Trump threatens government shutdown over border wall

By MATTHEW DALY and CATHERINE LUCEY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON Arguing heatedly in public with Democratic leaders, President Donald Trump threatened repeatedly today to shut down the government if Congress doesn't provide the money he says is needed to build a wall at the Mexican border.

Trump's comments came as he opened a contentious meeting with Democratic Senate and House leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi, with the government looking at a possible partial shutdown on Dec. 21 when funding for some agencies will expire.

In his first encounter with the newly empowered Democrats after their midterm victories in the House, Trump heckled the leaders as they said legislation to keep the government open and provide additional border security could pass both houses of Congress. Previewing what is expected to be a tense relationship in the new year, the group squabbled on national TV in the Oval Office as Trump said major wall funding was vital.

"If we don't get what we want, one way or the other, whether it's through you, through military, through anything you want to call, I will shut down the government," Trump said. "I will take the mantle. I will be the one to shut it down."

Barely a half hour passed before the Demo-



President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence meet with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., left, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., not shown.

meeting with the president, issuing stern warnings.

"This Trump shutdown, this temper tantrum that he seems to throw, will not get him his wall and will hurt a lot of people," said Schumer.

Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan acknowledged today that the GOP-led House has yet to pass legislation that includes the \$5 billion in border wall funds that Trump has been requesting. The reality is he likely lacks the votes from his Republicans who will lose their majority at the end of the month.

Trump is seeking far more for his long-stalled border wall than the \$1.6 billion the Senate has agreed to for border security, including physical barriers and technology along the U.S. southern border

The public Oval Office meeting between Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and the Democrats began civilly, with Trump noting progress for criminal jusate. But the session quickly unraveled as he mentioned his promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Said Trump with a smile: "And then we have the easy one, the wall. That will be the easiest of all, what do you think Chuck?" Schumer shot back sternly: "It's called funding the government."

Constantly interrupting, Trump squabbled with the Democrats over whether wall funding could be approved in the House or Senate without Democratic votes. When Pelosi said he did not have support in the House, Trump interjected: "Nancy, I do."

Pelosi later said: "This has spiraled downwards."

Pelosi After Schumer noted Democratic success in the midterm elections, the president asked whether Republicans had won the Senate in the November election.

"When the president brags he has won North Dakota and Indiana, he's in real trouble," retorted Schumer with a smile.



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

The Army Corps of Engineers added riprap in the area of bank erosion along the shore of the Tongue Point landfill to prevent seepage of contaminants into the Columbia River.

Landfill: There is not much chance of the property ever being developed

Continued from Page A1

maintenance of the site over the next 30 years is expected to cost nearly \$1.3 million.

Mirek Towster, a project manager with the Corps said the cleanup is now largely in the long-term monitoring phase, aside from some underground storage tanks and pipes that still need to be addressed in future projects.

"We do inspect and maintain it, potentially in perpetuity," he said.

New life

To the north of the landfill, Hyak Maritime is developing a boat repair and fabrication facility. Marine contractor Bergerson Construction recently relocated from the central waterfront and has filled the area just north of the landfill with its equipment.

The deed restrictions signed between the Corps and the state tightly control access to the former landfill and limit any use that would endanger the cleanup. There is not much chance of the property ever being developed, unless the government decides to dig up and remove all the buried contaminants, Towster said.

Much like a Superfund cleanup overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state Department of Environmental Quality provides secondary oversight, said Laura Gleim, a spokeswoman for the department.

The landfill is one of several former defense sites that have been cleaned up around the region, including two active and five inactive sites at Tongue Point used for munitions, ship berthings, arms testing, underground storage tanks and other vestiges of the naval air station.

The region includes several other restored defense sites at the Coast Guard's Aids to Navigation Team on Tongue Point, the Emerald Heights Apartments, the Astoria Regional Airport, Camp Rilea and Fort

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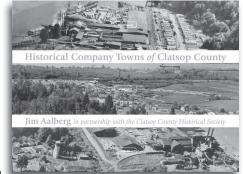
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THE DAILY **ASTORIAN**

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Evening listings TUESDAY

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