instance — and will again on Monday to New Orleans.

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Trump also is claiming that he didn't mean it when he told crowds over and over that Mexico would put up money for the wall. It was always intended for Mexico to pay "indirectly," he now says, an assertion contradicted by his words and his plan in the campaign.

The remarks capped a week in which he also spread misleading rhetoric about the 2016 election, the FBI investigation into his former personal attorney Michael Cohen, prescription drug prices and dire threats from the south.

Trump 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. Mexico has refused to pay anything toward a U.S. wall.

A look at the claims:

STUCK AT THE WHITE HOUSE

TRUMP: "I haven't actually left the White House in months. ...And I've been here virtually every night, I guess every night other than one day I flew to Iraq and then to Germany to see our troops. ...I'm not even sure I actually missed a night, per se. But basically, I've been here for many months in the White House." — interview Saturday night with Fox News.

TRUMP: "I'm in the White House, waiting. The Democrats are everywhere but Washington as people await their pay." — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: Trump has left the White House plenty of times in recent months.

Besides his trip to Iraq and Germany on Dec. 26-27, Trump traveled to the Mexican border town of McAllen, Texas, on Thursday. On Monday, he's going to New Orleans to address the American Farm Bureau. He's left the White House during the shutdown for meetings at Camp David and the Capitol.

Shortly before the shutdown began, he traveled to Philadelphia to watch the Army-Navy football game (Dec. 8), visited Kansas City for a law enforcement conference (Dec. 7), attended former President George H.W. Bush's funeral at the Washington National Cathedral (Dec. 5), participated in the G-20 summit in Argentina in late November; and hosted "Make America Great Again" rallies in Mississippi with Senate candidate Cindy Hyde-Smith (Nov. 26). He hosted a dinner on Thanksgiving at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

CRIME

TRUMP: "The building of the Wall on the Southern Border will bring down the crime rate throughout the entire Country!" — tweet Sunday.

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, and legal immigrants are even less likely to do so.

A March study by the journal *Criminology* found "undocumented immigration does not increase violence."

The study, which looked at the years 1990 through 2014, said states with bigger shares of such people have lower crime rates.

As well, a study in 2017 by Robert Adelman, a sociology professor at University of Buffalo, analyzed 40 years of crime data in 200 metropolitan areas and found that immigrants helped lower crime. New York City, for example, has the nation's largest population of immigrants living in the country illegally — about 500,000 — and last year had only 289 murders among a total population of 8.5 million people, according to preliminary data. Those numbers mean a person's odds of becoming a victim of homicide in tightly packed, diverse New York City were about the same as they were last year in Montana.

2016 ELECTION

TRUMP: "The fact is, I was obviously a good candidate. ...I won everything I did, and I won, and I won easily — 306-223, I believe. And that's a big difference in the college, in the Electoral College." — interview Saturday night with Fox News Channel.

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THE FACTS: Trump misstates the Electoral College vote in his 2016 presidential race against Democrat Hillary Clinton. The official count was 304 to 227, according to an Associated Press tally of the electoral votes in every state.

Nor did he "win everything" in the 2016 campaign. Clinton won the popular vote, receiving nearly 2.9 million more votes than Trump after racking up more lopsided victories in big states such as New York and California, according to election data compiled by AP. But she lost the presidency due to Trump's winning margin in the Electoral College, which came after he narrowly won less populous Midwestern states including Michigan and Wisconsin.

COHEN

TRUMP: "They broke into his law firm." — interview Saturday night with Fox News, referring to the FBI.

THE FACTS: It was not a break-in. The FBI executed a search warrant obtained from a judge in conducting the raid and seizing records on a variety of matters, among them a \$130,000 payment made to porn actress Stormy Daniels by Trump's lawyer, Cohen. Daniels alleged she had extramarital affairs with Trump, which the White House denies.

The application for the warrant was approved high in the Justice Department.

DRUG PRICES

TRUMP: "Drug prices declined in 2018, the first time in nearly half a century. During the first 19 months of my Administration, Americans saved \$26 Billion on prescription drugs. Our policies to get cheaper generic drugs to market are working!" — tweet Friday.

THE FACTS: The evidence isn't on his side. And administration policies announced last year and currently being completed don't seem to have shifted a trend of rising prices.

A recent Associated Press analysis of prices for brand-name drugs found far more increases than cuts in the first seven months of 2018. The analysis found 96 price hikes for every price cut. The number of increases had slowed somewhat and were not quite as steep as in past years.

And prices continue to rise. Figures on U.S. prescription drug price changes compiled by health data company Elsevier also show that from Dec. 20 through Jan. 2, there were 1,179 product price changes. Of those, 30 were price cuts and the remaining 1,149 were price increases, with 328 of them between 9 percent and 10 percent. All but one of the rest were by lower percentages.

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 do have a plan on the Shutdown. But to understand that plan you would have to understand the fact that I won the election, and I promised safety and security for the American people. Part of that promise was a Wall at the Southern Border. Elections have consequences!" — tweet Saturday.

THE FACTS: He also promised during the campaign that Mexico would pay for the border wall. Mexico has refused.

Trump notes that "elections have consequences," referring to his 2016 election. But there was another election, in November, and the consequence of that is that Democrats now control the House and they refuse to give Trump money for a wall.

TRUMP: "I never meant they're going to write out a check... . Mexico is paying for the wall indirectly. And

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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 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 hardline 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.

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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: "A big proportion of the drugs from, you know, that we have ... in this country come through the border." — interview Saturday night with Fox News Channel.

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. through 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."

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."

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

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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 high-school 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 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 Darlene Superville, 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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10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IN DAY 24

Congress returns to Washington for its first full week of legislative business since control of the House reverted to Democrats, with no end in sight for the partial closure.

2. SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS MIDDLE EAST

Mike Pompeo met Monday with Saudi leaders on the latest stop of a tour that has so far been dominated by questions and concerns about the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria.

3. MORE CLUES POSSIBLE IN REASONS FOR JET CRASH

Indonesian navy divers have recovered the cockpit voice recorder of a Lion Air jet that crashed into the Java Sea in October, killing 189 people.

4. BREXIT DEADLINE NEARS AMID FEUD

Prime Minister Theresa May plans to tell lawmakers she has received further assurances about her deal from the EU, a last-ditch attempt to win support ahead of a key vote Tuesday.

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5. MADE IN CHINA, SOLD TO THE U.S.

China's 2018 trade surplus with the U.S. surged to a record \$323.3 billion but exports contracted in December as the delayed impact of President Trump's tariff hikes started to depress demand.

6. WHO STANDS TO GAIN FROM LAXER ENVIRONMENTAL RULES

Trump often points to farmers as among the biggest beneficiaries from the administration's proposed rollback of federal protections for wetlands and waterways, but developers and other industry owners could be the big winners, making it easier to fill in bogs, creeks and streams for plowing, drilling, mining or building.

7. SOLIDARITY WITH ATTACKED POLITICIAN

Polish blood donors were coming forward in a bid to save the life of Gdansk's mayor, who needs transfusions after being stabbed in the heart and the abdomen at a charity event.

8. VENEZUELAN STRONGMAN GETS CHALLENGER

Young backbench lawmaker Juan Guaido has emerged as a key power broker as he leads the opposition-controlled congress in a high-stakes standoff with socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

9. ONLY WOMEN BEHIND THE WHEEL

Jackie Heinricher has put together an all-female team of drivers that will debut at the Rolex 24 at Daytona, one of the most prestigious endurance races in the world.

10. STAR-STUDDED GALA REMEMBERS QUEEN OF SOUL

Alicia Keys, Patti LaBelle, Celine Dion and more perform some of the late Aretha Franklin's biggest hits in a tribute concert hosted by Tyler Perry.

Congress to face same question: When will shutdown end?

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress returns to Washington for its first full week of legislative business since control of the House reverted to Democrats, but lawmakers will be confronted with the same lingering question: When will the partial government shutdown end?

One Republican senator says he's offered President Donald Trump a possible solution, though it may just be wishful thinking.

Sen. Lindsey Graham is encouraging Trump to reopen government for several weeks to continue negotiating with Democrats over the border wall Trump wants to build on the U.S.-Mexico border. If there's no deal at the end of that time, Graham says Trump would be free to take the more dramatic step of declaring a national emergency to build it.

But the South Carolina Republican says Trump still wants a deal on funding for the wall before agreeing to reopen shuttered government departments. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, insists Trump reopen the government first.

Their weeks-old standoff led to the partial government shutdown, now on day 24 without a clear end in sight.

Trump insisted on Twitter Monday that he wanted to deal, declaring: "I've been waiting all weekend. Democrats must get to work now. Border must be secured!"

Targeting Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Trump also argued that the shutdown "has become their, and the Democrats, fault!" Trump weeks ago asserted that he would "own" the shutdown and polls show that he is taking most of the blame.

Graham, who has publicly pushed Trump to use his authority to declare a national emergency to build the wall, is suggesting a short-term fix.

"Before he pulls the plug on the legislative option, and I think we're almost there, I would urge him to open up the government for a short period of time, like three weeks, before he pulls the plug, see if we can get a deal," Graham said. "If we can't at the end of three weeks, all bets are off.

"See if he can do it by himself through the emergency powers. That's my recommendation," added Graham, who has publicly pushed Trump to use his authority to declare a national emergency to build the

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wall. Such a step would allow Trump to bypass Congress and tap various pots of unspent federal money, including for military construction and disaster relief as well as from assets seized by law enforcement, to pay for the wall.

Trump has kept Washington on edge over whether he would resort to such a declaration, citing what he says is a "crisis" of drug smuggling and the trafficking of women and children at the border. The president initially sounded as though such a move was imminent, but then pulled back. He has said several times since he first mentioned the idea in public this month that he prefers a legislative solution.

A key question is how much more time is Trump willing to give lawmakers. Graham, who spoke with Trump by telephone on Sunday morning, said the legislative path "is just about shut off" and blamed intransigence by Pelosi.

The speaker's office had no immediate comment.

Democrats oppose an emergency declaration but may be powerless to block it. Some Republicans are wary, too, fearing how a future Democratic president might use that authority. Such a move, should Trump ultimately go that route, would almost certainly be challenged in the courts.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., called Graham's idea to reopen the government a "great place to start."

"I do think if we reopen the government, if the president ends this shutdown crisis, we have folks who can negotiate a responsible, modern investment in technology that will actually make us safer," Coons said.

Trump says technology is nice, but that the border can't be secured without a wall.

The White House has been laying the groundwork for an emergency declaration, which is feared by lawmakers in both parties.

Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said he'd "hate to see" a declaration issued because the wall wouldn't get built, presumably because of legal challenges. Democrats voted in the past for border security and should again, he said.

"I actually want to see this wall get built," Johnson said. "I want to keep pressure on Democrats to actually come to the negotiating table in good faith and fund what they have supported in the past."

Graham favors a declaration and said the time for talk is running out.

"It's the last option, not the first option, but we're pretty close to that being the only option," he said.

Graham and Coons spoke on "Fox News Sunday" and Johnson appeared on CNN's "State of the Union."

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

Storm punishes swath of US with snow, ice and freezing rain

By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press

A winter storm that contributed to at least five deaths in the Midwest pummeled the mid-Atlantic region for a second day Sunday, bringing with it an icy mix that knocked out power, cancelled flights and contributed to hundreds of car accidents.

Virginia State Police said the driver of a military surplus vehicle was killed late Saturday after he lost control on Interstate 81 because of slick road conditions.

Police said Ronald W. Harris, 73, of Gainesville, Georgia, died after his vehicle was struck by two tractor-trailers. The two tractor-trailer drivers were taken to a hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening. The state medical examiner determined Sunday that Harris' death was storm-related, police said.

Virginia State Police said they responded to more than 300 traffic crashes and helped nearly 200 disabled vehicles in Virginia from midnight to late Sunday afternoon.

The storm knocked out power to nearly 200,000 people in Virginia and North Carolina at its height Sunday, according to PowerOutage.us.

In North Carolina, Gov. Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency Sunday to help utility crews restore electricity more quickly after power lines fell because of freezing rain, ice and toppled trees. The state's western mountains and foothills were hardest-hit along with the western Piedmont region and nearly 1,000 state transportation workers were called out to clear ice and snow.

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The National Weather Service reported nearly a half-inch of ice in some sections of western North Carolina, leading to fallen trees and power lines but other areas of the state got mostly a cold rain or freezing precipitation.

Meanwhile, the storm caused headaches for travelers into and out of airports in the region, including more than 250 flight cancellations Sunday at the three main airports serving the nation's capital. Washington's Dulles International Airport tweeted that the Federal Aviation Administration had implemented a ground stop there on Sunday evening, impacting both inbound and outbound flights.

For air travelers, the Dulles airport authority subsequently tweeted tips for flying on a snow day, including frequently checking for airline flight changes and packing "patience, a good dose of snow humor & a packet of hot chocolate."

By late Sunday afternoon, the Washington, D.C. metro area, northern Virginia and parts of Maryland had total snowfall accumulations ranging from five to eight inches (12-20 centimeters). Central Virginia, including Richmond, had much smaller accumulations — as little as one inch (2.5 centimeters)— but the snow was followed by hours of sleet and freezing rain.

Marc Chenard, a meteorologist with the Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland, said parts of the region could expect snow to continue falling into Sunday evening.

"At this point, it is just going to head out to sea once it exits here this evening," Chenard said.

Most public school systems in northern Virginia and Prince George's County schools in suburban Maryland said classes would be cancelled Monday.

The storm also was affected parts of Maryland. In Baltimore, a man was fatally shot as he shoveled snow early Sunday morning. Police said a 43-year-old man was outside shoveling at 4:40 a.m. when an unidentified suspect shot him in the head and shoulder. The victim died at a hospital.

Meanwhile, Illinois was trying to dig out from under heavy snowfall in some areas.

Springfield's State Journal-Register reports the state capital broke a 55-year record for daily snowfall on Saturday. It cited the National Weather Service as saying the 8.4 inches (21.3 centimeters) of snow that day in Springfield broke the previous record for a Jan. 12 in 1964 of 6.6 inches (16.7 centimeters). Some 11.5 inches (29 centimeters) of snow fell on Springfield over three days.

Among those killed in the Midwest during the storm was an Illinois state trooper struck by a car when he responded to a three-vehicle crash Saturday in suburban Chicago.

State Police Director Leo Schmitz told reporters that 34-year-old Christopher Lambert was headed home when he pulled over and got out of his squad car to respond to the accident. Schmitz said Lambert positioned his squad car to protect the other three cars and "took on the danger himself."

For Kansas City Chiefs offensive guard Jeff Allen, there was a bright spot when a Good Samaritan helped pull his vehicle out of the snow after he got stuck en route to Arrowhead Stadium for the divisional playoff game Saturday.

Allen said he made it on time for the Chiefs' victory over the Indianapolis Colts because of the assistance. The man who helped Allen didn't know he was a Chiefs player at the time.

Allen turned to Twitter to track down the Good Samaritan. When they connected Sunday morning, Allen thanked him and promised him tickets to next week's AFC Championship game.

Associated Press writer Gary D. Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

Suspect in Wisconsin killings, kidnapping due in court

By TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A young man suspected of killing a Wisconsin couple, kidnapping their teenage daughter and holding the girl against her will for three months is expected to make his first court appearance Monday, and charging documents could shed light on why he targeted the girl.

Prosecutors are expected to formally charge 21-year-old Jake Thomas Patterson with two counts of intentional homicide and one count of kidnapping before his afternoon court hearing in Barron County

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Circuit Court.

Investigators believe Patterson broke into James and Denise Closs' home near Barron on Oct. 15 by blowing the front door open with a shotgun blast. Investigators allege he fatally shot the couple and abducted their 13-year-old daughter, Jayme, who escaped her captor late last week in a rural, heavily wooded area in northwest Wisconsin.

Authorities have said Patterson's goal was to kidnap Jayme, but it's unclear how he became aware of the girl, especially because he lived an hour away.

Patterson's defense attorneys, Charles Glynn and Richard Jones, said they believe Patterson can get a fair trial, but they're not sure where. The public defenders didn't reveal many specifics about what they expect from Monday's court hearing, but they acknowledged the case was "a tragic situation from every perspective."

"It's been an emotional time for this community and a difficult time for this community. We don't take that lightly. But we have a job to do in protecting our client," Jones said.

Police collected more than 3,500 tips following Jayme's disappearance, but no hard leads emerged.

Then on Thursday, a woman walking her dog spotted Jayme along a road near Gordon, a town about an hour's drive north of Barron. The woman says the girl begged her for help, saying Patterson had been hiding her in a nearby cabin and that she had escaped when he left her alone.

Neighbors called 911, and officers arrested Peterson within minutes. He has no criminal history in Wisconsin.

Investigators say there's no evidence of any online interactions between him and Jayme. Her family insists they don't know the man. Her grandfather, Robert Naiberg, told The Associated Press that Jayme told FBI agents she doesn't know Patterson at all.

Charging documents in Wisconsin typically contain at least a partial narrative of what happened at a crime scene as prosecutors try to prove there's probable cause to support the allegations.

Details of Jayme's three-month captivity have not been released, and Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald has not said whether Jayme was sexually assaulted. But Patterson's attorneys have been lauded for taking high-profile cases with a special emphasis on sexually violent people, according to a state public defender office news release from February 2018.

Glynn and Jones issued a statement Saturday saying they were relying on the court system to treat Patterson fairly.

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

Follow Todd Richmond on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/trichmond1>

Judge blocks Trump birth control coverage rules in 13 states

SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — A U.S. judge in California on Sunday blocked Trump administration rules, which would allow more employers to opt out of providing women with no-cost birth control, from taking effect in 13 states and Washington, D.C.

Judge Haywood Gilliam granted a request for a preliminary injunction by California, 12 other states and Washington, D.C. The plaintiffs sought to prevent the rules from taking effect as scheduled on Monday while a lawsuit against them moved forward.

But Gilliam limited the scope of the ruling to the plaintiffs, rejecting their request that he block the rules nationwide.

The changes would allow more employers, including publicly traded companies, to opt out of providing no-cost contraceptive coverage to women by claiming religious objections. Some private employers could also object on moral grounds.

California and the other states argue that women would be forced to turn to state-funded programs for

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birth control and experience unintended pregnancies.

"The law couldn't be more clear — employers have no business interfering in women's healthcare decisions," California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement Sunday. "Today's court ruling stops another attempt by the Trump Administration to trample on women's access to basic reproductive care. It's 2019, yet the Trump Administration is still trying to roll back women's rights. Our coalition will continue to fight to ensure women have access to the reproductive healthcare they are guaranteed under the law."

The U.S. Department of Justice said in court documents the rules "protect a narrow class of sincere religious and moral objectors from being forced to facilitate practices that conflict with their beliefs."

At issue is a requirement under President Barack Obama's health care law that birth control services be covered at no additional cost. Obama officials included exemptions for religious organizations. The Trump administration expanded those exemptions and added "moral convictions" as a basis to opt out of providing birth control services.

At a hearing on Friday, Gilliam said the changes would result in a "substantial number" of women losing birth control coverage, which would be a "massive policy shift."

The judge previously blocked an interim version of the rules — a decision that was upheld in December by an appeals court.

The ruling affects California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

Indonesia recovers Lion Air jet's cockpit voice recorder

By NINIEK KARMINI and STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Navy divers have recovered the cockpit voice recorder of a Lion Air jet that crashed into the Java Sea in October, Indonesian officials said Monday, in a possible boost to the investigation into why the 2-month-old plane nosedived at high velocity, killing 189 people.

Ridwan Djamaluddin, a deputy maritime minister, told reporters that remains of some of the people who died in the crash were also discovered at the seabed location.

A spokesman for the Indonesian navy's western fleet, Lt. Col. Agung Nugroho, said divers using high-tech "ping locator" equipment started a new search effort last week in a previously identified target area and found the voice recorder beneath 8 meters (26 feet) of seabed mud. The plane crashed in waters 30 meters (98 feet) deep.

The bright orange device was transported to a port in Jakarta, where it was handed over to the National Transportation Safety Committee, which is overseeing the accident investigation.

"This is good news, especially for us who lost our loved ones," said Irianto, the father of Rio Nanda Pratama, a doctor who died in the crash.

"Even though we don't yet know the contents of the CVR, this is some relief from our despair," he said.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet plunged into the Java Sea just minutes after taking off from Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, on Oct. 29, killing everyone on board.

The cockpit data recorder was recovered three days after the crash and showed that the jet's airspeed indicator had malfunctioned on its last four flights. Lion Air initially claimed that problems with the aircraft were fixed before its final flight.

If the voice recorder is undamaged, it could provide valuable additional information to investigators.

The transport committee's chairman, Soerjanto Tjahjono, said the device will be taken to the investigators' "black box" facility. It will take three to five days to dry and clean the device and to download its data, he said.

"To analyze it, we need more time, depending on the complexity of the problem. Data obtained from CVR is expected to complete our investigation data," Tjahjono said.

Data from a preliminary investigation report, which didn't state any conclusions, showed that the plane's nose pointed down 26 times on its fatal 11-minute flight despite repeated efforts by the pilots to manually aim the nose higher.

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Rear Adm. Harjo Susmoro, head of the navy's Center for Hydrography and Oceanography, said the voice recorder was found just 50 meters (164 feet) from where the data recorder was located.

A "heroic" team of 21 divers removed debris and carried out "desludging" operations to reach the voice recorder, he said.

Susmoro said the voice recorder's signal, designed to last 90 days following a crash, would have stopped after about 15 days.

The family of one of the pilots, 41-year-old Harvino, has sued Boeing Co. in Chicago, alleging that aircraft sensors provided inaccurate information, causing the plane to nosedive, and that Boeing failed to provide proper training to pilots on the 737 MAX 8's features.

Indonesian media reported in December that Lion Air's chief executive, Edward Sirait, said the airline was considering canceling its remaining orders for nearly 200 of the Boeing planes.

The Lion Air crash was the worst airline disaster in Indonesia since 1997, when 234 people died on a Garuda flight near Medan. In December 2014, an AirAsia flight from Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the sea, killing all 162 people on board.

Lion Air is one of Indonesia's youngest airlines but has grown rapidly, flying to dozens of domestic and international destinations. It has been expanding aggressively in Southeast Asia, a fast-growing region of more than 600 million people.

Blood donors come forward for stabbed Polish mayor

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Polish blood donors were coming forward in their droves on Monday in a bid to save the life of the mayor of Gdansk, who was stabbed in the heart and the abdomen while on stage at a charity event.

Doctors operated for five hours on Pawel Adamowicz, who was attacked Sunday by an ex-convict who rushed onto the stage with a knife, shouting it was revenge against a political party Adamowicz had previously belonged to.

Adamowicz — who has been the city's mayor for more than 20 years — grabbed his belly and collapsed in front of the audience at the highly popular annual fundraiser organized by the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity.

Doctors resuscitated Adamowicz on the spot and then transported him to Medical University of Gdansk, where he underwent five hours of surgery.

One of the surgeons, Dr. Tomasz Stefaniak, said Adamowicz was in "very, very serious condition" after he suffered a "serious wound to the heart, a wound to the diaphragm and to the internal organs." He said Adamowicz needed massive blood transfusions.

Later Monday, the chief doctor for the Gdansk region, Jerzy Karpinski, said that Adamowicz is on life support and that "prognosis for his life and health is uncertain" after he lost a lot of blood that caused oxygen deprivation to his whole body.

Karpinski stressed, however, that the 53-year-old Adamowicz is a "relatively young, healthy person with no health issues" and that there is hope his body will cope and his condition will return to normal.

The situation should be clearer within the next 20 hours, Karpinski said.

Private TVN24 showed footage of people standing in line to donate blood in Gdansk on Monday. Some said they were given time off work to help save Adamowicz. Prayers and a rally against violence were also planned.

Gdansk Archbishop Leszek Slawoj Glodz, who was at the hospital during the surgery, said he was praying for a miracle.

The assailant shouted from the stage that he had been wrongly imprisoned under a previous government led by Civic Platform, a party to which the mayor formerly belonged. He said his name was Stefan and that "I was jailed but innocent. ... Civic Platform tortured me. That's why Adamowicz just died."

Police said the suspect, a 27-year-old Gdansk resident who was recently released from prison where he had served a term for bank robberies, has been detained and is awaiting questioning by prosecutors.

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A police spokesman, Mariusz Ciarka, said the attacker appeared to have mental problems and gained access to the area with a media badge. Police were checking if it was authentic and how he got hold of it.

Spokeswoman for the ruling Law and Justice party Beata Mazurek said the attack should be "absolutely condemned by all, regardless of what side of the political stage they are on."

She insisted politicians in Poland need "greater responsibility for words, for deeds" because "there is no shortage of madmen on both sides" of the political spectrum.

TVN footage showed Adamowicz on stage Sunday with a sparkler in hand telling the audience that it had been a "wonderful day" of the charity collecting money across Poland and abroad for cash-strapped hospitals. Then the attacker came toward him.

European Council President Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister who co-founded Civic Platform and is from Gdansk, tweeted: "Let's all pray for Mayor Adamowicz. Pawel, we are with you."

The head of the charity, Jerzy Owsiak, is a liberal critic of Poland's current right-wing government. Owsiak and some opposition politicians blamed what they described as an atmosphere of hate under Law and Justice, which won power in 2015.

Adamowicz was part of the democratic opposition formed in Gdansk under the leadership of Lech Walesa during the 1980s. After leaving Civic Platform, he was re-elected to a sixth term as an independent candidate in the fall.

As mayor, he has been a progressive voice, supporting LGBT rights and tolerance for minorities. He showed solidarity with the Jewish community when Gdansk synagogue had its windows broken last year, strongly denouncing the vandalism.

"Horried by the brutal attack on Gdansk mayor Pawel Adamowicz," tweeted Frans Timmermans, a Dutch politician and leading European Union official. "Hope and pray he will recover. A great leader of his city and a true humanitarian."

The last politically motivated attack in Poland was in 2010 in Lodz when a man shouting that he wanted to kill Law and Justice party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski fatally shot an aide to one of the party's European Parliament lawmakers.

Kaczynski, at the time an opposition leader, blamed the attack on an "atmosphere of hate" under Civic Platform.

Man who killed officer said he was hit by ultrasonic waves

DAVIS, Calif. (AP) — The man who shot and killed a rookie California police officer left a letter on the bed in the home where he lived claiming police bombarded him with ultrasonic waves, officials said.

Police in the college town of Davis near Sacramento on Saturday made public the one-paragraph letter they said was written by Kevin Douglas Limbaugh, 48. He killed himself Thursday after fatally shooting Officer Natalie Corona.

Police spokesman Lt. Paul Doroshov said the paper was found face up on the gunman's bed.

"The Davis Police department has been hitting me with ultra sonic (sic) waves meant to keep dogs from barking," the letter said. "I notified the press, internal affairs, and even the FBI about it. I am highly sensitive to its affect (sic) on my inner ear. I did my best to appease them, but they have continued for years and I can't live this way anymore."

The handwritten note was signed "Citizen Kevin Limbaugh." Also recovered as evidence from the man's home were two unregistered guns.

Davis police did not immediately respond Sunday to a telephone message seeking comment on whether Limbaugh had reported his claims to officials.

Investigators have not identified a motive for the ambush shooting of the 22-year-old officer as she investigated a car accident.

The Sacramento Bee reported that court documents show Limbaugh was charged and convicted in a battery case last fall, and he agreed in November to surrender the weapon.

The case stemmed from Limbaugh getting arrested in September for assaulting someone at Cache Creek

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Casino, Yolo County Sheriff's Sgt. Matthew Davis said.

Authorities have not determined where Limbaugh obtained the two semi-automatic handguns he was believed to have used in the Thursday night attack that killed Corona.

Police said a gunman on a bicycle ambushed the officer, shooting her from the shadows as she investigated a car accident, then reloaded and narrowly avoided wounding others before walking home.

At his house a few blocks away, he casually chatted with his roommate as if nothing happened and even went outside to watch as police from around the region began rushing to the shooting scene, Davis Police Chief Darren Pytel said Friday.

The gunman left behind a backpack that helped police track him to the house. The chief said as police began to surround it, he stepped outside wearing a bulletproof vest.

"He shouted some stuff, went back in and came back out with a firearm, then went back inside, pushed a couch in front of the door and officers heard a gunshot," Pytel said.

Police eventually sent a robotic camera in and found the gunman had shot himself in the head.

Police found the handguns in the home.

The shooting devastated the Davis Police Department, which has about 60 sworn officers and about 30 other employees.

Corona was the first officer in the department to die in the line of duty since 1959. She had only been patrolling solo for about two weeks, the chief said.

A candlelight vigil for the slain officer was held Saturday night.

In and Out: Trump selective about travel during shutdown

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vacation jaunts and hobnobbing with global elites at a Swiss ski resort are out for President Donald Trump. Visits with troops and farmers are OK.

Like some of his recent predecessors, Trump is carefully picking and choosing where he'll travel during the partial government shutdown.

He visited with U.S. troops stationed at a military base in western Iraq the day after Christmas and flew to the U.S.-Mexico border in southern Texas last week to try to buttress his argument for billions of dollars to build a wall to stem illegal immigration, drug trafficking and crime. On Monday, Trump is scheduled to address the American Farm Bureau's annual convention in New Orleans.

But Trump scrapped other trips that wouldn't have played well at a time when government workers are furloughed or working without pay.

He canceled plans to spend more than two weeks at his Palm Beach, Florida, estate for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. He also bagged a trip to a global economic forum in Davos, Switzerland, that had been set for next week, blaming "intransigence" by Democrats for his decision.

"It looks like the president is going ahead with trips that are more closely tied to official business and is avoiding trips that might have optics that are more difficult to justify during a shutdown," said Brendan Doherty, a political scientist at the U.S. Naval Academy who tracks presidential travel.

Doherty said it wasn't surprising that Trump would avoid his beloved Mar-a-Lago estate on Florida's southeastern coast, which he last visited at Thanksgiving.

Images of Trump headed out for a round of golf at his Florida club or mixing with elites in the Swiss Alps likely wouldn't go over well with the public, especially the 800,000 federal government employees who have either been idled or are working without pay for as long as some government functions remain on lockdown.

Trump and congressional Democrats are at loggerheads over the wall Trump wants to build along the U.S.-Mexico border. The impasse has spawned the longest shutdown in U.S. history and stalled funding for several major departments, including Homeland Security, Agriculture, Interior, Justice, State and Transportation.

Trump falsely claimed in a Fox News interview Saturday that he hasn't left the White House "in months"

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but liked “the symbol” of him staying in Washington, where snow blanketed the city over the weekend, while a group of House and Senate Democrats were touring hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico and taking in a benefit performance of the hit Broadway musical “Hamilton.”

Even the Iraq and southern border trips ended up being colored by the president’s politics.

Visiting U.S. troops abroad is a tradition for the commander in chief, but Trump was criticized for the overtly political tone of his speech at al-Asad Airbase, where he hammered congressional Democrats for refusing to fund the border wall.

Other Trump critics saw the visit to the Mexican border town of McAllen, Texas, as being more about fulfilling a campaign promise to build a wall than about achieving a serious policy goal.

The White House insists the president is focused on keeping the oath he took to protect the American people.

Past presidents who governed during shutdowns also canceled some trips and arranged others to try to pressure the opposition or influence public opinion. One president used the first lady as a stand-in.

President Barack Obama canceled a weeklong trip to Southeast Asia that fell during a 16-day government shutdown in the fall of 2013. The White House at the time cited the “difficulty in moving forward with foreign travel in the face of a shutdown.”

Some presidential travel, especially abroad, can be challenging when government is shut down because aides who help set up such trips are often furloughed.

But Obama didn’t completely ground himself. In an attempt at pressuring the opposition, Obama traveled to a Maryland construction firm to challenge Republican congressional leaders to end the impasse.

President Bill Clinton took a one-day break during a 21-day shutdown that stretched from in mid-December 1995 into 1996, heading to Hilton Head, South Carolina, for an annual beachfront gathering of movers and shakers. Some of his aides were concerned about the optics of Clinton schmoozing with the moneyed set while parts of the government were shut down. But Clinton’s decision was eased when House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole also made plans to spend the New Year’s holiday outside of Washington.

President Ronald Reagan opened a three-day state visit to Japan on Nov. 9, 1983, the day before a three-day government funding lapse, according to a State Department list of presidential foreign travel.

In October 1979, President Jimmy Carter sent his wife, Rosalynn, to Boston to welcome Pope John Paul II, who arrived during an 11-day shutdown.

AP News Researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Developers, not farmers, get biggest hit from wetlands rule

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump often points to farmers as among the biggest winners from the administration’s proposed rollback of federal protections for wetlands and waterways across the country.

But under longstanding federal law and rules, farmers and farmland already are exempt from most of the regulatory hurdles on behalf of wetlands that the Trump administration is targeting. Because of that, environmental groups long have argued that builders, oil and gas drillers and other industry owners would be the big winners if the government adopts the pending rollback, making it easier to fill in bogs, creeks and streams for plowing, drilling, mining or building.

Government numbers released last month support that argument.

Real estate developers and those in other business sectors take out substantially more permits than farmers for projects impinging on wetlands, creeks, and streams, and who stand to reap the biggest regulatory and financial relief from the Trump administration’s rollback of wetlands protections.

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But Trump and his administration put farmers front and center as beneficiaries of the proposed rollback because of the strong regard Americans historically hold for farming, opponents say. Trump was scheduled to speak Monday to a national farm convention.

"The administration understands good optics in surrounding themselves with farmers," in proposing the rollback, said Geoff Gisler, a senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center. "Surrounding themselves with folks that would represent the industries that actually benefit would not be as good an optic."

Backers "have been really happy to have farmers be the face of it," said Kenneth Kopocis, the Environmental Protection Agency's deputy assistant administrator for water under the Obama administration. But the building industry, oil and gas and others with lower profiles in the campaign "are going to be some of the big beneficiaries."

The more than 300-page financial analysis the administration released last month when it formally proposed the rollback appears to starkly quantify that disparity. Of 248,688 federal permits issued from 2011 to 2015 for work that would deposit dirt or other fill into protected wetlands, streams and shorelines, the federal government on average required home builders and other developers to do some kind of mitigation — pay to restore a wetland elsewhere, generally — an average of 990 times a year, nationwide, according to the government's analysis.

In all, other industries and agriculture obtained an average of 3,163 such wetlands permits with some kind of extra payment or other mitigation strings attached each year.

Farmers represented just eight of those on average in a year, according to the administration's figures.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which administers the wetlands protections with the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Association of Home Builders confirmed Friday that developers and other industries, not farmers, have felt the biggest impact from the federal wetlands protections and would get most of the financial breaks under the rollback.

"The residential construction industry does pull more wetlands permits than farmers do," Liz Thompson, spokeswoman for the National Association of Home Builders, said in an email.

The Trump administration's pending rollback of wetlands protections "could be a benefit to builders who will see some relief in terms of cost and time. That said, builders will still be regulated and will still be the industry that pulls the largest number of 404 permits which are very costly," Thompson wrote, referring to the section of the Clean Water Act dealing with the regulatory enforcement and permits.

The administration's proposal greatly narrows what kind of wetlands and streams fall under federal protection. If it is formally adopts it after a public comment period, it would change how the federal government enforces the landmark 1972 Clean Water Act and scale back a 2015 Obama administration rule on what waterways are protected. Environmental groups say millions of miles of streams and wetlands would lose protection.

Trump signed an order in February 2017 directing the rollback. With farmers as well as homebuilders by his side, Trump called the waterways protections then in force a "massive power grab" targeting "nearly every puddle or every ditch on a farmer's land."

The farm bloc has been one of the most loyal to Trump, despite farmers' complaints that the administration has favored oil and gas producers over corn ethanol farmers, and their worries over a trade war with China.

Acting EPA head Andrew Wheeler surrounded himself with farm bureau representatives and farm-state Congress members in signing the rollback proposal last month.

In Tennessee, Wheeler, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and farm industry leaders from Washington stood in front of tractors and U.S. flags last month to urge farmers to campaign for the rollback.

"The EPA has done its job, now all of us in this room have to help to get this over the finish line," Zippy Duvall, head of the American Farm Bureau Federation, told the Tennessee farm crowd then.

Farmers who support the rollback call the federal protections of wetlands and creeks a burden, and insist farmers know best how to protect their property.

Environmental groups, public-health organizations and others say it's impossible to keep the country's downstream lakes, rivers and water supplies clean unless upstream waters are also regulated federally.

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The targeted regulations also protect wildlife and their habitats.

The Clean Water Act permits deal with work that would dump dirt or fill into a wetland or waterway. Breaks for farmers long have been written into the law, so that a farmer doesn't need permits for ordinary ongoing farming that, for instance, sends some soil running off into a wetland.

The American Farm Bureau Federation — one of the most active promoters of the scaling back of the Clean Water Act's reach — says the 2015 Obama version of the rule could force farmers to pursue costly wetlands permits and mitigation for routine plowing and other farm work.

"It's just really a nightmare for farmers to have to navigate," said Don Parrish, the senior director of regulatory relations at the agriculture trade group. "It can cost them the use of the land, generally they have to stop using their land" if they run afoul of it.

"If you could see me, I'd be laughing" at that claim, Kopocis, the lead Obama water official behind the 2015 rule, said by phone Sunday. "Every single exemption or exclusion that agriculture had" was preserved in the Obama administration's 2015 work on the wetlands rule, he said.

In an email, Cindy Barger, an Army Corps of Engineers official involved in the proposed regulatory change, confirmed that the rules targeted by the Trump administration had kept the regulatory relief for farmers.

Compared to other industries, as wetlands protections currently stand, "the agricultural industry has less economic exposure because of the permit exemptions," Barger said. The gain for farmers would be the Trump administration's attempt to streamline definition of protected wetlands, meaning farmers wouldn't have to consult experts to know if an area is protected, she said.

John Flesher contributed from Traverse City, Michigan.

2020 Democratic primary set to intensify

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **THOMAS BEAUMONT**, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — After months of speculation and secrecy, the 2020 presidential primary season is about to explode.

With several Democrats already in the race, a half dozen more are locking down final travel, staffing and strategy to launch White House bids in the coming weeks. While plans may change, the announcements are expected to come in waves, the first featuring a group of ambitious Senate Democrats including New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, California Sen. Kamala Harris and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who face pressure to join the race after Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren's entrance two weeks ago.

The second wave will likely feature political heavyweights like former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, New York billionaire Michael Bloomberg and former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke, whose advisers believe they have sufficient financial backing and name recognition to join the crowded field on their terms later in the first quarter should they decide to run.

"It is really starting to heat up," said Deidre DeJear, who lost her bid for Iowa secretary of state last fall, but remains an influential figure in the state's first-in-the-nation Democratic caucuses. She was among a group of Iowa Democratic women who sat down with Warren last week in suburban Des Moines.

"I feel like Warren put people in a place as if to say 'come on, step up,'" DeJear said in a subsequent interview. "If you're in it, you're in it. No reason to wait now."

Interviews with senior aides for several top Democratic prospects, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning, indicate the waiting game is almost over.

Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, who left office last week, added foreign policy adviser Jeremy Rosner, finance director Dan Sorenson and a senior communications adviser Marie Logsdon to his political action committee in recent days, according to an aide. Hickenlooper is traveling to Los Angeles this week to meet with donors and has scheduled visits to early voting states later in the month.

The 66-year-old term-limited governor and former businessman, who remains largely unknown to many primary voters, does not plan to launch his campaign before March.

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Sanders, the lone 2020 prospect who ran in 2016, has interviewed close to 20 people to fill senior positions such as campaign manager and directors of policy, communications and his field program. A senior aide said the hiring process has been particularly focused on adding diversity — in both gender and race — that didn't exist in his last presidential campaign.

The aide said allegations of sexual harassment between Sanders' former campaign staff had no impact on the timeline of an announcement, which is not expected before the end of the month. Despite his challenges, Sanders is sitting on a war chest of roughly \$15 million and an active nationwide network. In a show of early force, liberal activists hosted hundreds of house parties across the nation on Saturday to cheer on a second Sanders run.

Meanwhile, O'Rourke, 46, is taking steps toward a run, but an aide said he's not expected to announce until next month at the earliest. However, he's traveling outside Texas to introduce himself to voters in the coming weeks. Oprah is scheduled to interview him in New York City next month.

The first states on the primary calendar are not on O'Rourke's immediate itinerary, but that's not stopping supporters in Iowa and South Carolina from launching draft efforts. A leader of South Carolina's "Draft Beto" movement, former Democratic National Committee member Boyd Brown, said he's having conversations with Democratic donors, local officials and potential staffers, to help stave off commitments to other candidates as the field starts to take shape.

"We might be taking a shot in the dark, but we're building an apparatus that we can hand off to an actual campaign should he run," Brown said in an interview. "We're treating this like a presidential campaign until told otherwise."

A more seasoned political star, Biden remains silent about his plans. The 76-year-old Democrat has done little to build teams on the ground in key states, instead sticking to the schedule of huddling with aides while he moves closer to a decision.

While it may seem early, the sheer size of the likely field makes it difficult for some candidates to wait much longer. Upward of two dozen high-profile Democrats could run for a chance to deny President Donald Trump a second term.

The first Democratic primary debate will take place in June, while the first primary contest is likely a year away. With a field this big, there's only so many donors and top staffers to go around.

"At this point the cycle, it's a race for money and talent, and unless your name is Joe Biden or Beto O'Rourke, you've gotta get in soon if you want attract either one of those things," said former Obama strategist Stephanie Cutter, who has been offering advice to some contenders.

Gillibrand, 52, joins some of her Senate colleagues on a more aggressive timeline. She's already identified a likely location for a campaign headquarters, added staff and planned trips to key states.

The Democratic senator is eyeing a headquarters in Troy, New York, a small upstate city on the Hudson River. Gillibrand, who has made headlines with her work against sexual violence — and occasional profanity in public speeches — is scheduled to make her Iowa debut next weekend.

Booker is expected to run his campaign from Newark, where he lives and served as mayor. The 49-year-old Democrat has identified a likely campaign manager, Addisu Demissew. The Democratic operative previously managed Booker's special election campaign in 2013 and subsequently worked for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and most recently led California Gov. Gavin Newsome's successful gubernatorial bid.

Like Gillibrand and Booker, Harris is expected to join the race in the coming weeks.

The first-term senator and former California attorney general has broadened her national profile in recent days by launching a tour to promote her book, "The Truths We Hold." Like her would-be competitors, the 54-year-old Democrat has not publicly committed to running, but she has said repeatedly that the country needs a leader who "provides a vision of the future of the country in which everyone can see themselves."

A handful of lesser-known candidates have already entered the race.

Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, 37, announced her intention to run in a CNN interview that aired on Saturday. That same day, former Obama housing chief Julian Castro formally kicked off his campaign Saturday in his San Antonio hometown.

Not to be forgotten, Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar are openly considering

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joining the 2020 contest, although neither is as far along in preparations as their potential rivals.

Meanwhile, Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee is scheduled to make his first New Hampshire appearance next week. He talked up his liberal record and willingness to take on Trump during a weekend appearance in Nevada.

"He cannot stop us," Inslee said of the president. "He has not stopped me, either."

Peoples reported from New York.

AP writers Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa; Will Weissert in Austin, Texas; Bill Barrow in Atlanta; and Elana Schor and Juana Summers in Washington contributed to this report.

The shutdown today: Trump urged to reopen government

By The Associated Press

What's up with the partial government shutdown on Day 24.

WHAT'S NEW

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who is close to President Donald Trump, says he's been pushing the president to reopen the government for a few weeks to continue negotiating with Democrats over funding for a border wall before bypassing Congress and declaring a national emergency.

"If we can't (get a deal) at the end of three weeks, all bets are off," Graham told "Fox News Sunday."

Canadian air traffic controllers are buying pizzas for their American counterparts in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Anchorage, Alaska, as a show of support. Some 10,000 air traffic controllers in the U.S. have been working without pay since Dec. 22.

A terminal at Miami International Airport is set to reopen Monday after being closed at times over the weekend due to a shutdown-induced staff shortage. Transportation Security Administration agents have been calling out sick to protest not being paid for their work.

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"It's one-tenth of 1 percent of the federal budget. If we cannot do this together, what else can we not do in the future? This is not that big of a problem." — House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of California to CBS' "Face the Nation" on the \$5.7 billion Trump wants for the U.S.-Mexico border wall.

"I think it ends when the Senate Republicans say we've had enough. We're not going to stand here and be blamed for this. We believe the government should be opened. There should be timely negotiations on border security after the government is open." — Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin, D-Ill., to ABC's "This Week."

WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

Congress returns on Monday. Will the shutdown end this week?

Trump addresses the American Farm Bureau on Monday. Farmers have supported Trump through a trade war with China that cost them billions, but they are complaining about the loss of loans, payments and other agricultural services because of the shutdown.

Trump is expected to sign legislation this week authorizing back pay for some 800,000 federal workers who either have been idled or are working without pay for as long as the shutdown lasts.

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.

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

Analysis: Stagecraft won't win shutdown battle for Trump

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military salutes. Heaps of contraband. Oval Office optics.

President Donald Trump, who has long put a premium on stagecraft, is discovering he cannot resolve the partial government shutdown simply by putting on a show.

With the standoff over paying for his long-promised U.S.-Mexico wall dragging on, the president's Oval Office address and visit to the Texas border this past week failed to break the logjam. Aides and allies are fearful that he has misjudged Democratic resolve and is running out of negotiating options.

Using the trappings of the White House to make a point is a standard procedure. Dramatic public displays have been Trump's negotiating go-to. But even Trump was skeptical that the speech and trip would make a difference.

Some in the White House argue that Trump's moves helped push his message. But many associates fear his hand is weakening as his efforts to define the stakes must compete with the testimonials of hardship from federal workers and people in need of shuttered government services. That may leave a national emergency declaration as Trump's only escape path — one more showy strategy that could backfire.

Trump defended his approach Saturday, telling critics on Twitter that "there's almost nobody in the W.H. but me, and I do have a plan on the Shutdown." During a telephone interview with a Fox News Channel host later that night, Trump insisted that he hadn't "left the White House in months" and he called on Democrats to come to the table. The Texas trip was two days earlier.

Former Trump campaign aide Sam Nunberg said Trump was simply using all available tools. Nunberg argued that Trump's border visit, which included an interview on the president's preferred network, Fox News, was "not going to win any hearts and minds." But he added that the Oval Office address was a "great opportunity" for Trump to make his case to an audience of millions well beyond his most loyal supporters.

In a moment of deep political divisions, though, the presidential megaphone does not seem to hold the power it once did.

Democratic leaders have dismissed Trump's tactics. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., last week decrying the "soap opera that the president's petulance and obstinance is creating."

Trump's visit to McAllen, Texas was staged for maximum impact.

At a border patrol facility, he surveyed mounds of drugs and weapons seized by agents. He hugged tearful families who spoke of relatives killed by those in the United States illegally. He traveled to a dusty bluff above the Rio Grande and saluted a border patrol helicopter as it flew past.

The stop was intended to reinforce Trump's claims of chaos and crisis at the border, but it was notable for what was left out. The contraband was designed to emphasize the dangers of an unsecured border. But there was only passing mention that the drugs were intercepted at official points of entry, not in open areas where Trump wants to build a wall. Trump did meet with victims and agents, but he did not go to a nearby facility where hundreds of the migrant children were detained in cages after being separated from their parents last year.

Allies say Trump has dug in for good reason: building a wall has always been a sure-fire applause line for Trump. Some, however, believe it has become a political albatross.

Trump promised the wall during his campaign as part of his immigration platform. At his rallies, he encouraged supporters to chant "Build the wall! Build the wall!" and he pledged that Mexico would pay for it.

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Since coming to the White House, he has failed to get Mexico to pay for the wall and has struggled to advance his immigration policies in Congress, even when Republicans were in full control of both chambers. With Democrats now in the majority in the House, his leverage has dwindled.

Increasingly, many around Trump think that the only way out of the shutdown impasse is for the president to declare a national emergency to try and pay for the wall by diverting federal funds from other programs. They reason that such a declaration would wind up in court, but Trump could reopen government in the meantime and say he was continuing the fight for the wall during the legal fight. It's a play that would be in keeping with Trump's pattern of claiming victory even when the circumstances are murky.

In June, Trump declared his summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un was a groundbreaking achievement although it yielded only a vaguely worded commitment from the North to denuclearize. In November, Trump claimed historic wins in the midterm elections even though Republicans lost control of the House. In early 2017, he held a Rose Garden celebration after a health care overhaul passed the House, seeking to claim the victory before it passed both chambers, which it never did.

Trump's public posturing has moved the needle at times. His administration's push helped get a tax overhaul over the finish line. His tariffs fight with China has brought both sides to the negotiating table.

Still, as Trump tries to find a way out of the shutdown impasse, Republican consultant Rick Tyler argued that some of the president's ploys may be getting stale.

"There's a reason the circus comes to town for a week," he said. "He's worn out his act."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Catherine Lucey has covered politics and the White House for The Associated Press since 2012.

Graham urging Trump to reopen government for a few weeks

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican lawmaker advising President Donald Trump said he is encouraging the president to reopen the government for several weeks to continue negotiating with Democrats over funding for a U.S.-Mexico border wall before the president takes the more drastic step of declaring a national emergency.

But that may be wishful thinking, given that Sen. Lindsey Graham also says Trump still wants to reach a deal for the wall before agreeing to reopen shuttered government departments. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a leading Democratic negotiator, insists that Trump reopen the government first.

The weeks-old standoff over funding led to the partial government shutdown that hit day 23 on Sunday without an end in sight.

"Before he pulls the plug on the legislative option, and I think we're almost there, I would urge him to open up the government for a short period of time, like three weeks, before he pulls the plug, see if we can get a deal," said Graham, a South Carolina Republican. "If we can't at the end of three weeks, all bets are off."

"See if he can do it by himself through the emergency powers. That's my recommendation," added Graham, who has publicly pushed Trump to use his authority to declare a national emergency to build the wall. Such a step would allow Trump to bypass Congress and tap various pots of unspent federal money, including for military construction and disaster relief and from asset seized by law enforcement, to pay for the wall.

Trump has kept Washington on edge over whether he would resort to such a declaration, citing what he says is a "crisis" of drug smuggling and the trafficking of women and children at the border. The president initially sounded as though such a move was imminent, but then pulled back. He has said several times since he first mentioned the idea in public earlier this month that he prefers to try to reach a deal with Congress.

A key question is how much more time is Trump willing to give lawmakers. Graham, who said he and Trump talked by telephone on Sunday morning, said the legislative path "is just about shut off" and blamed

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Pelosi.

The speaker's office had no immediate comment.

Democrats oppose an emergency declaration but may be powerless to block it. Some Republicans are wary, too, fearing how a future Democratic president might use that authority. Such a move, should Trump ultimately go that route, would almost certainly be challenged in the courts.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., called Graham's idea to reopen the government a "great place to start."

"I do think if we reopen the government, if the president ends this shutdown crisis, we have folks who can negotiate a responsible, modern investment in technology that will actually make us safer," Coons said.

Trump has maintained that the border cannot be secured without a wall.

Graham said he thinks Trump is willing to accept the \$5.7 billion he has insisted on for the wall, along with some immigration measures Democrats might find acceptable, such as helping immigrants who were illegally brought to the U.S. as children.

Trump has expressed interest in a broader immigration overhaul, but says he first wants the Supreme Court to address the class of immigrants known as "Dreamers." Pelosi also has shown no interest in accepting a wall — she has called it an "immorality" — in exchange for immigration fixes.

And, Trump, who was holed up in the White House as snow blanketed Washington on Sunday, appeared to shoot down Graham's suggestion of a "wall plus" deal, saying on Twitter that even Democrats don't want to make "Dreamers" part of the negotiations.

"The damage done to our Country from a badly broken Border - Drugs, Crime and so much that is bad - is far greater than a Shutdown, which the Dems can easily fix as soon as they come back to Washington!" Trump said in a separate tweet.

The White House has been laying the groundwork for an emergency declaration, feared by members of both parties.

Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said he would "hate to see" a declaration because then the wall wouldn't get built, presumably because of legal challenges. Democrats voted in the past for border security and should again, he said.

"I actually want to see this wall get built," Johnson said. "I want to keep pressure on Democrats to actually come to the negotiating table in good faith and fund what they have supported in the past."

But Graham, who favors a presidential declaration, said the time for talk is running out.

"It's the last option, not the first option, but we're pretty close to that being the only option," he said.

Graham and Coons spoke on "Fox News Sunday." Johnson appeared on CNN's "State of the Union."

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

Italian fugitive captured 3 decades after murder conviction

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A left-wing Italian militant who was convicted of murder in his home country nearly three decades ago was arrested in Bolivia, authorities said Sunday, setting the stage for a climactic end to one of Italy's longest-running efforts to bring a fugitive to justice.

Hours later, Cesare Battisti was handed over to Italian custody, officials said, and he left on a plane carrying him back to Italy to serve a life sentence.

He was captured by Bolivian and Italian officers in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, where he was located by intelligence agents after using one of his mobile devices, Italian police and RAI state television said.

The 64-year-old had lived openly in Brazil for years and enjoyed the protection of left-wing governments on both sides of the Atlantic. But Brazil's outgoing president signed a decree last month ordering his extradition, apparently sparking Battisti's latest effort to flee.

Italian police released a video of Battisti that they said was taken hours before his capture, showing him seemingly oblivious to surveillance cameras tracking him as he walked casually down the street in jeans, a blue T-shirt and sunglasses. A subsequent image showed Battisti's mug shot under the seal of

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the Bolivian police.

"Cesare Battisti's long flight is over," Justice Minister Alfonso Buonafede declared, adding that he would be taken to Rome's Rebibbia prison as soon as he landed in Italy.

Battisti escaped from an Italian prison in 1981 while awaiting trial on four counts of murder allegedly committed when he was a member of the Armed Proletarians for Communism. He was convicted in absentia in 1990 and faces a life term for the deaths of two police officers, a jeweler and a butcher.

He acknowledged membership in the group but denied killing anyone and has painted himself as a political refugee.

After initially fleeing to Mexico, he then went to France, where he joined dozens of left-wing Italian militants who enjoyed official protection from the French government.

Like Battisti, they fled Italy during that nation's "years of lead," a bloody and turbulent era during the 1970s and 1980s when militants on the left and right carried out bombings, assassinations and other violent acts to try to bring down the Italian government.

After political winds shifted in France, Battisti fled to Brazil in 2004 to avoid being extradited. He was arrested in Rio de Janeiro in 2007, prompting the Italian government to request that he be handed over. But then Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva granted him asylum in 2010.

Battisti was eventually released from jail but was arrested again in 2017 after he was caught trying to cross the Brazil-Bolivia border carrying the equivalent of about \$7,500 in undeclared cash. He was released after a few days.

As a result of that incident, Brazilian Supreme Federal Tribunal Justice Luiz Fux said in December that Interpol had issued a request for Battisti's arrest on tax evasion and money laundering charges, leading him to issue a Brazilian warrant. Based on that, outgoing Brazilian President Michel Temer signed the decree ordering the fugitive's extradition.

Brazil's new right-wing president, Jair Bolsonaro, hailed Battisti's arrest and denounced da Silva's government for having granted the Italian asylum.

"Finally, there will be justice for the Italian assassin and partner of ideas of one of the most corrupt governments to ever exist," Bolsonaro tweeted in a reference to da Silva's Workers' Party.

Bolivia's public defender, David Tezanos, said Battisti formally requested asylum in Bolivia on Dec. 21, but he had not received a response from the leftist government of President Evo Morales. Tezanos said Battisti's rights were being violated with his hasty expulsion.

Brazil's foreign and justice ministries said in a joint statement that Battisti "will leave Bolivia direct to Italy to serve his life sentence." The statement was significant since under Brazilian law people extradited to serve life sentences must have their sentences capped at 30 years — a concession rejected by Italian officials on Sunday in insisting that Battisti serve his full term.

Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini praised Bolivian police and Brazil's new government for following through on the fugitive's case. He called Battisti a "delinquent who doesn't deserve to live comfortably on the beach but rather to finish his days in prison."

Italian President Sergio Mattarella said Battisti should be returned to Italy to "serve his sentence for the grave crimes that stained Italy and let the same be said for all fugitives abroad."

This story has been corrected to show that Battisti first fled to Mexico, then France.

Associated Press writers Stan Lehman in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Paola Flores in La Paz, Bolivia, contributed to this report.

Michel scores 3 TDs, Patriots roll past Chargers 41-28

By KYLE HIGHTOWER, AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady recognizes that there are some who believe the Patriots are nearing the end of their run of unprecedented playoff success.

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New England took its first step toward possibly silencing those voices for a little longer.

Sony Michel ran for 129 yards and had three touchdowns and the Patriots beat the Los Angeles Chargers 41-28 in the divisional playoffs on Sunday to earn their eighth straight trip to the AFC championship game.

New England (12-5) will play at Kansas City in next week's AFC title game. The Patriots beat the Chiefs 43-40 in Foxborough in Week 6. The Patriots finished 9-0 at home this season.

It is the 13th conference championship game appearance by the Patriots during the Tom Brady-Bill Belichick era.

"It's going to be a good game," Brady said of the rematch with the Chiefs. "They're a good team. We played them earlier this year. I know everybody thinks we suck and, you know, we can't win any games, so we'll see. It'll be fun."

The Chargers (13-5) haven't reached the AFC title game since the 2007 season.

Philip Rivers finished 25 of 51 for 331 yards, three touchdowns and an interception. He is 0-5 in games played in Foxborough, including 0-3 in the postseason.

Brady finished 34 of 44 for 343 yards and a touchdown. He improves to 8-0 as a starter against Rivers, who drops to 1-8 against New England all-time.

For Rivers, seeing Brady again pick apart the Chargers defense was another reminder that he was competing against one of the best quarterbacks in NFL history.

"He's up there if not the all-time great, then one of," Rivers said. "That argument can go on forever. ... Was he rolling at the highest level today? I think we can all agree on that."

James White tied Darren Sproles' NFL postseason record with 15 catches, totaling 97 yards.

New England scored on its first four possessions of the game to build a 35-7 halftime lead.

Julian Edelman had nine catches for 151 yards. He said the run game opened up the field for the rest of the offense.

"It was awesome to get Sony out there trucking," said Edelman. "Rex (Burkhead) was out there, he scored. And 'Sweet Feet' (James White) being 'Sweet Feet'. Sony's over there being a little horse. It was awesome."

The Chargers added three touchdowns in the second half, but it was much too late.

Los Angeles lost for just the second time on the road (8-2) and first time outside Los Angeles this season. In their past four trips to the playoffs, the Chargers have lost in the divisional round.

"We got our butts kicked," Los Angeles coach Anthony Lynn said.

Rivers seemed poised to keep Los Angeles in the game, connecting with Keenan Allen for a 43-yard score on Los Angeles' first offensive possession. It was the longest touchdown of Allen's career, including the postseason.

It turned out to be just a blip. The Chargers punted the four other times they had the ball in the first half.

The Patriots were efficient throughout the opening 30 minutes, going 5 for 5 in the red zone, 5 of 6 on third down and committing only one penalty.

New England didn't go three-and-out for the first time until its fifth offensive touch of the day when it punted with 3:32 left in the second quarter.

But Ryan Allen's 48-yard punt was fumbled by Desmond King, sending the ball rolling toward the sideline. The referees ruled the ball went out of bounds before New England's Albert McClellan appeared to recover it. But the play was reversed after a challenge by Bill Belichick.

The turnover proved costly, with the Patriots scoring just four plays later when Michel crossed the goal line from 5 yards for his third touchdown of the half.

Asked if this victory proved at least some of the Patriots' doubters wrong, Brady paused and smiled.

"I just like winning," he said. "I just like winning."

RUN PATRIOTS, RUN

New England established the run early, creating big holes in a Chargers defense that ended the regular season ranked ninth in the NFL, allowing just 106 rushing yards per game.

Michel carried 16 times for 105 yards in the first half.

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He scored from 1 yard on the opening possession of the game. It capped a 14-play, 83-yard drive in which he rushed five times for 15 yards and had a 9-yard reception.

The Patriots added scoring drives of 67, 58, 87 and 35 yards.

MILESTONES

Michel became just the second Patriots rookie in franchise history to have a rushing touchdown in the postseason. He joined fellow Georgia alum, Robert Edwards, who ran for a touchdown as a rookie in New England's 1998 wild-card loss to Jacksonville.

Michel also became the first New England player with two rushing TDs in the first quarter of a playoff game since LeGarrette Blount did it in the 2013 divisional-round win against Indianapolis.

Brady extended his postseason record with his 15th career 300-yard passing game. Next is Peyton Manning with nine.

STREAKING

Brady has a touchdown pass in 13 straight postseason games, tied for the third-longest streak since 1950. Only Brett Favre (20) and Brady himself (18 from 2001-11) have longer streaks.

INJURIES

Chargers: Safety Adrian Phillips was helped off the field early in the first quarter with an arm injury, but returned. Receiver Mike Williams jogged off the field after a collision in the first quarter.

Patriots: Guard Shaq Mason left the game in the fourth quarter.

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

Follow Kyle Hightower on Twitter a <http://www.twitter.com/khightower>

Family: Wisconsin teen in 'good spirits' post-kidnap, escape

By JEFF BAENEN, Associated Press

The grandfather of a 13-year-old northwestern Wisconsin girl who authorities say escaped a man who killed her parents and held her captive for three months said Sunday she's in "exceptionally good spirits."

Jayne Closs on Thursday fled the cabin near the small town of Gordon where she said she had been imprisoned. She approached a woman walking a dog and asked for her help.

Police officers arrested 21-year-old Jake Thomas Patterson minutes later based on Jayme's description of his vehicle. Authorities are holding Patterson on suspicion of kidnapping and homicide.

Little has been revealed about Jayme's ordeal since her abduction in mid-October, although more details could come Monday when Patterson is expected to be charged and make his first appearance in court.

Jayne's grandfather, Robert Naiberg, said Sunday that, considering the circumstances, the teen is holding up .

"She's doing exceptionally well for what she went through," Naiberg told The Associated Press by phone. "She's in exceptionally good spirits."

On Sunday, area churchgoers said their prayers were answered by Jayme's safe return.

"We are overjoyed and we couldn't be happier. It's a miracle and it's wonderful," Mary Haas told the Minneapolis Star Tribune while taking down Christmas decorations after Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Barron. "We prayed and prayed and prayed."

Jayne has been staying with an aunt in Barron since she escaped.

"It's a great day up in our area," said Larry Leff at St. Peter's Catholic Church in nearby Cameron. "God answered all our prayers."

An intruder blasted open the door of James and Denise Closs' home near Barron with a shotgun Oct. 15, gunned the couple down and made off with Jayme.

While investigators have said Patterson's goal was to kidnap Jayme, he has no apparent prior connection to the family. Naiberg told the AP on Saturday that Jayme told FBI agents she did not know Patterson.

Patterson attorneys Charles Glynn and Richard Jones said in a statement that they consider the situation

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"very tragic" and that they are relying on the court system to treat their client fairly.

Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald told reporters on Friday that Patterson took measures to avoid leaving evidence at the Closs family's home, including shaving his head before breaking in. A shotgun was recovered from the cabin, which Patterson's father owned.

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

How long can O'Rourke wait as 2020 pace picks up around him?

By WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — You won't see Beto O'Rourke announce whether he's running for president in 2020 for a while. But you may see him do almost anything else in the meantime.

"So, I'm here at the dentist," the former Democrat congressman said with a giggle during a teeth-cleaning seen live on Instagram last week, before quizzing the dental hygienist about life along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Anyone grumbling about livestream overexposure can catch O'Rourke on more traditional airwaves next month in New York, when Oprah Winfrey interviews him.

O'Rourke barged into last year's Senate race almost laughably early, in March 2017, insisting he was a credible contender against the incumbent, Republican Ted Cruz, when almost no one nationally knew of O'Rourke.

Now he's doing almost anything to keep people paying attention to him without formally starting a presidential campaign for 2020. He's not expected to decide until next month at the earliest whether he's running.

These days, that counts as playing hard to get. Influential activists in Iowa and elsewhere are clamoring for him to get in the race while some potential rivals move their timelines earlier. So far, interest in O'Rourke has held after his near upset of Cruz, but for how much longer?

"They're not going to wait forever," Mark Jones, a political science professor at Rice University in Houston, said of Democratic campaign operatives, donors, activists and fellow politicians looking to pick sides or offer endorsements. "The more candidates who start to formally launch their candidacies, the greater the pressure will rise on Beto."

Massachusetts Elizabeth Warren announced on New Year's Eve that she'd formed a presidential exploratory committee, hoping to get an early jump on people such as O'Rourke, former Vice President Joe Biden and Sens. Corey Booker of New Jersey, Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Kamala Harris of California. Since then, Warren has seen enthusiasm rise, especially after a successful trip to Iowa, which kicks off presidential primary voting.

Julian Castro, housing chief under President Barack Obama, kicked off his campaign Saturday and could appeal to the same Hispanic community that O'Rourke may count on as a bilingual native of the borderland city of El Paso.

A string of announcements from top Democrats could come this month. While still deciding, O'Rourke plans to travel the country and meet voters beyond Texas, but avoid places such as Iowa and New Hampshire, home to the nation's first presidential primary, even though Democrats there have invited him.

"My feeling is he's lost a little momentum and that's the downside of being a media product," said Norman Solomon, a Sanders delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention from California. Solomon said questions remain about whether O'Rourke's voting record during his three terms in Congress is too centrist to excite the Democratic base.

That anyone would ask if O'Rourke is waiting too long with the election 22 months away is unusual. But anger over President Donald Trump has created an outsized Democratic appetite to go on the political attack. And because impeachment seems unlikely, fast-forwarding 2020 campaigns may become necessary.

"American political campaigns have really become almost reality television programs," said Ray Sullivan, a veteran of the 2012 Republican presidential campaign of then-Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Perry waited until

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August 2011 to join an already months-old Republican presidential primary field and briefly became the front-runner — something that seems impossible just two presidential campaigns later.

“The attention span of activists and voters and even the media has become so short, and the attention-grabbing events so vacuous and fleeting, that the candidates would be very smart, I think, to get in early and identify and carve out their niche,” Sullivan said.

For O’Rourke, a 46-year-old, ex-punk rocker, trying to project a down-to-earth image may be a major selling point to voters. But Sullivan raises this questions: “What if another candidate gets in and captures the imagination of Twitter and the activists and there may not be room for the celebrity of Beto when he’s ready?”

Still, O’Rourke’s delays haven’t lessened the enthusiasm of operatives from past Democratic presidential campaigns who have formed “Draft Beto 2020” groups.

“We’re building an apparatus that we can hand off to an actual campaign should he run,” said Boyd Brown, a prominent South Carolina Democrat and former member of the Democratic National Committee. He is among the leaders of the O’Rourke draft movement in the South’s first primary state. “We’re treating this like a presidential campaign until told otherwise.”

Working in O’Rourke’s favor is a lack of a perceived 2020 “heir-apparent” candidate who can draw in donors and top operatives. That model may be evaporating anyway, though, because the two politicians who looked to take on that role heading into the 2016 campaign, Republican Jeb Bush and Democrat Hillary Clinton, fell short of the presidency.

“Everybody who has ever thought about running for president is threatening to do it this time,” said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. “The sheer size of the potential field throws out the rules of the game that have been created by years of campaigns.”

Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

DNA of wolf declared extinct in wild lives on in Texas pack

By DAVID WARREN, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Researchers say a pack of wild canines found frolicking near the beaches of the Texas Gulf Coast carries a substantial amount of red wolf genes, a surprising discovery because the animal was declared extinct in the wild nearly 40 years ago.

The finding has led wildlife biologists and others to develop a new understanding that the red wolf DNA is remarkably resilient after decades of human hunting, loss of habitat and other factors had led the animal to near decimation.

“Overall, it’s incredibly rare to rediscover animals in a region where they were thought to be extinct and it’s even more exciting to show that a piece of an endangered genome has been preserved in the wild,” said Elizabeth Heppenheimer, a Princeton University biologist involved in the research on the pack found on Galveston Island in Texas. The work of the Princeton team was published in the scientific journal *Genes*.

The genetic analysis found that the Galveston canines appear to be a hybrid of red wolf and coyote, but Heppenheimer cautions that without additional testing, it’s difficult to label the animal.

Ron Sutherland, a North Carolina-based conservation scientist with the Wildlands Network, said it’s exciting to have found “this unique and fascinating medium-sized wolf.” The survival of the red wolf genes “without much help from us for the last 40 years is wonderful news,” said Sutherland, who was not involved in the Princeton study.

The discovery coincides with similar DNA findings in wild canines in southwestern Louisiana and bolsters the hopes of conservationists dismayed by the dwindling number of red wolves in North Carolina that comprised the only known pack in the wild.

The red wolf, which tops out at about 80 pounds (49 kilograms), was once common across a vast region extending from Texas to the south, into the Southeast and up into the Northeast. It was federally classified as endangered in 1967 and declared extinct in the wild in 1980. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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in the 1970s captured a remnant population in Texas and Louisiana that eventually led to a successful captive breeding program. Those canines in 1986 became part of the experimental wild population in North Carolina. That group has been declining since peaking at an estimated 120 to 130 wolves in 2006. A federal report in April said only about 40 remained.

An additional 200 red wolves live in zoos and wildlife facilities as part of captive breeding programs.

A federal judge in November sided with environmental groups that argued in a lawsuit that efforts by federal authorities to shrink the territory of the wild group in North Carolina were a violation of law. The judge ruled U.S. Fish and Wildlife also violated the Endangered Species Act by authorizing private landowners to kill the canine predators even if they weren't threatening humans, livestock or pets.

The debate over red wolf protections could take on new dimensions with the discovery on Galveston.

Sutherland said the Galveston canines have effectively quashed a decades-old impression that red wolves were a feckless predator overwhelmed by the numerical superiority of coyotes. He adds that the Galveston group has DNA that can't be found in the animal's captive population.

"From a practical conservation biology standpoint, these animals have special DNA and they deserve to be protected," he said, explaining that conservation easements that restrict development along parts of the Gulf Coast are an essential first step.

A spokesman for U.S. Fish and Wildlife said the agency is unable to comment during the partial government shutdown. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said in a statement that the Galveston discovery is "interesting," but "we do not anticipate any regulatory changes or implications in Texas at this time."

Kim Wheeler, executive director of the North Carolina-based Red Wolf Coalition, cautioned that further study of the Galveston pack is needed.

"We can get excited, but in my mind, we really need to let science do its due diligence to determine what this animal is," she said, noting that red wolves can evoke strong feelings in people with livestock or who have other concerns with their predatory nature.

Conservationists, meanwhile, say policymakers need to have a greater appreciation for hybrid animals. When the Endangered Species Act was implemented in the 1970s, conventional wisdom was that hybridization between species — such as the wolf and coyote — was rare and to be avoided. But experts say the thinking on that has changed.

"Now we know hybridization is relatively common in natural systems and does not always have negative consequences, but the policy hasn't quite caught up with this notion," Heppenheimer said.

Associated Press reporter Jonathan Drew in Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

Follow David Warren on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WarrenJourno>

Industry wary of alternatives tries to protect a word: meat

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — More than four months after Missouri became the first U.S. state to regulate the term "meat" on product labels, Nebraska's powerful farm groups are pushing for similar protection from veggie burgers, tofu dogs and other items that look and taste like real meat.

Nebraska lawmakers will consider a bill this year defining meat as "any edible portion of any livestock or poultry, carcass, or part thereof" and excluding "lab-grown or insect or plant-based food products." It would make it a crime to advertise or sell something "as meat that is not derived from poultry or livestock."

Similar measures aimed at meat alternatives are pending in Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming. They come amid a debate over what to call products that are being developed using the emerging science of meat grown by culturing cells in a lab. Supporters of the science are embracing the term "clean meat" — language the conventional meat industry strongly opposes.

The issue strikes a particularly strong chord in Nebraska, one of the nation's top states for livestock production, where cars roll down the interstate with "Beef State" license plates and the governor each

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year proclaims May as "Beef Month."

Farm groups have found an unusual ally in state Sen. Carol Blood, a city-dwelling vegetarian from the Omaha suburb of Bellevue. Blood, who grew up on a farm, said she introduced the measure because agriculture is Nebraska's largest industry and needs to be protected for the good of the whole state.

"I'm not bringing this bill to tell people what they can and can't eat," she said. "All I'm asking for is truth in advertising. It's clear that meat comes from livestock, and livestock is our livelihood in Nebraska."

Nebraska led the nation in commercial red meat production in 2017 and had the most feed cows as of last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Livestock and livestock product sales generated an estimated \$12.1 billion for the state's economy in 2016, according to the USDA's most recent available data.

The measure is certain to face resistance from food producers that sell plant-based alternatives, as well as those working to bring lab-grown meat to market. Critics say the bill infringes on the free-speech rights of companies that produce vegetarian alternatives to real meat.

The Good Food Institute, the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, the Animal Legal Defense Fund and plant-based food company Tofurkey have filed a federal lawsuit challenging the Missouri law. They argue the law unfairly stifles competition.

The Nebraska bill "would censor food labels and create consumer confusion where there is none," said Jessica Almy, director of policy for the Washington-based Good Food Institute. "You can't censor speech just to promote one industry's financial success."

Supporters of the Nebraska measure say they want to ensure people aren't misled about what they're eating.

Blood said she proposed the measure after seeing two women in a grocery store who couldn't tell whether a product contained meat or a substitute. She said her proposal wouldn't require inspections of product labels, as Missouri's law does.

"I don't want to be the meat police," she said.

Under the Nebraska bill, violations would bring a misdemeanor charge punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

"Consumers have a right to know what they're buying," said John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union. "That's the case whether it's a vegetarian product or not. There ought to be clear, honest and accurate labeling, and then let the marketplace make the choices."

Hansen said his group's livestock producers are particularly concerned about whether consumers will be able to differentiate between meat grown in the lab and farm-grown beef, pork and chicken.

Pete McClymont, executive vice president for the group Nebraska Cattlemen, said his organization's concern rises partly from the growth of products labeled as almond and soy milk, which have become an increasingly popular alternative to cow's milk. McClymont said his group still needs to review specific details of the Nebraska proposal, but will push for any law that protects the state's livestock producers.

"When I go out and speak to our membership, this is right near the top of what people are passionate about," he said.

Follow Grant Schulte on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 2019. There are 351 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 14, 1963, George C. Wallace was sworn in as governor of Alabama with the pledge, "Segregation forever!" — a view Wallace later repudiated.

On this date:

In 1784, the United States ratified the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War; Britain followed suit

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in April 1784.

In 1898, author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson — better known as “Alice in Wonderland” creator Lewis Carroll — died in Guildford, Surrey, England, less than two weeks before his 66th birthday.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and French General Charles de Gaulle opened a wartime conference in Casablanca.

In 1953, Josip Broz Tito (YAW'-sihp brawz TEE'-toh) was elected president of Yugoslavia by the country's Parliament.

In 1967, the Sixties' “Summer of Love” unofficially began with a “Human Be-In” involving tens of thousands of young people at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

In 1968, the Green Bay Packers of the NFL defeated the AFL's Oakland Raiders, 33-14, in the second AFL-NFL World Championship game (now referred to as Super Bowl II).

In 1969, 27 people aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, off Hawaii, were killed when a rocket warhead exploded, setting off a fire and additional explosions.

In 1970, Diana Ross and the Supremes performed their last concert together, at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas.

In 1975, the House Internal Security Committee (formerly the House Un-American Activities Committee) was disbanded.

In 1989, President Ronald Reagan delivered his 331st and final weekly White House radio address, telling listeners, “Believe me, Saturdays will never seem the same. I'll miss you.”

In 1994, President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an accord to stop aiming missiles at any nation; the leaders joined Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in signing an accord to dismantle the nuclear arsenal of Ukraine.

In 2004, Former Enron finance chief Andrew Fastow (FAS'-tow) pleaded guilty to conspiracy as he accepted a ten-year prison sentence. (He was actually sentenced to six years and was released in Dec. 2011.)

Ten years ago: Freshly returned from a tour of war zones and global hotspots, Vice President-elect Joe Biden told President-elect Barack Obama that “things are going to get tougher” in Afghanistan. A French court acquitted six doctors and pharmacists in the deaths of at least 114 people who'd contracted brain-destroying Creutzfeldt-Jakob (KROYTS'-felt JAY'-kuhb) disease after being treated with tainted human growth hormones. Actor Ricardo Montalban died in Los Angeles at age 88.

Five years ago: Sporadic violence flared across much of Egypt as a two-day referendum on a new constitution began. A federal judge struck down Oklahoma's gay marriage ban, then set aside his order while state and local officials completed an appeal. (Oklahoma was among five states whose bans on same-sex marriage were ultimately overturned.)

One year ago: Authorities east of Los Angeles arrested the parents of 13 siblings after being led to the home by one of them, a 17-year-old girl who had jumped out of a window and called 911; they said they found the girl's 12 brothers and sisters locked up in filthy conditions, with some malnourished and chained to beds. (A September, 2019 trial date has been set for David and Louise Turpin.) Chelsea Manning confirmed that she was a candidate for the U.S. Senate from Maryland; the former Army intelligence analyst was known as Bradley Manning at the time of her 2010 arrest that led to a conviction for leaking classified documents. (Manning lost in a Democratic primary won by incumbent Ben Cardin.) On the defensive in the wake of disparaging comments about Haiti and African nations, President Donald Trump told reporters, “I am the least racist person you have ever interviewed.”

Today's Birthdays: Blues singer Clarence Carter is 83. Singer Jack Jones is 81. Actress Faye Dunaway is 78. Actress Holland Taylor is 76. Actor Carl Weathers is 71. Singer-producer T-Bone Burnett is 71. Movie writer-director Lawrence Kasdan is 70. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Maureen Dowd is 67. Rock singer Geoff Tate (Queensryche) is 60. Movie writer-director Steven Soderbergh is 56. Actor Mark Addy is 55. Fox News Channel anchorman Shepard Smith is 55. Rapper Slick Rick is 54. Actor Dan Schneider is 53. Actress Emily Watson is 52. Actor-comedian Tom Rhodes is 52. Rock musician Zakk Wylde is 52. Rapper-actor LL Cool J is 51. Actor Jason Bateman is 50. Rock singer-musician Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters) is 50. Actor Kevin

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Durand is 45. Actress Jordan Ladd is 44. Actor Ward Horton is 43. Actress Emayatzy Corinealdi is 39. Retro-soul singer-songwriter Marc Broussard is 37. Rock singer-musician Caleb Followill (Kings of Leon) is 37. Actor Zach Gilford is 37. Rock musician Joe Guese (The Click Five) is 37. Actor Jonathan Osser is 30. Actor-singer Grant Gustin is 29.

Thought for Today: "Dignity is like a perfume; those who use it are scarcely conscious of it." — Queen Christina of Sweden (1626-1689).