

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton Area Schedule of Events

Monday, January 28, 2019

Today is Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day, Data Privacy Day, Fun at Work Day, National Kazoo Day
Groton Area is 2 hours late today. No 8:30 a.m. Pre Kindergarten. OST will open at 9 a.m.

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys JH Tournament vs. Ipswich @ Ipswich

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Northwestern @ Groton

American Pickers Monday at 9/8c on History features the Bruce and Vickie Sippel farm near Groton

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Today is National Puzzle Day and National Cornchip Day

3:30 p.m.: Upper Dakota Conference Congressional Debate at Groton

5:00pm: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Langford @ Langford

6:30pm: Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Langford @ Langford

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019

Today is National Inane Answering Message Day

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Today is Backward Day and Inspire Your Heart with Art Day

4:00pm: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Webster Area High School @ Webster Armory (7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m.)

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Tiospa Zina @ Groton Area High School

Friday, February 1, 2019

Today is Bubble Gum Day, National Freedom Day and No Politics Day

5:15pm: Basketball: Boys C Game vs. Tiospa Zina @ Tiospa Zina High School followed by JV and Varsity games.

Skating Rink Hours

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

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

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

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Despite the snow and a little breeze, the afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates went on without a hitch. Taylor Holm was crowned the 2019 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen. (Photo Facebook by Jodi Weigel)



It was crowded in the warming house as everyone got ready for the finale. (Photo by Rachael Crank on her Facebook Page)



Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

Last week, I provided a pretty thorough discussion on SB 47 dealing with permitless carry or Constitutional carry of concealed weapons. As an update, I would note that the bill was very thoroughly debated on the Senate floor last Tuesday, and in the final analysis, it passed, 23-11. By the time you read this, it will have been heard in House State Affairs and, if it passed House committee, may have even

been acted on by the House.

With Lieutenant Governor Rhoden out of town Tuesday-Thursday, I served as the presiding officer of the Senate. However, because I had to pitch SB 47 on the floor on Tuesday, I turned the gavel over to Senator Joshua Klumb. He has served the legislature in some capacity the past 11 years, including five as a Representative or Senator. He did a remarkable job wielding the gavel. On Wednesday, I turned the gavel over to Senator Gary Cammack who had been the President Pro Tempore before me. However, he never had the opportunity to conduct floor business, so I thought he might appreciate doing so. He did, and he also did a nice job filling in. On Thursday, I flew solo and I'm happy to say we managed to clear our bills efficiently and without any snafus.

Other notable bills that passed the Senate were SB 16 to establish that energy companies are required to be financially responsible for decommissioning any wind turbines they choose to abandon; SB 22 to place certain controlled substances on the drug schedule—more on this below; and SB 48 to authorize certain improvement districts to issue convention facility on-sale (alcohol) licenses that will not conflict with other limited licenses available in those jurisdictions.

In the first week of session, there was a lot of chatter on social media about SB 22 and what the effects might be were it to pass. I attempted to quell some of the concern by expressing my opinion that the bill was not seeking to affect cannabidiol that has already been recognized as a legal product by the FDA and SD law. Over the ensuing weeks, the Department of Health worked on the language to very specifically spell out the language that was being discussed. In the end, the Health and Human Services Committee settled on language that appears to not present any concern to those constituents who had testified against the original bill. By inserting the term "Epidiolex" into the bill, I believe all questions have been answered and concerns alleviated.

I have received a number of correspondences about the bill that seeks to void the SDHSAA's policy that mandates that schools must allow biological boys who identify as girls or biological girls who identify as boys to participate in the sport of their non-biological sex, thus also giving them access to the opposite sex's locker rooms and showers. The bill would essentially ensure that those of one biological sex participate against others of the same biological, God-given sex. The bill was killed last week in Senate Education committee, 5-2. I was not aware of it until last week, but we do have at least one transgender biological male athlete performing at a very high level for that person's girls' basketball team. And apparently when another team had at least one player refuse to shake hands with the biological male after the game, the starters from the team were subsequently punished by not being allowed to start their next game. Things are becoming very interesting now that the SDHSAA has allowed gender dysphoria to enter into competition here in South Dakota. Stay tuned to see whether the bill is revived in some fashion.

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As you have seen, Governor Noem presented her Budget Address last Wednesday. There were some notable differences between her budget and Governor Daugaard's budget. Now, we appropriators will delve back into the budget with a little different outlook concerning gubernatorial priorities. Of course, some of them will better-align with legislative priorities, while others may conflict. I hold out hope for a concerted effort to provide additional dollars for those medical providers who care for those who cannot care for themselves, namely nursing homes, adjustment training centers, and mental health institutions. We will also be seeking to secure more dollars for education, state employees and other areas of high priority.

Finally, in Joint Appropriations on Friday, we passed HB 1037 by a vote of 17-1 to allow Northern State University to spend the money they have raised from private donors on a regional sports complex that will ultimately be built just south of the Barnett Center and will feature both practice and game-day facilities for football and softball. These new fields will be able to be enjoyed by fans and teams from throughout the area as more teams than just the Wolves will utilize them. Also, relative to Aberdeen and Brown County, we passed (unanimously) SB 34 to replace a badly damaged Elm Lake Dam. This will involve just over \$520,000 in state funds along with \$1 million from the city of Aberdeen. Ultimately, the state is charged with the responsibility to maintain this dam, but because it is largely responsible for the water supply of Aberdeen, they, too, are stepping up with a large portion of the investment. HB 1037 heads to the House for their consideration, and SB 34, to the Senate.

Thank you for reading and for sharing your thoughts via email and telephone. I appreciate all of you who participate in the legislative process in the many ways you do. I wish you God's continued blessings!

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Contact Pam Rohrbach



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Weekly Vikings Roundup

Pro Bowl Edition

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings' season may have ended December 30, but we got to see some of the players one last time. This past weekend was the NFL Pro Bowl, which showcases the best players in the league going head to head for a little bit of money and a lot of fun. There were four Vikings in the Pro Bowl: Adam Thielen, Harrison Smith, Anthony Barr and Danielle Hunter – and they all played well. Battling the rainy and chilly conditions, the AFC won, beating the NFC 26-7. The game was on Sunday, but the whole week was filled with various events, from charity work to a skills competition.

Thielen was perhaps the MVP of the skills challenge, posting the best time in the "Best hands" category, putting up a very respectful score in the precision passing event (his 10 points were more than double that of QB Andrew Luck), and almost single handedly winning the winner-take-all game of dodge ball (in the final of three dodgeball matches, Thielen took out five of the six AFC opponents). In the Pro Bowl, Thielen caught two passes for 18 yards, but after his showing at the skills competition the coaches put in a play for Thielen to throw a pass... let's just say it didn't go so well.

Harrison Smith got the start at safety in the Pro Bowl, and he finished with three tackles and a pass breakup. Smith was also part of a fun return play where Mike Evans intercepted a Deshaun Watson pass (yes, Tampa Bay WR Mike Evans, who was playing defense because why not? It's the Pro Bowl). Evans tossed the ball to Anthony Barr, who fumbled, but Smith was right there to scoop it up. Harrison pitched it to Saquon Barkley (also playing defense), then got the ball back again and ran 15 yards before being tackled.

Anthony Barr didn't have many highlights in the game, but you could tell he wasn't putting any effort into the game. He was just there to have fun and play one last game this season, but that is to be expected since he is about to be a free agent, and he doesn't want to risk injury in a meaningless game.

Danielle Hunter filled up the stat sheet like he normally does, finishing the game with three tackles, one tackle for a loss, one quarterback hit, and one sack (which ended up being the only sack for the NFC in the game).

Looking ahead, this weekend is the Super Bowl. The New England Patriots will take on the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday, February 03 for the Lombardi Trophy. The game will be played in Atlanta and will air on CBS at 5:30pm (CT). This game seems like a matchup of opposites – the Patriots have been at the top of the NFL for over a decade, and this will be their 8th appearance in the Super Bowl since 2001. The Rams, on the other hand, are an inexperienced team with a young Head Coach and a quarterback in his third year in the NFL. ESPN is giving the Rams a 52.4% chance to win, but my money is on Tom Brady, Bill Belichick, and the rest of the Patriots.

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

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DAK-XII v. NEC CONFERENCE CLASH



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 2019 – MADISON, SD

GAMES WILL BE PLAYED AT MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS PAIRINGS

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

ADULTS \$7 – STUDENTS \$4



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



Nobody Wins During A Shutdown

As Congress buckles down over the next three weeks to deal with the government shutdown and improve border security, I also want to keep our eye on this important fact:

This should never happen again.

We had a partial government shutdown for over a month. I truly believe the individuals who walk the halls of Congress came here for the right reasons, but it is far too easy to get caught up in the politics of D.C. The shutdown is proof of that, and it is painfully obvious to many of us who are new here – and inherited the shutdown as we were sworn in – that the unwillingness to come to the negotiating table is purely political.

Shutdowns are a game of win or lose, but the reality is nobody wins during a shutdown. A reported 4,400 federal employees in South Dakota did not get a paycheck. I've talked with a number of the impacted families and their stories are not easy to hear. These individuals are the ones who lose during political standoffs.

Many employees showed up to work during the 35 day impasse and they deserve our appreciation for bearing the weight of a political fight beyond their control. It's time Congress put into place a structure that will put pressure on the deal makers in our government. Congress should feel the pain that more than eight hundred thousand Americans have over the last month. Our federal workers and the American people deserve better.

I have been talking with colleagues on both sides of the aisle every single day about how to make this situation less likely, if not impossible, in the future. We're discussing a number of specific legislative solutions, from withholding congressional and political appointee pay during the shutdown to requiring Congress stay in session continuously until a shutdown is resolved. I'm hopeful those "pressure points" would motivate Congress and the Executive Branch to fund our government on time. The American people shouldn't have to pay for a government that isn't serving them because of political disagreements.

In South Dakota, we come to the table, negotiate and deliberate until we come up with a solution. This stands in stark contrast to the 30+ days of failed negotiations we saw in Washington. Congress should take note and follow South Dakota's example.

Here's the deal – we need improved border security and we need to keep the government open. If Speaker Pelosi wants \$0 for a wall and President Trump wants \$5.7 billion, let's negotiate a number somewhere in the middle, end any and all future shutdowns and get back to work.

NSU to 'Light Up Wachs Arena Maroon' during I Hate Winter with help from 3M

ABERDEEN, S.D. – 3M Aberdeen has partnered with the Northern State University athletic department to "light up Wachs Arena maroon" on Saturday, Feb. 9, as the Wolves take on Southwest Minnesota State.

The idea stems from a similar event with 3M and the Minnesota Vikings, and is the first of its kind at the collegiate level. The "light up Wachs Arena maroon" will take place in conjunction with the annual I Hate Winter weekend, which has a theme of "Let's Get Tropical," based on the movie Semi-Pro.

"This is a great opportunity for 3M Aberdeen to partner with Northern State University to play to two of 3M's core strengths – our culture of science and innovation, and our commitment to be involved in our community," said Allen Chasteen, plant manager, 3M Aberdeen. "I am personally thankful to be involved with such a great institution in NSU and I can't wait to see the crowd involved with glowing the arena with maroon film. Go Wolves!"

The company donated 4,000 pieces of maroon translucent film, which will be handed out to fans at the two main entrances to the arena as they arrive to Saturday's contest. In order for the maroon-lighting effect to fill the arena, all fans will need to bring their smartphones or cellphones with a flashlight capability to the game. When prompted, fans will turn on their cellphone flashlights and cover the light with the film. This will occur during the starting lineups for both the men's and women's contests.

"We are so excited to partner with 3M on this awesome promotion," noted NSU Director of Athletics Josh Moon. "3M and NSU have long been anchors of this community and it is awesome to be able to showcase their innovative products, while helping create a one-of-a kind atmosphere in Wachs Arena for I Hate Winter."

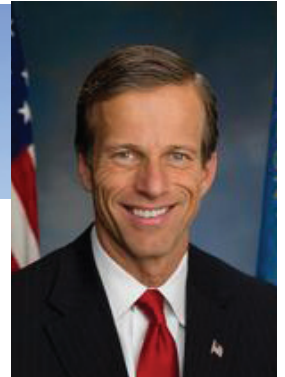
The films were created by 3M scientists specifically for this use, as the company makes multiple types of optical films. The company sent scientists to U.S. Bank Stadium to run tests and get the color, film and flashlight effect just right, before the initial use on Dec. 23 versus the Green Bay Packers.

Moon added, "This adds another element to an already exciting action-packed weekend. A huge thanks to Allen Chasteen and the 3M team for their efforts in bringing this promotion to Aberdeen and NSU!"

Known for its innovation, 3M is an active employer and vital member of our community for 45 years. Learn more about 3M's creative solutions to the world's problems at www.3M.com or on Twitter @3M or @3MNews; or www.3M.com/careers-us for employment opportunities.

Follow Wolves Athletics on Twitter for the most up-to-date information on NSU's I Hate Winter 2019, "Let's Get Tropical."

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



One Thing We Can All Agree On

There's unfortunately little doubt that we're living in an era where it's often more difficult than it needs to be for the two parties in Washington to come together on certain issues facing the country. I strongly believe that it's important for elected leaders to have debates and exchange ideas, and I also believe we can have honest disagreements without being disagreeable with one another. It's a responsible way to govern – something we owe to the people who elected us to serve.

While there are plenty of policies over which there are robust disagreements these days – disagreements I know we will be able to overcome – there is at least one topic, among several, that always seems to have strong bipartisan support: ending illegal and abusive robocalls that are affecting people across the country, including in South Dakota.

No one is immune to these annoying and potentially dangerous calls. I receive them. My friends and family receive them. Even my 99-year-old dad receives them. According to the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), two federal agencies over which the Senate Commerce Committee has jurisdiction, unsolicited robocalls are among the top consumer complaints they receive, and it's no wonder.

How many times have you heard your phone ring, seen a somewhat familiar number or area code, and answered it only to find out it's either a scam or an unsolicited call that you had no interest in receiving. Some of these scammers intentionally target elderly victims and trick them into believing a family member is in trouble and urgently needs money. Others pretend to be a representative from a utility company and tell unsuspecting customers that without a quick payment, their power or water will be shut off. It doesn't matter what the tactic is, their motives are despicable, and it must stop.

Illegal and abusive robocalls are a problem, but I don't want to confuse them with other automated calls on which many consumers often rely. For example, if you're on your way to the airport and your flight is canceled, if there's a fraud alert on your credit card, or if you're being reminded of an upcoming medical appointment, those are generally calls you want to receive. Different rules of the road apply for these types of calls, and they should.

When I was chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, I convened a hearing on the topic of illegal and abusive robocalls and heard from a wide range of individuals – from people who are tasked with targeting scammers and holding them accountable to the scammers themselves. I actually issued a subpoena to compel the testimony of perhaps the most infamous robocaller known to U.S. officials, Adrian Abroamovich. He's currently facing \$120 million in FCC penalties for making nearly 100 million robocalls throughout the country.

At the end of 2018, I introduced bipartisan legislation that would give federal regulators more tools and greater flexibility to find illegal robocallers and penalize them for their actions. The Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act would also bring together relevant agencies at the local, state, and federal level to tackle this issue with a collaborative approach, which, I believe, will be required to win this fight.

I recently reintroduced the TRACED Act, and it enjoys the same kind of bipartisan support this year that it had last year. As chairman of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, I will be in a strong position to move the ball down the field on this important issue again this Congress. I think I can speak for all Americans when I say enough is enough. It's time to act on this, and I look forward to leading this important effort.

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With Record Low Unemployment, South Dakota's Workforce Needs H-2B Visa Workers

The national unemployment rate is at the lowest levels since 1969. In South Dakota, we have an unemployment rate of 2.9 percent, which is one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. This is certainly something to be celebrated, but it also means our industries that rely on seasonal and temporary work have to seek outside workers when necessary. This is especially true for the tourism and construction industries, which will be seeking extra help from the springtime to early fall.

One important tool available to them is the H-2B visa program, which has not adequately provided the necessary workers and certainty to our employers in recent years. The H-2B visa program allows employers to hire foreign workers for short-term jobs for specific periods of time before the workers then return back to their home country. I have been working in the Senate to provide a long-term fix to the H-2B visa program, including increasing the number of H-2B visas available each year to meet our growing workforce needs. In the March 2018 funding bill, we included a path forward for the administration to increase visas by 69,000 for 2018. The administration ultimately decided to allow an additional 15,000 H-2B visa workers for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2018. While we welcomed the increase, it was too little, too late for our state's businesses who need workers for the busy summer tourism and construction seasons. A long-term solution is necessary.

A criticism we sometimes hear about the H-2B program is that the workers are not thoroughly vetted and overstay their visas. This is not the case. While there is certainly room for improvement in our immigration system, the H-2B visa program is one of the most effective programs available. The migrant workers are among the least likely to overstay their visas each year. We also sometimes hear concerns that the H-2B visa program takes jobs away from Americans and gives them to foreign workers. This is simply not the case. Employers can only apply to hire H-2B visa workers if they are unable to find American workers to fill open jobs. Additionally, the jobs that H-2B visa workers are hired for are often seen as undesirable by American workers because they are short-term or temporary jobs. Our office hears from South Dakota businesses all the time who are struggling to find employees to hire. For these businesses, being able to hire a few H-2B visa workers each year is a matter of staying open or facing the prospect of closing down.

As jobs are created and our economy grows, we must utilize highly effective programs such as the H-2B visa program if we are to ever fully reach our economic potential. Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law in December 2017, growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has averaged 3.3 percent over the last three quarters and almost 2.3 million new jobs have been created as of December 2018. The high number of new jobs coupled with the low unemployment rate means we have a workforce shortage. H-2B visa workers can fill these jobs to keep our economy strong.

I recently joined a bipartisan group of senators to send a letter to congressional leadership urging them to provide a long-term solution for the H-2B visa program in any government funding bill agreed upon to end the partial government shutdown. Recent filings show the statutory cap of 66,000 H-2B visas, set decades ago, is inadequate to meet the demands of today's seasonal businesses. On Jan. 1, 2019, the Department of Labor's iCERT system—where employers seeking H-2B visa workers request temporary labor certifications—crashed due to the record high number of requests. Before the crash, iCERT received more than 97,000 applications for the 33,000 available visas for the second half of the fiscal year.

South Dakota's workforce is dependent on temporary, H-2B visa workers to fill important short-term, seasonal jobs each year. It is clear that we need a permanent solution that raises the cap of H-2B visas available to employers each year based on need rather than an arbitrary number. I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress, as well as the administration, to find a real solution to this issue so our local businesses can thrive.

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It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Northwestern
Wildcats**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

Monday, Jan. 28, 2019

8:00 p.m.

at the Groton Area Arena

Broadcast Sponsored by

Allied Climate Professionals

Bahr Spray Foam

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James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgensen

John Sieh Agency

Locke Electric

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Sanford Health

Tyson DeHoet Trucking

Weber Landscaping

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Three grapplers take first at Groton Tourney

Three Groton Area wrestlers took first place at the Groton Wrestling Tournament held Saturday. Dragr Monson took first at 113 pounds, Garret Schroeder took first at 152 pounds and Wyatt Locke took first at 285 pounds.

Also placing were Adrian Knutson, second at 285 pounds, Thomas Cranford, second, at 182 pounds, and Grady O'Neill fourth at 195 pounds.

Groton Area placed fourth in the tournament.

106: Porter Johnson (12-6)

Champ. Round 1 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Ethan Opitz (Webster Area JV) 5-9 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-6 (Fall 1:35)

Cons. Round 2 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Jacob Johnson (Milbank JV) 5-3 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-6 (Fall 1:10)

113: Dragr Monson (29-8) placed 1st and scored 28.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-8 won by fall over Josh Roth (Viborg/Hurley) 2-6 (Fall 0:23)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-8 won by fall over Troy Fastnacht (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessingtonjv) 1-5 (Fall 0:15)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-8 won by fall over Jackson Maag (Watertown JV) 13-7 (Fall 1:05)

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-8 won by fall over Cody Larson (Warner/Northwestern) 15-11 (Fall 4:55)

152: Garret Schroeder (9-12) placed 1st and scored 26.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) 9-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) 9-12 won by fall over Cole Wilkie (Warner/Northwestern) 3-12 (Fall 0:18)

Semifinal - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) 9-12 won by fall over Beau Williams (Canton JV) 16-6 (Fall 3:08)

1st Place Match - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) 9-12 won by fall over Dillon Schneck (Milbank JV) 13-19 (Fall 0:44)

160: Lane Krueger (11-13) scored 8.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 won by decision over Jehova Ortega (Britton/Hecla) 1-11 (Dec 7-4)

Quarterfinal - Chase Mundt (Britton/Hecla) 10-8 won by major decision over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 (MD 11-0)

Cons. Round 2 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 won by fall over Josh Green (Viborg/Hurley) 1-7 (Fall 2:07)

Cons. Round 3 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 won by fall over Levi Weidebusch (Warner/Northwestern) 7-18 (Fall 3:35)

Cons. Semi - Jayden Cordell (Watertown JV) 14-2 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 (Fall 4:16)

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170: Evin Nehls (4-4)

Quarterfinal - Tyler Rudebusch (Watertown JV) 12-2 won by fall over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) 4-4 (Fall 0:23)

Cons. Round 1 - Berent Tarabelsi (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 5-11 won by decision over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) 4-4 (Dec 7-0)

182: Thomas Cranford (9-13) placed 2nd and scored 16.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 9-13 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 9-13 won by fall over Isaac Suter (Canton JV) 22-2 (Fall 1:32)

1st Place Match - Brodie Holtquist (Milbank JV) 7-8 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 9-13 (Fall 1:10)

195: Grady O`Neill (10-18) placed 4th and scored 11.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 10-18 won by fall over Conner Kessler (Viborg/Hurley) 1-6 (Fall 4:28)

Semifinal - Elijah Isais (Canton JV) 16-6 won by decision over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 10-18 (Dec 12-9)

Cons. Semi - Grady Oneill (Groton Area) 10-18 won by fall over Avery Nichols (Clark/Willow Lake JV) 9-10 (Fall 2:33)

3rd Place Match - Sam Loecker (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 8-16 won by fall over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 10-18 (Fall 2:43)

285: Adrian Knutson (14-14) placed 2nd.

Quarterfinal - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 14-14 won by fall over Hunter Shoemaker (Huron JV) 5-7 (Fall 2:39)

Semifinal - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 14-14 won by injury default over Jake Scheafer (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 10-16 (Inj. 2:26)

1st Place Match - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 14-14 (Fall 1:41)

285: Wyatt Locke (20-2) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Lucas Rowland (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 2-9 (Fall 0:12)

Semifinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Ethan Engen (Viborg/Hurley) 7-3 (Fall 2:36)

1st Place Match - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 14-14 (Fall 1:41)

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Today in Weather History

January 28, 1983: Freezing rain coated much of eastern South Dakota with up to a half inch accumulation before it changed over to light snow from the late evening of the 28th to the late evening of the 29th. The combination of ice, light snow, and very strong winds made travel extremely difficult. Numerous accidents and stranded vehicles resulted. Visibilities were near zero at times.

January 28, 1996: Extreme wind chills developed across central, north central, and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota as cold arctic air moved in behind an area of low pressure. With temperatures falling well below zero and northwest winds increasing to 20 to 35 mph, wind chills were lowered to 40 to 70 below throughout the night of the 28th and into the evening of the 29th. Two to five inches of snow had fallen across the area. The strong northwest winds caused areas of blowing snow significantly reducing visibilities. Big Stone and Traverse counties experienced a blizzard for about six hours on the 29th.

January 28, 2013: A low pressure system moving slowly across the region produced a moderate to heavy band of snow across much of central and northeastern South Dakota. Snowfall rates were greater than one inch per hour in some locations. Several area schools and businesses were either closed or opened late on the 29th.

1887: Snowflakes "as large as milk pans" fell at Fort Keogh of Montana. The flakes, which were said to measure 15 inches across and 8 inches thick, hold the unofficial size record!

1986: The Space Shuttle Challenger exploded at 11:39am EST; 73 seconds after liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida on an extremely cold morning. Starting in the 20s, the ground temperature at liftoff was 36 degrees. Morton Thiokol recommended not launching if the liftoff temperature was below 53 degrees. The cold was blamed for causing the O-rings on the Shuttle's external booster to fail, leading to the explosion.

1922 - The "Knickerbocker" storm immobilized the city of Washington D.C. The storm produced 28 inches of snow in 32 hours, and the heavy snow caused the roof of the Knickerbocker movie theatre to collapse killing 96 persons. (David Ludlum)

1963 - The low of -34 degrees at Cynthiana, KY, equalled the state record established just four days earlier at Bonnieville. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm moving out of the Central Rockies into the Northern Plains Region produced up to a foot of snow in the Colorado Rockies, and wind gusts to 99 mph at Boulder CO. High winds in Colorado caused 5.6 million dollars damage. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Barometric pressure readings of 30.55 inches at Miami FL, 30.66 inches at Tampa FL, and 30.72 inches at Apalachicola FL were all-time record high readings for those locations. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Nome, AK, reported an all-time record low reading of 54 degrees below zero, and the temperature at Fairwell AK dipped to 69 degrees below zero. Deadhorse AK reported a morning low of 49 degrees below zero, and with a wind chill reading of 114 degrees below zero. In the Lower Forty-eight States, a winter storm over Colorado produced up to 15 inches of snow around Denver. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

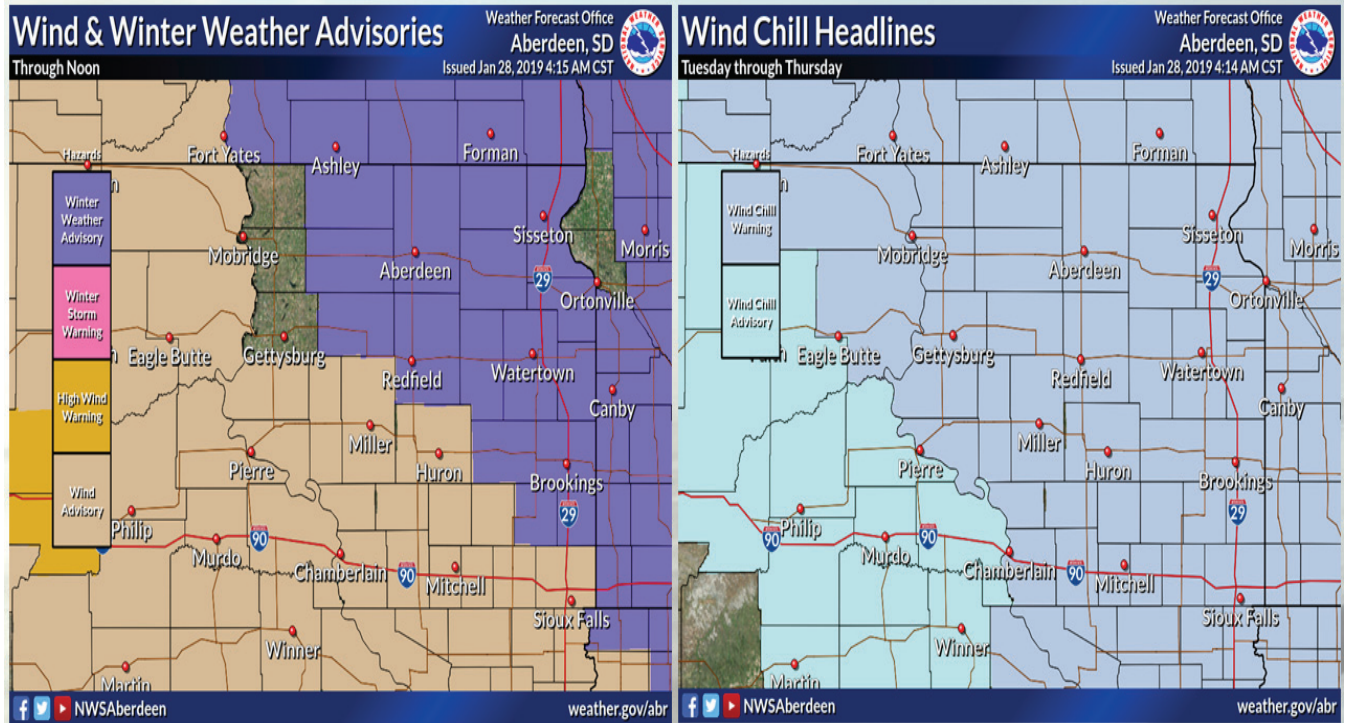
1990 - Strong and gusty winds prevailed across the northwestern U.S., and heavy snow continued over the mountains of Washington State and Oregon. In Idaho, Mullan received seven inches of snow, and winds gusted to 65 mph southeast of Burley. Heavy rain soaked coastal sections of western Oregon. Rainfall totals of 1.20 inches at Portland and 1.57 inches at Eugene were records for the date. Winds in Oregon gusting to 60 mph downed power lines in Umatilla County knocking out power to more than 13,000 homes, just prior to the kick-off of the "Super Bowl" game. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Wind Chill Warning				
Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
Areas Blowing Snow and Blustery then Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery	Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery then Partly Cloudy	Cold	Partly Cloudy	Cold
High: 9 °F	Low: -17 °F	High: -12 °F	Low: -38 °F	High: -17 °F	Low: -31 °F	High: 2 °F

Winds Diminishing Focus Shifts To Extreme Cold



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD Updated: 1/28/2019 4:55 AM Central

Published on: 01/28/2019 at 4:56AM

With winds slowly subsiding we are seeing less and less impacts from the clipper system. Focus shifts to the next hazard - the extreme cold. Yes its January...but this next arctic blast will come with a little extra chill - with dangerous cold temperatures and wind chills - potentially some records.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 26 °F at 10:04 PM

Low Outside Temp: -6 °F at 12:38 AM

High Gust: 50 mph at 10:22 PM

Precip: 3-4" Snow

Today's Info

Record High: 53 in 1931, 1908

Record Low: -31 in 1915, 1902

Average High: 23°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.42

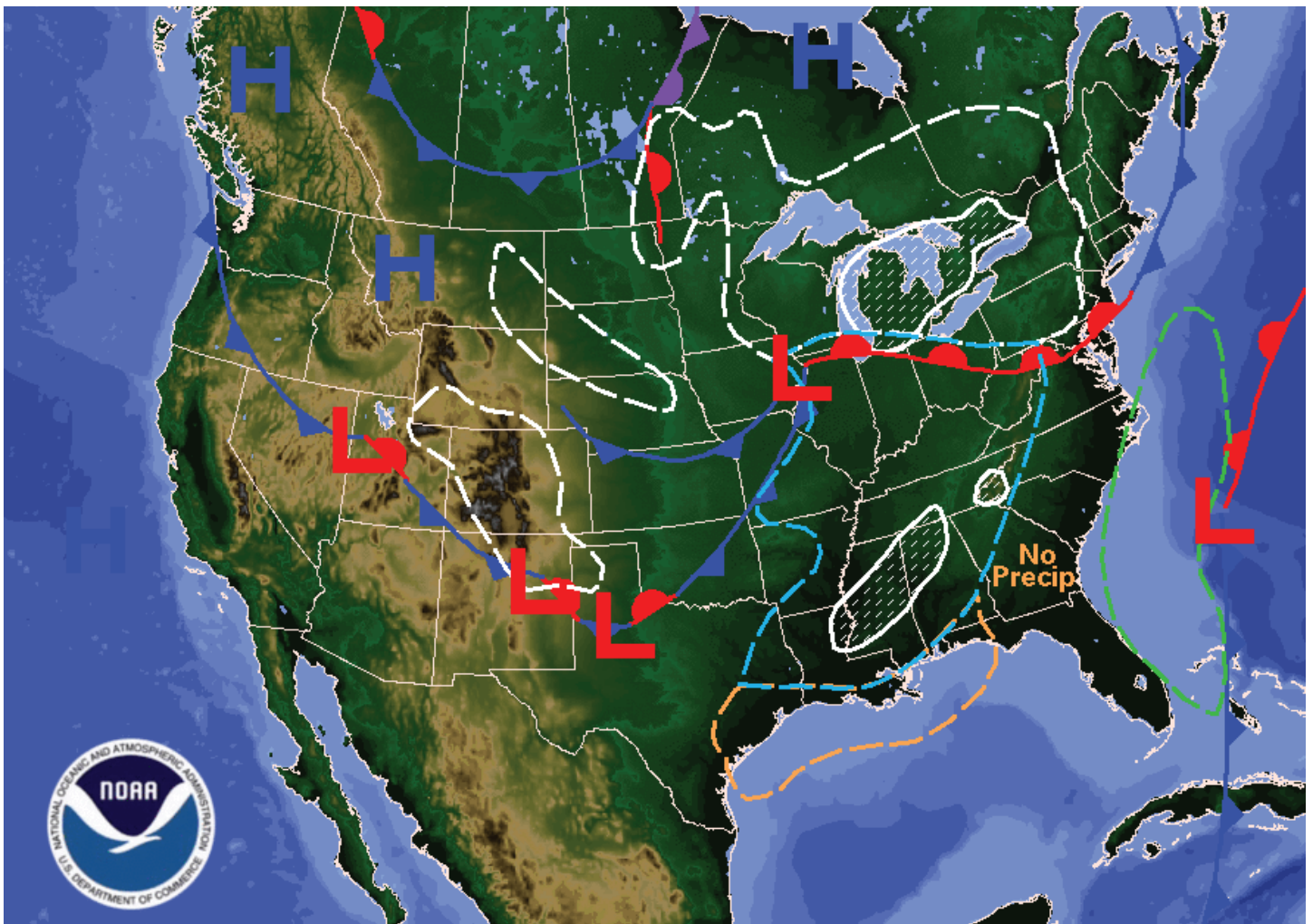
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.42

Precip Year to Date: 0.09

Sunset Tonight: 5:33 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:59 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jan 28, 2019, issued 4:44 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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LOOK AND LEARN

There are many stories about birds in the Bible. And they all have their place. But of all the birds mentioned, the raven is close to the bottom of the list as far as having any importance. It is a large blackbird and belongs to the crow family. It is noisy and has a loud, rough, very emphatic cry. Its not a bird that is filled with grace and charm.

Even young ravens, while in their nest, have a coarse call - especially at feeding time. Even so, when they call for food, the Lord hears them, and their mother then feeds them.

Jesus once said, Look at the ravens - they dont plant or harvest or have barns to store away their food, and yet they get along quite well. God feeds them. And you are far more important and valuable to Him than birds.

If the Lord hears the cry of young birds for food, how much more will He hear the cry of His believers when they call out for mercy? If He looks out for birds, how much more will He look out for us? But we must do our part.

Shovels are not made to lean on; they are made to dig with. We cannot expect God to do for us what we will not do for ourselves. Work is as much a part of life as prayer and worship. Never forget that Jesus worked for a living before He began His public ministry. Even though His Father created the world, Jesus set an example for us by working to meet His needs. Our ability to work is a gift from God, and He expects us to work to the best of our ability and for His glory.

The writer of Proverbs said it best: Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the ability to work. May we follow Your example and do what we do to honor You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 147:9 He feeds the wild animals, and the young ravens cry to him for food.

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

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News from the  Associated Press

Heavy snow to push across Upper Midwest, bitter cold follows

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A winter storm pushing across the Upper Midwest is expected to dump more than a foot of snow in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The National Weather Service reports blizzard conditions Sunday in parts of eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Officials have issued a travel alert for north-central, northeastern and south-eastern North Dakota due to snow and blowing snow. No travel is advised in south-central North Dakota due to freezing rain and snow.

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele has declared a snow emergency for county employees. Milwaukee County courts and nonessential county services will be closed Monday.

Milwaukee Public Schools and Minneapolis Public Schools also will be closed Monday.

Chicago could see 6 inches of snow.

Forecasters say arctic cold will follow the snow.

Meteorologist Tyler Hasenstein of the National Weather Service in Chanhassen, Minnesota, says parts of far southeastern Minnesota into western Wisconsin could see a foot to 14 inches of snow.

South Dakota family bonds over basketball

By MICK GARRY, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Jay and Dawn Plitzuweit met at a senior high school basketball all-star game in Wisconsin when they were both getting ready to go off to college. Given how things have gone for their family since then, this part of the story seems too good to be true.

Dawn, the women's basketball coach at the University of South Dakota, was playing in the girls game after starring at Kettle Moraine Lutheran, a small private school in the town of Jackson, where they'd won a state title her senior season. Jay was coming off a big year at Northwestern Prep, located in Watertown, Wisconsin, where his team had also won a state championship.

"After our practice for the all-star game I saw him standing there — I recognized him because he played for our arch-rival school and they'd won a championship," Dawn Plitzuweit said. "I congratulated him on the state title. That's how we started talking."

It was the beginning of a long-running conversation. They dated all through college while Dawn was playing at Michigan Tech and Jay was at Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and they married in 1995 while Dawn was starting her coaching career at her alma mater, the Argus Leader reported.

Stops at six additional schools have followed in the next two decades for a family that now includes son A.J. Plitzuweit, a record-setting high school player in Vermillion who is now starting as a freshman at Augustana, and daughter Lexi Plitzuweit, who has been playing varsity basketball for the Tanagers since she was an eighth-grader and is now a sophomore averaging 16.1 points a game.

"As parents, Jay and I don't care what our kids do as long as they find something they're very passionate about," Dawn Plitzuweit said. "Sometimes I think it's better when they're doing something that we don't know as well as we know basketball. When Lexi plays soccer or is running cross country, she can just go off and do those things. But they've kept coming back to basketball."

It's instinctive to ask the children who've been around the game to the extent they have what it was like being a part of that. But it's a difficult question to answer because for A.J. and Lexi Plitzuweit, there is nothing to compare it to. Did it seem weird? No.

"I think our lives are about much more than basketball," said Jay Plitzuweit, now a stay-at-home dad who has coached high school and AAU teams for much of his adult life. "I think we have a pretty good balance, but we do count our blessings about what the sport has meant to us. We kid each other about it, too, though. Yes, we Plitzuweits are a pretty shallow family. All we know is basketball."

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A.J. Plitzuweit is a 6-foot-2 guard for Augustana who is averaging 13.8 points a game for a team that starts four freshmen and a sophomore. He is one year removed from averaging 33.9 points, nine rebounds and 4.3 assists for Vermillion High School, an effort that earned him Gatorade Player of the Year honors and got Augie coach Tom Billeter very interested in making him a Viking.

A.J. Plitzuweit suffered an early setback with a case of mono that kept him off the court for more than a month, then he missed four games with a back injury. He has otherwise delivered as advertised.

"We knew he would be good enough to help us right away," Billeter said. "He's so skilled. He's got a great basketball IQ, so a lot of it was just getting used to what we were doing."

There was never a day in A.J. Plitzuweit's life when the sport was not surrounding him, so it's not unusual that he'd play it himself. But the commitment to become good enough to average more than 30 points a game in high school and then immediately contribute for a traditionally strong college program? Those extra shots and extra drills had to come from within.

"My folks do a good job of telling me after a game what I can work on and what I can get better at," A.J. Plitzuweit said. "And the coaching staff here does a great job of doing that as well. I'm just trying to get better and put those things on the court."

As one might expect, basketball courts were A.J. Plitzuweit's home away from home as a child. He'd bring his toys along in a backpack and keep himself occupied while his mom or dad conducted a practice.

By the time his mother, after winning a national Division II title at Grand Valley State, joined her former coach Kevin Borseth as an assistant at Michigan, A.J. Plitzuweit was getting toward the point where he could shoot a ball at a standard basketball hoop and think it might go in. His life has never been the same since.

"They had their own little travel team, the Michigan Freeze," Dawn Plitzuweit said. "I remember watching him in his first game and he was so excited about everything that happened. He was excited to get on the court and the opening tip. Anytime someone on the team scored, he was jumping around. I kept thinking, 'This is really fun for him. He's having a great time.'"

A.J. Plitzuweit had started as a sophomore at Dixie Heights High School in Edgewood, Kentucky, when his mother, then the coach at Northern Kentucky, was offered the job at USD. None of the previous moves up to that time had made any significant impact on the children, but this one was going to be more difficult given A.J. Plitzuweit's age and his affinity for his teammates.

"We weren't going to come out here without the kids' blessing," Jay Plitzuweit said. "A.J. was the one who wasn't so sure, but it worked out terrific. He's thanked us many times since then for talking him into it. It was a real positive move for both our kids, and we were proud of the way they handled it."

A.J. Plitzuweit watches his mother's games on his computer when there is not a direct conflict and attends games at the Sanford Coyote Sports Center when his schedule permits. It's not a perfect system, but it's working out better than he expected.

"It's nice playing in a Friday-Saturday night league where she can watch us play after her game," A.J. Plitzuweit said. "Or she'll play on a Thursday and be able to see us on a Saturday. And I can get down there once in a while, too. I'm a big fan. I root for them and they're having a great year. It's fun to watch them and then come out here and do my own thing."

The Plitzuweit parents were not sure what direction their daughter Lexi Plitzuweit was going to go with her sports interests, but they knew early on that she was competitive. Whatever she ultimately decided to spend her time on she was going to do it at a hundred miles an hour. Her first experiences with youth basketball would be an example.

"It was a church league that combined basketball with a religious message at the end," Jay Plitzuweit said. "After a while I think they wanted to throw Lexi out. It was good to see how competitive she was but we had to say, 'Lexi, maybe you should think about holding back just a little bit.'"

The younger Plitzuweit is in her second year as the team's starting point guard. Like her brother, she's benefited from a near-constant exposure to the sport. Also similar is an unusual level of commitment to developing as a player.

"I love the game," Lexi Plitzuweit said. "My parents and my brother bring it out of me. They've made me the best player I can be — I know that. I've learned so much from them. And basketball always makes

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for good conversation at the dinner table.”

Her mother’s players have often served as Lexi Plitzuweit’s unofficial older sisters over the years.

“I feel like I can tell them things,” she said. “When I was little I remember them buying me coloring books. They’ve been really good friends to have. Role models to look up to — people I want to be like when I get older.”

Lexi Plitzuweit’s sophomore year for the Tanagers has been unlike her first two. She’s stronger and scoring more for one thing, but there’s more to it than that.

“She’s been a lot more confident this year,” said Tanagers coach Jon Brooks. “I don’t think people realize how tough it was for her last year being a freshman point guard surrounded by four seniors. Finding her role last year was something she had to work through. Now she knows it’s her time to step up. Obviously she’s done that the first half of the year.”

When Dawn Plitzuweit was out recruiting within the region, Lexi Plitzuweit would often tag along in the old days, with mom supplying road-trip diversions to keep her daughter occupied. Both appreciated the company.

“She’d take her little crafts and projects with her to the games — the other coaches thought it was the greatest thing,” Dawn Plitzuweit said. “Then YouTube came along and Lexi would be watching ‘Little House on the Prairie’ during some of the games.”

During one summer tournament, Lexi Plitzuweit looked at her mom and wondered if when she got older she’d be able to play in games like these. “Wouldn’t it be great, Mom, if I could do that?” she asked.

“I said, ‘Lexi, you keep working and you’re going to be playing in these tournaments someday,’” Dawn Plitzuweit said. “So it’s been fun to watch her play in all these tournaments the last few years. In a way, it’s coming to fruition for her.”

Dawn Plitzuweit grew up playing basketball on a hoop behind a barn on the family farm against her taller brother, developing moves that would permit her to score more than 1,300 points at Michigan Tech. Though the record has been broken since, she was the school’s all-time leading rebounder when she graduated.

Jay Plitzuweit’s father was a professor at what was then Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin. Growing up he was on the campus a lot, spending a majority of that time hanging around the gym putting up shots.

Though neither grew up in the game in the same way their kids have, they’re well aware that it’s different now. In Dawn Plitzuweit’s case, she’s professionally dependent on the process of finding suitable potential student-athletes and selling them on the benefits of her program.

In regard to their own kids, it’s always going to be different than it is grading the skills of players with other last names. There are instances, though, where all that experience helps define and understand the Plitzuweit children’s challenges.

“The thing we watch as parents is how are they as a teammate?” Dawn Plitzuweit said. “How are they as an encourager? How do they help their teammates play to the best of their ability? What are they doing in the game to facilitate that? It’s not a static equation. It’s not like if you do it one time or three times that you’re going to do it at that level all the time.”

Where coaches sometimes have an advantage in the sports parenting business is in realizing improvement is almost never delivered via a steady climb. Those two steps forward that are followed by a step back demands problem solving and focusing on weaknesses. That, the Plitzuweit parents will tell you, can be a good thing.

“When those things happen it’s probably the best for your kid,” Dawn Plitzuweit said. “As a parent you don’t want to see that happen, but as a coach you know that’s very important for their development.”

A very young A.J. Plitzuweit was playing in a league where ties at the end of regulation time were broken by free throws after time expired. When it was A.J. Plitzuweit’s turn he missed and his team lost. It was traumatic for him, and probably for the parents as well, but the reaction was ultimately a constructive one.

“He was devastated,” Jay Plitzuweit said. “He couldn’t believe what had happened. But for him it fueled the fire. He was done missing free throws. It was great to see as a parent that he wasn’t afraid to work

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on something that he'd failed at."

Lexi Plitzuweit joked that she worries about her mother someday popping a vein on the sidelines, though all three of the other Plitzuweits marvel at her energy level and positive attitude both as a coach, a wife and a mother. As Jay Plitzuweit said, "She's the one who usually talks me off the cliff," not the other way around.

Her ascent as a coach has progressed as if it was pre-orchestrated, with stops here and there to round out a near perfect coaching resume that now includes two-and-a-half seasons at USD running one of the top mid-major programs in the country. Yes, there are inconveniences when three people are trying to share their seasons at the same time, but it's only happening once.

"It's something that has been part of our lives since they've been born," Dawn Plitzuweit said. "Our family time together usually revolves around watching one of them play or them coming along with our team. When they were young, they'd come on the bus and that was our family time. That was our time to celebrate and be together. From our standpoint, it's neat that they like basketball but ultimately it's about them finding something they are really passionate about."

It's an equation that has worked for the Plitzuweit family. Like all other things associated with the game they love, it takes hard work to make it look easy.

"Where I really give those parents credit is in how they haven't turned their kids off to basketball," Bileter said. "When kids are exposed to something all the time, they might rebel against it because they feel like they were forced into it. Dawn and Jay have done a great job because their kids love the game."

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

South Dakota nun volunteers at US-Mexico border

By ROB NIELSEN, Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — It's been about a month since a South Dakota Benedictine sister came back from helping serve migrants on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Now, Sister Clarice Korger of the Sacred Heart Monastery is looking back on the two weeks of service to El Paso's Annunciation House in a time when the government remains shut down due to a perceived humanitarian crisis at the border.

Korger was one of a number of sisters from across the country assisting at Annunciation House, the Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan reported.

"When we got there, it reminded me of my time working with refugees in Sioux Falls," Korger said. "I like to call it organized chaos."

She said there's a number of steps that migrants arriving at the border go through before making their way to Annunciation House.

"When the migrants come to a port of entry and they request asylum, they're still apprehended because they don't have any papers, but once they request asylum, a legal process has begun," she said. "Customs and Border Protection apprehends them and they're put in holding cells until they're processed. Then they transfer them to (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and they have them in detention centers, where they're processed through their information. They (work on) filings for a court date for an asylum case to be heard. Not all, but a good number of them, then get a monitoring bracelet put on their ankle because they're probably not going to stay in El Paso. That allows them to contact them when their court date comes up."

Korger said Annunciation House was utilized due to demand.

"In the past, the detention centers used to hold them until their court dates," she said. "But, with the increase in the amount of people coming across — from 500 people per week to about 2,000 people in a week — they have to make more room to get more people in. Rather than just release some of the people on the street, like they did after the shutdown (began), they had been working with Annunciation House, and Annunciation House would be receiving these people."

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Korger typically helped with the day shift, which would welcome the refugees to various sites around the city.

"They come to the hospitality center," she said. "There, they can take a shower, because they've been walking for about a month — there's not a lot of showers (along the way). There are new, clean clothes that people have donated. Then the evening workers sit down and get all of the information for the group that came, whether it's a family or friends, and the name of a contact person here in the United States — usually it's a family member or, a lot of times, it's a friend — so that they can contact them and begin the process of getting ready to leave."

She said that a typical stay at Annunciation House is around three or four days.

In addition to processing people coming in, Korger said she handled a number of other duties during her time at the border.

"The volunteers would prepare and bring meals," she said. "A couple of times, they couldn't, so we stepped in and did noon meals and breakfast. They have volunteers who would pick the people up and drive them to the bus station or airport. One day, I spent my shift calling volunteers to drive."

Korger said the people of El Paso also amazed her during her time there.

"I was very, very impressed with the generosity of the people of El Paso — the people willing to give up their time to drive the migrants to the bus station or airport; people bringing food; people bringing donations of clothes; a local high school bringing Christmas cookies one time," she said.

Korger said she's kept up with the situation at the border — specifically in El Paso — since returning to South Dakota.

"Ruben Garcia, who's the director of Annunciation House, said migrants at the border is nothing new," she said. "They've always been there and probably always will. He said we just have these periodic surges, like with this caravan. He said the one we were dealing with was like the fourth surge in as many years."

She said that, according to local media reports, some operations have even been scaling back since she returned home due to a drop in the number of people crossing the border.

"At that time, they had 15 hospitality centers that Annunciation House ran," she said. "Because of the drop in the numbers of people coming, they've closed two of those centers. Those were hotels that (Garcia) rented."

On the trip itself, Korger said she's happy that she answered the call to serve.

"I think it was well worth it," she said. "These are people that are looking for a better life for themselves and their children escaping violence and poverty."

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

Judge allows lobbyist to return to South Dakota House floor

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge is allowing a longtime lobbyist to return to the South Dakota House floor after she alleged the Republican speaker banned her over a magazine column in which she wrote that the number of "wackies" in the Legislature was increasing.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange on Friday granted Yvonne Taylor, who heads the South Dakota Municipal League, a temporary restraining order preventing House Speaker Steve Haugaard from barring Taylor from that chamber's floor, the Rapid City Journal reported.

According to Lange's opinion, both sides are working toward a settlement, but he granted the order to "avert immediate or irreparable injury" to Taylor while discussions continue. The order lasts for at least two weeks.

"The public interest disfavors elected officials retaliating against journalists or columnists who write articles encouraging people to vote and criticizing close minded legislators," Lange wrote. "The Court hopes that Haugaard was not doing that and had some other thought in mind."

Taylor has lobbied since 1997 for the Municipal League, a nonprofit which advocates on behalf of the state's municipalities. She alleged that Haugaard, an attorney from Sioux Falls, objected to a column she

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wrote in May which lamented the “wackies” who oppose government and any taxation, and that he barred her from the House floor during a private meeting at the Capitol on Jan. 14.

Taylor alleged in a lawsuit that Hugaard said her column made the Legislature look like “a bunch of buffalo,” and she accused him of unlawful retaliation and violating her free speech rights. She said banning her from the floor prevented her from being able to adequately represent her group’s members.

The House floor is typically open to lobbyists, journalists and members of the public.

Taylor’s attorney, David Lust, declined to comment to the newspaper.

Hugaard did not immediately reply to a Sunday email from The Associated Press seeking comment.

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

SD lawmakers to weigh civics education, public records bills

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers this week are set to debate bills on gun rights, civics education and public records.

Legislators return to the state Capitol on Monday, when the House State Affairs Committee is set to decide whether to advance a measure that would let people carry concealed pistols without a permit in South Dakota.

The full Senate that day could debate a plan to allow firearms in the Capitol building. And the House Education Committee is scheduled Monday to take up Gov. Kristi Noem’s measure that would require students to pass a civics test to graduate from high school.

The Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday is set to consider a bill that would bar government officials from negotiating confidential settlements. The proposal would make settlement agreements public records.

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. PRESIDENT SKEPTICAL ABOUT CHANCES FOR BUDGET AGREEMENT

Donald Trump says the odds that a bipartisan House and Senate lawmakers will craft a deal to end his border wall standoff with Congress are “less than 50-50.”

2. OPIOID SCOURGE’S TOLL ON VICTIMS’ RELATIVES

Hundreds of thousands of families continue struggling to contain the worst drug crisis in U.S. history. They suffer in solitude, balancing sorrow with relief, shame with perseverance, resentment with forgiveness, an AP exclusive shows.

3. POLITICAL CRISIS EXACERBATES MISERY

The longer the standoff between the U.S.-backed opposition leader Juan Guaido and President Nicolas Maduro drags on, the more regular Venezuelans are likely to suffer.

4. WHITE HOUSE DIPLOMACY GETS LOW MARKS

A majority of Americans disapprove of the way President Trump is handling U.S. foreign policy, according to new poll conducted by Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

5. TORNADO IN HAVANA KILLS 3 PEOPLE, INJURES 174

The Cuban capital has been battered by powerful winds and heavy rains. A blackout hit many Havana neighborhoods around 9 p.m.

6. CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER PUT BEHIND BARS

Wang Quanzhang was sentenced to 4½ years in prison on the charge of subversion of state power. Wang was a member of the Fengrui law firm that was well known for its advocacy work.

7. PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT TO VISIT BOMBED CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

Rodrigo Duterte and his top security officials planned the site where suspected Islamic militants set off bombs that killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 100.

8. LOSING HOPE OF FINDING SURVIVORS IN BRAZIL DAM COLLAPSE

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The confirmed death toll rose to 58, with up to 300 people still missing, and, in an ominous sign, nobody was recovered alive Sunday.

9. STUDENTS COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH RADICAL VIEWS

At an Ohio high school, some of America's most extreme political groups are invited into class each semester, with teachers educating pupils to engage respectfully with those of differing beliefs and to ask questions.

10. "BLACK PANTHER" CAST TAKES TOP PRIZE AT SAG AWARDS

The win by the superhero movie set in the fictional country of Wakanda could be a preview of its performance at next month's Academy Awards.

AP-NORC poll: Most Americans oppose Trump's foreign policy

By **DEB RIECHMANN** and **HANNAH FINGERHUT**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A majority of Americans disapprove of the way President Donald Trump is handling U.S. foreign policy and about half think the country's global standing will deteriorate during the next year, according to new poll that highlighted the nation's partisan divide on foreign issues.

The poll, conducted by Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, also found the public split about the president's plan to remove U.S. troops from Syria and possibly Afghanistan — and about a quarter don't have an opinion one way or the other.

Overall, the president receives low marks from the public for his job handling foreign policy — 35 percent approve, while 63 percent disapprove. Like other issues, the partisan divide is startling. While 76 percent of Republicans approve, just 8 percent of Democrats say the same.

"I just think that any time you buddy up with Russia or North Korea, it's going to be bad business," said Samantha Flowers, a 30-year-old third-grade teacher from Columbia, Missouri.

"Also, the way that he's handling our neighboring countries — Mexico in particular. I think it just goes against our American values in general. We've been a welcoming and compassionate country," she said before starting to recite words emblazoned on the Statue of Liberty, which reads in part: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Richard Cleaveland, a 65-year-old truck driver from Ogden, Utah, disagrees and wholeheartedly backs Trump and his foreign policy.

"I think he's doing a good job with North Korea. He's done better than anybody else has ever done. Nobody else has even got it this far with North Korea," he said referring to Trump's meeting last year in Singapore with the North Korean leader to discuss Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

Turning to U.S. involvement in foreign wars, the poll showed 39 percent of Americans approve of pulling the 2,000 American troops from Syria, and 35 percent say they disapprove. The president's decision is supported by 56 percent of Republicans and 26 percent of Democrats.

"I think it's time for our troops to come home — Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria," said Cleaveland, who was interviewed on speaker phone as he drove his semitrailer through western Kansas. "I lost a lot of good friends when I was in Vietnam. I think that was a stupid war too."

Last month, Trump announced that Islamic State militants had been defeated in Syria and that American troops would be brought home "now." The plan triggered the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and criticism from U.S. allies and national security experts. Later, Trump and others appeared to adjust the timeline, saying it will likely take several months to safely withdraw American forces from Syria.

Americans have similar views about the president's expected decision to pull at least some U.S. troops out of Afghanistan. Forty-one percent said they would approve of a pullout from Afghanistan versus 30 percent who disapprove.

"Our military shouldn't be the world's police," said Robert Granger, a 44-year old sales representative from Bristol, Tennessee. "We don't belong in all of these other countries. We need to pull our troops home and let the other countries take care of themselves."

The nation's partisan divide is evident when it comes to Americans' views of the United States' role in

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the world, its global standing and its relationships with other nations.

Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to say the U.S. should play a more active role in solving the world's problems.

Forty-three percent of Democrats think the U.S. should be more active, compared with 23 percent who think it should be less active; another 32 percent of Democrats say the nation's current role is about right.

Republicans see it differently. Four in 10 Republicans say the U.S. should be less active in solving the world's problems, while 46 percent think the current role in world affairs is right. Just 13 percent of Republicans think the U.S. role abroad should be more active.

Republicans also think the nation's global standing and relationships with other countries will improve or stay the same during the next year. Democrats largely expect U.S. relations with other nations will worsen.

Forty-four percent of Republicans say the nation's standing in the world will improve and another 35 percent say it won't change. By comparison, 77 percent of Democrats think the country's global standing will get worse.

"I feel like right now, with the way things are going with our current president, that we will be seen as a joke," said Tamika Allen, a 25-year-old medical claims trainer from Houston, adding that America's reputation around the world wouldn't diminish immediately, but slowly over time.

In assessing global threats to the United States, the poll found:

—Fifty-five percent of Americans consider militant extremist groups to be very or extremely concerning, with another 29 percent calling the threat moderately concerning.

—About half say they are significantly concerned over the threats of North Korea's nuclear program (52 percent) and Iran's nuclear program (48 percent).

—While nearly half of Americans — 47 percent — consider Russia's influence around the world to be extremely or very concerning, slightly fewer — 40 percent — say the same of China's influence around the world. Still, most consider both countries' influence around the world to be at least moderately concerning.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,062 adults was conducted Jan. 16 to 20 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 4.1 percentage points. Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

Online:

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

Firefighters search mud after Brazil dam collapse; 58 dead

By MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA and PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

BRUMADINHO, Brazil (AP) — Firefighters are carefully moving over treacherous mud, sometimes walking, sometimes crawling, in search of survivors or bodies left by a dam collapse that buried mine buildings and surrounding neighborhoods with iron ore waste.

The confirmed death toll rose to 58, with up to 300 people still missing, authorities said. In an ominous sign, nobody was recovered alive Sunday, a stark difference from the first two days of the disaster, when helicopters were whisking people from the mud.

The slow speed of search efforts was due to the treacherous sea of reddish-brown mud that surged out when the mine dam breached Friday afternoon. It is up 24 feet (8 meters) deep in some places, and to avoid the danger of sinking and drowning searchers had to carefully walk around the edges or slowly crawl out onto the muck.

Even those efforts were suspended about 10 hours Sunday because of fears that a second mine dam in the southeastern city of Brumadinho was at risk of failing. An estimated 24,000 people were told to get to higher ground, but by afternoon civil engineers said the second dam was no longer at risk.

Areas of water-soaked mud appeared to be drying out, which could help firefighters get to areas previ-

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ously unreachable. Still, it was slow going for the search teams, and residents were on edge.

"Get out searching!" a woman yelled at firefighters near a refuge set up in the center of Brumadinho. "They could be out there in the bush."

Brazilian searchers got reinforcements late Sunday, when more than 100 Israeli soldiers and other personnel arrived with plans to join recovery efforts.

Throughout the weekend, there was mounting anger at the giant Vale mining company, which operated the mine, and questions rose about an apparent lack of an alarm system Friday.

Caroline Steinfeld said she heard warning sirens Sunday, but there was no alert when the dam collapsed Friday.

"I only heard shouting, people saying to get out. I had to run with my family to get to higher ground, but there was no siren," she said, adding that a cousin was still unaccounted for.

In an email, Vale told The Associated Press that the area has eight sirens, but "the speed in which the event happened made sounding an alarm impossible" when the dam burst.

People in Brumadinho desperately awaited word on their loved ones. Romeu Zema, the governor of Minas Gerais state, said that by now most recovery efforts would entail pulling out bodies.

The flow of waste reached the nearby community of Vila Ferteco and an occupied Vale administrative office. It buried buildings to their rooftops and an extensive field of the mud cut off roads.

Some residents barely escaped with their lives.

"I saw all the mud coming down the hill, snapping the trees as it descended. It was a tremendous noise," said a tearful Simone Pedrosa, from the neighborhood of Parque Cachoeira, 5 miles (8 kilometers) from where the dam collapsed.

For many, hope was evaporating.

"I don't think he is alive," Joao Bosco said of his cousin Jorge Luis Ferreira, who worked for Vale. "Right now, I can only hope for a miracle."

The carpet of mining waste also raised fears of widespread environmental contamination and degradation.

According to Vale's website, the waste is composed mostly of sand and is non-toxic. However, a U.N. report found that the waste from a similar disaster in 2015 "contained high levels of toxic heavy metals."

Over the weekend, courts froze about \$3 billion from Vale assets for state emergency services and told the company to report on how they would help the victims.

Neither the company nor authorities had reported why the dam failed, but Attorney General Raquel Dodge promised to investigate. "Someone is definitely at fault, she said."

Dodge noted there are 600 mines in Minas Gerais alone that are classified as being at risk of rupture.

Another dam administered by Vale and Australian mining company BHP Billiton collapsed in 2015 in the city of Mariana in Minas Gerais, resulting in 19 deaths and forcing hundreds from their homes.

Considered the worst environmental disaster in Brazilian history, that disaster left 250,000 people without drinking water and killed thousands of fish. An estimated 60 million cubic meters of waste flooded nearby rivers and eventually flowed into the Atlantic Ocean.

Sueli de Oliveira Costa, who hadn't heard from her husband since Friday, had harsh words for the mining company.

"Vale destroyed Mariana and now they've destroyed Brumadinho," she said.

Other residents quietly noted that Vale was the main employer in the area.

"The company is responsible for a new tragedy, but it's the principal employer," said Diego Aparecido, who has missing friends who worked at Vale. "What will happen if it closes?"

Environmental groups and activists said the latest spill underscored the lack of environmental regulation in Brazil, and many promised to fight any further deregulation.

Marina Silva, a former environmental minister and presidential candidate, toured the area Sunday. She said Congress should bear part of the blame for not toughening regulations and enforcement.

"All the warnings have been given. We are repeating history with this tragedy," she told the AP. "Brazil can't become a specialist in rescuing victims and consoling widows. Measures need to be taken to avoid

prevent this from happening again.”

Associated Press writer Marcelo Silva de Sousa reported this story in Brumadinho and AP writer Peter Prengaman reported from Arraial do Cabo, Brazil. AP photographer Leo Correa in Brumadinho contributed to this report.

Trump casts doubt on seeing a budget deal that he'd accept

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said the odds congressional negotiators will craft a deal to end his border wall standoff with Congress are “less than 50-50.”

As hundreds of thousands of furloughed federal workers prepared to return to work, Trump told The Wall Street Journal that he doesn't think the negotiators will strike a deal that he'd accept. He pledged to build a wall anyway using his executive powers to declare a national emergency if necessary.

“I personally think it's less than 50-50, but you have a lot of very good people on that board,” Trump said in an interview Sunday with the newspaper.

The president was referring to a bipartisan committee of House and Senate lawmakers that will consider border spending as part of the legislative process.

The president's standoff with Democrats on Capitol Hill is far from over and the clock is ticking. The spending bill Trump signed on Friday to temporarily end the partial government shutdown funds the shuttered agencies only until Feb. 15.

It's unclear if the Democrats will budge. Trump seemed girded for battle over the weekend, sending out a series of online messages that foreshadowed the upcoming fight with lawmakers. “BUILD A WALL & CRIME WILL FALL!” he tweeted.

Is Trump prepared to shut down the government again in three weeks?

“Yeah, I think he actually is,” acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said. “He doesn't want to shut the government down, let's make that very clear. He doesn't want to declare a national emergency.”

But Mulvaney said that at “the end of the day, the president's commitment is to defend the nation and he will do it with or without Congress.”

The linchpin in the standoff is Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion for his prized wall at the U.S.-Mexico border, a project Democrats consider an ineffective, wasteful monument to a ridiculous Trump campaign promise.

Asked if he'd willing to accept less than \$5.7 billion to build a barrier on the southern border, Trump replied: “I doubt it.” He added: “I have to do it right.”

He also said he'd be wary of any proposed deal that exchanged funds for a wall for broad immigration reform. And when asked if he would agree to citizenship for immigrants who were illegally brought into the U.S. as children, he again replied, “I doubt it.”

California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the leading Republican in the House, said Democrats have funded border barriers in the past and are refusing this time simply because Trump is asking for it.

“The president is the only one who has been reasonable in these negotiations,” he said.

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, a member of the Democratic leadership in the House, said his colleagues are looking for “evidence-based” legislation.

“Shutdowns are not legitimate negotiating tactics when there's a public policy disagreement between two branches of government,” he said.

Jeffries said that Democrats are willing to invest in additional infrastructure, especially at legal ports of entry where the majority of drugs come into the country.

“We're willing to invest in personnel. We're willing to invest in additional technology. ... In the past, we have supported enhanced fencing and I think that's something that's reasonable that should be on the table,” he said.

Trump has asserted there is a “crisis” at the southern border requiring a wall, blaming previous presidents and Congress for failing to overhaul an immigration system that has allowed millions of people to

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live in the U.S. illegally.

Last month, he put that number at 35 million, while on Sunday he pegged it at 25.7 million-plus — figures offered without evidence. “I’m not exactly sure where the president got that number this morning,” Mulvaney said.

Both are higher than government and private estimates.

His homeland security chief cited “somewhere” between 11 million and 22 million last month. In November, the nonpartisan Pew Research Center reported 10.7 million in 2016 — the lowest in a decade.

The president also tweeted Sunday that the cost of illegal immigration so far this year was nearly \$19 billion; he didn’t cite a source.

Compare that with research in 2017 from a conservative group, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which advocates for less immigration: \$135 billion a year or about \$11.25 billion a month — a figure that included health care and education, plus money spent on immigration enforcement.

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. said that he thinks a compromise is possible.

“The president went from talking about a wall along the entire southern border at one point during the campaign ... to let’s have barriers where they work and let’s have something else where barriers wouldn’t work as well,” Blunt said.

The partial federal shutdown ended Friday when Trump gave in to mounting pressure, retreating from his demand that Congress commit to the border wall funding before federal agencies could resume work. The bill he signed did not provide the money Trump wanted for a barrier, which House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has called “immoral” and has insisted Congress will not finance.

Mulvaney said Trump agreed to temporarily end the shutdown because some Democrats have stepped forward, publicly and privately, to say they agree with Trump’s plan to better secure the border.

Mulvaney said they told Trump they couldn’t split with Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, and work with the White House if the government remained closed.

“Everybody wants to look at this and say the president lost,” Mulvaney said. “We’re still in the middle of negotiations.”

Mulvaney appeared on “Fox News Sunday” and CBS’ “Face the Nation.” Jeffries and McCarthy spoke on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” Blunt was on Fox.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump’s shift on concrete wall, tariff myth

By HOPE YEN, COLLEEN LONG and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Forced to back down on a government shutdown, President Donald Trump is shifting his story regarding his campaign promise to build a border wall. He’s also once again inflating the number of immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

The president insists he never proposed a concrete wall, promoting instead a “see-through” barrier made of steel. That’s a change on how he talked in the past. He repeatedly pledged in 2016 to build a “big beautiful wall” and have Mexico pay for it, conjuring up images of an imposing, “concrete plank” structure along America’s southern border, too tall and strong for anyone to climb over.

On his claim that at least 25 million immigrants are in the U.S. illegally, Trump is contradicted by his own Homeland Security secretary and other sources.

The government has reopened for three weeks while Trump tries again to persuade Congress to approve \$5.7 billion to build segments of border wall.

His retreat in the partial shutdown capped a head-spinning week in which Trump also repeated questionable assertions that a border wall would stop crime and drugs from “pouring in,” declared that the remains of U.S. service members are “back home where they belong” from North Korea even though that mission already has run into a roadblock, and exaggerated economic performance under his presidency.

A look at the rhetoric and the facts:

TARIFFS

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TRUMP: "We have billions of dollars coming into our treasury — billions — from China. We never had 10 cents coming into our treasury; now we have billions coming in." — remarks at a meeting with Republican lawmakers Thursday.

THE FACTS: This is wildly off base. The notion that the U.S. suddenly has revenue coming in from tariffs, thanks to his trade war, defies history that goes back to the founding of the republic. President George Washington signed the Tariff Act into law in 1789 — the first major act of Congress — and duties from imports were a leading source of revenue for the government before the advent of the modern tax system early in the 20th Century. Tariffs on goods specifically from China are not remotely new, either. They are simply higher in some cases than they were before.

Tariffs are a decidedly modest portion of revenue in modern times and Trump has not changed that with the escalation of his trade dispute with China. Customs and duties generated \$41.3 billion in revenues last year, up from \$34.6 billion in 2017 (far more than 10 cents). That \$6.7 billion increase occurred in part because of the president's tariffs. But it amounted to just 0.16 percent of federal spending.

Moreover, tariffs are taxes paid largely by U.S. business and consumers, not foreign countries.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

TRUMP: "There are at least 25,772,342 illegal aliens, not the 11,000,000 that have been reported for years, in our Country. So ridiculous! DHS." — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: It's not that high, according to his own Homeland Security secretary as well as independent estimates.

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

At a House hearing last month, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen acknowledged the number was "somewhere" between 11 million and 22 million, lower than Trump's 25 million. Trump has previously asserted there were 30 million to 35 million here illegally.

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

THE WALL

TRUMP: "These barriers are made of steel, have see-through visibility, which is very important. ...We do not need 2,000 miles of concrete wall from sea to shining sea. We never did. We never proposed that. We never wanted that, because we have barriers at the border where natural structures are as good as anything that we can build." — remarks Friday in Rose Garden.

THE FACTS: Actually, he did pledge a wall made of concrete along the southern border. It's true he did not say there needed to be 2,000 miles of it.

For example, in a Jan. 18, 2016, speech in New Hampshire, Trump said: "No windows, no nothing, precast concrete going very high. Let's see about concrete going very high."

In an Aug. 11, 2016, speech in Florida, he said, "The politicians would come up to me, and they'd say, 'You know, Donald, you can't build the wall.' I said, 'You have to be kidding. You have to be kidding. Concrete plank, you have to be kidding. Precast, precast, right? Boom. Bing. Done. Keep going.'"

He referred again to a concrete wall in a Jan. 11, 2018, interview with the Wall Street Journal, even while signaling those plans might change, saying: "If you have a wall this thick and it's solid concrete from ground to 32 feet high, which is a high wall, much higher than people planned. You go 32 feet up and you don't know who's over here. You're here, you've got the wall, and there's some other people here. ...I can understand why I have to have see-through."

And as recently as Dec. 31, Trump suggested a concrete wall was still being considered, tweeting, "An all concrete Wall was NEVER ABANDONED."

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Trump now commonly refers to the wall he promised as “steel slats” or “steel barriers.”

Regarding the wall’s length, Trump has noted as far back as 2015 that it need not run 2,000 miles, because natural barriers would account for some of the border distance. And former Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told lawmakers in 2017 that it would not be “from sea to shining sea.”

TRUMP: “What’s happening is the drugs are pouring in. And, yes, they come through the ports of entry, but the big trucks come through areas where you don’t have a wall and you have wide-open spaces ... They’re loaded up with drugs.” — remarks Thursday in meeting with Republican lawmakers.

THE FACTS: His suggestion that a wall would stop most drugs from “pouring” into the U.S. defies his government’s findings on how the illegal substances get in. Most of it is smuggled through official border crossings, not remote stretches of the border.

The Drug Enforcement Administration says “only a small percentage” of heroin seized by U.S. authorities comes across on territory between ports of entry. The same is true of drugs generally.

In a 2018 report, the agency said the most common trafficking technique by transnational criminal organizations is to hide drugs in passenger vehicles or tractor-trailers as they drive into the U.S. through entry ports, where they are stopped and subject to inspection. They also employ buses, cargo trains and tunnels, the report says, citing other smuggling methods that also would not be choked off by a border wall.

TRUMP: “Walls work ... We really have no choice but to build a powerful wall or steel barrier.” — remarks Friday in Rose Garden.

TRUMP: “Without a Wall it all doesn’t work.” — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: There is no clear evidence how well border walls or other barriers actually work.

The Government Accountability Office, Congress’ auditing arm, reported in 2017 that the government does not have a way to measure how well barriers deter illegal immigration from Mexico. Despite \$2.3 billion spent by the government on such construction from 2007 to 2015, the GAO found that authorities “cannot measure the contribution of fencing to border security operations along the southwest border because it has not developed metrics for this assessment.”

Few people dispute that barriers can contribute to a drop in crossings. When barriers were built in the Border Patrol’s Yuma, Arizona, sector in the mid-2000s, arrests for illegal crossings plummeted 94 percent in three years. When barriers were built in San Diego in the 1990s and early 2000s, arrests fell 80 percent over seven years. But both areas also saw sharp increases in Border Patrol staffing during that time, making it difficult to pinpoint why illegal crossings fell so dramatically.

TRUMP: “BUILD A WALL & CRIME WILL FALL!” — tweet Sunday.

TRUMP: “BUILD A WALL & CRIME WILL FALL! This is the new theme, for two years until the Wall is finished (under construction now), of the Republican Party. Use it and pray!” — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: His assertion is at odds with several studies that found immigration does not lead to increased crime. Trump’s claim that his border wall is under construction is also misleading.

Multiple studies from social scientists and the libertarian think tank Cato Institute have found that people in the U.S. illegally are less likely to commit crime than are American citizens, and legal immigrants are even less likely to do so.

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

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

As well, a study in 2017 by Robert Adelman, a sociology professor at University of Buffalo, analyzed 40 years of crime data in 200 metropolitan areas and found that immigrants helped lower crime.

On construction of a wall, no new miles of barrier construction have been completed under Trump. Existing fencing has been replaced or strengthened in a few areas. It’s true that many miles of barrier are in service — about 650 miles (1,050 kilometers) of fencing — but that was done by previous administrations.

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NORTH KOREA

TRUMP: "The Fake News Media loves saying 'so little happened at my first summit with Kim Jong Un.' Wrong! After 40 years of doing nothing with North Korea but being taken to the cleaners, & with a major war ready to start, in a short 15 months, relationships built, hostages & remains ... back home where they belong, no more Rockets or M's being fired over Japan or anywhere else and, most importantly, no Nuclear Testing." — tweets Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump is exaggerating progress with North Korea and overstating what's been done to return the remains of U.S. soldiers who fought in the Korean War in the 1950s.

In August, the North sent to the U.S. 55 boxes that were said to contain American war remains from North Korea. The U.S. has yet to say whether those remains are exclusively of U.S. soldiers and how many are in those boxes. As of Jan. 15, just three have been positively identified. Meanwhile, North Korea has refused to begin negotiations with the Pentagon on terms for recovering and returning any of the thousands of additional remains.

Trump is correct that North Korea has stopped test-firing missiles and conducting nuclear tests. But North Korean leader Kim has not denuclearized or even agreed to a plan in which the North would give up its nuclear weapons and the means to produce more.

At the Trump-Kim summit last June in Singapore, the leaders agreed to "work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." Their joint statement did not define that term or commit the North to any particular action.

The Pentagon said in a report this month on its plans to expand U.S. global defenses against missile attack that "while a possible new avenue to peace now exists with North Korea, it continues to pose an extraordinary threat and the United States must remain vigilant."

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "The economy is doing great. More people working in U.S.A. today than at any time in our HISTORY." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: It's true that more people are working now, but that is because of population growth. A more relevant measure is the proportion of Americans with jobs, and that is still far below record highs.

According to Labor Department data, 60.6 percent of people in the United States 16 years and older were working in December. That's below the all-time high of 64.7 percent in April 2000, though higher than the 59.9 percent when Trump was inaugurated in January 2017.

TRUMP: "The Economy is one of the best in our history, with unemployment at a 50 year low, and the Stock Market ready to again break a record (set by us many times) - & all you heard yesterday, based on a phony story, was Impeachment. You want to see a Stock Market Crash, Impeach Trump!" — tweet Jan. 19.

THE FACTS: The economy is healthy but not one of the best in history. Also, there are signs it is weakening after a spurt of growth last year.

The economy expanded at an annual rate of 4.2 percent in the second quarter last year. That was the best showing under Trump and the highest in four years. In the late 1990s, growth topped 4 percent for four straight years and even reached 7.2 percent in 1984.

Almost all independent economists expect slower growth this year as the effect of the Trump administration's tax cuts fade, trade tensions and slower global growth hold back exports, and higher interest rates make it more expensive to borrow to buy cars and homes.

The stock market reached a record high in early October when the Dow Jones industrial average topped 26,000, but markets have fallen and are not about to break records. The Dow closed at 24,737 on Friday.

WHITE HOUSE: "President Trump is delivering on his promise to bring back American manufacturing. ... Manufacturing added 284,000 jobs in 2018, the most added in a year since 1997." — information sheet on Trump's first two years in office, tweeted Wednesday by Trump.

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THE FACTS: It's true that 2018 was the best year for factory employment since 1997, but that mostly illustrates how much more is needed to "bring back" manufacturing. There are now 12.8 million factory jobs in the U.S. That's less than the 13.7 million that existed just before the 2008-2009 Great Recession and far below the 17.6 million in 1997, the last time annual factory job growth was higher.

WHITE HOUSE: "President Trump's pro-growth policies are unleashing economic growth Due to President Trump's pro-growth policies, real gross domestic product growth exceeded 3 percent over the last four quarters." — information sheet on Trump's first two years in office.

THE FACTS: That's correct as to the level of GDP, but it doesn't suggest growth has been "unleashed" at a spectacular rate. The 3 percent growth in the year ending in the third quarter is just the fastest since the second quarter of 2015, when it reached 3.4 percent, and below the 3.8 percent reached in the first quarter of 2015.

CLINTON EMAILS

TRUMP, referring to Hillary Clinton: "Remember July 4th weekend when Crooked went before FBI & wasn't sworn in, no tape, nothing?" — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: He is right that Clinton wasn't put under oath for her FBI interview and that no tape recording was made. But that's the standard procedure the FBI uses for questioning people, famous or not, and who, like Clinton, agree to be interviewed and aren't in custody.

The same procedures would almost certainly apply if Trump himself ever submitted to an in-person interview with special counsel Robert Mueller's team of investigators.

The concept of swearing in a witness typically applies to courtroom or congressional settings, as opposed to more informal voluntary interviews. But it's ultimately a meaningless distinction because it's a crime no matter the circumstances to lie to the FBI.

Trump is wrong to suggest there's no record of Clinton's interview with the FBI on July 2, 2016. The FBI, again per standard protocol, produced a typed-up document summarizing the main points of the interview. The bureau later released it, giving more transparency to the process than it typically provides.

Associated Press writers Christopher Rugaber, Robert Burns, Jill Colvin and Eric Tucker in Washington and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

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Analysis: Pelosi wins initial bout of divided government

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the year's first test of divided government, give round one to Nancy Pelosi. And it wasn't really competitive.

When the record 35-day partial federal shutdown began before Christmas, Pelosi had just won a vote-by-vote struggle for enough Democratic support to become House speaker. To secure that job, the 78-year-old House veteran had to overcome critics' arguments that she had been party leader for too long and wasn't Democrats' best bet to appeal to diverse, social media savvy audiences.

By the time President Donald Trump capitulated Friday, ending the shutdown, Pelosi had burnished her image as the shrewd, steely and unquestioned leader of her party. That makes her a formidable opponent in what looms as a perilous two years for the White House before the 2020 election.

She had kept Democrats united as public pressure built to end the standoff. And she stood up to Trump repeatedly, challenging his intelligence ("Let's give him to time to think it — oh, think, did I say think?") and even exercising her power as speaker to block him from using the House chamber to deliver a State of the Union address planned for Tuesday.

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Trump "found out that Pelosi is no pushover," said former Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., who once headed the House GOP campaign organization.

Backers celebrated her triumph by repeatedly reposting a month-old video of an unruffled Pelosi emerging from a televised Oval Office confrontation with Trump, coolly easing sunglasses onto her face and striding toward reporters.

"I've heard people say to me, 'It looks like we really did elect the right person as speaker,'" Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo., said days before Trump's surrender.

Pelosi demurred when asked whether the shutdown had been a test between herself and Trump.

"I don't see this as any power play," she told reporters Friday.

But actually, it unmistakably was a contest between Washington's two power centers, each gauging the other's tenacity and smarts.

In a city where perception begets influence, Pelosi clearly emerged with the upper hand. That could set the tone for skirmishes ahead, including investigations that the Democratic-led House, armed with subpoena power, plans into Trump's businesses and his 2016 presidential campaign's connections to Russia.

"@SpeakerPelosi should give the State of the Union since she's obviously the one running the country," tweeted Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif.

Immediately ahead is the still unresolved question of how much money, if any, Congress gives him to build the wall he along the U.S.-Mexico border. The short-term bill that Trump signed Friday reopening government will lapse Feb. 15. With three weeks to find a border security compromise, Republicans are using that agreement as a test of Pelosi's credibility.

"Trust is earned, & Washington can use more of it. POTUS trusted Sen Schumer & Spkr Pelosi & the promise that we can negotiate border security funding in the next 3 weeks," tweeted Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla. He referred to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and used the acronym for president of the United States.

House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy of California insisted that Trump had not surrendered.

"No. He knows the American people are hurting. He put the American people first, so they can get paid. Three weeks to negotiate," he said in a brief interview.

Pelosi's upward trajectory during the shutdown contrasted with Trump's, which plunged in the opposite direction.

The president abruptly rejected a deal on Dec. 19 that would have temporarily averted a shutdown and given bargainers time to seek a border security deal. GOP and Democratic congressional leaders believed he had accepted that agreement and were stunned when he reneged under criticism from conservative pundits.

On Friday, Trump accepted the same offer. But in the interim, he endured numerous self-inflicted wounds.

Polls showed voters blamed largely him for the shutdown. His favorability ratings plummeted and he faced a near rebellion from GOP senators, who bluntly told Vice President Mike Pence a day before Trump yielded that it was time to end the standoff.

Trump was further hurt by endless stories about the tribulations of the 800,000 federal workers going without pay and countless others missing needed government services, plus comments by high-ranking administration officials that made those officials seem unfeeling about the suffering.

Things spiraled dangerously Friday amid a snowballing shortage of air traffic controllers that snarled airports in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, raising questions about safety.

All that for an agreement that contains no guarantee Pelosi and her fellow Democrats will provide a dime for Trump's wall, which Pelosi has called "immoral" and has said Congress will not finance.

Trump remains hopeful, tweeting Saturday that "only fools, or people with a political agenda" do not want a wall or steel barrier. "It will happen."

History shows that over the past quarter-century, voters generally don't punish candidates for shutdowns. This one occurred nearly two full years before the 2020 elections, leaving time for other events and issues to dominate when Trump runs for re-election and House and Senate control are at stake.

Even so, after the performances by Pelosi and Trump, it was Republicans who seemed more concerned

about the potential reverberations.

Asked if the shutdown was worth it, Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., said, "I don't think they're ever a good idea. The answer to your question probably has to be, 'We'll see what happens.'"

EDITOR'S NOTE — Associated Press writer Alan Fram has covered Washington policy and politics, including Congress, since 1987.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro and Associated Press writer Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

After the overdose: A family's journey into grief and guilt

By **CLAIRE GALOFARO, AP National Writer**

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — There is nothing left to do, no more frantic phone calls to make, no begging or fighting that can fix this because the worst thing that could happen already has, so Doug Biggers settles into his recliner and braces for his daughter's voice to echo through his head.

"Keep going, Daddy," she's saying.

It's been months since they knelt over his 20-year-old son on the bedroom floor. But in these quiet moments, her words haunt him.

"Don't give up," she'd said as he thrust down on his son's chest — his skin already blue, his hands already clenched. The 911 operator counted out compressions — "One, two, three. Push, push, push" — so he'd pushed and pushed, trying not to cry, trying not to be sick, trying not to imagine his son as a little boy, dressed like a cowboy and pulling a wagon, before his addiction turned their lives into a series of crises like this one: sheer terror and constant, futile thrashing to save him.

"Keep going, you're doing good," his daughter, Brittaney, had repeated until the ambulance arrived and they were shooed to the kitchen. The paramedics walked out, shaking their heads. Doug pounded on the counter and pleaded "no, no, no." Brittaney glanced at the clock on the stove to record the moment hope was lost: 11:43 a.m. on Nov. 21, 2017.

The autopsy that would later describe the morning amounted to what has become among the most ordinary descriptions of American death: Young, white, male. Acute heroin toxicity.

Landon Biggers became one of 70,237 Americans dead from overdose that year. The death count from opioids alone has climbed higher than 400,000 lives as the epidemic enters its third decade.

For families like this one, the scars of the crisis will endure far longer.

In an instant, the yearslong cycle of treatment centers, detoxes and jail cells, the late-night phone calls, the holes punched in walls, the nights spent pleading with God, the emptied 401(k)s — it was all over. And a father, mother and sister were left to torment over what they should have done, or shouldn't have done, or done differently, or better, or sooner.

There are hundreds of thousands of families like them, and dozens more made each day, as the country continues struggling to contain the worst drug crisis in its history. They suffer in solitude, balancing sorrow with relief, shame with perseverance, resentment with forgiveness.

"I couldn't save him," Doug cries now, four words he's repeated again and again.

His wife, Mollie, is on the couch, watching a video of her son shouting at her just to hear his voice again.

Brittaney, 28, flops down next to her, having just worked up the will to get out of bed, a hopeful step because some days she can't.

The family went broke sending Landon to every type of treatment they could find, including one that promised to teach responsibility through raising a puppy; he named his Angel because he said she'd saved him. But now there isn't much left for them to do but stare at the box of his ashes on a shelf above the television, hidden behind a smiling photo of the family they always wanted but never really were.

Doug rubs his sneaker against Angel, snoring at his feet. He takes off his glasses and wipes the fog on his shirt.

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"I'll forever hear your voice in the background," he says to his daughter. "Keep going, Daddy. Keep going." Brittaney gasps.

A SISTER'S GUILT

She holds her breath when she walks through her house, each step threatening to crack her resolve not to think about that day.

Here is the spot in the kitchen where the paramedics stood and said, "I'm sorry, he's gone." Here is where she fell to the ground. Here is the stool where her father was sitting and she was certain he'd have a second heart attack.

Here's the door of the bedroom Landon died in. She has clothes still hanging in the closet, but every time she tries to go in, she imagines her little brother the last time she saw him, cold and stiff, and backs away.

"My house makes me sick," Brittaney says. "It's so quiet here now, I can physically feel his absence. It's like silence that slaps you in the face."

She had moved in with her parents to save money for her own apartment and planned to stay a couple months. Then her brother died, and she picked up a second job at a bar so she could work six days a week and be so tired on the seventh she wouldn't have to face it.

Now she has plenty of money saved, but she keeps making excuses. She feels guilty for staying, like she's robbing herself of what life could be, but she'd feel guilty for leaving, so when she's not working she usually stays in bed. "You hide out in there," her parents tell her, and she doesn't disagree.

Her mother is fixated on finding the good memories of Landon. She makes lists of all the things they did together, to remind herself that she'd done all she could. "I taught him how to swim," she added recently. She studies pictures chronicling his life: as a kindergartner tagging along with his father at work, holding his hand, wearing a hard hat; in the bathtub with Brittaney, with a beard formed out of soap suds.

"Just because he died is he sentenced to sainthood after all the destruction he caused?" Brittaney asks her, angry at this insistence to rewrite their history to remove the misery his addiction caused.

People keep saying to Brittaney, "You have to be strong for your parents," like her grief matters less. This is how it has always felt for her: passed over, second tier.

When Landon was alive, his struggles were all they ever talked about. "Do you even know where I work or what I do?" Brittaney once asked her parents. "When was the last time you asked how I am?" Her mother started crying. Her father looked at her like she'd slapped him in the face. She'd always been easy to raise, her life progressing in clean order.

Now her high school graduation portrait sits framed on the floor, unhung because they don't have a comparable portrait of Landon. His addiction got in the way of accomplishing anything that would merit one, so Brittaney's sits uncelebrated.

"It was like we were trying to get him out of the water before he drowned," Mollie says. "And she was lost on the path along the way."

Brittaney had gone to college a couple hours away with dreams of becoming a sports analyst for ESPN. But her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time, and Landon's addiction caused ceaseless chaos. Brittaney drove home every weekend to help, and eventually she gave up on school, moved back to town and got a job as a bartender.

She always thought she'd get through the present and build a future once Landon got better. He would stay clean, and they'd buy houses in the same neighborhood, have cookouts and take their children to Disneyland.

Now she feels like she's mourning a person who never existed: Landon as he could have been, not Landon as he was. She's mourning her parents, too, the version of them that existed before all this.

They dance around each other, afraid to say the wrong thing, afraid their words might echo in some unintended way.

"Keep going, Daddy. Keep going," she had said as her father tried to bring Landon back from the dead. She doesn't remember saying anything at all.

"I feel guilty," she says, driving through the California desert. She grew up in Oklahoma, but her father

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got a job here when she was a teenager and Landon was 9, and at first it seemed like paradise, a middle-class town ringed by mountains. Now it feels like a trap.

"I should have been quiet so he doesn't have that voice in his head," she frets.

Brittaney used to worry that her father would die from the stress of Landon's addiction. She was certain she would lose them both and always waited for the phone to ring. Now she worries her father will die from grief.

"I'm scared to lose you," she's told him over and over.

"I'm not going anywhere, sweetie," he always says.

She's not sure that she believes him. So still she waits for the phone to ring.

A FATHER'S QUESTIONS

For months, Doug sat silently. He pretended when he could that it wasn't real. He nailed two coat hooks to the wall in his home office and hung Landon's jackets there, as though his son had just stopped by.

He would have wished for death if he didn't have Mollie and Brittaney, so instead he started talking to the box of his son's ashes. He said he was sorry he couldn't save him.

Before Landon died, Doug had prayed every night for God to help him live another day. After his son's death, he said to God: "You didn't do it. Why didn't you?"

A devout Christian, Doug had never before doubted the existence of heaven. Then, after his heart attack in February 2017, he died four times on the operating table. The family blamed the relentless worry over his son. Even Landon came to the hospital to weep.

Doug had always heard stories about people on the brink of death seeing the afterlife. But there was no bright light for him — only darkness. He wonders what that means for Landon.

"If there is a heaven, I didn't see it. So where is he?"

Doug and Mollie used to think they were the only parents living this nightmare. Their mission to save their son had been so all-consuming they realized only after it ended that they were just one part of a disaster unfolding all around them.

Landon's longtime girlfriend, Megan Dealbert, is now a single mother, raising their baby daughter, Aubrey, alone. Her half-sister died of an overdose a year before Landon. Their father buried her in the cemetery plot that had been meant for him.

Brittaney stormed into the house one recent morning. She'd just learned that another friend had overdosed and died, and now she has to count on her fingers how many people she's lost. Her brother, four close friends, three more in her circle.

Doug imagines those parents staying up all night, like he did, desperately trying to manage a system that seemed incomprehensibly broken. He had a son with a disease, and yet they couldn't just take him to a doctor. He had to call every place he could imagine, begging for help, and still that didn't work.

"Any other health crisis that had this many people dying from it, this entire country would be up in arms," he says. "But so many people still view addiction as a moral issue: You're not strong, or you don't have self-control."

"Or you have bad parents," his wife moans.

For years Doug lived in shame, keeping Landon's addiction secret. He wasn't ashamed of his son but rather himself. Co-workers would talk about their children going to college, getting married. Then they'd ask about his.

"How do you explain he's living in his car in a Walmart parking lot and trapped in a cycle of drug use and despair?" he asks. "How broken was this family that this could happen?"

He doesn't like to talk about how much they lost trying to contain it. He guesses \$100,000, although his wife says "way, way more than that." They spent their 401(k)s and more money they didn't have on rehabs, rent at sober living homes, down payments on dental work to fix rotting teeth — \$50 here, \$100 there. Doug's credit score dropped 200 points. He'd do it all again, even though at 61 years old, he doubts he'll ever be able to retire from his job in construction.

Now he reads everything he can find about the opioid epidemic, and his shame is morphing into anger.

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He can't watch the news, because it reminds him that the world is marching on in the face of calamity. The vastness of it overwhelms him, but it also provides a sort of cold comfort: They aren't alone, not even close.

Doug had a dream one night a few months ago. He doesn't usually remember his dreams, but this one jolted him out of bed. They were all at the beach, and Landon sat, facing the water. He kept calling Landon's name, but he wouldn't turn around. He never saw his face.

Was he forgetting his own son?

He realized when he awoke that his great fear is that Landon is nowhere, just gone, doomed by his addiction to leave no legacy.

"I can't keep doing nothing," Doug thought, and he climbed out of bed. He went to his home office and started searching the internet. He called Denise Cullen, who runs an organization called GRASP, for parents of the dead from addiction. He said he needed to do something so that his son's life might not be meaningless.

This deep into the opioid crisis, Cullen gets dozens of these calls each week, as parents emerge from the fog and start looking for a new purpose now that their old one — saving their child — has failed.

Cullen told Doug he'd have to wait; her organization doesn't let parents begin support groups for at least a year after losing a child. Her own son died 10 years ago, and for that first year after she sat alone in the dark, just staring. It's usually not until the second year that parents realize how bad the grief can get, she says.

So the family's quiet days marched on.

Doug and Mollie went to see a war movie, believing it would be a two-hour distraction. One soldier was injured and another tried to save him, telling him: "Stay with me, buddy." Doug choked. That's exactly what he'd said to his son that morning.

He wept and begged his wife to forgive him for being unable to bring Landon back. He told her he'd been living with a secret fear that she hated him for it. It hadn't occurred to her to tell him how relieved she'd been that Landon hadn't died alone, that there was nothing he could have done.

And still one day, Doug says, he'll apologize to Landon's daughter, when she's old enough.

"I still feel like I need to," he says.

"For you?" his wife asks him.

"Yes."

A MOTHER'S AWAKENING

Mollie checked the mail one afternoon about six months after her son died. In the stack of catalogues and bills was an ordinary brown envelope, "County Coroner" stamped as the return address.

The last time she saw her son, he was lying in the coroner's office and she tousled his hair. He'd let her cut it until he was in high school, and she'd loved it. He'd felt in those moments like her little boy.

She always thought Brittaney took after Doug, smart and steady, and Landon took after her, impulsive, funny, creative. When he was little, he liked to dress up in costumes and decorate the house for holidays. They thought he'd grow up to be a set designer for the movies.

Instead, he lay on a gurney. But Mollie thought that for the first time in a long time, he looked peaceful. She felt relieved.

"I know mothers aren't supposed to think those things," she says. "Only people in our shoes can understand it."

His addiction had been so terrifying she'd dreaded her own home. She'd turn the corner into their subdivision and her throat would be on fire. She swallowed antacid tablets by the handful. She imagined her son dead. She imagined the house burning down. She called it "catastrophizing" — so much had happened that anything seemed possible.

It's hard for her now to recount it all. Landon took anything he could find: Xanax, pain pills, medications Mollie was prescribed as she battled cancer. He was in rehab by the time he was 15 and got expelled from

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school. There were arrests, car accidents and armed drug dealers who broke into the house.

He punched and fought when he was desperate for drugs, so they installed locks on their bedroom doors. He stole from them, so they bought a safe. He pried it open, so they bought a stronger one.

They tried psychiatrists, treatment centers, medications. They tried tough love and told him he couldn't come home. He lived in his car, using blankets as curtains. He called them all night, begging for money.

Mollie confessed to her therapist that she sometimes secretly wished Landon would die. His death had come to her to seem inevitable. They were just living through hell in the meantime, and she wasn't sure any of them would make it out intact.

"I knew how much pain he was in. I knew the mountains he had to climb. Maybe it was the only way he'd ever find peace," she says.

She wasn't home that morning when Doug poked his head in to check on Landon. "He's dead," her daughter had screamed into the phone, and at first Mollie thought it must have been Doug who died because, even after everything, it still seemed impossible to comprehend. Mollie ran into the house just as the paramedics were wheeling the body bag out the door.

She did not see what her husband and daughter had seen. In her vision of his death, Landon looked like he was sleeping. She comforted herself with that, and for six months she believed it might make this bearable, even as her husband and daughter could barely bring themselves out of bed.

Doug started taking sleeping pills to quiet his brain, and when he wasn't working, he mostly sat in his recliner. But Mollie kept busy, convincing herself that her son's battles were over and he'd finally found rest.

Then she tore open the envelope from the coroner.

"Name of decedent: Landon Biggers," the autopsy read. Mollie had loved the name Landon. Doug had wanted to call him Mike, but she'd insisted on something special.

"Age: 20," she read, and it suddenly occurred to her that he'd only gotten to use that name for 20 years.

"The body has been refrigerated," the autopsy said, and she heard herself heaving and wailing. This was her awakening, she'd later realize. For the first time she saw it as her husband and daughter had seen it — not peaceful, but brutal. The end.

"Toe tag," she read. She suddenly wondered: "Did Landon think I turned my back on him?" The question has consumed her ever since.

"Brain weighs 1,570 grams."

Her son had been taken apart and reduced to ashes, like he never existed at all.

Those ashes sat on the kitchen counter for months in the same box they'd picked up from the crematorium, still wrapped in brown parchment paper, "like a raw salmon," her daughter had observed. They considered sprinkling them in the ocean, but then he'd be gone forever. Instead they moved the box to the living room, so he'd be with them, and hid it behind a picture, so they could pretend sometimes that he wasn't.

A FAMILY'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Mollie rewinds the video to watch it again.

"I've got a mom who doesn't want me near her," her son is saying.

Doug listens from the recliner, uncertain he wants to watch. Angel jumps up on the spot on the couch where Landon used to sit, and Brittaney rubs a foot against her.

In the recording Landon is high, they can tell. He's standing in a doorway confessing he'd broken into their home. Mollie is facing him, arms crossed.

"Brittaney doesn't even look at me anymore. Dad doesn't want to say he loves me anymore," he's saying. "Angel doesn't even come in the room when I go to sleep anymore."

Brittaney found this video on her phone. She remembered taking it a year before Landon died, standing in front of the bedroom where his baby daughter was asleep. At first, she was excited. For the two minutes and eight seconds it ran, she could pretend he was alive. But then the misery of what she was watching settled in — her brother fighting with her mother and that she'd felt the need to record it, just in case something really bad happened and they needed evidence.

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Most of what they have left of Landon is like this, fraught with lost hope of what might have been: a handful of sobriety tokens but few that make it past 30 days, an empty wallet, a handwritten list of goals he never accomplished, the dog that was supposed to save his life but didn't. Mollie's car is covered in dents and scratches, from when he'd be in withdrawal, fly into a rage and beat it, and she doesn't want to get it fixed. Those dents have sentimental value now.

"I'm tired of living this way," Mollie hears herself say to her son in the video. He storms down the hall, and she watches herself turn to the camera, stare vacantly, then shake her head. Now she gasps, terrified that this fight might be the sole record on earth of her son's voice. Her child — defined only by the madness of addiction.

He was funny, on the good days, and she's afraid of forgetting the sound of his laugh. She frantically scrolls through her phone, looking for a video or voicemail — anything — to replace it in her memory of him.

"Something nicer," she says. "Something where we're having fun."

She scrolls by a photo taken the night before he died, two days before Thanksgiving. For the first time in years, he'd seemed clear-eyed and sober. He told his mother that he'd finally found his rock bottom. He was living on the streets, starving and thirsty. He gave his last \$10 to a dealer for a fix, and they'd stolen his money and given him no drugs. He walked to a detox.

He'd stayed clean for the longest stretch in years. They all fixed steaks and decorated the Christmas tree, then sat around the fire pit. Mollie took this picture of him looking down at his phone, grinning, lit by the fire. They said "I love you" and went to bed.

The next picture in her phone is the following night, after the ambulances left and friends had come to comfort them. She toggles between the two photos.

"This is one night, and this is the next. He's here, he's not."

The next photo is of herself, several months later. She's holding Landon's daughter on her lap, trying to smile, but with a faraway gaze and dark circles around her eyes. "That just does not look like me," she says.

She's always been the sort of person who laughs easily and tries to find joy in each day. After Landon died, she started losing things. She lost a key to Doug's car, she lost her glasses, she lost the lists she'd made of all the things she did for her son to remind herself she didn't turn her back on him. Everything seems scattered, like her life with her son had been.

She worries she's losing the only thing she was ever really sure of about herself.

"I've always enjoyed life," she says. "And how do parents enjoy life after their child dies?"

Doug and Brittaney recently told her that she seems angry all the time, so easy to set off.

"I'm obsessing," Mollie says, still scrolling through her phone. "Where are the videos where he is actually talking? I can't find them."

Brittaney searches through her phone now, too. She pushes play on a video, taken months before Landon died.

Mollie leans her head against her daughter's, and they watch it together.

Landon's daughter, Aubrey, is wearing cupcake pajamas, squealing and jumping on the couch. Landon is sitting next to her, just out of the frame. But for a moment, the camera captures the side of his face.

"Wait," Brittaney says, "you can hear him laugh."

They rewind it to listen again.

People keep telling them all that the second year is worse than the first, so they dreaded that day, Nov. 21. They struggled over what to call it, thinking the English language lacks a word for such things. "Anniversary" seemed celebratory.

They considered going out of town but chose instead to stay and tried to pretend it was just another day.

Brittaney went to work, and Mollie kept herself busy trying to calculate where her son's name would fall in a chronological list of the 70,237 dead in 2017: Some 62,400 died before him and some 7,600 after. She thought if she could turn it into a math problem, maybe it might make some sense, but it didn't.

All day, Doug carted the box of Landon's ashes around with him. He sat it on his desk as he worked in his home office and put it in the passenger seat as he tooled around town running errands.

"I hung out with Landon today," he told his family, before he put the box back on its shelf, in the living

room, close by.

[Click here](#) for more on Cullen's group, GRASP, and [here](#) for additional resources on addiction and recovery.

AP National Writer Claire Galofaro has reported for years on the opioid crisis across America. Follow her on Twitter at @clairegalofaro or reach her at cgalofaro@ap.org

Presidential standoff may worsen Venezuelans' misery

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The U.S. recognition of opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's interim president is being touted by the Trump administration as the only way to restore the country's democracy. But as Elizabeth Pineda was stocking up on staples Sunday at a sidewalk market near a Caracas slum, she was bracing for things to get a lot worse, not better.

A retired secretary, Pineda survives on a monthly pension of just 18,000 bolivars, or about \$6. She supplements her income working as an astrologer, and although the stars have been telling her Venezuelans are on the road to ridding themselves of socialist President Nicolas Maduro, she doesn't expect him to go quickly or quietly.

"The government is going to strangle us even more with their bad decisions and shamelessness," Pineda said while sharing a bowl of beef soup with two friends, none of whom can afford the \$1.50 meal on their own.

Economists agree that the longer the standoff between the U.S.-backed Guaido and Maduro drags on, the more regular Venezuelans are likely to suffer.

Maduro, who so far appears to have the backing of the decisive military, has dug in, accusing the U.S. of orchestrating a coup by encouraging Guaido to declare himself interim president and then leading a chorus of nations that immediately recognized his rule.

The high-risk and seldom-used strategy of recognizing an alternative government that doesn't already have de facto power is tantamount to blocking Maduro's access to Venezuela's all-important oil revenue, with enormous legal and financial entanglements.

Directives sent Friday to the U.S. Federal Reserve will make it very hard for Maduro to access Venezuela's overseas assets and earnings, including those from Houston-based Citgo, a subsidiary of state-owned oil giant PDVSA and the major source of revenue for the bankrupt government. Also at risk is \$1.2 billion in gold reserves — 15 percent of Venezuela's foreign currency reserves — stored in the vaults of the Bank of England.

If the Trump administration's confrontational approach is adopted by the European Union, some of whose members have threatened to recognize Guaido if Maduro doesn't announce new elections in eight days, it could bring oil production to a standstill, heaping more hardships on the 29 million Venezuelans already struggling with hyperinflation, widespread food shortages and anemic economic activity.

"If Maduro stays in power, Venezuela could suffer a humanitarian catastrophe," said Francisco Rodriguez, chief economist of New York-based Torino Capital.

Rodriguez said the outlook is similar to what happened to Libya in 2011, after the Obama administration froze the government's assets in retaliation for Moammar Gadhafi's crackdown on protesters during the Arab Spring. In response, oil output in the North African country dropped more than 70 percent.

But unlike that asset freeze and the one imposed on Iraq after Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, which were done in concert with the international community, Maduro still has important backers, most notably China and Russia, which would serve as a likely veto of any international sanctions at the U.N. Security Council.

If he's not getting paid, Maduro will surely divert the roughly 500,000 barrels per day of oil currently being sold to Gulf Coast refineries in the U.S. to more friendly markets, like creditors Russia or China, as well as India, Malaysia and Thailand.

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But processing international financial transactions is very hard without going through the U.S. or European banks. Transport costs would also jump because Venezuela's ports aren't well-equipped to load supertankers for transporting oil to such distant markets, said Russ Dallen, managing partner of Caracas Capital, a brokerage.

That means the country, which depends almost entirely on oil exports for hard currency, will be able to purchase even less food and other imports, exacerbating a severe recession that is already deeper than the U.S. economic contraction during the Great Depression.

Then there's the \$65 billion in Venezuela's and state oil company PDVSA's outstanding bonds, almost none of which are being paid and whose prices rallied 25 percent on news of Guaido's challenge to Maduro's authority.

If the U.S. were to hand control of Citgo to people selected by Guaido, as is expected, Maduro would almost certainly stop paying back loans to Russia's Rosneft, which in turn would execute a lien giving it 49.9 percent control of the Texas oil company.

"Maduro was already facing an incredibly complex situation," Dallen said. "But the loss of fast cash from Citgo and the U.S. market will further crush the country's decimated oil production and cash flows, meaning more starvation and more people fleeing the country."

To be sure, oil production — the lifeblood of the economy — has been collapsing for years. The OPEC nation currently pumps just a third of the 3.5 million barrels a day it did when the late Hugo Chavez took power in 1999, despite sitting atop the world's largest reserves.

Rodriguez, who tried to persuade the government to moderate its policies as part of a failed Vatican-sponsored mediation between Maduro and the opposition in 2016, said that if the showdown between Guaido and Maduro continues the economy would contract around 30 percent in 2019. He forecasts inflation will reach around 23 million percent from the 1.6 million it was in 2018.

Should the opposition prevail, there will be numerous benefits from an improved investment outlook — although perhaps not immediately.

Orlando Ochoa, a Caracas-based economist, said the U.S. will have to play a major role marshalling the support of international financial institutions, lifting sanctions and providing a debt shield to protect Venezuela from creditor lawsuits while the country gets back on its financial feet.

Such concepts of high finance make little sense to Pineda, who nonetheless said she is willing to eke out a meager existence if that is what it takes to get rid of Maduro.

"We're ready to eat bread and water if we have to," she said. "Getting out of this will be our reward."

Joshua Goodman on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APjoshgoodman>

High-schoolers get face time with extremists in class

By JULIE CARR SMYTH, Associated Press

WORTHINGTON, Ohio (AP) — Last week's videotaped encounter at the Lincoln Memorial left many wondering about the state of reasoned political discourse in the country, or if it exists at all in a hyperpartisan era of red "Make America Great Again" hats versus pink women's march caps.

In a video from Jan. 18, a group of boys from Kentucky's Covington Catholic High School, a Native American activist and a cluster of Black Hebrew Israelites faced off in an uncomfortable confrontation that spread online and in the media. It has prompted national debate about both civility in politics, the seeming lack of tolerance for those of differing political beliefs and how both are influencing the nation's youth.

That debate sounded all-too-familiar to Ohio social studies teacher Judi Galasso, who has taught a class on political radicalism for three decades now.

"If someone's yelling things at you, if you're presented with groups that you disagree with, my hope is that we train our kids well enough that they're not going to react," Galasso said.

Galasso and co-teacher Jonathan Duffy invite members of America's most extreme political groups — including the National Socialist Movement, the Weather Underground and the Revolutionary Communists

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— into their classroom each semester. They teach students to engage respectfully with those of differing beliefs and to ask questions.

The Covington Catholic incident has seemed to further divide the nation. Parents, alumni and others have rallied to the white teenagers' defense and, in a tweet, President Donald Trump called the students "symbols of Fake News and how evil it can be." Others largely supported the Native American activist, describing him as a victim of racism and white entitlement.

In Galasso and Duffy's class, no one shies away from such political discomfort.

"In 2019, our teachers generally are like, 'You know what? Let's redirect to a different topic, because that one sounds like it's loaded with land mines,'" said Pete Scully, principal of Thomas Worthington High School, where Galasso teaches. "The idea of poli-rad is, you know what, let's explore all those land mines and talk about them."

U.S. Political Thought and Radicalism, "poli-rad" for short, has been steadily offered as a social studies credit by the suburban Columbus district since the 1970s. Over the decades, its unconventional speaker series has generated excitement, sparked protests and left classrooms at turns emboldened, shaken or inspired.

"In 2019, no school board in America would approve a class like this, but in Worthington, there's no way you could get rid of it," Galasso said.

Speakers over the years have included former revolutionary Bill Ayers of the Weather Underground, Harry Hughes of the National Socialist Movement, Ramona Africa from the black liberation group MOVE, white supremacist Richard Spencer and Turner Diaries author William Pierce.

About half the district's seniors take the class each year. That's created a legion of alumni ready to defend it when a new crop of parents in the affluent, largely white district raise concerns about the potential dangers of the class.

Jen Miller, 26, a Nashville-based music producer and 2010 Thomas Worthington graduate, said poli-rad was one of the most valuable classes she took in high school.

"It opened meaningful dialogue and that, to me, is priceless," she said. "Sure, it might make some parents uncomfortable, but the class isn't radicalizing students; it's teaching students about radicalization, which is pretty important. I mean, look at the context that we're living in today."

Worthington School Board member Julie Keegan said she wishes more districts would offer such a course. She took poli-rad in 1984. Her husband and all four of her children are also alums.

"In 1984, Worthington was much more homogenous than it is right now," Keegan said. "So part of that class was just sort of pointing out, 'Hey, guess what? Not everybody thinks like you, looks like you, talks like you.'"

Retired teacher Tom Molnar said he created the course in 1975 with input from students. He had been given the course topic, but no guidance. When students said they wanted to learn about radical groups operating in America at the time, he had to tell them there was no source material to work from. One student suggested inviting the groups in.

"I told him it was completely nuts, but they encouraged me to take that message to the principal, and the principal said, 'It's brilliant,'" he said.

Poli-rad students study each speaker ahead of time, gathering background and preparing questions. Afterward, teachers help them think critically about how factors such as deceptive language or personal charisma were used.

The teachers attribute the course's success to a few key ground rules: Presenters must come from across the political spectrum, they can't be censored, students must remain respectful and instructors can't share their personal political beliefs.

Another key takeaway: Don't rush to judgment.

"One thing we teach kids when speakers come in is to truly listen to what they're saying," Duffy said, "and just because they think they know what this individual believes, you still have to listen and accurately reflect."

In the early 1990s, Ku Klux Klan members arrived to the classroom in full robes and hoods. Their sil-

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houettes could be seen from the main road in front of the high school, spreading community alarm. To ease concerns, teachers agreed to a compromise: They would cease inviting active Klansmen as long as the district placed no further restrictions on their speakers.

Senior Tori Banks, 18, who took the course last semester, said it helped her expand her views and learn tolerance.

"If I weren't in the class and I saw some of these speakers or people of certain stances walking around, I may feel uncomfortable," she said. "But I think the way we do it in poli-rad is a very safe environment."

Follow Julie Carr Smyth at <https://twitter.com/jcarrsmyth>

This story has been corrected to show that the principal of Thomas Worthington High School is Pete Scully, not Skully, and corrects the first name of social studies teacher Judi Galasso, not Judy.

Trump sets odds of reaching deal on wall at less than 50-50

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that the odds congressional negotiators will craft a deal to end his border wall standoff with Congress are "less than 50-50."

As hundreds of thousands of furloughed federal workers prepared to return to work, Trump told The Wall Street Journal that he doesn't think the negotiators will strike a deal that he'd accept. He pledged to build a wall anyway using his executive powers to declare a national emergency if necessary.

"I personally think it's less than 50-50, but you have a lot of very good people on that board," Trump said in an interview with the newspaper.

The president was referring to a bipartisan committee of House and Senate lawmakers that will consider border spending as part of the legislative process.

The president's standoff with Democrats on Capitol Hill is far from over and the clock is ticking. The spending bill Trump signed on Friday to temporarily end the partial government shutdown funds the shuttered agencies only until Feb. 15.

It's unclear if the Democrats will budge. Trump seemed girded for battle over the weekend, sending out a series of online messages that foreshadowed the upcoming fight with lawmakers. "BUILD A WALL & CRIME WILL FALL!" he tweeted.

Is Trump prepared to shut down the government again in three weeks?

"Yeah, I think he actually is," acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said. "He doesn't want to shut the government down, let's make that very clear. He doesn't want to declare a national emergency."

But Mulvaney said that at "the end of the day, the president's commitment is to defend the nation and he will do it with or without Congress."

The linchpin in the standoff is Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion for his prized wall at the U.S.-Mexico border, a project Democrats consider an ineffective, wasteful monument to a ridiculous Trump campaign promise.

Asked if he'd willing to accept less than \$5.7 billion to build a barrier on the southern border, Trump replied: "I doubt it." He added: "I have to do it right."

He also said he'd be wary of any proposed deal that exchanged funds for a wall for broad immigration reform. And when asked if he would agree to citizenship for immigrants who were illegally brought into the U.S. as children, he again replied, "I doubt it."

California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the leading Republican in the House, said Democrats have funded border barriers in the past and are refusing this time simply because Trump is asking for it.

"The president is the only one who has been reasonable in these negotiations," he said.

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, a member of the Democratic leadership in the House, said his colleagues are looking for "evidence-based" legislation.

"Shutdowns are not legitimate negotiating tactics when there's a public policy disagreement between two branches of government," he said.

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Jeffries said that Democrats are willing to invest in additional infrastructure, especially at legal ports of entry where the majority of drugs come into the country.

"We're willing to invest in personnel. We're willing to invest in additional technology. ... In the past, we have supported enhanced fencing and I think that's something that's reasonable that should be on the table," he said.

Trump has asserted there is a "crisis" at the southern border requiring a wall, blaming previous presidents and Congress for failing to overhaul an immigration system that has allowed millions of people to live in the U.S. illegally.

Last month, he put that number at 35 million, while on Sunday he pegged it at 25.7 million-plus — figures offered without evidence. "I'm not exactly sure where the president got that number this morning," Mulvaney said.

Both are higher than government and private estimates.

His homeland security chief cited "somewhere" between 11 million and 22 million last month. In November, the nonpartisan Pew Research Center reported 10.7 million in 2016 — the lowest in a decade.

The president also tweeted Sunday that the cost of illegal immigration so far this year was nearly \$19 billion; he didn't cite a source.

Compare that with research in 2017 from a conservative group, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which advocates for less immigration: \$135 billion a year or about \$11.25 billion a month — a figure that included health care and education, plus money spent on immigration enforcement.

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. said that he thinks a compromise is possible.

"The president went from talking about a wall along the entire southern border at one point during the campaign ... to let's have barriers where they work and let's have something else where barriers wouldn't work as well," Blunt said.

The partial federal shutdown ended Friday when Trump gave in to mounting pressure, retreating from his demand that Congress commit to the border wall funding before federal agencies could resume work. The bill he signed did not provide the money Trump wanted for a barrier, which House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has called "immoral" and has insisted Congress will not finance.

Mulvaney said Trump agreed to temporarily end the shutdown because some Democrats have stepped forward, publicly and privately, to say they agree with Trump's plan to better secure the border.

Mulvaney said they told Trump they couldn't split with Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, and work with the White House if the government remained closed.

"Everybody wants to look at this and say the president lost," Mulvaney said. "We're still in the middle of negotiations."

Mulvaney appeared on "Fox News Sunday" and CBS' "Face the Nation." Jeffries and McCarthy spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press," Blunt was on Fox.

Rivals Maduro and Guaido vie for Venezuelan military backing

By SCOTT SMITH and FABIOLA SANCHEZ, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The struggle for control of Venezuela turned to the military Sunday, with supporters of opposition leader Juan Guaido handing leaflets to soldiers detailing a proposed amnesty law that would protect them for helping overthrow President Nicolas Maduro.

At the same time, Maduro demonstrated his might, wearing tan fatigues at military exercises. Flanked by his top brass, Maduro watched heavy artillery fired into a hillside and boarded an amphibious tank.

Addressing soldiers in an appearance on state TV, Maduro asked whether they were plotting with the "imperialist" United States, which he accused of openly leading a coup against him.

"No, my commander-in-chief," they shouted in unison, and Maduro responded: "We're ready to defend our homeland — under any circumstance."

The dueling appeals from the two rivals again put the military center stage in the global debate over

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who holds a legitimate claim to power in the South American nation.

The standoff has plunged troubled Venezuela into a new chapter of political turmoil that has already left more than two dozen dead as thousands took to the streets demanding Maduro step down. Guaido is calling for two new mass mobilizations over the next week.

The tumult erupted when Guaido, the 35-year-old leader of Venezuela's opposition-controlled congress, declared before masses of supporters last week that he has temporarily assumed presidential powers, vowing to hold free elections and end Maduro's dictatorship.

President Donald Trump and several foreign leaders quickly recognized Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate leader, prompting Maduro to cut ties with the U.S. and order its diplomats from Caracas within 72 hours. The U.S. defied him, saying Maduro isn't the legitimate president, and Maduro relented, suspending the deadline for 30 days for the sake of opening a dialogue.

Venezuela's crisis came before the U.N. Security Council on Saturday, which took no formal action because of divisions among members. Russia and China back Maduro. But France and Britain joined Spain and Germany in turning up the pressure on Maduro, saying they would recognize Guaido as president unless Venezuela calls a new presidential election within eight days.

"Where do you get that you have the power to establish a deadline or an ultimatum to a sovereign people?" said Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza. "It's almost childlike."

Venezuela's armed forces remain the key to Maduro's hold on power, firing tear gas and bullets on protesters, killing more than two dozen since Wednesday.

Guaido is urging Venezuelans to exit their homes, offices or wherever they may be on Wednesday for a peaceful, two-hour mid-day protest. He is also asking followers to take to the streets again Saturday for demonstrations "in every corner" of the nation and around the globe. That protest is timed to coincide with the European Union deadline for announcing a new election.

"We're advancing well, Venezuela," Guaido said in his broadcast, streamed live on the internet. "We've restored hope."

In light of the ongoing unrest, the Caribbean Professional Baseball Leagues Confederation announced Sunday that organizers decided to not to hold an upcoming tournament in Venezuela. The Caribbean Series will instead be held at alternate yet-to-be-announced venue. The decision came a day after Venezuela Sports Minister Pedro Infante made a plea for the series to take place as planned in Barquisimeto, saying the government would guarantee the safety of players.

On Sunday, Guaido's supporters made their case directly to soldiers, handing them leaflets that urged they reject the socialist leader and explaining how they could be eligible for amnesty if they help return Venezuela to democracy.

In Paraiso, an area of Caracas where residents and the National Guard violently clashed, opposition lawmaker Ivlev Silva, his hands raised over his head, walked up to a line of soldiers wearing riot gear and holding shields.

"The people of Venezuela believe in each one of you," Silva said, handing them the leaflets. Their commander responded that they were defending the Bolivarian revolution and support Maduro.

Similar scenes took place at military bases across Caracas, where one soldier burned his leaflet and another man threw a stack of them out a door, rejecting the opposition's plea.

In claiming presidential powers, Guaido said he was acting in accordance with two articles of the constitution that give the National Assembly president the right to hold power temporarily and call new elections.

Emerging from Sunday Mass, where he honored those killed and arrested in the recent protests, Guaido called on the armed forces not to shoot fellow Venezuelans.

"We are waiting for you and the commitment you have to our constitution," Guaido said. "Don't shoot at those who have come out to defend your family, your work and livelihood."

He also vowed to crack down on those responsible for the killings, which he called a "massacre," saying in a Twitter post that he wanted to bring international attention to members of the armed forces, prosecutors and judges linked to the recent deaths.

The Trump administration has maintained that all options remain open if Maduro refuses to cede leadership, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said on "Fox News Sunday."

"I don't think any president of any party who is doing his or her job would be doing the job properly if they took anything off the table," he said. "So, I think the president of the United States is looking at this extraordinarily closely."

Associated Press writer Manuel Rueda contributed to this report.

Trump rollbacks for fossil fuel industries carry steep cost

By **MATTHEW BROWN**, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — As the Trump administration rolls back environmental and safety rules for the energy sector, government projections show billions of dollars in savings reaped by companies will come at a steep cost: more premature deaths and illnesses from air pollution, a jump in climate-warming emissions and more severe derailments of trains carrying explosive fuels.

The Associated Press analyzed 11 major rules targeted for repeal or relaxation under Trump, using the administration's own estimates to tally how its actions would boost businesses and harm society.

The AP identified up to \$11.6 billion in potential future savings for companies that extract, burn and transport fossil fuels. Industry windfalls of billions of dollars more could come from a freeze in vehicle efficiency standards that will yield an estimated 79 billion-gallon (300 million-liter) increase in fuel consumption.

On the opposite side of the government's ledger, buried in thousands of pages of analyses, are the "social costs" of rolling back the regulations. Among them:

— Up to 1,400 additional premature deaths annually due to the pending repeal of a rule to cut coal plant pollution.

— An increase in greenhouse gas emissions by about 1 billion tons (907 million metric tons) from vehicles produced over the next decade — a figure equivalent to annual emissions of almost 200 million vehicles.

— Increased risk of water contamination from a drilling technique known as "fracking."

— Fewer safety checks to prevent offshore oil spills.

For the Trump administration and its supporters, the rule changes examined by AP mark a much-needed pivot away from heavy regulations that threatened to hold back the Republican president's goal of increasing U.S. energy production. But the AP's findings also underscore the administration's willingness to put company profits ahead of safety considerations and pollution effects.

SIDING WITH INDUSTRY

The AP found the administration has sought to bolster the changes by emphasizing, and sometimes exaggerating, economic gains while minimizing negative impacts.

For example, when calculating future damages from greenhouse gas emissions from coal plants, the Trump administration looked only at U.S. effects, instead of globally. That drastically reduced the benefits of emission restrictions and allowed the administration to conclude the Obama-era rule was no longer justified, given costs to the coal industry.

In another instance, the Environmental Protection Agency wants to stop considering secondary benefits of controlling mercury emissions — namely reductions in other pollutants projected to prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths.

Last month, the AP revealed that the administration understated the advantages of installing better brakes on trains carrying crude oil and ethanol. Transportation Department officials acknowledged they miscalculated potential benefits by up to \$117 million because they failed to include some projected future derailments.

In explaining its actions, the Trump administration said in some cases that the previous administration understated the price tag on new industry restrictions. In others, it said President Barack Obama's administration had been overly expansive in how it defined benefits to society.

Michael Greenstone, a University of Chicago professor who served as chief economist for Obama's Coun-

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cil of Economic Advisers, said the Trump administration was downplaying the health and environmental impacts of its actions.

"When you start fudging the numbers, it's not that the costs just evaporate into thin air. We will pay," Greenstone said. "They are reducing the costs for industries where pollution is a byproduct."

The rules being targeted were largely crafted under Obama in response to climate change, the disastrous 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, massive releases from coal ash dumps and fuel train explosions.

ADMINISTRATION: NEGLIGIBLE RISKS

Trump's administration has stressed that savings for companies were greater than any increased perils to safety or the environment.

"We fully recognize every significant policy decision has a consequence and that those consequences can differ," acting U.S. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt told the AP. "I think when you look at the track record, holistically, what you see is our deregulatory efforts are still pretty protective."

The AP's tally of savings was derived from government projections required under a 1993 executive order. Five of the rule changes are still pending.

On rules for toxic coal ash, offshore safety and refinery pollution, the administration said companies would save hundreds of millions of dollars with little or no added risk — an assertion former federal officials and environmental groups have disputed.

The potential industry savings were projected largely over the next decade.

Sectors of the coal industry see lifting costly rules as a matter of survival because demand has plummeted as utilities switch to cleaner-burning fuels.

For the oil and gas industry, with hundreds of billions of dollars in annual revenue, the economic impact of the Obama-era rules was comparatively small. But they were vigorously opposed as restrictions on business.

"We need to make sure we're putting together rules that are flexible enough to apply the latest, greatest technologies," said Erik Milito, vice president for the American Petroleum Institute. He said the group focused on whether rules make sense, rather than cost savings.

Critics say the impact on public health and the environment will be even worse than projected.

"I don't think it's well understood what the death toll of these policies will be for the American people," said Paul Billings, of the American Lung Association.

OBAMA CLIMATE AGENDA ASSAILED

Two sweeping changes under Trump — the rollback of the Clean Power Plan that threatened to close many coal power plants and a reversal of plans to increase vehicle fuel efficiency standards — were centerpieces of Obama's climate change actions.

Killing the power plan would save companies up to \$6.4 billion, the EPA concluded.

The trade-off is almost 61 million tons (55 million metric tons) annually of additional carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. The administration calculated that those emissions carry a maximum of \$3.2 billion in "social costs," such as flood damage and higher air conditioning costs.

Since company savings outweighed pollution costs, the administration said scrapping the power plan was justified. That conclusion was possible largely because the EPA limited social costs to effects in the U.S., instead of globally as under Obama.

EPA spokeswoman Enesta Jones said the analysis complied with a 2003 directive under President George W. Bush that said such reviews should focus on costs and benefits to people in the U.S.

Joe Goffman, a former EPA official who helped create the clean power plan and now at Harvard Law School, said the omission of international impacts "doesn't track with reality" given that climate change is a worldwide problem.

The Trump administration also limited pollution cost considerations in its proposal last month on mercury emitted by coal plants.

When the mercury rule was finalized in 2012, the EPA projected up to \$90 billion in benefits, including avoidance of up to 11,000 premature deaths from other power plant pollutants.

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Now, the EPA says those benefits could not be considered because they are not directly tied to mercury reductions. The only benefits that should be counted, the agency said, were improvements to IQ scores as a result of less mercury exposure, valued at up to \$6 million annually.

The National Mining Association had urged the change. Spokesman Conor Bernstein said Obama's EPA misused the concept of secondary pollution benefits to justify its actions.

The rollback's impact is unclear since utilities already have spent an estimated \$18 billion on new pollution controls.

FUEL STANDARDS AND DRILLING SAFETY

Some experts outside government take issue with the rationale for relaxing the fuel economy rule.

The Trump administration says reducing standards would save as many as 1,000 lives annually and spare consumers and car companies hundreds of billions of dollars on vehicles with higher gas mileage. To reach that conclusion, officials lowered estimates of how many vehicles people would buy.

But economists including from the nonpartisan National Bureau of Economic Research say that assumption was fundamentally flawed, since looser standards would make cars cheaper and therefore increase demand. The economists said the government used misleading findings to wipe out at least \$112 billion in potential societal benefits while falsely claiming its change would save numerous lives.

"Every change they made was made in the direction to make the standards look more expensive and the rollback to look cheaper and better," said Jeff Alson, who worked 40 years at an EPA lab in Michigan.

Several rules reworked under Trump tie directly to worker and public safety.

The administration rescinded requirements for improved fuel train brakes after determining the costs to industry would be higher than previously calculated. It acknowledged more spills from derailments would likely occur.

After AP's story about the agency's \$117 million benefits understatement, spokesman Bobby Fraser said the decision to rescind the Obama rule would stand because the costs were still greater.

Two safety rules for offshore oil and gas drilling were adopted following the Deepwater Horizon accident, which killed 11 people and spilled 134 million gallons (507 million liters) of oil.

The Interior Department now says less rigid inspection and equipment requirements would save drilling companies hundreds of millions of dollars with "negligible" safety and environmental risks.

Lynn Scarlett, acting Interior Secretary under George W. Bush, said the changes ignore a government commission's findings on the Gulf spill.

"You're removing a tool that was developed intentionally to help reduce the risks," Scarlett said. "The failure to have those protections raises the risk, such that actions can result in accidents like Deepwater Horizon."

Follow Matthew Brown at <https://twitter.com/matthewbrownap>

Pope seeks peace in Venezuela crisis but doesn't pick sides

By NICOLE WINFIELD and JUAN ZAMORANO, Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Pope Francis called Sunday for a "just and peaceful solution" to Venezuela's political crisis as he wrapped up a visit to Panama for a World Youth Day rally that was overshadowed by the upheaval unfolding nearby.

Francis refused again to say if the Holy See would recognize opposition leader Juan Guaido in his claim for the presidency, which has been backed by the United States and other regional leaders. The Vatican years ago was frustrated in its attempt to mediate between socialist President Nicolas Maduro and Venezuela's opposition, which has the backing of many Venezuelan bishops.

Speaking off-the-cuff at his Sunday blessing, Francis said he felt particularly close to Venezuelans while he was in Panama. He "asked the Lord to seek and find a just and peaceful solution to overcome the crisis that respects human rights and exclusively seeks the good of all people."

The Venezuela crisis has dominated Francis' visit to Panama, both behind the scenes and in public, with

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the pope at one point asking out loud if any Venezuelan bishops were on hand at the end of an event. The Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, was former ambassador to Venezuela so he knows the situation well.

Andrew Chesnut, professor of religious studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, said the situation in the South American nation was "very palpable" during the Argentine-born pontiff's trip.

"It has been a source of frustration for the Latin American pope, since his diplomatic efforts have not borne fruit in the country," Chesnut said.

Francis made the Venezuela comments after he closed out World Youth Day with a Mass in a Panama City field before an estimated 700,000 people and presidents from across the region: Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Portugal.

"You dear people are not the future but the now of God," Francis told the pilgrims draped in flags from across the Americas.

At the end of the service, the Vatican announced the next edition of World Youth Day would be in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2022.

"Our trip was very long but it was worth it because we came here to Panama City because of our faith, our Christian faith," said pilgrim Sawadogo Kiswensidad, who travelled from Burkina Faso.

After Mass, Francis visited a church-run home for people infected with HIV, sending a strong message of acceptance in Panama, where AIDS carries a stigma.

"Many of the people we help here have been rejected by their families, by people in the street," said the Rev. Domingo Escobar, director of the Casa Hogar El Buen Samaritano. "But here they receive Christian help, as the church wants."

Using the parable of the Good Samaritan, who tended to a stranger in need, Francis called for an end to the indifference that society treats the poor and the sick.

"For indifference can also wound and kill. Some for a few miserable coins, others for fear of becoming unclean," he said. "The Good Samaritan, whether in the parable or in all of your homes, shows us that our neighbor is first of all a person, someone with a real, particular face, not something to avoid or ignore, whatever his or her situation may be."

Francis used his visit to the home to issue a string of appeals, beyond Venezuela. He appealed for peace in Colombia following a car bombing at a police academy that killed 21 people earlier this month. He denounced the bombing of a cathedral in the Philippines earlier Sunday. And he added his voice to the chorus of solidarity on Holocaust Remembrance day.

During his trip Francis questioned the wall that U.S. President Donald Trump would build on the Mexican border, urged society and the church not to turn their backs on or stigmatize those who migrate due to poverty and violence, and sought to encourage young Catholics and the clergy.

Late Sunday afternoon, Francis met with World Youth Day volunteers at a soccer stadium where he thanked them for their sacrifice and urged them to go forth and bear witness of the experience.

"Go out and spread the word about everything you have seen and heard. ... Not with lots of words but rather, as you did here, with simple and ordinary gestures, those that transform and renew each hour of the day," the pope said.

"This is one of the most beautiful experiences of my life," Carla Hernandez, a 21-year-old Honduran nursing student said of her World Youth Day experience. "A night in which we shared, prayed and enjoyed the stars. The pope has filled us with hope."

Catholic officials had long anticipated a low turnout because the January date did not coincide with North American and European school calendars, and indeed the estimated 600,000 at the previous night's vigil was sharply down from previous years.

Still, Chesnut said, "between the low attendance by the youth and the statistics showing that the loss of the faithful in Latin America has continued during (Francis') pontificate, the lasting impact of his visit is not clear."

Francis' plane departed in the evening for Rome, where he will prepare for another trip next weekend

to Abu Dhabi, the first by a pope to the Arabian Peninsula.

Associated Press writer Kathia Martinez in Panama City contributed to this report.

Louisiana murder suspect caught at grandma's Virginia home

By REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press

GONZALES, La. (AP) — A 21-year-old man suspected of killing his parents and three other people — including a girl he was dating — was arrested Sunday when he drove up with a gun to his grandmother's house in Virginia, a sheriff said.

On Saturday, Dakota Theriot shot and killed three people — the woman believed to be his girlfriend, her brother and father — in Louisiana's Livingston Parish before taking her father's pickup truck, driving to neighboring Ascension Parish, and shooting his parents, according to authorities.

Theriot's grandmother in Warsaw, Virginia, had checked into a hotel Saturday night, fearing he might show up there, Richmond County Sheriff Stephan B. Smith said in a phone interview. The woman asked authorities to check her house Sunday morning to ensure it was safe before she returned.

While deputies were there, Smith said, Theriot drove up with a firearm pointed out the window of a pickup. A sheriff's statement said deputies sought cover and challenged Theriot, who then dropped the gun and was arrested without incident. Smith said the pickup Theriot drove apparently was the one taken in Louisiana.

In Louisiana, at a trailer where the suspect's parents lived, drops of blood trailed out to the front steps from the bedroom where Keith and Elizabeth Theriot were shot. In the bedroom, blood-soaked pillows were strewn on a bed, and patches of what appeared to be dried blood were on the floor. Dozens of stuffed animals decorated the room.

Kim Mincks and Jacob Chastant also lived in the trailer and were friends with the Theriots. Mincks said she was in the house at the opposite end of the trailer when the shooting happened but added she didn't hear anything. Law enforcement officers came into her room Saturday morning and woke her.

"They said something terrible happened here. 'Get up, get dressed and walk outside,'" she recalled them saying.

Mincks and Chastant said Dakota Theriot had struggled with drugs over the years, had violent outbursts, and had recently been kicked out of the trailer.

"We know he had a drug problem. He got kicked out last Monday because of the drug problem. His dad kicked him out of here. He did have a violent streak," Mincks said.

Theriot will be brought back to Ascension Parish to be booked on two counts of first-degree murder, home invasion, and illegal use of weapons, said a statement by Ascension Parish Sheriff Bobby Webre and Livingston Parish Sheriff Jason Ard.

Authorities have identified the victims in Livingston Parish as Billy Ernest, 43; Tanner Ernest, 17; and Summer Ernest, 20. Ard said Summer Ernest and Dakota Theriot were in a relationship and that Theriot had been living with her family for a few weeks.

Authorities said earlier that Keith Theriot survived the shooting long enough to let them know who shot him. According to Webre, officials got a "dying declaration from him, and only enough information to let us know that it was his son that committed this act."

Mincks and Chastant only returned to the trailer Sunday morning, worried Dakota Theriot might come back.

Mincks said she'd known Keith and Elizabeth Theriot for about two years and described them as wonderful people. Keith Theriot was a disabled veteran who played a wicked guitar, and Elizabeth Theriot worked at a nearby Dollar General Store, they said. Keith Theriot had four children, all boys, they said.

"Give you the shirt off their back. They loved everybody. Never met a stranger. Loved each other. Just a happy couple," she said.

But the relationship between Dakota Theriot and his parents, especially his father, was troubled. She

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and Chastant described an incident in which Chastant had to pull Dakota Theriot off his parents during a physical altercation.

Minks said Dakota Theriot and his mother seemed much closer. They'd laugh and joke and tell each other "I love you." But even that relationship had problems. Mincks and Chastant said at one point Dakota Theriot pulled a gun on his mother who called Chastant for help.

"I think just the drugs took over," Mincks said.

Chastant and Mincks said Dakota Theriot had just met Summer Ernest about three weeks ago at Chastant's sister's funeral. Summer Ernest was there as a friend to Jacob Chastant's 20-year-old daughter, Sierra.

Sierra said she warned her friend to stay away from Dakota, calling him "trouble." But she never expected anything like what unfolded Saturday.

Summer Ernest had an outgoing personality and was planning to return soon to college, Sierra said.

"She was bubbly, always friendly ... She's just a great person," she said.

"If you asked me what his motive was.... I don't know what it would be," she said. "It's just unbelievable."

Associated Press writers Kate Brumback in Atlanta and Jonathan Drew in Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2019. There are 337 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

On this date:

In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.

In 1878, the first daily college newspaper, Yale News (now Yale Daily News), began publication in New Haven, Connecticut.

In 1911, the notorious Hope Diamond was sold by jeweler Pierre Cartier to socialites Edward and Evalyn McLean of Washington, D.C., for \$180,000.

In 1915, the United States Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service.

In 1916, Louis D. Brandeis was nominated by President Woodrow Wilson to the Supreme Court; Brandeis became the court's first Jewish member.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1960, the National Football League awarded franchises to Dallas and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

In 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War, a day after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords by the United States, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

In 1978, fire swept through the historic downtown Coates House hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, killing 20 people.

In 1980, six U.S. diplomats who had avoided being taken hostage at their embassy in Tehran flew out of Iran with the help of Canadian diplomats.

In 1988, a 13-day standoff in Marion, Utah, between police and a polygamist clan ended in gunfire that killed a state corrections officer, Fred House, and seriously wounded the group's leader, Addam (correct) Swapp, who ended up serving more than 25 years behind bars.

Ten years ago: In a swift victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House approved, 244-188, a huge \$819 billion stimulus bill with Republicans unanimous in opposition despite Obama's pleas

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for bipartisan support. Lynyrd Skynyrd keyboard player Billy Powell, who survived the 1977 plane crash that killed three band members, died in Orange Park, Fla., at age 56.

Five years ago: Seeking to energize his second term, President Barack Obama vowed in his State of the Union address to sidestep Congress "whenever and wherever" necessary to narrow economic disparities between rich and poor. Ukraine's prime minister, Mykola Azarov, resigned and the Ukrainian parliament repealed anti-protest laws in back-to-back moves designed to defuse the country's political crisis.

One year ago: Bruno Mars won all six Grammy awards for which he was nominated, including album of the year for "24K Magic;" the leading nominee, Jay-Z, walked away empty-handed. Roger Federer won his 20th Grand Slam singles title, defeating Marin Cilic in the Australian Open final. Protesters gathered across Russia to support the call from opposition leader Alexei Navalny to boycott the March presidential election; Navalny himself was arrested while walking to the Moscow demonstration.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nicholas Pryor is 84. Actor Alan Alda is 83. Actress Susan Howard is 77. Actress Marthe (cq) Keller is 74. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., is 72. Actress-singer Barbi Benton is 69. Evangelical pastor Rick Warren is 65. Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE') is 64. Actress Harley Jane Kozak is 62. Movie director Frank Darabont is 60. Rock musician Dave Sharp is 60. Rock singer Sam Phillips is 57. Rock musician Dan Spitz is 56. Country musician Greg Cook (Ricochet) is 54. Gospel singer Marvin Sapp is 52. Singer Sarah McLachlan is 51. Rapper Rakim is 51. DJ Muggs (Cypress Hill) is 51. Actress Kathryn Morris is 50. Humorist Mo Rocca is 50. Rock/soul musician Jeremy Ruzumna (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Hamilton is 48. Singer Monifah is 47. Actress Gillian Vigman is 47. Rock musician Brandon Bush is 46. Retired MLB All-Star Jermaine Dye is 45. Actress Terri Conn is 44. Singer Joey Fatone Jr. ('N Sync) is 42. Rapper Rick Ross is 42. Actress Rosamund Pike is 40. Actress Angelique Cabral is 40. Singer Nick Carter (Backstreet Boys) is 39. Actor Vinny Chhibber is 39. Actor Elijah Wood is 38. Rapper J. Cole is 34. Actress Alexandra Krosney is 31. Actor Yuri Sardarov is 31. Actress Ariel Winter is 21.

Thought for Today: "A self-taught man usually has a poor teacher and a worse student." — Henny Youngman, British-born American comedian (1906-1998).