WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Sources: White House directed Bannon silence in House interview

WASHINGTON — Steve Bannon's attorney relayed questions, in real time, to the White House during a House Intelligence Committee interview of the former Trump chief strategist, people familiar with the closed-door session told The Associated Press.

As lawmakers probed Bannon's time working for President Donald Trump, Bannon's attorney Bill Burck was asking the White House counsel's office by phone during the Tuesday session whether his client could answer the questions. He was told by that office not to discuss his work on the transition or in the White

It's unclear who Burck was communicating with in the White House or whether it was top White House lawyer Don McGahn, who Burck is also representing in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia.

The conversations were confirmed by a White House official and a second person familiar with Bannon's interview. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Bannon refused to answer a broad array of queries from the House Intelligence Committee about his time working for Trump, leading the committee chairman to authorize a subpoena.

Lawmakers were expecting a similar fight today with Trump's White House as another senior aide, Rick Dearborn, appears for a private interview with committee.

The developments brought to the forefront questions about White House efforts to control what current and former aides tell Congress about their time in Trump's inner circle, and whether Republicans on Capitol Hill would

It is unlikely the committee will face the same White House objections with Trump's former campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, who is also being interviewed today. He never served in the White House.

The congressional subpoena came the same day The New York Times reported that Bannon, a former far-right media executive and recently scorned Trump adversary, has been served with a grand jury subpoena issued by special counsel Robert Mueller.

Bannon confirmed that he had received the subpoena from Mueller during his House Intelligence Committee interview.

Ryan presses Dems to back bill keeping government open

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Paul Ryan tried pressuring Democrats today to back legislation preventing a weekend federal shutdown. But he gave little ground on the partisan battle over immigration, an issue many Democrats say must be resolved before they'll vote to



Calvin Mattheis/Knoxville News Sentinel Frankie plays in the snow as her owner Claire Cheek, of Nashville, watches during

Across the South, it's snow, ice and record-breaking cold

ATLANTA — A thin layer of snow and ice across the South closed highways, schools and government offices and sent cars sliding off the road today, while a blast of cold air broke records as far south as the Gulf Coast.

Icicles hung from a statue of jazz musicians in normally balmy New Orleans, and drivers unaccustomed to ice spun their wheels across Atlanta, which was brought to a near-standstill. The beach in Biloxi, Mississippi, got a thin coating of snow.

The snowfall sabotaged the morning rush hour before it even began, sending cars crashing into each other in a swath of the U.S. with precious few snowplows. Officials urged people to stay off the roads if possible and to bundle up if they ventured outside.

By midday, skies were bright and sunny, but temperatures were expected to remain below freezing throughout the day in much of the region, and roads were likely to remain icy into Thursday in some places.

Thousands of schoolchildren and teachers got the day off. Many cities canceled meetings and court sessions, and some businesses closed.

Icy roads hampered travel as far south as the Gulf Coast, where ice pellets covered the tops of sago palm trees. Stretches of Interstate 10 were closed in Louisiana and across Alabama's Mobile Bay.

Snow fell in a wide band that stretched from southeastern Texas all the way to western Massachusetts. As much as 4 inches fell in parts of North Carolina, where the Highway Patrol had responded to more than 500 collisions by midday.

GOP leaders lacked the votes to pass it, Ryan declined to say if he had enough Republican support to push it through the House this week. Vote counters planned to gauge GOP support later today.

a snowfall in Knoxville, Tenn.

Instead, Ryan, R-Wis., said it was "baffling" why Democrats would oppose the spending measure, noting it contains money for the military and a widely supported children's health insurance program. Republicans are hoping the money for children will pressure some Democrats to back the overall bill.

"I think cool heads hopefully will prevail," Ryan told reporters. Congress must approve the measure by Friday night to prevent a shutdown.

Ryan also said he wants to reach compromise on immigration but won't bring such a measure to the House floor unless President sition to the short-term spending bill and said the bill have stronger border security provisions pic team and have their athletes parade together tigated for the incident but not charged.

than a bipartisan immigration proposal from six senators that he rejected last week.

Separately, members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and other Democrats met privately in the Capitol with White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, and some emerged citing little progress. The talks were on legislation aimed at shielding hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children, protections Trump has ended and will expire in March.

Rival Koreas agree to form first unified Olympic team

for the first time in 11 years during the opening ceremony of next month's Winter Olympics in South Korea, officials said.

The agreements still require approval from the International Olympic Committee. But they are the most prominent steps toward rapprochement achieved by the Koreas since they recently began exploring cooperation during the Olympics following a year of heightened tension over the North's nuclear weapons

During their third day of talks at the border in about a week, senior officials reached a package of agreements including fielding a joint women's ice hockey team and marching together under a blue and white "unification flag" depicting their peninsula in the opening ceremony, Seoul's Unification Ministry said.

A joint statement distributed by the ministry said the North Korean Olympic delegation will travel to South Korea across their heavily fortified land border before the Feb. 9-25 Pyeongchang Games. It said the delegation will include a 230-member cheering group, a 30-member taekwondo demonstration team, journalists, athletes and officials.

Ahead of the Olympics, the Koreas will hold a joint cultural event at the North's scenic Diamond Mountain and have non-Olympic skiers train together at the North's Masik ski resort, according to the statement. It said the North also plans to send a 150-strong delegation to the Paralympics in March. The North earlier said it would send a 140-member art troupe.

The agreements are highly symbolic and emotional. But it's still not clear how many North Korean athletes will come to Pyeongchang because none are currently qualified.

More actors expressing regret about working with Woody Allen

NEW YORK — A growing number of actors are distancing themselves from Woody Allen and his next film, heightening questions about the future of the prolific 82-year-old filmmaker in a Hollywood newly sensitive to allegations of sexual misconduct.

Timothee Chalamet on Tuesday said he will donate his salary for an upcoming Woody Allen film to three charities fighting sexual harassment and abuse: Time's Up, the LGBT Center in New York and RAINN. The breakout star of "Call Me By Your Name" announced on Instagram that he didn't want to profit from his work on Allen's "A Rainy Day in New York," which wrapped shooting in the fall.

Chalamet is just the latest cast member of an Allen production to express regret or guilt about being professionally associated with the director. In recent weeks, Rebecca Hall ("A Rainy Day in New York," "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"), Mira Sorvino ("Mighty Aphrodite"), Ellen Page ("To Rome With Love"), David Krumholtz ("Wonder Wheel") and Griffith Newman ("A Rainy Day in New York") have all in some way distanced themselves from Allen or vowed that they wouldn't work

Dylan Farrow, Allen's adopted daughter, in 2014 renewed the claim that Allen molested her ep agencies functioning.

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THE DAILY **ASTORIAN**

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Evening listings WEDNESDAY

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