

# Groton Daily Independent

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"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"

**NOW OPEN**

## Harris

**Auto Body** ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South**  
**Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

**Tuesday, Nov. 28th**

**JH GBB hosts Clark/Willow Lake  
7th grade at 6 p.m., 8th grade at 7 p.m.**

**Friday, December 1st**

**State Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central**

**Saturday, December 2nd**

**Groton hosts JH GBB Jamboree  
with Langford, Northwestern, Waubay-  
Summit starting at 10 a.m.  
Wrestling at Clark, 10 a.m.**

**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East  
Railroad Ave.

**The cardboard/paper**

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

## NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

★ ★ ★ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ **\$3,000 for LPNs** ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ **\$4,500 for RNs** ★ ★ ★

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365  
or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



# GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

**1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton**  
**605-397-2365**

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All auto owners!  
**Save \$2-\$4 /tank**  
& grow your local economy  
by choosing low carbon  
**Super Premium E30's**  
94 octane, more power,  
same mileage, fewer  
carbon deposits, lower  
maintenance costs,  
slashed benzene & related  
genotoxic, carcinogenic  
tailpipe emissions;  
\*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for  
info, E30 prices\locations.

**\*Farmers Union's  
PSA: Courtesy Merle  
Anderson (Merle is 94  
year old founder of Ace  
and legendary ethanol  
supporter... "because it is  
the right thing to do")**



## **GDI News**

21 N Main

Shake the dice for a  
discount on a Groton  
Daily Independent or  
print edition of the  
Groton Independent  
subscription

## **GDI Clean**

19 N Main

Register for a roll of  
quarters

## **GDI Fit**

13 N Main

Register for a free  
3-month membership

**Wednesday, Nov. 29**

**6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

## 5 WAYS SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

By: Patty Hoffman

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Next payday, when you see a portion of your wages go toward FICA taxes, rest easier knowing that your investment in Social Security brings a lifetime of protections for you and your family.

From your first job and throughout your career, we track your earnings and give you credits for the contributions you've made through payroll taxes. Those credits can translate into important future benefits. As you prepare for a financially secure future, you should know about these five benefits that you, your spouse, and your children may become eligible for through Social Security:

**Retirement benefits** provide you with a continuous source of income later in life. If you've earned enough credits, you can start receiving your full retirement benefits at age 66 or 67 — depending on when you were born. You may choose to claim these benefits as early as age 62 at a permanently reduced rate, but waiting until after your full retirement age increases your benefit amount by up to 8 percent per year to age 70. Plan for your retirement at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire).

**Disability benefits** offer a financial lifeline if you're struck by a serious medical condition that makes it impossible for you to work and provide for yourself and your family and is expected to last at least one year or to result in death. Learn more at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

**Child benefits** support your minor children while you're receiving Social Security retirement benefits or disability benefits. This financial support also is available to adult children who become disabled before age 22. Grandchildren and stepchildren may qualify in certain situations. Please see: [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids).

**Spousal benefits** supplement a couple's income if one of the two never worked or had low lifetime earnings. In some cases, this benefit is also available to divorced spouses. Please see: [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/applying6.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/applying6.html).

**Survivor benefits** ease the financial burden on your loved ones after you die by providing monthly payments to eligible widows, widowers, children, and dependent parents. It's likely the survivor benefits you have under Social Security carry greater value than your individual life-insurance policy. Read more about survivor benefits at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors).

You must meet specific eligibility requirements to receive any type of Social Security benefits.

Currently, Social Security provides benefits to more than 61 million American workers and their families. And we'll be there for you and your family through life's journey.

Learn more about all of our programs at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

Patty Hoffman is the Public Affairs Specialist for ND, SD and Western MN. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 4207 Boulder Ridge Road, Ste. 100, Bismarck ND 58503 or via email at [patty.hoffman@ssa.gov](mailto:patty.hoffman@ssa.gov).



**By Richard P. Holm M.D.**

## The Arrogant Physician

A friend gave me feedback a few days ago, "Some people say you are arrogant, but I tell them 'No—he is just self-confident.'" He followed, "We need that in a doctor, but, you know, there is a fine line between those two characteristics."

Uff da! That threw me for a bit. After thinking about it, I took it as an honest comment and a chance for me to improve myself. A physician/philosopher once said: "A true friend will help you grow by pointing out your warts. Instead of getting angry, one should take it as an opportunity to get better."

What is arrogance? The dictionary's definition is harsh: "An offensive display of superiority or self-importance; overbearing pride." I see it in people who treat others poorly, especially those who are lower on some hierarchal level. Examples would include an employer who expects sexual favors of some kind, a prison guard who harasses a prisoner hatefully, a teacher or parent who supervises a student or child unjustly, or, to make the point, a doctor who treats a nurse or patient poorly. I believe nothing indicates the true color of an individual more than how he/she treats someone who may be lower on the totem pole.

I have seen examples of physicians acting this way: when a surgeon threw a scalpel across the room; when a specialist spoke negatively to the patient about a primary care physician; and when a surgical resident treated a young inner-city woman, infected by gonorrhea, with disdain and contempt. I am not proud that my profession probably deserves some of its reputation for being arrogant. On the other hand, part of the value provided by a physician comes from the sense that she or he is competent and knowledgeable. A humble physician is one thing, but an unsure and uncertain doctor is another.

Perhaps sometimes I have come off as a know-it-all. I need to work on that because I do not know it all. In fact, it seems the more I do know, the more I realize my inadequacies. My folks came from humble backgrounds, and I was drilled on the Golden Rule. The last thing I want to do is to portray myself as a physician who thinks he is more important than anyone else. Rather, I would like to be known as someone who is both competent and cares.

*Holiday Party  
Olive Grove Golf Course*

*Tour of Homes  
& Silent Auction*

*Hors d'oeuvres, coffee & cider served at golf course.  
Saturday, December 2 - Tours 4 pm to 8 pm  
Party 4pm to Close*

*\$12 per person. - Tickets can be purchased at:  
Groton Ford, Lori's Pharmacy, Olde Bank Floral' N More,  
Hair & Co. (423 Moccasin Dr., Aberdeen, SD) or  
by calling Vicki Walter 380-0480 or  
Brenda Waage 380-9419*

*Thanks to the following homeowners on tour:  
Nick & Jenna Strom, Bruce & Karyn Babcock,  
Tom & Emily Sternhagen, Chad & Chanise Pray,*

*Fundraiser  
(Proceeds for course  
equipment)*

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## Today in Weather History

November 28, 2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches fell across parts of northeast South Dakota, causing travel difficulties and school closings. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Britton, Roy Lake, Webster, Waubay, Summit, and Wilmot; 8 inches at Columbia and south of Bristol; and 9 inches at Houghton.

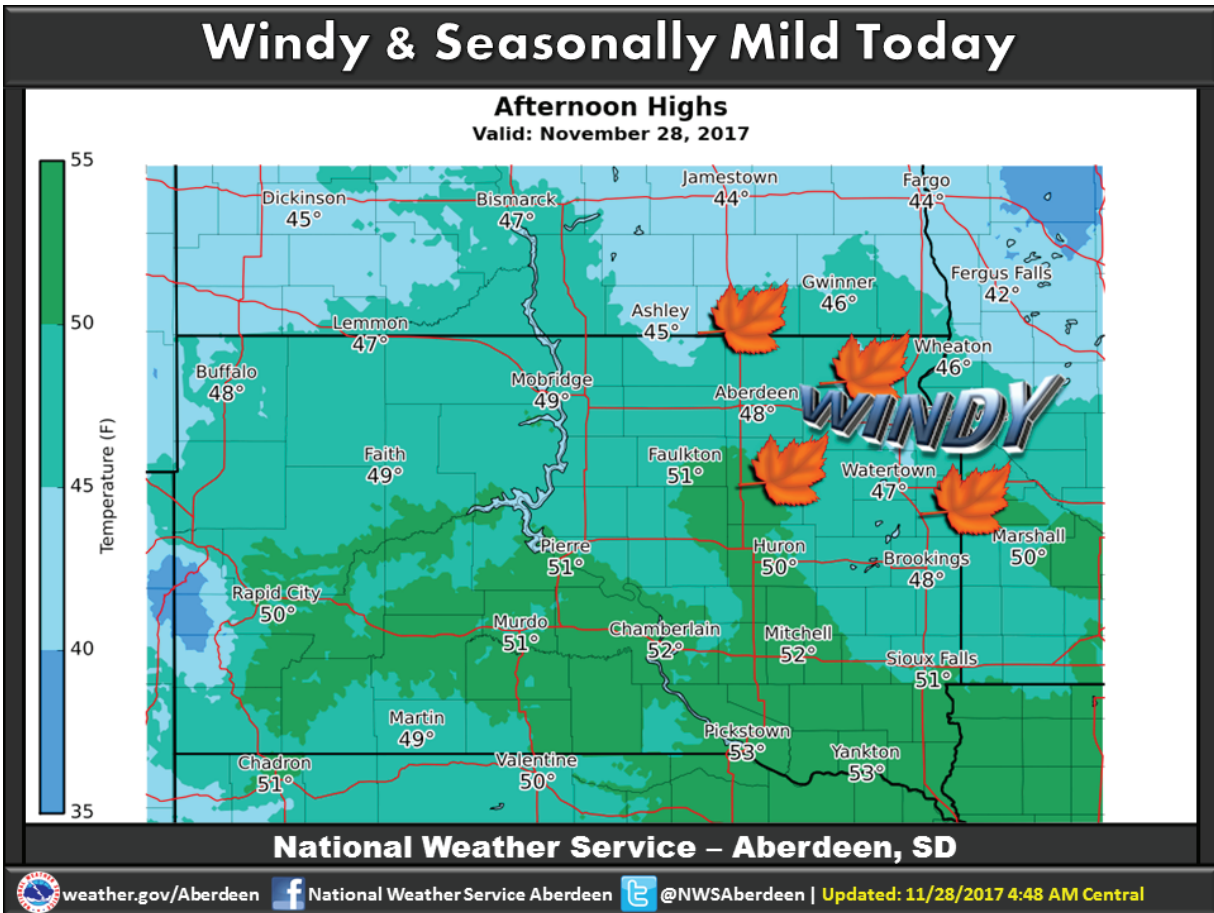
November 28, 2005: A significant winter storm visited the region on November 27-29, 2005, producing a wide range of wintry precipitation across the area. Snow and blizzard conditions occurred across central and north central South Dakota, while freezing rain and ice accumulations took front stage in northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Across most of central and north central South Dakota, snow began in the late afternoon and early evening hours of the 27th, with significant snowfall accumulations occurring by the time the snow ended later in the day on the 28th. Snowfall accumulations ranged from as little as two inches to as much as 20 inches. Strong northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph, with gusts to 70 mph, caused widespread blizzard conditions from the early morning until the late afternoon hours of the 28th. Visibilities were reduced to zero many times across the area with snowdrifts of 5 to 10 feet in some places. Some power lines were also brought down in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area due to snow accumulation and high winds. Many roads, including Interstate 90, were closed due to the treacherous travel conditions. Several accidents occurred during the storm, and many motorists were also stranded. Several people had to be rescued. Schools, businesses, government offices, and many other organizations were closed. FEMA, state officials, and the governor surveyed the storm damage. Some of the significant snowfall amounts included 7 inches at Eureka, 8 inches at Onaka, 10 inches at Onida and Fort Thompson, 11 inches near Presho, 16 inches at Highmore, and 21 inches at Kennebec. To the east of this heavy snow and blizzard area, widespread freezing rain began during the morning to early afternoon of the 27th, creating significant ice accumulations of 1 to over 2 inches. The freezing rain changed to snow on the 28th, and northwest winds increased to 30 to 40 mph, gusting to 60 mph. The high winds and heavy ice accumulations caused several thousand power poles (some steel), along with several thousand miles of power lines, to come down, resulting in widespread power outages. The ice and winds also damaged several hundred miles of high-voltage power lines and towers. Some power substations were also shut down by the ice and wind. Thousands of trees were also either damaged or downed due to the heavy ice accumulations and the wind. Many of the fallen trees and branches caused damage to homes and vehicles. The radio station in Milbank went off the air due to its collapsing radio tower. Tens of thousands of people in many communities and rural areas were without power for several days, with some people without power for as long as two weeks. Telephone and cellular phone service was also down for several days. Countless schools, businesses, government offices, and other organizations were closed for several days. FEMA, state officials, and the governor also toured this damaged area, resulting in a presidential disaster declaration. Hundreds of utility workers from South Dakota, Minnesota, and nine other surrounding states worked 14- to 18-hour days in cold conditions to bring power back to the area. The National Guard also helped with getting generators, cots, blankets, and meals to storm shelters. Generators supplied power to many communities and rural areas, while others continued without power. Shelters were set up for those who did not have generator power or another place to go. There were also problems with livestock with the water supplies cut off for some time. One electric cooperative stated that repairs to the infrastructure would continue for months and years to restore a system that took decades to build. Roads were treacherous with many accidents and rollovers, some resulting in injuries. Due to the icy road conditions, many roads were closed, including Interstate 29. Around noon on the 27th, on US Highway 212 two miles west of Zell in Faulk County, a 59-year old man was killed when his car spun out of control and hit an oncoming pickup truck. Around 1:30pm on the 28th, on Day County Road One about two miles south of Waubay, a 17-year old girl was killed and three others were injured when one vehicle spun out of control and struck a truck in the oncoming lane. Air traffic was also brought to a halt across much of the area. This was one of the largest ice storms in the region's history. One electric cooperative said it was the most damage they had in their 65 years of existence. After the icing came snowfall of 2 to 12 inches, which combined with the high winds to bring blizzard conditions and low wind chills to northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota from the morning of the 28th until the early morning of the 29th. Some of the significant snowfall amounts included 7 inches at Watertown, 8 inches at Waubay, 10 inches at Redfield, and 12 inches at Sisseton.

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
Becoming Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 48 °F	Low: 18 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 45 °F

## Windy & Seasonally Mild Today



While temperatures will be somewhat cooler, readings today will still top out some 10 to 15 degrees above average. Expect windy conditions across the eastern Dakotas into Minnesota. Warmer readings are anticipated for Wednesday, though again we can anticipate windy conditions as well.



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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 60.3

Low Outside Temp: 36.0

High Gust: 30

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 59° in 1949

Record Low: -21° in 1985

Average High: 32°F

Average Low: 13°F

Average Precip in Nov: .69

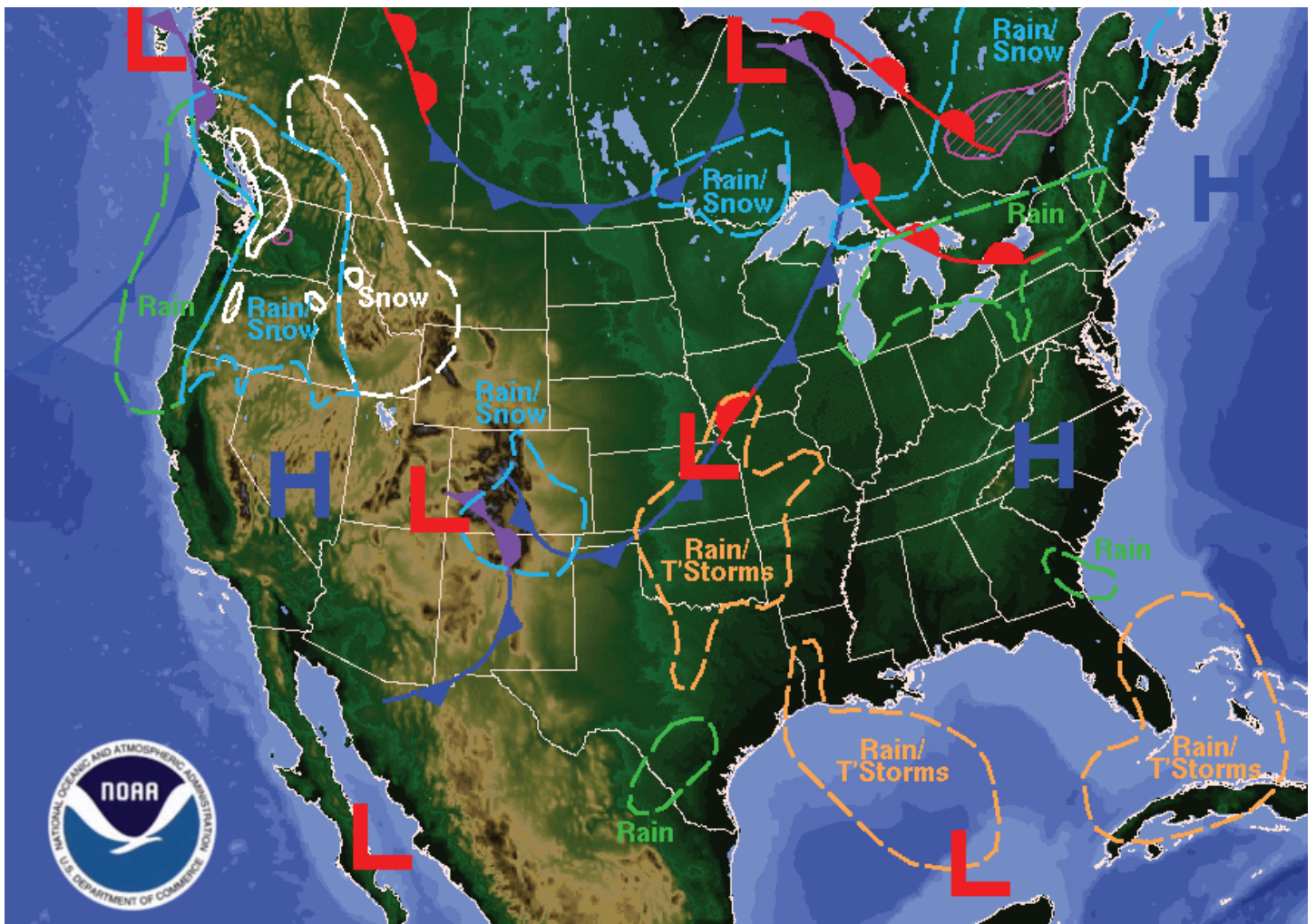
Precip to date in Nov: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.16

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:53 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:51 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Nov 28, 2017, issued 4:49 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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## **GOD'S WAY – THE ONLY WAY**

There is, perhaps, no more reassuring picture of God's presence and protection than that of a shepherd carrying a sheep or leading and protecting his flock. In fact, that image which we recall from Psalm 23 brings us comfort and assurance whenever we face insecure moments when our lives are filled with uncertainties. It brings to memory the grace and goodness, mercy and might of our God.

In bringing Psalm 77 to a conclusion our author presents a picture of the Good Shepherd – the One who was with the children of Israel and of the One who could come as Redeemer and one day Ruler. He writes, "You led your people like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron."

Can you picture in your mind the picture in his mind that he wanted those who read this Psalm to visualize in their minds? Seas writhing and convulsing, drenching rains falling from dark clouds that covered their path; skies that cried out and echoed with deafening thunder; flaming arrows flying above their heads; a whirlwind with noise and lightning; earthquakes that shook the ground under their feet. He wanted to remind them that through it all and in it all was their Creator-Sustainer-God who not only brought them into existence and would not let them perish, but had a plan and purpose for their lives.

Here then is what the Psalmist said to them then and is saying to us today: "Whenever life seems to be coming to an end it is only the beginning for My chosen. I am your Shepherd and will love you and lead you. You are mine and no one can take you from me! I'll always be with you."

Prayer: May we always sense Your presence, Father, and be assured that You will never leave us or forsake us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 77:20 You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
  
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

## News from the Associated Press

### **TransCanada to resume operation of Keystone pipeline**

AMHERST, S.D. (AP) — TransCanada Corp. plans to resume operation of its Keystone pipeline nearly two weeks after crews shut it down in response to an estimated 210,000-gallon oil spill in South Dakota.

The company said in a statement that it will operate the pipeline at reduced pressure beginning Tuesday. TransCanada says the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has reviewed its pipeline repair and restart plans with no objections.

The agency didn't immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking additional information.

South Dakota officials don't believe the leak polluted any surface water bodies or drinking water systems.

The company disclosed the buried pipeline leak on agricultural land in Marshall County on Nov. 16.

The company says that more than 44,000 gallons of oil had been recovered as of Sunday.

### **Senators demand information on massive Uber data theft**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five U.S. senators want Uber to tell them when it discovered a massive data breach and what it did to respond.

Uber disclosed the year-old hack last week. Taken were names, email addresses and mobile-phone numbers of 57 million riders as well as driver's license numbers of 600,000 drivers.

Four Republicans led by John Thune of South Dakota want to know when Uber discovered the theft, when it notified regulators and whether Social Security numbers were taken.

Democrat Mark Warner of Virginia wants to know why Uber didn't have better security.

Both sent letters to the San Francisco-based ride-hailing company Monday. Uber says it will address the Senators' concerns.

Last week, Uber said it paid the hackers \$100,000 to destroy the pilfered data. It says there's no evidence the data was misused.

### **South Dakota family searches for stolen urn and ashes**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A family in southeastern South Dakota says someone stole an urn containing the cremated remains of a relative, and they're asking for its return, without fear of reprisal.

The urn holding the ashes of Alice Durham disappeared from the family's home in Sioux Falls sometime between Thanksgiving day and Friday night.

Family member LeAne Poile said that Durham passed less than a year ago.

The family said they filed a police report but won't press charges if the ashes are returned, KELO-TV reported.

"If they want to keep the urn, that's totally fine, we just want the ashes back," said Pamela Brewer, Durham's daughter.

Brewer said she doesn't understand why someone would take the urn from her home when there were valuable items like a television and Apple Watch in sight.

"The only thing I could think of is just to hurt our family, that's the only thing I could think of or they thought that it looked valuable because it does," Brewer said.

The urn is gold with mother of pearl wrapped around the body.

Brewer is asking anyone with information to contact law enforcement.

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## 2 fires in Rapid City under investigation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Officials say the causes of two large grass fires over the weekend that sent smoke over Rapid City are under investigation.

Fire Lt. Jim Bussell says the fires are believed to have started by humans, but whether it was accidental or intentional remains under investigation.

Firefighters on Sunday evening responded to a fire in the same area of a wildfire Saturday night.

Bussell said Monday both fires burned about 3½ acres. He says firefighters responding to Sunday's fire conducted a "burn out" in which additional brush was set on fire within the containment area to improve aesthetics, among other things.

—  
This story corrects and clarifies that fire causes still under investigation.

## All-terrain vehicle driver died of injuries in Pierre crash

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says an all-terrain vehicle operator has died after hitting a tree in Pierre.

The patrol says the 65-year-old man was driving the ATV on a city street Saturday afternoon when he crashed. He was not wearing a helmet. The unidentified driver was taken to a Pierre hospital then flown to a Sioux Falls hospital where he died Sunday.

The Highway Patrol is investigating.

## Meghan Markle has advocated for women since the age of 11

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Meghan Markle became an advocate for women when she was an 11-year-old elementary school student, and achieving gender equality remains a driving force for the fiancée of Britain's Prince Harry and self-described "feminist."

Since 2014, the American actress has helped put a global spotlight on the need for equality between women and men as an "Advocate for Political Participation and Leadership" for the women's agency of the United Nations.

In her role for UN Women, Markle spent time at the World Bank and with the team of then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton learning more about the issue. She also visited Rwanda, which has the highest percentage of women in parliament and where she also met with female refugees.

UN Women said in a statement after Monday's announcement of Markle's engagement to Queen Elizabeth II's grandson that it "trusts and hopes that in her new and important public role she will continue to use her visibility and voice to support the advancement of gender equality."

Markle spoke about her accidental road to becoming an advocate at a star-studded celebration in March 2015 for the 20th anniversary of the Beijing women's conference that adopted a roadmap to achieve equality for women, which is the framework for UN Women's activities.

Her opening words drew loud applause and cheers: "I am proud to be a woman and a feminist."

Markle recalled that around the time of the 1995 Beijing conference she was in school in Los Angeles watching television and saw a commercial for a dishwashing liquid with the tagline: "Women all over America are fighting greasy pots and pans."

"Two boys from my class said, 'Yeah. That's where women belong — in the kitchen,'" she said.

"I remember feeling shocked and angry and also just feeling so hurt. It just wasn't right, and something needed to be done," Markle said.

When she went home, she told her dad, who encouraged her to write letters.

"My 11-year-old self worked out that if I really wanted someone to hear, well then I should write a letter to the first lady. So off I went scribbling away to our first lady at the time, Hillary Clinton," Markle said.

She also wrote to her main news source, Linda Ellerbee, who hosted a kids news program, as well as to

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“powerhouse attorney” Gloria Allred and to the manufacturer of the dishwashing soap.

To her surprise, she said, after a few weeks she received letters of encouragement from Clinton, Allred and Ellerbee, who even sent a camera crew to her house to cover the story.

“It was roughly a month later when the soap manufacturer, Proctor and Gamble, changed the commercial for their Ivory Clear Dishwashing Liquid ... from ‘Women all over America are fighting greasy pots and pans’ to ‘People all over America ...,’” Markle said.

“It was at that moment that I realized the magnitude of my actions,” she said. “At the age of 11, I had created my small level of impact by standing up for equality.”

Markle said that for her, equality means that Rwandan President Paul Kagame is equal to the little girl in the refugee camp who dreams of being president and the U.N. secretary-general is equal to the U.N. intern who dreams of shaking his hand.

And “it means that a wife is equal to her husband, a sister to her brother — not better, not worse. They are equal,” she said.

UN Women has set 2030 “as the expiration date for gender inequality,” Markle said, but even though women comprise more than half the world’s population, their voices still go unheard “at the highest levels of decision-making.”

Markle called for programs to mobilize girls and women “to see their value as leaders” and for support to ensure they have seats at the top table. And when those seats aren’t available, “then they need to create their own table,” she said to loud applause.

Markle also said Rwanda’s Kagame, who has championed women in parliament, should be a role model, “just as we need more men like my father, who championed my 11-year-old self to stand up for what is right.”

## **Pope demands rights for all in Myanmar, omits ‘Rohingya’**

**By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press**

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) — Pope Francis insisted Tuesday that Myanmar’s future depends on respecting the rights of each ethnic group, an indirect show of support for Rohingya Muslims who have been subject to decades of discrimination and a recent military crackdown described by the U.N. as a textbook campaign of “ethnic cleansing.”

Francis didn’t cite the crackdown or even utter the contested word “Rohingya” in his speech to Myanmar’s civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other authorities and diplomats in the capital. But he lamented how Myanmar’s people have suffered “and continue to suffer from civil conflict and hostilities,” and insisted that everyone who calls Myanmar home deserves to have their basic human rights and dignity guaranteed.

Rohingya Muslims have faced state-supported discrimination in the predominantly Buddhist country for decades, deprived of citizenship and unable to access basic services such as adequate education and health care. In August, the army began what it called “clearance operations” in Rakhine state following an attack on police posts by Rohingya insurgents. The violence, looting and burning of villages has forced more than 620,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh.

In his most anticipated speech of his weeklong trip to Myanmar and Bangladesh, Francis expressed support for Suu Kyi’s efforts to bring about reconciliation among different groups after decades of military dictatorship. And he insisted that religious differences in the majority Buddhist country must never be a cause for division or distrust.

“The future of Myanmar must be peace, a peace based on respect for the dignity and rights of each member of society, respect for each ethnic group and its identity, respect for the rule of law, and respect for a democratic order that enables each individual and every group - none excluded - to offer its legitimate contribution to the common good,” he said.

Francis’ avoidance of the term “Rohingya” and his encouragement for Suu Kyi’s government disappointed Rohingya activists and human rights groups, who have criticized Suu Kyi for what they consider a weak response to the military crackdown. Suu Kyi’s supporters — including the Catholic Church — say she is

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limited in what she can say against the military and needs more time to bring about reconciliation.

The term "Rohingya" is shunned by many in Myanmar because the ethnic group is not a recognized minority in the country. The question of whether Francis would use the term in a show of solidarity dominated the run-up to his trip.

"We thought that the pope was going to mention the suffering of Rohingya people, but now he cannot even use the name Rohingya and it's totally unacceptable," said Kyaw Naing, a 53-year-old Rohingya man who lives in a confined camp outside of Sittwe, in Rakhine state. "We are very sad that our identity cannot even be revealed."

Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, said he hoped the pope would use the term during Mass on Wednesday.

"The pope missed an opportunity to reinforce his previous messages that affirmed the rights of the Rohingya to self-identify and used the name that they had chosen for themselves," he said. "The Rohingya have been stripped of so many things, but their name should never be one of them."

Suu Kyi, for her part, referred to the "situation in the Rakhine" in her speech to Francis in the huge conference center in Naypyitaw, Myanmar's new capital. But she used the conflict as an opportunity to thank those who have supported the government as it seeks to "address long-standing issues — social, economic and political — that have eroded trust and understanding, harmony and cooperation" in Rakhine.

She said the government's aim is to carry forward the peace process and strengthen Myanmar's diversity "by protecting rights, fostering tolerance, ensuring security for all."

Francis arrived in Naypyitaw after meeting with leaders of Myanmar's different religious groups in Yangon at the archbishop's residence, and separately with a prominent but controversial Buddhist leader who has criticized the Rohingya.

The pope stressed a message of "unity in diversity" in his 40-minute meeting with Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders and told them they should work together to rebuild the country, Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said.

Francis' meeting with Buddhist monk Sitagu Sayadaw was undertaken "in an effort to encourage peace and fraternal coexistence as the only way ahead," Burke said.

Sitagu also met with Francis's predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, but has been criticized for using ethnic slurs against Muslims, particularly the Rohingya. He received an award presented by Suu Kyi earlier this year.

Francis dove into the Rohingya refugee crisis hours after arriving on Monday by meeting with the military chief responsible for the crackdown, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, and three members of the bureau of special operations. The general's office said in a statement on Facebook that he is willing to have "interfaith peace, unity and justice." The general added that there was no religious or ethnic persecution or discrimination in Myanmar, and that the government allowed freedom of worship.

Rohingya Muslims were stripped of citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and have little access to medical care, food or education.

Myanmar's Catholic Church has publicly urged Francis to avoid saying "Rohingya," and they have urged him to toe a delicate line in condemning the violence, given the potential for blowback against the tiny Catholic community.

Francis previously has prayed for "our Rohingya brothers and sisters," lamented their suffering and called for them to enjoy full rights. As a result, much of the debate before his trip focused on whether he would again express solidarity with the Rohingya. Any decision to avoid the term and shy away from the conflict could be viewed as a capitulation to the military and a stain on his legacy of standing up for the most oppressed and marginalized of society, no matter how impolitic.

## 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. TRUMP TAKES ON CONTROVERSY-LADEN AGENDA ON CAPITOL HILL

The president will try to rally Senate Republicans on taxes — and then pivot to negotiations with Democrats pressing for victories over the budget and immigration.

### 2. POPE: MYANMAR MUST RESPECT 'EACH ETHNIC GROUP'

In a visit to the capital Naypyitaw, Francis gives an indirect show of support for Rohingya Muslims who have been subject to decades of state-supported discrimination and recently a violent military crackdown.

### 3. HOW FED NOMINEE VIEWS POLICY

The nominee for Federal Reserve chairman, Jerome Powell, expects the central bank to continue raising interest rates gradually to support its twin goals of maximum employment and stable prices.

### 4. ALABAMA SENATE RACE HINGES ON KEY DEMOGRAPHIC

A large swath of Alabama Republicans — typically Christian and conservative — hold the key to victory for both embattled Republican Roy Moore and Democrat Doug Jones.

### 5. IVANKA TRUMP'S INDIA VISIT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT HER BRAND

Headlining a business conference in Hyderabad, her trip highlights questions about whether her message of empowering poor women matches her actions.

### 6. SYRIA WAR WINDING DOWN, BUT FATE OF FOREIGN TROOPS UNCERTAIN

Foreign powers with longer-term ambitions and interests will try to maintain a military presence for years to come, further complicating prospects for a peace settlement.

### 7. FAMILIES OF NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DECRY TRUMP'S 'POCAHONTAS' JAB OF SEN. WARREN

The National Congress of American Indians says the president wrongly has flipped the name into a derogatory term, and the comment drew criticism from American Indians and politicians.

### 8. AFTER MUGABE, AFRICA'S OTHER LONGTIME LEADERS FEEL A CHILL

The Uganda president's move last week to decorate over 300 army officers in a rare mass promotion reflects the jolt of realization: If Mugabe, who ruled for 37 years, could be forced from power, perhaps anyone can.

### 9. WHERE MEGHAN MARKLE ADVOCATES

Achieving gender equality remains a driving force for the fiancée of Britain's Prince Harry and self-described "feminist."

### 10. RAVENS MOVE INTO PLAYOFF POSITION

Terrell Suggs led an aggressive Baltimore defense that kept Houston out of the end zone for the final 51 minutes, and the Ravens beat the Texans 23-16, tying Buffalo for the final AFC wild-card spot.

## Ivanka Trump's India visit raises questions about her brand

By MUNEEZA NAQVI, Associated Press

HYDERABAD, India (AP) — Ivanka Trump is making a significant solo outing by headlining a business conference in India, but her trip highlights questions about whether her message of empowering poor women matches her actions.

Trump landed Tuesday in the southern city of Hyderabad and is scheduled to make the opening address at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit later in the day.

"Thank you for the warm welcome," Trump tweeted. "I'm excited to be in Hyderabad, India for #GES2017."

The city has cleared away beggars and filled potholes ahead of the visit by Trump, the daughter of President Donald Trump and a senior presidential adviser.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join her at the opening and will later host her for dinner at the luxurious Falaknuma Palace Hotel.

"Women entrepreneurs help drive innovation and job creation, as well as address the world's greatest and most critical challenges," Modi tweeted.



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Many in India are excited about Trump appearing at the conference, which is being co-hosted by the United States and India.

"It's cool that she's coming," said Amani Bhugati, a medical student. "She's glamorous, beautiful and powerful. It's like a combination of Hollywood and politics."

Others marveled at the improvements made around Hyderabad. "All new," said Gopal, a taxi driver who gave only his first name.

But he also pointed to the potholes that remain on many smaller streets. "She's not coming here, so they didn't fix it," he said.

More than 1,200 people are expected to attend the three-day conference, although not everyone is thrilled about Trump's presence.

"It's now being called Ivanka Trump's summit. It totally overshadows all our work," said Sangeeta Agarawal, the chief executive of U.S. startup Helpsy Health. "We feel that's it become more about her."

And the conference's focus on female entrepreneurs raises questions about some of the commercial decisions made by Trump and her famous namesake brand.

Critics have faulted her for failing to use her leadership role to call out labor and human rights abuses, particularly in China, where the bulk of her U.S. merchandise ships from. And they point out that she has failed to take a public stand on alleged abuses in her brand's own supply chain.

Trump stepped back from day-to-day management of her brand before taking on an official role as White House adviser, but still retains an ownership interest.

Abigail Klem, president of the Ivanka Trump brand, has called supply chain integrity "a top priority," but the brand has not joined the growing number of companies that publicly identify their manufacturers.

A September investigation by The Associated Press showed that Trump's supply chain has become more opaque than ever since she took on her White House role, making it impossible to know who her company is doing business with around the world. The brand has said supply chains are the responsibility of its licensees.

Earlier this month, 23 rights groups signed a letter urging Trump, her brand and two licensees to publish the names and addresses of suppliers.

They also urged Trump and her brand to publicly demand that the Chinese government not prosecute three activists detained this past summer while investigating the brand's supply chain, and allow independent monitoring of factories.

In India, the cleanup of Hyderabad, a southern technology hub, began a month ahead of the conference, when the city began rounding up several hundred homeless people and beggars.

Officials said the drive against begging was launched because two international events were taking place in the city — the entrepreneurship summit and the World Telugu Conference in December. Begging is a criminal offense in India and can be punished by as much as 10 years in prison, although the law is rarely enforced.

Beggars tend to crowd around cars at traffic signals, knocking on windows and asking for food and money. They include children as young as 5, who weave through dangerous traffic and often perform small acrobatic acts.

At least one traffic overpass on the road that leads to the city from the airport has been painted in the colors of the rainbow. At night, laser beams dance across the overpass, turning a routine traffic stoplight into a psychedelic experience.

The annual entrepreneurship conference has a theme this year of "Women first, prosperity for all," and involves networking, mentoring and workshops.

Trump is expected to host at least two panel discussions, where she will be joined by Indian Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, before leaving Wednesday. She is not planning to address the media during the trip.

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Associated Press writer Erika Kinetz in Shanghai contributed to this report.

## Powell casts himself as a figure of stability for the Fed

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jerome Powell says that if confirmed as the next chairman of the Federal Reserve, he expects the Fed to continue raising interest rates gradually to support its twin goals of maximum employment and stable prices.

Under his leadership, Powell also says, the Fed would consider ways to ease the regulatory burdens on banks while preserving the key reforms Congress passed to try to prevent another financial crisis.

Powell's comments came in written testimony prepared for his confirmation hearing Tuesday before the Senate Banking Committee.

A member of the Fed's board since 2012, Powell was nominated by President Donald Trump to succeed Janet Yellen after her four-year term as chair ends in February. Trump decided against offering Yellen a second term.

In his remarks released Monday, Powell sought to send the reassuring message that he would represent a figure of stability and continuity at the nation's central bank while remaining open to making certain changes as appropriate.

On banking regulations, Powell said in his testimony, "We will continue to consider appropriate ways to ease regulatory burdens while preserving core reforms ... so that banks can provide the credit to families and businesses necessary to sustain a prosperous economy."

Among those reforms, Powell mentioned the stricter standards for capital and liquidity that banks must maintain under the Dodd-Frank financial reform law and the annual "stress tests" that the biggest banks must undergo to show they could withstand a severe downturn.

Regarding interest rates, Powell said, "We expect interest rates to rise somewhat further and the size of our balance sheet to gradually shrink." The Fed has begun gradually shrinking its balance sheet, which swelled after the financial crisis from bond purchases it made to help reduce long-term borrowing rates.

The Yellen Fed has raised rates four times starting in December 2015, including two rate hikes this year. Economists expect a third rate hike to occur in December, and they're projecting at least three additional rate increases in 2018.

Powell cautioned that while Fed officials want to make the path of interest rate policy as predictable as possible, "the future cannot be known with certainty." For that reason, he said, it's important for the Fed to retain the flexibility it needs to adjust its policies in response to economic developments.

In deciding not to offer Yellen another four years as chair, Trump made her the only Fed leader in nearly four decades not to be offered a second term.

Yellen, a Democrat who was nominated by President Barack Obama and became the first woman to lead the Fed, announced last week that she would step down from the Fed board once Powell is confirmed to succeed her as chair. Yellen could have remained on the board even after Powell became chair.

Yellen will leave the Fed in February after a tenure characterized by a cautious stance toward rate hikes, relative transparency about the Fed's expectations and projections and support for the stricter bank rules that were enacted after the 2008 financial crisis.

In his five years as a member of the Fed's seven-member board of governors, Powell has built a reputation as a centrist. He never dissented from the policies advocated by Yellen or her predecessor, Ben Bernanke.

In his own remarks on rate policies, Powell has so far stuck close to the Yellen line. In a speech in June, he said that while low unemployment argued for raising rates, weak inflation suggested that the Fed should move cautiously in doing so. That wary approach reflected Yellen's own warnings about the need to raise rates only incrementally, depending on the latest economic data.

Powell's actions on the Dodd-Frank Act, the law enacted to tighten banking regulations after the 2008 crisis, may turn out to be the area where he will differ most from his predecessor. Yellen rejected arguments that the tighter regulations had hurt economic growth by making banks less likely to lend. Powell, for his part, has suggested that in some areas, the Dodd-Frank restrictions might have gone too far.

In a congressional appearance in June, Powell said that the "core reforms" should be retained but that in

some respects there was a need to "go back and clean up our work." He indicated that two areas where loosening the rules might be considered were in easing regulations on smaller banks and revising the "Volcker rule" curbs on investment trades by big banks.

## Alabama Senate race gives GOP voters an uncomfortable choice

By KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

HOMEWOOD, Ala. (AP) — With two weeks to go until the Alabama election for U.S. Senate, Kathie Luckie of Hoover said she is "teetering" with her choice.

A Republican, she usually supports the GOP candidate. But she said Roy Moore has always been "a little radical" for her taste, even before he was hit with recent allegations of sexual misconduct.

"It's a struggle. I'm just kind of bouncing around with my decisions. Right now, I'm caught between don't vote or vote Republican," said Luckie, a retired UPS supervisor from Hoover. Even though she's not a Moore fan, she said, "I do believe it's important for a Republican to get into the office."

Voters like Luckie — reliable Republicans in the middle — will determine whether Moore or Democrat Doug Jones wins on Dec. 12. While Moore needs evangelicals to show up at the polls and Jones will rely heavily on black Democrats, a large swath of Alabama Republicans — typically Christian and conservative — holds the key to victory for both.

Moore is counting on them to send another Republican to Washington while Democrats hope Jones peels off some Republicans and others, turned off by Moore, stay home.

Doug Jones signs are a common sight in Homewood, a leafy suburb near downtown Birmingham where incumbent Republican Sen. Luther Strange lives.

Harold Cook, 67, typically votes Republican but said he might vote for a write-in this time.

"I'm not sure we need to go back to people who defy the law. The state has been through this before with the governor in the 1960s," Cook said. "I'm tired of seeing Roy Moore on the news."

Moore was a polarizing figure in Alabama — winning his last statewide election with 51 percent — before the allegations of sexual misconduct. He was removed as state chief justice in 2003 when he disobeyed a court order to move a boulder-sized Ten Commandments monument out of the state Supreme Court building. After winning election to the post again, he was permanently suspended last year for urging state probate judges to refuse marriage licenses to gay couples, in defiance of the federal courts.

Two women have accused Moore of sexually assaulting or molesting them decades ago, when he was a deputy district attorney in his 30s and they were teenagers. At least five others have said he pursued romantic relationships when they were between ages 16 and 18. Moore has denied the allegations of sexual misconduct and said he never dated "underage" women, although he has not defined what he meant by "underage."

It's been a quarter of a century since a Democrat was elected to the U.S. Senate from Alabama, where many white voters almost reflexively vote for the Republican in statewide races.

Zac McCrary, an Alabama-based Democratic pollster, said Jones must focus on issues that cross party lines and will "never have good math" if he presents it as a "D" versus "R" battle.

"He's fighting real muscle memory among much of the white electorate," McCrary said.

Jones has launched an advertisement with Republicans explaining their decision to support him. His wife, Louise, has been doing coffee talks with suburban women. In speeches, Jones hammers on "kitchen table issues" and breaking away from divisive politics.

"Alabama has an opportunity to either go backwards with a divisive figure, the kind of figure that I think Alabamians are tired of. Or they can send someone who has reached across the aisle, who's worked with both sides, who is trying to be someone who will find common ground with people," Jones said Sunday at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Support for Moore is stronger in rural areas. Crossing an intersection down the street from a Sav-A-Life anti-abortion center in Troy, 77-year-old Bert Fridlin said he never votes Democrat. He won't this time either, he said, citing Jones' support of abortion rights.

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President Donald Trump on Sunday tried to frame it as a partisan battle. Disregarding concerns from Senate Republican leaders who have disavowed Moore, Trump tweeted out criticisms of Jones and said it would be a "disaster" for a Democrat to win the Alabama race.

David Mowery, an Alabama-based political consultant, said Trump's words might sway Republicans who were considering sitting out the race.

"But now they've got the president saying, 'Hey, I need Roy Moore to help us on things like tax reform.' I think it does affect certain voters," Mowery said.

## Volcano gushing ash over Bali closes airport for a 2nd day

By FIRDIA LISNAWATI and STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press

KARANGASEM, Indonesia (AP) — A volcano gushing towering columns of ash closed the airport on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali for a second day Tuesday, disrupting travel for tens of thousands, as authorities renewed their warnings for villagers to evacuate.

Mount Agung has been hurling clouds of white and dark gray ash about 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) high and lava is welling in its crater.

The local airport authority said its closure for another 24 hours was required for safety reasons. Volcanic ash poses a deadly threat to aircraft, and ash from Agung is moving south-southwest toward the airport. Ash has reached a height of about 30,000 feet (9,000 meters) as it drifts across the island.

"I don't know, we can't change it," said stranded German tourist Gina Camp, sitting on a bench at the airport. "It's the nature and we have to wait until it's over."

She decided to look on the bright side, saying she planned to go back outside to enjoy another day on the island.

Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency raised the volcano's alert to the highest level Monday and expanded an exclusion zone to 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the crater. It said a larger eruption is possible, though a government volcanologist has also said Agung could stay at its current level of activity for weeks and not erupt explosively.

NASA detected a thermal anomaly over the weekend, said Gede Swantika, a senior volcanologist in Bali. "It means that there's a direct conduit from the magma storage chambers in the crust up to the surface," said Richard Arculus, a volcano expert at Australian National University. "What stops most eruptions from happening is that you don't have a conduit from where the magma's reached, to the surface. Once you've got that opened .... it means there's easier access for the magma upward out into the open."

Agung's last major eruption in 1963 killed about 1,100 people.

Authorities have told 100,000 people to leave homes nearest the volcano, though tens of thousands stayed because they felt safe or didn't want to abandon livestock. Mudflows have been seen on the mountain's slopes, and authorities warned more are possible, since it's the rainy season in Bali.

Volcanologist Erik Klemetti at Dennison University in Ohio said Agung's 1963 eruption was big enough to cool the Earth slightly but it's unclear whether this time it will have a similar major eruption or simmer for a prolonged period.

"A lot of what will happen depends on the magma underneath and what it is doing now," he said.

The closure of the airport has affected tourists already on Bali and people who were ready to fly to the island from abroad or within Indonesia. Airport spokesman Ari Ahsanurrohim said more than 440 inward and outward flights were canceled Tuesday and about 59,500 travelers were affected, about the same number as on Monday.

Bali is Indonesia's top tourist destination, with its Hindu culture, surf beaches and lush green interior attracting about 5 million visitors a year.

Buses were deployed to the airport and to ferry terminals to help stranded travelers, Indonesia's Directorate General of Land Transportation said.

The agency's chief, Budi, said major ferry crossing points have been advised to prepare for a surge in

passengers and vehicles. Stranded tourists could leave Bali by taking a ferry to Java and then traveling by land to the nearest airports.

Ash has settled on villages and resorts around the volcano and disrupted daily life outside the immediate danger zone.

"Ash that covered the trees and grass is very difficult for us because the cows cannot eat," said Made Kerta Kartika from Buana Giri village. "I have to move the cows from this village."

Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and has more than 120 active volcanoes.

Wright reported from Jakarta. Associated Press writers Ali Kotarumalos in Jakarta, Joe McDonald in Beijing and Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed to this report.

## Families of Navajo Code Talkers decry Trump's political jab

By FELICIA FONSECA and LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Families of Navajo war veterans who were honored Monday at the White House say they were dumbfounded that President Donald Trump used the event to take a political jab at a Massachusetts senator, demeaning their work with an unbreakable code that helped the U.S. win World War II.

Trump turned to a nickname he often deployed for Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren during the 2016 presidential campaign: Pocahontas. He then told the three Navajo Code Talkers on stage that he had affection for them that he doesn't have for Warren.

"It was uncalled for," said Marty Thompson, whose great uncle was a Navajo Code Talker. "He can say what he wants when he's out doing his presidential business among his people, but when it comes to honoring veterans or any kind of people, he needs to grow up and quit saying things like that."

Pocahontas is a well-known historical figure who bridged her own Pamunkey Tribe in present-day Virginia with the British in the 1600s. But the National Congress of American Indians says Trump wrongly has flipped the name into a derogatory term, and the comment drew swift criticism from American Indians and politicians.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders, asked about criticism of Trump's remarks, said a racial slur "was certainly not the president's intent."

Trump made the comment as he stood near a portrait of President Andrew Jackson, which he hung in the Oval Office in January. Trump admires Jackson's populism. But Jackson is an unpopular figure in Indian Country because his policies led to the forced removal of American Indians out of their southern homelands.

The Navajo Nation suggested Trump's remark Monday was an example of "cultural insensitivity" and resolved to stay out of the "ongoing feud between the senator and President Trump."

"All tribal nations still battle insensitive references to our people. The prejudice that Native American people face is an unfortunate historical legacy," Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said in a statement.

Still, Begaye and relatives of Navajo Code Talkers said they're honored the story of the men recruited from the vast Southwest reservation to become Marines could be told on a national stage. Peter MacDonald, a former Navajo chairman and trained Code Talker who stood beside Trump, also took the opportunity to ask for support for a Navajo Code Talker museum. Trump obliged.

MacDonald didn't immediately return messages left Monday by The Associated Press. He didn't visibly react to Trump's "Pocahontas" comment and later told the president he was certain he would succeed, crediting military generals.

Michael Smith, a Marine whose father was a Code Talker, said most of the Code Talkers would be skeptical about going to the White House because it could be construed to mean they support a political cause.

"So, why did they go? Why were they there? He's putting them in the Oval Office to say 'You did a good job, and say hi to Pocahontas?'" Smith said. "They should be taken care of as heroes, not as pawns."

Michael Nez, whose father helped develop the code based on the Navajo language, said his father would have been upset to hear Trump's Pocahontas comment. But, as other Code Talker relatives said, his father was taught to respect the president as the commander in chief.

"It's too bad he does put his foot in his mouth," Nez said. "Why he does it? I don't know."

Helena Begaii said her 94-year-old Navajo Code Talker father, Samuel T. Holiday, declined an invitation to the White House on Monday. She said he would have a better feel for what happened once he reads the newspaper.

"I feel really sad that they didn't get treated with respect," she said.

Trump's Pocahontas comment is the latest in a long list of remarks Trump has made about people from specific ethnic and racial groups. In announcing a run for the presidency in 2015, Trump said many Mexican immigrants are rapists. He's sought to ban immigrants from certain Muslim majority nations. He's come under fire for what some said was a too-slow federal response to hurricane damage in Puerto Rico.

The president has long feuded with Warren, an outspoken Wall Street critic who leveled blistering attacks on Trump during the campaign. Trump seized on questions about Warren's heritage, which surfaced during her 2012 Senate race challenging incumbent Republican Sen. Scott Brown.

Warren said in an interview on MSNBC that, unfortunately, Trump cannot make it through a ceremony honoring heroes "without having to throw out a racial slur."

New Mexico Sen. Tom Udall, vice chairman of the Indian Affairs committee, added: "Donald Trump's latest racist joke — during Native American Heritage Month no less — demeaned the contributions that the Code Talkers and countless other Native American patriots and citizens have made to our great country."

Kellman reported from Washington, D.C. Follow her on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>  
Fonseca is a member of The Associated Press' Race and Ethnicity team. Follow her on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/FonsecaAP>

Associated Press writer Catherine Lucey in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

## Trump takes on controversy-laden agenda on Capitol Hill

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's year-end agenda is at a critical juncture as he heads Tuesday to Capitol Hill to rally Senate Republicans on taxes — and then pivot to negotiations with Democrats pressing for victories of their own in a separate, high-stakes showdown over the budget and immigration.

Trump is still seeking his first marquee win in Congress, but the White House and top GOP leaders have work to do to get their tax bill in shape before a hoped-for vote later this week. Party deficit hawks pressed for a "backstop" mechanism to limit the risk of a spiral in the deficit, even as defenders of small business pressed for more generous treatment for Main Street.

On a separate track from taxes is a multi-layered negotiation over a huge Pentagon budget increase sought by Trump and Republicans and increases for domestic programs demanded by Democrats. Democrats carry leverage into the talks, which have GOP conservatives on edge.

A temporary spending bill expires Dec. 8 and another is needed to prevent a government shutdown. Hurricane aid weighs in the balance and Democrats are pressing for legislative protections for immigrants known as "Dreamers," even as conservative Republicans object to including the issue in the crush of year-end business.

Tuesday would bring Trump's third visit to the Capitol in little more than a month — this time to make the sale to Senate Republicans on his signature tax bill. But among the holdouts are GOP Trump critics, including Sens. Jeff Flake of Arizona and Bob Corker of Tennessee — though GOP leaders are seeking to rope in straggling Republicans with a flurry of deal-cutting.

"There's still some loose ends. We're not quite there yet," said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio. "But I think we're going to get there, I really do."

Trump's sessions with big groups of Republicans tend to take the form of pep rallies, and when visiting a Senate GOP lunch last month Trump spent much of the time on a rambling account of the accomplishments of his administration.

Later on Tuesday, the bipartisan top four leaders of Congress — Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Minor-

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ity Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., for the House and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. — will head to the White House to touch gloves on a range of year-end issues.

Topping the bipartisan agenda is a heavily-sought year-end spending package to give both the Pentagon and domestic agencies relief from a budget freeze.

Trump hasn't engaged much with Pelosi and Schumer since a September meeting that produced an agreement on a short-term increase in the government's so-called debt limit and a temporary spending bill that is keeping the government's doors open through Dec. 8.

Trump reveled in the bipartisan deal for a time and generated excitement among Democrats when he told them he would sign legislation to protect from deportation immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children.

Trump in September reversed an executive order by former President Barack Obama that gave protections to these immigrants, many of whom have little or no connection to their home country. Shortly afterward, he told Pelosi and Schumer he would sign legislation protecting those immigrants, provided Democrats made concessions of their own on border security.

Since the president is such a wild card, neither Democrats nor Republicans were speculating much about what Tuesday's meeting might produce.

"Hopefully, we can make progress on an agreement that covers those time-sensitive issues and keeps the government running and working for the American people," Schumer said.

## Trump straddle: Won't stump for Moore, yet blasts Dem foe

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Playing all sides in the Alabama Senate race, President Donald Trump made it known Monday he won't set foot in the state on behalf of embattled Republican Roy Moore, even as he intensified his insistence that voters must never elect Moore's Democratic foe.

In search of safe political ground, Trump is embracing a tried-and-true tactic before the Dec. 12 special election. Weighing political needs, loyalty to his base supporters and his own struggles against allegations of sexual impropriety, the president is staking out a position that should bring him the least political exposure.

Trump has repeatedly assailed Democratic candidate Doug Jones, has publicly defended Moore against allegations of child molestation and has broken with other GOP leaders calling on Moore to get out of the race. On the other hand, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday the president has no plans for an in-person appearance on Moore's behalf and in fact is too busy to "do anything between now and Election Day" for the candidate.

In addition, the president previously signed off on a decision by the Republican National Committee to cut off support for Moore's campaign.

Still, Trump had held the door open to personal campaigning for Moore last week, when he all but endorsed the pugnacious conservative's candidacy while criticizing Jones. But he's carefully stopping short of that actual endorsement.

For weeks the center state in the Alabama race has been held by accusations that Moore, now 70, sexually molested or initiated sexual contact with two teens, ages 14 and 16 — and tried to date several others — while he was in his 30s. Moore has denied the allegations of misconduct and has said he never dated "underage" women.

"This is simply dirty politics and it's a sign of the immorality of our time," Moore said Monday night during a campaign event in the rural town of Henagar in northeast Alabama. Lashing out at national Republicans who want him to step aside, Moore said: "They are aware of my past. They are aware I am difficult to manage."

Trump has been burned in this race before. He traveled to Alabama months ago to back Moore's Republican primary opponent, Sen. Luther Strange, who was then defeated in a September rout.

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Moore had the backing of the GOP's conservative and populist wings, including Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, but Trump acceded to requests from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to try to boost Strange. Trump later seethed to White House aides that the episode left him looking politically weak.

Also, appearing with Moore now could expose Trump to a politically unpalatable image as allegations of sexual misconduct in politics, entertainment, business and the media fill the news. As he looks toward his own re-election in 2020, he doesn't want new attention focused on his own accusations of sexual impropriety in the waning days of the 2016 presidential election.

The White House clarified Monday that Trump isn't contesting the authenticity of the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape in which he bragged about sexually assaulting women, and for which he issued a rare apology. "The president hasn't changed his position," Sanders said.

In the meantime, the president is determined not to alienate his core supporters — many of whom continue to defend Moore — at a time when his presidential popularity is lagging and his agenda faces headwinds in Congress. The outcome in Alabama could be crucial in the ongoing GOP fight for a tax overhaul, since a victory by Democrat Jones would narrow the Republicans' Senate majority to a mere two seats.

Trump bashed Jones repeatedly on Twitter over the weekend. "The last thing we need in Alabama and the U.S. Senate is a Schumer/Pelosi puppet who is WEAK on Crime, WEAK on the Border, Bad for our Military and our great Vets, Bad for our 2nd Amendment, AND WANTS TO RAISES TAXES TO THE SKY," Trump wrote from Florida, referring to Democrats' congressional leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi.

Moore's campaign quickly highlighted Trump's comments on social media and in a fundraising email. "President Trump calls them like he sees them. And, he's got my opponents in D.C. scrambling," Moore wrote

Jones, speaking to reporters in Birmingham, shrugged off Trump's criticisms, saying his vote in the Senate would not be a partisan one. He said Alabama residents are focused on issues such as the economy, education and health care.

"My record speaks for itself," Jones said. "I think I am very strong on the issues that the people of Alabama care for."

Earlier in the month, the Republican National Committee pulled roughly a dozen paid staffers out of Alabama as the allegations of sexual misconduct against Moore piled up. Republicans involved in that decision said Monday they would be angry if Trump ordered the committee to re-engage, although there was no such discussion underway as of Monday afternoon.

Opposition to Moore hadn't softened at the National Republican Senatorial Committee either. The Senate GOP campaign arm turned its back on Moore earlier in the month, and its chairman, Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado, said his Republican colleagues should expel Moore from the Senate if he's ultimately elected.

Alabama's other senator, Republican Richard Shelby, said Monday he did not vote for Moore. "I voted absentee. I didn't vote for him. I voted for a distinguished Republican write-in," Shelby told reporters, according to The Hill newspaper.

Some Washington-based Republicans on Monday suggested they actually would welcome an opportunity to expel Moore if it comes to that. Such an action could mark "a public cleansing" for the party as it struggles with low approval ratings ahead of the 2018 midterms, said one Republican official who was not authorized to speak publicly about the Alabama race and commented only on condition of anonymity.

There was still pressure for Trump to step in in person. Said former Trump campaign adviser Sam Nunberg: "It's his choice. Does he want to be the first president in two decades not to have two Republican senators from Alabama?"

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Associated Press writers Kimberly Chandler in Henagar, Alabama; Steve Peoples in New York; and Thomas Beaumont in Iowa contributed to this report.



## Who's in charge? 2 fight for control of US consumer watchdog

By KEN SWEET and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Through emails, tweets and doughnuts, the two dueling acting directors battled Monday for control of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, nation's top financial watchdog agency.

Leandra English, who was elevated to interim director of the bureau late last week by its outgoing director, sent staff an email offering Thanksgiving wishes. Meanwhile President Donald Trump's choice for the role — White House budget director Mick Mulvaney — then emailed staff to tell them to "disregard" any instructions from English.

Laying down markers in what has quickly become a war of optics, both signed their missives "Acting Director."

While the atmosphere at the CFPB may seem like routine Washington theatrics, which person will run this agency for the coming days, weeks or possibly months will have a real impact on banks and other financial companies and their customers.

English has asked a judge to issue a temporary restraining order to block Mulvaney from taking over the bureau. She cited the Dodd-Frank Act, which created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. She said that as deputy director, she became the acting director under the law and argued that the federal law the White House contends supports Trump's appointment of Mulvaney doesn't apply when another statute designates a successor. The case, at the U.S. District Court of Washington, D.C., is being handled by Judge Timothy Kelly, a Trump appointee approved by the Senate recently.

English was promoted to chief of staff to deputy director by Richard Cordray as he prepared to resign last Friday.

The Trump administration defended its position in a court brief filed near midnight Monday.

It said that both the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel and the general counsel of the CFPB "agree that the President of the United States lawfully designated John M. Mulvaney as the CFPB's Acting Director pursuant to the VRA (Vacancies Reform Act).

"Plaintiff's arguments to the contrary rest on a bureaucratic sleight-of-hand effected on the final day of former CFPB Director Richard Cordray's tenure," it said, alluding to English's elevation by Cordray to the agency's top job on an acting basis.

The judge had said earlier that he would read the government's response and "go from there."

Cordray was appointed to the position by President Barack Obama and has been long criticized by congressional Republicans as being overzealous, but lauded by consumer advocates for aggressively going after banks for wrongdoing, like in the case of Wells Fargo. He was one of the last Obama-era political holdouts.

Mulvaney, a former Republican congressman from South Carolina, has called the agency a "joke" and an example of bureaucracy run amok. He is expected to be critical of the bureau's previous work and will likely push to dismantle some of the agency's previous actions.

Cordray said Monday that the issue should be settled by a court.

"The law says that I shall appoint the deputy director, and I did so," he said. "My understanding of the law is that the deputy director becomes the acting director upon my departure. If there are disagreements about those issues, then they should be settled in the courts."

Mulvaney arrived Monday morning at the agency with doughnuts, and his staff tweeted out photos of him meeting with agency division heads. Meanwhile, English sent a department-wide email saying she hoped everyone had a great Thanksgiving. English also plans to have meetings on Capitol Hill, including with Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Meanwhile Mulvaney quickly responded to English's email, instructing CFPB staff to "disregard" any directions from her.

At the center of the controversy are two laws: the Dodd-Frank Act, the law passed after the financial crisis that created the bureau, and the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, which gives the president authority to appoint temporary department heads while their permanent nominees are approved by the Senate.

While the Vacancies Act does allow a president to appoint acting directors at agencies like the CFPB,

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the Dodd-Frank Act has specific language that seems to indicate that only a deputy director can step into the acting director position. English was elevated to the deputy director position shortly before Cordray resigned.

But English's push to be recognized as the legitimate acting director took a blow Monday after a memo was released from Mary McLeod, the CFPB's general counsel, saying she agreed with the White House that Mulvaney should be recognized as acting director.

The Office of Legal Counsel, which acts as a legal adviser to the president, also argued that Mulvaney, not English, was the legitimate director of the department.

"The Administration is aware of the suit filed this evening by Deputy Director English. However the law is clear: Director Mulvaney is the Acting Director of the CFPB," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said.

One straightforward solution to the issue of who runs the CFPB is for Trump to nominate his own permanent director. But it may take several weeks for someone to be nominated and even months until the Senate were to confirm his or her appointment.

Until the issue of who is in charge is cleared up, any actions taken by the CFPB are likely to come under legal scrutiny from the banks, credit card and other financial companies that the agency oversees. No fines are likely to be imposed or new regulations written.

Bank lobbyists are hoping for a lighter touch by any Trump nominee to the CFPB. W

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Sweet reported from New York. Julie Carr Smyth contributed from in Columbus, Ohio. Jeff Horwitz contributed to this report from Washington, D.C.

## At Capitol, Franken apologizes and sees long fight for trust

By ALAN FRAM and JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Al Franken apologized Monday to "everyone who has counted on me to be a champion for women" as the Minnesota Democrat fought to bolster his support with his first Capitol public appearance since being drawn into a wave of sexual harassment accusations buffeting Congress.

Franken spoke as lawmakers began returning from an extraordinary weeklong Thanksgiving break that saw sexually tinged problems engulf two other legislators as well: Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., and Joe Barton, R-Texas. Those revelations were on top of allegations that Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl and sought romantic relationships with other teenagers when he was in his 30s four decades ago, which he has denied.

With harassment charges bringing down big names in the worlds of entertainment and journalism, Congress was adding widespread complaints about how it handles such incidents to its pile of year-end work.

A new allegation, indeed, surfaced late Monday against Conyers.

A former deputy chief of staff for Conyers said the veteran lawmaker had made unwanted sexual advances toward her, including inappropriate touching.

Deanna Maher, who ran a Michigan office for him from 1997 to 2005, told The Detroit News that there were three instances of inappropriate conduct.

She says the first was in 1997 during an event with the Congressional Black Caucus, when she rejected his offer to share a hotel room and have sex. She said the others involved unwanted touching in a car in 1998 and unwanted touching of her legs under her dress in 1999.

Conyers' attorney Arnold Reed questioned why Maher continued to work for him after the alleged incidents.

Maher said she needed a job at age 57 and feared no one would hire her.

In a brief appearance before reporters in Washington Monday, Franken stopped short of specifying how his memory differs from four women's accounts of separate incidents in which he allegedly initiated improper sexual contact. He said he recalls "differently" one woman's allegation that he forcibly kissed her but provided no detail, and said he doesn't remember three other times women assert he grabbed their

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buttocks, citing "tens of thousands" of people he meets annually.

"But I feel that you have to respect, you know, women's experience," he said.

Franken said he'll cooperate with an Ethics Committee investigation of his behavior. He said it will take "a long time for me to regain people's trust" and said he hoped to begin that process by returning to work.

"I want to be someone who adds something to this conversation," said Franken, a longtime liberal.

The House planned to vote Wednesday on a resolution requiring lawmakers and staff to annually complete anti-harassment training. Its chief sponsors included Reps. Barbara Comstock, R-Va., and Jackie Speier, D-Calif., who has said she was sexually assaulted by a male chief of staff as a House aide decades ago. The Senate approved a similar measure this month.

With many lawmakers — particularly women — pushing for more, the House Administration Committee planned a hearing next week on how to strengthen Congress' processing of harassment allegations. Under the 1995 Congressional Accountability Act, complaints have been sent to an obscure Office of Compliance, which requires a lengthy counseling and mediation period and has allowed virtually no public disclosure of cases.

Rep. Gregg Harper, R-Miss., said the hearing will consider "ways to create a respectful reporting and settlement process" and said he expected legislation by early 2018. Comstock, also on that panel, said members are discussing whether federal funds should be spent to settle harassment suits and if people can be released from nondisclosure agreements.

Congress' procedures drew intensified fire after a report last week by the news website BuzzFeed that Conyers' office paid a woman more than \$27,000 under a confidentiality agreement to settle a complaint in 2015 that she was fired from his Washington staff because she rejected his sexual advances. The money came from taxpayers, not Conyers himself.

Conyers, 88, the House's current longest-serving member, has relinquished his post as top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Ethics Committee is reviewing the case. He's denied the allegations.

Late Monday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she'd met with a woman who described "unacceptable and disappointing" treatment from Conyers when she worked for the Judiciary panel in the 1990s. Melanie Sloan, an attorney, told The Washington Post last week that Conyers criticized her appearance and once attended a meeting in his underwear, but said she didn't feel sexually harassed.

Conyers' counsel has denied Sloan's allegation. Pelosi said she believes Sloan and said the "ridiculous system" of secret settlements must be ended so accusers can speak to the Ethics committee.

Speier and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., have introduced legislation requiring that lawmakers who settle harassment claims with the Office of Compliance repay the Treasury for the settlement. It would eliminate mandatory nondisclosure agreements as a condition for entering mediation and require public identification of offices that have settled cases.

Barton, a 32-year House veteran, has acknowledged sharing a nude photo of himself with an unidentified lover that was spread online. He's accused her of threatening to make it public when he ended the relationship.

The woman told The Washington Post that she didn't put it online and said the congressman threatened to go to the authorities if she exposed his conduct. Barton, 68, said he was separated from his second wife at the time and has apologized for not using "better judgment."

Leeann Tweeden, now a Los Angeles radio news anchor, has said Franken forcibly kissed her on a USO tour and took a sexually suggestive photo while she was sleeping in 2006, before he entered the Senate. Three other women allege Franken grabbed their buttocks while posing with them for photos during campaign events in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

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Associated Press writers Matthew Daly and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

## Shoppers take to their phones for Cyber Monday deals

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Weeks of deals didn't stop people from heading online to shop on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Cyber Monday is likely to be the biggest U.S. online shopping day ever, according to Adobe Analytics, the research arm of software maker Adobe. Nearly \$6.6 billion in sales were forecast by the end of the day, up about 17 percent from a year ago, Adobe said. And more people are picking up their phones to shop: Web traffic from mobile devices, including tablets, is expected to top desktop computers for the first time this year, Adobe said.

When Frank Yanover browsed Amazon's Cyber Monday deals through his phone, he wasn't looking for anything in particular. But he spent \$300 on a Vitamix blender that he had eyed before, which he said was a \$200 discount.

"I never bought it because it was so expensive," said Yanover, who is retired and lives in Hollywood, Florida.

Over the holiday weekend, he bought an iPad from Best Buy through his phone and then picked it up at a store. And using his voice-activated Echo, he bought Amazon's \$30 Echo Dot for his bedroom, which was \$20 off.

Others seem to be doing the same. The Echo Dot was the top-selling electronic item on Amazon, followed by the Fire TV. Board games, Fingerlings and Legos were best-sellers in Amazon's toy section.

Over at eBay, one \$745 Apple MacBook Air was sold every five seconds, the company said. And J.C. Penney said its top-selling items on its website were towels, \$25 diamond stud earrings and a Liz Claiborne bag that has a built-in phone charger.

Target and Toys R Us offered 15 percent off most items. Walmart.com tripled the amount of items available on its site from last year. But Amazon is expected to be the big winner over the holiday season, with Bain & Co. expecting the online retailer to capture 50 percent of all online sales growth this year.

C. Britt Beemer, the chairman of the consumer-focused America's Research Group, says computers and smaller electronics were the top-sellers this Cyber Monday, followed by clothing. "It's easier to ship," he says about apparel.

The shift to online shopping has been noticeable even before Cyber Monday. At a Toys R Us in Toledo, Ohio, on Friday, the parking lot was about half full. Melissa Wetzel, who said she would also do some shopping online, said her Black Friday in-store shopping had been relaxing since she didn't have to fight the crowds.

"It's been pretty easy," she said. "I guess most are shopping online."

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Associated Press reporters Shelley Adler in Washington, D.C., and John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio, contributed to this report.

## Conservative group linked to woman who falsely accused Moore

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A conservative group known for undercover investigations has been linked to a woman who falsely told The Washington Post that Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore impregnated her as a teenager, the newspaper reported.

Moore has been accused of multiple instances of sexual misconduct. But the Post determined that one accuser who approached the newspaper earlier in the month, identified as Jaime Phillips, made up a fake story likely designed to embarrass the newspaper.

The Post published a story Monday about its dealings with Phillips. Earlier in the day, reporters from the newspaper saw Phillips walking into the New York offices of Project Veritas, a conservative group with a long track record of targeting Democratic groups and major media outlets, often by hiding their identities and using hidden cameras.

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"We don't comment on investigations real or imagined, or imagined stings," conservative activist and Project Veritas leader James O'Keefe told The Associated Press Monday evening.

O'Keefe released an unrelated video that he said exposed liberal bias at the newspaper hours after the Post story was initially published.

The video featured a series of secretly recorded conversations with Post employees. One reporter, Dan Lamothe, suggests the Post's opinion page is too critical of the Trump administration. He also says its more traditional news coverage calls out the Trump administration's missteps while giving "him credit where there's credit" due.

The Post reported Monday afternoon that Phillips approached one of its reporters earlier in the month as Moore faced several accusations of sexual misconduct. In a series of interviews over two weeks, Phillips told the Post about an alleged sexual relationship with Moore in 1992 that led to an abortion when she was 15.

She repeatedly pressed Post reporters to give their opinions on the effects that her claims could have on Moore's candidacy if she went public, the newspaper reported. The Post did not publish Phillips' claims and confronted her with inconsistencies in her story. She told the Post she was not working with any organization that targets journalists.

A previous O'Keefe sting led to the demise of ACORN, a community organizing group that O'Keefe portrayed as engaged in criminal activity via hidden camera videos. O'Keefe was convicted in 2010 as part of a scheme to illegally make recordings at the office of then-Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, a Democrat.

## Senators consider automatic tax hikes if revenue falls short

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER** and **MARCY GORDON**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans are considering a trigger that would automatically increase taxes if their sweeping legislation fails to generate as much revenue as they expect. It's an effort to mollify deficit hawks who worry that tax cuts for businesses and individuals will add to the nation's already mounting debt.

The effort comes as a second Republican senator, Steve Daines of Montana, announced Monday that he opposes the tax bill in its current form. Previously, Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said he opposed the bill, leaving Senate Republicans no room for error as they hope to vote on the bill this week.

Both senators complained that the tax bill favors large corporations over small businesses. Republicans have only two votes to spare in the Senate, where they hold a 52-48 edge and anticipate Vice President Mike Pence breaking a tie.

At the White House, President Donald Trump maintained that the bill would help all Americans.

"I think it's going to benefit everybody," the president said. "It's going to mostly benefit people looking for jobs more than anything else, because we're giving great incentives."

Senate Republicans indicated that they still had a way to go to secure the votes.

"We're making progress, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day. But we're not there yet," said Texas Sen. John Cornyn, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate. Pressed on timing, he said the expectation is a vote this week.

A new congressional estimate says the Senate tax bill would add \$1.4 trillion to the budget deficit over the next decade. But GOP leaders dispute the estimate, saying tax cuts will spur economic growth, reducing the hit on the deficit.

Many economists disagree with such optimistic projections. The trigger would be a way for senators to test their economic assumptions, with real consequences if they are wrong.

"Do we have realistic numbers and is there a backstop in the process just in case we don't?" asked Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla.

"We should build in the 'What if?' What if this doesn't work?" Lankford said. "What changes might be needed in the tax code in the days ahead to be able to adjust in what scenario?"

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said the Trump administration and Senate Republican leaders are open to

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some kind of a trigger to increase revenues if the tax plan falls short.

Neither Corker nor Lankford spelled out exactly how the trigger would work, noting that senators are still working on the proposal. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, said the trigger is possible. But, he added, the proposal could run afoul of the Senate's byzantine budget rules.

Trump and Senate Republicans scrambled Monday to make changes to the bill in an effort to win over holdout GOP senators and pass a tax package by the end of the year. Corker said he spoke to White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and economic adviser Gary Cohn throughout the weekend, and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin was at his Senate office on Monday.

"Very possible," Corker said when asked if he might vote "no" in the Senate Budget Committee on Tuesday if the revenue issue isn't settled. "It's important for me to know we've got this resolved," he said.

Johnson told Wisconsin reporters on Monday, "If we develop a fix prior to committee, I'll probably support it, but if we don't I'll vote against it."

Trump and Senate leaders are trying to balance competing demands. While some senators fear the package's debt consequences, others want more generous tax breaks for businesses. In a boost for the legislation, Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky said he would back the measure.

Trump hosted Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee at the White House on Monday. GOP leaders were still trying to round up the votes in the Senate to pass the bill.

Whatever the Senate passes must be reconciled with the House version of the tax bill.

Trump suggested he is open to making unspecified changes to the way millions of "pass-through" businesses are taxed, a sticking point for some lawmakers. These are businesses in which profits are passed onto the owners, who report the income on their individual tax returns. The vast majority of U.S. businesses, big and small, are taxed this way.

Both Daines and Johnson said the current bill doesn't cut business taxes enough for these types of partnerships and corporations. Johnson gets substantial income from such companies, including a manufacturer he helped found in Wisconsin and a commercial real estate company, according to his financial disclosure statements.

Johnson said Trump has assured lawmakers there will be changes. Trump is to travel to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to lobby Republican senators personally.

The overall tax package blends a sharp reduction in top corporate and business tax rates with more modest relief for individuals.

In signaling his support, Paul wrote in an op-ed on Fox News: "I'm not getting everything I want — far from it. But I've been immersed in this process. I've fought for and received major changes for the better — and I plan to vote for this bill as it stands right now."

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Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor, Ken Thomas and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## **Powell casts himself as a figure of stability for the Fed**

**By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jerome Powell says that if confirmed as the next chairman of the Federal Reserve, he expects the Fed to continue raising interest rates gradually to support its twin goals of maximum employment and stable prices.

Under his leadership, Powell also says, the Fed would consider ways to ease the regulatory burdens on banks while preserving the key reforms Congress passed to try to prevent another financial crisis.

Powell's comments came in written testimony prepared for his confirmation hearing Tuesday before the Senate Banking Committee.

A member of the Fed's board since 2012, Powell was nominated by President Donald Trump to succeed Janet Yellen after her four-year term as chair ends in February. Trump decided against offering Yellen a second term.

In his remarks released Monday, Powell sought to send the reassuring message that he would represent

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a figure of stability and continuity at the nation's central bank while remaining open to making certain changes as appropriate.

On banking regulations, Powell said in his testimony, "We will continue to consider appropriate ways to ease regulatory burdens while preserving core reforms ... so that banks can provide the credit to families and businesses necessary to sustain a prosperous economy."

Among those reforms, Powell mentioned the stricter standards for capital and liquidity that banks must maintain under the Dodd-Frank financial reform law and the annual "stress tests" that the biggest banks must undergo to show they could withstand a severe downturn.

Regarding interest rates, Powell said, "We expect interest rates to rise somewhat further and the size of our balance sheet to gradually shrink." The Fed has begun gradually shrinking its balance sheet, which swelled after the financial crisis from bond purchases it made to help reduce long-term borrowing rates.

The Yellen Fed has raised rates four times starting in December 2015, including two rate hikes this year. Economists expect a third rate hike to occur in December, and they're projecting at least three additional rate increases in 2018.

Powell cautioned that while Fed officials want to make the path of interest rate policy as predictable as possible, "the future cannot be known with certainty." For that reason, he said, it's important for the Fed to retain the flexibility it needs to adjust its policies in response to economic developments.

In deciding not to offer Yellen another four years as chair, Trump made her the only Fed leader in nearly four decades not to be offered a second term.

Yellen, a Democrat who was nominated by President Barack Obama and became the first woman to lead the Fed, announced last week that she would step down from the Fed board once Powell is confirmed to succeed her as chair. Yellen could have remained on the board even after Powell became chair.

Yellen will leave the Fed in February after a tenure characterized by a cautious stance toward rate hikes, relative transparency about the Fed's expectations and projections and support for the stricter bank rules that were enacted after the 2008 financial crisis.

In his five years as a member of the Fed's seven-member board of governors, Powell has built a reputation as a centrist. He never dissented from the policies advocated by Yellen or her predecessor, Ben Bernanke.

In his own remarks on rate policies, Powell has so far stuck close to the Yellen line. In a speech in June, he said that while low unemployment argued for raising rates, weak inflation suggested that the Fed should move cautiously in doing so. That wary approach reflected Yellen's own warnings about the need to raise rates only incrementally, depending on the latest economic data.

Powell's actions on the Dodd-Frank Act, the law enacted to tighten banking regulations after the 2008 crisis, may turn out to be the area where he will differ most from his predecessor. Yellen rejected arguments that the tighter regulations had hurt economic growth by making banks less likely to lend. Powell, for his part, has suggested that in some areas, the Dodd-Frank restrictions might have gone too far.

In a congressional appearance in June, Powell said that the "core reforms" should be retained but that in some respects there was a need to "go back and clean up our work." He indicated that two areas where loosening the rules might be considered were in easing regulations on smaller banks and revising the "Volcker rule" curbs on investment trades by big banks.

## Asian shares mostly lower after sluggish Wall Street session

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Tuesday following a sluggish post-Thanksgiving trading session on Wall Street.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell 0.1 percent to 22,461.10. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost less than 0.1 percent to 5,986.80. South Korea's Kospi added 0.2 percent to 2,513.45. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.7 percent to 29,485.42, while the Shanghai Composite dipped 0.4 percent to 3,308.55. Shares in Southeast Asia were mixed.

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**WALL STREET:** The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 1 point to 2,601.42. The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 0.1 percent to 23,580.78, while the Nasdaq composite fell 0.2 percent to 6,878.52. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks lost 0.4 percent to 1,513.31. More stocks fell than rose on the New York Stock Exchange.

**NORTH KOREA WORRIES:** Reports that Pyongyang may be readying another missile launch also weighed on investor sentiments in the region. The Japanese wire service Kyodo reported, citing a government source, that Japan was on alert after catching radio signals suggesting North Korea might be preparing for a ballistic missile launch.

**FEDERAL RESERVE:** Investors also will have their eye on departing U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's remarks before Congress and a possible vote in the Senate on its version of a U.S. tax overhaul bill.

**THE QUOTE:** "A combination of a lift in risk-sentiment and the lack of prominent leads in the day ahead may provide little impetus for Asian markets to exhibit a strong recovery, though moves certainly remain to be seen," says Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude dropped 36 cents to \$57.75 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell 84 cents to settle at \$58.11 per barrel on Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, declined 21 cents to \$63.17.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar rose to 111.17 Japanese yen from 111.11 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.1902 from \$1.1897.

AP Business Writer Alex Veiga contributed to this report.

AP Business Writer Yuri Kageyama on Twitter <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 28, the 332nd day of 2017. There are 33 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 28, 1942, fire engulfed the Cocomanut Grove nightclub in Boston, killing 492 people in the deadliest nightclub blaze ever. (The cause of the rapidly-spreading fire, which began in the basement, is in dispute; one theory is that a busboy accidentally ignited an artificial palm tree while using a lighted match to fix a light bulb.)

On this date:

In 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the South American strait that now bears his name.

In 1861, the Confederate Congress admitted Missouri as the 12th state of the Confederacy after Missouri's disputed secession from the Union.

In 1905, Sinn Fein (shin fayn) was founded in Dublin.

In 1912, Albania proclaimed its independence from the Ottoman Empire.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began conferring in Tehran during World War II.

In 1958, Chad, Gabon and Middle Congo became autonomous republics within the French community.

In 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course toward Mars, which it flew past in July 1965, sending back pictures of the red planet.

In 1967, actress-model Anna Nicole Smith was born Vickie Lynn Hogan in Houston.

In 1979, an Air New Zealand DC-10 en route to the South Pole crashed into a mountain in Antarctica, killing all 257 people aboard.

In 1987, a South African Airways Boeing 747 crashed into the Indian Ocean with the loss of all 159 people aboard.



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In 1990, Margaret Thatcher resigned as British prime minister during an audience with Queen Elizabeth II, who then conferred the premiership on John Major.

In 2001, Enron Corp., once the world's largest energy trader, collapsed after would-be rescuer Dynegey Inc. backed out of an \$8.4 billion takeover deal. (Enron filed for bankruptcy protection four days later.)

Ten years ago: A day after an international Mideast peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland, President George W. Bush told Israeli and Palestinian leaders he was personally committed to their mission of peace. Republican presidential rivals Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney clashed over immigration in a provocative, no-holds-barred CNN/YouTube debate. Broadway stagehands and theater producers reached a tentative agreement on ending a crippling 19-day-old strike.

Five years ago: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said his state would need nearly \$37 billion to recover and rebuild from Superstorm Sandy and that the state would seek federal aid to cover most of the expenses.

One year ago: An 18-year-old Somali native drove a car into a crowd of students at Ohio State University, then attacked bystanders with a knife before he was shot and killed by a campus police officer; 13 people were injured. A chartered plane carrying a Brazilian soccer team crashed near Medellin, Colombia, killing all but six of the 77 people on board. The first commercial flight from the United States to Havana in more than 50 years landed in Cuba, arriving as the island began week-long memorial services for Fidel Castro. Michael James "Jim" Delligatti, the McDonald's franchisee credited with creating the Big Mac in 1967, died in Pittsburgh at age 98. Former NBC chairman and TV producer Grant Tinker, 90, died in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Recording executive Berry Gordy Jr. is 88. Former Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., is 81. U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross is 80. Singer-songwriter Bruce Channel is 77. Singer Randy Newman is 74. CBS News correspondent Susan Spencer is 71. Movie director Joe Dante is 70. Former "Late Show" orchestra leader Paul Shaffer is 68. Actor Ed Harris is 67. Former NASA astronaut Barbara Morgan is 66. Actress S. Epatha (eh-PAY'-thah) Merkeron is 65. Former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is 64. Country singer Kristine Arnold (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 61. Actor Judd Nelson is 58. Movie director Alfonso Cuarón (kwahr-OHN') is 56. Rock musician Matt Cameron is 55. Actress Jane Sibbett is 55. Comedian Jon Stewart is 55. Actress Garcelle Beauvais (gar-SEHL' boh-VAY') is 51. Actor/comedian Stephnie (cq) Weir is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dawn Robinson is 49. Actress Gina Tognoni is 44. Hip-hop musician apl.de.ap (Black Eyed Peas) is 43. Actor Malcolm Goodwin is 42. Actor Ryan Kwanten is 41. Actress Aimee Garcia is 39. Rapper Chamillionaire is 38. Actor Daniel Henney is 38. Rock musician Ros-tam Batmanglij (bot-man-GLEESH') is 34. Rock singer-keyboardist Tyler Glenn (Neon Trees) is 34. Actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead is 33. R&B singer Trey Songz is 33. Actress Scarlett Pomers is 29. Actor-rapper Bryshere Gray is 24.

Thought for Today: "Journalism is literature in a hurry." — Matthew Arnold, English poet and critic (1822-1888).