

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 194 ~ 1 of 46



This photo from Kim Weber's Facebook page features the Groton Area and Aberdeen Roncalli student section together for a photo after the game on Thursday. Both towns wore camouflage in support of Hunter Schaller. Perhaps it was best said on the Groton Basketball Facebook Page: "Sometimes there's things way bigger than any game!!! Awesome support!! We are pulling for you Hunter. #All4Hunt."

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Saturday, January 19, 2019

Speech Fiesta Debate at Watertown High School

Robotics: Groton Area High School

10:00am: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Tournament @ Arlington High School

Sunday, January 20, 2019

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

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.

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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Lana's Annals

**Lana
Greenfield
District 2
State
Representative**

Greetings from our capitol once again. This week was more routine than last, committees in the morning and floor session and informational meetings during the afternoon. Our education committee listened to the Homeschool Opportunity Scholarship Bill, HB1040. Prior to passage, those schooled at home had to have a 28 on the ACT test whereas public school students only needed a 24. If enacted into law, both would have the same requirements. After a good discussion, it was unanimously sent to the House floor where it also passed. Now it will be sent onto the Senate for consideration and possible passage. To me, it was a fairness bill; it had nothing to do with approval or disapproval of alternative instruction. That said, I would like to see the qualifying score be 26 across the board. I believe it is necessary

to challenge our students even more by raising the bar a couple of notches.

Another bill we passed was HB1039, which allows our Tech Schools access for bill collection through the Obligation Recovery Center. Our other schools and state institutions use this for debt collection already. The discussion derailed with some expressing disdain for the agency. I am not a fan either as it is an out of state service; however, the bill was not about that. We did pass it in both committee and on the floor. I just hope that students know that if they would ever default on loans, they also stand to lose their hunting and drivers' licenses until the outstanding bills have been paid.

Capping off the week, I had invited Dr. Paul Berens, the director of the Board of Regents, to come to committee and explain how his board works with each college and tech. school and to state any goals they have to improve our higher ed. system. He said he would like to see more reciprocating rates among states in order to better compete for more students. His philosophy is that if the students can come to our state schools at a reduced rate, they will, perhaps, remain in our state, increasing our work force and may invest in building new businesses right here. I also invited our new acting Secretary of Education, Dr. Ben Jones, to give a presentation about himself and his visions for our public schools. He is very well-versed in history and praised the idea of having a civics class taught in high schools. He also felt that the new requirements which gave students yet another opportunity to graduate with more hands-on classes may encourage students to take more of a technology path. I pondered this as it would seem that a student would be faced early in his/her high school years as to what path he would like to pursue. I question what may happen if the student about junior year would want to get on a more academic path. This would possibly mean more back to back math and science classes. I am also concerned about availability of extra tech classes and teachers needed in small schools to be able to promote this learning path. Keep in mind, this new track was not invented by Dr. Jones. It had already been decided on before he was hired. Another part of his presentation was about testing and changing timelines of achievement tests. For example, if algebra is taken as a freshman, it makes little sense to measure aptitude for this at the end of junior year. A bill about this will be forthcoming.

Our local government heard some bills presented by the Secretary of State's office regarding our election process and reasons for clarifying some minor verbiage. What seemed an easy fix turned into a boondoggle of two hours correcting words like "any" to "each" and "each house" to "each chamber" etc. unto infinity. We had to delay voting on the last bill and carry it over to our next meeting. I do appreciate, as a former English teacher, though, how precise some wanted the semantics to be and how hard the new ones on the committee were trying.

Our bill load this week was rather slow, but we have many new legislators who are just learning the process. This may mean that we will end up trying to give a fair hearing to a plethora of bills at the end.

Our joint memorial service was a very solemn, reflective one for me. We honored all former legislators who have passed in 2018, four with whom I have served-Roger Hunt, Sean McPherson, Jim Schaefer, and Chuck Turbiville. Many of the families were on hand to help honor them with a program of remembrances, music, and prayers.

Until next week's report, please stay happy, healthy, safe, and WARM.

Rep. Lana Greenfield

lane.greenfield@gmail.com, lane.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov

Mens' Basketball

Vikings no match for the Wolves in 31-point victory

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University men's basketball team blew past Augustana University on Friday evening in Wachs Arena. The Wolves handily defeated the Vikings, 97-66, improving to 14-3 overall and 10-1 in the NSIC. Northern is now the only team in league action with double figure victories.

The Wolves led by 16 at the half, and kept firing on all cylinders, out-scoring the Vikings 43-28 in the second. Northern shot 54.1 percent from the floor in the win, going 19-of-32 in just the first 20 minutes of action. They hit nine from beyond the arc, while holding their opponents to just four made 3-pointers in the game. Defensively, they forced a game high 16 turnovers with resulted in 24 points.

NSU combined for a game high 17 assists, two blocks, and six steals. They accumulated 44 points in the paint, 43 points off the bench, and 11 points off 12 offensive boards. The Wolves out-rebounded the Vikings 38-28 in the win, and tallied another 22 points off free throws.

Parker Fox led the Northern State charge with 18 points off the bench. The redshirt freshman shot 60.0 percent from the floor and added a team leading six rebounds, as well as one block and one steal. Ian Smith followed, as one of five Wolves in double figures with 16 points. He led the Northern State starters, and dished out a team high seven assists in addition to five rebounds and one steal.

Bo Fries grabbed 15 points of his own, and was one of three Wolves to knock down two buckets from the 3-point line. Fries added four rebounds, one assist, and one steal to the team total. Andrew Kallman rounded out the starters in double digits, with 12 points shooting 66.7 percent from the floor.

Mason Stark appeared in 20 minutes off the bench for the Wolves, knocking down 14 points and grabbing five rebounds. He went a perfect 5-of-5 from the field, 2-of-2 from the 3-point line and foul line, and added three rebounds.

Jordan Belka tallied nine points for NSU in the win, going 4-of-4 from the foul line. Justin Decker added eight points, four rebounds, one assist, and one block to the team total, while Gabe King and Cole Dahl combined for the final five team points. King notched two rebounds and one assist, and Dahl tallied five rebounds.

Northern will be back in action Saturday evening versus Wayne State College. Tip-off is set for 6 p.m. between the Wolves and Wildcats from Wachs Arena. Fans are reminded that NSU SAAC will be taking donations for the annual Dare 2 Share weekend. Three canned food items results in a free Culver's custard coupon for all participating fans.

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Womens' Basketball

Wolves drop conference match-up against Augustana Friday Night

Aberdeen, S.D. – Wolves basketball falls to rival RV Augustana Friday night by a final score of 66-75. With the loss, the Wolves fall below .500 with a record of 8-9 overall and 5-6 in the NSIC.

Neither team could keep the lead in the first quarter as we started the second quarter tied up at 15. Augustana started the second quarter hot, as the Wolves trailed by eight at one point early in the second quarter. Wolves shot 32.3 percent in the first half from the field, 44.4 percent from behind the arc, out-rebounded the Vikings 22-17, and seven assists on 10 field goals.

Augustana out-scored the Wolves in the third quarter by a final of 14-15, by a shot by Wadsworth in the final seconds of the quarter. Wolves got the lead to one early in the fourth quarter, as the Wolves forced back-to-back turnovers. Wolves then tied the game at 60 with 6:02 left in the game but the Vikings finished the game on a 15-5 run. Wolves shot 33.3 percent from the field, 28.0 percent from behind the 3-point line, 17-19 from the free-throw line, and out-rebounded the Vikings 41-36.

Lexi Wadsworth led the Wolves with a career high 19 points, eight rebounds, and two assists. Alayna Johnson finished the game with 14 points, four rebounds, one assist, and one steal. Brianna Kusler tallied a double double with 13 points, 10 rebounds, and two assists. Jessi Marti tallied two points and three rebounds in the loss. Anika Fredrick was the last starter for the Wolves finishing with two points, one rebound, one block, and one steal.

Zoe Hardwick led the bench with six points, five rebounds, and one steal in the game. Joie Spier tallied four points and three assists off the bench. Brooke Luitjens finished the game with three points, two assists, and one steal. Tori Mekash was the last Wolves in the scoring column with three points, one rebound, and one assist.

Wolves are back in action this afternoon at Wachs Arena, as Wayne State comes to down. Tip-off is scheduled for 4 p.m. against the Wildcats.



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”

Roncalli girls win non-conference game over Tigers

Aberdeen Roncalli's girls' basketball team defeated Groton Area Friday night in Aberdeen, 62-21. This was a non-conference game. This will also be the last year that Groton Area and Aberdeen Roncalli will play each other twice during the regular season.

The Cavaliers scored 17 straight points in the first quarter to take a 21-7 lead at the break. The Tigers made three of 11 field goals for 27 percent and Roncalli made nine of 16 for 56 percent. Both teams doubled their scores in the second quarter as Roncalli took a 42-14 lead at half time. In the second quarter, Groton Area made three of 12 field goals for 25 percent and Roncalli made five of seven for 71 percent. Neither team shot well or scored much in the third quarter as the score was 49-16 going into the fourth quarter. Groton Area made one of seven field goals for 14 percent and Roncalli made two of nine for 22 percent. Both teams subbed down for most of the fourth quarter as Groton Area made two of six field goals for 33 percent and Roncalli made four of six for 67 percent.

Groton Area had 14 team fouls which allowed the Cavaliers to make 12 of 15 free throws for 80 percent. The Cavaliers had seven team fouls as Groton missed two free throws. The Tigers had 10 turnovers with the Cavaliers having five. Groton Area had nine rebounds with Jennie Doeden having five and the Tigers had four steals and three assists.

Scoring for the Tigers had Jennie Doeden and Allyssa Locke with four points apiece, Payton Maine, Miranda Hanson and Maddie Bjerke each had three points and Kaycie Hawkins and Gracie Traphagen each had two points. The Cavaliers were led by Mariah Winegar with 13 points followed by Megan Streier and Jori Ewart each with 12, Madelyn Bragg had 11, Jami Ewart and Abby Hanson each had six and Allison Dix added two points.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center. Groton Area is now 4-6 on the season and will host Clark/Willow Lake on Tuesday. Roncalli is 8-2 and will host Hamlin on Tuesday.

Roncalli won the junior varsity game, 33-13. Scoring for Groton Area: Gracie Traphagen 3, Brooke Gengerke 3, Allyssa Locke 2, Kenzie McInerney 2, Hannah Gustafson 2, and Maddie Bjerke 1.



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



Honoring Life

This last week, thousands of individuals traveled from across the country to march on our nation's capital. But the March for Life is different compared to others we normally see in Washington. People march for the unborn – those without a voice and those who deserve protection.

I am proud that many of those who marched towards the Capitol building were fellow South Dakotans. As a member of South Dakota Right to Life, I believe that life is sacred and deserves to be protected above all else.

Most of you know that I am a proud dad to three sons who are growing taller by the day – Max, Ben and Owen. The birth of my first son reinforced the value of human life.

The Center for Disease Control recently reported that in 2015, 638,000 abortions took place in the United States. In context, South Dakota's entire population is less than 900,000. That number is staggering. At the start of the Congress, I asked President Trump to oppose any bill that weakens current pro-life provisions. During the March for Life, he reaffirmed his commitment to pro-life Federal policies.

I will always be a reliable voice for life in Congress and will work tirelessly to support legislation that protects life. In fact, one of the first votes I cast in the 116th Congress was to prohibit the use of taxpayer funding for abortions overseas. I also cosponsored the Life at Conception Act and joined the Pro-Life Caucus. My actions will always speak louder than my words.

I will join pro-life supporters in Pierre on Sunday, the 20th, for the 2019 Hour of Reflection and Walk for Life. To learn more about the event, please visit www.sdrighttolife.org.

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Groton Area 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Taylor Holm, Jillian Barton, AnneMarie Smith, Emily Thompson, Kaitlyn Kassube, Alexis Simon, Cassandra Townsend, Payton Maine, Kaitlyn Anderson, Ashley Garduno, Samantha Geffre, Tylan Glover, Kylie Kassube

3.99-3.50: Micah Poor, Samantha Menzia, Wyatt Locke, Miranda Hanson, Alexa Hickenbotham, Megan Crosby, Jennie Doeden

3.49-3.00: Emily Blocker, Shannon Wiedrick, Jeremy Johnson, Jodi Hinman, Shyla Larson, Clark Gibbs, Korbin Blackmun

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Kaycie Hawkins, Kaylin Kucker, Kayla Jensen, Nicole Marzahn, KaSandra Pappas

3.99-3.50: Rylee Rosenau, Jaime Ruiz de Medina Maroto, Payton Colestock, Indigo Rogers, Tadyn Glover

3.49-3.00: Caitlynn Barse, Benjamin Higgins, Austin Jones, Kya Jandel

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Samantha Pappas, Isaac Smith, Erin Unzen

3.99-3.50: Sage Mortenson, Alexa Herr, Grace Wambach, Alexis Hanten, Alyssa Fordham, Grace Wiedrick, Steven Paulson, Jasmine Gengerke, Tanae Lipp, Paloma Fernandez Gonzalez, Hailey Monson, Regan Leicht, Eh Tha You Say

3.49-3.00: Dragr Monson, Brooklyn Gilbert, Braden Freeman, Tessa Erdmann, Jacob Thorn, Trey Gengerke, Lucas Simon, Alex Morris, Tucker Carda, Kannon Coats, Chandler Larson, Gabriella Merkel

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Allyssa Locke, Stella Meier

3.99-3.50: Travis Townsend, Madeline Flihs, Trista Keith, Seth Johnson, Jordan Bjerke

3.49-3.00: Pierce Kettering, Kansas Kroll, Madisen Bjerke, Kaden Kurtz, Jace Kroll, Julianna Kosel, Alexander Dutchuk, Landon Kokales, Kennedy Anderson, Kody Lehr, Hannah Gustafson, Rease Jandel, Michal Tabke

Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Carter Barse, Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Caleb Hanten, Jacob Lewandowski, Cadance Tullis, Kaleb Antonsen, Isaac Higgins, Cole Bisbee, Brooke Gengerke, Aspen Johnson, Cole Simon, Andrew Marzahn, Shaylee Peterson, Elliana Weismantel, Shallyn Foertsch

3.49-3.00: Kamryn Flihs, Tate Larson, Sierra Ehresmann, Gracie Traphagen, Jacelynn Gleason, Ava Kramer, Cade Larson, Brenna Carda, Porter Johnson, Ashtyn Bahr

Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Claire Heinrich, Holden Sippel, Emily Clark, Kyleigh Englund, Lydia Meier, Hannah Monson, Ashlyn Sperry, Anna Fjeldheim, Cadence Feist, Abigail Jensen, Jaycie Lier, Emma Schinkel, Colby Dunker, Lane Tietz

3.49-3.00: Karsyn Jangula, Dillon Abeln, Bradin Althoff, Sara Menzia, Lexi Osterman, Camryn Kurtz, Anna Bisbee, Jackson Garstecki, Faith Flihs, Bryson Wambach, Sydney Leicht

Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Gretchen Dinger, Axel Warrington, Elizabeth Flihs, Payton Mitchell, Alexis Geffre, Jeslyn Kosel

3.49-3.00: Blake Pauli, Ashlyn Feser, Carter Simon, Blake Dennert, Emma Kutter, Emily Overacker, Turner Thompson, Laila Roberts

Don't crowd the plow and buckle up

From the SD Highway Patrol Facebook Page: Yesterday morning the driver of the car attempted to pass a SDDOT snow plow in whiteout conditions as the truck was plowing. The driver crashed into the wing blade causing damage to both vehicles. Now we have a disabled snow plow that cannot work to clear the roads. Unfortunately the driver of the car was injured when they struck their head on the windshield because they were not wearing their seatbelt. We can do better South Dakota. Don't crowd the plow and buckle up.



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Today in Weather History

January 19, 1970: Extremely cold airmass was over the area on this day in weather history in 1970. After a frigid night, daytime high temperatures struggled to reach the single digits below zero. Overnight low temperatures across the area were from 25 below to 34 below zero with daytime highs from 3 above at Sisseton to 12 degrees below zero at Pierre. Record low temperatures were set at Wheaton, Watertown, Pierre, and Kennebec. The temperature fell to 32 degrees below zero at Pierre, 33 degrees below zero at Watertown and Wheaton, and to 34 degrees zero at Kennebec. Aberdeen fell to 35 degrees below zero, Sisseton dropped to 26 degrees below zero, Mobridge fell to 25 degrees below zero, Sisseton fell to 26 degrees below zero, and Timber Lake fell to 27 degrees below zero.

1883: The steamers of Cimbria and Sultan collided in the North Sea due to heavy fog. This collision resulted in the death of 357 people. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the History Channel.

1961: Eight inches of snow fell and caused crippling traffic jams around the Washington D.C. area on the eve of John Kennedy's inauguration. The president-elect had to cancel dinner plans and, in a struggle to keep other commitments, is reported to have had only 4 hours of sleep. Former President Herbert Hoover was unable to fly into Washington National Airport due to the weather, and he had to miss the swearing-in ceremony. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the Washington Post.

1993: An unusual series of Pacific storm systems tracked across Arizona from January 6th through the 19th, producing heavy and prolonged precipitation across the state. These heavy rains caused the most widespread and severe flooding in Arizona since the turn of the century. The highest flows of record were observed at some streamflow-gaging stations in every major river basin in the state. The protracted rainfall over the 2-week period caused multiple flood peaks on most streams and rivers. A large garbage landfill and portions of the new Mill Avenue Bridge that was under construction were washed away by the raging Salt River. The Gillespie Dam west of Phoenix was damaged, as high water spread throughout low-lying areas. One man drowned while trying to cross the Agua Fria River.

1996: January 1996 is known as one of the worst snowmelt floods on record for the Mid-Atlantic. The region saw blizzard conditions on January 6 and 7th, which produced 15 to 24 inches east of I-95, and 2 to 3 feet of snow west of I-95. With a tremendous amount of snow on the ground, on January 19, temperatures soared into the 50s and 60s ahead of an approaching cold front. At 7 am in Washington D.C. was reporting a temperature of 60 degrees with a dewpoint of 60 degrees, both unusually high for a January morning. The warm temperatures combined with rain to melt much of the snowpack, which was released into the waterways. Click [HERE](#) for an excellent webpage from the NWS office in Baltimore/Washington about this event.

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Today



Cloudy then
Scattered
Snow Showers

High: 0 °F

Tonight



Cloudy then
Snow Likely
and Patchy
Fog

Low: -9 °F

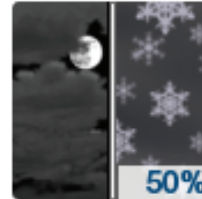
Sunday



Slight Chance
Snow then
Partly Sunny

High: 11 °F

Sunday
Night



Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
Snow

Low: 3 °F

M.L.King
Day



Chance Snow

High: 22 °F

Tonight
* Light snow over northeastern SD

Saturday
-2 to 15°

Sunday
5 to 25°

 * More light snow Sunday night through Monday night

**COLD
TEMPERATURES**
through the weekend

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 1/19/2019 4:33 AM Central



Published on: 01/19/2019 at 4:39AM

Cold weather will last through the weekend. The active pattern will also continue this week with more light snow in the forecast tonight and again Sunday night through Monday night.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 11 °F at 12:00 AM

Low Outside Temp: -6 °F at 10:24 PM

High Gust: 20 mph at 9:18 AM

Precip: about 4" of snow

Today's Info

Record High: 60 in 1921

Record Low: -36 in 1943

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.30

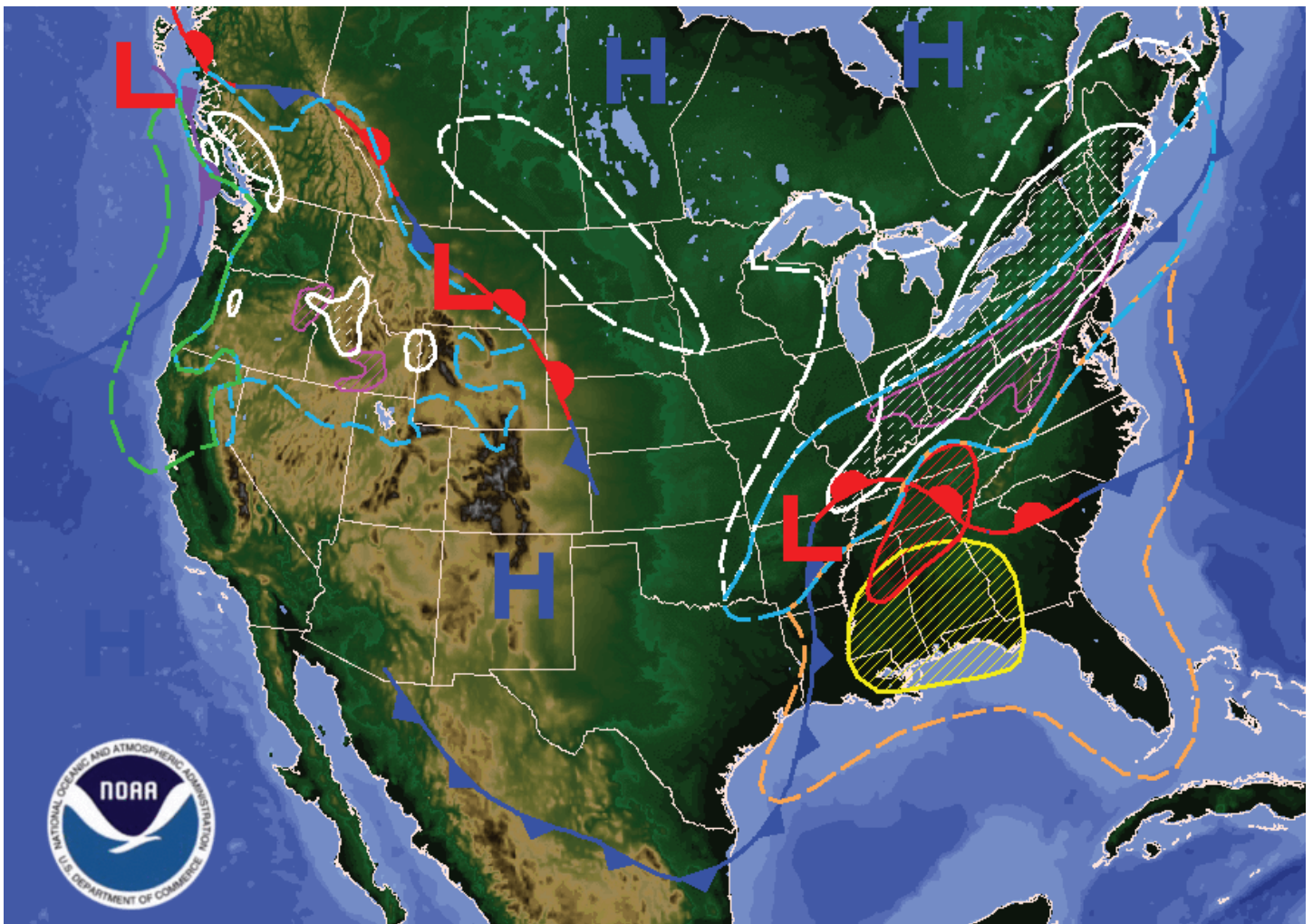
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.30

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:22 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jan 19, 2019, issued 5:04 AM EST

DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center

Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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WHAT'S WORTHY OF OUR TRUST?

A small child needed a minor operation but was allergic to anesthetics. The surgeon knew the procedure would be painful, but not unbearable. So, he took a shiny silver dollar from his pocket and said, This is for you. I'm going to hurt you a little bit. I want you to take a good look at it and hold it really tight in your right hand. Be sure to remember what you saw while I'm at work, because I'm going to ask you what it was when I'm finished. If you do, it won't hurt you as much.

When he finished, he gently rubbed her forehead and said, You are a brave little girl. What did you think about?

Quickly she replied, The words, In God we trust. In Psalm 25:2, David wrote, In You, I trust, O my God. Why would a king need to trust God?

First, for pardon. Later in the Psalm he wrote, Forgive my iniquity, for it is great. Our relationship with God begins when we ask Him to cleanse us from sin and all unrighteousness so we may enter into His presence. David knew the importance of being rightly related to God.

Second, for peace. Free me from my anguish, he prayed. Fear is the natural reaction when we are filled with anxiety. Only God can fill our hearts and calm our souls.

Finally, for protection. Guard my life and rescue me, he plead. As a warrior, he knew the threats and dangers of war. He knew that only One could keep him safe in dangerous situations. So, he trusted in that One alone.

Prayer: Lord, we have all that we need in You. May we lift our hearts in prayer and praise You for Your presence. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 25:2a In You, I trust, O my 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
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
- 11/09/2019 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

News from the Associated Press

Gov. Burgum to work with Minnesota, South Dakota governors

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum is working to develop relationships with the new governors who recently took office in neighboring South Dakota and Minnesota.

Burgum wants to collaborate with Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, who took office this month, on the \$2.75 billion Fargo-Moorhead area flood division project, the Bismarck Tribune reported. Burgum had worked with Walz's predecessor, former Gov. Mark Dayton, on a task force to study the infrastructure project's engineering.

Also, Burgum and Republican South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem plan to work together with the two tribal nations that straddle their states, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. Burgum said he, Noem and Indian affairs officials have considered planning joint visits to the reservations after North Dakota's 2019 legislative session.

"I think that would be something we'd love to try to put together and work with them," Burgum said.

Noem was sworn in Jan. 5.

Burgum will also welcome more new governors when he becomes chair of the Western Governors Association in June, said Jim Ogsbury, the association's executive director. Eleven newly elected governors are part of the association, which is a bipartisan group of governors from 20 states in the western region of the country.

"I think we're going to lean on him quite a bit to help welcome people like Gov. Noem," Ogsbury said.

North Dakota will host the association's annual summer meeting next year, he said.

"I think they have found that they have so much to gain from working together across state lines and learning from each other," Ogsbury said.

Northern Crops Institute looks to expand its marketing plans

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — An agriculture support center located at North Dakota State University is beefing up its marketing plans.

Northern Crops Institute officials say Grant Christian has been hired to fill a newly-created position as communications and marketing manager. He will help promote northern grown crops to global grain buyers and food processors.

Christian is originally from Cottage Grove, Minnesota, and graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in marketing. He was previously the media director for a marketing company in Fargo.

The Northern Crops Institute is funded by the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, as well as commodity groups in those states and Montana. It helps promote domestic and international markets for regional crops.

Hundreds of flights in Chicago canceled due to winter storm

DETROIT (AP) — People throughout parts of the Midwest woke Saturday to a heavy and steady snowfall that forced the cancellation of hundreds of airline flights and made driving dangerous.

More than 460 flights were canceled Saturday morning at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in Chicago and about 50 flights were canceled at Chicago's Midway International Airport. In the Detroit area, many motorists were moving well below posted speed limits along freeways due to slushy conditions.

The snowfall is part of a wall of hazardous weather that trekked from the Dakotas and across the Great Lakes states, headed toward New England. The National Weather Service has warned that conditions in the Northeast "could approach blizzard criteria." Some areas in the storm's path saw ice instead of snow.

The storm was forecast to bring between up to 10 inches (25 centimeters) of snow to the Midwest before walloping the Northeast on Sunday, where it could dump up to 2 feet (0.61 meters) of snow.

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Amtrak canceled some trains Saturday from Chicago to Washington and New York and between New York and Boston and Pennsylvania on Sunday.

Chicago was forecast to receive as much as 8 inches (20 centimeters) and wind gusts in the Chicago area are expected to reach 35 mph (56 kph).

In Nebraska, authorities closed Omaha's Eppley Airfield on Friday afternoon after a Southwest Airlines plane slid off an ice-slicked runway. No one was injured.

The National Weather Service in Albany, New York, said snow could fall at a rate of 1 to 3 inches (2.5-7.5 centimeters) an hour, creating "difficult to impossible travel conditions" in areas.

The storm prompted the cancellation of a Special Olympics competition in upstate New York. Nearly 200 athletes from around New York state were expected to compete in snowshoeing, snowboarding, cross country, and Nordic and Alpine skiing at West Mountain, just outside Glens Falls.

In New York City, the worst of the storm was expected from Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, with snow accumulations of 3-6 inches (7.5-15 centimeters), followed by rain that could turn to ice as temperatures drop later Sunday. Single-digit temperatures could last into Monday. Strong wind gusts beginning Sunday afternoon could bring down snow- or ice-burdened tree limbs and power lines.

Bitterly cold air was expected in the storm's aftermath.

PBS films tackles Native American links to rock, blues, jazz

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — As a child, Fred Lincoln "Link" Wray, Jr. hid under a bed when the Ku Klux Klan came to his parent's home in rural North Carolina. Racist groups often targeted the poor family of Shawnee Native American ancestry as the Wrays endured segregation in the American South just like African-Americans.

Wray eventually took all that rage of his early years and crafted a 1958 instrumental hit "Rumble" using a distinct, distorted electric guitar sound that would influence generations of rock 'n' roll musicians from Iggy Pop, Neil Young, Pete Townshend of The Who and Slash of Guns N' Roses. Though the song had no lyrics, it was banned in the 1950s for allegedly encouraging teen violence.

Wray is one of many Native American musicians whose stories are featured in a new PBS Independent Lens documentary showing how Native Americans helped lay the foundations to rock, blues and jazz and shaped generations of musicians. "RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World" is set to air online and on most PBS stations Monday.

The film is the brainchild of Apache guitarist Stevie Salas who has performed with the likes of Rod Stewart and Mick Jagger. It was during a tour with Stewart that the Oceanside, California-raised Salas began to wonder if there had been any other Native American rock musicians before him. "I was there with Rod Stewart and thinking, 'Am I the only Indian to have ever played at (New York's) Madison Garden?'" Salas told The Associated Press. "So I started to investigate."

Soon Salas, now 54, stumbled upon Wray, a musician he'd admired but had no idea he was Native American. Then he found out about the Norman, Oklahoma-born Jesse Ed Davis, a guitarist of Kiowa and Comanche ancestry who performed with John Lennon.

The hobby searching for Native American rock musicians eventually launched an exhibit at Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, then a film.

"People need to know about Link Wray. People need to know about Jesse Ed Davis," Salas said.

But rock musicians aren't the only popular musicians "RUMBLE" seeks to highlight. The documentary touches upon blues pioneer Charley Patton, an early 20th Century Mississippi Delta guitarist of Choctaw and African American ancestry. The film shows how some of Patton's music preserved on rough vinyl recordings is similar to traditional American Indian songs. Those traditions were fused black music.

Legendary bluesman Howlin' Wolf would say he learned to play the guitar from an "Indian man" by the name of Charley Patton.

The film also introduces viewers to the largely forgotten jazz vocalist Mildred Bailey. A member of the

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Coeur d'Alene tribe in the Pacific Northwest, Bailey began signing ragtime in the 1920s and developed a swing style that fused traditional Native American vocals with jazz. She became known as the "The Queen of Swing" who performed at speakeasies and had a style so unique that young Italian-American aspiring singers Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra began copying her form.

"She was one of the great improvisers of jazz," Bennett said on the film. "I was completely influenced by Mildred Bailey. She sang perfect, for me."

The film also explores the career of Robbie Robertson, a Canadian musician of Mohawk and Cayuga descent, who performed with Bob Dylan in the mid-1960s before forming his own group called The Band.

"Be proud that you're an Indian," Robertson said he was told as a child, "but be careful who you tell."

The documentary dives into the career of Davis, lead guitarist for Taj Mahal, who died in 1988 of a heroin overdose. And it goes into the momentous career of Randy Castillo, the Albuquerque, New Mexico-born Isleta Pueblo drummer for Ozzy Osbourne and Mötley Crüe, whose life was cut short by cancer in 2002.

As the Native American musicians get closer to the 21st Century, the film shows that they stopped hiding their identity and began to celebrate it.

"This is a missing chapter to this history of music," co-director Catherine Bainbridge said. "Native Americans were at the center of our popular music."

Associated Press Writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras>

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Hot Springs 76, Belle Fourche 60

Kadoka Area 61, Hill City 43

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 67, Rapid City Central 38

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 66, Rapid City Stevens 35

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Britton-Hecla vs. Warner, ppd.

Edmunds Central vs. Wakpala, ppd.

Flandreau vs. McCook Central/Montrose, ppd.

Northwestern vs. Leola/Frederick, ppd.

Sioux Falls Christian vs. Madison, ppd.

Sioux Falls Washington vs. Harrisburg, ppd.

Tea Area vs. Western Christian, Iowa, ppd.

Viborg-Hurley vs. Baltic, ppd. to Jan 31st.

Watertown vs. Mitchell, ppd. to Jan 22nd.

Webster vs. Clark/Willow Lake, ccd.

Wilmot vs. Waverly-South Shore, ppd.

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 62, Groton Area 21

Belle Fourche 60, Hot Springs 17

Hill City 68, Kadoka Area 59

Newell 65, Hulett, Wyo. 13

Rapid City Stevens 58, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 40

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 54, Rapid City Central 29

Sturgis Brown 40, Spearfish 37

Panhandle Conference Basketball Tournament

Crawford, Neb. 36, Edgemont 34

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POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Britton-Hecla vs. Warner, ppd.
Ethan vs. Corsica/Stickney, ppd.
Flandreau vs. McCook Central/Montrose, ppd.
Freeman vs. Menno, ppd. to Jan 19th.
Lennox vs. Parkston, ppd. to Jan 21st.
Lyman vs. Waverly-South Shore, ppd.
Mitchell vs. Watertown, ppd. to Jan 25th.
Northwestern vs. Leola/Frederick, ppd.
Sioux Falls Christian vs. Madison, ppd.
Tea Area vs. Western Christian, Iowa, ppd.
Viborg-Hurley vs. Baltic, ppd. to Jan 31st.
Yankton vs. Pierre, ppd.

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

Archaeologists to monitor construction in Deadwood

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Anyone turning over little more than a shovelful of dirt in the historic town of Deadwood can expect to have an archaeologist peering over their shoulders in case any artifacts from the city's past are unearthed.

OK, that's an exaggeration. But while residents are safe from having their flower and vegetable garden plots scrutinized, any private or public construction project requiring excavation is required to have a state archaeologist monitor it in most of the town, which was named a national historic landmark in 1961.

City zoning laws have an entire chapter on historic preservation, Deadwood Historic Preservation Officer Kevin Kuchenbecker told the Rapid City Journal .

"Any construction within the historic district requires archaeological investigation. That can be anything from a surface review, test pits to a full-out investigation and mitigation," he said.

State archaeologists are on site during construction of Deadwood's new Outlaw Square, which broke ground earlier this month in an area of downtown steeped in city lore.

The square will be built on the current site of the Franklin Motor Inn, a contemporary motel dating back to the late 1950s or early 1960s.

Before that, Kuchenbecker said, the lot was home to Deadwood's city hall, an opera house and theater, both of which were consumed by Deadwood's historical nemesis — fire — in 1952.

The site was also home to a log structure that included a Chinese dwelling and laundry, also leveled by an 1879 conflagration, predating the city hall structure, which was built in 1889.

Kuchenbecker said the city has extensive archives of photographs, fire insurance maps, mineral surveys and newspaper clippings to give an idea of what contractors and archaeologists might encounter during a construction project.

He said archaeologists don't anticipate any major finds during excavation for the Outlaw Square project, which begins with the razing of the Motor Inn.

But you never know, Kuchenbecker said.

"There are always surprises and unknowns and part of the importance of archaeology is documenting information on Deadwood's past that we may not know and confirmation of what we do know," he said.

The construction may reveal interior and exterior foundations of the opera house and city hall, along with charred earth from the log dwelling and laundry.

Any finds of artifacts, such as plate glass shards or square nails used in the early buildings, likely won't delay construction.

Other projects have unearthed major finds. A four-year study of Deadwood's Chinatown district from 2001-2004 found 250,000 to 300,000 artifacts that are still under examination in the Historic Preservation

archives in city hall.

The discovery of human remains on occasion in the original location of Mount Moriah cemetery in the city's Presidential District meant only a delay of a few days once a coroner determined circumstances of the death, gender, race and age of any remains, Kuchenbecker said.

Most projects in Deadwood build in a certain amount of time for archaeological investigations that may crop up in the course of construction.

Any artifacts found during the square construction will become property of the city. In the case of a private project, any artifacts found become the property of the landowners.

"Most times the owners recognize the importance of the artifacts to Deadwood's history and donate those," Kuchenbecker said.

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

South Dakota woman donates organs after car accident

By CORA VAN OLSON, Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Early on Dec. 24, Rhonda and Brad Bender of Yankton got a knock on the door and news of a terrible accident involving their daughter, Brooklyn Bender. This was not the Christmas they wanted. But in the end, with their help, their daughter may have given the greatest Christmas gift of all — the gift of life.

Brooklyn Bender's fight for life began early on Christmas Eve.

According to the South Dakota Department of Public Safety, the 22-year-old Yankton woman was driving her 1999 Chevy pickup not far from Irene. She lost control of the vehicle, which went into the ditch and rolled. She was ejected from the vehicle. The accident was reported at about 2:53 a.m.

"That morning at 6:15, I woke up to my doorbell and two sheriff's deputies informing us that she was in a motor vehicle accident," Rhonda Bender told the Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan. "She had been found at about 3 a.m.; she had severe head trauma, been taken to Sanford in Sioux Falls, and we needed to get up there as soon as possible."

The couple hurriedly got dressed and travelled to Sioux Falls with their three grandchildren, who had spent the night, in tow.

"We got up there, and she had a lot of head trauma," Rhonda Bender said. "They were trying get the intracranial pressures, her ICPs, below 20. They had been up and down and up and down."

A brain injury can increase the intracranial pressures — the pressure on the brain — and can cause seizures, stroke, neurological damage and death.

"We fought that all afternoon and all evening," Rhonda Bender said.

Brooklyn's ICP kept rising.

"Christmas Day, they came and got me and her pressures were over 37, and there was no more room for her brain to expand. They needed to go in and do life-saving surgery, because she is not going to make it through the night if we don't go in now," Rhonda Bender said.

The doctors had to perform a decompressive craniectomy, the removal of part of the skull to keep the expanding brain from being damaged.

"They removed the front third of her skull to allow for expansion and she came through surgery fairly well," Rhonda Bender said. "We had several days of ups and down, good days, bad days, just battling the pressure."

To further protect her brain, the doctors sedated Brooklyn Bender after the accident.

"They did not want her brain working at all," Rhonda Bender said. "They had her body temp cooled down to 91 degrees on purpose and they had her blood pressure elevated to keep her brain pressure down."

Brooklyn Bender had sustained other injuries in the accident, but at that time, doctors focused only on the ICP.

"Brooklyn had other fractures, but (the doctors) said, 'Those are not our concern right now,'" Rhonda said.

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"She will have to get those fused later on down the road. Right now, the major issue is with the brain."
The struggle with Brooklyn Bender's fluctuating ICPs continued until Jan 2. when high brain pressures again required surgical intervention.

"The latest CT scan showed that a blood clot in her brain was larger," Rhonda said. "So they said, 'We need to go in there and get that out.'"

It was then that the surgeon discovered some of the brain tissue had died.

"Unfortunately, when they were in there, they took the blood clot, and the necrosis came out. That's dead brain material," Rhonda Bender said. "He said, 'It's the frontal cortex. It controls you memory, your thoughts, your moods and we just don't know at this point how much brain damage there is, but there is an increasing amount over the first CAT scan. We don't know at this point if Brooklyn will ever be Brooklyn; it's too soon to tell.'"

Meanwhile, Brooklyn Bender's best friend, Keeley Vogt, was having a medical emergency involving her mother, Marcia Hanson, who was already struggling with serious liver problems.

"She had some liver issues, and a couple of months ago it started getting really bad. She wasn't quite on the transplant list at that point," Rhonda said. "Keeley had been very emotional and had been crying, and Brooklyn had been crying, and she said, 'Oh, sweetie, if I could give your mama my liver I would.'"

"That is what set things in motion."

The day after Christmas, Hanson's condition deteriorated, and she was admitted to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton. Later she was transported to Avera in Sioux Falls via ambulance.

Tests performed after Brooklyn Bender's second surgery revealed an ICP over 60. Repeated CT scans showed no change.

"The CAT scan showed already, at that point, half of her brain had died, and it looked like it was just going to progress," Rhonda Bender said. "There was nothing they could do at that point."

There was still something left undone that was very important to Brooklyn Bender.

"We knew we weren't going to get Brooklyn back and we knew she wanted to be an organ donor," Rhonda Bender said. "It was on her driver's license, and we had talked about it as a family that we all wanted to be organ donors."

The family decided to see if her organs could be donated. They also related Brooklyn Bender's desire to save her friend's mother and asked to see if her liver would be a match for Hanson.

"I know Keeley would have a hard time losing both her best friend and her mom," Rhonda Bender said. "They started the tests to see if she was a match, and we actually got the news before Keeley and her mom did. We were able to call them with the transplant team members there and tell her."

Typically, transplants are handled through a third-party organization. Avera staff told the Benders that in their 30 years of doing organ transplants, they had never had a direct donation and transplant.

Before any tests could be run, Brooklyn Bender would have to be declared brain dead. The process would involve performing some tests after stabilizing her blood pressure and returning her body temperature to normal. That process took until the next day.

At 3 p.m. on Jan. 3, Brooklyn Bender was pronounced dead.

But several of her organs are giving life to others.

"Her heart went to a 68-year-old man who was in very critical condition; her right kidney went to a 45-year-old woman and her left kidney went to a 50-year-old woman," Rhonda Bender said. "She was able to save four people with her life. If we are going to lose her, we want a piece of her to carry on in others."

Through this experience, the family learned some compelling facts about organ transplants.

"Only 1 percent of people die in a manner that they can be an organ donor and of that 1 percent, there is only a small fraction that are organ donors," Rhonda Bender said. "I read on the Internet, I think at least 20 people die a day waiting to get a transplant. The numbers are staggering."

"Even though it says you are an organ donor on your license, it doesn't mean that your organs are going to save a life," added Brad Bender. "People have to talk to their families and let them know that's what you want."

Rhonda and Brad Bender accept the fact that they may never know the other recipients, but they plan

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to contact them through LifeSource, the organization that handled the donation, and try to meet the heart recipient.

"My son mentioned that he would like to listen to the heart recipient's heart and hear (Brooklyn's) heart-beat," Rhonda Bender said. "But Marcia, we know her, we know that a piece of our baby girl is still around here and we are able to touch her."

According to the Benders, Hanson is doing well and should be up walking soon.

The family thanks all of Brooklyn Bender's friends for reaching out to them to tell them about the kind person their daughter was.

"It helps me to get through to know that she was such a caring person, and that she wanted to help others." Rhonda Bender said.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

02-43-48-62-64, Mega Ball: 24, Megaplier: 3

(two, forty-three, forty-eight, sixty-two, sixty-four; Mega Ball: twenty-four; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$68 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$129 million

Weekend winter storm sweeping from Midwest to New England

By CARYN ROUSSEAU, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A winter storm started sweeping across the Midwest on Friday, leading to slick roads and runways, as it inched its way toward New England, where it was forecast to dump up to 2 feet (0.61 meters) of snow.

The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings from the Dakotas, across the Great Lakes states and into New England. The weather service at one point warned that conditions in New England over the weekend "could approach blizzard criteria." Ice was also a possibility in some areas in the storm's path.

In Nebraska, where freezing drizzle was falling Friday afternoon, authorities closed Omaha's Eppley Airfield after a Southwest Airlines plane slid off an ice-slicked runway. No one was injured. Eppley suspended all flights for a few hours before it was reopened. But airport officials warned that most flights would continue to be delayed.

In Iowa, the Department of Transportation warned that visibility was less than a half mile in many locations due to snow and wind. And in South Dakota, where snow was starting to pile up, authorities warned drivers to give plows extra room.

Chris Nace, who works at a Domino's pizza in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, said several inches of snow had accumulated since early morning and the conditions were slowing down delivery drivers.

"The plows are just getting out," he said late afternoon. "Just the main roads are cleared. They haven't gotten to the side streets yet." But drivers are used to such conditions, he added, and customers "are pretty understanding."

The storm was expected to bring between up to 10 inches (25 centimeters) of snow to the Midwest before walloping the Northeast on Sunday. The National Weather Service in Albany, New York, said snow could fall at a rate of 1 to 3 inches (2.5-7.5 centimeters) an hour, creating "difficult to impossible travel

conditions" in areas.

In New York City, the worst of the storm is expected from Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, with snow accumulations of 3-6 inches (7.5-15 centimeters), followed by rain that could turn to ice as temperatures drop later Sunday. Single-digit temperatures could last into Monday. Strong wind gusts beginning Sunday afternoon could bring down snow- or ice-burdened tree limbs and power lines.

Officials warn of flight disruptions at airports, as well as possible changes in train schedules. The Chicago Department of Aviation reported more than 300 flights at O'Hare and Midway international airports had been canceled as of Friday evening. Amtrak canceled some trains Saturday from Chicago to Washington and New York and between New York and Boston and Pennsylvania on Sunday.

Chicago is forecast to receive as much as 8 inches by Saturday and wind gusts in the Chicago area are expected to reach 35 mph (56 kph).

Bitterly cold air was expected in the storm's aftermath.

___ Associated Press writers Margery Beck in Omaha, Nebraska, Blake Nicholson in Bismarck, North Dakota, and Verena Dobnik in New York City contributed to this report.

Authorities ID Sioux Falls woman killed in interstate crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Sioux Falls woman who died in a head-on crash on Interstate 229 in the city.

The Highway Patrol says a car driven by 25-year-old Nikki Jones crossed the median and collided with another car Tuesday afternoon.

Jones was pronounced dead at the scene. The other driver was seriously injured and taken to a hospital.

The crash tied up afternoon commuter traffic.

Woman dead after minivan-tractor crash near Salem

SALEM, S.D. (AP) — An 85-year-old woman is dead after a collision in McCook County involving a minivan and a tractor.

The Highway Patrol says the woman was a passenger in a minivan that rear-ended the tractor on state Highway 38 a mile west of Salem shortly before 6 p.m. Wednesday. She was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital, where she died Thursday.

The minivan driver was taken to a Sioux Falls hospital with serious injuries. The tractor driver was not hurt.

The patrol says the tractor had its flashing rear lights on at the time of the crash.

Company tied to polygamous sect leader buys Minnesota land

GRAND MARAIS, Minn. (AP) — A company tied to a man who led a secretive polygamous sect's compound in South Dakota has purchased about 40 acres of land in northern Minnesota.

Seth Jeffs is listed as registered agent for the company that acquired land west of the Lake Superior town of Grand Marais. Officials in Cook County, Minnesota, said Friday that the property was transferred in August to the company, Emerald Industries LLC.

Jeffs is the brother of Warren Jeffs, imprisoned leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Authorities have said Seth Jeffs led the sect's South Dakota Black Hills compound, which has raised concerns among nearby landowners and a Republican state lawmaker who unsuccessfully pushed legislators to look into the outpost.

Seth Jeffs, who took a plea deal in a multimillion-dollar food-stamp fraud case in 2016, applied in August to build a 5,760-square-foot building on the Minnesota land; the permit was approved in December, but officials say the pole building hasn't yet been constructed. The county values the property at \$57,300.

Jeffs didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment from The Associated Press. His brother, Lyle Jeffs, was sentenced in 2017 to prison for his role in carrying out the food stamp fraud scheme and for escaping home confinement while awaiting trial. He was caught in South Dakota after pawn shop

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workers spotted him and called police.

The group, also known as the FLDS, has long been based out of a remote community on the Utah-Arizona border, but the sect is losing control of the governments and police that run the sister cities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Arizona. The group let a sprawling building where its members worshipped be taken over in eviction, in a sign that the sect is crumbling and losing control of the community it ruled for a century.

Warren Jeffs, considered by the group to be a prophet who speaks for God, is serving a life sentence for assaulting two of his child brides.

The FLDS is a radical offshoot of mainstream Mormonism whose members believe polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. Polygamy is a legacy of the early teachings of the mainstream Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but the faith abandoned the practice in 1890 and prohibits it today.

The FLDS opened the 140-acre compound near the town of Pringle, South Dakota, more than a decade ago. Known to the faithful as "R23," the compound sits along a gravel road, secluded by tall pine trees, a privacy fence and a guard tower.

Questions over the compound's population were an issue during 2015 proceedings before South Dakota regulators. The Water Management Board eventually approved the group's application, which faced opposition from nearby landowners, even though the sect declined to provide many details about the number of people living there.

A Republican legislator in 2017 proposed finding out more about the compound, including what its population was, whether it had a home schooling program, and whether polygamy or sex trafficking was taking place there. Lawmakers decided against studying it, with one top legislator saying it was up to law enforcement to investigate.

South Dakota law requires births and deaths to be reported, but the Department of Health said then that no such records had been filed from the compound's address in the previous 10 years. One former resident said births occurred at the site, among them two of her own children.

Man shot by officer at rest stop identified as Wisconsin man

WHITE LAKE, S. D. (AP) — The FBI says authorities were trying to arrest a Wisconsin man at a rest stop in South Dakota when he was fatally shot by a federal officer.

The FBI Minneapolis Field Office on Friday identified the man as 34-year-old Nathan Thoe from Hortonville, Wisconsin. The FBI says an arrest warrant had been issued for Thoe because he was the subject of an ongoing investigation.

Officials say federal officers from more than one agency were attempting an arrest at the White Lake rest area on Interstate 90 in South Dakota Jan. 13 when Thoe was shot and killed. Authorities have not said what prompted the fatal shooting.

The FBI says Thoe had been in and around Pierre in the past several months.

227 federal employees filed for unemployment in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — More than 200 people have filed for unemployment insurance in South Dakota because of the government shutdown.

The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation says 227 federal employees have filed claims as a result of the partial government shutdown.

The shutdown, the longest ever, entered its 28th day on Friday. KELO reports several area organizations, banks and restaurants are offering help for furloughed federal workers. For example the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society is offering free pet food.

The shutdown that began Dec. 22 caused roughly 420,000 federal employees across the country to work without pay. Another 380,000 are not at work and not being paid.

___ Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

Spyglass gas well permits revoked

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — State regulators have revoked a company's permits for 40 natural gas wells near Buffalo.

The wells have been idle for seven years as the company, Spyglass Cedar Creek, has struggled financially. The Rapid City Journal says the state Board of Minerals and Environment also directed the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources to calculate the maximum civil penalty that may be issued, which could reach millions of dollars.

The board gave Spyglass until Jan. 15 to post a \$200,000 bond to avoid the permit revocations, a deadline the company missed. The DENR's Mike Lees says that trying to recover civil penalties from Spyglass might be like "squeezing blood from a turnip."

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

Trump 'appreciates' Mueller's statement on report's accuracy

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special counsel Robert Mueller's office has issued a rare public statement disputing the accuracy of BuzzFeed News' report that President Donald Trump's former attorney told Mueller that Trump directed the lawyer to lie to Congress.

"It was a total phony story and I appreciate the special counsel coming out with a statement last night. I think it was very appropriate that they did so," Trump told reporters at the White House on Saturday.

BuzzFeed, citing two unidentified law enforcement officials, reported that Trump directed lawyer Michael Cohen to lie to Congress about a Moscow real estate project and that Cohen told Mueller the president personally instructed him to lie about the timing of the deal.

The report said Mueller's investigators learned about Trump's directive "through interviews with multiple witnesses from the Trump Organization and internal company emails, text messages, and a cache of other documents."

The report said Cohen acknowledged Trump's instructions when he was interviewed by the Mueller team.

The statement by Mueller's office on Friday night doesn't cite any specific errors. Spokesman Peter Carr said that "BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the special counsel's office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's congressional testimony are not accurate."

BuzzFeed spokesman Matt Mittenenthal said the publication stands by its reporting and urged readers to "stay tuned" as they worked to determine what Mueller was denying. Ben Smith, editor-in-chief of BuzzFeed News, also said the publication stands by its reporting and the sources who informed it.

"We urge the special counsel to make clear what he's disputing," Smith said.

Immediately after the special counsel's statement was issued, Trump retweeted several posts that called the story fake news. He later tweeted: "A very sad day for journalism, but a great day for our Country!"

The extraordinary statement from Mueller's office came after congressional Democrats had pledged to investigate whether the report was true.

The Associated Press had not independently confirmed the report. Any evidence that Trump directed a witness to lie to investigators would place him in the greatest political and legal jeopardy yet.

Cohen pleaded guilty in November to lying to Congress to cover up that he was negotiating the Trump Tower project on Trump's behalf during the heat of his presidential campaign. The charge was brought by Mueller and was the result of Cohen's cooperation with that probe.

Cohen admitted that he lied when he told lawmakers he had never agreed to travel to Russia in connection with the Moscow project and when he said that he'd decided by the end of January 2016 that the "proposal was not feasible for a variety of business reasons and should not be pursued further."

He was sentenced to three years in prison for crimes that included arranging the payment of hush money to conceal his boss' alleged sexual affairs, telling a judge that he agreed time and again to cover

up Trump's "dirty deeds" out of "blind loyalty."

Lanny Davis, a Cohen adviser, declined to comment.

Cohen is scheduled to testify publicly before the House Oversight and Reform Committee on Feb. 7. The top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, said Friday that he expects Cohen to talk to that committee in February.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller in Washington and Jonathan Lemire and Jim Mustian in New York contributed to this report.

More lenient state laws could chill low-alcohol beer market

By **TIM TALLEY, Associated Press**

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Beer snobs are raising their mugs to a stronger brew in three states that once forbade grocers from selling anything but low-alcohol brands, and the changes could indirectly chill the industry in two others where such regulations remain.

Until October, Oklahoma grocery and convenience stores could stock beer with only up to 3.2 percent alcohol content — considerably lower than even leading light beer brands. Liquor stores were able to sell stronger 8.99 percent beer but were prohibited from selling cold beer of any strength.

Voter-approved changes now allow stronger ales to be sold in Oklahoma grocery and convenience stores. And many of the changes are being adopted this year in the adjoining states of Colorado and Kansas.

The beer revolution will leave just two states — Utah and Minnesota — where only 3.2 percent beer may be sold in grocery and convenience stores. Beer industry observers say how lawmakers in those states react to the changes could determine whether the future of low-point beer in the U.S is as flat as a week-old lager. Half of the nation's 3.2 beer market was in Oklahoma and an additional 20 percent was in Colorado.

"It is a dramatic drop," said Brett Robinson, president of Beer Distributors of Oklahoma, which represents some beer distributors in the state. "In Oklahoma now, beer is just beer. There is no more definition or classification."

Oklahoma was the first of the nation's five 3.2-beer states to make the switch. That's ironic considering alcohol was illegal until voters repealed statewide prohibition in 1959 — 26 years after Prohibition was repealed nationally.

"It was a long time coming," said Lisette Barnes, president of the Oklahoma Beer Alliance, a beer industry trade association. "It's refreshing. I think overwhelmingly people are excited about it. It's been a good thing for both industry and consumers."

As the market for "baby beer" continues to shrink, brewers must decide whether it's profitable to continue to make it — a decision that could cause low-point beer supplies to dry up in Utah and Minnesota.

Anheuser-Busch, the world's largest beer producer, said it will work to meet the needs of consumers in 3.2 percent beer states even amid declining demand.

"While we will continue to produce 3.2 percent beer, regulatory and legislative changes in Oklahoma, Colorado and Kansas that affect demand for 3.2 percent beer will impact our national production," the company said in a statement in December.

But some brewers are already cutting back on their 3.2 percent beer production. Oklahoma City-based craft brewer COOP Ale Works, which distributes in six states, including Oklahoma and Kansas, has discontinued two of its three 3.2 percent brews.

"The only reason we produced those other two beers was to have beer in grocery and convenience stores," said Sean Mossman, director of sales and marketing for COOP. "Now that we can sell our more popular styles in the grocery stores, we just don't see any need to continue manufacturing those beers."

And selling COOP's flagship beers in grocery stores "has been a boon for us," Mossman said. He said the brewer's business has increased 50 percent in the months since Oklahoma grocers began stocking its stronger beers. New regulations go into effect in Kansas in April, when grocery and convenience stores can start selling beer with an alcoholic content of 6 percent.

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"Overall, we're very happy about the death of 3.2 beer," he said. "The death of 3.2 beer is good for us." Dwindling supplies of low-point brew is something state regulators have considered.

"That's the question we've been facing for a couple of years," said Terry Wood, director of communications for Utah's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. "Business decisions may be made that make it just a financial choice for the breweries to stop producing 3.2 beer."

Former Minnesota state Rep. Jenifer Loon, who authored legislation that repealed a longstanding ban on Sunday liquor sales in 2017, said regulatory changes in other states will likely force Minnesota lawmakers to consider allowing full-strength beer in grocery and convenience stores.

"The market's probably going to control this. Within the foreseeable future, there probably will have to be a change," Loon said.

Grocers have expressed support for selling strong beer in the past, but any effort to expand beer sales will probably be met with stiff opposition, she said.

"It's been very difficult to kind of drag our liquor laws into the 21st century," Loon said.

For now, low-point beer will continue to be produced by the New Belgium Brewing Co., a craft brewery based in Fort Collins, Colorado, spokesman Bryan Simpson said. Production of 3.2 percent comprises just one-half of 1 percent of the brewery's overall production, and the company will shop it exclusively to Utah, Simpson said.

"It makes sense for us to do it because we want to have a presence there," Simpson said. He said the company's breweries are already set up to produce low-point beer and "there's really no sense to hit the brakes."

Trump says 'things are going very well' with North Korea

By **MATTHEW LEE** and **DEB RIECHMANN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that "things are going very well with North Korea" and he plan a second summit with leader Kim Jong Un to try to broker a deal that would entice the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

"We've agreed to meet sometime probably the end of February. We've picked a country, but we'll be announcing it in the future. Kim Jong Un is looking very forward to it and so am I," the president told reporters Saturday at the White House.

The initial news of a second meeting with the reclusive North Korean leader came after Trump's 90-minute session Friday in the Oval Office with a North Korean envoy, Kim Yong Chol, who traveled to Washington to discuss denuclearization talks.

"We have made a lot of progress as far as denuclearization is concerned and we're talking about a lot of different things," Trump said, adding it's "not been reported, unfortunately, but it will be. Things are going very with North Korea."

In May, North Korea released three American detainees and sent them home with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo after his meeting with the North Korean leader in Pyongyang.

The second summit signals stepped-up efforts by both countries to continue talks. Trump has exchanged letters with the North Korean leader amid little tangible progress on the vague denuclearization agreement reached at their first meeting last June in Singapore.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said "it's high time" for serious negotiations between the United States and North Korea to outline a road map for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The U.N. chief said New York on Friday that would allow both sides "to know exactly what the next steps will be, and to have predictability in the way negotiations take place."

Trump has spoken several times of having a second summit early this year. Vietnam has been considered as a possible summit venue, along with Thailand, Hawaii and Singapore.

Since the Singapore talks, several private analysts have published reports detailing continuing North Korean development of nuclear and missile technology. A planned meeting between Pompeo and the envoy, who is North Korea's former spy chief, in New York last November was abruptly canceled. U.S.

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officials said at the time that North Korea had called off the session.

The special U.S. envoy for North Korea negotiations, Steve Biegun, planned to travel to Sweden for further talks over the weekend.

The talks have stalled over North Korea's refusal to provide a detailed accounting of its nuclear and missile facilities that would be used by inspectors to verify any deal to dismantle them. The North also has demanded that the U.S. end harsh economic penalties and provide security guarantees before it takes any steps beyond its initial suspension of nuclear and missile tests.

Harry Kazianis, a North Korea expert at the Center for National Interest, said any talks between the two nations are a positive development, but the hard work of negotiating an agreement has only begun.

As a possible first step, Kazianis said, North Korea could agree to close its nuclear centrifuge facility at Yongbyon in exchange for some relief from U.S. sanctions or a peace declaration ending the Korean War. The three-year war between North and South Korea ended in 1953 with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

South Korea said it expects the second summit between Trump and Kim to be "a turning point in firmly establishing a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula."

Kim expressed frustration in an annual New Year's address over the lack of progress in negotiations. But on a visit to Beijing last week, he said North Korea would pursue a second summit "to achieve results that will be welcomed by the international community," according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Kim's latest trip to China, his fourth since last year, came as the North's strongest ally has encouraged negotiations with the U.S. while at the same time arguing in favor of an immediate easing of sanctions.

The U.S. and North Korea seemed close to war at points during 2017. The North staged a series of weapons tests that brought it closer to its nuclear goal of one day being able to target anywhere on the U.S. mainland. The two sides then turned to insulting each other: Trump called Kim "Little Rocket Man" and North Korea said Trump was a "dotard."

Could 1st tangible signs of shutdown progress be emerging?

By JILL COLVIN, LISA MASCARO, ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first tangible signs of movement may be emerging in the impasse that has shut down the government for weeks: President Donald Trump is promising a "major announcement" about the closure and the U.S.-Mexico border and Democrats are pledging more money for border security.

It was unclear whether the developments, following days of clashes between Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., might represent serious steps toward resolving the partisan fight or instead may simply be political posturing as the partial shutdown reached a record 29th day. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers have gone without paychecks, enduring financial hardship. Many public services are unavailable to Americans during the closure.

The White House has declined to provide details about what the president would announce midafternoon Saturday. Trump was not expected to sign a national emergency declaration he has said was an option to circumvent Congress, according to two people familiar with the planning.

Instead, he was expected to propose the outlines of a deal that the administration believes could have the potential to pave the way for a shutdown end, according to one of the people. They were not authorized to publicly discuss details about the impending announcement and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"I think it'll be an important statement," Trump told reporters Saturday before traveling to an air base in Delaware to honor four Americans killed in a suicide bomb attack in Syria this week.

Democrats are now proposing hundreds of millions of dollars for new immigration judges and improvements to ports of entry from Mexico but nothing for the wall, a House aide said, as the party begins fleshing out its vision of improving border security.

Trump's refusal to sign spending bills that lack \$5.7 billion he wants to start constructing that wall, which Democrats oppose, has prompted the shutdown. "We need the help and the backup of a wall," the president said Saturday.

Whatever the White House proposed would be the first major overture by the president since Jan. 8,

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when he gave an Oval Office address trying to make the public case for the border wall. Democrats have said they will not negotiate until the government reopens, raising questions about how Trump might move the ball forward.

Democrats were proposing \$563 million to hire 75 more immigration judges, who currently face large backlogs processing cases, and \$524 million to improve ports of entry in Calexico, California, and San Luis, Arizona, the Democratic House aide said. The money is to be added to spending bills, largely negotiated between the House and Senate, that the House plans to vote on next week.

In addition, Democrats were working toward adding money for more border security personnel and for sensors and other technology to a separate bill financing the Department of Homeland Security, but no funds for a wall or other physical barriers, the aide said.

It was possible Democrats would introduce that measure next week as the cornerstone of their border security alternative to Trump's wall, the aide said. Earlier Friday, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., who leads the House Appropriations Committee's homeland security subcommittee, said in an interview that some Democrats were asking leaders, "What is our plan?"

The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the details publicly.

In a video posted on his Twitter feed late Friday, Trump said both sides should "take the politics out of it" and "get to work" to "make a deal." But he also repeated his warnings, saying: "We have to secure our southern border. If we don't do that, we're a very, very sad and foolish lot."

Few would argue that a humanitarian crisis is unfolding at the U.S.-Mexico border, as the demand for entry by migrants and the Trump administration's hard-line response overwhelm border resources. But critics say Trump has dramatically exaggerated the security risks and they argue that a wall would do little to solve existing problems.

Trump's Friday evening tweeted announcement came after Pelosi on Friday canceled her plans to travel by commercial plane to visit U.S. troops in Afghanistan, saying Trump had caused a security risk by talking about the trip. The White House said there was no such leak.

It was the latest turn in the high-stakes brinkmanship between Trump and Pelosi that has played out against the stalled negotiations.

Pelosi had suggested Trump postpone the annual State of the Union address, a Washington tradition and a platform for his border wall fight with Democrats. It is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 29.

Trump never responded directly. Instead, he abruptly canceled Pelosi's military flight on Thursday, hours before she and a congressional delegation were to depart for Afghanistan on the previously undisclosed visit to U.S. troops. He asserted on Saturday that Pelosi is "under total control of the radical left."

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

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann, Kevin Freking, Jon Lemire, Matthew Daly, Andy Taylor, Mary Clare Jalonick, Matt Lee, Lolita C. Baldor and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Multiple women eyeing 2020 hands Dems 'wonderful challenge'

By ELANA SCHOR and JUANA SUMMERS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Advocates for gender equality are reckoning with what one called a "wonderful challenge" — four or more women running for president in 2020.

For many activists, that means a Democratic field more reflective of a party that counts women as a crucial voting bloc. But the prospect of multiple women seeking the White House also presents obstacles, with no single female candidate holding a claim to women's votes to the degree Hillary Clinton did in 2016. The women's vote, and groups that provide financial and grassroots support, could split. Looming over it all is persistent gender bias and the question of whether Americans are ready to elect a female president.

"We do realize there's still sexism in this country, and what we're trying to do is change minds. I think this country is more than ready for this to happen, I really do," said EMILY's List President Stephanie

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Schriock, whose group aids the campaigns of Democratic women supporting abortion rights up and down the ballot. "But that doesn't make it easy."

For now, many women are basking in the success of the 2018 midterms, which sent a historically diverse class to Congress. Demonstrators were gathering in cities nationwide Saturday for events tied to the third annual Women's March.

And in the nascent days of the Democratic primary, leaders of many advocacy organizations are thrilled that so many women are seeking the presidency. They're not, however, ready to back any particular candidate.

EMILY's List, which spent \$37 million on House races in 2018 and was a pivotal Clinton ally, is "not currently endorsing any candidate for the Democratic nomination for president" in 2020, Schriock said. She demurred when asked if that strategy would change, noting the field is only now taking shape.

A wait-and-see approach works for now, but groups that actively bolster female candidates could face pressure to align with specific campaigns as the primary goes on.

Deirdre Schifeling, executive director of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, said only that the group's estimated 12 million backers are dedicated to defeating President Donald Trump and that she looks forward to working with "all candidates" in the primary.

NARAL Pro-Choice America President Ilyse Hogue said that the abortion rights group has made no firm decision about whether to eventually back one or more Democratic hopefuls and that "we see it as a plus, not a minus, if we haven't endorsed by the Iowa caucus" because it means that members see multiple candidates supporting their goals.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren last month became the first Democratic woman to launch a presidential exploratory effort, joined shortly afterward by New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard. Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota also are eyeing their own efforts in a Democratic primary that could draw dozens of entrants.

Among that top tier of female candidates, Gillibrand is particularly vocal in invoking her gender as a driver of her campaign. She put women's priorities and perspective at the forefront of her launch this week, vowing to fight for children across the country with the same tenacity with which she fights for her own young sons. She's highlighted her work in Washington on behalf of sexual misconduct victims, including her push to address harassment and assault in the military, as well as to reform the way that Congress handles harassment.

Gillibrand is also one of the few prominent 2020 Democrats planning to attend a Women's March event this year, amid anti-Semitism charges that have plagued the event's national leadership team. But the senator, who's personally boosted female candidates through her Off the Sidelines political action committee, said the controversy wouldn't disrupt her commitment to the march's broader mission.

Gillibrand "strongly condemns anti-Semitism from anyone, in all forms," communications director Meredith Kelly said, but she "will not turn her back on the thousands of Iowa women who are joining this locally organized march to advocate for the issues that deeply impact them and their families."

While Warren's campaign has so far emphasized racial and economic inequity more than gender, pundits are already speculating about her and Gillibrand's "likability" — a reminder, for some influential women, of the uneven playing field that Clinton faced challenging Trump.

Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii recalled "all kinds of strange attitudes that come out" when women seek executive office and called for "more attention paid" to gender bias given the historic success of female candidates in 2018. When told that the first question at Gillibrand's post-announcement press conference invoked likability, Hirono quipped: "Don't you think that's such bull---t?"

The presence of several women in the presidential field, activists and analysts say, hopefully can make it easier to identify and shut down sexism.

"Because there are so many women running, it doesn't totally inoculate women from sexism, but it does provide some guardrails," said Shaunna Thomas, executive director of Ultraviolet, a group advocating for gender equality throughout American life.

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Kelly Dittmar, a scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, said, "The fact that we're willing to call it out, that's where the progress is. We have to just be realistic that racism and sexism within our institutions are really deep-seated."

Dittmar also pointed to the political advantages of nominating a woman or person of color "in terms of appealing to particular constituencies who haven't seen themselves represented in the presidency, who haven't felt like the Democratic Party is speaking to them."

And activists representing those constituencies are already making plans to press female candidates on the issues, and not just on more traditionally gender-linked topics such as expanded child care access and abortion rights. Jennifer Epps-Addison, co-executive director of the Center for Popular Democracy, said her group wants to "hear more" from Gillibrand and Harris about criminal justice, for example.

Cecile Richards, who led Planned Parenthood for 12 years, predicted that the high-profile female Democratic candidates would push their male counterparts to work harder to appeal to female voters.

"What do the men who are running for office have to offer women?" Richards asked. "Right now, women have a lot of candidates they can look at who look a lot more like them, who have been on the front lines of their issues for a long, long time."

Fireball at illegal Mexico pipeline tap kills 66; 85 missing

By MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

TLAHUELILPAN, Mexico (AP) — Forensic experts attempted to separate and count charred heaps of corpses in central Mexico on Saturday after a massive fireball erupted at an illegal pipeline tap, killing at least 66 people.

More than 85 other people on Saturday were listed as missing as relatives of the deceased and onlookers gathered around the scene of carnage.

Just a few feet from where the pipeline passed through an alfalfa field, the dead seem to have fallen in heaps, perhaps as they stumbled over each other or tried to help one another in the moments after a geyser of gasoline shot into the air Friday.

The leak was caused by an illegal pipeline tap in the small town of Tlahuelilpan, about 62 miles (100 kilometers) north of Mexico City, according to state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex.

Video footage showed dozens of people in an almost festive atmosphere gathered in a field where a duct had been breached by fuel thieves. Footage then showed flames shooting high into the air against a night sky and the pipeline ablaze. Screaming people ran from the explosion, some themselves burning and waving their arms.

On Saturday, several of the dead lay on their backs, their arms stretched out in agony. Some seemed to have covered their chests in a last attempt to protect themselves from the flames; another few black-charred corpses seemed to embrace each other in death.

Lost shoes were scattered around the scorched field, as were plastic jugs and jerry cans that the victims had carried to gather spilling fuel.

"Ay, no, where is my son?" wailed Hugo Olvera Estrada, whose 13-year-old son, Hugo Olvera Bautista, was at the spot where the fire erupted. Wrapped in a blanket outside a clinic, the man had already gone to six local hospitals looking for his child.

After returning home from middle school yesterday, his father recounted, the boy went to join the crowd scooping up gasoline. Olvera Estrada believed he was influenced by older and supposedly wise men from the town of about 20,000. "The older men brought him," he said.

The tragedy came just three weeks after new President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador launched an offensive against fuel theft gangs that have drilled dangerous, illegal taps into pipelines an astounding 12,581 times in the first 10 months of 2018, an average of about 42 per day.

In an early morning press conference Saturday, Lopez Obrador vowed to continue the fight against the \$3 billion-per-year illegal fuel theft industry.

"We are going to eradicate that which not only causes material damages, it is not only what the nation

loses by this illegal trade, this black market of fuel, but the risk, the danger, the loss of human lives," he said.

He said the attorney general's office will investigate whether the explosion was intentional — caused by an individual or group — or whether the fireball occurred due to the inherent risk of clandestine fuel extraction.

He also called on townspeople to give testimony not only about Friday's events in Hidalgo state, but about the entire black market chain, including who punctures the pipelines, who informs locals about collecting fuel in containers, and how fuel is then put to personal use or sold.

The war against fuel theft was a theme repeated by people in Tlahuelilpan, which is crossed by pipelines and located just a few miles from a refinery.

"What happened here should serve as an example for the whole nation to unite behind the fight that the president is carrying out against this ill," said municipal health director Jorge Aguilar Lopez.

Another pipeline burst into flames earlier Friday in the neighboring state of Queretaro as a result of another illegal tap. Pemex said the fire near the city of San Juan del Rio was "in an unpopulated area and there is no risk to human beings."

In December 2010, authorities also blamed oil thieves for a pipeline explosion in a central Mexico near the capital that killed 28 people, including 13 children.

That blast burned people and scorched homes, affecting 5,000 residents in an area six miles (10 kilometers) wide in San Martin Texmelucan.

Lopez Obrador launched the offensive against illegal taps soon after taking office Dec. 1, deploying 3,200 marines to guard pipelines and refineries.

His administration also shut down pipelines to detect and deter illegal taps, relying more on delivering fuel by tanker truck. There aren't enough trucks, however, and long lines at gas stations have plagued several states.

In Tlahuelilpan, a long, chilling list of the missing was taped outside the window of the local clinic, where dozens of relatives waited for news in their search for loved ones.

Marciel Cervantes fears his brother, Isaac Aurelio Cervantes, is among those lost in Friday's blast. He found the 26-year-old's car parked on the road next to the field, and said his brother hasn't answered his cellphone.

"The people already know what they're getting into with this," he said as he wrapped a blanket tightly around himself against the cold. "But they don't understand."

Associated Press writer Amy Guthrie contributed to this story from Mexico City.

Laquan McDonald's family laments sentence for white officer

By MICHAEL TARM and DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The explosive video of a white Chicago officer shooting a black teenager 16 times shocked consciences around the world with footage of Laquan McDonald getting gunned down as he walked away from police.

The graphic images of McDonald crumpling to the street while bullets kept striking him stirred expectations that the officer might be convicted in the killing and pay a heavy price in prison time.

The verdict came in October — a rare murder conviction for an officer in an on-duty shooting. But on Friday the sentence of less than seven years for Jason Van Dyke — and the possibility that he may serve only half of that — led McDonald's family and at least one activist to question whether justice had been done and the right message sent to other officers.

William Calloway, who was instrumental in the legal battle that led to the release of the dashcam video in 2015, described the penalty as "a slap in the face to us and a slap on the wrist" for Van Dyke.

The sentencing came a day after a different judge acquitted three officers accused of lying about the shooting to protect Van Dyke, who was probably the first Chicago officer ever found guilty in the shooting of an African-American. That verdict also disappointed many Chicagoans who hoped convictions would help

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eradicate a code-of-silence culture that dates back decades among officers in the nation's third-largest city. Van Dyke, 40, was convicted of second-degree murder and 16 counts of aggravated battery — one for each bullet fired at the 17-year-old McDonald.

McDonald's family lamented that the penalty was too light. His great uncle said the sentence reduced McDonald's life to that of "a second-class citizen" and "suggests to us that there are no laws on the books for a black man that a white man is bound to honor."

In a brief statement, Van Dyke acknowledged the teen's death, telling the judge that "as a God-fearing man and father, I will have to live with this the rest of my life."

The sentence of six years and nine months was less than half of the penalty that had been sought by prosecutors, who asked for 18 to 20 years. But it went far beyond the request of defense attorneys, who argued that Van Dyke could be released on probation. The prison term also was a fraction of what Van Dyke could have faced had he been convicted of first-degree murder, which carried a mandatory minimum of 45 years in prison.

Judges typically rebuke defendants during sentencings, even for much lesser crimes, and they often explain why they imposed the sentence they did. But Judge Vincent Gaughan did neither in his brief comments from the bench.

The lead defense attorney, Dan Herbert, said Van Dyke "truly felt great" after learning his sentence. "He was happy about the prospect of life ahead of him" and someday being reunited with his wife and two daughters.

The prosecutor who oversaw the case said he can live with the sentence.

"Our goal was to find the truth, present the truth and ask for justice. ... It was not revenge," special prosecutor Joseph McMahan said.

The judge's decision to deem the second-degree murder conviction the most serious crime — siding with the defense on that question — may also have spared Van Dyke a far longer term behind bars.

Had Gaughan sentenced Van Dyke on the 16 counts of aggravated battery, as prosecutors asked him to do, he could have faced decades in prison. Each aggravated battery count carried a mandatory minimum of six years, and the judge could have ordered those sentences to be served one after the other.

The issue of race loomed over the case for more than four years, although it was rarely raised at trial. One of the only instances was during opening statements, when the special prosecutor told jurors that Van Dyke saw "a black boy walking down the street" who had "the audacity to ignore the police."

On Friday, several black motorists testified that the officer used a racial slur and excessive force during traffic stops in the years before the shooting.

One of those witnesses, Vidale Joy, said Van Dyke used the slur after pulling him over in 2005 and at one point put a gun to Joy's head. He said Van Dyke "looked infuriated" and seemed "out of his mind." Under cross examination, Joy acknowledged that he did not allege Van Dyke used a slur in his first accounts of the stop.

Van Dyke's relatives tried to defend and humanize him, saying he's a good father and not racist.

His wife, Tiffany, said her biggest fear was that somebody would kill her husband in prison "for something he did as a police officer, something he was trained to do."

She looked up over her shoulder and addressed the judge directly: "His life is over. Please, please. He has paid the price already ... I beg for the least amount of time."

On Thursday, Cook County Judge Domenica Stephenson cleared former officer Joseph Walsh, former detective David March and officer Thomas Gaffney on charges of obstruction of justice, official misconduct and conspiracy.

Stephenson accepted the argument that jurors in the Van Dyke case rejected: that the video that sparked protests and a federal investigation of the police force was just one perspective of the events that unfolded on the South Side.

The judge said the video showed only one viewpoint of the confrontation between Van Dyke and the teen armed with a small knife. She found no indication the officers tried to hide evidence or made little effort to talk to witnesses. She singled out how they preserved the graphic video at the heart of the case.

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The video showed Van Dyke opening fire within seconds of getting out of his police vehicle and continuing to shoot the teen while he was lying on the street. On the footage, the teen is seen collapsing in a heap after the first few shots. Bullets kept striking his body for 10 more seconds.

Police were responding to a report of a male who was breaking into trucks and stealing radios on the city's South Side.

City Hall released the video to the public in November 2015 — 13 months after the shooting — and acted only because a judge ordered it to do so. The charges against Van Dyke were not announced until the day of the video's release.

The case cost Van Dyke and the police superintendent their jobs and was widely seen as the reason the county's top prosecutor was voted out of office. It was also thought to be a major factor in Mayor Rahm Emanuel's decision not to seek a third term.

The accusations triggered a federal investigation of the police department that found Chicago officers routinely used excessive force and violated people's rights, particularly minorities.

Associated Press video journalists Noreen Nasir and Teresa Crawford also contributed to this report.

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mtarm>

For more stories about this case, visit AP's Laquan McDonald hub

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's twists on Russia, shutdown, vets

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a week of half-truths, changed stories and outright fabrications in President Donald Trump's Washington.

Trump assailed Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., for playing on the beach in Puerto Rico, though she never went. His vice president echoed Trump's declaration of victory against the Islamic State group despite a deadly suicide bombing for which the militants claimed responsibility. Trump overstated what he's done for veterans.

A look at some of the rhetoric from Trump and his team as the president faced intensifying pressure over the partial government shutdown and scrutiny from Democrats over his dealings with Russia:

THE SHUTDOWN

TRUMP: "Nancy Pelosi's in Hawaii over the holidays, now she's in Puerto Rico with a bunch of Democrats and lobbyists, you know, enjoying the sun and partying down there." — Fox News interview on Jan. 12.

TRUMP: "I'd rather see the Democrats come back from their vacation and act. ... I'm in the White House, and most of them are in different locations. They're watching a certain musical in a very nice location." — Fox News interview.

TRUMP: "A lot of the Democrats were in Puerto Rico celebrating something. I don't know, maybe they're celebrating the shutdown." — comments Monday.

THE FACTS: Far from "enjoying the sun" in Puerto Rico, Pelosi stayed in Washington, which got a big snowfall. She spent that weekend working at the Capitol, said Drew Hammill, her deputy chief of staff.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer did not go to Puerto Rico, either. The senator from New York spent that weekend in New York, said spokesman Justin Goodman.

Most Democratic lawmakers were somewhere other than Puerto Rico. Most who went are members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. They attended the annual winter retreat of the caucus's political and fundraising arm.

Some attended "Hamilton" as the musical opened a two-week run in Puerto Rico expected to raise millions of dollars for artists and cultural groups struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Referring to Democrats at the fundraising performance in his Fox News interview, Trump called it "frankly, ridiculous."

During the trip, lawmakers indeed met political contributors but also made several visits to local and federal

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institutions, said Marieli Padro, spokeswoman for Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez. Last Saturday, a small group visited the veterans' hospital to learn about its needs post-hurricane, while another group met U.S. Coast Guard officials.

Trump is correct that Pelosi visited Hawaii over the Christmas holiday.

KEVIN HASSETT, Trump economic adviser: "You know as soon as it's resolved, then people get their paychecks and the government will go back to acting normal and the economy will go back to the 3 percent growth that President Trump's policies have delivered." — interview Tuesday with Fox Business Network.

THE FACTS: It's true the economy probably will get a boost once the shutdown ends, but few independent economists think that boost will be sustained. The economy is facing other headwinds that make it unlikely growth will return to 2018's pace. Before the shutdown, most independent economists already were forecasting that growth would slow this year as the impact of President Trump's tax credit fades and trade tensions and slowing global growth take a toll.

Even if the government shutdown ends up being a wash in economic terms, with strong growth in the second quarter offsetting weakness in the first, the economy is likely to be weaker this year than last. Scott Anderson, an economist at Bank of the West, expects last year's stock market drop will cause many wealthier households to pull back on spending, a drag on growth this year.

He's not alone. A group of 15 economists at major U.S. banks earlier this month projected that growth would slow to just a 2.1 percent pace in 2019, down from roughly 3 percent in 2018.

The economy's current health is difficult to gauge because the partial shutdown means many economic statistics aren't being released. Recent signs are mixed: The job market is strong, with few layoffs in sight, and manufacturing output rose in December. But higher interest rates have also caused home prices and sales to fall.

TRUMP: "We need strong barriers and walls. Nothing else is going to work." — remarks Thursday at the Pentagon.

TRUMP: "You can have all the people you want dressed in military. You can have ICE. You can have Border Patrol. If you don't have that barrier, there's not a thing you can do. You know, they all say, 'We like technology.' I like technology, too. But we can have all the drones in the world flying around; we can have all the sensors in the world, but if you don't have a strong steel or concrete barrier, there's no way you're going to stop these people from rushing." — remarks Monday in New Orleans.

THE FACTS: The evidence is inconclusive on the effectiveness of border walls or other barriers.

Congress' main watchdog reported in 2017 that the government does not have a way to measure how well barriers work to deter immigrants crossing illegally from Mexico. Despite \$2.3 billion spent by the government on such construction from 2007 to 2015, the Government Accountability Office found that authorities "cannot measure the contribution of fencing to border security operations along the southwest border because it has not developed metrics for this assessment."

Few people dispute that fences contributed to a sharp drop in crossings in cities such as San Diego and El Paso, Texas. Before fences were built in San Diego, crossers played soccer on U.S. soil as vendors hawked tamales, waiting until night fell to overwhelm agents. But those barriers also pushed people into more remote and less-patrolled areas such as in Arizona, where thousands of migrants have perished in extreme heat.

When barriers were built in the Border Patrol's Yuma, Arizona, sector in the mid-2000s, arrests for illegal crossings plummeted 94 percent in three years to 8,363 from 138,438. When barriers were built in San Diego in the 1990s and early 2000s, arrests fell 80 percent over seven years from 524,231 in 1995 to 100,681 in 2002. But both areas also saw sharp increases in Border Patrol staffing during that time, making it difficult to pinpoint why illegal crossings fell so dramatically.

SYRIA

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PENCE: "The caliphate has crumbled, and ISIS has been defeated." — remarks Wednesday at State Department.

THE FACTS: Trump's remark followed the deadly suicide bombing claimed by IS, which demonstrated the extremist group, however weakened, has not been vanquished. The bombing underscored Pentagon assertions that IS is still a threat and capable of deadly attacks.

The attack killed at least 16 people in Syria, including two U.S. service members and two American civilians. It was the deadliest assault on U.S. troops in Syria since American forces went into the country in 2015.

A tweet Wednesday morning by Pence's press secretary, Alyssa Farah, indicated the vice president had been briefed on the attacks before he delivered his remarks claiming the defeat of IS. Pence later released a statement acknowledging the fatalities and IS "remnants" but reaffirming Trump's plan to withdraw troops.

"We will never allow the remnants of ISIS to re-establish their evil and murderous caliphate," he said.

Trump, in a Dec. 19 tweet, announced the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria. He said: "We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency." He said the troops would begin coming home "now." That plan triggered immediate pushback from military leaders and the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Over the past month, however, Trump and others have appeared to adjust the timeline, and U.S. officials have suggested it will probably take several months to withdraw American forces from Syria safely.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

RUDY GIULIANI: Trump's lawyer: "I never said there was no collusion between the campaign (and Russia)." — interview Wednesday with CNN.

THE FACTS: Actually, he did deny in the past that there was any collusion between the Trump campaign and Russians.

Asked by Fox News in July if that was his position, he said, "Correct." Giuliani has previously called the idea of the Trump campaign's collusion with Russia "total fake news." "No collusion," he also said.

Giuliani continued to deny that Trump himself was involved any collusion, whatever others in his campaign may or may not have done.

He sought to clarify his remarks after, saying he had no knowledge of collusion "by any of the thousands of people who worked on the campaign."

Evidence so far points to a broad range of Trump associates who had Russia-related contacts during the 2016 presidential campaign and transition period, and some have been caught lying about it.

VETERANS

TRUMP: "Just announced that Veterans unemployment has reached an 18 year low, really good news for our Vets and their families. Will soon be an all time low! Do you think the media will report on this and all of the other great economic news? — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Trump is wrong in terms of up-to-date monthly data, right when measuring veterans' unemployment over a longer term.

It is true that the average veterans' unemployment rate for 2018 was 3.5 percent, the lowest annual figure since 2000, when it was 2.9 percent.

On a monthly basis, the rate is more volatile. The lowest vets' unemployment rate under Trump was 2.7 percent in October 2017, and it has risen a bit since then to 3.2 percent in December, the latest data available. In the 18 years that the government has tracked veterans' unemployment data, the lowest monthly rate was 2.3 percent in May 2000.

Veterans' unemployment has fallen mostly for the same reasons that joblessness has dropped generally: strong hiring and steady economic growth for the past eight years.

TRUMP: "We got Veterans Choice. We got Veterans Choice approved, which is pretty amazing. They've been trying to get that for years and years — decades and decades." — remarks Monday in New Orleans.

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THE FACTS: No, he is not the first president in “decades and decades” to get Congress to pass a private-sector health program for veterans. Congress first approved the Veterans Choice program in 2014 during the Obama administration.

The program was approved after some veterans died while waiting months for appointments at the Phoenix VA medical center. It allows veterans to see doctors outside the VA system if they must wait more than 30 days for an appointment or drive more than 40 miles to a VA facility.

Trump did sign legislation in June to expand the Choice program, part of his campaign promise to give veterans greater access to private care at government expense. The exact scope of that new program will be subject to yet-to-be-completed rules that will determine veterans’ eligibility as well as federal funding. The VA has yet to resolve long-term financing due to congressional budget caps that could put money for VA or other domestic programs at risk later this year.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Christopher Rugaber in Washington and Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico, contributed to this report.

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Women’s March returns to DC amid shutdown and controversy

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Women’s March was returning to Washington on Saturday, bracing for inclement weather, coping with an ideological split and reconfiguring its route due to the government shutdown.

The original march in 2017, the day after President Donald Trump’s inauguration, drew hundreds of thousands of people. The exact size of the turnout remains subject to a politically charged debate, but it’s generally regarded as the largest Washington protest since the Vietnam era.

Organizer this year submitted a permit application estimating that up to 500,000 people would participate, but the actual turnout was expected to be far lower. Parallel marches were planned in dozens of U.S. cities.

The original plan called for participants to gather on the National Mall. But with the forecast calling for snow and freezing rain and the National Park Service no longer plowing the snow, organizers changed the march’s location and route to start at Freedom Plaza, a few blocks from the White House, and head down Pennsylvania Avenue past the Trump International Hotel.

This year’s march has been roiled by an intense ideological debate.

In November, Teresa Shook, one of the movement’s founders, accused the four main leaders of the national march organization of anti-Semitism. The accusation was leveled at two primary leaders: Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian-American who has criticized Israeli policy, and Tamika Mallory, who has maintained an association with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Shook, a retired lawyer from Hawaii, has been credited with sparking the movement by creating a Facebook event that went viral and snowballed into the massive protest on Jan. 21, 2017. In a Facebook post, she claimed Sarsour and Mallory, along with fellow organizers Bob Bland and Carmen Perez, had “steered the Movement away from its true course” and called for all four to step down.

The four march organizers have denied the charge, but Sarsour has publicly expressed regret that they were not “faster and clearer in helping people understand our values.”

Despite pleas for unity, an alternate women’s march has sprung up in protest and planned a parallel rally in New York on Saturday a few blocks away from the official New York Women’s March protest.

Scientists ID another possible threat to orcas: pink salmon

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Over the years, scientists have identified dams, pollution and vessel noise as causes of the troubling decline of the Pacific Northwest’s resident killer whales. Now, they may have found a new

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and more surprising culprit: pink salmon.

Four salmon researchers were perusing data on the website of the Center for Whale Research, which studies the orcas, several months ago when they noticed a startling trend: that for the past two decades, significantly more of the whales have died in even-numbered years than in odd years.

In a newly published paper, they speculate that the pattern is related to pink salmon, which return to the Salish Sea between Washington state and Canada in enormous numbers every other year — though they're not sure how. They suspect that the huge runs of pink salmon, which have boomed under conservation efforts and changes in ocean conditions in the past two decades, might interfere with the whales' ability to hunt their preferred prey, Chinook salmon.

Given the dire plight of the orcas, which officials say are on the brink of extinction, the researchers decided to publicize their discovery without waiting to investigate its causes.

"The main point was getting out to the public word about this biennial pattern so people can start thinking about this important, completely unexpected factor in the decline of these whales," said one of the authors, Greg Ruggerone. "It's important to better understand what's occurring here because that could help facilitate recovery actions."

Ruggerone, president of Seattle-based Natural Resources Consultants and former chairman of the Columbia River Independent Scientific Advisory Board, and the other authors — Alan Springer of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Leon Shaul of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and independent researcher Gus van Vliet of Auke Bay, Alaska — have previously studied how pink salmon compete for prey with other species.

As news stories chronicled the struggles of the orcas last year — one whale carried her dead calf on her head for 17 days in an apparent effort to revive it — the four biologists looked at data on the Center for Whale Research's site. Thanks to their previous research, it took them only a few minutes to recognize a trend that had escaped the attention of other scientists.

"We know that some are good years for the whales and some are bad years, but we hadn't put it together that it was a biennial trend," said Ken Balcomb, the center's founding director, one of the foremost experts on the so-called Southern Resident killer whales.

Further analyzing the data, the researchers found that from 1998 to 2017, as the population of whales decreased from 92 to 76, more than 3.5 times as many newborn and older whales died during even years — 61, versus 17 in odd years. During that period, there were 32 successful births during odd years, but only 16 during even years.

That biennial pattern did not exist during a prior 22-year period from 1976 to 1997, when the whale population was recovering from efforts to capture orcas for aquarium display, the researchers said.

But in 1998, salmon harvests were curtailed amid efforts to boost runs decimated by overfishing, pollution and habitat loss. A strong change in ocean conditions occurred around the same time, benefiting pink salmon especially by increasing the abundance of zooplankton, which make up much of the pink salmon's diet.

The combined effect of the ocean changes and fishing restrictions has greatly benefited the pinks, which are by far most numerous salmon species in the North Pacific. When they return to the Salish Sea, there are about 50 for each of the bigger, fattier Chinook. Nearly all pinks return to their natal streams in odd years, completing their two-year life cycle, unlike other salmon, which stay in the ocean longer.

Meanwhile, Chinook populations have continued to struggle — the dearth of Chinook is considered the most severe threat to the orcas — and many scientists say they will continue to do so unless four dams on the Lower Snake River are breached. The researchers speculate that the blossoming numbers of pinks in the Salish Sea during odd-numbered years have interfered with the echolocation the orcas use to hunt increasingly sparse Chinook. The orcas almost never eat pink salmon.

Because the whales are such large mammals, the theory goes, the stress caused by the pinks in odd years would not affect their mortality rates and reproductive rates until the following year — and that's why more die in even years.

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Another possibility is that presence of pinks means less food for the Chinook — and thus less food for the orcas, Ruggerone said.

The researchers also put forth a contrary hypothesis: that the presence of pinks somehow enhances the orcas' hunting, improving their survival in odd-numbered years — though they say they have no reason to believe that's the case.

Follow Johnson at <https://twitter.com/GeneAPseattle>

AP Analysis: Climactic events in 1979 shaped modern Mideast

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Revolutionaries in the streets give way to black-and-white images of blindfolded American hostages. Two enemies sign a peace deal after years of hostilities. And one of the world's two superpowers invades its southern neighbor, launching a bloody, decade-long conflict.

These moments and others in 1979, which dominated television sets and newspaper front pages 40 years ago, have shaped the modern Middle East.

Iran's Islamic Revolution changed a stalwart U.S. ally into a regional adversary. Israel's accord with Egypt brought a peace that endures today. The Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan began an insurgency in the country that continues even today.

Like the lines drawn in the sand by the British and French after World War I carving up the Ottoman Empire, the events of 1979 also unexpectedly rippled out to affect today's world.

Perhaps the one moment that still dominates is Iran's Islamic Revolution. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, at the time stricken with terminal cancer, left Iran in January 1979. His departure and the revolution the following month brought to an end to 2,500 years of monarchical rule across Persia.

In its place came the Islamic Republic, where absolute power rests with the country's supreme leader, a Shiite cleric who oversees elected officials and the nation's military and paramilitary forces. Islam suddenly found itself firmly wedded to a newly formed, modern government.

Though Shiites represent a minority of all Muslims worldwide, the takeover offered inspiration to all Islamic militants. It marked a warning for nations across the Middle East that the threat of leftist militants had given way to religious extremists who said they fought in the name of God against the corrupt.

A band of ultraconservative Saudi Sunni militants in November would seize the Grand Mosque in Mecca, home to the cube-shaped Kaaba that Muslims pray toward five times a day, demanding the Al Saud royal family abdicate. A two-week siege that followed ended with an official death toll of 229 killed. The kingdom's rulers soon further embraced Wahhabism, an ultraconservative Islamic doctrine.

In losing Iran's shah, the United States lost its closest ally in the Middle East, one who purchased billions of dollars of American weaponry and allowed spying from his nation on the Soviet Union. America tilted toward Saudi Arabia as the kingdom grew stricter.

Other Mideast nations, nearly all majority Sunni, the main branch of Islam, looked worriedly toward Shiite Iran. In neighboring Iraq, Saddam Hussein orchestrated a televised purge of his Baath Party in July, giving birth to his dictatorship.

Saddam would invade Iran in 1980, starting a bloody eight-year war that killed 1 million people. Dubai's new Jebel Ali port, the world's largest man-made harbor that opened in 1979 in the United Arab Emirates, became a safe haven. That increased trade would boost the sheikhdom, which would see other skyscrapers join its lone high-rise that would become the Dubai World Trade Center, also built in 1979.

President Jimmy Carter, whose administration would be continually challenged by Iran throughout the year, found success elsewhere in the Middle East, bringing two longtime foes together. Egypt under President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel.

The deal saw the two nations end a state of war that existed between them since 1948. Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula, which was demilitarized. The countries would exchange ambassadors and establish air routes.

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Although the peace deal led to Sadat's assassination in 1981, the truce opened the door for Jordan to strike its own pact with Israel in 1994. Today, Gulf Arab nations appear closer to acknowledging Israel themselves. Meanwhile, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi now openly acknowledges that Israel backs Egypt's campaign against Islamic extremists in Sinai.

Iran again would dominate the news with the Nov. 4, 1979, takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, sparked by Carter allowing the shah to receive medical treatment in the U.S. For 444 days, Iran held 52 Americans as captives. A few staffers fled and hid in the home of the Canadian ambassador to Iran before escaping the country with the help of the CIA, a story recounted in the 2012 film "Argo."

American nightly newscasts counted the hostages' days of captivity. Confusion surrounded the crisis. American officials initially thought Iran could be behind the attack on the Grand Mosque in Mecca, which occurred just after the takeover.

Meanwhile, protesters in Pakistan burned down the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad over rumors America had attacked Mecca. Days later, a mob attacked the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya.

Carter, a Democrat, ultimately would lose the 1980 U.S. election, held on the first anniversary of the hostage crisis, to Republican Ronald Reagan. The hostages were released minutes after Regan's inauguration.

Reagan also promised a more muscular U.S. response to the Soviet Union.

The Soviets at the end of 1979 invaded Afghanistan to prop up the deeply unpopular Communist government that had seized power in a bloody coup the year before. They'd occupy the country until 1989 and would face an insurgency of both Afghan and foreign Muslim fighters who viewed the conflict as a holy war, or jihad. The CIA armed the rebels with weaponry, including sophisticated shoulder-fired missiles allowing them to shoot down Soviet helicopters and airplanes.

Among those fighters was a young Saudi from a wealthy family named Osama bin Laden, who years later would create the terror group al-Qaida and mastermind the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The U.S. would abandon Afghanistan to infighting that would see the rise of the Taliban, whom America went to war with after the 9/11 attack for harboring bin Laden and al-Qaida. That war, the longest in American history, continues today.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Jon Gambrell, the acting Gulf news director for The Associated Press, has reported from each of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Iran and other locations across the world since joining the AP in 2006. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellap.

Trump plans to make 'major announcement' on shutdown, border

By JILL COLVIN, LISA MASCARO, ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said he'll be making a "major announcement" on the government shutdown and the southern border on Saturday afternoon as the standstill over his border wall continues into its fifth week. Democrats are now proposing hundreds of millions of dollars for new immigration judges and improvements to ports of entry from Mexico but nothing for the wall, a House aide said, as the party begins fleshing out its vision of improving border security.

After days of bitter clashes between Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, it was unclear if the twin developments represented serious steps toward resolving the nasty partisan fight or posturing. But they were the first tangible signs of movement in a dispute that has caused a partial government shutdown, which Saturday was entering its record 29th day.

Trump's refusal to sign spending bills that lack \$5.7 billion he wants to start constructing that wall, which Democrats oppose, has prompted the shutdown.

The White House declined to provide details late Friday about what the president would be announcing. But Trump was not expected to sign the national emergency declaration he's been threatening as an option to circumvent Congress, according to two people familiar with the planning.

Instead, Trump was expected to propose the outlines of a new deal that the administration believes could potentially pave the way to an end to the shutdown, according to one of the people. They were not

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authorized to discuss the announcement and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The move, amid a shutdown that has left hundreds of thousands of federal workers without paychecks, represents the first major overture by the president since Jan. 8, when he delivered an Oval Office address making the public case for his border wall. Democrats have said they will not negotiate until the government reopens, raising questions about how Trump might move the ball forward.

Democrats were proposing \$563 million to hire 75 more immigration judges, who currently face large backlogs processing cases, and \$524 million to improve ports of entry in Calexico, California, and San Luis, Arizona, the Democratic House aide said. The money is to be added to spending bills, largely negotiated between the House and Senate, that the House plans to vote on next week.

In addition, Democrats were working toward adding money for more border security personnel and for sensors and other technology to a separate bill financing the Department of Homeland Security, but no funds for a wall or other physical barriers, the aide said.

It was possible Democrats would unveil that measure next week as the cornerstone of their border security alternative to Trump's wall, the aide said. Earlier Friday, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., who chairs the House Appropriations Committee's homeland security subcommittee, said in an interview that some Democrats were asking leaders, "What is our plan?"

The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the details publicly. The Democrats' spending plans were first reported by The New York Times.

In a video posted on his Twitter feed late Friday, Trump said both sides should "take the politics out of it" and "get to work" to "make a deal." But he also repeated his warnings, saying: "We have to secure our southern border. If we don't do that, we're a very, very sad and foolish lot."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said only that Trump was "going to continue fighting for border security" and "going to continue looking for the solution" to end what the administration had repeatedly referred to as a "humanitarian and national security crisis at the border."

While few would argue that a humanitarian crisis is unfolding at the U.S.-Mexico border, as the demand for entry by migrants and the Trump administration's hardline response overwhelm border resources, critics say Trump has dramatically exaggerated the security risks and argue that a wall would do little to solve existing problems.

Trump will be speaking from the Diplomatic Room at 3 p.m.

Trump's Friday evening tweeted announcement came after Pelosi, D-Calif., on Friday canceled her plans to travel by commercial plane to visit U.S. troops in Afghanistan, saying Trump had caused a security risk by talking about the trip. The White House said there was no such leak.

It was the latest turn — and potentially the most dangerous — in the high-stakes brinkmanship between Trump and Pelosi that has been playing out against the stalled negotiations over how to end the partial government shutdown.

And it showed once again the willingness of the former hard-charging businessman to hit hard when challenged, as he was earlier this week when Pelosi suggested postponing his State of the Union address until after the shutdown.

It was an unusually combative week between the executive and legislative branches.

Tensions flared when Pelosi suggested Trump postpone the annual State of the Union address, a grand Washington tradition — and a platform for his border wall fight with Democrats — that was tentatively scheduled for Jan. 29.

Trump never responded directly. Instead, he abruptly canceled Pelosi's military flight on Thursday, hours before she and a congressional delegation were to depart for Afghanistan on the previously undisclosed visit to U.S. troops.

Trump belittled the trip as a "public relations event" — even though he had just made a similar stop in a conflict zone during the shutdown — and said it would be best if Pelosi remained in Washington to negotiate to reopen the government.

Pelosi, undeterred, quietly began making her own preparations for the overseas trip.

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But on Friday, Pelosi said her plan to travel by commercial plane had been “leaked” by the White House. “The administration leaked that we were traveling commercially,” Pelosi told reporters at the Capitol. She said it was “very irresponsible on the part of the president.”

She said the State Department told her “the president outing” the original trip made the scene on the ground in Afghanistan “more dangerous because it’s a signal to the bad actors that we’re coming.”

The White House said it had leaked nothing that would cause a security risk.

Denying military aircraft to a senior lawmaker — let alone the speaker, who is second in line to the presidency after the vice president, traveling to a combat region — is very rare.

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California slammed Trump for revealing the closely held travel plan, calling it “completely and utterly irresponsible in every way.”

Some Republicans expressed frustration. Sen. Lindsey Graham tweeted, “One sophomoric response does not deserve another.” He called Pelosi’s State of the Union move “very irresponsible and blatantly political” but said Trump’s reaction was “also inappropriate.”

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

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann, Kevin Freking, Jon Lemire, Matthew Daly, Andy Taylor, Mary Clare Jalonick, Matt Lee, Lolita C. Baldor and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Products made of threatened African wildlife sold at US expo

By **MICHAEL BIESECKER** and **SCOTT SONNER**, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Photos and video taken by animal welfare activists at a recent trophy hunting convention show an array of products crafted from the body parts of threatened big-game animals, including boots, chaps, belts and furniture labeled as elephant leather.

Vendors at the Safari Club International event held last week in Reno, Nevada, also were recorded hawking African vacations to shoot captive-bred lions raised in pens. The club has previously said it wouldn’t allow the sale of so-called canned hunts at its events.

The hidden camera footage was released Friday by the Humane Society of the United States. Both federal and state laws restrict the commercial sale of hides from African elephants, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Nevada’s chief game warden confirmed to The Associated Press on Friday that an investigation is underway to determine if state law was violated.

Safari Club spokesman Steve Comus said Friday the group was also conducting an internal investigation after what he described as allegations based on “what appears to be an unauthorized visit” by the Humane Society. The group didn’t respond to written questions from the AP about what steps it takes to ensure exhibitors at its events are following the law.

The club denied a request earlier this month from the AP for a media credential to attend its annual conference, billed as the nation’s premier big-game hunting show.

“This hunters’ heaven has everything the mind can dream of and occupies more than 650,000 square feet of exhibit space,” the group’s web site boasts. “Six continents are under one roof where SCI members come to book hunts, rendezvous with old friends and shop for the latest guns and hunting equipment.”

Humane Society investigators purchased tickets to the conference and prowled the exhibit booths with concealed cameras. They recorded racks of clothing and other products made from the hides, bones and teeth of imperiled African wildlife.

“Making money off the opportunity to kill these animals for bragging rights is something that most people around the world find appalling,” said Kitty Block, acting president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States. “It’s an elitist hobby of the 1 percent, and there is no place for trophy hunting in today’s world.”

The wares included oil paintings of big-game animals painted on stretched elephant skins, bracelets

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woven from elephant hair and an elephant leather bench. There was also a coffee table made from the skull of a hippopotamus and boxes filled with hippo teeth.

Under a state law passed in 2017, it is illegal in Nevada to purchase, sell or possess with intent to sell any item that contains the body parts of elephant, lion, rhinoceros, tiger, leopard, hippopotamus and other imperiled wildlife. A first offense is a misdemeanor that carries a fine up to \$6,500 or an amount equal to four times the fair market value of the item sold, whichever is greater. Additional violations can be classified as a felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

Tyler Turnipseed, the state's chief game warden, confirmed Friday that his office had opened an investigation as a result of the information and images provided by the Humane Society. He said that there is a learning curve when new laws are implemented and that state officials would work with the Safari Club "to try and prevent unlawful sales in future years."

Though President Donald Trump has decried big-game hunting as a "horror show," his administration reversed Obama-era restrictions on the importation of elephant and lion trophies for personal use or display. But federal law still prohibits the sale or use of the body parts from such international protected species for commercial purposes.

The Safari Club has actively lobbied the Trump administration to loosen restrictions on the importation of wildlife trophies, arguing that the fees paid to African countries by American hunters help to fund anti-poaching and conservation programs. A licensed two-week African hunting safari can cost more than \$50,000 per person, not including airfare, according to advertised rates.

The AP reported last year that a federal advisory board created by then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to advise his agency on the issue was stuffed with big game hunters. At least seven of the 16 members of the International Wildlife Conservation Council are Safari Club members, including the group's president.

In a February 2018 media release, the Safari Club said it would no longer support the practice of breeding lions in captivity so they can be shot for trophies, saying the practice "has doubtful value to the conservation of lions in the wild." The club also pledged not to accept advertising from the operators of such canned hunts or allow such trips to be sold at its annual convention.

In the video released by the Humane Society of Friday, multiple vendors at the Safari Club conference were recording salesmen pitching hunts of captive-bred lions in South Africa, describing how the lions would be "placed" where they could be easily shot. Vendors also described hunts where lions were baited using the meat from giraffes or other animals, with one guide bragging that a customer had shot a lion in less than 90 minutes.

Associated Press investigative reporter Michael Biesecker reported from Washington.

Follow Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Travel industry fears damage from a long government shutdown

By **DAVID KOENIG** and **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**, Associated Press

America's busiest airport, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International, is a blur of activity on the best of days. But an extra layer of anxiety gripped the airport Friday, the eve of a three-day holiday weekend. The partial government shutdown — the longest ever — has thinned the ranks of federal workers who staff airport security lines. And some travelers had braced for the worst.

"I have a 3 o'clock flight, and I arrived at 10:15 a.m.," Beth Lambert said while waiting to check in at a Delta Air Lines counter as her 5-year-old, Michael, rode around on his wheeled bag like a scooter. "We're going to be hanging out for a while."

The scene at most of the nation's airports has so far been marked more by concerned passengers showing up early than by missed flights. Longer lines are evident at some airports. But delays resulting from a rise in federal security screeners calling in sick have been slight.

Yet concern is quickly growing. President Donald Trump and Democrats in Congress remain far apart over

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Trump's insistence on funding for a wall along the Mexican border as the price of reopening the government. With the two sides trading taunts and avoiding talks, travel industry analysts and economists have been calculating the potential damage should the shutdown drag into February or beyond.

Airlines and hotels would suffer. So would parks and restaurants that cater to travelers. And, eventually, the broader U.S. economy, already absorbing a trade war with China and a global economic slowdown, would endure another blow.

The travel and tourism industries generate about \$1.6 trillion in U.S. economic activity — one-twelfth of the economy — and one in 20 jobs, according to the Commerce Department. Macroeconomic Advisers says it now expects the economy to expand at just a 1.4 percent annual rate in the first three months of this year, down from its previous forecast of 1.6 percent, because of reduced government spending during the shutdown.

America's air-travel system will face its sternest this weekend, which coincides with Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, a federal holiday.

On Friday, the Transportation Security Administration sent a small team of extra screeners to beef up checkpoints at the airport in Newark, New Jersey, which has had among the longest lines in the country this week.

The TSA predicts it will screen over 8 million passengers between Friday and Monday, up 10.8 percent from last year's MLK weekend. And it will do so with fewer screeners. On Thursday, the TSA said 6.4 percent of screeners missed work — nearly double the 3.8 percent rate on the same day in 2018.

A TSA spokesman said the agency was offering overtime to screeners for this weekend, though those workers wouldn't be paid — for their regular pay or for overtime— until the shutdown eventually ends.

On top of potentially longer airport security lines this weekend, a blast of winter weather could snarl travel this weekend in the Midwest and Northeast.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, home to Delta Air Lines, has likely been the hardest hit airport. Delta said this week that the shutdown will cost it \$25 million in January because fewer federal employees and contractors will be flying. By contrast, United Airlines, which has a substantial presence around Washington, D.C., said it hasn't felt much impact yet.

But the airlines fear that if the shutdown doesn't end soon, more TSA agents will call in sick or quit. A shortage of screeners would cause security lines to swell. Air traffic controllers, who are also working without pay, say they, too, are short-staffed. If the controller shortage became severe enough, the government could restrict the number of flights, though some analysts think that's unlikely.

"Luckily this is the low season — January is one of the weakest months of the year," said Savanthi Syth, an airline analyst for Raymond James. "This spilling into February is a real concern. The risk is that the longer this drags out, it might cause some passengers to say, 'I don't want to deal with all the hassle, maybe I won't take that trip.'"

Consumers are, in fact, taking a dimmer view of the economy, in part because of the shutdown. A measure of consumer confidence fell this month by the most in more than six years, according to the University of Michigan, which conducts the survey. If Americans were to cut back on travel and other discretionary spending, it would weaken consumer spending, the U.S. company's primary fuel.

Laura Mandala, who runs a travel and tourism research firm, said the shutdown might discourage international travelers, too.

"These uncertainties will result in fewer conferences being booked," Mandala said, leading to "convention and hotel staff layoffs, reduced schedules, resulting in less income for workers to spend in the local economy."

Hotels are starting to feel the impact, particularly in the Washington, D.C., region but also in other cities with substantial federal workforces, such as San Diego, which has a large naval base.

In the Washington area, including its nearby suburbs in Maryland and Virginia, hotel revenue plunged 26 percent in the second week of January compared with the same period last year, according to STR, a travel research firm. That's much steeper than the 8 percent decline that occurred nationwide.

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Michael Bellisario, an analyst for investment bank R.W. Baird, suggested that other factors accounted for the most of the nationwide drop but said the shutdown almost certainly played a role.

"In no way is the government shutdown a positive for hotel demand and travel," Bellisario said.

If the shutdown lingers and people see more reports of long TSA lines on television news, "they will say, 'Oh wow, traveling is hard,' and that impacts the hotel industry," said Jan Freitag, a senior vice president at STR.

For now, though, the most visible impact has been at airports. One of the seven checkpoints at Houston's main airport has been closed all week and will remain so indefinitely, a spokesman said. Miami closed one concourse during the afternoons and evenings last weekend. On the other hand, officials at airports in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami said they weren't experiencing any problems.

The problems would emerge if the shutdown persists, and the damage would extend to the private companies that operate airport shops and restaurants.

Mike Boyd, an airport consultant in Colorado, noted that a pullback in travel would be felt most in airports that are heavily dependent on government employees such as Reagan National Airport outside Washington, Manhattan Regional Airport in Kansas, near the Army's Fort Riley, and Watertown International Airport in upstate New York, near Fort Drum.

Federal employees going without pay — there are about 800,000 of them, including 420,000 who are still working — are already suffering, of course.

"We still have to make sure our kids eat, make sure to have a roof over their head," said Shalique Caraballo, whose wife is a TSA worker in Atlanta. "We sweat in private and don't let the kids see the struggle."

Some in the airline industry and even in Congress have suggested that longer TSA security lines could exert enough pressure on politicians to break the stalemate that is keeping the government shuttered.

Others have all but lost hope.

"I would love to think that politicians understand that travel and tourism is an incredibly important gear in the economy," said Ninan Chacko, CEO of Travel Leaders Group, which owns and manages travel agencies, "but I don't think that is really the rational discussion that is taking place in Washington."

Koenig reported from Dallas and Rugaber from Washington. AP staffers Sarah Blake Morgan and Ron Harris in Atlanta and Cathy Bussewitz in New York contributed to this report.

Stocks keep climbing as hopes for US-China trade deal rise

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks in the U.S. and Europe jumped Friday as renewed hopes for progress in trade talks between the U.S. and China helped the markets finish the week with another strong gain.

Indexes jumped after Bloomberg News reported that China's government offered to buy more goods and services from the U.S., potentially eliminating its trade deficit by 2024. For investors, the encouraging news on trade builds on recent positive signs for the U.S. economy and indications from the Federal Reserve that it will be patient when considering future interest rate hikes.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is up 5.9 percent and the S&P 500 index has risen 6.5 percent so far this year, a surprisingly strong showing coming off a punishing end to 2018.

Technology and industrial companies made some of the top gains, while banks rose after around round of solid fourth-quarter earnings reports. Oil and copper prices rose, while gold and bond prices fell. Those are all signs traders felt more optimistic about global economic growth.

Over the last few days investors grew steadily more hopeful the U.S. and China are narrowing their differences over trade. On Wednesday the Chinese government said the top trade envoys from both countries will meet at the end of January.

"What you can see that is significant is that both sides are trying," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager of Globalt Investments. "Everybody feels like they've now made their point" after the two nations spent most of 2018 staking out positions and occasionally making threats.

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Martin said the Federal Reserve has also made a big contribution to the rally.

The S&P 500 climbed 34.75 points, or 1.3 percent, to 2,670.71. The Dow jumped 336.25 points, or 1.4 percent, to 24,706.35. The Nasdaq composite added 72.76 points, or 1 percent, to 7,157.23.

Stock indexes have surged since reaching a low point on Christmas Eve, as the S&P 500 has risen for four weeks in a row. It climbed 2.9 percent this week. It's risen at least 1.9 percent every week during that rally. The last time the index rose at least 1.5 percent for four weeks in a row was in early 2009, in the wake of the financial crisis, according to LPL Financial Senior Market Strategist Ryan Detrick.

The U.S. trade imbalance with China has been a source of constant complaints from President Donald Trump. That deficit grew to a record \$323.3 billion in 2018, and eliminating it could mean hundreds of billions of dollars in increased sales for U.S. companies. The two countries have raised taxes on billions of dollars of each other's goods in the spat over the trade deficit, Beijing's manufacturing plans, and U.S. complaints that China steals technology from foreign companies.

Stocks sank in late 2018 as investors worried that global economic growth, and U.S. growth in particular, would slow significantly. Threats including the U.S.-China trade dispute, rising interest rates in the U.S., slowing growth in China and Europe, and unstable political situations like Brexit all made it seem like 2019 could be a disappointing year and some investors felt a recession was a possibility.

But now they're starting to think it won't get that bad. There are signs trade talks are progressing. The U.S. economy doesn't appear to have slowed much and China is working to perk up its economy. Resolving the trade dispute would also resolve an obstacle to growth for the global economy and corporate profits. The S&P 500, the main benchmark for U.S. stocks, fell 19.8 percent from late September to late December and has recovered more than half of those losses.

Trucking and logistics company J.B. Hunt Transportation jumped 6.2 percent to \$106.11 and railroad company Kansas City Southern climbed 6.1 percent to \$110.52 after their fourth-quarter reports.

European stocks jumped. Germany's DAX climbed 2.6 percent and the FTSE 100 in Britain rose 2 percent. The French CAC 40 gained 1.7 percent.

Faster economic growth would mean more demand for oil, and prices climbed. U.S. crude rose 3.3 percent to \$53.80 in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 2.5 percent to \$62.70 a barrel in London.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.79 percent from 2.74 percent. High-dividend stocks like utilities lagged the rest of the market. They tend to rise when investors are worried about the economy.

Tesla fell 13 percent to \$302.26 after the company said it would cut 7 percent of its jobs. CEO Elon Musk said the cuts are meant to reduce costs as the company lowers the price for its cars. He said in a note to staff that the road ahead is "very difficult."

Asian stocks also finished higher. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 1.2 percent and the Nikkei 225 in Japan rose 1.3 percent. Seoul's Kospi added 0.8 percent.

In other commodities trading, wholesale gasoline rose 1.6 percent to \$1.45 a gallon and heating oil added 1.6 percent to \$1.92 a gallon. Natural gas jumped 2 percent to \$3.48 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold dropped 0.8 percent to \$1,282.70 an ounce and silver fell 0.9 percent to \$15.40 an ounce. Copper rose 1.5 percent to \$2.72 a pound.

The dollar rose to 109.79 yen from 109.23 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1370 from \$1.1390.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP>

Today in History **By The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Jan. 19, the 19th day of 2019. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

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On Jan. 19, 1955, a presidential news conference was filmed for television and newsreels for the first time, with the permission of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

On this date:

In 1807, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

In 1809, author, poet and critic Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston.

In 1861, Georgia became the fifth state to secede from the Union.

In 1915, Germany carried out its first air raid on Britain during World War I as a pair of Zeppelins dropped bombs onto Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn in England.

In 1937, millionaire Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record by flying his monoplane from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, in 7 hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds.

In 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces captured the British protectorate of North Borneo. A German submarine sank the Canadian liner RMS Lady Hawkins off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, killing 251 people; 71 survived.

In 1944, the federal government relinquished control of the nation's railroads to their owners following settlement of a wage dispute.

In 1953, CBS-TV aired the widely watched episode of "I Love Lucy" in which Lucy Ricardo, played by Lucille Ball, gave birth to Little Ricky. (By coincidence, Ball gave birth the same day to her son, Desi Arnaz Jr.)

In 1966, Indira Gandhi was chosen to be prime minister of India by the National Congress party.

In 1977, President Gerald R. Ford pardoned Iva Toguri D'Aquino, an American convicted of treason for making radio broadcasts aimed at demoralizing Allied troops in the Pacific Theater during World War II. (Although she was popularly referred to as "Tokyo Rose," D'Aquino never used that name.)

In 1981, the United States and Iran signed an accord paving the way for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for more than 14 months.

In 1998, "rockabilly" pioneer Carl Perkins died in Jackson, Tennessee, at age 65.

Ten years ago: Russia and Ukraine signed a deal restoring natural gas shipments to Ukraine and paving the way for an end to the nearly two-week cutoff of most Russian gas to a freezing Europe.

Five years ago: An Islamic militant group in Russia's North Caucasus claimed responsibility for recent twin bombings in the southern city of Volgograd and posted a video threatening to strike at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. Peyton Manning threw for 400 yards and two touchdowns to lead Denver to a 26-16 victory over New England and send the AFC champion Broncos to their first trip to the Super Bowl in 15 years. Russell Wilson threw a 35-yard touchdown pass on fourth down and Seattle's top-ranked defense forced two late turnovers, lifting the Seahawks into their second Super Bowl with a 23-17 victory over the San Francisco 49ers for the NFC championship.

One year ago: The Supreme Court agreed to decide the legality of the latest version of President Donald Trump's ban on travel to the United States by residents of six majority-Muslim countries. (A sharply divided court would uphold the ban in a 5-4 decision in June.) Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman joined dozens of other women and girls in confronting her former doctor, Larry Nassar, at his sentencing hearing for multiple sexual assaults; she warned him that the testimony of the "powerful army" of survivors would haunt him in prison. After a record year in per-capita homicides, Baltimore's mayor fired the city's police commissioner, Kevin Davis, replacing him with Deputy Commissioner Darryl DeSousa. Amazon announced that it was raising the monthly price of its Prime membership plan by nearly 20 percent, to \$12.99. (The fee for an annual membership would also rise 20 percent a few months later, to \$119 a year.)

Today's Birthdays: Former U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is 99. Actress Tippi Hedren is 89. Former PBS newsman Robert MacNeil is 88. Movie director Richard Lester is 87. Actor-singer Michael Crawford is 77. Actress Shelley Fabares (fab-RAY') is 75. Country singer Dolly Parton is 73. Former ABC newswoman Ann Compton is 72. TV chef Paula Deen is 72. Rock singer Martha Davis is 68. Singer Dewey Bunnell (America) is 67. Actor Desi Arnaz Jr. is 66. Actress Katey Sagal is 65. Comedian Paul Rodriguez is 64. Conductor Sir Simon Rattle is 64. Reggae musician Mickey Virtue (UB40) is 62. Rock musician Jeff Pilson (Foreigner) is 61. Actor Paul McCrane is 58. Actor William Ragsdale is 58. Basketball coach Jeff Van

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Gundy is 57. International Tennis Hall of Famer Stefan Edberg is 53. Rock singer Whitfield Crane (Ugly Kid Joe) is 51. Singer Trey Lorenz is 50. Actor Shawn Wayans is 48. Rock singer-musician John Wozniak (Marcy Playground) is 48. Actress Drea (DRAY-uh') de Matteo is 47. Comedian-impressionist Frank Caliendo is 45. Actor Drew Powell is 43. Actress Marsha Thomason is 43. Actress Bitsie Tulloch is 38. Actress Jodie Sweetin is 37. Movie director Damien Chazelle is 34. Actress Shaunette Renee Wilson is 29. Actor Logan Lerman is 27. Olympic gold medal gymnast Shawn Johnson is 27. Rapper Taylor Bennett is 23. Actress Lidya Jewett is 12.

Thought for Today: "Life is a foreign language; all men mispronounce it." — Christopher Darlington Morley, American journalist (1890-1957).