

**BIRD COUNT
IN BODEGA BAY »**
Watchers turn
out for annual
avian survey
along Sonoma
Coast. **A3**



**FIGHTING FOR
DRAFT SPOTS »**
49ers tight end
breaks record;
both Oakland,
SF end season
with losses. **B1**

The Press Democrat

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2018 • SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA • PRESSDEMOCRAT.COM

Both sides dig in on shutdown

GOP lawmakers seek deal on budget, but president still insists on border wall

By **MAGGIE HABERMAN**
AND SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The television is on. The phone is never far away. And President Donald Trump is repeatedly calling allies such as members of Congress and conservative radio hosts, telling them privately

that he will not give in on his demand for funding for a border wall. What the president who campaigned on his ability to cut deals has not done, nine days into a partial government shutdown over his signature campaign issue, is reach out to Democratic congressional leaders to strike one. Virtually alone in the West Wing since the shutdown began, Trump has instead taken to Twitter to excoriate Democrats and highlight that he canceled his own vacation to his private club in Florida while law-

makers left the city. He has lamented the negativity of the news media coverage, which has included repeated airings of Trump's declaration in the Oval Office that he would not blame Democrats for a shutdown, according to people familiar with his thinking. Even as some lawmakers floated compromises Sunday, Democrats prepared to pass a bill to fund the government as soon as they take control of the House on Thursday. Like the Democrats, Trump appears to have dug in. And the uncertainty

over what he might sign threatens to indefinitely drag out a shutdown that has affected 800,000 federal workers and shuttered parts of nine Cabinet-level departments. After Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, met with Trump over lunch Sunday, he said the president would not accept any deal without funding for the wall. But he remained optimistic that a compromise could be reached and encouraged both sides to come together.



Donald Trump
President refuses to accept a deal without funding for a border wall.

TURN TO SHUTDOWN » PAGE A2

BIOETHICS

Picking babies' sex stirs concern

US in vitro clinics offer customized infants with few legal restrictions

By **ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA**
WASHINGTON POST

Danielle Lloyd, a former Miss Great Britain and celebrity mother of four boys, wants to guarantee that her next baby will be a girl. So, she revealed in a TV interview last year, she's planning to get pregnant through in vitro fertilization. The news sparked an uproar in Britain, where screening embryos for gender is prohibited at IVF clinics. Unruffled, Lloyd, 35, began checking out clinics in the few places on the planet where the service is readily available: Cyprus, the United Arab Emirates — and the United States. "I can see why people are against it, and I don't want to upset anyone," Lloyd said. "But I can't see myself living not having a daughter when I know it's possible."

While many countries have moved in recent years to impose boundaries on assisted reproduction, the U.S. fertility industry remains largely unregulated and routinely offers services outlawed elsewhere. As a result, the United States has emerged as a popular destination for IVF patients from around the world seeking controversial services — not just sex selection, but commercial surrogacy, anonymous sperm donation and screening for physical characteristics such as eye color. This freewheeling approach has been good for business; the U.S. fertility industry is estimated to be worth as much as \$5.8 billion this year. But as

TURN TO BABY » PAGE A6

HIDDEN VALLEY » *Despite what they say were needless governmental hurdles in rebuilding after Tubbs fire, family ready to move back in*

A long year of turmoil



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Jennifer and Miles Harrison, above, joined by their children Riley, 21, left, Jack, 16, and Maxwell, 18, are rebuilding their Hidden Valley neighborhood home in Santa Rosa after it was destroyed by the Tubbs fire. The Harrisons hope their home will be finished by March.

By **MELODY KARPINSKI**
FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

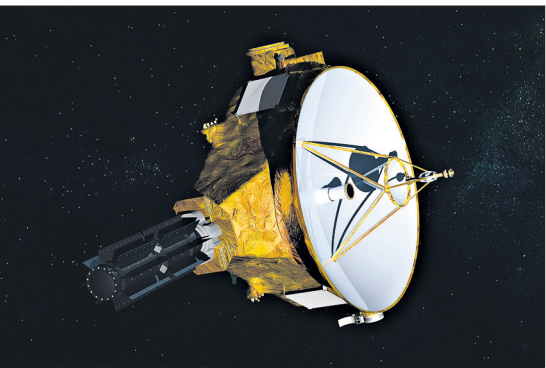
The new year signals fresh hope for Jennifer Harrison. Like many fire survivors determined to rebuild in Sonoma County, Harrison and her family were confronted with an ever-expanding series of logistical hurdles to overcome this year as they attempted to replace a home lost in the October 2017 firestorm and regain their old lives. "Every day you're spending hours on the phone with banks, adjusters, builders," said Harrison. "It becomes your normal life."

Securing housing — whether it was a

temporary place to stay or a permanent home to build a new life around — would become the central focus of 2018 for many fire survivors in Sonoma County. The Oct. 8, 2017, fires destroyed more than 5,300 homes in Sonoma County, including the Hidden Valley neighborhood in northeast Santa Rosa where Harrison and her family had lived for 10 years. The family spent six weeks following the fires living with Harrison's sister in Rohnert Park before finding a rental they could afford. "The rental amounts were crazy. No matter what people say, people were taking advantage," Harrison said. A place opened up when its tenants fell behind on rental payments and were

evicted. Harrison paid the renters to leave early so that she, her husband and two high school-age sons could move in just a few days before Thanksgiving last year. It was just the beginning of a long journey home. First, Federal Emergency Management Agency contractors over-excavated the Harrisons' lot, which would delay their attempts to begin their rebuild, she said. "We had to wait for it to be examined and then another company had to come in and fix our lot. That process took five or six months," said Harrison. "We had to fight a lot with our insurance company, and we weren't totally insured enough for

TURN TO HIDDEN VALLEY » PAGE A2



This illustration shows the New Horizons spacecraft. NASA launched the probe in 2006; it's about the size of a baby grand piano.

Distant space target ready for its close-up

By **MARCIA DUNN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — The spacecraft team that brought us close-ups of Pluto will ring in the new year by exploring an even more distant and mysterious world. NASA's New Horizons spacecraft will zip past the scrawny, icy object nicknamed Ultima Thule, pronounced TOO-lee, soon after the stroke of midnight. One billion miles beyond Pluto

and an astounding 4 billion miles from Earth, Ultima Thule will be the farthest world ever explored by humankind. That's what makes this deep-freeze target so enticing; it's a preserved relic dating all the way back to our solar system's origin 4.5 billion years ago. No spacecraft has visited anything so primitive. "What could be more exciting than that?" said project scientist Hal Weaver of Johns Hopkins University, part of the New Horizons team. Lead scientist Alan Stern of South-

west Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado, expects the New Year's encounter to be riskier and more difficult than the rendezvous with Pluto: The spacecraft is older, the target is smaller, the flyby is closer and the distance from us is greater. NASA launched the spacecraft in 2006; it's about the size of a baby grand piano. It flew past Pluto in 2015, providing the first close-up views of the dwarf planet. With the wildly success-

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MINIMUM WAGES RISE ACROSS US:
Low income workers get raises in 20 states as laws kick in with the new year / **A6**



SANTA ROSA
High **57**, Low **31**
THE WEATHER, **B8**



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