

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 145 ~ 1 of 32

“DEVELOP SUCCESS FROM FAILURES.
DISCOURAGEMENT AND FAILURE
ARE TWO OF THE SUREST STEPPING
STONES TO SUCCESS.”

-DALE CARNEGIE

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

- 1- Recycling trailers
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Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



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** ☆☆☆

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☆☆☆ **\$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



All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
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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")**

No. 11 Wolves Drop 5-Set Heartbreaker to No. 7 Minnesota Duluth

Marshall, Minn. – The No. 11 Northern State University volleyball team fell to No. 7 Minnesota Duluth in a heartbreaking five set match in the quarterfinal round of the NCAA Central Region Tournament. The Wolves finish the season with a 23-7 record overall, after qualifying for their third NCAA Tournament in school history.

The Wolves dropped the first two sets, 25-21 and 25-19, but rallied back in the third and fourth sets with scores of 25-22 and 25-21. Northern battled in the third set but ultimately fell 15-12. The Wolves out-hit the Bulldogs in the match .242-to-.239. NSU notched 64 kills, 58 assists, 69 digs, nine blocks, and four aces. They hit a match high .314 in the fourth set, notching just four team errors in the final three sets.

Laura Snyder led the team with 16 kills, followed by Jenna Reiff with 14 kills. Holly Vancura and Hailey Busch were the final Wolves in double figures with 13 and 12 kills each. Morgan Baufield followed with eight kills and hit a team second best .375.

Snyder also led the team hitting .389, while Reiff and Vancura hit .270 and .244. Ashley Rozell dished out 55 assists, notching 11.00 per set. Vancura and Jaiden Langlie led the Northern State defense with 19 and 18 digs each.

Rozell added nine digs, while Busch and Lexi Boesl notched eight and seven respectively. Reiff led the team at the net notching five blocks, followed by Snyder with four. Baufield and Rozell notched three and two each, while Busch and Vancura added one apiece.

Northern State senior Holly Vancura played in her final game for the Wolves. NSU will return five of their six starters next season, including libero Jaiden Langlie.

Updated 2018 Taxable Maximum Amount Announced

Lower Amount Based on Corrected W2s Provided to Social Security by Payroll Service Provider

In October of each year, the Social Security Administration announces adjustments that take effect the following January that are based on the increase in average wages. Based on the wage data Social Security had at the time of the October 13, 2017, announcement, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) was to increase to \$128,700 in 2018, from \$127,200 in 2017. The new amount for 2018, based on updated wage data reported to Social Security, is \$128,400.

This lower taxable maximum amount is due to corrected W2s provided to Social Security in late October 2017 by a national payroll service provider. Approximately 500,000 corrections for W2s from 2016 resulted in changes for three items based on the national average wage: the 2018 taxable maximum, primary insurance amount bend points--figures used in the computation of Social Security benefits--and family maximum bend points. No other items based on national average wages were affected.

The change to the taxable maximum does not take effect until January 2018, and the updated bend points in the benefit computation only apply to people who initially become eligible for Social Security benefits in calendar year 2018. This does not affect current beneficiaries.

For more information about the updated 2018 taxable maximum amount, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/oact/COLA/cbb.html. Additional information about the new 2018 bend points may be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/oact/COLA/Benefits.html and www.socialsecurity.gov/oact/COLA/bendpoints.html.

An updated Federal Register notice will be published soon to reflect these changes.

To get more Social Security news, follow the Press Office on Twitter @SSAPress.

Christmas Party Club

Groton C&MA Church

706 N Main

December 9

10-11:30am

For ages 5-12

Come join the fun!

**There will be songs, games,
snacks and a bible story!**

Call 397-2696 or 290-8258

for more information.

No reservation necessary

*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

December 1, 1985: A storm system with heavy snow, strong winds, and blizzard conditions visited the region on December 1st through 2nd. Most of the snow fell in Minnesota. Snowfall across Minnesota increased from the south during the early morning of December 1st and had spread across most of the state by late morning. Winds in the west central and southwest part of the state increased to 40 to 50 mph causing blizzard conditions. By late morning, drifts had reached 3 feet, and snow plows were pulled off roads from the southwest into central Minnesota due to restricted visibilities. The winds continued through the evening, gradually diminished during the morning of December 2nd. High winds and cold temperatures broke power lines and caused power outages over portions of southern and west central Minnesota during the afternoon of December 1st and the morning of December 2nd. Many highways were impassable, and numerous businesses and schools were closed on the morning of December 2nd until residents could dig out. There were a few travelers that became stranded for up to 6 hours in their vehicles. Traffic accidents also accounted for some injuries and a few deaths. Further west, in South Dakota, strong winds gusted to around 40 mph and produced ground blizzard conditions over most of the state. The low visibilities, road conditions, and strong winds stranded a family for 25 hours south of Colome in Tripp County and another family for eight hours near Lee's Corner in Brule County. Many roads were blocked in the central and western parts of the state, and no travel was advised in the east. The blowing and drifting snow reduced visibilities to near zero and many accidents were reported. The strong winds, along with the previous day's snowfall, caused some damage, including the collapse of the roof of a large barn south of Bemis in Deuel County. Many church services were canceled on December 1, as were many schools on December 2. Temperatures became frigid during the morning of December 2 in the northwest part of the state. Camp Crook in Harding County reported a low of -36 F. Pierre had 2 inches of snow, Aberdeen, Castlewood, Clark, and Redfield had 3 inches, Bryant had 4 inches, Clear Lake, Milbank, and Wilmot had 8 inches. Timber Lake fell to -24F on the 2nd while McLaughlin fell to -30F.




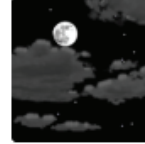

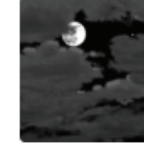

December 1, 1992: A storm system caused numerous traffic accidents and stranded several hundred travelers on December 1st across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota as Interstate 29 was closed between Watertown and Sisseton. Slush on roadways became ice as high wind gusts were up to 60 mph and snowfall of one to four inches brought blizzard conditions to some areas. Several semi-trucks jackknifed and many cars ran into ditches, causing minor injuries. At the same time, strong northwest winds further west in central and north central South Dakota gusted up to 67 mph on the 1st. The high winds shattered windows and blew down trees and signs. The wind rolled a van into a car, causing damage to both vehicles. A wind-blown dumpster damaged another vehicle. The wind also blew toppers off several pickup trucks, causing some damage.

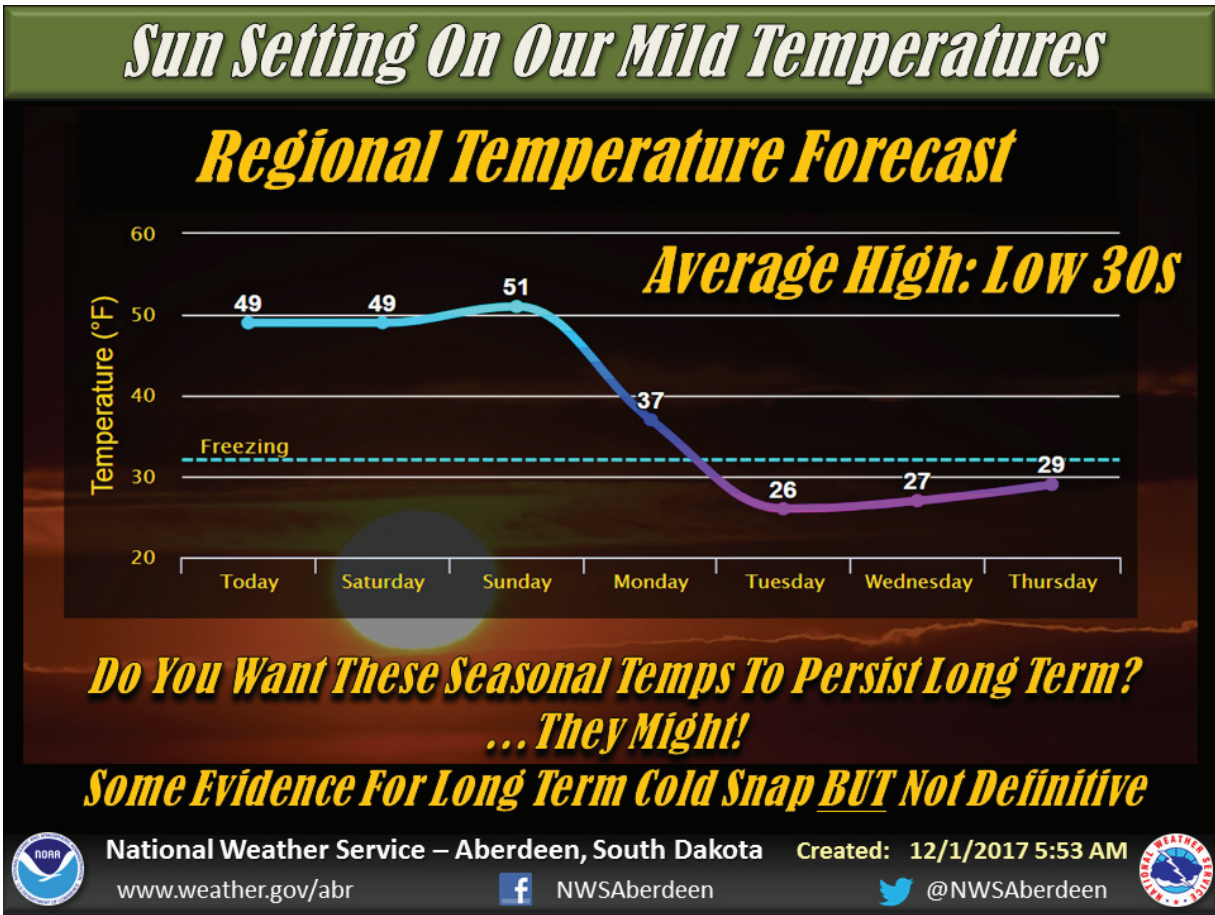
December 1, 2007: A strong low-pressure area moving across the central plains brought widespread heavy snowfall of 6 to 12 inches across northeast South Dakota. The snow began between 4 and 8 am and ended between 7 and 9 p.m. on December 1st. The heavy snow mainly affected travel and Saturday activities. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Clark, Conde, Faulkton, Redfield, and Watertown, 7 inches at Groton, Roscoe, and Sisseton, 8 inches at Britton, Summit, Bryant, 9 inches at Aberdeen and Kidder, and 12 inches at Big Stone City.

December 1, 2006: An early winter storm produced more than 6 inches of snow along a 1,000-mile long path from central Oklahoma to northern Michigan. This storm also produced significant freezing rain which impacted the St. Louis area. An estimated 500 or more homes and businesses were without power in the St. Louis area after this storm.

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain/Snow then Mostly Cloudy
High: 50 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 48 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 37 °F



Published on: 12/01/2017 at 5:59 AM

It still looks mild for the next few days but there is higher confidence that we will see a cold snap next week. Its still up in the air as to whether this will be long term however, as some guidance suggests it, but there are still some models that hold on to the remnants of our mild pattern - as we get into next week this should be clearer however.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 50.3

Low Outside Temp: 23.1

High Gust: 15

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 62° in 1969

Record Low: -24° in 1893

Average High: 31°F

Average Low: 11°F

Average Precip in Dec: 0.02

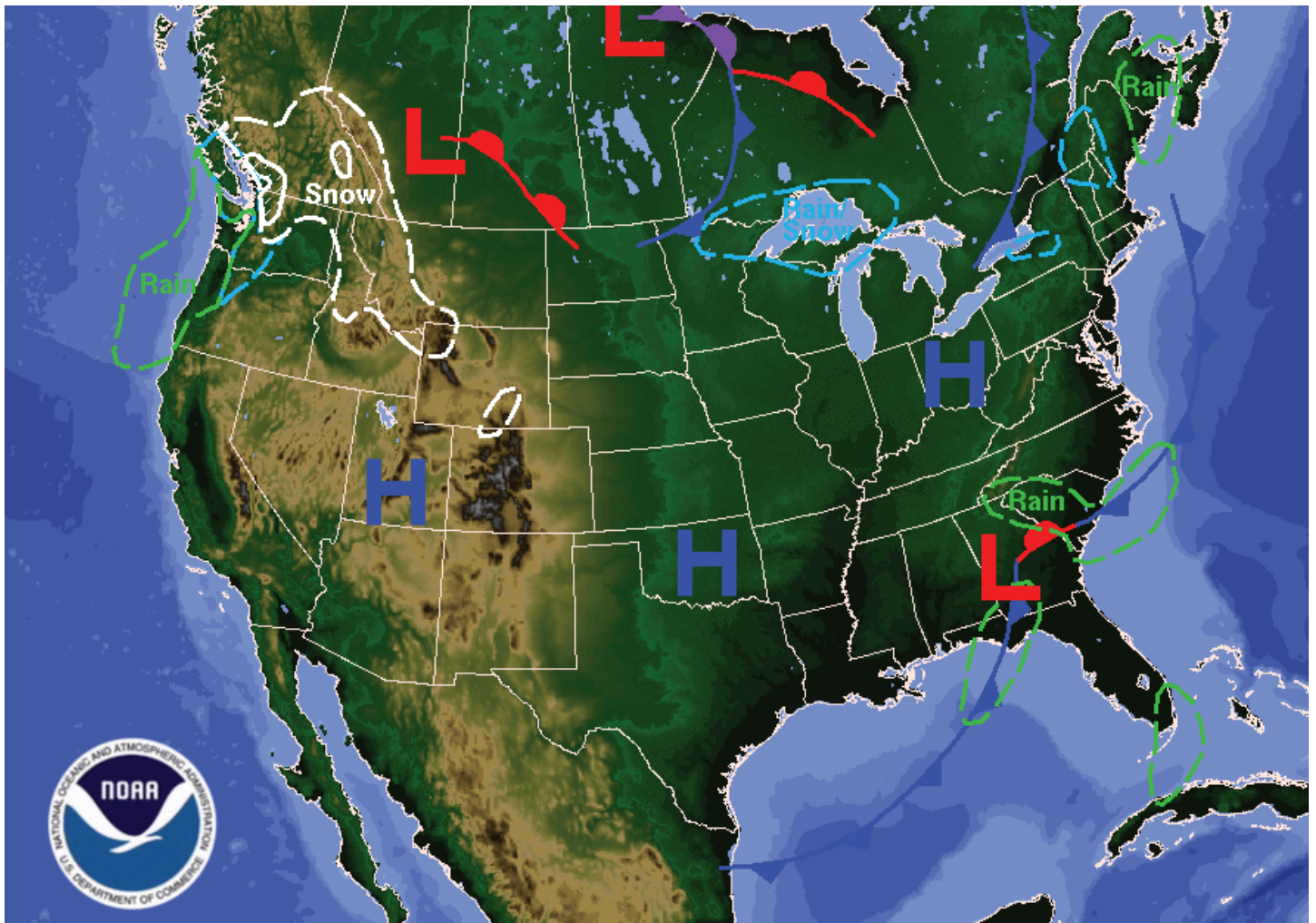
Precip to date in Dec: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.22

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:54 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Dec 01, 2017, issued 4:40 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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ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Hal and Matt, two longtime friends, accidentally met in a department store a few weeks before Christmas. They gave each other a forced smile – as if they were happy to see each other – but wished their meeting was under different circumstances.

“You know,” said Hal, “I’ve come to the conclusion that Christmas has become a wrap race.”

“I agree,” replied Matt. “And I’ll tell you something else. I’ve finally discovered the real meaning of the word Yule.”

“Oh,” responded Hal. “What is it? I’d like to know myself.”

“It’s my wife saying in a very convincing voice, ‘You’ll buy me this and then you’ll buy me that!’ I feel like I have no choice but to buy her whatever she asks for,” replied Matt. “Every thing seems to be about things.”

It would be a wise investment of our time this Christmas to try to imagine what God might have seen when He looked into the manger. Certainly it was more, much more, than a Baby. Did He see the crowds ridiculing and mocking His Son? Did He turn His head when He saw the “kiss of betrayal” from Judas? Was His mind troubled by the trial that unjustly condemned His Son? Did He weep when He saw Jesus hanging from the cross? Certainly. But let’s not forget to see the smile that was on His face and the peace that flooded into His heart when He saw the empty tomb.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to get ready for Christmas by seeing its sights and sounds thru Your eyes. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 14:9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

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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

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News from the Associated Press

Business conditions index slips but still shows good signs

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Economists say a business conditions index for nine Midwest and Plains states dropped over the past month but also say it still suggests that regional economic conditions continue to improve.

A report released Friday says the Mid-America Business Conditions Index slipped to 57.2 in November from 58.8 in October. The September figure was 58.2 in September.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says the manufacturing sector has reported consistent growth over the past several months.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

S Dakota beats UMKC 82-63 behind Mooney's 30 points

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Matt Mooney scored 30 points on 10-of-14 shooting and made 8 of 9 free throws and South Dakota beat UMKC 82-63 on Thursday night.

Nick Fuller scored a career-high 15 points with eight rebounds and Trey Burch-Manning grabbed 14 rebounds for the Coyotes (7-2), who outrebounded the Kangaroos 46-27 and outscored them 38-20 in the paint. Triston Simpson dished five assists.

Mooney's 3-point play gave the Coyotes a 41-31 lead early in the second half and they pulled ahead by 21 points after Triston Simpson's layup capped a 7-0 run with 11:51 to go. UMKC closed to 14 on Xavier Bishop's free throw with 10:04 left, but got no closer.

UMKC led 11-7 on Bishop's jumper, but Brandon Armstrong put the Coyotes up 27-26 with a free throw after seven lead changes and five ties. Burch-Manning made a layup and Fuller a 3-point play and South Dakota led 36-30 at halftime. The Coyotes then shot 57 percent in the second half.

Bishop led UMKC (3-6) with 16 points, Jordan Giles added 12 and Aleer Leek 10.

Prisons struggle with South Dakota's meth 'epidemic'

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota corrections officials say they're struggling to manage a growing prison population due to the state's methamphetamine epidemic.

Corrections Secretary Denny Kaemingk told a state corrections commission Wednesday that South Dakota's current prison population stands at nearly 3,910 men and women, compared to about 3,560 in 2015, the Rapid City Journal reported. The nine-person commission was formed to help the state Department of Corrections identify criminal justice issues and appropriate responses.

"The meth epidemic is the driving force behind what we are seeing," Kaemingk said.

He noted that the majority of state inmates are nonviolent offenders. As of the end of June, 54 percent of male inmates and 84 percent of the women in state prisons in South Dakota fell into that category, according to the secretary's data.

The Corrections Department is creating a program for nonviolent female offenders in Pennington County that would offer drug and alcohol treatment at home as an alternative to incarceration. As of October 2016, Pennington County female offenders encompassed a quarter of the state's total female population in prison, which is the most out of any county.

The program is expected to benefit at least 100 women. The program, set to begin by May, is financed by a \$1.75 million Department of Justice grant.

The department is now reviewing bids from service providers and will start recruitment and training in

January.

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

Governor requests all flags at half-staff for late lawmaker

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is requesting that all flags in South Dakota be flown at half-staff to honor state Rep. Craig Tieszen on the day of his funeral.

The governor's office says that Tieszen's funeral will be held Monday in Rapid City. The 68-year-old Tieszen and his brother-in-law, 61-year-old Brent Moline, drowned in a kayaking accident last week off an island in the South Pacific.

Cook Islands police have said Tieszen and Moline were paddling kayaks at a reef Nov. 22 when both ran into difficulty toward its ocean side.

The men were attending a family wedding in the Cook Islands.

Daugaard's office says a public visitation for Moline will be held Sunday in Rapid City. The family will have a private funeral at a later time.

Wildfire in southeast North Dakota under control

HANKINSON, N.D. (AP) — Officials say a wildfire that's burned about 800 acres in southeast North Dakota is under control.

Richland County's emergency manager Brett Lambrecht says firefighters from 10 departments, including New Effington, South Dakota, helped battle the blaze in very windy conditions.

Lambrecht tells KFGO the fire is about three miles long and two miles wide. Firefighters from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service monitored the fire overnight Wednesday.

There are no injuries.

Information from: KFGO-AM, <http://www.kfgo.com>

Yankton man dies of injuries suffered in fire

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A Yankton man has died of injuries he suffered in a residential fire earlier this week.

Yankton County Sheriff Jim Vlahakis says 44-year-old Arthur Lehe died Tuesday, a day after he was injured in a fire that broke out at a Yankton trailer home. One person was able to escape from the home, which was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

Lehe was pulled from the home by sheriff's deputies and firefighters. He was taken to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital and transferred to a burn unit at a hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he died.

Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles tells the Press & Dakotan that the cause of the fire has not been determined.

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

Colleges review honors amid sexual misconduct allegations

By COLLIN BINKLEY, Associated Press

The wave of sexual allegations from Hollywood to Washington has left many U.S. colleges weighing whether to revoke honorary degrees and other accolades awarded to prominent men accused of misconduct.

Dozens of schools have bestowed honors upon men who now face accusations ranging from sexual harassment to assault. Fired news anchor Charlie Rose has at least nine honorary degrees, for example, and Pixar executive John Lasseter has two.

Some schools have already started cutting ties, including the University at Buffalo, which rescinded a 2001 honorary degree awarded to film mogul and alumnus Harvey Weinstein. The University of Kansas and

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Arizona State recently pulled two journalism awards from Rose, citing allegations of groping and inappropriate behavior from several women.

But other schools have yet to decide the fate of similar symbolic accolades, which are often given to honor success but have increasingly been withdrawn when recipients fall from grace.

"It's an issue that more colleges are facing now, and I think each one will look very carefully at these situations and make their own determination," said Timothy McDonough, a vice president of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

Three schools — North Carolina State, New York's Oswego State and New Jersey's Montclair State — are all reconsidering honorary degrees given to Rose before he was fired from CBS and PBS on Nov. 21.

The final decision at North Carolina State and Oswego State will be made by their governing boards, which traditionally hold the power to confer and rescind degrees. Oswego State officials said Thursday that they have started the process to revoke Rose's 2014 honorary degree.

"These are credible allegations of predatory sexual harassment that completely conflict with the core values of our institution and significantly degrade the achievements that were the basis for awarding him an honorary degree," university President Deborah Stanley said.

Some others, however, are standing behind similar commendations.

The Juilliard School in New York, which gave an honorary doctorate to actor Kevin Spacey in 2000, said it does not rescind such honors. Spokeswoman Alexandra Day said the degrees are granted "based on information known about the artist at the time of the award."

Only hours after NBC host Matt Lauer was fired on Wednesday, some alumni of Ohio University, his alma mater, were calling on officials to scrub his legacy from the school. University officials said they were "disappointed to hear of Matt Lauer's alleged conduct" but have no policy to revoke a 1999 Medal of Merit awarded to him.

After another prominent OU alumnus, Fox News founder Roger Ailes, was accused of sexual harassment, the university decided last year to take his name off a campus newsroom and return a \$500,000 gift.

Georgetown University declined to comment on an honorary degree given to Rose in 2015 but said the school has never revoked one.

McDonough, of the governing boards association, said it's rare for schools to rescind honors but that more are likely to do so following the recent rash of allegations. At many schools, it's a question of whether the recipient's alleged actions come into significant conflict with the university's ideals, he said.

Efforts to strip honors have come from students, faculty, administrators and outside critics. More than 20 schools have rescinded honorary degrees given to comedian Bill Cosby, accused by dozens of women



FILE - In this April 26, 2016 file photo, Charlie Rose attends the TIME 100 Gala, celebrating the 100 most influential people in the world in New York. Some U.S. universities are reviewing whether to revoke honorary degrees given to prominent men accused of sexual misconduct. North Carolina State, Oswego State and Montclair State are reviewing honorary degrees given to Rose, who has been accused of harassment. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)

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of various kinds of sexual misconduct including assault, amid pressure from students and staff. The few that have not rescinded honors from Cosby include Temple University, his alma mater.

Student newspapers at North Carolina State and Duke University recently published editorials saying Rose should be stripped of honors from the schools. Officials at Duke, where Rose studied and received an honorary doctorate in 2016, declined to respond specifically to the Rose case but said the school has never revoked any of the hundreds of honorary degrees conferred since the 1920s.

Universities vary widely in their policies for granting honorary degrees, and even more so in their rules for revoking them. Many are given to prominent figures who speak on campus or to notable alumni. Governing boards often take recommendations from the president and discuss the matter in private sessions to avoid public scrutiny.

Marist College, a private school in New York, has faced calls to rescind a 2001 honorary degree given to alumnus and former Fox News host Bill O'Reilly over allegations of harassment, but the school has no formal policy for giving or rescinding awards. Spokeswoman Julia Fishman said the governing board recently started the process to craft one.

Robert O'Neil, a former president at the University of Virginia, said honorary degrees are supposed to honor professional achievement but often have other motivations.

"In many cases, it's just to recognize a wealthy donor," O'Neil told the AP. "I think the eclectic or haphazard process at some institutions risks creating a very bad precedent."

Tax records show that some recently accused men have donated to the schools that honored them. Rose contributed at least \$9,500 to Duke through his foundation between 2013 and 2015, records show, while O'Reilly gave \$25,000 to Marist in that period, along with a \$1 million donation to start a scholarship program.

Many universities declined to comment on honors given to embroiled men, including Clark Atlanta University, which gave an honorary doctorate to Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., in May, and the Savannah College of Art and Design, which conferred one to Lasseter in 2015.

Some schools, however, have long shunned the practice of awarding honorary degrees. The University of Virginia and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology forbid it, with policies that stem from the teachings of Thomas Jefferson, who sometimes disparaged all degrees as "meaningless credentials."

O'Neil said other schools may need to adopt similar policies to avoid embarrassment in the future, while others will likely be more selective when choosing recipients.

"I expect that the whole process will be much tidier and much more conscientious going forward," he said. "They don't want to make any mistakes now."

Follow Binkley on Twitter at @cbinkley.

Trial focused on shooting despite spotlight on immigration

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Though the 2015 shooting death of Kate Steinle became a flashpoint in an intense national debate over immigration, the issue was never addressed inside the courtroom where a jury acquitted a Mexican national of murder and manslaughter — a verdict President Donald Trump called a "complete travesty of justice."

From the outset, the judge barred any mention of Jose Ines Garcia Zarate's immigration status or the five times he was arrested and deported to Mexico before he came back across the border. The judge said the jury should consider only Garcia Zarate's intentions on the July evening when Steinle was shot.

"His immigration status had no bearing on whether he purposely pulled the trigger or not," legal analyst and defense attorney Dan Horowitz said of the immigration issue.

San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia argued the shooting was murder. The jury sided with the defense, which argued that the shooting was an accident, and found him guilty only of being a felon in possession of a firearm. That charge carries a maximum of three years in jail.

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Steinle was shot while walking with her father and a family friend on a San Francisco pier popular with tourists. Garcia Zarate said he was sitting on the pier when he found a gun under a chair. He said the gun was wrapped in a T-shirt and accidentally fired when he picked it up.

Before the shooting, Garcia Zarate had finished a federal prison sentence for illegal re-entry into the United States and had been transferred to San Francisco's jail in March 2015 to face a 20-year-old charge for selling marijuana.

The sheriff's department released him a few days after prosecutors dropped the marijuana charge, despite a request from federal immigration officials to detain him for deportation.

"San Francisco's decision to protect criminal aliens led to the preventable and heartbreaking death of Kate Steinle," U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement Thursday night. "I urge the leaders of the nation's communities to reflect on the outcome of this case and consider carefully the harm they are doing to their citizens by refusing to cooperate with federal law enforcement officers."

San Francisco is known as a "sanctuary city" because its policies bar local police from helping federal authorities identify and deport immigrants that came to the U.S. illegally.

President Barack Obama continued his Republican predecessor's policy which allowed federal immigration officials to request local law enforcement detain for up to 48 hours people suspected of living in the country illegally. But, in 2014, a federal judge ruled the practice of holding them without a warrant was likely unconstitutional.

At the time of the shooting, then-candidate Trump and others pointed to Steinle's death as reasons why the country's immigration laws should be tightened.

In a pre-dawn tweet Friday, the president blamed Democrats, saying: "The Schumer/Pelosi Democrats are so weak on Crime that they will pay a price in the 2018 and 2020 Elections." He was referring to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

He had called the verdict "disgraceful" on Thursday. And in Friday's social media messaging, Trump said that "the Kate Steinle killer came back and back over the weakly protected Obama border, always committing crimes and being violent, and yet this info was not used in court."

"His exoneration is a complete travesty of justice. BUILD THE WALL," Trump tweeted.

Defense attorney Francisco Ugarte said: "From Day 1 this case was used as a means to foment hate, to foment division and to foment a program of mass deportation. It was used to catapult a presidency along that philosophy of hate of others." He called the verdict a "vindication for the rest of immigrants."

ICE also blamed San Francisco's policy for Steinle's death and said Thursday night it would "ultimately



FILE - In this July 7, 2015 file photo, Jose Ines Garcia Zarate, right, is led into the courtroom by San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi, left, and Assistant District Attorney Diana Garciaor, center, for his arraignment at the Hall of Justice in San Francisco. A jury has reached a verdict Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017, in the trial of Mexican man at center of immigration debate in the San Francisco pier shooting. (Michael Macor/San Francisco Chronicle via AP, Pool, File)

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remove" Garcia Zarate from the country.

Jurors left the courtroom Thursday without comment and the judge sealed their identities.

Steinle's father, Jim, who was walking with her on the pier when she was killed, told the San Francisco Chronicle that "justice was rendered, but it was not served."

"We're just shocked — saddened and shocked ... that's about it," he said in an interview the family said would be its last.

Michael Cardoza, a longtime San Francisco Bay Area lawyer said the prosecutor made a mistake by asking the jury to convict Garcia Zarate of first-degree murder despite strong evidence that the bullet ricocheted around 90 feet (27 meters) before fatally striking Steinle on July 1, 2015. Cardoza said a better case could have been made to convince jurors Garcia Zarate had a "reckless disregard for human life" and convicted him of second-degree murder.

"The prosecutor got greedy," Cardoza said. "She lost credibility when she told jurors he pointed the gun at Kate Steinle."

Garcia declined comment afterward. Alex Bastian, a spokesman for the San Francisco district attorney's office, said the verdict "was not the one we were hoping for" but said prosecutors respect the jury's decision.

Prosecutors initially charged Garcia Zarate with second-degree murder, which meant they had to show jurors he had a "willful disregard for human life" when he picked up the gun. But at the end of the trial, the judge agreed to the prosecutor's request that jurors could also consider convicting him of first-degree murder if they believed Garcia Zarate meant to kill Steinle.

Garcia Zarate's attorneys argued that the ricochet of the fatal bullet supported an accidental shooting theory. Defense attorney Matt Gonzalez said told jurors he knows it's difficult to believe Garcia Zarate found an object that turned out to be a weapon, which fired when he picked it up.

But he said Garcia Zarate had no motivation to kill Steinle and that as awful as her death was, "nothing you do is going to fix that."

A U.S. Bureau of Land Management ranger reported the gun stolen from his SUV parked in San Francisco a few days before the shooting.

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. NEW TAX BILL COMES DOWN TO THE WIRE

Last-minute changes are being made on the Senate's \$1.4 trillion tax overhaul package ahead of the final vote.

2. POSSIBLE FAREWELL FOR TOP U.S. DIPLOMAT

President Trump is considering ousting Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and replacing him with CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

3. WHO COULD LOSE DIPLOMAS

Universities are considering revoking honorary degrees awarded to prominent men accused of sexual misconduct.

4. DIRTY FUEL IS U.S. EXPORT

U.S. oil refineries are selling petroleum coke, a highly-pollutant refining by-product, as fuel to energy-hungry countries like India.

5. WHAT THE POPE IS DOING TODAY

Pope Francis has ordained 16 priests during a Mass in Bangladesh and will meet with Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar at an interreligious prayer for peace.

6. WHO WILL BE SURRENDERING THE THRONE

Japan's Emperor Akihito will abdicate on April 30, 2019, ceding the throne to his elder son, Crown Prince Naruhito.

7. WHAT THE 50TH STATE IS PREPARING FOR

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Hawaii is testing its siren warning system for impending nuclear attacks because of North Korea's missile launches.

8. KIDNEY DONATION TAKES CENTER STAGE

Selena Gomez her Billboard woman of the year award should have been given to actress Francia Raisa, who donated her kidney to Gomez earlier this year.

9. KEBABS AT CENTER OF HEALTH CONCERNS

The European Union wants to ban the phosphates used in the slabs of meat grilled to make the doner kebab, the European equivalent of the American hamburger.

10. SOCCER NATIONS AWAIT 2018 WORLD CUP RIVALS

Representatives from the 32 teams in soccer's top competition are in Moscow for the tournament draw.

Japan's Emperor Akihito to abdicate on April 30, 2019

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's much admired Emperor Akihito is set to abdicate on April 30, 2019, at age 85 in the first such departure from the Chrysanthemum Throne in about 200 years, the government said Friday.

Akihito's elder son Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend the throne a day later, beginning a new as yet unnamed era.

The decision was made Friday at a meeting of the Imperial House Council, which was chaired by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and included parliamentary leaders, supreme court judges and imperial family members.

Akihito expressed his apparent wish to abdicate in August 2016, citing his age and health.

Abe will provide the summary of the meeting at the next Cabinet session early next week ahead of the formal approval expected on Dec. 8, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

"I feel deeply moved that the decision was made smoothly by the Imperial House Council, marking a major step toward an imperial succession," Abe said.

Suga said the timing was chosen so that Akihito can abdicate after reaching his 30th anniversary on the throne, a milestone. Late April is also more appropriate for many Japanese to embrace the change of an era after settling down from a busy period of travel and job transfers around April 1, the beginning of a new fiscal year.

The events also mean longer Golden Week holidays — up to 10 straight days for those who can take May 2 off.

Legislation allowing Akihito to abdicate within three years was enacted earlier this year.

There will be more preparations to come, including deciding a new era name and a new home for the emperor and the empress, Suga said.



Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., joins protesters outside the Capitol as Republicans in the Senate work to pass their sweeping tax bill, a blend of generous tax cuts for businesses and more modest tax cuts for families and individuals, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017. It would mark the first time in 31 years that Congress has overhauled the tax code, making it the biggest legislative achievement of President Donald Trump's first year in office. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

"We would like everyone to celebrate an abdication of the emperor and succession of the crown prince," he said.

Akihito's desire to leave the throne revived a debate about the country's 2,000-year-old monarchy, one of the world's oldest, as well as discussion about improving the status of female members of the shrinking royal population. The current male-only succession rules prohibit women from succeeding to the Chrysanthemum Throne and female members lose their royal status when they marry a commoner.

Akihito was 56 years old when he ascended the throne in January 1989 after the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito, beginning the Heisei Era. Naruhito will be 59 when he becomes emperor.

Naruhito has no son, and only two other men — his younger brother Akishino and his son — are left as eligible successors.

On Friday, Naruhito's only child, Princess Aiko, turned 16 — the age women are allowed to marry under Japan's constitution. One of Akishino's two adult daughters is marrying a commoner next year, when the royal family

would lose all three female members of the younger generation unless the law is revised. Conservative lawmakers oppose allowing female royals to succeed the throne or head the household.

The emperor and his wife, Empress Michiko, who was born a commoner, are an elegant, stately pair often seen making visits to disaster victims and carrying out other official duties.

The legislation for Akihito's case was needed because the 1947 Imperial House Law does not provide for abdication. The last emperor to abdicate was Kokaku in 1817.



FILE - In this June 19, 2012 file photo, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko leave after praying at the altar of the late Prince Tomohito, in Tokyo. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Emperor Akihito plans to abdicate on April 30, 2019, in the first such abdication in about 200 years. The emperor will be 85 by then and has cited his age as a concern. Akihito's elder son Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend the throne a day later, on May 1, 2019, beginning a new era. (AP Photo/Itsuo Inouye, File)

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>

Find her work also on APNews at <https://www.apnews.com/search/mari%20yamaguchi>

Tesla builds world' biggest battery in Australian Outback

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — The world's biggest lithium-ion battery has plugged into an Australian state grid, an official said Friday, easily delivering on Tesla Inc. chief executive Elon Musk's 100-day guarantee.

Musk promised to build the 100-megawatt battery within 100 days of the contracts being signed at the end of September or hand it over to the South Australia state government for free.

South Australia Premier Jay Weatherill announced Friday the battery began dispatching power into the state grid on Thursday afternoon, providing 70 megawatts as temperatures rose above 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

"South Australia is now leading the world in dispatchable renewable energy, delivered to homes and

businesses 24/7," Weatherill said.

The official launch came a little over 60 days after the deal was signed. But crucially, it came on the first day of the Australian summer — the season when power usage soars due to air conditioning use.

Tesla says the battery has the capacity to power 30,000 homes for up to an hour in the event of a severe blackout, but is more likely to be called into action to boost supply during peak demand periods.

The battery power packs are installed near the Outback town of Jamestown, about 200 kilometers (120 miles) north of the state capital Adelaide. They store energy generated by the neighboring Hornsdale Wind Farm, owned by French renewable energy company Neoen, to bring added reliability and stability to the state grid.

Tesla partnered with Neoen to build the battery, which is more than three times larger than the previous record-holder at Mira Loma, California.

South Australia, which relies heavily on solar and wind-generated energy, has been scrambling to find a way to bolster its fragile power grid since the entire state suffered a blackout during a storm last year. Further blackouts plagued the state over the next few months.

The battery farm is part of a 550 million Australian dollar (\$420 million) plan announced in March by Weatherill to make the state independent of the nation's power grid. The cost of the battery has not been made public.

The Australian grid operator has warned of potential shortages of gas-fired electricity across southeast Australia by late next year. The shortage is looming as Australia is expected to soon overtake Qatar as the world's biggest exporter of liquid natural gas. Australia is also a major exporter of coal, which fires much of its electricity generation and makes the country one of the world's worst greenhouse gas polluters on a per capita basis.

Senate GOP hustles to meet tax bill holdouts' demands

By MARCY GORDON and STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans are stepping quickly to meet competing demands of holdout GOP senators for a tax overhaul package expected to add \$1 trillion to the nation's deficit over 10 years.

The Republicans eye a crucial final vote Friday on the \$1.4 trillion Senate bill carrying the hopes of President Donald Trump and the Republican Party to preserve their majorities in next year's elections.

Amid a whirl of meetings and dramatic votes Thursday evening, the Senate GOP leaders rewrote the bill behind closed doors. They weighed scaling back the tax cuts in the legislation to secure crucial support.

The leaders were making major changes up to the last minute, including one that would roll back some of the tax cuts after six years to appease deficit hawks — notably



Senate Armed Services Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., arrives for votes on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday evening, Nov. 27, 2017. President Donald Trump and Senate Republicans are scrambling to change a Republican tax bill in an effort to win over holdout GOP senators and pass a tax package by the end of the year. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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Sens. Bob Corker of Tennessee and Jeff Flake of Arizona.

Another faction to be reckoned with: senators supporting millions of businesses whose owners report the firm's profits on their individual tax returns. The vast majority of U.S. businesses, big and small, are taxed this way. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., backed the tax legislation Wednesday after securing an increase in the deduction for business income from 17.4 percent to 20 percent.

But Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said Thursday that he is still withholding support for the bill because he'd like the deduction boosted to 25 percent.

The scramble to alter the bill came after the Senate's parliamentarian ruled that automatic "triggers" designed to guard against big deficits would violate Senate rules. GOP leaders' main concern was winning over the hawks worried about adding more red ink to the mounting \$20 trillion deficit.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., had expressed confidence early in the day, but he has little margin for error with a 52-48 Republican majority. He can afford to lose only two votes while counting on Vice President Mike Pence to break the tie.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said the bill will have "alternative, frankly, tax increases we don't want to do" to address deficit concerns.

Flake said the "trigger" tax increases would raise about \$350 billion over 10 years, though he didn't specify which taxes would go up.

In a dramatic turn, Democrats forced a vote on whether to return the measure to the Senate Finance Committee so it could be rewritten to ensure smaller deficits. After holding out for nearly an hour during the vote, Corker, Flake and Johnson eventually joined fellow Republicans to scuttle the Democratic proposal.

Corker has pushed to add automatic tax increases in future years if the package doesn't raise as much revenue as projected.

With the provision seemingly dead, Corker said senators would change the bill to roll back some of the tax cuts in future years, regardless of whether tax revenues meet expectations. Flake said the tax increases would take effect after six years.

The overall legislation would bring the first overhaul of the U.S. tax code in 31 years. It would slash the corporate tax rate, offer more modest cuts for families and individuals and eliminate several popular deductions.

Unlike the tax bill passed by the House two weeks ago, the Senate measure would end the requirement in President Barack Obama's health care law that people pay a tax penalty if they don't buy health insurance.

The tax cuts for individuals in the Senate plan would expire in 2026 while the corporate tax cuts would be permanent.

Both the House and Senate bills would nearly double the standard deduction to around \$12,000 for individuals and about \$24,000 for married couples.

After Senate passage, lawmakers will try to reconcile the Senate bill with the House version in hopes of delivering a first major legislative accomplishment to Trump by Christmas.

A new analysis by the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation found that the Senate bill would add \$1 trillion to the deficit over a decade.

The bill would increase economic growth, generating an additional \$458 billion in tax revenue, according to the analysis. That's far short of the \$2 trillion promised by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Two Republican senators, John McCain of Arizona and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, announced their support for the tax package Thursday, giving it a major boost. The two had voted against the GOP bill to dismantle the Obama health care law this past summer.

Senators were still grappling with several issues, including a provision to add a deduction for local property taxes. The current Senate bill completely eliminates the federal deduction for state and local taxes, a popular benefit in the Democratic-leaning states of New York, New Jersey, California and Illinois as well as many wealthy suburbs nationwide.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, proposed an amendment to let homeowners deduct up to \$10,000 in local property taxes on their federal returns. It's similar to a provision in the House-passed bill. Without the deduction, Collins said, it would be "very problematic for me" to vote for the bill.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

Follow Stephen Ohlemacher on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/stephenatap>

Pope to greet Rohingya refugees at Bangladesh peace prayer

By NICOLE WINFIELD and JULHAS ALAM, Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Pope Francis ordained 16 priests during a Mass in Bangladesh on Friday, the start of a busy day that will bring him face-to-face with Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar at an interreligious prayer for peace.

An estimated 100,000 people gathered in a Dhaka park for the service, which mirrored the ordination Mass St. John Paul II celebrated when he visited Bangladesh in 1986. Since then, the Catholic Church here has bloomed, with a near doubling of the number of priests and dioceses around the country.

Later Friday, Francis hosts an interfaith peace prayer alongside Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and other Christian leaders in the garden of the archbishop's residence. Francis has frequently used such events to demand that religion must never be used to justify violence — a message that will likely resonate in Bangladesh, which has experienced a series of attacks blamed on Muslim militants in recent years.

The Vatican said 18 Rohingya refugees from camps in Cox's Bazar will be on hand at the event to greet the pope.

Upon his arrival in Dhaka on Thursday, Francis demanded the international community intervene to resolve the Rohingya crisis, which has seen more than 620,000 refugees flee Myanmar's Rakhine state for Bangladesh in what the U.N. says is a textbook case of "ethnic cleansing."

Francis, who had refrained from publicly raising the crisis while in Myanmar out of diplomatic deference to his hosts, didn't identify the Rohingya by name, ethnicity or faith in his arrival speech. He referred only to "refugees from Rakhine state." But his words were sharp, lamenting the "immense toll of human suffering" among the refugees and the sacrifice Bangladesh was making to try to cope with what has become Asia's worst refugee crisis in decades.

"It is imperative that the international community take decisive measures to address this grave crisis, not only by working to resolve the political issues that have led to the mass displacement of people, but also by offering immediate material assistance to Bangladesh in its effort to respond effectively to urgent human needs," he said.

Human rights organizations and Rohingya themselves had voiced disappointment at Francis' public silence



Pope Francis waves to faithful as he arrives arrives to celebrate mass and the ordination of new priests in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Friday, Dec. 1, 2017. Pope Francis ordained 16 priests during a Mass in Bangladesh on Friday, the start of a busy day that will bring him face-to-face with Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar and the reality of Islamic extremism in South Asia. (AP Photo/Aijaz Rahi)

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in Myanmar, given he had previously denounced the persecution of "our Rohingya brothers and sisters." The Vatican defended it as diplomatically necessary, and stressed that his silence in public didn't negate what he had said in the past, or what he was saying in private.

Rohingya, though, again expressed dismay on Friday that Francis had refrained from identifying them by name, as he had done in the Vatican.

"The fact that hundreds of thousands of people are in trouble and the fact that he cannot even use the word that represents that population, it's so sad to see," said Faizel, a 27-year-old Rohingya who lives in a confined camp outside of the capital Sittwe in Rakhine state. "If people with power don't want to represent us, our future is very uncertain."

Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, said Francis had missed an opportunity while in Myanmar to affirm the Rohingya identity before the very Burmese authorities who are trying to deny it. While welcoming Francis' appeal for urgent aid to Bangladesh, Robertson said: "By his actions, the pope put a major dent in his reputation as a person not afraid to speak truth to power, and sadly appears to have gotten little in exchange for it."

Friday morning, Francis' attention turned toward Bangladesh's tiny Catholic community, which represents a fraction of 1 percent of the majority Muslim population of 160 million. Despite its small size, the Catholic Church runs a network of schools, orphanages and clinics and has enjoyed relative freedom in its work, though Christian missionaries say they have received letters threatening dire consequences if they continue to spread Christianity.

In his homily ordaining the new priests, Francis thanked those who came out for the Mass, noting that some people had travelled two days to attend.

"Thank you for your generosity," Francis said. "This indicates the love that you have for the church."

The celebration took place in Dhaka's Suhrawardy Udayan Park, where in 1971, independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered a speech laying the groundwork for Bangladesh's independence. Dhaka Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, named Bangladesh's first-ever cardinal by Francis last year, told the pope at the end of the Mass that Friday's ordinations made the sacred ground even more meaningful.

Bangladesh has traditionally enjoyed peaceful co-existence with its ethnic and religious minorities, but in recent years several attacks blamed on extremists have targeted atheists, foreigners, Christians and even members of smaller Islamic sects.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has rejected the claim, saying the group doesn't exist in the country. The government has blamed the domestic group, Jumatul Mujahedein Bangladesh, for the assaults.

Bangladesh's security agencies launched a serious crackdown in July last year after five young men stormed a cafe in Dhaka's diplomatic zone and killed 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners. To date, the agencies have killed about 60 commanding level suspected militants.

Associated Press writer Esther Htusan in Bangkok contributed to this report.

Opponents in LGBT case agree: It's not about wedding cake

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

In a legal case with profound implications for LGBT rights and religion's place in public life, the opposing sides agree on this: It's not about the cake.

At its core, the case that goes before the U.S. Supreme Court for oral arguments on Dec. 5 is a showdown between a gay couple from Colorado and a Denver-area baker who in 2012 cited his Christian faith in refusing to make a cake for their wedding celebration.

Jack Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, was judged through multiple phases of litigation to have violated Colorado's anti-discrimination law. Through his lawyers, he now gets to argue before the highest court in the land that he's an artist who should not be compelled to create a cake that contradicts his religious views.

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For Phillips' legion of supporters — including conservative politicians, advocacy groups and religious institutions — the case has ramifications for creative professionals of all kinds.

"Every American should be free to choose which art they will create and which art they won't create without fear of being unjustly punished by the government," Phillips recently told a rally of local supporters.

For advocates of LGBT rights, the stakes are perilously high. They fear a Supreme Court ruling in Phillips' favor would open the door to discrimination by a wide range of business owners and entrepreneurs.

"Cakes can often have artistic or creative designs. So can sandwiches, legal briefs, bicycles, cars, flowers, medical care," American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Chase Strangio argued in a recent blog post.

"If a baker can reject LGBTQ people because of who we are, then what about the mechanic, the florist, the doctor, the teacher?" Strangio asked. "This is not about cake. This is not about art. This is about survival."

The case reaches the Supreme Court at a stressful time for the LGBT rights movement.

Just two years ago, the high court delivered the movement its greatest victory — a 5-4 decision paving the way for same-sex marriage to become legal nationwide. But that achievement, coming just 11 years after Massachusetts became the first state to recognize gay marriage, has been partly offset by subsequent political developments.

The sweeping Republican election victory in November 2016 solidified social conservatives' dominance in Congress and a majority of states and set the stage for President Donald Trump's administration to roll back several LGBT-friendly initiatives undertaken during Barack Obama's two terms in office.

Protections for transgender students have been weakened, and Trump is seeking to ban transgender people from military service. In October, Attorney General Jeff Sessions — a longtime skeptic of LGBT-rights initiatives — issued "religious exemptions" guidance that could override many anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people and others.

The net result: LGBT activists see little prospect of short-term progress at the federal level, even as they remain heartened by the ever-growing ranks of corporations and local governments that are acting to make LGBT people feel welcome and to curb discrimination against them. The local laws can be important, given that only 21 states have statewide laws barring discrimination against gays and lesbians in public accommodations.

Lambda Legal, a prominent LGBT-rights group, was among dozens of organizations submitting briefs to the Supreme Court on behalf of the Colorado couple, Charlie Craig and David Mullins.

The group argued that LGBT people, for all their recent civil rights advances, still encounter varied forms of discrimination in the public square. Among its examples: a lesbian couple denied infertility treatment in San Diego, a gay Iowa couple rebuffed in efforts to rent a wedding venue, a transgender man turned away from a New Jersey hospital where he sought a hysterectomy.

"This is why nondiscrimination laws like Colorado's are so important," wrote Lambda's law and policy director, Jennifer Pizer. "So that people can live their lives without fearing that, at any moment, they may be turned away or verbally abused just for who they are."

Craig and Mullins spent only a few moments at the bakery in 2012 before Phillips' rebuff hit home.

"There was horrible pregnant pause," Mullins recalls. "It was publicly humiliating and it was painful."

"Never in a million years did we think that five years later we'd be going to the Supreme Court," he said. "It's been emotionally trying. You sort of have to relive that pain again and again."

For opponents of same-sex marriage, religious liberty and religious freedom have become watchwords for a broad campaign to carve out more public space for their viewpoints.

There have been defeats. Earlier this year, Washington state's Supreme Court ruled unanimously that florist Barronelle Stutzman broke the state's anti-discrimination law by refusing to provide flowers for a same-sex wedding. In October, two women who specialize in hand-lettering and calligraphy for weddings lost the latest round of their challenge of a Phoenix ordinance requiring them to provide their services for same-sex weddings.

There have been some victories as well.

In Michigan, a federal judge recently ordered the city of East Lansing to make room for a farmer who was barred from selling apples at a seasonal market because he doesn't let gay couples get married at his orchard, which is a popular wedding spot. A panel of U.S. appellate judges has allowed a sweeping Mississippi law to take effect that lets government workers and business owners cite religious beliefs to deny services to LGBT people. The law, now the subject of an appeal to the Supreme Court, protects three beliefs: that marriage is only between a man and a woman, that gender cannot be changed and that sex outside of marriage is wrong.

Back in 2014, the Supreme Court declined to weigh in on a case with similarities to the Colorado dispute. The justices rebuffed a request to review a New Mexico Supreme Court decision holding that a photography studio violated the state's anti-discrimination laws by refusing to photograph a same-sex commitment ceremony.

Three years later, the high court has opted to wade into the same high-voltage issues, assessing whether Phillips' right to freedom of speech outweighs Colorado's interest in protecting Mullins and Craig from discrimination. It will mark the most important LGBT-rights case for conservative Coloradan Neil Gorsuch since he joined the Supreme Court in April.

However, the outcome could turn on the vote of Justice Anthony Kennedy, as it often does in cases that otherwise break along the court's liberal-conservative divide.

Kennedy's legacy is firmly tied to his authorship of major gay rights rulings dating back to 1996, including the landmark 2015 decision making same-sex marriage legal nationwide. At the same time, Kennedy, 81, has forcefully defended free-speech rights in his nearly 30 years as a justice.

Each side has tailored its arguments to appeal to one of those two strains in hopes of attracting Kennedy's vote.

Phillips still stoutly defends his 2012 rebuff of Mullins and Craig, saying he offered to sell them virtually any of his baked goods except a custom cake for their wedding.

"I don't create custom designs for events or messages that conflict with my conscience," he said at the recent rally of his supporters. "I don't create cakes for Halloween, bachelor or bachelorette parties, and anti-American cakes. I've turned down a cake order for an anti-LGBT message."

To the other side, Phillips' arguments seem like an invitation to intolerance.

"This case is not about a cake. It's not about a baker," Craig says. "It's about us being able to be free to be treated equally in the public realm."

Associated Press writers Mark Sherman in Washington and P. Solomon Banda in Denver contributed to this report.

Accusers face risks in breaking nondisclosure agreements

By MICHAEL TARM, AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Details of alleged sexual assaults by Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, comedian Bill Cosby and other famous figures are now widely known in part because several accusers did something they promised in writing never to do: They talked publicly about their allegations.

When those women spoke out, they broke nondisclosure agreements — contractual pledges not to discuss what happened that are common features of financial settlements. In doing so, they helped start a national discussion about sexual misconduct and showed that the agreements do not necessarily offer the same ironclad protection that for decades has shielded the rich and powerful.

A look at how the agreements work and what can happen when accusers go public anyway:

WHAT THEY ARE

The agreements amount to contracts to buy and sell silence. Some require that accusers destroy emails

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and other evidence related to the allegations. The pacts are typically signed before an accuser sues or before a lawsuit gets to trial.

The accusers may see trading silence for money as their sole recourse to obtain a degree of justice, especially if statutes of limitation rule out criminal charges. Others fear opting for a civil or criminal trial means an emotionally draining courtroom fight in a media spotlight.

"Many women go into the settlement agreement because they just don't want to face what potentially could be coming," said former Fox News anchor Juliet Huddy, who, according to a New York Times report in January, signed a confidentiality deal to settle claims against former Fox News host Bill O'Reilly. "Some people just want to make it go away and move on with their lives."

Those comments to NBC in October came in her first extended interview since the out-of-court settlement in 2016 with 21st Century Fox, Fox News' parent company. But with her lawyer beside her, she was careful not to break the confidentiality pledge. She talked only generally about women coping with abuse but declined to offer any details about the allegations or settlement.

Zelda Perkins, a former Weinstein assistant, was among the first of his accusers to break a commitment to stay quiet — one she kept for nearly 20 years, until an October interview with the Financial Times. She said she's speaking now about how Weinstein sexually harassed her "on every occasion I was alone with him" and about her 1998 settlement to spark debate "about how egregious these agreements are."

THE CHALLENGE OF ENFORCEMENT

Two parties can agree to do just about anything in writing, but that does not mean courts will enforce the terms if disputes arise. Judges can refuse to enforce confidentiality clauses if there's a wider public interest in breaking the silence, such as an accusers' wish to expose an abuser so others are not victimized. Contracts clearly aimed at concealing crimes can be deemed unenforceable. And, in some instances, judges can decline to enforce them if they violate a victim's free-speech rights.

Most judges would be reluctant to penalize a victim who violates a confidentiality pact, said Alan Garfield, a Delaware law professor. But each state sets its own rules about the provisions, he explained, and there's no consensus among judges about assessing their legality.

"There's just enough uncertainty to make people afraid to breach them," he said.

SUING THE ACCUSER

When victims do break their silence, the accused have the option of suing for breach of contract, asking that settlement payouts be returned. But such action can backfire, making the accused look even worse, said Garfield: "It would look like a continuation of the abuse."

It's also risky. It could generate more sympathy for the accuser and draw more attention to allegations the accused sought to hide in the first place.

Bill Cosby is among the few who tried anyway.

He sued Andrea Constand in early 2016, two months after Pennsylvania authorities charged him with drugging and molesting her in 2004. Cosby argued that she breached confidentiality terms in their 2006 settlement, including by answering prosecutors' questions before they charged him.

She said Cosby opened the way for her to go public by going public himself with sweeping denials about ever assaulting anyone. Cosby withdrew the suit months later.

Cosby's first trial in June ended in a hung jury. His retrial is pending.

OTHER CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS

Confidentiality provisions are often written into employment contracts. Former Fox News Channel CEO Roger Ailes sued former anchor Gretchen Carlson last year after she said publicly she was fired for refusing his sexual advances. Her allegations led to his ouster. Ailes, who died in May, said her contract prohibited her from going public until both sides first tried closed-door arbitration.

Prenuptial and postnuptial agreements can also contain confidentiality provisions. Donald Trump's did. In

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divorce-related proceedings, a New York court in 1992 let his first wife, Ivana Trump, strike a nondisclosure clause barring her from ever discussing their years as a couple. An appeals court reversed that decision, saying the confidentiality terms did not "offend public policy as a prior restraint on protected speech."

PROPOSED CHANGES

Legislators in several states are now pushing for laws specifically instructing courts not to enforce provisions that keep names of the accused secret. Pennsylvania state Sen. Judy Schwank said sexual predators have "hidden behind" nondisclosure agreements, enabling harassment "to grow like a cancer."

But among those who could lose out are victims themselves. It's the prospect that accusers might be willing, at the right price, to keep quiet that enables them to press for higher payouts.

If laws say courts cannot enforce such provisions, that leverage is lost. And if confidentiality is off the table, the accused may conclude there's no point in even trying to settle.

Questions about how Congress deals with such cases arose after Rep. John Conyers was accused of sexual harassment by a former aide.

Marion Brown said the Michigan Democrat propositioned her for sex multiple times over more than a decade. She broke a confidentiality agreement Thursday to tell her story to "Today."

"I felt it was worth the risk," Brown said, "to stand up for all the women in the workforce that are voiceless."

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mtarm> .

Hand it to Dak: Cowboys sans Elliott top Redskins 38-14

By SCHUYLER DIXON, AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott was getting X-rays on his swollen right hand when rookie Ryan Switzer scored his first career touchdown on an 83-yard punt return.

The extra time with the Dallas offense on the sideline kept Prescott from missing any plays, and last year's NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year led the Cowboys to their first win after three straight losses without suspended star running back Ezekiel Elliott.

Prescott threw two touchdown passes, including a franchise record-breaker to Dez Bryant, in the Cowboys' 38-14 victory over the Washington Redskins on Thursday night.

The injury happened in the second quarter when Prescott's right hand was hit by linebacker Josh Harvey-Clemons just as he made an option pitch to Rod Smith. Thanks to Switzer's dash to the end zone, Prescott didn't miss a snap. He said the X-rays came back negative.

"I don't know if I've ever broken my hand," Prescott said. "I couldn't grip initially right after because the (hand) swelled up on me so bad. As I said, they wrapped it up, got the swelling down and I was fine."

Bryant's leaping 13-yard catch in the end zone was the 2014 All-Pro's first score in six games and 72nd of his career, one more than Hall of Famer Bob Hayes.

The Cowboys (6-6) never trailed despite a sluggish start to the offense, thanks to three first-half turnovers and four overall by the Redskins (5-7). Dallas kept it going after halftime with a 21-7 scoring edge after getting outscored 72-6 in the second half during the three-game skid.

Alfred Morris, Elliott's replacement during the six-game suspension for alleged domestic violence, had 127 yards rushing and a clinching touchdown.

The Cowboys forced NFL-leading Philadelphia to wait until at least Sunday to clinch the division title. But Dallas still faces a steep climb to playoff contention, and two more games without Elliott.

The Redskins had already been eliminated in the division race and are virtually out of the postseason picture after Kirk Cousins threw two interceptions and lost a fumble while throwing two touchdown passes.

Jamison Crowder let the pass go through his hands on Cousins' first interception and fumbled on a Dallas punt a few plays later in the Redskins' fourth straight loss to the Cowboys, the longest such streak in the series since 2003-04.

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"It was just miscues," Cousins said. "A dropped ball here, we had a nice drive down the field the second drive, just a tough turnover, and then it was one thing after another that were just mistakes. They happen, and we have to correct them."

By the time the Redskins answered Switzer's punt return with a 75-yard drive that ended with Cousins' 20-yard scoring pass to Ryan Grant, Prescott was ready to return. He had been holding his right hand in his helmet once he returned to the sideline.

Rookie backup Cooper Rush had his helmet on when the Redskins punted.

"If we didn't have the return by Switz, Cooper Rush would have got in the ballgame at that point," coach Jason Garrett said. "We got the return, Dak was able to come back out."

Prescott only threw for 102 yards but didn't have a turnover after throwing five interceptions and losing three fumbles without a touchdown pass during the losing streak.

And the Cowboys looked more like the offense they have when Elliott is around, with Morris picking up big yardage on clock-killing drives with the Cowboys in front.

Cousins moved the Washington offense sporadically because he was consistently harassed behind a patchwork offensive line that had to shuffle some more because of injuries. Cousins, who was 26 of 37 for 251 yards, was replaced by Colt McCoy late in the fourth quarter.

SACKS ARE BACK

DeMarcus Lawrence, the NFL sacks leader most of the first half of the season, had two of Dallas' four sacks, ending a two-game drought for the entire team and extending his career high to 13 1/2. Cousins was hit hard by David Irving on a sack in the fourth quarter.

BRYANT'S IMPACT

Bryant still hasn't had a 100-yard game, his longest drought to start a season since his second year in 2011. But the 61-yard effort included a 24-yarder that set up his record-setting TD on the first play of the fourth quarter. "I was talking about that demeanor and that attitude that we carried," Prescott said. "I give him credit. He kind of brought it this week and pretty much tonight and you kind of felt it early."

MORE OL SHUFFLING

Redskins right tackle Morgan Moses didn't return after injuring an ankle in the first half, forcing Ty Nsekhe to that spot after he was a fill-in starter at left guard on a patchwork line that's been dealing with injuries all season.

Left tackle Trent Williams left the field briefly in the third quarter. He's been inactive three of the past six games because a knee injury that will require surgery. Washington was already missing center Chase Roullier because of a hand injury.

UP NEXT

Redskins: At Los Angeles Chargers on Dec. 10.

Cowboys: At New York Giants on Dec. 10 to start a season-ending stretch of three of four on the road.

___ More AP NFL: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Seoul: N. Korea's new missile could reach Washington

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Two days after North Korea test-launched its most powerful missile to date, a clearer picture is emerging of Pyongyang's impressive technological achievement — and what still remains before it can legitimately threaten the continental United States.

Many questions remain, but there's broad agreement from government and outside analyses that the huge Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile represents a significant step forward, putting the North very close to its goal of a viable arsenal of nuclear-tipped long-range missiles — maybe as early as the middle of next year.

The two-stage liquid-fuel missile fired Wednesday is potentially capable of striking targets as far as 13,000 kilometers (8,100 miles), which would put Washington within reach, South Korea's Defense Ministry said Friday in a report to lawmakers. It's also considerably larger than North Korea's previous ICBM, the Hwasong-14, and designed to deliver larger warheads, the ministry said. That would seem to confirm

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the North's boast after the launch that the Hwasong-15 can carry "super-large heavy nuclear warheads."

Michael Elleman, an analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said it appears that the Hwasong-15 can deliver a 1,000-kilogram (2,200 pound) payload to any point on the U.S. mainland. North Korea, which has so far conducted six nuclear tests, has almost certainly developed a nuclear warhead that weighs less than 700 kilograms (1,543 pounds), if not one considerably lighter, Elleman wrote Friday on the 38 North website.

North Korea said the missile on Wednesday reached an apogee of 4,475 kilometers (2,780 miles) and flew 950 kilometers (600 miles), splashing down close to Japan after being launched from a site near Pyongyang on a high trajectory to avoid other countries; that flight data was similar to what was announced by South Korea's military.

It's still not clear how close the missile is to being combat ready. The Defense Ministry told lawmakers that further review is needed to determine whether the missile's warhead can survive atmospheric re-entry, accurately hit a target and detonate properly.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in shared his country's assessment with President Donald Trump in a telephone conversation Thursday night. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen pressure and sanctions on Pyongyang to discourage its nuclear ambitions, Seoul's presidential office said Friday. Eugene Lee, spokeswoman of South Korea's Unification Ministry, which deals with affairs related to North Korea, said the Seoul government thinks the North hasn't crossed the "red line" in weapons development yet because it hasn't perfected its ICBMs.

North Korea has described its new ICBM as "significantly more" powerful than the Hwasong-14, which the North flight tested twice in July. Photos and video of the launch released by the North's state media on Thursday confirm the Hwasong-15 is an entirely different beast.

After initially assessing the missile as a modified version of the Hwasong-14 following Wednesday's launch, South Korea's military now says the Hwasong-15 is considerably larger and potentially capable of carrying bigger payloads.

The Hwasong-15 is longer than the Hwasong-14 by 2 meters (6.56 feet) and also thicker, particularly its second stage, which is 80 centimeters (2.62 feet) wider than Hwasong-14's second stage, Seoul's Defense Ministry said.

Hwasong-15's 9-axle transport vehicle, which the North also revealed for the first time, was also 2 meters (6.56 feet) longer than the 8-axle truck the North used to carry the Hwasong-14s.

The Hwasong-15's first stage is powered by a pair of engines that were also used in the single-engine first stages of the Hwasong-14, the ministry said. It was still working to analyze the construction of the second stage.

It's possible that the missile has been designed to carry simple decoys, or other countermeasures, to confuse the U.S. missile defense system, Elleman wrote.

He added that "if low confidence in the missile's reliability is acceptable, two or three test firings over the next four to six months may be all that is required before Kim Jong Un declares the Hwasong-15 combat ready."

Jury acquits Mexican man in San Francisco pier killing

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A jury on Thursday found a Mexican man not guilty in the killing of a woman on a San Francisco pier that touched off a fierce national immigration debate two years ago, rejecting possible charges ranging from involuntary manslaughter to first-degree murder.

The shooting of Kate Steinle came during the presidential primary campaign in 2015 and was used by then-candidate Donald Trump to push for a wall on the Mexican border.

The president called the verdict "disgraceful" on Twitter late Thursday.

"No wonder the people of our Country are so angry with Illegal Immigration," Trump wrote.

The suspect's lawyers said outside court that their client's immigration status was unfairly exploited for

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political purposes and had nothing to do with the criminal case.

"From Day 1 this case was used as a means to foment hate, to foment division and to foment a program of mass deportation. It was used to catapult a presidency along that philosophy of hate of others," defense attorney Francisco Ugarte said after the verdict. "I believe today is a day of vindication for the rest of immigrants."

Jose Ines Garcia Zarate had been deported five times and was wanted for a sixth deportation when Steinle was fatally shot in the back while walking with her father on the pier.

The case spotlighted San Francisco's "sanctuary city" policy, which limits local officials from cooperating with U.S. immigration authorities.

Politics, however, did not come up in the monthlong trial that featured extensive testimony from ballistics experts. Defense attorneys argued that Garcia Zarate was a hapless homeless man who killed Steinle in a freak accident. Prosecutors said he meant to shoot and kill her.

Garcia Zarate did not deny shooting Steinle and said it was an accident.

Jurors did find him guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm, meaning he knowingly had a firearm but there was no intent for him to hurt or shoot anyone. Public Defender Jeff Adachi said the count carries a potential sentence of 16 months to three years behind bars.

"The verdict that came in today was not the one we were hoping for," said Alex Bastian, a spokesman for the San Francisco prosecutor's office. "The jury came back with the verdict they did, and we will respect that decision. ... This is really about the Steinle family. They showed incredible resolve during this whole process."

Jim Steinle told the San Francisco Chronicle the family was saddened and shocked by the verdict.

"There's no other way you can coin it. Justice was rendered, but it was not served," he said in what he called the last interview he would do about the case.

The family did not attend the reading of the verdict. Jurors left without comment and the judge sealed their names.

Before the shooting, Garcia Zarate finished a federal prison sentence for illegal re-entry into the United States and had been transferred to San Francisco's jail in March 2015 to face a 20-year-old charge for selling marijuana.

The sheriff's department released him a few days later after prosecutors dropped the marijuana charge, despite a request from federal immigration officials to detain him for deportation.

The Trump administration has sought to punish sanctuary cities through a series of legal actions, including an executive order to withhold funding, but a federal judge recently blocked it in a lawsuit from two California counties, San Francisco and Santa Clara. The administration has appealed.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement Thursday that San Francisco's decision to release Garcia Zarate led to Steinle's death.

"The Department of Justice will continue to ensure that all jurisdictions place the safety and security of their communities above the convenience of criminal aliens," Sessions said. "I urge the leaders of the nation's communities to reflect on the outcome of this case and consider carefully the harm they are doing to their citizens by refusing to cooperate with federal law enforcement officers."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it "will work to take custody of Mr. Garcia Zarate and ultimately remove him from the country" once he serves his local sentence.

San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia said during the trial that she didn't know why Garcia Zarate fired the weapon, but he created a risk of death by bringing the firearm to the pier and twirling around on a chair for at least 20 minutes before he fired.

"He did kill someone. He took the life of a young, vibrant, beautiful, cherished woman by the name of Kate Steinle," she said.

Defense attorney Matt Gonzalez said in his closing argument that he knows it's difficult to believe Garcia Zarate found an object that turned out to be a weapon, which fired when he picked it up.

But he told jurors that Garcia Zarate had no motivation to kill Steinle and that as awful as her death was, "nothing you do is going to fix that."

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Ballistic experts testified that the bullet ricocheted about 15 feet (4.5 meters) from where Zarate was sitting and then traveled another 80 feet (24 meters) before striking Steinle in the back and piercing her heart.

His attorneys argued that even an expert marksman would have difficulty pulling off such a "skip shot."

The gun was stolen from the SUV of a U.S. Bureau of Land Management ranger that was parked in San Francisco. The city has been plagued by an epidemic of car burglaries in recent years.

Asian stocks mostly higher following tech recovery, oil deal

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were marginally higher Friday, after an overnight recovery of technology stocks on Wall Street. An agreement among key crude exporting countries to extend oil production cuts also boosted sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 was flat at 22,724.11 while South Korea's Kospi rose 0.2 percent to 2,480.42. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped 0.1 percent to 29,158.26 and China's Shanghai Composite Index lost less than 0.1 percent to 3,316.50. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.2 percent to 5,981.20. Stocks in Southeast Asia were mostly higher.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The recovery in technology stocks looks set to ignite a rebound for Asian equities into the end of the week," said Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG in Singapore.

CHINA DATA: In China, the latest Caixin purchasing managers' index showed that factory activity fell to its lowest level in five months in November while confidence about the business outlook also dropped. The indicator that shows a snapshot of operating conditions in China's manufacturing economy registered 50.8 last month, down from 51.0 in October.

WALL STREET: On Thursday, the Dow Jones industrial average finished with its biggest gain since March and pushed it past the 24,000 mark for the first time. The Dow jumped 1.4 percent to 24,272.35. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 0.8 percent to 2,647.58 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq gained 0.7 percent to 6,873.97. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked 0.1 percent to 1,544.14.

OIL: Crude oil prices gained after OPEC and a group of allied oil-producing nations agreed to extend crude output cuts until the end of next year. Benchmark U.S. crude added 20 cents to \$57.60 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract finished at \$57.40 per barrel on Thursday, up 10 cents. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 34 cents to \$62.97 per barrel in London. It finished at \$62.63 a barrel, up 10 cents in the previous day.

CURRENCIES: The dollar edged higher to 112.57 yen from 112.54 yen while the euro rose slightly to \$1.1907 from \$1.1904.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Dec. 1, the 335th day of 2017. There are 30 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 1, 1942, during World War II, nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect in the United States; the goal was not so much to save on gas, but to conserve rubber (as in tires) that was desperately needed for the war effort.

On this date:

In 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the U.S. House of Representatives when a deadlock developed between John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay. (Adams ended up the winner.)

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln sent his Second Annual Message to Congress, in which he called for the abolition of slavery, and went on to say, "Fellow-citizens, we can not escape history. We of this

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Congress and this Administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves.”

In 1921, the Navy flew the first non-rigid dirigible to use helium; the C-7 traveled from Hampton Roads, Virginia, to Washington, D.C.

In 1934, Soviet communist official Sergei M. Kirov, an associate of Josef Stalin, was assassinated in Leningrad, resulting in a massive purge.

In 1941, Japan's Emperor Hirohito approved waging war against the United States, Britain and the Netherlands after his government rejected U.S. demands contained in the Hull Note.

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus; the incident sparked a year-long boycott of the buses by blacks.

In 1965, an airlift of refugees from Cuba to the United States began in which thousands of Cubans were allowed to leave their homeland.

In 1973, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, died in Tel Aviv at age 87.

In 1989, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

In 1990, British and French workers digging the Channel Tunnel between their countries finally met after knocking out a passage in a service tunnel.

In 1992, a judge in Mineola, New York, sentenced Amy Fisher to 5 to 15 years in prison for shooting and seriously wounding her lover's wife, Mary Jo Buttafuoco (buh-tuh-FYOO'-koh). (Fisher served seven years.)

In 1997, a 14-year-old boy opened fire on a prayer circle at Heath High School in West Paducah, Kentucky, killing three fellow students and wounding five; the shooter is serving a life sentence.

Ten years ago: Police in El Dorado, Kansas, identified a body found days earlier as that of Emily Sander, a college student whose disappearance drew added attention after the discovery she was also an Internet porn model named "Zoey Zane." (A suspect was convicted of rape and murder and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole.) Four suspects were charged in Miami in the shooting death of Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor. (A fifth suspect was later arrested; all received prison sentences.)

Five years ago: Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher fatally shot his girlfriend, Kasandra Perkins, then drove to Arrowhead Stadium and committed suicide in front of the team's coach and general manager. Enrique Pena Nieto took the oath of office as Mexico's new president, vowing to restore peace and security.

One year ago: During the first stop of a "Thank you" tour, President-elect Donald Trump made a surprise announcement from the stage in Cincinnati, saying he had decided to offer the post of defense secretary to retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis. French President Francois Hollande announced in a televised address that he would not seek a second term in the 2017 presidential election. Former NFL player Joe McKnight, 28, was shot to death in Terrytown, Louisiana, in what authorities said was a road-rage incident (a suspect is facing a second-degree murder charge).

Today's Birthdays: Former CIA director Stansfield Turner is 94. Actor-director Woody Allen is 82. World Golf Hall of Famer Lee Trevino is 78. Singer Dianne Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 78. Country musician Casey Van Beek (The Tractors) is 75. Television producer David Salzman is 74. Rock singer-musician Eric Bloom (Blue Oyster Cult) is 73. Rock musician John Densmore (The Doors) is 73. Actress-singer Bette Midler is 72. Singer Gilbert O'Sullivan is 71. Former child actor Keith Thibodeaux (TV: "I Love Lucy") is 67. Actor Treat Williams is 66. Country singer Kim Richey is 61. Actress Charlene Tilton is 59. Actress-model Carol Alt is 57. Actor Jeremy Northam is 56. Actress Katherine LaNasa is 51. Producer-director Andrew Adamson is 51. Actor Nestor Carbonell is 50. Actress Golden Brooks is 47. Actress-comedian Sarah Silverman is 47. Actor Ron Melendez is 45. Contemporary Christian singer Bart Millard (MIL'-urd) is 45. Actor-writer-producer David Hornsby is 42. Singer Sarah Masen is 42. Rock musician Brad Delson (Linkin Park) is 40. Actor Nate Torrence is 40. Rock/Christian music singer-songwriter Mat Kearney is 39. Rock musician Mika Fineo (Filter) is 36. Actor Riz Ahmed (Film: "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story") is 35. Actor Charles Michael Davis is 33. R&B singer-actress Janelle Monae is 32. Actress Ashley Monique Clark is 29. Pop-rock-rap singer Tyler Joseph (Twenty One Pilots) is 29. Actress Zoe Kravitz is 29. Pop singer Nico Sereba (Nico & Vinz) is 27. Actor Jackson Nicoll is 14.

Thought for Today: "An educated man should know everything about something, and something about everything." — Dame C.V. Wedgwood, English historian (1910-1997).