

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 1 of 45



Sunday was rehearsal for the Carnival of Silver Skates. The event is planned for this Sunday at the Groton Skating Rink. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

6:30 p.m.: Groton Area girls basketball hosts Clark/Willow Lake

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

8:30pm- 12:15pm: MathCounts at Aberdeen Simmons Middle School

Thursday, January 24, 2019

4:00pm: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Northeast Conference @ Deuel High School

Friday, January 25, 2019

Lewis and Clark Debate at Yankton High School

Boys basketball at Clark (7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade game at 5 p.m., junior varsity at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.)

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.

It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Clark/
Willow Lake
Cyclones VS**



Groton Area Tigers

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019

8:00 p.m.

at the Groton Area Arena

Broadcast Sponsored by
Allied Climate Professionals
Bahr Spray Foam
Blocker Construction
Doug Abeln Seed Company
James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgensen
John Sieh Agency
Locke Electric
Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.
Northeast Chiropractic Clinic
Professional Management Services, Inc.
Sanford Health
Tyson DeHoet Trucking
Weber Landscaping

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 3 of 45

DAK-XII v. NEC CONFERENCE CLASH



SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2019 – MADISON, SD

GAMES WILL BE PLAYED AT MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

BOYS PAIRINGS

| Madison HS Aux. Gym | | Madison HS Main Gym | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 10:45 AM | Webster Area vs. Elk Point-Jefferson | 10:00 AM | Worthington, MN vs. Madison |
| 12:30 PM | Deuel vs. Canton | 11:45 AM | Sisseton vs. Dell Rapids |
| 2:15 PM | Milbank vs. West Central | 1:30 PM | Britton-Hecla vs. Lennox |
| 4:00 PM | Redfield/Doland vs. Tri-Valley | 3:15 PM | Hamlin vs. Dakota Valley |
| 5:45 PM | Groton Area vs. Vermillion | 5:00 PM | Aberdeen Roncalli vs. Sioux Falls Christian |
| | | 6:45 PM | Clark/Willow Lake vs. Tea Area |

ADULTS \$7 – STUDENTS \$4

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 4 of 45

Lazy Farmers 4-H

The December 9, 2018 meeting of the Lazy Farmers was held at Kayde Stange's farm. The meeting was called to order by Devan Howard. Cami Craig led us in the US pledge and Kayde Stange led us in the 4-H pledge. The club held their annual Christmas party at the Stange farm. There were no talks or demonstrations. The next meeting will be held January the 6th at 3 pm at Jameson Stanges house.

Respectfully, Faith Flihs reporter

The January 6th meeting place was changed to Northern Electric and the time changed to 4:30. Cassandra and Travis Townsend were the hosts. Porter Jones lead us in the US pledge and Kayla Leir lead us in the 4-H pledge. Logan Peterson did a demonstration on how to make Monster Cookies, Travis Townsend did a talk about 3-D printing, Cassandra Townsend did a demonstration on how to make a Mason Jar Recipe, Faith Flihs did a talk on The Parts of a Bow, Jayla Jones did a talk on How a herd can benefit a Horses Health, Lexi Osterman did a demonstration on How to Make Ice Cream Cubes, and she also did a talk about Water usage, Alica Davis did a demonstration on Creating Faux Finishes, Journey Zieroth did a demonstration on how to make a paper snowflake, Delayne Jones did a talk about Coon Coon Pigs, Devan Howard did a talk about Driving Tips in the Winter, Tessa Erdmann did a talk on 4-H ambassador. The next meeting will tentatively be held Febuary 10th at Jameson Stanges starting with crafts at 1:00pm and meeting at 2:30

Respectfully, Faith Flihs reporter

MTI Fall President's List

A total of 347 students at Mitchell Technical Institute have been placed on the Fall Semester 2018 President's List, according to MTI President Mark Wilson. Students must earn a term GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and complete at least 12 hours of academic work during the semester. Tevin Abeln, Dillon Freeman and Peyton Jondahl all of Groton, McClain Lone, Bristol, were named to the President's List.

**Cook/
Dietary Aide**

Flexible schedule and
new wage scale.

**HELP
WANTED**



Contact Pam Rohrbach



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

**1106 North Second Street
605.397.2365**

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 5 of 45

G.A.T. Wrenches and G-Force are champions of Groton Robotics Tournament

Groton Robotics' G-Force team (Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon, Dan Feist, Corbin Reich) and their alliance partner G.A.T. Wrenches (Noah Tullis, Thomas Cranford, Adrian Knutson) were victorious over an alliance of Groton Robotics' Gear Heads (Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Axel Warrington, Kamryn Flihs) and a Britton-Hecla team in the championship robotics match Saturday, January 19 in Groton.

The fast moving, cap flipping robot of Gear Heads added a defensive cap-descoring arm for this tournament. This added another dimension to their game strategy, making them more competitive and helping them advance to tournament finals for the first time this year. The teams' efforts are paying off.

Teams came from Eureka, Britton-Hecla and Sioux Falls to compete with Groton. Due to the weather, Box Elder, Mitchell, Harrisburg and Menno were not able make it to the tournament. In South Dakota right now there are 43 teams registered from 15 different communities competing in VEX middle/high school robotics. Other communities are Canton, Rapid City, Lead/Deadwood, North Sioux City, Spearfish, Jefferson and Vermillion

If you want to know more about Vex Robotics, here are a couple of websites to check out: www.robotevents.com and www.roboticseducation.org . You also may talk to any GT Robotics member or their coach, Jim Lane.

The Kiwanis club has asked the GT Robotics club to partner with them at their annual pancake brunch. Please come to the community center January 27 for pancakes. Tickets are on sale now from either Kiwanis or GT Robotics members or available at the door.

Results from the Groton competition for all five of GT Robotics' teams are below, along with results for this year's prior tournaments. Not to brag, but Groton has had a team in the championship match in every tournament so far this year! Please pat these young robotists on the back for their work all year long.

Rankings of GT Robotics teams at the end of qualifying rounds for the tournaments:

| Tournament | | Groton | Mitchell | Harrisburg | Rapid City | Canton | Groton |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Number of teams in Tourney | | 11 | 23 | 24 | 20 | 16 | 13 |
| 9050A | G-Force | 2 | 22 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| 9050B | Gear Heads | 10 | 19 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 4 |
| 9050C | G.A.T. Wrenches | 11 | 16 | 2 | n/a | 3 | 1 |
| 9050D | Geek Squad | 7 | 18 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 9 |
| 9050E | Galaxy | 5 | 3 | 19 | 13 | 12 | 11 |

How far did GT Robotics team get in elimination rounds (playoffs)?

| Tournament | | Groton | Mitchell | Harrisburg | Rapid City | Canton | Groton |
|------------|-----------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|---------|----------|
| 9050A | G-Force | Champion | | Champion | Finals | Finals | Champion |
| 9050B | Gear Heads | | Quarter | Quarter | Semi | Semi | Finals |
| 9050C | G.A.T. Wrenches | Finals | Semi | Finals | n/a | Finals | Champion |
| 9050D | Geek Squad | Semi | Quarter | Quarter | Quarter | Quarter | Quarter |
| 9050E | Galaxy | Semi | Finals | Quarter | Quarter | Quarter | Semi |

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 6 of 45

The Life of Linda Dobbins



Services for Linda Dobbins, 70, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday January 24th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Bill Duncan will officiate. Burial will follow in Summit at a later date.

Visitation will be held at the chapel from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Linda passed away January 18, 2019 at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Linda Fay Clark was born on December 19, 1948 in Sisseton, SD to Edwin and Mavis (Anderson) Clark. She grew up on a farm north of Summit and attended school in Summit. Linda later helped on the family farm following her dad's passing. She married James Brotzel and together they had two daughters, Tracey and Tina. On January 17, 1976 Linda was united in marriage to Leslie Dobbins in Aberdeen, SD. They welcomed daughters, Trixy, Teresa, Paula and a son, Perryn. In 1979, the couple moved to a farm near Groton and resided there for 10 years, later moving into Groton. Linda worked at several café's including the Blue Buffalo Café, Andover Café and Hub City Livestock/Stockman's, where she affectionately earned the nickname "Grandma Moo."

Linda enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren and especially loved traveling with them. She was involved with Community Event Pick-Ups for the Lions, Kiwanis and Exchange Club. Linda was an animal lover and her dogs held a special place in her heart.

Celebrating her life are her children: Tracey (Jack) Lowery of Summit, Tina (Paul) Kosel of Groton, Trixy Schwabe of Groton, Teresa (Ron) Lutz of Henry, Paula (Dean) Kramer of Aberdeen and Perryn (Angela) Dobbins of Groton, 15 grandchildren, her brother, Robert Clark of Groton and sister, Judy (Doug) Orton of Boise, Idaho.

Preceding her in death were her parents and her husband, Leslie.

Honorary Casketbearers will be her grandchildren: Jack, Jr., James, Jeffery, Dominique, Douglas, Danielle, Mackenzie, Logan, Julianna, Jeslyn, Hunter, Crystal, Jaden, Toby and Rachel.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 7 of 45

WINTER STORM WATCH

Issue Date: 3:29 AM Tue, Jan 22, 2019

Expiration: 9:00 AM Thu, Jan 24, 2019

...GROUND BLIZZARD CONDITIONS POSSIBLE WEDNESDAY NIGHT...

...WINTER STORM WATCH IN EFFECT FROM WEDNESDAY EVENING THROUGH THURSDAY MORNING...

- * WHAT...Blizzard conditions possible. Winds could gust as high as 45 mph.
- * WHERE...Portions of northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota.
- * WHEN...From Wednesday evening through Thursday morning.
- * ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning commute.

A Winter Storm Watch for blizzard conditions means there is a potential for falling and/or blowing snow with strong winds and extremely poor visibilities. This can lead to whiteout conditions and make travel very dangerous.



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”

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 8 of 45

DeHoet had double-double night against Northwestern

Northwestern watched an insurmountable lead take a free fall in the third quarter, but the Wildcats hung on to win with a late surge, 63-56.

Northwestern took a 12-8 first quarter lead and outscored Groton Area in the second quarter, 25-11, to take a 37-19 lead at half time.

The Tigers scored the first 10 points of the third quarter and then closed to within six, 39-33. The Wildcats surged ahead with an eight point run to lead it, 47-33 at the end of the third quarter.

Once again, Groton Area rallied to close to within six, 54-48, and again at 60-54.

Brodyn DeHoet had a double-double night with 16 points and 18 rebounds. Treyton Diegel added 15 points followed by Jonathon Doeden with nine, Austin Jones had six points and seven rebounds, and Cade Guthmiller and Kaden Kurtz each had five points.

Four players did all of the scoring for Northwestern with Zach Clemens having 33 points, Caleb Schentzel had 15, Jarret Haven had 11 and Dalton Peterson had four points.

Groton Area made 19 of 62 field goals for 31 percent while Northwestern made 23 of 57 for 40 percent. The Tigers made 13 of 23 free throws for 56 percent off of Northwestern's 18 team fouls. Northwestern made 15 of 24 free throws for 63 percent off of Groton Area's 22 team fouls. Fouling out were Groton's Guthmiller and DeHoet and Northwestern's Gavin Bohl.

Groton Area was five of 21 in three-pointers for 24 percent with DeHoet and Diegel each marking two and Guthmiller one. Northwestern was two of 12 for 17 percent with Clemens and Schentzel each making one.

Both teams had 38 rebounds. Diegel and Kurtz each had two of the team's eight assists. Groton Area had 10 turnovers with three of them being steals. Northwestern had 11 turnovers with four of them being steals as Kurtz had two steals.

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

The Tigers are now 4-7 on the season and will be at Clark on Friday.

Northwestern won the junior varsity game in overtime, 40-37. Chandler Larson led the Tigers with 11 points followed by Jayden Zak with six, Cyruss DeHoet with five, Abdimalik Mohamed and Isaac Smith with four each, Jackson Cogley had three and Lane Tietz and Jace Kroll each had two points. DeHoet and Larson each made one three-pointer. Zak and Mohamed each had five rebounds and Larson had four steals.

Groton Area won the C game, 35-33. Jordan Bjerke led the Tigers with 20 points followed by Jackson Cogley and Cole Simon with five each, Wyatt Hearnen had three and Kannon Coats added two points. Bjerke made two three-pointers and Simon made one. Hearnen had four rebounds, Cogley had two assists and three steals.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 9 of 45

Today in Weather History

January 22, 1973: Chinook winds during the early morning hours caused the temperature at Spearfish, South Dakota to rise from 4 below zero to 45 above in just two minutes, the most dramatic temperature rise in the world. An hour and a half later the mercury plunged from 54 above to 4 below zero in 27 minutes. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the National Weather Service office in Rapid City.

January 22, 1982: A winter storm lasting three days from the 22nd to the 24th virtually paralyzed South Dakota with snowfall of 6 to 20 inches. Subzero temperatures statewide coupled with strong winds of 30 to 50 mph brought wind chills of 50 to 70 below zero. One woman died of exposure near her home in Aurora County. Snow drifted as high as 15 feet. Blowing snow caused a reduction in visibility to near zero for most of the duration of the storm. Hundreds of motorists were stranded. Numerous traffic accidents occurred due to near zero visibilities. Some power outages occurred. Major highways, interstates, and airports were closed. Numerous businesses and schools were closed for several days.






January 22, 2010: A powerful mid-season winter storm moved northeast out of the four corners region of the United States and into the Northern Plains. Ahead of this system, warm and moist air streamed northward creating widespread fog and freezing fog conditions during the days leading up to the event. Heavy rime frost began to accumulate on power lines and tower guide wires, placing a heavy strain on them by the time the freezing rain arrived in the late morning and afternoon hours on Friday, January 22nd. Along with the freezing rain, southeast winds gusting to 30 mph also created a strain on sagging power lines. Scattered power outages were reported as early as Tuesday, January 19th due to the frost covered lines, but the majority of the power lines and power pole damage occurred during the evening of the 22nd and the morning of the 23rd. The freezing rain that arrived during the afternoon and evening of the 22nd was the proverbial "straw that broke the camel's back." By the time the rain, freezing rain, and snow ended Saturday morning, January 23rd, nearly every power cooperative across central and northeast South Dakota suffered extensive power pole and power line damage. Also, several radio and television towers were downed by the icing and strong winds. The heavy icing and strong winds downed over 5000 power poles along with 21,000 miles of power lines across South Dakota leaving thousands of households without power. Several homes sustained substantial damage caused by broken water pipes. Power was still not restored for many customers until several weeks after the event. Power line crews from Minnesota, Kansas, and Oklahoma were called upon to help restore power. Several counties, along with the state emergency operations center, opened emergency shelters for people to stay. Forty-one National Guard members were on active duty across the state helping to restore power. Many flights were delayed or canceled at several airports. The ice and the wind also helped topple a canopy at a truck stop at the intersection of Highway 20 and 212. On January 23rd, a radio and television transmission tower northwest of South Shore was downed along with a tower north of Reliance and a radio tower southwest of Marvin. The hardest hit area with this storm was the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Sioux reservations in central and north central South Dakota. With no electricity, residents were dependent on donations of food, bottled water, blankets, heat and light sources, toiletries, and cots. The rural water system serving the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe was shut down resulting in the state EOC shipping water to the reservation. The Governor asked for a presidential disaster declaration for most of the counties and three reservations. The request was for both public and individual assistance for total damages estimated over 20 million dollars for the state.

1904: An unusual estimated F4 tornado leveled the northern part of Moundville, Alabama just after midnight, killing 37 people. The tornado reportedly had a phosphorescent glow. An engineer on a northbound Great Southern train saw the destruction right after it occurred, and backed his train 12 miles in reverse to the town of Akron, where he sent a telegram for help. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS Office in Birmingham, Alabama.

1937: Low of 9 degrees above zero in Las Vegas froze many pipes. Schools had trouble keeping warm, and coal was in short supply in the city. January 1937 was the coldest month on record for Las Vegas with an average temperature of 31.2 degrees, which is 17.5 degrees below normal.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 10 of 45

| Today | Tonight | Wednesday | Wednesday Night | Thursday |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy | Partly Cloudy then Patchy Fog | Areas Fog then Mostly Sunny | Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery | Patchy Blowing Snow then Mostly Sunny |
| High: 17 °F | Low: -1 °F | High: 26 °F | Low: -3 °F | High: -2 °F |

Today through Friday

Light Snow Tapering Off This Morning

Breezy Wed night through Thursday morning

Blizzard conditions possible east of the Missouri River

Bitterly cold wind chills Thursday



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 1/22/2019 5:38 AM Central

Published on: 01/22/2019 at 5:46AM

Light snow will taper off early this morning. Quiet weather is anticipated for the remainder of the day into Wednesday. Breezy winds and Arctic air will begin to affect the region Wednesday night. Blowing snow and reduced visibilities are possible. Bitterly cold wind chills will stick around Thursday.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 11 of 45

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 15 °F at 4:07 PM

Low Outside Temp: 2 °F at 12:00 AM

High Gust: 26 mph at 4:41 AM

Precip: 2 inches

Today's Info

Record High: 58 in 1942

Record Low: -30 in 1937, 1936

Average High: 23°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.34

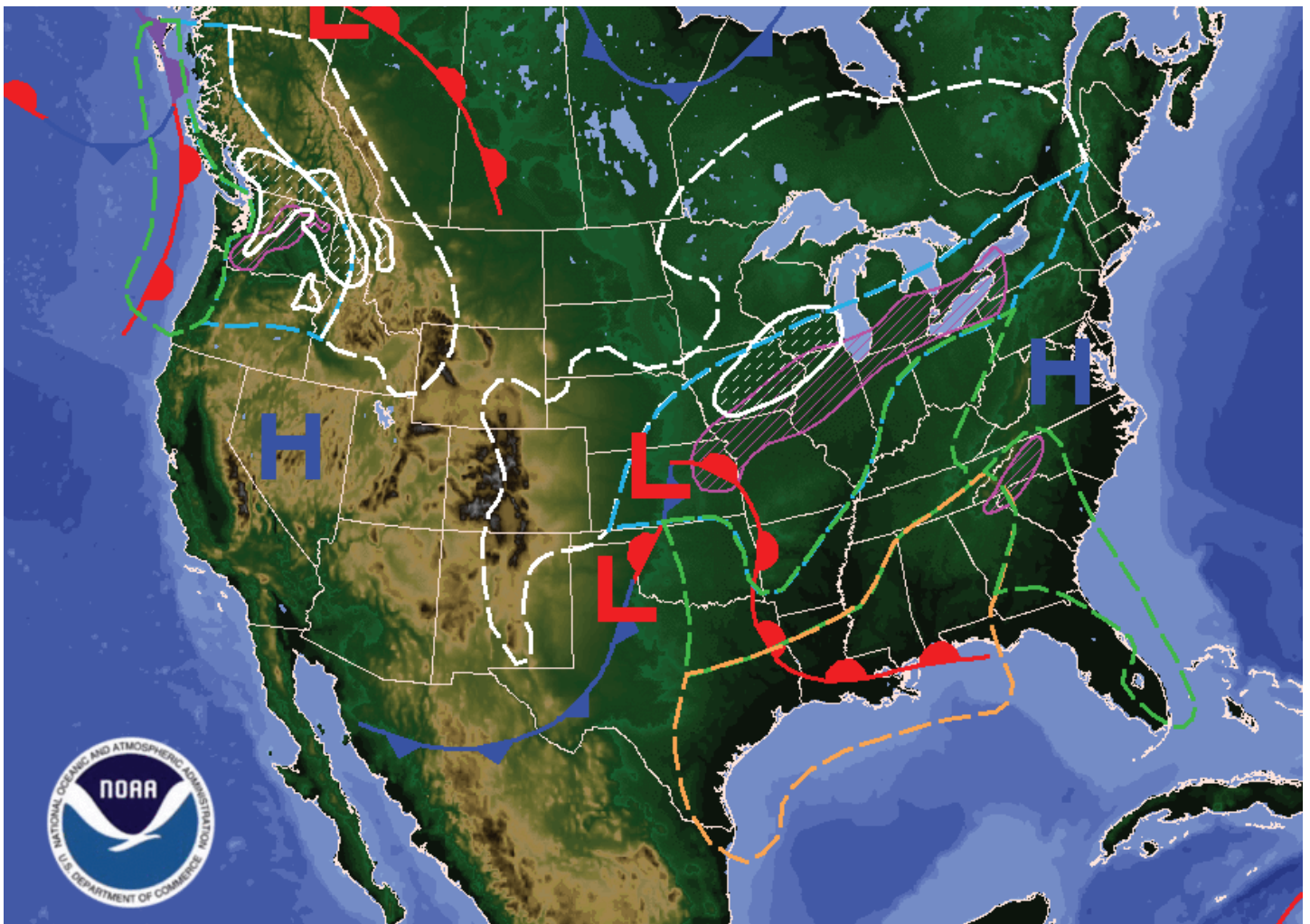
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.34

Precip Year to Date: 0.09

Sunset Tonight: 5:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:04 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jan 22, 2019, issued 4:33 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)



WHY GOD FORGIVES

One of the most agonizing questions all children ask comes in one word: Why?

That endless, searching, penetrating, obnoxious, and even threatening question sometimes causes controversy, other times resentment, and even - would you believe it - anger.

Most of us do not enjoy having to give a reason for what we do or say. It disturbs our peace of mind and forces us to clarify our words or deeds. Many times it is a good question for the same reasons it is a disturbing question: we have to examine and explain things we had done in the past simply without thinking about or even taking time to evaluate them.

Although David did not ask the why question, he did answer it without thinking about it. Why would God forgive him? His love. And then he answered another why question without asking why - because our God is a good God.

Why would You forgive me God? As I understand it, God, it is according to, or consistent with the fact that You love me. Thank You for Your love God.

But then, God, why would You love me when the sin I committed is horrible even in my own eyes? And God answered, Because I am good, David.

Love and good are two simple facts about the very character of God. But, they also go together. If God is love, He also has to be good. Otherwise, His love could be selective. But because He is good, His love is for all of us.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for a love that does not depend on anything except the fact that You are good. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 25:7b According to Your love, remember me for You are good, O Lord.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 14 of 45

News from the Associated Press

Prosecutors reach plea deal on murder accessory charge

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An Allen man accused of lying to federal authorities and being an accessory to a slaying on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation last year is expected to change his plea to guilty this week.

The Rapid City Journal reports that in exchange for the plea, the U.S. Attorney's Office will drop the accessory charge for Nathaniel Waters.

The FBI says Waters lied about being inside his mobile home when it caught fire in October 2017. The body of his 24-year-old nephew, Ray Waters Jr., was later found inside the burned home.

An autopsy concluded that he died before the fire of injuries likely caused by an ax. A juvenile is charged with second-degree murder in the death.

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

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Alcester-Hudson 72, Scotland 40
Clark/Willow Lake 72, Great Plains Lutheran 20
Estelline/Hendricks 54, Iroquois 41
Marty Indian 85, Avon 50
Red Cloud 54, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 48

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Bridgewater-Emery 76, Freeman Academy/Marion 32
Dell Rapids St. Mary 56, Baltic 32
Ethan 63, Canistota 42
Flandreau Indian 64, Centerville 41
Herreid/Selby Area 57, Napoleon/Gackle-Streeter, N.D. 34
Kadoka Area 73, Lyman 63
Lennox 61, Parkston 42
Mobridge-Pollock 51, Potter County 18
Scotland 60, Alcester-Hudson 39
South Border, N.D. 54, Eureka/Bowdle 39
Waubay/Summit 59, Sisseton 28
Winner 74, Crow Creek 35

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

Sheriff: Father, boy dead after car breaks through Iowa lake

STORM LAKE, Iowa (AP) — A father and his 8-year-old son died but two other children were rescued after their vehicle broke through the ice Sunday on a northwest Iowa lake.

Buena Vista County Sheriff Kory Elston says the family came to Storm Lake to play at an indoor waterpark Sunday afternoon.

He says investigators don't yet know why the man decided to drive out on to the nearby lake after leaving. The car was seen driving slowly before it became submerged in the freezing water, a quarter-mile or farther from shore.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 15 of 45

Elston says rescuers found the wet children on the ice, and the father was in the water. Rescuers used sleds to get the family to the shore.

The man and his son were pronounced dead at a hospital. His two other children, girls ages 9 and 5, were flown to a Sioux Falls, South Dakota hospital. Elston says their prospects for surviving "look positive." The family hasn't yet been identified.

North Dakota issuing 607 nonresident deer bow licenses

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's Game and Fish Department is making 607 any-deer bow licenses available to out-of-state hunters this year.

Applicants must apply online at the Game and Fish website . The deadline is March 1.

Up to five hunters can apply together as a party. A lottery will be held if more applications are received than there are licenses available. Any remaining licenses after March 1 will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

The number of nonresident any-deer bow licenses available is 15 percent of the previous year's mule deer gun license allocation. The Game and Fish Department issued 4,050 mule deer licenses in North Dakota's 2018 deer gun license lottery.

Presentation Sisters plan \$5 million residences in 2 cities

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A group of Catholic nuns in South Dakota is planning new residences in Aberdeen and Sioux Falls, at a cost of about \$5 million for each facility.

The new living spaces are being created in cooperation with Avera Health and will better fit the needs of the nuns, according to the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Aberdeen.

The facilities have been in the works for more than two years. Construction is set to begin this summer and conclude in about a year.

"Our community life will be enhanced," Sister Lucille Welbig said. "We believe it will help our mission to continue ministries we're doing now and also have others."

The American News reports the Presentation Sisters have been a fixture in Aberdeen since 1886. The current Aberdeen convent is able to house more than 100 nuns and is bigger than needed, as only 27 sisters live there.

The new facilities will be designed for efficiency and to meet the changing health needs of the nuns.

Presentation Place in Aberdeen next to Avera Mother Joseph Manor will have 16 rooms. Presentation Center in Sioux Falls will be near Avera Health's central Sioux Falls campus and will have 20 rooms.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, Jan. 11

Will female 'wave' lead to policy changes?

The U.S. House of Representatives has a record-setting look in 2019: 106 members are women, a 15 percent increase from the previous session.

Along with historical electoral gains toward diversity in color, sexual orientation, religion and age, this brings the country closer to an accurate representation of its citizenry.

South Dakota also saw a jump, from 21 to 25 women serving in the state House after the November election. That nearly matches the high-water mark of 26 women during the 1991-92 term.

Then there's the enormity of our state voting in its first-ever female governor.

As our brief annual legislative session grinds into gear, we'll start to be able to tell if Kristi Noem's gender plays a significant or merely symbolic role in her approach to governing.

Several nagging issues stand out that might finally get the attention they deserve, given the relatively high number of current female legislators complemented by a woman wielding the power of chief executive.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 16 of 45

One is the stubborn reluctance of lawmakers in Pierre to take an actual stand against sexual harassment in their workplace.

After a rash of revelations about inappropriate capitol encounters ranging from bawdy talk to rape a few years ago, leading state legislators punted the issue to the following session.

The Band-Aid of a response they finally came up with was a brief, non-mandatory training session about workplace sexual harassment. A feeble step in the right direction.

Lawmakers must establish clear guidelines for appropriate behavior with colleagues, staffers and pages — addressing how to report, confidentiality, levels of discipline, penalties for retaliation and modes of appeal. Creating a safe and positive working environment is a priority that should come from the top.

Another problem that unfairly but persistently affects the women of South Dakota to a greater degree than its men is our lack of a statewide commitment to pre-kindergarten education.

Despite strides made in the direction of gender equality, studies show again and again that, on average, women shoulder the far greater burden of childcare.

Our state places nearly at the top — number four, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research — for percentage of women in the labor force. Nearly two-thirds of South Dakota women work.

Yet South Dakota is dead last in percentage of businesses owned by women, ranking 51st behind all other states and the District of Columbia. Fewer than 30 percent of South Dakota businesses were owned by women, according to data gathered in the U.S. Department of Commerce's 2012 Survey of Business Owners.

For an already "business-friendly" state whose new governor wants to make it even more so, South Dakota doesn't seem to be fertile ground for women looking to start a small business.

One route to clearing a path for more female business owners is to make finding care for their young children more accessible and affordable. That increases the realistic chance that they can leave stable employment under someone else and become their own boss.

We can do better by South Dakota's children than we are now, and we can certainly do better by its working mothers.

Women now hold 35 percent of the seats in the South Dakota House. That beats our federal-level counterpart by 11 percentage points.

Even with a woman in the governor's seat, though, we're still a far cry from the genuine representation of half our state's population.

A full one-third of the record number of U.S. Congresswomen won their seats for the first time in the November election. But we may be seeing less of a wave and more of a gradual incoming tide.

That's better for our state and for our nation in the long run. Waves can crash against breakwaters like the longstanding boys club in Pierre, but tides are inexorable. We hope this one never recedes.

Rapid City Journal, Jan. 17

Allow access to CBD oils

Senate Bill 22 is one of those pieces of legislation that does more than it says as members of the Senate's Health and Human Services Committee learned Tuesday.

The Department of Health submitted the bill, which its attorney testified merely allows South Dakotans to purchase Epidiolex, a marijuana-derived cannabidiol, or CBD, oil approved in 2018 by the Food and Drug Administration.

The product is manufactured by GW Pharmaceuticals, a firm from the United Kingdom with an office in California called Greenwich Biosciences. The FDA approved the drug for the treatment of seizures associated with two rare and severe forms of epilepsy. It is a new prescription drug and you know what that means — it is costly.

The legislation is clearly important to the company, which has three registered lobbyists from Greenwich Biosciences working at the 2019 Legislature. The company's lobbyists also were in Pierre during the 2017 session, when Senate Bill 95, another pro-Epidiolex bill, was approved by the Legislature.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 17 of 45

But the legislation does much more than secure the status of a single product.

According to the bill's opponents, SB 22 makes all other CBD oils illegal to possess or sell in South Dakota. While the Health Department's attorney — Justin Williams — did not make that part of his pitch for the bill, he didn't dispute it either at Tuesday's hearing.

What it means for South Dakotans is that hemp-derived CBD oils that were available in the state until police raids in September at stores that sold the product — including two in Rapid City — is treated like an illegal drug.

What makes this legislation curious is that the 2018 Farm Bill, which received the support of Sens. Thune and Rounds and was signed into law by President Trump, removes hemp from the federal Controlled Substances Act, declares it an agricultural product and places it under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

It is now legal on the federal level to grow industrial hemp and sell, transport and consume hemp-derived products. The legislation is expected to turbocharge the hemp industry, which means millions of dollars are at stake.

Mitch McConnell, the Republican Senate majority leader, is a leading proponent of hemp, citing the plant's many uses, which includes CBD oil that many people claim helps with anxiety, sleeplessness and chronic pain. One opponent who testified Tuesday said hemp-derived CBD oil helped wean her off opioids. There also is no evidence the product is harmful or gets anyone high.

So why is state government seeking to make hemp-derived CBD oils illegal?

One school of thought is that the Legislature is being used to help Big Pharma corner the CBD oil market by allowing only those products in the state with FDA approval, a timely and costly process that favors big business. The federal government, however, does not require hemp-derived CBD oils to get FDA approval as long as manufacturers don't make specific health claims — the same standard applied to over-the-counter drugs and vitamins.

The other school of thought is that some lawmakers can't or won't make a distinction between marijuana and hemp, seeing both as a drug scourge that needs to be discouraged with the threat of incarceration.

The Senate's Health and Human Services Committee could decide Wednesday on whether the state should criminalize the use of a legal agricultural product on the federal level or let South Dakotans have access to a product many claim helps them and will soon be widely available in other states, including Colorado, Montana and Minnesota.

SB 22 needs to be rewritten. South Dakotans should have access to a product that was once available and is safe, inexpensive and — according to its users — effective.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Jan. 14 Triumph of the wall In Pierre

Last week, the South Dakota Senate jumped into the immigration debate by passing a resolution endorsing the concept of building the wall along the border with Mexico. This would fulfill a political promise President Donald Trump made to voters in 2016 (albeit, apparently, now without the part where Mexico would pay for it).

The vote was 28-5, which indicates more the lopsided disparity between Republicans and Democrats in the Senate (and the state) than it does the overwhelming practicality of building a border wall to keep out illegal immigrants.

The South Dakota House followed suit Monday by a 55-13 margin.

The president continually points to a crisis at the southern border, which is apparently so dire that he has ignited the current partial federal shutdown — remember, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a short-term resolution to keep the government open, but Trump rejected it — and has periodically threatened to declare a national emergency to go around Congress and construct the border wall.

But this "crisis" has a curiously unassuming look to it.

According to findings by The Washington Post, the number of illegal immigrants crossing the southern border has dropped from 1.6 million in 2000 to about 310,000 in 2017, which was the lowest number in

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 18 of 45

45 years.

A lot of those who constitute unlawful immigrants are actually considered "visa overstays," meaning they came into this country legally and stayed beyond their departure date. A wall would do nothing about these people.

Also, the southern border doesn't seem to be the open door for terrorists that some have portrayed it as being. For instance, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen told a congressional committee earlier this month that 3,000 terrorists were apprehended at the border in the past year. However, data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection indicated just 41 people on the Terrorist Screening Database were stopped by border authorities between October 2017 and March 2018, but 35 of them were already U.S. citizens or permanent residents. This hardly constitutes the "black wind of death (that could) race across this nation from coast to coast," as District 19 Sen. Stace Nelson put it last week when making his plea in Pierre to support the wall.

As for drugs pouring in across the wall-less border, the Drug Enforcement Administration says most of the drugs entering this country in the southwest are coming through official ports of entry.

However, if one must insist there is a crisis at the border, the Deseret News notes that it may actually be an "asylum system crisis." There is a huge backlog of immigrants legally seeking asylum in this country and not enough immigration judges to process them in a timely fashion.

"What you need is not necessarily more detention, more security, more walls, more barriers, more detection," according to Randy Capps, the director of research at the Migration Policy Institute, in an interview with "PBS Newshour." "You need facilities that can handle women and children, a better and faster screening process for asylum."

Thus, the wall that President Trump wants to build — or at least wants to appear to be fighting for — isn't really addressing a crisis that has reached a dangerous critical mass. Instead, it's about the political potency of fear. It's about demonizing those on the margins in order to sway the mainstream in a desired direction. (Remember the pre-election caravan that was marching for our border and made headlines everywhere last October? It vanished from the political radar almost completely after the election was over and its usefulness exhausted.) And perhaps all this is about creating a smokescreen to distract our attentions from other matters bearing down on the White House.

"I am personally tired of the politics of fear," District 18 Sen. Craig Kennedy of Yankton declared during last week's debate in Pierre. "I am not frightened by 7-year-old Guatemalan children and their mothers who are looking to come to the United States to ask for asylum to have a chance to have a better life. I don't know why we feel the need to demonize that and to call these people 'terrorists' and 'hoodlums' and 'criminals.' It's just wrong."

On Monday, Vermillion Sen. Ray Ring said the wall is not "what our country stands for and what our faith stands for."

But it apparently does stand well with the South Dakota Legislature and with a portion of the president's base of support, at least. And that may be the most discouraging crisis of all in the immigration debate.

Spearfish grandmother faces felony child abuse, drug charges

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A Spearfish woman faces felony child abuse and drug charges after authorities say her grandchild ingested methamphetamine while she was baby-sitting the child.

Forty-three-year-old Michelle Humann was arrested Jan. 7 after her 2-year-old grandchild began exhibiting unusual behavior. Authorities say the parents took the child to the hospital, where staff determined the child had ingested drugs

Police allege that Humann left meth in an area where the child could get at it.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that Humann is scheduled to enter pleas at a Jan. 29 arraignment. It wasn't clear if she has an attorney, and a home telephone listing for her couldn't be found.

AP-NORC Poll: Disasters influence thinking on climate change

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, HANNAH FINGERHUT and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When it comes to their views on climate change, Americans are looking at natural disasters and their local weather, according to a new poll.

Lately, that means record deadly wildfires in California, rainfall by the foot in Houston when Hurricane Harvey hit and the dome of smog over Salt Lake City that engineer Caleb Gregg steps into when he walks out his door in winter.

"I look at it every day," Gregg said from Salt Lake City, where winter days with some of the country's worst air starting a few years ago dinged the city's reputation as a pristine sports city and spurred state leaders to ramp up clean-air initiatives. "You look out and see pollution just sitting over the valley."

"I've never really doubted climate change - in the last five-ish years it's become even more evident, just by seeing the weather," the 25-year-old said. "We know we're polluting, and we know pollution is having an effect on the environment."

The poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago finds 74 percent of Americans say extreme weather in the past five years — hurricanes, droughts, floods and heat waves — has influenced their opinions about climate change. That includes half of Americans who say these recent events have influenced their thinking a great deal or a lot.

About as many, 71 percent, said the weather they experience daily in their own areas has influenced their thinking about climate change science.

The survey was conducted in November, a few days before the federal government released a major report revving up scientific warnings about the impact of climate change, including the growing toll of extreme storms and droughts.

The share of Americans who said they think the climate is changing has held roughly steady over the last year — about 7 in 10 Americans think climate change is happening. Among those, 60 percent say climate change is caused mostly or entirely by humans, and another 28 percent think it's about an equal mix of human activities and natural changes.

Overall, 9 percent of Americans said climate change is not happening, and another 19 percent said they were not sure.

The poll finds Americans' personal observations of real-time natural disasters and the weather around them have more impact than news stories or statements by religious or political leaders.

"It speaks to what we know of what people trust. They trust themselves and their own experiences," said Heidi Roop, a climate scientist at the University of Washington's Climate Impact Group who focuses on the science of climate change communication.

For a long time, the idea that the acrid black billows from car and truck tailpipes and power plant smokestacks were altering the earth's atmosphere still seemed abstract, with any impacts decades away.

"With the extreme events that we've been seeing, we're increasingly able to attribute, or pull out, how human-caused climate change is making those more severe," Roop said.

When wildfires get bigger and more frequent, floods bigger and smog more entrenched, it begins to hit "the things that we all hold dear, and that's when people get affected and begin to connect the dots," Roop said.

But a minority of Americans still connect to different dots: While the poll finds most of those who believe in climate change say it's caused by human activity or an equal mix of human activity and natural causes, roughly 1 in 10 attribute climate change to natural changes in the environment.

In West Haven, Connecticut, 69-year-old Alan Perkins says he can see the climate is in fact changing — the Atlantic beaches a few blocks from his house are about a third smaller than when he used to play on the sand as a kid, Perkins said by phone. Scientists say climate change will mean warming oceans expand and waves get rougher, eating away at shorelines.

"I see erosion along our shorelines. Our beaches are getting smaller. I see that," Perkins said.

"I'm just not sure exactly how much we can do about that. I think nature takes care of a lot of it. Like when it rains it cleans the air. I think nature kind of takes care of itself," Perkins said. "A lot of it is just in

God's hands, and he's in control."

Elizabeth Renz, a 62-year-old homemaker in Cincinnati, says the rise in temperatures globally and the surge in natural disasters in the United States is "just happening naturally."

"Our earth is cycling through it, and I don't know there's much we can do about it," she said.

She points to communities expanding into deserts and other unwelcoming terrain.

"We're living in areas that we shouldn't be living in," she said.

The poll shows Americans are ready to pay more to deal with the changing climate — but not to pay very much.

A majority of Americans, 57 percent, would support a proposal that would add a \$1 monthly fee to their electricity bills to combat climate change. But most oppose proposals that would increase their own monthly costs by \$10 or more.

The poll also examined views on one of the Trump administration's proposals to roll back future mileage standards for cars and light trucks. That would hit one of the Obama administration's key efforts to reduce climate-changing fossil fuel emissions.

When told the proposal to freeze standards could lower the cost of vehicles — the Trump administration's argument for the rollback — 49 percent said they support the proposal, compared with 17 percent who were opposed. Another third said they neither support nor oppose.

But when the question suggested the freeze could mean greenhouse gas emissions would not be reduced, 45 percent said they oppose the proposal, compared with 21 percent who were in favor.

The poll also found majorities of Americans would support a tax on emissions of carbon-based fuels, such as coal, natural gas and oil, if the money generated were used to fund research and development for renewable energy (59 percent), to restore forests and wetlands (67 percent) or to boost public transportation (54 percent).

For Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the willingness of Americans to pay at least some extra money to tackle climate change is "actually still a pretty strong signal."

When climate change becomes "a problem in general but also specifically their problem, then people are going to have more ownership of it," Swain said.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,202 adults was conducted Nov. 14-19 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.9 percentage points.

The survey was paid for by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods and later were interviewed online or by phone.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org>

Dozens of Afghan intel personnel killed in Taliban attack

By AMIR SHAH and RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan officials confirmed Tuesday that dozens of victims killed the previous day in a brazen Taliban attack on a military base not far from Kabul were members of the country's intelligence agency — a severe blow to the government which has already lost control of nearly half of Afghanistan to insurgents.

Provincial officials said at least 45 people were killed and as many as 70 were wounded when a suicide bomber drove a Humvee into the base in eastern Maidan Wardak province and detonated his load as he rammed the vehicle into the main building there on Monday.

There were fears, however, that the death toll from the daytime assault on the base, which also serves as a training center for a pro-government militia and is run by the country's intelligence service known as

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 21 of 45

the National Directorate for Security, or NDS, is even higher.

The NDS on Tuesday said its reports show 36 military personnel were killed and 58 were wounded. Though the agency's figures were lower than what provincial officials had reported, it was still an unprecedented casualty toll for the agency, among the best equipped and trained in Afghanistan.

The agency said the suicide bomber in the armored Humvee had managed to penetrate the gate of the base on the outskirts of Maidan Shar, the provincial capital located about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Kabul, even though guards fired at the vehicle.

Khawanin Sultani, a council member in the province, said the building collapsed from the explosion, which likely contributed to the high casualty numbers.

"Most of the bodies were under the destroyed building," he said.

The Taliban, who promptly claimed responsibility in a statement to the media just hours after the attack, later said in a separate statement that they had met again on Monday with U.S. representatives to discuss "ending the invasion of Afghanistan" in talks that would continue on Tuesday. They are meeting in Qatar, where the Taliban have a political office.

The simultaneousness of the events — the deadly attack, one of the worst Taliban assaults on Afghan forces in recent years — and the Qatar meeting that was meant to pave way for talks aimed at resolving Afghanistan's 17-year war, underscored the audacity of the insurgents in the face of stepped-up U.S. peace efforts.

The Taliban now hold sway in almost half of Afghanistan and carry out attacks on a daily basis, mainly targeting the country's beleaguered security forces.

Sultani, the provincial council member, said that after the bomber's Humvee exploded, four other attackers engaged in a shootout with Afghan troops. All the attackers were killed, he said.

Sultani said there were about 150 military personnel and others at the base at the time. The pro-government militia that was hit had been highly effective in securing the province, especially two important highways linking Kabul with the provinces of Kandahar, Maidan Wardak and Bamyan.

"They had participated in so many operations alongside other security forces and had fought against insurgents," Sultani added.

A provincial security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, told the AP that he personally counted as many as 75 dead bodies at the base. There was no official confirmation of this higher toll.

Dozens of ambulances took the wounded to the main provincial hospital as well as to Kabul for further treatment, the official said. The blast was so strong that windows of civilian homes seen in the distance from the base were also shattered, he said.

A statement from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's office said the "enemy had carried out a terrorist attack against the intelligence agency's personnel, killed and wounded a number of honest sons of this homeland who were defending their country and protecting their people." Ghani also ordered an investigation, the statement added.

There was no official breakdown on the casualties or indication how many were members of the militia in training, military or intel personnel.

Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, a former deputy interior minister and a military analyst, said the attack was a "tragedy and a big loss to the Afghan security forces."

Yarmand said it was difficult to believe that the country's vaunted NSD could have lost such a high number of personnel in a single attack and that there must have been serious negligence on someone's part. He also complained that there were no other checkpoints along the highway and leading up to the base, any one of which could have stopped the vehicle and prevented the bombing.

The Taliban statement on Monday said they had met with U.S. representatives to discuss "ending the invasion of Afghanistan" in talks that would continue on Tuesday in Qatar.

"Peace talks and negotiations are important and essential for Afghanistan, but not under these unacceptable circumstances," Yarmand said. "If such attacks continue, there must be a cease-fire agreement first."

Last week, the Taliban threatened to walk away from the talks, accusing Washington of seeking to "ex-

pand the agenda” — presumably a reference to American demands that the insurgents hold direct talks with the Kabul government.

The Taliban view the Afghan government as a U.S. puppet and have long insisted they will only negotiate directly with Washington.

3 groups, many videos, many interpretations of DC encounter

By JEFFREY COLLINS, Associated Press

A group of five black men shouting vulgar insults while protesting centuries of oppression. Dozens of white Catholic high school students visiting Washington for a rally to end abortion. And Native Americans marching to end injustice for indigenous peoples across the globe who have seen their lands overrun by outside settlers.

The three groups met for just a few minutes Friday at the base of the Lincoln Memorial, an encounter captured in videos that went viral over the weekend — and again cast a spotlight on a polarized nation that doesn't appear to agree on anything.

At first the focus was on a short video showing one of the high school students, Nick Sandmann, wearing a red “Make America Great Again” hat and appearing to smirk while a crowd of other teens laughed derisively behind him, as he faced off against a 64-year-old Native American, Nathan Phillips, who played a traditional chant on a drum.

Pull back further and a different view emerged, however, in a separate video showing members of a group calling itself the Black Hebrew Israelites taunting everyone on the mall that day, calling the Native Americans who had gathered there for the Indigenous Peoples March “Uncle Tomahawks” and “\$5 Indians” and the high school students “crackers” and worse.

It was an ugly encounter of spewed epithets but one that nevertheless ended with no punches thrown or other violence.

Still, the videos were all over social media, again appearing to illustrate a nation of such deep divisions — racial, religious and ideological — that no one was willing to listen to the others' point of view. Add to that the political tensions spilling over from a government shutdown that has gone on for a month and the stage was set for a viral moment.

But in this case, the videos didn't tell the whole story, all the parties involved agree.

“I would caution everyone passing judgment based on a few seconds of video to watch the longer video clips that are on the internet, as they show a much different story than is being portrayed by people with agendas,” Sandmann, a junior, said in a statement released late Sunday.

Sandmann's statement does seem at odds with some video from the confrontation that showed students from his school, Covington Catholic High in Park Hills, Kentucky, laughing at Phillips' Native American group and mockingly singing along with him, as well as interviews with Phillips who said he heard the students shout “Build that wall!” and “Go back to the reservation!”

The fullest view of what happened that Friday afternoon came from a nearly two-hour video posted on Facebook by Shar Yaqataz Banyamyan. It showed members of his Black Hebrew Israelite group repeatedly interacting with the crowd as people from the Indigenous Peoples March and the high school students vigorously argued with them for a few minutes.

Sandmann said in his statement the students from his all-male high school were waiting for their buses near Banyamyan's group when the latter started to taunt them. One of the students took off his shirt and the teens started to do a haka — a war dance of New Zealand's indigenous Maori culture, made famous by the country's national rugby team.

Phillips, an elder of the Omaha tribe, and Marcus Frejo, a member of the Pawnee and Seminole tribes, said they felt the students were mocking the dance and walked over to intervene.

Phillips and Sandmann locked eyes, their faces inches apart. Both men said their goal was simply to make sure things didn't get out of hand. But caught on video, the encounter still went viral.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 23 of 45

The high school students felt they were unfairly portrayed as villains in a situation where they say they were not the provocateurs.

"I am being called every name in the book, including a racist, and I will not stand for this mob-like character assassination," Sandmann said in his statement.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington apologized for the incident, promising an investigation that could lead to punishment up to expulsion if any wrongdoing by the students was determined.

The Indigenous Peoples Movement felt the encounter was a reminder the U.S. was founded on racism and President Donald Trump's presidency is rekindling hatred based on skin color.

"Trump has riled up a reactionary voting block that reminds us that we are a nation founded on patriarchy, genocide and racism. Trump is clearly giving these archaic instincts license, encouraging the kind of aggressive goading that I witnessed," movement spokesman Chase Iron Eyes said in a statement.

Trump himself weighed in Monday night as some news reports questioned whether the early criticism of the students was warranted. The president tweeted, in part: "Looking like Nick Sandman & Covington Catholic students were treated unfairly with early judgements proving out to be false - smeared by media. Not good, but making big comeback!"

Banyamyan posted his own reaction on Facebook, referencing the dozens of high school students in their Make America Great Again gear coming over to his group of five and chanting. In a rambling video, he also praised Phillips and compared Sandmann to the devil.

After the sun set and the Covington high school students left, Banyamyan's video showed a few police officers stopping by to check on his group as they were wrapping up their protest. One of the officers said they were worried by the number of people that briefly massed in that one spot. One of the Black Hebrew Israelites said there were no problems.

"We weren't threatened by them," he said. "It was an OK dialogue."

Democrats lurch left on top policies as 2020 primary begins

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Democratic presidential contender Julian Castro launched his campaign by pledging support for "Medicare for All," free universal preschool, a large public investment in renewable energy and two years of free college for all Americans.

That wasn't enough for some of his party's most liberal members.

Critics on social media quickly knocked Castro's plan to provide only two years of free higher education — instead of four — as "half measures," "scraps" and "corporate Dem doublespeak." Aware of the backlash, the former Obama administration Cabinet member clarified his position in an interview days later.

"At least the first two years of college or university or apprenticeship program should be tuition free — and preferably four years," Castro told The Associated Press. "We're going to work toward that."

Welcome to the 2020 presidential primary. Almost no policy is too liberal for Democrats fighting to win over their party's base, which is demanding a presidential nominee dedicated to pursuing bold action on America's most pressing challenges.

Among two dozen possible candidates, virtually all have embraced universal health care in one form or another. Some have rallied behind free college, job guarantee programs, a \$15 minimum hourly wage and abolishing — or at least reconstituting — the federal agency that enforces immigration laws. While few have outlined detailed proposals to fund their priorities, most would generate new revenue by taxing the rich.

The leftward lurch on top policies carries risks.

President Donald Trump and his Republican allies are betting that voters will ultimately reject the Democratic proposals as extreme. Some GOP leaders cast lesser plans as socialism during the Obama era.

Republican critics are joined by a handful of moderate Democrats, who fear that promises by well-intentioned presidential prospects may create unrealistic expectations with their party's most passionate voters.

Billionaire businessman Michael Bloomberg, a former Republican mayor of New York now considering a Democratic presidential bid, recently opined that primary voters might be receptive to a more moderate

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 24 of 45

approach.

"Most Democrats want a middle-of-the-road strategy," Bloomberg said on ABC's "The View." He added: "If you go off on trying to push for something that has no chance of getting done, that we couldn't possibly pay for, that just takes away from where you can really make progress in helping people that need help today."

So far, at least, very few presidential prospects are heeding such warnings.

In the 2016 campaign, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, was the only presidential contender to support "Medicare for All," a proposal that would essentially provide free health care coverage to all Americans. This year, it's hard to find anyone in opposition.

That's even after one recent study predicted the plan would cost taxpayers more than \$32 trillion. Proponents argue that those same taxpayers would save the trillions they currently spend out-of-pocket for their health care.

Lesser-known policies have emerged heading into 2020 as well.

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who is expected to launch his presidential campaign soon, has sponsored legislation to create a federal jobs guarantee program in several communities across America. The pilot program, which is co-sponsored by fellow 2020ers like New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, California Sen. Kamala Harris and Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley, could ultimately transform the U.S. labor market by providing well-paid government employment with benefits for anyone who wants it.

Critics decry the plan as a step toward socialism.

"Big challenges demand big solutions," Booker told the AP. "Both Martin Luther King Jr. and President Franklin Roosevelt believed that every American had the right to a job, and that right has only become more important in this age of increasing income inequality, labor market concentration and continued employment discrimination."

Billionaire activist Tom Steyer supports much of the liberal movement's new priorities — including Trump's impeachment — but says the federal jobs guarantee "doesn't make sense" given the nation's low employment rate.

"I want the private sector to produce jobs people can live on," he said in an interview. "A guarantee of government jobs doesn't make sense."

Yet Steyer insists that most of his party's policy priorities — universal health care and free college, among them — are anything but radical.

"The Republicans are an extremist far-right, radical party. When you say we need to moderate to their position, there's nothing moderate or pragmatic about their position," said Steyer, who recently backed away from a presidential run, although he's expected to spend tens of millions of dollars to shape the 2020 debate.

Free college is quickly emerging as a litmus test for Democratic contenders.

Those already on the record backing free tuition at public colleges and universities include former Vice President Joe Biden, Sanders, Gillibrand, Harris and Warren. Estimates vary for the cost to state and local taxpayers, although Sanders acknowledged it could be \$70 billion annually.

Warren seemed to back away from her support for free college during an appearance in Iowa earlier in the month, however. In 2017, she co-sponsored the "College For All Act," which would have made tuition free at public universities.

Asked in a radio interview whether she supports reducing the cost of college or offering it free, Warren responded: "No, I think this is about reducing the cost."

It's unlikely the Democratic Party's energized base would tolerate any significant shifts to the center on free college — or any of the party's top issues.

Such populist appeals helped fuel sweeping Democratic victories in last fall's midterm elections, while producing a new generation of unapologetic Democratic leaders such as New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is aligned with the democratic socialist movement. And polls repeatedly suggest that voters support proposals for universal health care, free college and free preschool.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 25 of 45

"We have seen a dramatic shift in the Democratic Party's political center," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "Those who deny that are hurting their chances in 2020."

Meanwhile, Castro, like others in the early 2020 field, says he's fully committed to a "bold vision" to address the nation's top policy challenges.

"All Democrats recognize that this is not going to be easy, that to get Medicare for all, for instance, it's not guaranteed, it's not going to be easy, it may require along the way there are some compromises," he said. "But I'm convinced that it's worth it to go forward."

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. SENATE GOP MOVES ON TRUMP PROPOSAL TO END SHUTDOWN

Democrats are expected to balk at the \$5.7 billion the president wants to build a border wall, alongside temporary protection from deportation for some immigrants.

2. WHERE DEMOCRATS ARE LEANING IN 2020

As the presidential primary takes shape, almost no policy is too liberal for Democrats fighting to win over their party's base.

3. DC MARCH: UGLY ENCOUNTER OF SPEWED EPITHETS

More videos emerge of the confrontation between high school students, Native American marchers and militant black protesters last week in Washington.

4. WHAT CHINA IS DEMANDING

That the U.S. drop a request that Canada extradite a top executive of the tech giant Huawei, shifting blame to Washington.

5. US AID CUTS HIT PALESTINIANS

Tens of thousands of Palestinians are no longer getting food aid or basic health services from America, U.S.-funded infrastructure projects have been halted, and a peace-building program in Jerusalem is scaling back its activities.

6. PONTIFF TO VISIT PANAMANIAN INMATES

As part of his World Youth Day itinerary, Pope Francis will detour to a detention center to pray and bring a message of peace and reconciliation to the incarcerated.

7. GUN INDUSTRY FALLING ON TOUGH TIMES

A changed political landscape leads to a steady drop in gun sales, coupled with no chance of easing restrictions on firearms.

8. 'LEAVE ROOM' ... FOR DELIVERY

Starbucks will bring coffee drinks and its menu to you in San Francisco and expand to New York, Boston, Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles in the coming weeks.

9. WHO'S FAVORED FOR OSCAR NOMINATIONS

It could be a big morning for "A Star Is Born," "Black Panther," "The Favourite" and "Roma" — and Spike Lee could finally get his first best director nomination.

10. RONALDO PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX FRAUD

The soccer star pleads guilty to tax fraud in Madrid and receives a two-year suspended sentence.

Political shifts, sales slump cast shadow over gun industry

By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press

When gunmakers and dealers gather this week in Las Vegas for the industry's largest annual conference, they will be grappling with slumping sales and a shift in politics that many didn't envision two years ago when gun-friendly Donald Trump and a GOP-controlled Congress took office.

Some of the top priorities for the industry — expanding the reach of concealed carry permits and eas-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 26 of 45

ing restrictions on so-called "silencers" — remain in limbo, and prospects for expanding gun rights are nil for the foreseeable future.

Instead, fueled by the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, the federal government banned bump stocks and newly in-charge U.S. House Democrats introduced legislation that would require background checks for virtually every firearm sale, regardless of whether it's from a gun dealer or a private sale.

Even without Democrats' gains in November's midterm elections, the industry was facing a so-called "Trump slump," a plummet in sales that happens amid gun rights-friendly administrations. Background checks were at an all-time high in 2016, President Barack Obama's last full year in office, numbering more than 27.5 million; since then, background checks have been at about 25 million each year.

Gary Ramey, owner of Georgian gunmaker Honor Defense, says the mood at last year's SHOT Show, which stands for Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade, was subdued. He's expecting the same this year.

"There was no one to beat up. You didn't have President Obama to put up in PowerPoint and say 'He's the best gun salesman, look what he's doing to our country,'" he said.

"Numbers are down," he added. "You can't deny it."

Robert J. Spitzer, chairman of political science at the State University of New York at Cortland and a longtime watcher of gun issues, said that not only have shifting politics made it difficult for the gun industry to gain ground but high-profile mass shootings — like the Las Vegas shooting that happened just miles from where the SHOT Show will be held and the Parkland, Florida, high school shooting — also cast a pall.

"After the Parkland shooting, (gun rights' initiatives) were kind of frozen in their tracks," Spitzer said. "Now there's no chance that it's going anywhere."

It's easier to drive up gun sales when there's the threat or risk of gun-rights being restricted, he said. "It's harder to rally people when your target is one house of Congress. It just doesn't have the same galvanizing effect."

The National Shooting Sports Foundation's SHOT Show has been held annually for more than four decades. This year more than 60,000 will attend the event that runs Tuesday through Friday — from gun dealers and manufacturers to companies that cater to law enforcement. There's a wait list for exhibitors that is several hundred names long and it will have some 13 miles of aisles featuring products from more than 1,700 companies.

Last year's show in Las Vegas was held just months after a gunman killed 58 people and injured hundreds at an outdoor music festival. The massacre was carried out by a gunman armed with bump stocks, which allow the long guns to mimic fully automatic weapons.

Organizers last year restricted media access to trade journalists. This year's show will again allow reporters from mainstream media to attend.

Gun-control advocates are rejoicing in the gun industry's misfortunes of late and chalking it up to not just shifting attitudes among Americans but a shift in elected political leaders.

"Without a fake menace in the White House to gin up fears, gun sales have been in a Trump slump and, as a result, the NRA is on the rocks," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety, a group founded by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Joe Bartozzi, the new president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, said the industry isn't disturbed by the drop in gun sales or the shift in federal politics. While Democrats who ran on gun-control platforms made huge gains in the House, he sees the Senate shifting to the other end of the spectrum.

"Having been in the industry for over 30 years and seeing the trends of gun sales ebb and flow over time, it's very hard to put your finger on any one specific issue as to why this happens. It's just the cyclical nature of the business," he said.

Trump's campaign was bolstered by about \$30 million from the National Rifle Association and when he took office, the industry had hoped that a host of gun rights would be enacted. The Trump administration quickly nixed an Obama-imposed rule that made it more difficult for some disabled people to purchase and possess firearms.

But other industry priorities, such as reciprocity between states for carrying certain concealed firearms

and a measure that would ease restrictions on purchasing suppressors that help muffle the sound when a gun is fired, failed to gain traction.

For now, Bartozzi said his organization is focused on a measure that would expand public gun ranges, funded by an existing tax on firearms and ammunition sales that supports conservation, safety programs and shooting ranges on public lands. The hope is that increasing the number of public ranges will encourage more people to become hunters.

Trump's proposal to break budget deadlock falls flat

By JILL COLVIN and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans have released a measure designed around President Donald Trump's proposal for breaking a budget impasse, its centerpiece his demand for \$5.7 billion to build a southern border wall all but guaranteeing Democratic opposition and no foreseeable end to a partial government shutdown.

As the shutdown dragged through its fifth week, another missed paycheck loomed for hundreds of thousands of workers.

Voting in Congress was not expected to unfold until later in the week. Even then it seemed doubtful that the 1,300-page measure, dubbed the "End The Shutdown And Secure The Border Act," had any chance of passing swiftly.

Senate Republicans hold a 53-47 majority but would need Democrats to reach the usual 60-vote threshold for bills to advance. Not a single Democrat publicly expressed support for Trump's proposal since he announced it over the weekend.

Details of the measure released late Monday highlight the trade-off of border wall funding for temporary protection from deportation for some immigrants. The Republican package would reopen the shuttered parts of the government and boost some spending. To try to draw more bipartisan support, it adds \$12.7 billion in supplemental funding for regions hit by hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer's office reiterated earlier Monday that Democrats are unwilling to negotiate any border security funding until Trump reopens the government.

"Nothing has changed with the latest Republican offer," Schumer spokesman Justin Goodman said. "President Trump and Senate Republicans are still saying: 'Support my plan or the government stays shut.' That isn't a compromise or a negotiation — it's simply more hostage taking."

While the House and the Senate are scheduled to be back in session Tuesday, no votes have been scheduled on Trump's plan. And senators, who will be given 24-hour notice ahead of voting, have yet to be recalled to Washington.

McConnell spokesman David Popp said Monday that the GOP leader "will move" to vote on consideration of the president's proposal "this week."

Trump, who on Sunday lashed out at House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, accusing her of acting "irrationally," continued to single her out on Twitter.

"If Nancy Pelosi thinks that Walls are 'immoral,' why isn't she requesting that we take down all of the existing Walls between the U.S. and Mexico," he wrote Monday. "Let millions of unchecked 'strangers' just flow into the U.S."

House Democrats this week are pushing ahead with voting on their own legislation to reopen the government and add \$1 billion for border security — including 75 more immigration judges and infrastructure improvements — but no funding for the wall.

Trump later tweeted: "Democrats are kidding themselves (they don't really believe it!) if they say you can stop Crime, Drugs, Human Trafficking and Caravans without a Wall or Steel Barrier. Stop playing games and give America the Security it deserves. A Humanitarian Crisis!"

Meanwhile, the impact of the shutdown, the longest ever, continued to ripple across the nation as it stretched into its 32nd day Tuesday. The previous longest shutdown was 21 days in 1995-96, when Bill Clinton was president.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 28 of 45

The Transportation Security Administration said the percentage of its airport screeners missing work hit 10 percent on Sunday, up from 3.1 percent on the comparable Sunday a year ago.

The screeners, who have been working without pay, have been citing financial hardship as the reason they can't report to work. Even so, the agency said it screened 1.78 million passengers Sunday with only 6.9 percent having to wait 15 minutes or longer to get through security.

The shutdown had also threatened to disrupt plans for an annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day service at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the civil rights leader was co-pastor with his father from 1960 until his assassination in 1968. The site is run by the National Park Service and had been closed. But a grant from Delta Air Lines is keeping the church and associated sites, including the home where King was born, open through Feb. 3.

Trump on Saturday offered to extend temporary protections for young immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children and those fleeing disaster zones for three years in exchange for \$5.7 billion for his border wall. Democrats said that the proposal for a three-year extension didn't go nearly far enough and that Trump was using as leverage programs that he had targeted. Meanwhile, some on the right, including conservative commentator Ann Coulter, accused Trump of offering "amnesty."

"No, Amnesty is not a part of my offer," Trump tweeted Sunday, in response.

He noted that he'd offered temporary protections for the immigrants in question, but added: "Amnesty will be used only on a much bigger deal, whether on immigration or something else."

That statement led some to suggest that Trump might be open to including a potential pathway to citizenship for the young "Dreamer" immigrants in a future proposal to end the standoff.

Asked in an interview on "Fox News Sunday" whether Trump's Saturday proposal represented a "final offer," Vice President Mike Pence said the White House was willing to negotiate.

"Well, of course," Pence said. "The legislative process is a negotiation."

Associated Press writers David Koenig and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

China demands US drop Huawei extradition request with Canada

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China on Tuesday demanded the U.S. drop a request that Canada extradite a top executive of the tech giant Huawei, shifting blame to Washington in a case that has severely damaged Beijing's relations with Ottawa.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Meng Wanzhou's case was out of the ordinary and Canada's extradition treaty with the U.S. infringed on the "safety and legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens."

Hua said China demands that the U.S. withdraw the arrest warrant against Meng and "not make a formal extradition request to the Canadian side."

Hua's remarks come after More than 100 academics and former diplomats signed a letter calling on China to release two Canadians detained in apparent retaliation for Meng's arrest.

They also follow a report by the Canadian newspaper Globe and Mail that the U.S. plans to formally request Meng's extradition to face charges that she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's business dealings in Iran.

China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor on Dec. 10 in an apparent attempt to pressure Canada to release Meng, who was arrested Dec. 1 at the request of U.S. authorities.

Meng is Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of its founder, Ren Zhengfei. Huawei has close ties to China's military and is considered one of the country's most successful international enterprises, operating in the high-tech sphere where China hopes to establish dominance.

The letter signed by academics and former diplomats said the arrests of the two will lead to "less dialogue and greater distrust, and undermine efforts to manage disagreements and identify common ground. Both

China and the rest of the world will be worse off as a result.”

More than 20 diplomats from seven countries and more than 100 scholars and academics from 19 countries signed.

Meng is living under house arrest in her Vancouver mansion while her case is under deliberation. Kovrig and Spavor are being held in Chinese jails and have yet to be granted access to lawyers, according to those who have contact with them.

US aid cuts hit Palestinians, further dimming hope for peace

By JOSEPH KRAUSS, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Tens of thousands of Palestinians are no longer getting food aid or basic health services from America, U.S.-funded infrastructure projects have been halted, and an innovative peace-building program in Jerusalem is scaling back its activities.

The Trump administration's decision last year to cut more than \$200 million in development aid to the Palestinians is forcing NGOs to slash programs and lay off staff as the effects ripple through a community that has spent more than two decades promoting peace in the Middle East.

The U.S. government's development agency, USAID, has provided more than \$5.5 billion to the Palestinians since 1994 for infrastructure, health, education, governance and humanitarian aid programs, all intended to underpin the eventual creation of an independent state.

Much of that aid is channeled through international NGOs, which were abruptly informed of the cuts last summer and have been scrambling to keep their programs alive.

President Donald Trump says the USAID cuts are aimed at pressuring the Palestinians to return to peace talks, but Palestinian officials say the move has further poisoned relations after the U.S. recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital last year. The aid groups, many of which have little or no connection to the Palestinian Authority, say the cuts hurt the most vulnerable Palestinians and those most committed to peace with Israel.

“If you want to maintain the idea of the peace process, you have to maintain the people who would be part of the peace process,” said Lana Abu Hijleh, the local director for Global Communities, an international NGO active in the Palestinian territories since 1995.

Before the aid cuts were announced, it provided food aid — branded as a gift from the American people — to more than 180,000 Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza on behalf of the World Food Program. USAID had planned to contribute \$19 million a year for the next five years to continue the project but pulled out in August.

Global Communities can now only provide aid to 90,000 people through March, and Abu Hijleh had to lay off around 30 staff, including in Gaza, where unemployment exceeds 50 percent.

“It really hurts, because you're talking about the most basic level of assistance,” she said. The average family receives a monthly voucher worth around \$130.

Sadeqa Nasser, a woman living in Gaza's Jebaliya refugee camp, used her voucher to support her disabled husband, their six children and four grandchildren.

She says her sons each bring in less than \$5 a day from odd jobs. “They cannot afford to buy food for their families, so I help them out,” she said.

Since the aid was cut off, she's been able to qualify for welfare payments from the Palestinian Authority, which itself relies heavily on foreign aid. “Without it we would go hungry,” she said.

Funding has also been cut for a five-year, \$50 million program run by a coalition of NGOs to provide health services, including clinical breast cancer treatment for some 16,000 women and treatment for some 700 children suffering from chronic diseases.

Infrastructure projects, including desperately needed water treatment facilities in the blockaded Gaza Strip, have also been put on hold.

Anera, which has carried out development projects in the Middle East for more than 50 years, said it was forced to halt five infrastructure projects in the West Bank and Gaza before completion and cancel

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 30 of 45

three more in Gaza that were pending funding approval. It says the projects would have benefited more than 100,000 people.

The NGOs are reaching out to other donors, but USAID is one of the biggest sources of funding for a global aid community overwhelmed by conflicts in Syria, Yemen and elsewhere.

The Trump administration has also cut off funding for peace-building initiatives involving Palestinians — even residents of east Jerusalem, which Israel considers to be part of its capital. The Palestinians want east Jerusalem, which Israel captured in the 1967 war and annexed in a move not recognized internationally, to be the capital of their future state.

Kids4Peace, a group founded by Israeli and Palestinian families in Jerusalem in 2002, brings Jewish, Christian and Muslim teenagers together for seminars and summer camps where they can share their experiences and learn more about one another.

The group's organizers acknowledge the longstanding criticism of such initiatives — that campfires and singalongs won't bring peace to the Middle East, especially after a decade of diplomatic paralysis and little hope for resuming meaningful negotiations.

But they say that with a \$1.5 million USAID grant in 2016 they tripled the number of annual participants to around 70 and revamped programs. USAID takes a hands-on approach, requiring regular audits and demanding concrete accomplishments.

Participants now take part in a Youth Action Program in which they plan and execute projects in their communities. One group is campaigning for Arabic subtitles in Jerusalem cinemas. Another set up a community garden in a tense neighborhood where Jews and Arabs had rarely interacted.

Kids4Peace was a finalist for another \$1.5 million grant this year, but that has been indefinitely postponed because of the funding cuts. It will continue to run programs with the help of private donors, but its growth prospects are in doubt.

"We see the trend lines moving in a negative direction, in terms of more hostile attitudes toward the other, less interaction between Israelis and Palestinians, more resistance to peace negotiations," said the Rev. Josh Thomas, executive director of Kids4Peace International. "We see that as a need for greater investment rather than less."

Trump also halted aid to the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, which provides basic services to more than 5 million Palestinians across the Middle East, but UNRWA was able to narrow the funding gap with aid pledges from other countries.

Palestinian officials say they won't bow to pressure.

"We don't want their money, we don't want anything to do with America," said Nabil Shaath, an adviser to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. "If (Trump) thinks he can put pressure on us through his money, it won't work."

Critics of the policy fear that cutting off aid will further diminish Washington's ability to manage a conflict that remains highly combustible.

"When America vacates the Middle East space, we do so at our own risk and we do it to the benefit of our adversaries," said Dave Harden, a former USAID mission director in the West Bank and Gaza.

Associated Press writer Mohammed Daraghmeh in Ramallah, West Bank contributed to this report.

Trump lawyer walks back comments about Moscow project

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani on Monday walked back comments he made about discussions Trump had with his former personal attorney about a real estate project in Moscow during the presidential election campaign.

Trump's former attorney, Michael Cohen, has pleaded guilty to lying to Congress in 2017 by saying he had abandoned the Trump Tower project in January 2016 even though prosecutors say he actually pursued it into June.

Giuliani suggested in a TV interview Sunday that Trump remembers conversations with Cohen about the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 31 of 45

project “up to as far as October, November,” or right up until the election. That extends the timeline for the Russian business deal well beyond what the president has publicly acknowledged.

Giuliani said Monday in a three-sentence statement that his comments “did not represent the actual timing or circumstances of any discussions.” He said his comments were “hypothetical” and “not based on conversations” he had with the president.

He concluded by saying the Moscow project “was in the earliest stage and did not advance beyond a free non-binding letter of intent.”

The changing timeline is relevant in light of the special counsel’s investigation into Russian interference in the election and ties to the Trump campaign.

For Trump, Giuliani plays the role more of spokesman than attorney, unleashing public attacks on investigators while throwing out wild accusations designed to muddle the narrative of the probe. But at times, he has gone too far or has flat-out misspoken, leading to a series of clarifications while triggering more legal questions for his client.

This was the second time within the past week that Giuliani has walked back comments from the previous day.

On Thursday, he issued a statement aimed at clarifying a TV interview from the night before in which he appeared to leave open the possibility of collusion between Russia and members of Trump’s presidential campaign.

In the statement, he said “there was no collusion by President Trump in any way, shape or form” and that he had “no knowledge of any collusion by any of the thousands of people who worked on the campaign.”

That was an apparent reversal from Wednesday’s television appearance in which he said, “I never said there was no collusion between the campaign or between people in the campaign.” He had previously denied any collusion.

Inmates at Panama youth prison anticipate visit from pope

By JUAN ZAMORANO, Associated Press

LAS GARZAS, Panama (AP) — More than 100,000 young people are expected to show up in Panama City when Pope Francis visits this week for World Youth Day. At a detention center about 25 miles (40 kilometers) away there are 144 more who can’t make the trip, locked up for serious crimes including murder — so the pontiff is going to them.

In an encounter expected to last a little over an hour, Francis will pray and bring a message of peace and reconciliation to the young inmates, and hear the confessions of several, including one convicted of committing a double homicide at just 16 years old.

“The pope is going to listen to them, encourage them,” Panama Archbishop Jose Domingo Ulloa said. “They have been preparing with high hopes to be able to receive his message.”

Francis nearly always makes side visits to prisons during his foreign trips, in keeping with his belief that even those on the lowest rungs of society have dignity and need ministry.

In such visits he typically preaches hope and reminds inmates that he has also sinned, and criticizes judicial failings such as prison overcrowding and inadequate rehabilitation efforts. This will be the first time he hears confessions in a prison, however.

The Las Garzas de Pacora detention center is Panama’s main youth lockup, opened a year after five minors died in a fire at another prison in Panama City in 2011. Nine people including administrators and police were convicted of homicide or negligence in what was the worst tragedy for the country’s youth prison system.

Today, administrators argue that Las Garzas de Pacora is a model facility compared with other youth prisons in the region that suffer from overcrowding.

Designed to house up to 200, it’s well within capacity. Inmates have painted the cellblocks in pastel colors, its green grass is well tended, and it has a school, a laundry, a dining hall and workshops where the youths can learn trades such as masonry, carpentry and screen printing.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 32 of 45

It's a rough population — about 65 percent of the inmates were sent there for robbery and the rest for homicide, authorities say. But members of rival gangs are said to coexist without conflict.

Internees have painted symbols of peace and the logo of the youth festival on walls and chairs in preparation for Francis' visit.

On a recent day a group rehearsed the World Youth Day hymn at the entrance to the school. One boy played the piano, others strummed guitars and still others formed the chorus, coached by volunteers ahead of a planned performance for the pontiff.

Emma Alba de Tejada, national director of interdisciplinary studies in youth prisons, acknowledged that some of the young inmates aren't interested in participating in the pope's visit. But others are excited, she said.

"Just thinking that the pope is coming to visit has for them been a total transformation," she said. "They are dressing up the facility. They have painted it, they have gotten involved, they are singing."

One boy, who was left disabled after being shot in the leg, was working on an acrylic painting of Panamanian folkloric images, one of several gifts planned for Francis along with a footrest and a staff. He said he first learned about the pope's visit from television and was looking forward to meeting him.

"For me it will be important to have an encounter, to receive the blessing," said the inmate, who was convicted of murder and cannot be identified due to Panamanian law governing child protection. "I would tell him to give me another chance."

Pelosi 'playing chess on 3 boards' with health care

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is laying out her strategy on health care and first up is improvements to "Obamacare" and legislation to lower prescription drug costs. "Medicare for all" will get hearings.

Pelosi and President Donald Trump have been sounding similar themes about the need to address the high drug costs. But her plans to broaden financial help for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act are unlikely to find takers among Republicans.

Either way, Democrats believe voters gave them a mandate on health care in the midterm elections that returned the House to their control.

Pushing her agenda, Pelosi is working from the ground up through major House committees. Her relationships with powerful chairmen and subcommittee chairs stretch back years. She's "playing chess on three boards at once," said Jim McDermott, a former Democratic congressman from Washington state, who predicts Pelosi's most difficult challenge will be "herding new members" impatient for sweeping changes.

Responding to written questions from The Associated Press, Pelosi called the ACA "a pillar of health and financial security," comparing it to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. "Democrats have the opportunity not only to reverse the years of Republicans' health care sabotage, but to update and improve the Affordable Care Act to further lower families' premiums and out-of-pocket costs, and expand coverage."

Legislation from Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone, D-N.J., Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., and Workforce and Education Chairman Bobby Scott, D-Va., would broaden the number of people who can get financial assistance with their premiums under the Obama health law, and undo the "family glitch" that prevents some from qualifying for subsidies. It would also restore the HealthCare.gov advertising budget slashed by Trump and block some of his administration's health insurance alternatives.

Those issues are separate from legal questions raised by ongoing Republican litigation to overturn the health law. As one of its first acts, the Democratic-led House voted to intervene in the court case to defend the law.

The ACA package has little chance as a stand-alone bill. But parts of it could become bargaining chips when Congress considers major budget legislation.

The 2010 health law belonged as much to Pelosi as to former President Barack Obama, said McDermott. "She's taking 'Obamacare' and very carefully figuring out where you have to support it," he said. "What

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 33 of 45

you are seeing right now is a very methodical and thoughtful planner.”

On prescription drugs, Trump and the Democrats are occupying some of the same rhetorical territory, an unusual circumstance that could bring about unexpected results.

Both sides say Americans shouldn't have to keep paying more for medications than consumers in other economically advanced countries where governments regulate prices.

The Trump administration has designed an experiment to apply international pricing to Medicare “Part B” drugs administered in doctors' offices.

Pelosi wants to expand price relief to retail pharmacy drugs that seniors purchase through Medicare's “Part D” prescription drug benefit, a much bigger move. A bill introduced by leading Democrats would authorize Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies using international prices as a fallback.

“President Trump said he'd ‘negotiate like crazy’ to bring down Medicare prescription drug prices, and since the midterm election he's spoken about working with Democrats,” Pelosi wrote to AP. “We have an opportunity to enact the tough legislative negotiating authority needed to actually lower prescription drug prices for consumers.”

One of the top Senate Republicans on health care says he's not inclined to do that. Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa says having private insurers negotiate with drug companies has worked.

“Part D is the only federal program I've been involved with that has come in under budget,” said Grassley. “If it's working, don't mess with it.”

Nonetheless, former Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, a Republican, said Medicare is “a good example of places where the administration might surprise.”

“Prescription drug pricing is in a category where both the president and the Democrats have made a commitment,” Leavitt added. “There will be a lot of division, but in the end there is a very good chance they will find a way that they can both claim victory.”

But the biggest health care idea among Democrats is “Medicare for all,” and on that, Pelosi is cautious. To those on the left “M4A” means a government-run health care system that would cover every American. That would require major tax increases and a big expansion of government.

Pelosi has tapped two committees, Budget and Rules, to handle “Medicare for all.” Health care legislation doesn't usually originate in either of them.

The Budget Committee can be a forum to explore ideas, and Chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky., has asked the Congressional Budget Office for a report on policy and design issues with instituting a single-payer health care system. The Rules Committee is a legislative traffic cop for the House floor, often acting as an arm of the Speaker's Office.

Says Pelosi: “We're going to have hearings.”

Some fear federal safety net is unraveling for those in need

By JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Doris Cochran, a disabled mother of two young boys, is stockpiling canned foods these days, filling her shelves with noodle soup, green beans, peaches and pears — anything that can last for months or even years. Her pantry looks as though she's preparing for a winter storm. But she's just trying to make sure her family won't go hungry if her food stamps run out.

For those like Cochran who rely on federal aid programs, the social safety net no longer feels so safe.

As the longest government shutdown in U.S. history stretches into a fifth week, millions of poor Americans who depend on food and rental assistance are becoming increasingly worried about the future. Most major aid programs haven't dried up yet. But each day the stalemate in Washington drags on, the U.S. inches closer to what advocates call a looming emergency. Those dependent on the aid are watching closely under a cloud of stress and anxiety.

“I just don't know what's going to happen,” Cochran said, “and that's what scares me the most.”

With no indication of an imminent compromise, the Trump administration in recent weeks has scrambled

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 34 of 45

to restore some services across the government. But two agencies crucial to the federal safety net — the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture — remain largely shuttered.

The USDA announced earlier this month that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides food aid to roughly 40 million Americans, will be fully funded through February. But should the shutdown stretch into March its status is unclear: With just \$3 billion in reserves, the USDA won't be able to cover the roughly \$4.8 billion it pays in monthly benefits.

The department was able to stretch the program for another month based on a loophole in a spending bill. But as a result of congressional rules, food stamp benefits allotted for February are being given out early, before Jan. 20. There is no guarantee recipients will get food stamps for March, but if even if the program continues without a lapse recipients would have to stretch their current allotment for at least six weeks, rather than four.

The impact of any lapse in these programs would be dramatic and unprecedented: The USDA says there has never before been a break in food stamp benefits since the program was made permanent in 1964.

Food banks are already stretched thin thanks to a notable spike in demand from furloughed federal employees, contractors and others out of work due to the shutdown, said Carrie Calvert, the managing director for government relations at Feeding America, a hunger relief organization. For every meal Feeding America's network of food pantries serves, federal food aid provides 12.

"This is a potentially catastrophic situation," Calvert said. "This could be an immediate emergency that grows exponentially."

Since the shutdown began, HUD has been unable to renew hundreds of contracts with private building owners who receive significant federal subsidies to provide housing to low-income families, the elderly and people with disabilities. Under these contracts, tenants pay a portion of the rent and the federal government covers the rest. But between December and the end of February, roughly 1,700 contracts are slated to expire, meaning that HUD won't be able to make their payments. The agency has asked landlords to dip into their reserves to cover rental costs until the government reopens, with a promise of reimbursement.

Similarly, come February, 700 rental assistance contracts administered through a USDA program that offers aid to low-income people in rural areas also will expire. A spokesman said the office "is exploring all options to mitigate any potential negative impact" to tenants.

Those unknowns are causing anxiety and anguish among America's most vulnerable.

Enequa Lewis, 36, lives in a HUD-subsidized apartment on Roosevelt Island in New York City. She said she found out earlier this month her building's HUD contract expired Jan. 9. Lewis, a single mother raising a 10-year-old, was laid off from a construction job in December. Without an income or any significant savings, Lewis said she'd be forced to drain her meager retirement fund to cover the full amount due with no rental assistance subsidy offsetting the expense.

"People are really afraid right now and just don't know what to do," Lewis said. "I can't afford market rate rent here. Where would I go? Where would everyone go? One side of the building is all elderly or handicapped. The other side is all families. Where would we all go?"

For Cochran, the mother stockpiling food, a disruption could throw her life into chaos.

She lives in subsidized housing in Arlington, Virginia, with her 6- and 8-year-old sons. She used to drive a truck, but recent health issues have left her unable to work. She relies solely on government subsidies to survive, cobbling together just enough to support her children using social security payments, food stamps and cash assistance payments. If any one of those federal programs were to stall, Cochran could end up on the street.

Cochran said she's trying to sell some homemade crafts and clothes to secondhand stores to squirrel away a few extra dollars. She returned the toys she'd bought for her sons for Christmas — a Hot Wheelz racetrack for the 8-year-old, a Mighty Beanz game for the younger boy — so she could buy them shoes.

"It was hard, but you have to make choices," she said. "I'm experiencing quite a bit of anxiety."

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

Trump's shutdown solution hangs in limbo

By JILL COLVIN and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's proposal to break through the budget deadlock appeared to be gaining little traction Monday, as another missed paycheck loomed for hundreds of thousands of workers and the partial federal shutdown stretched into its fifth week.

Despite the fanfare of the president's announcement and the rush to release the legislative package late Monday, voting in Congress was not expected to unfold until later in the week. Even then it seemed doubtful that the 1,300-page "End The Shutdown And Secure The Border Act" released by Senate Republicans had any chance of passing swiftly. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority but would need Democrats to reach the usual 60-vote threshold for bills to advance. Not a single Democrat publicly expressed support for the deal in the 48 hours since Trump announced it.

Details released late Monday highlight the centerpiece of Trump's offer: \$5.7 billion to build the wall along the U.S.-Mexico border alongside temporary protection from deportation for some immigrants. The package would re-open the shuttered parts of government and boost some spending. To try to draw more bipartisan support, it adds \$12.7 billion in supplemental funding for regions hit by hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer's office reiterated earlier Monday that Democrats are unwilling to negotiate any border security funding until Trump re-opens the government.

"Nothing has changed with the latest Republican offer," said Schumer spokesman Justin Goodman. "President Trump and Senate Republicans are still saying: 'Support my plan or the government stays shut.' That isn't a compromise or a negotiation — it's simply more hostage taking."

While the House and Senate are scheduled to be back in session Tuesday, no votes have been scheduled so far on Trump's plan. And senators, who will be given 24-hour notice ahead of voting, have yet to be recalled to Washington.

McConnell spokesman David Popp said Monday that the GOP leader "will move" to vote on consideration of the president's proposal "this week."

Trump, who on Sunday lashed out at House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, accusing her of acting "irrationally," continued to single her out on Twitter.

"If Nancy Pelosi thinks that Walls are 'immoral,' why isn't she requesting that we take down all of the existing Walls between the U.S. and Mexico," he wrote Monday. "Let millions of unchecked 'strangers' just flow into the U.S."

House Democrats this week are pushing ahead with voting on their own legislation to re-open the government and add \$1 billion for border security — including 75 more immigration judges and infrastructure improvements — but no funding for the wall.

Trump later tweeted: "Democrats are kidding themselves (they don't really believe it!) if they say you can stop Crime, Drugs, Human Trafficking and Caravans without a Wall or Steel Barrier. Stop playing games and give America the Security it deserves. A Humanitarian Crisis!"

Meanwhile, the impact of the shutdown — the longest ever — continued to ripple across the nation as it stretched into its 31st day.

The Transportation Security Administration said the percentage of its airport screeners missing work hit 10 percent on Sunday — up from 3.1 percent on the comparable Sunday a year ago.

The screeners, who have been working without pay, have been citing financial hardship as the reason they can't report to work. Even so, the agency said it screened 1.78 million passengers Sunday with only 6.9 percent having to wait 15 minutes or longer to get through security.

The shutdown had also threatened to disrupt plans for an annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day service at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the civil rights leader was co-pastor with his father from 1960 until his assassination in 1968. The site is run by the National Park Service and had been closed. But a grant from Delta Air Lines is keeping the church and associated sites, including the home where King was born, open through Feb. 3.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 36 of 45

Trump on Saturday offered to extend temporary protections for young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children and those fleeing disaster zones for three years in exchange for \$5.7 billion for his border wall. Democrats said the proposal for a three-year extension didn't go nearly far enough, and that Trump was using as leverage programs that he had targeted. Meanwhile, some on the right, including conservative commentator Ann Coulter, accused Trump of offering "amnesty."

"No, Amnesty is not a part of my offer," Trump tweeted Sunday, in response. He noted that he'd offered temporary protections for the immigrants in question, but added: "Amnesty will be used only on a much bigger deal, whether on immigration or something else."

That statement led some to suggest that Trump might be open to including a potential pathway to citizenship for the young "Dreamer" immigrants in a future proposal to end the standoff.

Asked in an interview on "Fox News Sunday" whether Trump's Saturday proposal represented a "final offer," Vice President Mike Pence said the White House was willing to negotiate.

"Well, of course," Pence said. "The legislative process is a negotiation."

Associated Press writers David Koenig and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

Hurdles cleared, Patriots head to 3rd straight Super Bowl

By KYLE HIGHTOWER, AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady smiled his way through the week leading up to Sunday's AFC championship game, mostly brushing aside questions about being an underdog for one of the few times during the Patriots' unprecedented run of titles.

But when Rex Burkhead crossed the goal line for a 2-yard touchdown to give New England a 37-31 overtime win over the Kansas City Chiefs, Brady let joy alter his usual coy demeanor.

He ripped off his helmet and leapt wildly in the air as his teammates rushed the field around him. The Patriots were heading back to another Super Bowl.

It will mark their third straight appearance for the Patriots and ninth overall for Brady, who again will be chasing a record sixth ring.

A victory over the NFC champion Los Angeles Rams would also put an emphatic stamp on what may have been the Patriots' toughest road to a Super Bowl since Brady and Bill Belichick earned their first ring together in 2001.

"The odds were stacked against us. It hasn't been that way in a while and it certainly was this year," Brady said.

The obstacles that Brady referred to occurred both on and off the field for this latest incarnation of the Patriots.

The offseason saw the departure of several key players from last year's team that came up short in a Super Bowl loss to Philadelphia. Receiver Brandin Cooks was traded to the Rams and cornerback Malcolm Butler, running back Dion Lewis, receiver Danny Amendola, and offensive linemen Nate Solder and Cam Fleming all left in free agency.

Then came news that stalwart receiver Julian Edelman would be suspended for the first four games of the regular season for violating the league's policy on performance enhancers.

It helped contribute to a surprise 1-2 start and the first — albeit small — signs of age for the 41-year-old Brady.

New England took a chance and traded for receiver Josh Gordon after Cleveland decided it was time to part ways with him. His arrival helped calm things and contributed to six consecutive victories.

But questions returned after a lopsided Week 10 loss at Tennessee that exposed vulnerabilities on both sides of the ball. The Patriots won their next two, but then suffered a fluky last-second loss at Miami.

That was followed by a loss at Pittsburgh and the abrupt loss of Gordon when he was suspended indefinitely by the NFL for violating an agreement that allowed him to play after multiple drug suspensions.

Still, despite facing the prospect of not having their usual home-field advantage in the postseason, the

Patriots rediscovered their run game and offensive efficiency during wins over the Bills and Jets to close the regular season.

Brady threw for four touchdowns and had his highest quarterback rating of the season in the 38-3 victory over the Jets. It set the stage for a vintage performance by Brady in their divisional-round playoff win over the Chargers. And on Sunday against Kansas City, he had 348 yards passing despite throwing two interceptions.

He also got support from a resurgent defense and revamped rushing attack on offense. The latter has gotten back-to-back 100-yard rushing games from rookie Sony Michel, who set a rookie NFL playoff record with five touchdowns in his first two postseason games.

Also making huge contributions in the fourth quarter and OT against the Chiefs were both Edelman and tight end Rob Gronkowski.

Gronk's regular season was mostly underwhelming as he dealt with nagging injuries, but he was sure-handed at the perfect time against Kansas City, catching six passes for 79 yards. Edelman had seven catches for 96 yards as both came through with huge third-down catches late in the game.

Gronk said he took his cues from Brady.

"You're always comfortable with Tom going down on drives," said Gronkowski, who is the first tight end with 1,000 postseason receiving yards. "He's always ready for these moments. And that's why he's the best quarterback — hands down.

"It was one of the sweeter victories definitely of my career."

The Patriots will have a chance to top it in two weeks in Atlanta.

Safety Devin McCourty said it's a position they always thought they'd be in.

"We're not worried about stats. We're not worried about Pro Bowls, All-Pros," he said. "When we come back in April each year, it's about getting to this game no matter what it takes.

"This year was a tough one. We battled some things. We've been questioned and doubted by a lot of people. But I think the great thing is we trust in what we believe. Our faith never wavered inside the locker room."

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

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

Venezuela quells soldiers' revolt, top court blasts congress

By FABIOLA SANCHEZ, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela plunged deeper into turmoil Monday as security forces put down a pre-dawn uprising by national guardsmen that triggered violent street protests, and the Supreme Court moved to undercut the opposition-controlled congress' defiant new leadership.

Socialist party chief Diosdado Cabello said 27 guardsmen were arrested and more could be detained as the investigation unfolds.

The mutiny struck at a time when opposition leaders have regained momentum in their efforts to oust President Nicolas Maduro. They have called for a nationwide demonstration Wednesday, urging Venezuelans — especially members of the armed forces — to abandon Maduro.

The uprising triggered protests in a poor neighborhood just a few miles (kilometers) from Venezuela's presidential palace. It was dispersed with tear gas as residents set fire to a barricade of trash and chanted demands that Maduro leave power.

The military said in a statement said that it had recovered all the weapons and captured those involved in what it described as "treasonous" acts motivated by "obscure interests tied to the far right."

It said at around 2:50 a.m. (06:50 GMT), a small group of guardsmen took captive a captain in charge of a police station in western Caracas and then moved across the capital in two military trucks to the poor neighborhood of Petare, where they stole a cache of weapons from another outpost.

Officials said 25 soldiers were quickly caught at the National Guard outpost 3 kilometers (2 miles) from

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 38 of 45

the Miraflores presidential palace, and two more arrests were made at another location.

A few hours earlier, a group of heavily armed national guardsmen published a series of videos on social media saying they won't recognize Maduro's government, which has come under increasing domestic and international pressure over a newly begun second term that the opposition-controlled congress and many nations consider illegitimate.

In one of the videos, a man identifying himself as 3rd Sgt. Alexander Bandres Figueroa, addressing the "people of Venezuela," urges his compatriots to take to the streets to show support for their rebellion.

"You asked to take to the streets to defend the constitution, well here we are," he said in a video shot at night in which several heavily armed men and a national guard truck can be seen in the background.

"You wanted us to light the fuse, so we did. We need your support," he added.

At daybreak in the adjacent neighborhood of Cotiza, a group of shirtless young men, some with their faces covered, built a barricade across the street with a burning car, heavy sewer grates and a large chunk of concrete.

An angry group of women shouted that they have lived for too long without running water and tear gas fired by security forces choked their children.

"Freedom! Freedom!" they chanted. "Maduro has to go!"

"We must defend our homeland," Maria Fernanda Rodriguez, a 36-year-old manicurist, told The Associated Press, her eyes welling from the tear gas.

Hours later, the government-stacked Supreme Court said it was throwing out recent measures by the National Assembly that declared Maduro's presidency illegitimate, deepening a standoff with the opposition-controlled legislature.

The justices ruled that the new leadership of congress itself is invalid, and urged the country's chief prosecutor to investigate whether congressional leaders acted criminally in openly defying the nation's constitution.

Juan Guaido, a 35-year-old newly seated as president of congress, appealed to the military, urging them to demand Maduro abandon power in a nationwide protests Wednesday — a historic date commemorating the end of Venezuela's military dictatorship in 1958.

"We are not asking you to mount a coup. We are not asking you to shoot," Guaido said in a video circulated on social media. "On the contrary, we are asking you not to shoot at us, but rather to defend together with us the right of our people to be heard."

Late Monday, Colombian TV played a video showing a group of unidentified men claiming to be soldiers who are friends of Venezuela's armed forces holed up in Colombia, saying they are responding to Guaido by preparing an advance into Venezuela to help restore democracy.

The video shown on NTN-TV in Bogota shows roughly two dozen men wearing combat fatigues, but unarmed. The Associated Press could not independently verify where the soldiers were located or their identities.

Dozens of foreign governments have refused to recognize Maduro's second term, some saying they are ready to recognize Guaido as interim president until fair elections can be held.

In addition, the Trump administration is weighing tougher financial sanctions on Venezuela, while a dozen mostly conservative Latin American and Caribbean governments said they will block officials from Maduro's government from entering their countries and take steps to freeze assets that are the byproduct of corruption

While discontent among Venezuelans is rising amid widespread food shortages and hyperinflation, Maduro is believed to have the loyalty of his top military command. In the past, troops have easily put down small uprisings.

Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez said on Twitter that those responsible for the incident would be punished with the full force of the law.

Maduro was the target of an apparent assassination attempt Aug. 4 when two drones armed with explosives detonated near him as he spoke at a military parade. Officials have jailed dozens of suspects, including an opposition lawmaker.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 39 of 45

In June 2017, rogue police officer Oscar Perez stole a helicopter and flew it over the capital, launching grenades at the Supreme Court building. He and several comrades died in a gunbattle with police after months on the lam.

Cabello, Venezuela's powerful socialist party leader, said the opposition demonstration expected Wednesday doesn't worry him, because the government will flood the streets with its own loyal supporters.

"It's the right that stirs up violence — not us," Cabello said. "How many marches do we hold here every week without a single act of violence?"

Frigid air, high winds sweep the Northeast; at least 7 dead

By HOLLY RAMER, Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Falling temperatures replaced the weekend's falling snow Monday as bitter cold and gusty winds swept across the eastern United States.

The National Weather Service had forecast that temperatures would be more than 20 degrees below normal across the Northeast, with wind gusts up to 30 mph (48 kph) and wind chills approaching minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 40 degrees Celsius) in northern New York and Vermont.

Those wind gusts caused flight disruptions at LaGuardia Airport in New York City on Monday and FlightAware reported hundreds of delayed flights. And after a few weather-related delays Sunday, Amtrak restored all scheduled service Monday.

Atop the Northeast's highest mountain, the temperature fell to minus 23 degrees (minus 31 Celsius) Monday morning and dropped to minus 31 (minus 35 Celsius) later in the afternoon, according to the Facebook page for Mount Washington Observatory, in New Hampshire. Wind chills were hovering around minus 80 (minus 62 Celsius).

In New York, Coast Guard crews moved quickly to rescue a 21-year-old man left stranded on an island in the Navensink River after his small boat broke down. The Coast Guard said two members waded through 34-degree (1 Celsius) water to bring the man to safety. The air temperature was 7 degrees (minus 14 Celsius) with 30 mph wind.

The weather contributed to multiple deaths over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend.

In suburban Chicago, the temperature was about 14 degrees (minus 10 Celsius) Sunday when a 12-year-old girl died after a snow fort collapsed on her. Police in Arlington Heights, Illinois, said Esther Jung had been playing with another girl outside Rothem Church. Their families began looking for them about an hour later and found them under the snow. The younger girl survived.

In Connecticut, a utility company subcontractor died Sunday after being struck by a falling tree while working on a power line in Middletown. Thousands of homes and businesses in Connecticut remained without power Monday afternoon as temperatures dropped below zero in some locations.

"This is a reminder of the danger these men and women face on our behalf," Gov. Ned Lamont said in a tweet. "While many are still out there working today, please join me in acknowledging them and sending our thoughts to this person's family."

In Kansas, a snowplow driver was killed when the plow drove onto the shoulder of a road and rolled over, throwing him under the vehicle. It wasn't clear why the driver had moved to the shoulder from the roadway.

At least four people have died after shoveling snow.

In Wisconsin, the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office said a 59-year-old man and a 91-year-old man collapsed and died Sunday in separate incidents after removing snow. In upstate New York, 70-year-old Frank Demasi died Monday after collapsing with a heart attack while shoveling snow. And in southwest Michigan, a man in charge of transportation at a school district also died while shoveling snow. Portage district officials said Mike Westbrook died Saturday from a heart attack.

Another storm system is already developing over the Rockies that could blanket the same region with more snow by the end of the week.

___ This story has been corrected to show the Connecticut town is Middletown, not Middleton.

Man linked to 4 killings suspected of being in US illegally

RENO, Nevada (AP) — Authorities investigating four recent Nevada killings say murder charges are pending against a man suspected of being in the U.S. illegally.

Wilbur Martinez-Guzman, 20, was arrested Saturday in Carson City and is being held on possession of stolen property, burglary and immigration charges.

Authorities say they expect to file murder charges against him in the coming days in the shooting deaths of an elderly Reno couple and two women who lived near the town of Gardnerville.

Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong said at a Sunday news conference that federal immigration authorities told his office Martinez-Guzman had lived in Carson City for about a year and was in the country illegally.

Furlong said Monday he didn't know where Martinez-Guzman is originally from, and a message left with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was not immediately returned. President Donald Trump mentioned the killings Monday in a tweet calling for his long-promised border wall.

Authorities say Connie Koontz, 56, was found dead Jan. 10 in her home in Gardnerville Ranchos, about 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of Carson City. Three days later, 74-year-old Sophia Renken was found dead in her home about a mile from where Koontz lived.

On Wednesday, the bodies of 81-year-old Gerald David, and his 80-year-old wife, Sharon, were found in their home on the southern edge of Reno, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of Carson City.

Furlong said the investigation is ongoing and it's too soon to comment on a possible motive. He said Martinez-Guzman didn't yet have an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

This story has been corrected to show Martinez-Guzman is 20 years old, not 19.

TSA screener sick-outs hit 10 percent over holiday weekend

By DAVID KOENIG, AP Airlines Writer

The percentage of TSA airport screeners missing work has hit 10 percent as the partial government shutdown stretches into its fifth week.

The Transportation Security Administration said Monday that Sunday's absence rate compared to 3.1 percent on the comparable Sunday a year ago.

The workers who screen passengers and their bags face missing another paycheck if the shutdown doesn't end early this week. According to TSA, many of them say the financial hardship is preventing them from reporting to work.

TSA says the national average waiting time in airport checkpoint lines is within the normal limit of 30 minutes, but there are longer lines at some airports.

The agency has dispatched extra screeners to airports in Atlanta, LaGuardia Airport in New York, and Newark, New Jersey. A TSA spokesman said other airports might also be getting additional help.

Sunday's 10 percent absence rate indicates that more than 3,000 airport screeners missed work. TSA has 51,000 screeners, and a spokesman said that about 33,000 work on any given day. That topped the previous high of 8 percent on Saturday.

With fewer screeners, TSA closed one of its security checkpoints at Baltimore/Washington airport over the weekend, reopened it, but closed it again Monday afternoon, according to an airport spokeswoman.

A checkpoint at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport remained closed. An airport spokesman said lines were relatively short at the other six checkpoints.

TSA appeared to be managing the high sick-out rate as well as could be expected. The agency said that on Sunday it screened 1.78 million passengers, and only 6.9 percent — roughly 120,000 people — had to wait 15 minutes or longer to get through security.

No figures were yet available for Monday, but websites or spokespeople for several major airports including Dallas-Fort Worth and Chicago's O'Hare reported normal security lines and few problems. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which had some of the longest lines in the country last week, reported waits of 15 to 30 minutes at domestic-travel checkpoints Monday. Los Angeles International Airport showed

most lines under 20 minutes.

TSA got a break from bad weather: Storms in the Midwest and Northeast led airlines to cancel more than 4,400 flights over the three-day weekend, which reduced the number of passengers to screen.

A few airports — San Francisco's being the largest — conduct screening with government-approved private contractors, not TSA. A long government shutdown and more TSA sick-outs could lead other airports to consider going private, although that hasn't happened yet.

The holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. is not as busy for travel as many other three-day weekends. However, inconvenience could become a crisis for the travel industry the longer the shutdown lasts — and there are few signs of movement by President Donald Trump or congressional Democrats to break the stalemate over border-wall spending that is causing the shutdown.

"Presidents' Day weekend is much bigger, and then spring break and Easter— those are really important," said Savanthi Syth, an airline analyst for Raymond James. Presidents' Day is Feb. 18, and Syth said if the shutdown drags into next month it could cause some passengers to cancel travel plans.

David Koenig can be reached at <http://twitter.com/airlinewriter>

UK leader unveils Brexit Plan B, looks a lot like Plan A

By JILL LAWLESS and RAF CASERT, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May unveiled her Brexit Plan B on Monday — and it looks a lot like Plan A.

May launched a mission to resuscitate her rejected European Union divorce deal, setting out plans to get it approved by Parliament after securing changes from the EU to a contentious Irish border measure.

May's opponents expressed incredulity: British lawmakers last week dealt the deal a resounding defeat, and EU leaders insist they won't renegotiate it.

Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn of the Labour Party accused May of being in "deep denial" about her doomed deal.

"This really does feel a bit like 'Groundhog Day,'" he said, referring to the 1993 film starring Bill Murray, in which a weatherman is fated to live out the same day over and over again.

Outlining what she plans to do after her EU divorce deal was rejected by Parliament last week, May said that she had heeded lawmakers' concerns over an insurance policy known as the "backstop" that is intended to guarantee there are no customs checks along the border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland after Brexit.

May told the House of Commons that she would be "talking further this week to colleagues ... to consider how we might meet our obligations to the people of Northern Ireland and Ireland in a way that can command the greatest possible support in the House.

"And I will then take the conclusions of those discussions back to the EU."

The bloc insists that it won't renegotiate the withdrawal agreement.

"She is wasting time calling for a revision or clarification over the backstop," said German politician Udo Bullmann, head of the socialist group in the European Parliament.

While May stuck doggedly to her deal, she also acknowledged that control over Brexit wasn't entirely in her hands. She noted that lawmakers will be able to amend her plan when it comes to a vote in the House of Commons on Jan. 29, exactly two months before Britain is due to leave the EU.

Groups of "soft Brexit"-backing lawmakers — who want to keep close economic ties to the bloc — are planning to use amendments to try to rule out a "no-deal" Brexit and make May ease her insistence that leaving the EU means quitting its single market and customs union.

Britain and the EU sealed a divorce deal in November after months of tense negotiations. But the agreement has been rejected by both sides of Britain's divide over Europe. Brexit-backing lawmakers say it will leave the U.K. tethered to the bloc's rules and unable to forge an independent trade policy. Pro-Europeans argue it is inferior to the frictionless economic relationship Britain currently enjoys as an EU member.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 42 of 45

After her deal was thrown out last week by a crushing 432-202 vote in Parliament, May said she would consult with lawmakers from all parties to find a new way forward.

But Corbyn called the cross-party meetings a "stunt," and other opposition leaders said the prime minister didn't seem to be listening.

On Monday, May rejected calls from pro-EU lawmakers to delay Britain's departure from the bloc or to hold a second referendum on whether to leave.

In a nod to opposition parties' concerns, she promised to consult lawmakers, trade unionists, business groups and civil society organizations "to try to find the broadest possible consensus" on future ties between Britain and the EU, and said the government wouldn't water down protections for the environment and workers' rights after Brexit.

May also said the government had decided to waive a 65 pound (\$84) fee for EU citizens in Britain who want to stay permanently after Brexit.

Guy Verhofstadt, the head of the EU Parliament Brexit steering group, welcomed news that the fee was being dropped for 3 million EU nationals, saying it had been a "key demand" for the EU legislature.

May's immediate goal is to win over pro-Brexit Conservatives and her party's Northern Irish ally, the Democratic Unionist Party. Both groups say they won't back the deal unless the border backstop is removed.

The backstop proposes to keep the U.K. in a customs union with the EU in order to avoid checks on the Irish border. It is meant as a temporary measure that would last until a permanent solution is found. But pro-Brexit U.K. lawmakers fear Britain could become trapped in it, indefinitely bound by EU trade rules.

Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz broke ranks with EU colleagues Monday by suggesting the problem could be solved by setting a five-year time limit on the backstop.

The idea got a cool reception. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said that "putting a time-limit on an insurance mechanism, which is what the backstop is, effectively means that it's not a backstop at all."

Britain's political impasse over Brexit is fueling concerns that the country may crash out of the EU on March 29 with no agreement in place to cushion the shock. That could see tariffs imposed on goods moving between Britain and the EU, sparking logjams at ports and shortages of essential supplies.

Carolyn Fairbairn, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said Monday was "another bleak day for business."

"Parliament remains in deadlock while the slope to a cliff edge steepens," she said.

Several groups of lawmakers are trying to use parliamentary rules and amendments to May's plan to block the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without a deal.

One of those legislators, Labour's Yvette Cooper, said May was shirking her responsibility to the country by refusing to take "no deal" off the table.

"I think she knows that she should rule out 'no deal' in the national interest because it would be so damaging," Cooper told the BBC. "She's refusing to do so, and I think she's hoping that Parliament will do this for her. That is not leadership."

Raf Casert reported from Brussels. Lorne Cook in Brussels and Monika Scislowska in Warsaw, Poland, contributed to this story.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Johnson & Johnson puts up strong profit and revenue in 4Q

By LINDA A. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer

A big jump in prescription drug sales, particularly overseas, helped Johnson & Johnson swing to a large fourth-quarter profit after posting a huge loss a year ago, when it took a \$13.6 billion charge related to the late-2017 U.S. tax overhaul.

The world's biggest maker of health care products also benefited from an effective tax rate of just 2.6 percent for the latest quarter, along with reduced spending on research and development. It topped Wall

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 43 of 45

Street profit and revenue expectations.

The maker of baby shampoo and biotech drugs on Tuesday reported net income of \$3.04 billion, or \$1.12 per share, for 2018's fourth quarter. A year earlier, J&J reported a rare net loss — \$10.71 billion, or \$3.00 per share. That was due to the \$13.6 billion charge, for a tax payment on years of accumulated foreign earnings, amounting to more than \$66 billion, brought back to the U.S. at low tax rates.

Earnings in the latest quarter, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, came to \$1.97 per share, or 2 cents better than industry analysts expected, according to a survey by Zacks Investment Research.

The New Brunswick, New Jersey- based company said revenue totaled \$20.39 billion, also edging out expectations, though that was just 1 percent higher than 2017's fourth quarter.

As usual, J&J's prescription drug business drove the strong performance, with sales jumping 5.3 percent to \$10.19 billion. Sales of cancer drugs including Darzalex, Imbruviga and Zytiga jumped 22 percent to a total of \$2.49 billion, and sales of Remicade, Simponi and Stelara, for rheumatoid arthritis and other immune disorders, rose 8.3 percent to a total of \$3.34 billion.

Johnson & Johnson's consumer health business posted flat sales of \$3.54 billion, while the medical devices and diagnostics business, which the company has been revamping for a couple years, saw sales drop 4.4 percent to \$6.67 billion.

Johnson & Johnson expects full-year earnings between \$8.50 and \$8.65 per share, with revenue between \$80.4 billion and \$81.2 billion. Industry analysts have projected per-share earnings of \$8.60 and revenue of about \$82.6 billion.

Follow Linda A. Johnson at https://twitter.com/LindaJ_onPharma

Portions of this story were generated by Automated Insights (<http://automatedinsights.com/ap>) using data from Zacks Investment Research. Access a Zacks stock report on JNJ at <https://www.zacks.com/ap/JNJ>

Stocks subdued as Chinese growth falls to weakest since '90

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — World stocks were subdued Monday after China reported its slowest economic expansion in 30 years and the International Monetary Fund cut its forecasts for global growth this year.

KEEPING SCORE: Germany's DAX fell 0.6 percent to close at 11,136.20 while the CAC 40 in France slipped 0.2 percent to 4,867.78. Britain's FTSE 100 added less than 0.1 percent to 6,970.59. Wall Street remained closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day.

THE DAY IN ASIA: The Shanghai Composite Index added 0.6 percent to 2,610.51 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index climbed 0.3 percent to 27,196.54. Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 0.3 percent to 20,719.33, while South Korea's Kospi was flat at 2,124.61. The S&P ASX 200 in Australia added 0.2 percent to 5,890.40. India's Sensex surged 0.7 percent to 36,633.37. Shares rose in Southeast Asia and Taiwan.

CHINA'S ECONOMY: The 6.6 percent expansion of the world's second-largest economy was down from 2017's 6.9 percent and the weakest since 1990. China's communist leaders are trying to steer the country to slower, more self-sustaining growth based on consumer spending instead of trade and investment. But the slowdown has been sharper than expected, prompting Beijing to ease lending controls and step up government spending to shore up growth and avoid politically dangerous job losses. The lackluster data raised hopes for more policy action.

CHINA-US TRADE: Stock markets had been buoyed Friday by a Bloomberg News report that Chinese officials offered to buy more goods and services from the U.S., potentially eliminating its trade deficit by 2024. The Chinese government says the top trade envoys from both countries will meet at the end of January. The U.S. trade deficit with China grew to a record \$323.3 billion in 2018. 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.

WORLD OUTLOOK: The IMF cut its forecast for global growth this year to 3.5 percent, from the 3.7

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 44 of 45

percent it had predicted in October and down from 2018's 3.7 percent. In its report, presented on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, it cited the impact of global trade disputes as well as rising interest rates.

ENERGY: U.S. crude fell 8 cents to \$53.72 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It rose 3.3 percent on Friday to \$54.04 in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed 16 cents to \$62.60 per barrel. It added 2.5 percent to \$62.70 a barrel in London on Friday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 109.63 yen from 109.78 yen. The euro was roughly flat at \$1.1366.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2019. There are 343 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at his Texas ranch at age 64.

On this date:

In 1498, during his third voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus arrived at the present-day Caribbean island of St. Vincent.

In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81 after a reign of 63 years; she was succeeded by her eldest son, Edward VII.

In 1907, the Richard Strauss opera "Salome" made its American debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York; its racy content sparked outrage and forced cancellation of additional performances.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson, in an address to Congress, pleaded for an end to the war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory." (By April, however, America also was at war.)

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1953, the Arthur Miller drama "The Crucible," set during the Salem witch trials, opened on Broadway.

In 1968, the fast-paced sketch comedy program "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" premiered as a weekly series on NBC-TV.

In 1987, Pennsylvania treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, convicted of defrauding the state, proclaimed his innocence at a news conference before pulling out a gun, placing the barrel in his mouth and shooting himself to death in front of horrified onlookers.

In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 104.

In 1997, the Senate confirmed Madeleine Albright as the nation's first female secretary of state.

In 1998, Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) pleaded guilty in Sacramento, California, to being the Unabomber responsible for three deaths and 29 injuries in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

In 2008, actor Heath Ledger, 28, was found dead of an accidental prescription overdose in a New York City apartment. Jose Padilla (hoh-ZAY' puh-DEE'-uh), once accused of plotting with al-Qaida to blow up a radioactive "dirty bomb," was sentenced by a U.S. federal judge in Miami to 17 years and four months (later increased to 21 years) on other terrorism conspiracy charges.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed an executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay prison camp within a year. (The facility remained in operation as lawmakers blocked efforts to transfer terror suspects to the United States; President Donald Trump later issued an order to keep the jail open and allow the Pentagon to bring new prisoners there.) The Senate Finance Committee cleared the nomination of Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary, 18-5, despite unhappiness over his mistakes in paying his taxes. A Chinese court sentenced two men to death and a dairy boss to life in prison for their roles in producing and selling infant formula tainted with melamine that was blamed for the deaths of at least six babies and sickening thousands more.

Five years ago: The White House Council on Women and Girls released a report on rape at college

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 197 ~ 45 of 45

campuses, saying 1 in 5 female students were assaulted while only 1 in 8 student victims reported it. Edgar Tamayo, a Mexican national, was put to death in Texas for killing Houston police officer Guy Gaddis despite pleas and diplomatic pressure from Mexico and the U.S. State Department to halt the execution. Israel said it had foiled an "advanced" al-Qaida plan to carry out a suicide bombing on the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and bomb other targets.

One year ago: President Donald Trump signed a bill reopening the government after a 69-hour shutdown. Pennsylvania's Supreme Court struck down the state's widely criticized congressional map, a victory for Democrats who alleged the 18 districts were unconstitutionally gerrymandered to benefit Republicans. Former soccer star George Weah was sworn in as Liberia's new president, taking over the impoverished West African nation from Africa's first female leader, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Gov. Phil Scott signed legislation making Vermont the first state in the country to approve the recreational use of marijuana through the state legislature, rather than through a vote of residents. Singer Neil Diamond announced that he would be retiring from touring because he'd recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., is 91. Actress Piper Laurie is 87. Celebrity chef Graham Kerr (TV: "The Galloping Gourmet") is 85. Actor Seymour Cassel is 84. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 82. Singer Steve Perry is 70. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 67. Movie director Jim Jarmusch is 66. Actor John Wesley Shipp is 64. Hockey Hall of Famer Mike Bossy is 62. Actress Linda Blair is 60. Actress Diane Lane is 54. Actor-rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 54. Country singer Regina Nicks (Regina Regina) is 54. Celebrity chef Guy Fieri is 51. Actress Olivia d'Abo is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gay (Shai) is 50. Actress Katie Finneran is 48. Actor Gabriel Macht is 47. Actor Balthazar Getty is 44. Actor Christopher Kennedy Masterson is 39. Jazz singer Lizz Wright is 39. Pop singer Willa Ford is 38. Actress Beverley (cq) Mitchell is 38. Rock singer-musician Ben Moody is 38. Actor Kevin Sheridan is 37. Actress-singer Phoebe Strole is 36. Rapper Logic is 29. Tennis player Alize Cornet (uh-LEEZ' kohr-NAY') is 29. Actress Sami Gayle is 23.

Thought for Today: "Children need models rather than critics." — Joseph Joubert (zhoo-BAYR'), French moralist (1754-1824).