

# Groton Daily Independent

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*Fresh flowers, silks, home decor*



Olde Bank @ Floral 

*& so much more*

101 N. Main St., Groton ~ 397-8650  
www.oldebankfloral.com



**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**

**Saturday, December 2nd**  
**Groton hosts JH GBB Jamboree**  
**with Langford, Northwestern, Waubay-**  
**Summit starting at 10 a.m.**  
**Wrestling at Clark, 10 a.m.**

## NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

☆☆☆ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ **\$3,000 for LPNs** ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ **\$4,500 for RNs** ☆☆☆

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

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



# GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

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



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

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

## Groton City Council Meeting Agenda December 4, 2017 – 7:00pm Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. Department Reports
4. Utility Training School – Sioux Falls – January - Dan
5. Topper Tastad – Jail Discussion
6. Open Gravel bids for 2018
7. Safe Routes to School Remainder: \$6,512.50
8. 2nd Reading Utility Ordinance # 715
9. 2nd Reading 2018 Salary Ordinance # 716
10. 1st Reading 2017 Supplemental Appropriation #717
11. Christmas Light Contest
12. Community Center Stove
13. Meeting Dates in January
14. NECOG – Joint Cooperative Agreement
15. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
16. Hire skating employees

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## Groton Area First Quarter Honor Roll

### Seniors

4.0 GPA: Jenifer Fjelstad, Alexis Gustafson, Madison Sippel, Madilyn Wright, Luke Thorson, Marshall Lane, Alexandra Stange, Jackson Oliver

3.99-3.50: Gia Gengerke, Hattie Weismantel, Brenna Johnson, Anthony Sippel, Mitchel Thurston, Hannah Lewandowski, Jessica Bjerke

3.49-3.00: Harleigh Stange, Erika Herr, Brandon Keith, Tyler Iverson, Hayden Pigors, Emma Donley, Hunter Monson

### Juniors

4.0 GPA: AnneMarie Smith, Emily Thompson, Ashley Garduno, Jillian Barton

3.99-3.50: Kaitlyn Anderson, Cassandra Townsend, Alexis Simon, Tylan Glover, Kylie Kassube, Samantha Geffre, Taylor Holm, Kaitlyn Kassube, Samantha Menzia, James Cranford, Payton Maine, Micah Poor

3.49-3.00: Jennie Doeden, Shyla Larson, Alexa Hickenbotham, Portia Kettering, Miranda Hanson

### Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Kaycie Hawkins, Nicole Marzahn

3.99-3.50: Kayla Jensen, Kaylin Kucker, Payton Colestock, Todyn Glover, KaSandra Pappas, Indigo Rogers, Kya Jandel, Rylee Rosenau, Benjamin Higgins, Austin Jones, Kimberly Kohrs

3.49-3.00: Madeline Schuelke, Ashley Fliehs, Eliza Wanner, Amelie Hartwig, Thomas Cranford, Caitlynn Barse, Cade Guthmiller, Peyton Johnson, Noah Poor, Jamesen Stange

### Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Sage Mortenson, Samantha Pappas, Isaac Smith, Erin Unzen

3.99-3.50: Alexa Herr, Alexis Hanten, Tanae Lipp, Grace Wambach, Jasmine Gengerke, Trey Gengerke, Regan Leicht, Steven Paulson, Paxton Bonn, Brooklyn Gilbert, Lucas Simon, Grace Wiedrick

3.49-3.00: Chandler Larson, Tiara DeHoet, Hailey Monson, Tessa Erdmann, Dylan Krueger, Braden Freeman, Chloe Daly, Gabriella Merkel, Dragr Monson, Alex Morris, Eh Tha You Say, Alyssa Fordham, Kaden Carda, Hunter Kassube, Tucker Carda, Lee Iverson, Taryn Taylor

### Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: Madeline Fliehs, Trista Keith, Allyssa Locke, Stella Meier

3.99-3.50: Travis Townsend, Pierce Kettering, Madisen Bjerke, Jackson Cogley, Kaden Kurtz, Riley Gengerke, Seth Johnson, Jordan Bjerke, Kennedy Anderson, Julianna Kosel, Megan Fliehs, Lane Krueger

3.49-3.00: Kansas Kroll, Hannah Gustafson, Jayden Zak, Andrea Davidson, Jace Kroll, Macine McGannon, Rease Jandel

### Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Jackson Dinger, Andrew Marzahn, Kaleb Antonsen, Cole Bisbee, Ethan Clark, Caleb Hanten, Jacob Lewandowski, Cadance Tullis, Kamryn Fliehs, Brooke Gengerke, Tate Larson, Cole Simon, Elliana Weismantel, Jackson Bahr, Carter Barse, Aspen Johnson, Brenna Carda, Cade Larson, Ava Tunheim

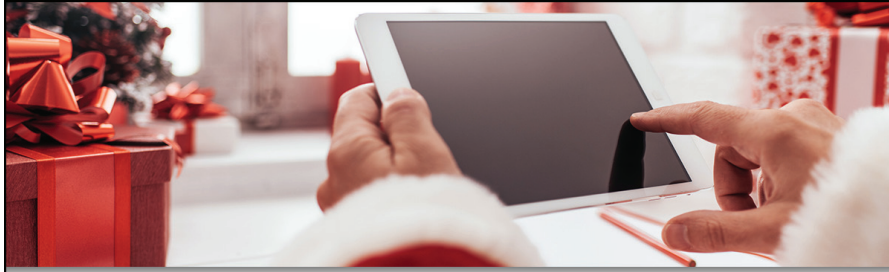
3.49-3.00: Gracie Traphagen, Tannor McGannon, Jessica Figueroa, Jacelynn Gleason, Ava Kramer, Shallyn Foertsch, Marlee Tollifson, Dylan Anderson, Aeydon Johnson, Ashtyn Bahr, KayLynn Overacker, Sierra Ehresmann, Porter Johnson, Ethan Gengerke, Hollie Frost

### Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Emma Schinkel, Bradin Althoff, Jaycie Lier, Claire Heinrich, Kyleigh Englund, Holden Sippel, Dillon Abeln, Emily Clark, Colby Dunker, Anna Fjeldheim, Karsyn Jangula, Ashlyn Sperry, Lydia Meier, Hannah Monson

3.49-3.00: Anna Bisbee, Lane Tietz, Faith Fliehs, Abigail Jensen, Sara Menzia, Carly Guthmiller, Camryn Kurtz, Lexi Osterman, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Bryson Wambach, Shea Jandel, Makrista Ironshield, Jayla Jones, Jacob Zak, Cadence Feist



## **JVT/NVC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES**

Groton - Monday, Dec. 4th 10am-4pm

Aberdeen - Tuesday, Dec. 5th 10am-4pm

Redfield - Wednesday, Dec. 6th 11am-2pm

**DOOR PRIZES - CHRISTMAS TREATS - SPECIALS**

*Register in stores or online at [nvc.net](http://nvc.net) for the  
**12 Days of Christmas Giveaway!***

## **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**



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## **No. 16 Wolves Notch 19 Point Victory over Minot State in NSIC Opener**

Minot, N.D. – In the NSIC opener, the No. 16 Northern State University Wolves handily defeated Minot State 77-58. The Wolves improve to 5-1 overall and 1-0 in the league notching their fourth double-digit victory of the season.

The Wolves were out to a quick start in the first leading 24-13 through the first ten minutes of action. Northern continued their offensive onslaught leading by as much as 23 points in the second. The two teams entered the locker room, with the Wolves up 45-29 at the half. NSU again out-scored Minot in the third quarter (15-10), however the Beavers were able to edge out the Wolves in the fourth 19-17.

Northern shot 43.1 percent from the floor, 50.0 percent from the arc, and 75.9 percent from the foul line. They totaled a game leading 22 points in the paint, 28 points off the bench, and 19 second chance points. The Wolves forced 13 Minot State turnovers, which resulted in 16 points. Northern played tough in the paint out-rebounding Minot State 51-34 in the game, including 34 defensive boards. The Wolves totaled 17 assists, eight steals, and six blocks as a team.

Miranda Ristau led the team with 18 points, knocking down 8-of-19 from the floor and 2-of-2 from the foul line. The senior added a team second best seven rebounds, while leading the Wolves with three blocks. Jill Conrad and Anika Fredrick followed with 13 and 11 points respectively. The 11 points are a career high for Fredrick who averaged nearly one point per minute of play. She matched Ristau with seven rebounds, and added one assist. Conrad led the team hitting 5-of-8 from field goal range, while adding a team second best three assists.

Jessi Marti notched a career high of her own, pulling down ten total rebounds. Marti added eight points, shooting 50.0 percent from the floor, and three assists. Alexis Tappe and Brianna Kusler rounded out the Northern State starters with five points each. Tappe tallied two assists, four rebounds, and a team leading three steals alongside Marti. Kusler led the team dishing out five total assists, while adding two rebounds.

Haley Froelich was second on the team with seven points off the bench, followed by Sara Tvedt with six. Tvedt added a team third best six rebounds. Gabby Laimer and Brynn Flakus tallied the final points for the team with two each.

The Wolves return to action today with a 4 p.m. match-up against U-Mary from Bismarck.

## **Wolves Notch 18 Top-10 Finishes from SDSU Holiday Open**

Brookings, S.D. – The Northern State University track and field teams opened the 2017-18 indoor season from the SDSU Holiday Open and Multi. The Wolves tallied ten top-10 finishes on the men's side and another eight on the women's, with the women finishing sixth overall as a team.

Bryce Malsam kicked off competition for the Wolves in the men's heptathlon. The sophomore is sitting sixth with 2,570 points through four events. He jumped 6.13m in the long jump and 1.86m in the high jump. Malsam opened the day running a 7.38 in the 60m dash, and threw 10.63m in the third event (shot put).

Hanneke Oosterwegel opened her junior campaign finishing second in the 400m dash with a time of 56.68. She went on to finish third in the 60m hurdles, crossing the finish line at 8.83.

Dakota Hutzler kicked off her Northern State career jumping 5.23m in the long jump. The freshman finished sixth overall in the event. She followed with her second sixth place finish of the evening in the triple jump, with a 10.77m mark. Sonia Alaman was just behind her in seventh, jumping 10.65m.

Amy Wockenfuss led the throwers in the weight throw, finishing eighth overall with a 15.67m toss.

The 4x400m relay team of Madison Barnes, Mackenzie Cruzen, Dakota Hutzler, and Emma Rezac finished seventh overall with a time of 4:07.03.

Clay Danielson notched a third place finish in the 5000m run, cross the finish line at 16:17.03. Jacob Schweitzer slid into the top-10 in the 800m run, hitting the line at 2:04.15 in ninth overall.

Three Wolves finished in the top-10 of the 400m dash led by Itoitz Rodriguez. The junior finished third overall with a time of 49.66. He was followed by Isaiha Fletcher and Kelson Brewer in eighth and ninth, with times of 50.48 and 50.96.

Tanner Berg notched a top-10 finish in the weight throw, with a 15.86m toss on his first attempt of the day.

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In the field events, Trey Tiefenthaler finished eighth overall in the long jump with a mark of 6.40m on his fourth attempt. Kelson Brewer also notched an eighth place finish in the pole vault, clearing 4.30m. Tiefenthaler went on to finish seventh in the triple jump, notching a 13.36m jump.

The Wolves 4x400m relay team of Rodriguez, Fletcher, Brewer, and Luke Wietgreffe finishing in fifth overall as the top Division II team in the race. The men crossed the finish line at 3:22.91.

Northern returns to action in 2018 from the Bison Open on January 13th in Fargo.

## Smith's Career High Leads No. 21 Wolves over Minot State

Minot, N.D. – The No. 21 Northern State University men's basketball team opened NSIC play with an 86-60 victory over Minot State. The Wolves improve to 7-1 overall and 1-0 in the NSIC, after a career evening from junior Ian Smith.

The two teams battled through the first half with the Wolves leading by just two as the clock clicked down. Despite the close first half, Northern led for just over 34 minutes of the game. A total of six Wolves shot 50.0 percent or better from the floor with ten different players scoring in the game.

Northern broke things open in second half scoring 53 points and holding the Beavers to just 29. NSU shot 53.7 percent from the floor, 52.2 percent from the arc, and 69.6 percent from the foul line. They tallied 13 assists and five blocks as a team, while out-rebounding the Beavers 39-24. The Wolves tallied a game leading 28 points off the bench, 13 points off turnovers, and 19 second chance points. They added 22 points in the paint and ten points off turnovers.

Smith led the team with a career high 26 points, shooting 66.7 percent from the floor. He also added a team leading seven rebounds, four assists, and three made long range buckets. DJ Pollard was second on the team and the final Wolf in double figures with 11 points. He added five rebounds, one assist, and one steal.

Darin Peterka and Carter Evans each tallied nine points each, while Evans leading the team off the bench. Peterka added five rebounds and one assist, while Evans tallied two rebounds and a team leading two blocks.

A total of five Wolves notched six points in the win, including Gabe King, Logan Doyle, Andrew Kallman, Bo Fries, and Justin Decker. Doyle and Fries were second on the team with six rebounds each, while combining for five assists. Fries matched Evans total of two blocks. Decker was perfect on the night shooting 2-of-2 from the floor and 1-of-1 from the foul line. Ethan Kranhold rounded out the team total with one made free throw.

The Wolves return to action this evening with a 6 p.m. contest against the University of Mary on the road.

## Wolves Place Two Relays and Advance Three to Finals on Day One from Rochester

Rochester, Minn. – In the first day of competition from the Rochester Invite, the Northern State University Wolves advanced three to finals and tallied three top-10 finishes. NSU tallied season best times in all six individual swims on the evening, as well as the two relays.

The Wolves opened competition with the 800 free relay and the team of Josie Gillund, Ashley Dunn, Maida Walters, and Edda Skoric finishing eight with a time of 7:59.25. The women beat their seed time by over eight seconds and earned 44 team points.

Edda Skoric led the team in the 500 free, advancing to finals with the ninth fastest time and a personal record of 5:12.27. She was followed by Kalina Emaus in 14th with a time of 5:17.12 and Gillund in 24th with a time of 5:24.71. All three Wolves qualified for the Saturday finals, notching season best times. Jordan Metz also tallied a personal record in the race, hitting the wall at 5:39.38.

Northern then moved on to the 400 medley relay, where they placed eighth as a team earning 44 total points. Skoric, Kady Harris, Karlie Brown, and Gillund hit the wall at 3:56.09 beating their seed time by nearly ten seconds.

Northern returns to the pool tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. with prelim events and 5:30 p.m. with finals. The Wolves will also swim the 200 free and 200 medley relays today.

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## Making Good on our Promise

For too long, American families and businesses have been stuck with a complicated, costly tax code that has hindered economic growth and prosperity. Since being sworn into the Senate in 2015, reforming the code that will provide much-needed tax relief for South Dakota families has been one of my top priorities. Now that the Senate passed its version of tax reform, we are closer than ever to making tax relief a reality.

It has been more than 30 years since our tax code has been reformed. Since then, other countries have lowered their rates to become more successful in an increasingly competitive global market. Meanwhile, our tax rate has barely changed, but the tax code has grown more than 40,000 pages in length. It's no wonder growth has been stagnant for the past decade – averaging just 1.5 percent, half the post-World War II average. We simply cannot afford to continue with the status quo.

Fortunately, the economy has begun to bounce back. Second-quarter growth increased to 3.3 percent this year, and the stock market is stronger than ever. Part of that growth stems from the American people expecting to see a tax cut soon, so they feel more confident investing in the economy once again. The Senate's Tax Cut and Jobs Act will keep the momentum going and allow more Americans to keep more of their paycheck and spend that money how they see fit. Based on the Senate Finance Committee's bill, an average American family of four making around \$73,000 would see a tax cut of around \$2,200. This results in real money that families won't have to pay to the government and can use however they want.

The tax reform bill passed by the Senate takes meaningful steps to reform our tax code in a manner that will allow businesses to flourish again and families to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. It will provide more jobs, bigger paychecks and a fairer tax system, especially to lower- and middle-income Americans who haven't seen a pay raise in nearly a decade. Under our bill, businesses will have the stability they need to confidently grow their companies, hire more workers, increase wages and reinvest back into the economy.

Reforming the tax code will create a healthy, more vibrant economy that we can pass onto our kids and grandkids, and greatly improve the quality of life for South Dakotans. Our tax reform bill must now be reconciled with the House-passed version, where final differences will be worked out. I'm confident we can get this across the finish line and to the president's desk in a timely manner. We are less than nine years away from America's 250th birthday in 2026. A commonsense tax structure that reduces taxes and unleashes the full potential of our economy is a vital component in reaching our goal of relieving American families from the federal government's heavy hand.



## Dry, Largely Snowless November

November 2017, while averaging out to be generally near or slightly above average, featured two very distinct halves temperature-wise. The first 10 days of the month were well below average, by between 5-10 degrees. However, incredibly mild air overtook the area during the 2nd half with averages above normal by 5-12 degrees. Thanksgiving Day as well as the 27th featured record daily high temperatures in the 60's and 70's.

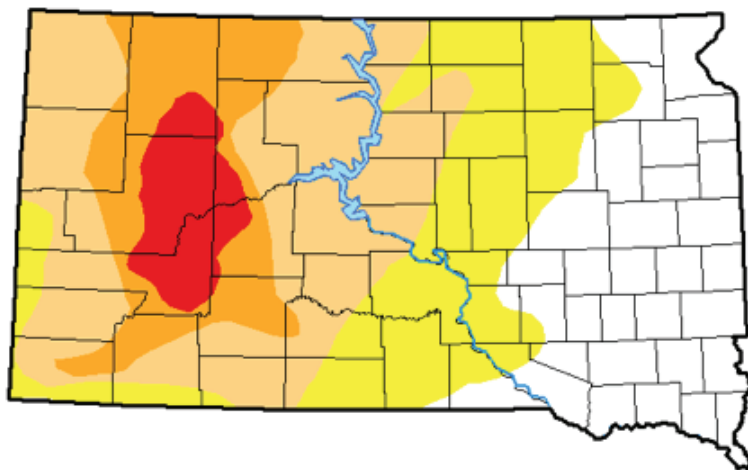
Regarding precipitation, it was dry. The most significant system brought around a tenth of an inch of liquid and up to around an inch of snow on the 3rd, but otherwise much of the month was almost completely void of precipitation. This meant little to no snow, either. Much of the area had snowfall deficits between 4 and 7 inches, as November is one of our snowiest months on average. Historically, this lack of moisture is by no means unprecedented however. Many Novembers have yielded little to no precipitation in the past. That said, Pierre's total of 0.05" ranked as tied 14th driest November on record, Watertown's 0.08" total ranked as tied 15th driest, and Wheaton's 0.10" tied for 13th driest. Furthermore, drought conditions remained entrenched across central South Dakota. Rounds of warm temps, low relative humidity and strong winds led to a number of days of fire concerns.

### U.S. Drought Monitor South Dakota

**November 28, 2017**

(Released Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	26.85	73.15	49.06	18.64	5.92	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>11-21-2017</i>	26.85	73.15	49.06	18.64	5.92	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>08-29-2017</i>	15.55	84.45	68.85	42.60	6.27	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>01-03-2017</i>	61.22	38.78	26.01	6.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-26-2017</i>	19.56	80.44	59.35	32.30	5.62	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>11-29-2016</i>	27.29	72.71	31.81	1.33	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



## Mike Ryckman named as Region Manager for the New Cooperative

John Husk, Chief Operating Officer for the New Cooperative being formed on February 1 by Wheat Growers and North Central Farmers Elevator, today named Mike Ryckman as Region Manager for the New Cooperative.

Mike is currently serving as Location Manager for the North Central Farmers Elevator location in Strasburg, N.D.

"We are very excited to announce today that we have selected Mike Ryckman as the new Region Manager for the North Region in the New Cooperative," Husk said. "Mike brings considerable location management experience to this position and will be a great addition to the management team in our North Region."

The North Region of the New Cooperative will include locations in North Dakota at Berlin, Eldridge, Hague, Oakes, Steele and Strasburg, and in South Dakota at Herreid and Pollock.

Mike joined North Central at the Strasburg location in 2010 where he has served as an inventory manager and CDL driver, and has also operated the fertilizer blend shed, seed treatment facility, liquid fertilizer plant, and sales of feed and livestock equipment.

Prior to joining North Central, Mike worked for various pipeline contractors as a crew supervisor, and also operated directional boring machines and back hoes. Mike and his family live on a small farm in Linton, N.D.

*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 2, 1978: A low-pressure system moved northeast from Kansas, causing snow to fall over all of southern Minnesota south of a line from Alexandria to Duluth on the 2nd and 3rd, with the heaviest snow falling from west central and southwest Minnesota to west central Wisconsin. Snow depths of six inches or more fell in southwestern Minnesota with 10 inches or more at Marshall, MN. Winds averaged near 20 mph, and temperatures ranged from 5 to 15 degrees above zero while the snow fell, but the snow did not cause extensive problems for the area. Wheaton had 2 inches, Artichoke Lake and Browns Valley had 3 inches.

December 2, 1984: Snow fell in the central and northeast parts of South Dakota from the late afternoon of the 1st to the morning of the 2nd, with amounts ranging from 3 to 10 inches. The heaviest amounts were in the northeast part of the state with Day County reporting 8 to 10 inches. Five inches of snow fell at Clear Lake, six inches fell at Waubay, Clark, Miller, and 12 miles southwest of Harrold with 7 inches at Redfield.

1896 - An early season snow and ice storm struck the southeastern U.S. It produced 11 inches of snow at Charlotte NC, and six inches at Atlanta GA. (David Ludlum)

1925 - A late season hurricane caused extensive damage across the Florida peninsula, then moved off the Georgia coast crossing Cape Hatteras as a tropical storm. The storm produced whole gales along the Middle Atlantic and Southern New England coast. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Block Island RI, and reached 64 mph at Atlantic City NJ. (David Ludlum)

December 2, 1950: A rare tornado event occurred when a storm system produces three tornadoes in Illinois, and one in Arkansas. The three tornadoes in Illinois are relatively rare in December with a total of only three days with tornadoes from 1835 to 1950. The other years are 1876 and 1949.

December 2, 1959: Between November 19 and December 2, an estimated 20 inches of rain fell near the town of Frejus on the French Riviera. This rain caused the Malpasset Dam to collapse which sent a 130-foot high wall of water into the towns of Malpasset and Bozon. The wall of water 10 feet high reached Frejus, flooding the western half of the city. The dam breach killed 423 people and caused \$68 million in damages.

1970 - A tornado, 400 yards in width, touched down about one mile below the summit of Timpanogos Divide. Trees up to 18 inches in diameter were snapped, and some of the 38 inch snow cover was carried 1000 feet above the ground as the tornado traveled one mile. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - A tornado destroyed a home four miles south of Eastwood MO. The owners were not injured in that tornado, but ironically one was killed Christmas Eve when another tornado hit the replacement mobile home on the same site. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A powerful storm over the Gulf of Alaska continued to produced high winds and heavy rain along the northern and central Pacific coast. Winds gusted to 80 mph south of Port Orford OR, Stevens Pass WA was blanketed with sixteen inches of snow, and Blue Canyon CA was soaked with 1.63 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced ten inches of snow at Union City, PA. Gale force winds gusted to 55 mph at Buffalo NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Squalls produced heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Totals in Upper Michigan ranged up to 20 inches at Ironwood. Heavy snow and high winds caused 150 auto accidents in Michigan, resulting in sixteen deaths and 22 injuries. Strong northwesterly winds gusted to 73 mph at Johnstown PA, and Lowville PA received 20 inches of snow in 36 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Snow Likely and Windy	Partly Cloudy and Blustery then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 50 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 32 °F	Low: 13 °F	High: 24 °F

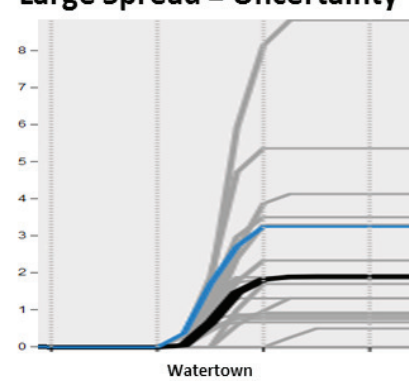
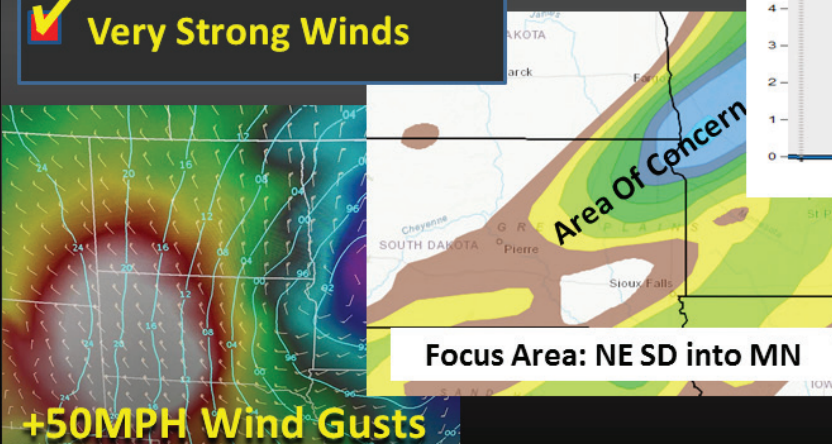
## Mild Saturday & Sunday

### Highs From The Upper 40s into Mid 50s

First Real Taste Of Winter Weather Monday?

- ✓ Potential For Snowfall
- ✓ Cold Air
- ✓ Very Strong Winds

Large Spread = Uncertainty



Focus Area: NE SD into MN

+50MPH Wind Gusts

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 12/2/2017 5:52 AM Central

Published on: 12/02/2017 at 6:01AM

We hope you get the opportunity to enjoy the last few days of mild temperatures this weekend because it looks like we are dealing with the potential for a winter storm to impact the region at the start of the work week. There is good evidence that this system will feature falling temperatures and strong winds, and snow...however that last one will be tricky as it appears this will be a narrow band of intense snowfall. Typical we can expect a high degree of variation in snow accumulations with these types of features, and that is what shows in our ensembles for Watertown - with a range from nothing to several inches. As the storm gets closer to the area Sunday, we will have a better idea as to who sees the greatest impacts from this system.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 43.6

Low Outside Temp: 23.4

High Gust: 9

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 56° in 2012

Record Low: -20° in 1896

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 11°F

Average Precip in Dec: 0.04

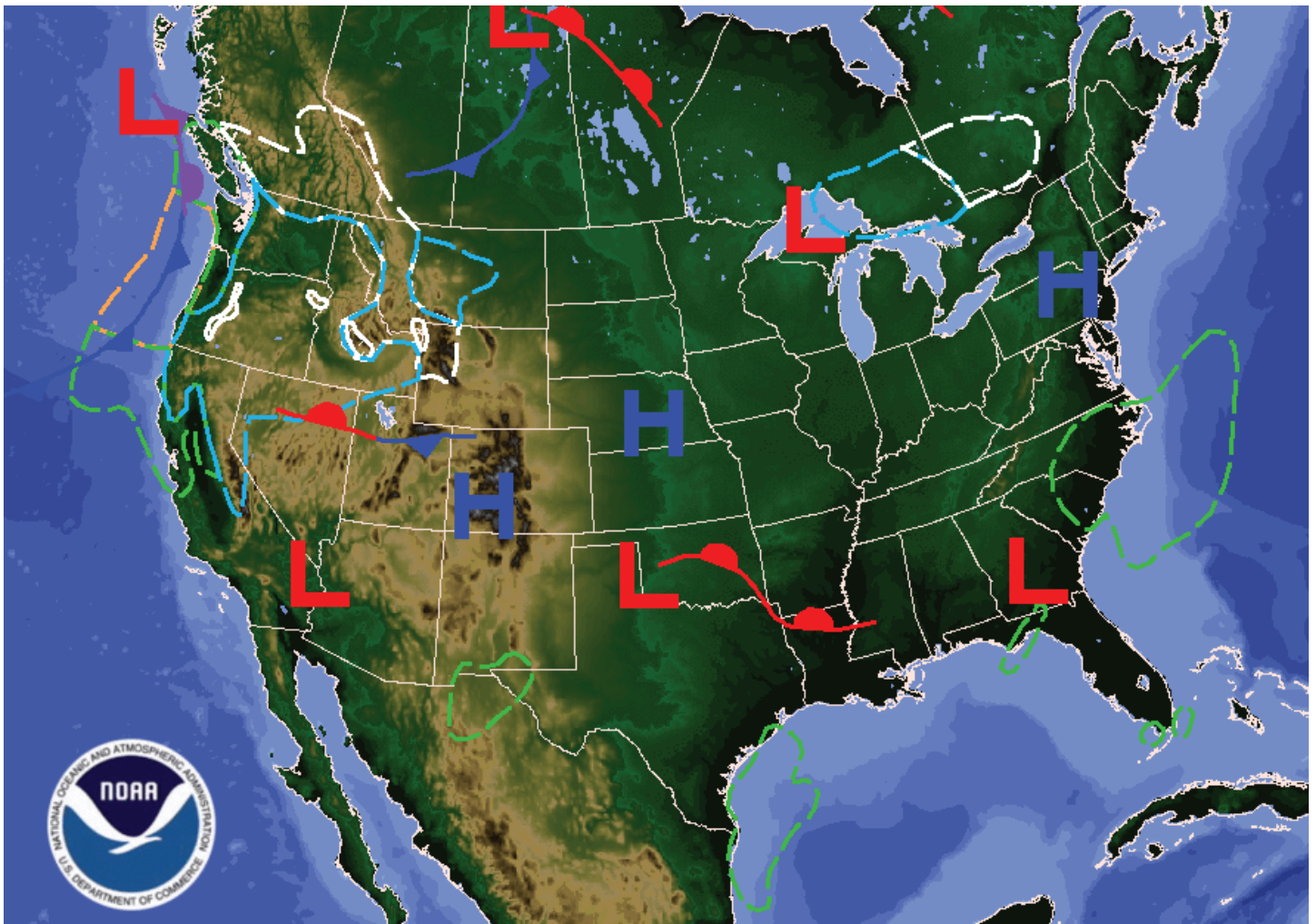
Precip to date in Dec: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.24

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:55 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Dec 02, 2017, issued 4:02 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Tate 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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## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Initially He was named Jesus. Now we also call Him Christ.

Jesus was the name given to Him when He was born. It means the same as the Jewish name, Joshua, which literally means God is salvation! So, the message that God sent to Joseph through His angels was, "You shall call Him 'God is salvation' for He shall save His people from their sins." That name, Jesus, tells us all that we need to know because it reveals God's plan and purpose: God will save humanity through His only begotten Son.

Christ is more than a name. It is a title. It comes from the Greek word *Christos*, meaning "anointed" or "anointed one." Its meaning is the same as the Hebrew word *Messiah*. John quoted Andrew in a conversation that he had with his brother Peter. Said Andrew, "We have found the Messiah (which translated means Christ)." So the terms *Messiah* and *Christ* are titles given to Jesus that assure us that He is the anointed one. Jesus is the One whom God anointed to fulfill the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament.

The name Jesus proves that He was human, lived life on our level and faced the same issues and problems that we face. But the title Christ assures us that this One, once called Jesus, can lift us up to God's level because He is the One whom God anointed to be our Savior.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for what You did for us through Your Son, our Savior. We rejoice in Your love, mercy and grace that brought our salvation thru Him. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 1:41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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



## News from the Associated Press

### South Dakota parent groups widen school quality gap

By MEGAN RAPOSA, The Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The list of student perks at R.F. Pettigrew Elementary continues to grow. There's new playground equipment, a rock-climbing wall, water-bottle filling stations, not to mention an annual fun day where kids are treated to a recreational field trip.

It's all paid for by parents, not taxpayers.

"We're blessed at Pettigrew," said Marianne Mergen, co-president of Pettigrew's parent-teacher organization.

An Argus Leader review of parent-teacher organization finances found the groups pump tens of thousands of dollars into Sioux Falls schools each year, helping teachers pay for food, field trips, technology, curriculum, even classroom assistants.

The groups are run by parent volunteers who are committed to improving the quality of education at their kids' schools, but the boost they provide in the district disproportionately benefits schools in wealthier areas.

Pettigrew parents have raised and spent nearly \$500,000 in the last five years, while other schools struggle to find volunteers for a single, year-end student event, the Argus Leader reported.

The potential for parent-teacher organizations to create financial disparities among schools is not a conversation that's reached Sioux Falls, but a pair of recent national reports raise concerns about unintended consequences.

Nationally, parent-teacher organizations account for a small but growing slice of school spending. A 2013 Indiana University study found the groups' spending nearly tripled since the mid-1990s and surpassed \$425 million in 2010.

"While the millions of dollars parents raise is equivalent to less than 1 percent of total school spending, the concentration of these dollars in affluent schools results in considerable advantages for a small portion of already advantaged students," a report by the Center for American Progress concluded in April.

The nonpartisan policy institute's report, "Hidden Money: The Outsized Role of Parent Contributions in School Finance," said well-funded parent-teacher groups pay for field trips, new computers, art and music instructors, and supplies, while less affluent schools often have to pay for those things from their overall budgets.

In Sioux Falls, the number of parent-teacher groups has declined in the last five years. In 2013, 19 out of 22 elementary schools had a group. Today, there are 15. Most of the groups that have dissolved were lower-income schools such as Annie Sullivan.

Meanwhile, schools in wealthier areas are more likely to have a parent-teacher group that raises more than \$10,000 per year for their school, and sometimes much more.

R.F. Pettigrew's consistently tops other elementary schools in parent fundraising. It also has one of the lowest rates of poverty in the city, with only 15 percent of students on free or reduced lunches.

The parent-teacher group supports the southwest Sioux Falls school with several annual events including the "Panther Dash" 5K and 10K fun run. This year, they're raising money for all classrooms to upgrade to flexible seating.

"We want them to have the best that they can have," Mergen said.

The Argus Leader reviewed five years of annual financial reports for parent-teacher organization at all 22 Sioux Falls elementary schools. Most groups at minimum provided meals for teachers during conferences. They also put on the science fair, book fairs, classroom parties and sometimes fund additional field trips or school speakers.

Big ticket items purchased by parent-teacher groups included playground equipment, teacher classroom grants (up to \$10,000), artists-in-residence and classroom technology.

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Parents at R.F. Pettigrew spent about \$54,000 on new playground equipment in 2016, adding zip lines and tire swings.

Discovery Elementary School's parent-teacher group spent \$7,000 on "classroom enrichment" in 2014.

The parent group for Sioux Falls' Spanish Immersion program, Parent Advocates for Spanish Immersion (PASI), spent more than \$183,000 on the program, housed in Sonia Sotomayor Elementary, Edison Middle School and Lincoln High School. About \$55,000 went to hire Spanish-speaking interns to support classroom learning.

John F. Kennedy Elementary dissolved its parent-teacher association in 2016, but the school still holds an annual fundraiser to bring in money for classroom parties, extra technology and t-shirts for the school's bullying prevention program.

"It provides a lot of extras that wouldn't be there otherwise," Principal Patty Vincent said.

It's easy to see the differences a strong parent group makes.

At Lowell, Principal Diane Kennedy is starting a small parent-teacher organization after four years of trying. Last spring, she recruited a couple of parents to help put on a party for outgoing fifth-graders. It's a small effort, but Kennedy hopes it will take off.

Before becoming principal, Kennedy taught at Harvey Dunn Elementary, a school whose parent-teacher association spent \$16,300 on average for the last 5 years.

"They were raising money to buy guided reading books, or they're raising money to buy playground equipment, or they're raising money to enhance classroom things for teachers," Kennedy said. "Coming here, we didn't have that, so it required us to be a little more creative."

Lowell partners with local churches, which provide meals for teachers during parent-teacher conferences. It's not the catered meals she remembers as a teacher at Harvey Dunn, but it's a step up from a brown bag.

Parent organizations also help create a sense of community in school buildings, said Matt Johnson, PTA president at Susan B. Anthony Elementary. Johnson's vice president, Amy Gulbranson, recalled a few years prior when Longfellow and Mark Twain schools merged into the new Susan B. Anthony building.

"Teachers who came from Longfellow — they weren't used to us," Gulbranson said. "You don't have that sense of community (without a parent-teacher organization)."

There are many reasons why schools don't have parent groups.

In some cases, a group dissolves after the president leaves and no one is left to fill the role. Other times, schools are unable to find volunteers or a parent with the time to start a group.

"People have more money than time," said Holly Gergen, a parent at John F. Kennedy Elementary and former parent-teacher association member before it dissolved.

Discovery's group has been on the verge of canceling events because they can't find parents to help, said President Andrea Hawley. Even R.F. Pettigrew struggles to find parent volunteers to execute activities supported by its large budget.

"It's rare to see a family where both parents aren't working," Gergen said. "Your stay-at-home moms just aren't there anymore."

At Lowell, Kennedy had to educate parents as to what a parent-teacher organization is before she could get buy-in to start one. In her first year at the school, she handed out sheets at the beginning of the year asking parents if they wanted to join.

She received a stack of papers in response, but when she began to call and invite parents to the first meeting, she was met with some confusion.

"They're like, 'Oh is that what this is? I'm not interested' and hung up," "So I just don't think they know what it is and understand that they can have a voice in their kids school and what that can look like."

Schools without parent-teacher organizations aren't completely on their own.

Sonia Sotomayor Elementary "adopted" Hayward Elementary School. It's a solution recently promoted by Richard Reeves, a senior fellow at the nonprofit Brookings Institution and author of "Dream Hoarders: How the American Upper Middle Class Is Leaving Everyone Else in the Dust, Why That Is a Problem, and What to Do about It."

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"By donating to your own school PTA you are likely exacerbating inequality. By sending half of this money to needier kids, you balance things out a little," Reeves wrote.

Businesses and churches also offer extra support and volunteer help to schools. School board member Todd Thoeke said Hegg Realtors, where he is an agent, helps Susan B. Anthony with its annual knowledge bowl fundraiser, and Eugene Field partners with a local church for conference meals.

Earlier this year, the Sioux Falls Storm raised money to "level the playing field" for schools without parent-teacher groups to orchestrate fundraisers.

Title 1 schools also get on average \$5,000 per year to hold parent events.

At Lowell, parent Tuppence Cruz hopes their fledgling organization can someday match the kind of playground upgrades and other extras schools like Pettigrew provide. She dreams being able to raise \$10,000 in a year, but for now is happy to have a group to vent about parking struggles and throw a party for fifth graders.

"We want to show that we're trying to help," Cruz said.

And she hopes more help will come.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## Sen. Thune's \$11M campaign fund rakes in investment money

By SETH TUPPER, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — John Thune has so much campaign money socked away that he now makes more from interest and dividends than some other politicians collect from donors.

Thune is a Republican U.S. senator from South Dakota. His Friends of John Thune campaign committee held \$11.37 million at the end of September, according to mandatory public reports filed with the Federal Election Commission.

An undisclosed portion of the committee's money is invested in securities. During the July-through-September quarterly reporting period, the securities generated \$151,129.72 of interest and dividends for Thune, who does not face re-election until 2022.

Meanwhile, during that same quarter, two leading Republican U.S. House candidates from South Dakota who are raising money for next year's primary election collected less than \$150,000 apiece. They are Shantel Krebs, who reported raising about \$133,000 during the quarter, and Dusty Johnson, who reported raising about \$118,000.

Thune has been investing campaign funds since 2004 in a professionally managed portfolio of securities that includes certificates of deposit, bonds, mutual funds and money-market accounts, said Ryan Nelson, Thune's chief of staff.

"Because of the amount and because of the success of the stock market the last 11 months, there have been some very nice returns on it," Nelson said in a Journal phone interview.

Besides growing his campaign account through investments, Thune has continued to bring in new money, including about \$185,000 in contributions during the July-through-September quarter. Total receipts into his committee so far this calendar year are \$1.12 million.

The \$11.37 million balance held by Thune's committee exceeds not only the amounts held by other South Dakota politicians but also most national politicians, the Rapid City Journal reported. The only federal candidate committees with more money at the end of September than Friends of John Thune were the committees of President Donald Trump, with \$18 million, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., with \$12.85 million.

Additionally, a political action committee affiliated with Thune, the Heartland Values PAC, had \$762,580.73 on hand at the end of its most recent reporting period in June.

Thune's success as a fundraiser has been aided not only by his own efforts but also by a lack of competitive opponents in his re-election campaigns, and his rise through the ranks of Republican leadership.

After he won his Senate seat with a close and expensive victory over the Democratic incumbent Tom

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Daschle in 2004, nobody ran against Thune in 2010. In 2016, Thune spent little on his campaign while rolling to a 44 percentage-point win over Democratic challenger Jay Williams.

"He ran against literally nobody and effectively nobody," said Jon Schaff, political science professor at Northern State University in Aberdeen.

Along the way, Thune has risen to the chairmanship of the Senate Republican Conference, a position considered to be third in rank among Senate Republicans. He has also risen to the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Those influential posts have helped Thune attract campaign contributions on a national scale, said Emily Wanless, assistant professor of government and international affairs and political science at Augustana University in Sioux Falls.

"He's in a position where people would like to align themselves with him," Wanless said, "especially given his leadership position in the Senate."

Schaff said Thune could probably quit raising money and still have enough for his next two re-election campaigns. It's therefore probable, Schaff said, that Thune is eyeing a higher prize such as the leadership of the Senate Republicans and is using his campaign money to shore up support for an eventual promotion.

There was some evidence of that last year, when Thune contributed \$2 million from his candidate committee to the National Republican Senatorial Committee to help other Republicans win election to the Senate.

"The ability to fundraise for other people allows you to build up a storehouse of favors," Schaff said, "and when you want to get into the leadership job, you can cash that in."

In an interview last month for the Journal's Mount Podmore political podcast, Thune said he is not currently seeking the leadership job but also indicated he would not decline it if the opportunity arose.

"Being the leader in the Senate is like herding cats or nailing Jell-O to a tree or something," Thune said. "It's hard. It's really a hard job."

"It's not something I've ever aspired to," he continued. "I've kind of felt like in my political life that if there are opportunities that come along and I think I can make a contribution or have an impact in some way, then I certainly don't close doors to that. But it's not a job I'm aspiring to."

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

16-22-40-41-59, Mega Ball: 8, Megaplier: 4

(sixteen, twenty-two, forty, forty-one, fifty-nine; Mega Ball: eight; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$145 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$177 million

## Tom Byrum wins PGA Tour Champions' Q-school

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Tom Byrum eagled the first hole of a playoff with Tommy Tolles on Friday to win the PGA Tour Champions' National Qualifying Tournament at TPC Scottsdale.

A day after tying the tournament record with a 10-under 61, Byrum had a 5-under 65 to match Tolles at 19-under 265 on the Champions Course. Byrum eagled No. 17 for a share of the lead, and won the playoff with a 7-footer. Tolles closed with a 66.

Byrum and Tolles earned full exemptions for next season along with Kent Jones, Tim Petrovic and reinstated amateur Ken Tanigawa. Jones (64) was third at 18 under, and Petrovic (72) and Tanigawa (70)



tied for fourth at 17 under.

## Reward offered to catch vandals of historic mine buildings

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — Federal officials are offering a reward to help catch vandals who did an estimated \$25,000 in damage to two historic brick buildings originally used to house explosives for a former Black Hills gold mine.

A Bureau of Land Management employee doing a monthly check at the property last summer discovered remnants of a backwoods party at one of the powder houses nestled among the pines and aspens southwest of Lead.

The intruders had installed their own padlocks, fashioned a crude bar from spare timber and corrugated tin — complete with a wooden bench seat — and brought in tables and black upholstered restaurant booth seats for the squatters' speakeasy.

"They did a pretty good job constructing the bar. I'll give them that," said Brenda Striers, a bureau archaeologist.

Unable to enter after bureau officials re-secured the buildings, vandals knocked gaping holes in the brick exteriors of two of them. Bureau officials have offered a reward up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of those responsible after the second break-in was recently discovered, the Rapid City Journal reported .

Officials fear the roof of one building could collapse under the weight of winter snow because a hole extends to the wooden rafters. Timbers have been added to temporarily reinforce the roof. Repairs will require research to find identical brick work, roof tin and other materials to maintain the powder houses' authenticity.

Estimated to be a century old, the buildings had been constructed in a remote area as a reserve storage facility for 50-pound boxes of dynamite and fuses used for mining gold ore at the Homestake Mine. The bureau took over management of the buildings, which were restored in 2008, after mining activity ended in 2002.

"It hurts my heart to see these buildings damaged," said Chip Kimball, manager of the Bureau of Land Management's South Dakota field office in Belle Fourche. "They're beautiful old buildings that are absolutely neat to see."

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

## South Dakota pheasant hunting may pick up in late season

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Officials say it's been a slow pheasant season in South Dakota, but late-season hunting is often the best option when bird numbers are below average.

The state's 78-day pheasant season began Oct. 21 and ends Jan. 7. With half the season ahead, pheasant hunters can take advantage of temperatures dropping, reported Aberdeen American News .

Travis Runia is the senior upland game biologist for the state's Game, Fish and Parks Department. He said once the majority of crop harvesting has been completed, there is less cover for pheasants to hide from hunters. Runia said winter weather forces the birds to seek thicker cover to survive.

"It's inevitable we're going to get cold, and even though we have a lower pheasant population, that first cold snap or the first snow can put those birds in a smaller area and make it a better hunt," said Runia.

The number of hunters usually dwindles later in the season, which could also mean less competition on public lands. Runia said that participation declines when the department's August roadside pheasant survey estimates a smaller population.

"I don't have the exact numbers, but we know we have lower license sales than last year," said Runia.

Hunting in the late-season months can also make it easier to gain access to private lands, according to Eric Voigt, a conservation officer for the department.

For those interested in late-season hunting, Voigt suggests focusing on areas like the cattails with heavier

cover. Voigt also said bringing hunting dogs can lead to more success in cooler temperatures.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## North Dakota maps tree resources with aerial imagery

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A project to map trees on the northern Plains using aerial imagery is helping the North Dakota Forest Service get a better handle on the state's tree resources.

The state has partnered with the forest service departments of Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota to collect data and determine where critical tree resources are declining, the Bismarck Tribune reported .

"We're really interested in what's out there and what condition it's in," said Tom Claeys, the service's forestry and fire management team leader.

Nearly 2 percent of the state's area is native forest. The weather and soil isn't conducive to traditional forests, according to Claeys.

"Trees are really important," Claeys said. "It's not easy to grow trees in North Dakota."

The state planted windbreaks after severe dust storms in the 1930s, but their condition is aging. Forest Health Manager Lezlee Johnson said landowners are concerned about the windbreak infrastructure.

The Kansas Forest Service managed to zero down the collected imagery to high-resolution 1-meter accuracy, said Johnson. The images are segmented into image objects through software. Johnson said their job is to train their software to classify the image objects into trees, other types of vegetation or non-vegetation categories.

She said the project's results could double the amount of tree cover that was previously counted under the state forest inventory program.

"The big surprise is going to be, wow, we have a lot more trees we never realized we had," Johnson said.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

## After drowning tragedy, South Dakota family pulls together

By DANA FERGUSON, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — It was a beautiful day on the South Pacific island of Rarotonga.

Hours ahead of Leslie Hagele's wedding, her family and friends sat beside her on the deck overlooking the calm, turquoise waters.

Their peace was interrupted by an urgent message — her father and uncle's kayaks had capsized. They'd been pulled under rough waves.

She ran to the beach. Confusion gave way to panic, then despair.

A rescue team brought her father back to land and tried to resuscitate him for an hour, but it was too late. Later, police recovered her uncle's body from the reef.

A week later, family and friends of South Dakota state Rep. Craig Tieszen and Brent Moline were combing through old photos and writing obituaries ahead of their funerals.

Hagele's wedding went on, as her father and uncle would have wanted, but a day that was meant to be full of joy became saturated with grief.

"These two events in my life will forever be tangled," Hagele told the Argus Leader . "It's really hard. We have to figure out a way to do both, to celebrate and to mourn."

Hagele along with sister Laura Kamarainen and cousins Heidi, Heather and Haley Moline, have tried to do just that, to mourn a father and uncle and celebrate their lives.

Deb Tieszen, Craig Tieszen's wife of 37 years, and Anita Moline, Brent Moline's wife of 36 years, meanwhile spent a week working to repatriate their husbands' bodies from the remote island, traveling with their caskets on the dayslong journey to South Dakota.

As they put together a photo slideshow, Hagele and Kamarainen recalled their father's calm demeanor

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as he coached them through learning to drive stick shift and making difficult life decisions.

They laughed as they recalled a nickname they'd given their father, "the ponderer," which he earned through his attentive listening and deliberative process in coming to decisions.

"He took the time to make sure he understood a lot of different viewpoints," Hagele said. "I think that people felt that he was very genuine, and he would listen and not judge."

That quality made him popular in his travels around the world, in his 32 years working in law enforcement and in the South Dakota Legislature.

"He made friends not just on both sides of the aisle, but in every culture, in every country, in every walk of life," said Jim Pesek, brother-in-law to Tieszen and Moline.

In Rapid City, Tieszen's legislative colleague and friend Sen. Terri Haverly said Tieszen worked hard to better the community but never sought the spotlight.

"He did nothing but give," Haverly said as she fought back tears. "The Peace Corps, law enforcement, the Legislature, he just continuously was a public servant and certainly someone to be admired."

Tieszen's peers in the Legislature said his absence will be felt next week as lawmakers return to Pierre for the governor's budget address and beyond.

"I can't imagine what it's going to be like going back to Pierre without him," Haverly said.

Tieszen was an avid outdoorsman who loved to cycle, hike, hunt and fish in the Black Hills. His daughters and nieces recalled the long bike rides Tieszen and Moline would embark upon. The two, along with Pesek, completed the George S. Mickelson Bike Trail, all 109 miles, in one day.

"We always knew that those three were up to something when they were together," Haley Moline said. "They made time for their adventures together."

Pesek, who couldn't make the trip to Rarotonga due to health issues, said he's still not sure how to grapple with their deaths.

"They were my two best friends," he said of the men who'd married his sisters. "They were the finest men I've ever known."

Heather, Haley and Heidi Moline said they're still getting used to being at their parents' house without their father sitting in his chair or singing along to his favorites, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin.

The self-educated entrepreneur and commercial real estate owner built his own home and idolized Warren Buffet. And without him, they'd have to remember all the lessons he'd taught them about fixing a sump pump and investing wisely.

"We're going to miss him just being around," Heather Moline said.

Moline was an avid reader who loved walking, downhill skiing and taking naps, which his daughters joked kept him looking young. And he wore his emotions on his sleeve, they said, tearing up at happy news and constantly telling his family how he felt about them.

"He always told us how much he loved us. He never kept that," Haley Moline said.

The 61-year-old could befriend anyone or quickly fall into place anywhere he went, they said. As recently as last week their father struck up a conversation with an Uber driver about his background and by the end of the men shook hands.

"He would literally make friends anywhere he went, he could make anyone feel special," Heather Moline said.

Family members said they take solace in knowing that their fathers' last few days, even their last few minutes, were filled with joy on Rarotonga.

"This has been such a public thing and it's such a tragic thing that happened for both of them, but they were absolutely having the time of their life," Haley Moline said.

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Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

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## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

### American News, Aberdeen, Nov. 28

Northern changes create opportunities for entire Aberdeen community

Sometimes, a single spark can start the biggest fire.

For the past few years, Northern State University has been sending up flares. A new addition to the Barnett Center here, a new greenhouse there, and a new resident hall here.

Then talk of more new dorms, more changes and then a \$25 million regional science center brightened a horizon that looked as if it couldn't get more beautiful. That campus-changing center is scheduled to greet Northern students in fall 2019.

Now, Northern seems ready to ignite — again — in the best way possible. And not only will a state university campus shine for decades to come, with it comes an opportunity for our community to play off of Northern's successes.

This explosion of good news from Northern recently continued in the form a \$5 million commitment by the health care provider Sanford to fund scholarships and endowments. Details on that news are still being sorted out.

That was a great day for Northern. And our hometown university seems to be on a hot streak of having a lot of them this fall.

Like on Nov. 18 when Northern and the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired kicked off a \$45 million capital campaign. Exciting news to be sure, especially considering that Northern also announced that \$25 million has already pledged.

Thank you to those who have donated. And for those who still want to, contributions can be made at [educational-impact.com](http://educational-impact.com). You can track the campaign's progress there as well.

The money will be used for:

— \$6.3 million: A new soccer field and football practice field on the swath of land behind Jerde Hall. The facility will include a pavilion featuring restrooms, locker rooms and bleachers. This is needed because the regional science center will be built on the current football practice field along South State Street.

— \$13.7 million: A new South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. It will be built where Jerde Hall dormitory currently stands. Jerde will be razed after two under-construction residence halls are finished.

One exciting thing about the new school will be that it will have two stories with an elevator and stairs. Currently, students at the school for the blind have to go off campus to practice those skills.

Sometimes those of us who have been given so much take what seem like the simplest tasks for granted.

— \$25 million: The new school for the blind would open up a 10-acre parcel south of Northern's campus for a sports complex featuring a football stadium and softball field, the price of which has not been announced. But the remaining funds the school is raising total about \$25 million.

We like that all these projects are under one campaign. It prevents fundraisers from going back again and again to the same people.

One price tag, right up front.

Plus, the fact that more than half of the needed funds have already been pledged also raises confidence that the goal will be reached in a reasonable timeline.

Once the campaign is complete, Northern will be the recipient of more than \$100 million in privately funded building projects and scholarships within a decade, according to university officials.

By 2022, the university will have the look of a new campus.

The iron has never been so hot. The time for the rest of this community to strike is now. Aberdeen needs to be having discussions on the effects of Northern's changes — and the other changes like the new soybean plant.

Community-changing stuff is happening right before our eyes.

We need to make sure we are ready for these changes and plan how we can leverage them to the full-



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est extent.

This feels like a once-in-a-lifetime kind of opportunity. We need to act accordingly.

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## **Madison Daily Leader, Madison, Nov. 29**

Large animal farms can be managed well

Large-scale animal farms are under attack from a variety of angles, including animal rights activists, environmentalists, neighboring towns and recreation areas.

Many of these battles take place at county commission meetings, although we expect more of them to take place in the state Legislature.

On each side are strong-willed opponents, and it seems most battles end up with distinct winners and losers.

But we think there are opportunities for both supporters and opponents to feel as though they are making progress. Those opportunities lie in new management methods and new technologies. If farmers and ranchers adopt some or all of the newest methods and technologies, we believe opponents will be more willing to accept large-scale operations.

We aren't experts in how to run a CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation), but there are experts available, including university faculty, agriculture trade groups, environmental specialists and vendors of new products.

We've read about newly developed bio filters (like large flake wood chips) which remove both particulates and odor from the air. There are new manure management systems which prevent bacteria getting in to waterways. Highly specialized filters clean water used in some animal operations.

Adding shelter belts on all sides of a CAFO, with particular trees that are best in our climate, contribute to dust and odor removal, plus give an aesthetically pleasing look to operations.

Reducing unnecessary antibiotics (which is increasingly demanded by both consumers and food processors) is a must. Operators can set up transportation in ways that don't tear up county or state roads.

There are many more methods and technologies available for operators willing to discover them. Taking advantage of improved methods and tools can turn CAFO battles into manageable relationships.

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## **The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Dec. 1**

Definite need for more conservation officers

As November wraps up and many hunting seasons slowly come to an end, it's important for us to remember a sometimes thankless job that's so important to our state.

Conservation officers, aka game wardens, with the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department have been working hard for the past few months doing their best to ensure outdoor enthusiasts are staying within the confines of laws to protect our natural resources.

But does our state have enough conservation officers? We think there's a definite need for more.

A lot of game is open for hunting in South Dakota right now. Deer, pheasants and waterfowl are available hunting opportunities, while fishing from boats is a luxury as today hits December.

And right there, speckled throughout the state, are GF&P conservation officers to keep our outdoor heritage strong for the coming decades.

The goal for all conservation officers is for complete compliance — for everyone to abide by laws, which are set to hold game populations at suitable levels.

But not everyone follows the laws. And, perhaps because now's hunting season, we've noticed more people are violating laws.

This month, GF&P has asked for the public's help in a couple cases in Lyman County in which someone shot pheasants and Canada geese, did not harvest the meat and dumped the carcasses to be wasted. Another case from West River showed a large mule deer that was poached and left unharvested.

On the same note, a recent GF&P law enforcement report showed there was a 17 percent increase in

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violations in 2016 compared to the previous year. Those violations included everything from trespass, over the limit, drug violations and more.

The state has about 80 certified conservation officers to cover about 77,000 square miles. On average, that's more than 900 that each conservation officer is responsible for.

These men and women work extremely hard. They're on duty during nights and weekends and, in our experiences, they're very professional. In addition, they also assist traditional law enforcement agencies as conservation officers are trained law enforcement.

As more people attempt to break state game laws and as all crime rises in South Dakota, state officials need to seriously think about boosting the number of conservation officers here. South Dakota residents and a large majority of the state's tourists love the outdoor opportunities we have.

To keep those traditions strong, GF&P's law enforcement agency could use a boost.

## Midwest economy: November state-by-state glance

By The Associated Press

The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates an expanding economy over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for November:

Arkansas: The November overall index for Arkansas fell to 51.9 from October's 55.4. Components of the index were new orders at 61.3, production or sales at 58.8, delivery lead time at 36.7, inventories at 51.4 and employment at 51.3. Arkansas increased manufacturing employment by 3.7 percent over the past 12 months, the report said. The state experienced slight job gains for durable-goods producers but significant additions for nondurable-goods manufacturers, Goss said.

Iowa: The state's overall index inched up to 55.2 last month from 55.0 in October. Index components were new orders at 58.4, production or sales at 58.8, delivery lead time at 53.3, employment at 54.3 and inventories at 51.4. Iowa increased manufacturing employment by 2.8 percent over the past 12 months, the report said. "Nondurable-goods producers, including animal slaughtering, expanded, while durable-goods manufacturers, including machinery manufacturers, contracted slightly," he said.

Kansas: Kansas' overall index fell to 58.0 in November, compared with 63.4 in October. Index components were new orders at 70.1, production or sales at 65.9, delivery lead time at 42.8, employment at 52.1 and inventories at 59.2. "Nondurable-goods producers expanded at a solid pace while durable-goods experienced slight losses," Goss said. Total manufacturing employment dropped 0.9 percent, the report said.

Minnesota: The state's overall index rose to 57.8 last month from 56.3 in October. Index components were new orders at 59.9, production or sales at 69.4, delivery lead time at 36.1, inventories at 58.9 and employment at 64.5. The state added 4,000 manufacturing jobs over the past 12 months, or 1.3 percent. Gains were strong for food processors and medical equipment manufacturers, Goss said.

Missouri: The overall index for Missouri jumped to 59.2 in November from 53.8 in October. Index components were new orders at 69.9, production or sales at 61.8, delivery lead time at 46.9, inventories at 62.7 and employment at 54.6. Missouri increased manufacturing employment by 2.6 percent over the past 12 months, the report said.

Nebraska: Nebraska's overall index slumped to 54.8 last month from 60.1 in October. Index components were new orders at 58.8, production or sales at 67.5, delivery lead time at 35.0, inventories at 59.9 and employment at 52.8. Nebraska increased manufacturing employment by 0.9 percent over the past 12 months, the report said. Losses for metal producers were more than offset by gains for food processors in the state, Goss said.

North Dakota: The state's overall index fell to 52.3 in November from 55.9 in October. Index components were new orders at 64.1, production or sales at 55.5, delivery lead time at 48.9, employment at 51.5 and inventories at 58.7. "After declining for much of 2016, North Dakota's mining and energy sector began to expand in the first quarter of this year," Goss said. "Surveys over the past several months indicate this expansion continues at a brisk pace, with the state's mining sector adding 3,600 jobs, or 23.4 percent, over the last 12 months."

Oklahoma: Oklahoma's overall index slipped to 60.8 last month from 63.0 in October. Index components were new orders at 70.0, production or sales at 65.9, delivery lead time at 51.4, inventories at 58.7 and employment at 57.8. "Expansions among energy-linked firms and manufacturing companies tied to energy are driving the state's economy forward at a current brisk pace," Goss said.

South Dakota: The state's overall index dipped to 55.4 in November, compared with 57.6 in October. Index components were new orders at 60.3, production or sales at 66.1, delivery lead time at 55.7, inventories at 54.7 and employment at 51.3. The state's manufacturing sector added only 100 jobs over the past 12 months, the report said — an increase of just 0.2 percent. "On the other hand, the state's mining sector is adding jobs at a solid pace," he said.

## Developers ditch wind power easements in Lincoln County

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The company behind a controversial wind farm proposal in Lincoln County has terminated its easements with 122 property owners.

Dakota Power Community Wind had pitched a project that would have been the state's largest wind farm, with up to 500 turbines producing up to 1,000 megawatts of power.

After opposition surfaced, county commissioners passed strict wind farm rules and voters upheld the decision in July.

The Argus Leader reports that the developer this week canceled the landowner easements it had on file with the county, likely signaling an end to the long-debated project south of Sioux Falls.

Company representative Brian Minish declined to comment, saying he'd offer a public statement to county commissioners at their regular meeting Tuesday.

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Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## Former Pierre business leader pleads not guilty to felonies

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A former downtown business leader in Pierre has pleaded not guilty in state court to felony charges of theft and forgery.

The Capital Journal reports that 37-year-old Jeanine Maskovich is a former president of the Historic Pierre Street Association. She's accused of forgery and theft of \$3,122 while working for Pierre Monument Company.

She faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted on both charges.

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Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

## Inmate pleads not guilty to killing escapee

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A state prison inmate has pleaded not guilty to killing another inmate who had walked away from a minimum security facility in Rapid City.

Thomas Lucero is charged with first-degree murder and an alternative second-degree murder count in the death of Moses Dubray. His body was found last January along state Highway 89 in southwestern South Dakota. The Rapid City Journal reports a death certificate says the 32-year-old Dubray died from a gunshot wound to the head.

Lucero was out on parole at the time Dubray was killed on or about Jan. 11 and turned himself in after

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a warrant was issued for a parole violation.

Lucero is also charged with aggravated assault against a person identified in the indictment as a confidential informant. The document says the informant testified before the grand jury.

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

## 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.

## In Flynn, Mueller unearths more lies \_ and a key witness

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More smoke but no smoking gun.

Michael Flynn's guilty plea Friday revealed a new layer of lies unearthed by the far-reaching investigation into ties between President Donald Trump and Russia, and put heightened scrutiny on the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. But Flynn's admission, and all of the criminal cases thus far, have not resolved the fundamental question special counsel Robert Mueller is seeking to answer:

Did Trump's campaign collude with Russia to win the election?

Still, Mueller has left no doubt that his investigators have amassed a wealth of knowledge about the contacts between Trump associates and the Russians, and they're looking to gather more facts from Flynn, a new key cooperator.

By forcing Flynn's assistance, Mueller gains someone who can put him in the room with Trump and his closest advisers during the campaign, transition and the early days of the administration, times when Trump associates have acknowledged communicating with people connected to Russia.

In the hours after Flynn admitted lying about his contacts with a Russian government official, two names surfaced as integral players in his actions.

Kushner was identified as a "very senior" transition official, who directed Flynn to contact foreign governments, including Russia, about a U.N. Security Council resolution last December. And KT McFarland, who served as Flynn's deputy national security adviser, was a "senior" transition official involved in discussions with Flynn about what to relay to Sergey Kislyak, then Russia's ambassador to the U.S., about the response to U.S. sanctions levied by the Obama administration.

Kushner and McFarland weren't named in court papers. But McFarland's involvement was confirmed by two former transition officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the matter. One of the officials confirmed Kushner's involvement.

Flynn became the fourth person known to have been charged in Mueller's probe and the second, after former campaign policy adviser George Papadopoulos, to cooperate with investigators.

For both Flynn and Papadopoulos, prosecutors employed a similar, and textbook, strategy by accepting a limited guilty plea and turning the defendants into government cooperators. Papadopoulos and Flynn



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both pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about their foreign contacts but not for their underlying conduct. Still, Flynn's plea to a single felony count of false statements made him the first official of the Trump White House to admit guilt so far in Mueller's criminal investigation as court papers made clear that senior Trump officials were aware of his outreach to Russian officials in the weeks before the inauguration.

That revelation moved the Russia investigation, which has overshadowed Trump's agenda throughout the year, deeper into the White House and raised questions about the accuracy of administration assertions that Flynn had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other officials about his calls with Kislyak.

Though prosecutors also had investigated Flynn lobbying work on behalf of the Turkish government, the fact he pleaded guilty to just one count, and faces a guideline range of zero to six months in prison, suggest prosecutors see him as a valuable tool and are granting a degree of leniency in exchange for his sharing what he knows.

Flynn, a 58-year-old retired U.S. Army lieutenant general, accepted responsibility for his actions in a written statement: "My guilty plea and agreement to cooperate with the Special Counsel's Office reflect a decision I made in the best interests of my family and of our country."

Immediately after Flynn's plea, White House lawyer Ty Cobb sought to put distance between Trump and the ex-aide, saying, "Nothing about the guilty plea or the charge implicates anyone other than Mr. Flynn."

For his part, the president ignored reporters' shouted questions as he welcomed the Libyan prime minister to the White House on Friday, and aides canceled media access to a later meeting between the two. He did appear briefly at an afternoon White House holiday reception for the media, where he offered season's greetings and departed without addressing the Mueller investigation.

Trump grew close to Flynn during the campaign. The general was a vocal and reliable Trump surrogate, known for leading crowds in "Lock her up" chants regarding Democrat Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server. After his election victory, Trump elevated Flynn as his top national security adviser.

But Flynn's White House tenure was short-lived. He was forced to resign in February following news reports revealing that the Obama administration officials had informed the Trump White House that Flynn had discussed sanctions with Kislyak, a fact at odds with the public assertions of Pence. The officials warned that the discrepancy made the administration potentially vulnerable to Russian blackmail.

After Flynn's departure from the White House, Trump retained a special interest in his former adviser. Former FBI Director James Comey, whose firing in May precipitated the appointment of Mueller as special counsel, has said Trump asked him in a private Oval Office meeting to consider ending the investigation into Flynn. Comey has said he found the encounter so shocking that he prepared an internal memo about it.

That FBI investigation was the basis of the court case against Flynn, centering on a series of conversations that Flynn had with Kislyak during the transition period between the November election and the Jan. 20 inauguration.

Prosecutors say Flynn on Dec. 29 spoke with the senior transition team official, later identified as McFarland, about what, if anything, to tell the Russians about sanctions that had been imposed one day earlier by the Obama administration in retaliation for election interference. At the time, McFarland was with Trump and other senior advisers at Mar-A-Lago in Florida.

After the discussion with McFarland, Flynn called the Russian ambassador and requested that Russia "not escalate the situation" and respond "in a reciprocal manner," a conversation prosecutors say he then reported back to transition team members. Just days later, Vladimir Putin opted not to retaliate.

Another conversation with Kislyak occurred one week earlier after a "very senior member" of the presidential transition team, later revealed to be Kushner, directed Flynn to contact foreign government officials, including from Russia, about a U.N. Security Council resolution regarding Israeli settlements.

In a striking rupture with past practice, the Obama administration refrained from vetoing the condemnation of the settlement expansion, opting instead to abstain. The rest of the 15-nation council, including Russia, voted unanimously against Israel. At the time, Israel was lobbying furiously against the resolution and the Trump team spoke up on behalf of the Jewish state.

Former U.S. officials and foreign diplomats have said Kushner led the transition effort to defeat that

U.N. vote.

During his conversation with Kislyak, prosecutors say, Flynn requested that Russia vote against or delay the resolution, though he admitted in his plea deal that he later lied to the FBI by saying he had not made that request.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Jonathan Lemire, Michael Biesecker, Desmond Butler and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

Follow Chad Day and Eric Tucker on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/ChadSDay> and <https://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Read Flynn's plea agreement: <https://t.co/RKxRKSWDAG>

## San Francisco defends sanctuary status as backlash mounts

By PAUL ELIAS and JANIE HAR, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The attacks on San Francisco and other cities with similar immigration policies began moments after a jury acquitted a Mexican man of killing a woman on a popular pier, some calling for a boycott of the city that fiercely defends its reputation as a refuge for all.

President Donald Trump called the verdict a "complete travesty of justice," and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions demanded cities like San Francisco scrap immigration policies that bar cooperation with federal deportation efforts.

Twitter users turned to the hashtags #BoycottSanFrancisco and #kateswall to demand construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall that Trump has called for. Conservative politicians and celebrities such as former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and actor James Woods lambasted the city as unsafe.

City officials vowed to stand behind their "sanctuary city" policy. It's what led Jose Ines Garcia Zarate to be released from San Francisco's jail despite a federal request to detain him for deportation several weeks before Kate Steinle was fatally shot in the back in 2015. He had been deported five times and was wanted for a sixth.

"San Francisco is and always will be a sanctuary city," said Ellen Canale, a spokeswoman for Mayor Ed Lee.

Sanctuary policies improve public safety by allowing immigrants to cooperate with police without fear, said state Sen. Scott Wiener, a Democratic former San Francisco supervisor.

"This family has been through hell, but there are people, including our president, who continue to use this tragedy to demonize immigrants and to slander immigrants by suggesting they are all criminals, and that is not true," he said Friday.

San Francisco was among the first U.S. cities to establish a sanctuary law in 1989 as part of a national wave of local policies intended to help Central American refugees.

Since then, the city consistently has been an early adopter of some of the most immigrant-friendly policies nationwide, and it takes pride in serving as a safe place for religious and gender minorities, non-English speakers and people in the country illegally. Hundreds of other cities have similar immigration policies.

A judge did not allow immigration politics into the courtroom for Garcia Zarate's trial.

San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia urged jurors to convict Garcia Zarate of first-degree murder, saying he had come to the pier with a gun and a desire to hurt someone.

His attorneys argued that he found a gun wrapped in cloth under a chair on the pier and it fired when he picked it up.

Jurors rejected charges of murder and involuntary manslaughter but did convict Garcia Zarate of being a felon in possession of a firearm, which carries a maximum sentence of three years in jail. It's likely he will have served long enough behind bars considering his time in custody.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it would "ultimately remove" Garcia Zarate from the country.

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During the 2016 presidential campaign, then-candidate Trump and others pointed to Steinle's death as reasons why the country's immigration laws should be tightened.

Trump called the verdict "disgraceful" and posted on Twitter 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.

Garcia Zarate's convictions were immigration and drug-related but he had no record of violence.

Former President Barack Obama had kept his Republican predecessor's policy of allowing U.S. immigration officials to ask local police to detain people suspected of living in the country illegally for up to 48 hours.

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 officials to detain him for deportation.

Federal officials got an arrest warrant for Garcia Zarate days after the shooting, which they say was a violation of his supervised release on the illegal re-entry conviction. A judge unsealed that warrant Friday.

Michael Cardoza, a longtime San Francisco Bay Area lawyer, said the prosecutor overreached in asking for a first-degree murder conviction, which would have meant that Garcia Zarate intended to kill Steinle despite strong evidence that the bullet ricocheted around 90 feet (27 meters) before striking her.

Cardoza said a better case could have been made to convince jurors that Garcia Zarate had a "reckless disregard for human life" and to convict him of second-degree murder.

Steinle's father, Jim, 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 described as the family's last.

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Associated Press writer Sophia Tareen contributed to this report from Chicago.

## Senate OKs tax bill as Trump, GOP near big legislative win

By ALAN FRAM, MARCY GORDON and STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans pushed a nearly \$1.5 trillion tax bill through the Senate early Saturday after a burst of eleventh-hour horse trading, as a party starved all year for a major legislative triumph took a giant step toward giving President Donald Trump one of his top priorities by Christmas.

"Big bills are rarely popular. You remember how unpopular 'Obamacare' was when it passed?" Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in an interview, shrugging off polls showing scant public enthusiasm for the measure. He said the legislation would prove to be "just what the country needs to get growing again."

Trump hailed the bill's passage on Twitter, thanking McConnell and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "Look forward to signing a final bill before Christmas!" the president wrote.

Presiding over the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence announced the 51-49 vote to applause from Republicans. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., was the only lawmaker to cross party lines, joining the Democrats in opposition. The measure focuses its tax reductions on businesses and higher-earning individuals, gives more modest breaks to others and offers the boldest rewrite of the nation's tax system since 1986.

Republicans touted the package as one that would benefit people of all incomes and ignite the economy. Even an official projection of a \$1 trillion, 10-year flood of deeper budget deficits couldn't dissuade GOP senators from rallying behind the bill.

"Obviously I'm kind of a dinosaur on the fiscal issues," said Corker, who battled to keep the bill from worsening the government's accumulated \$20 trillion in IOUs.

The Republican-led House approved a similar bill last month in what has been a stunningly swift trip through Congress for complex legislation that impacts the breadth of American society. The two chambers will now try crafting a final compromise to send Trump.

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After spending the year's first nine months futilely trying to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, GOP leaders were determined to move the measure rapidly before opposition Democrats and lobbying groups could blow it up. The party views passage as crucial to retaining its House and Senate majorities in next year's elections.

Democrats derided the bill as a GOP gift to its wealthy and business backers at the expense of lower-earning people. They contrasted the bill's permanent reduction in corporate income tax rates from 35 percent to 20 percent to smaller individual tax breaks that would end in 2026.

Congress' nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has said the bill's reductions for many families would be modest and said by 2027, families earning under \$75,000 would on average face higher, not lower, taxes.

The bill is "removed from the reality of what the American people need," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. He criticized Republicans for releasing a revised, 479-page bill that no one can absorb shortly before the final vote, saying, "The Senate is descending to a new low of chicanery."

"You really don't read this kind of legislation," Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., told home-state reporters, asked why the Senate was approving a bill some senators hadn't read. He said lawmakers needed to study it and get feedback from affected groups.

Democrats took to the Senate floor and social media to mock one page that included changes scrawled in barely legible handwriting. Later, they won enough GOP support to kill a provision by Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., that would have bestowed a tax break on conservative Hillsdale College in Michigan.

The bill hit rough waters after the Joint Taxation panel concluded it would worsen federal shortfalls by \$1 trillion over a decade, even when factoring in economic growth that lower taxes would stimulate. Trump administration officials and many Republicans have insisted the bill would pay for itself by stimulating the economy. But the sour projections stiffened resistance from some deficit-averse Republicans.

But after bargaining that stretched into Friday, GOP leaders nailed down the support they needed in a chamber they control 52-48. Facing unyielding Democratic opposition, Republicans could lose no more than two GOP senators and prevail with a tie-breaking vote from Vice President Mike Pence, but ended up not needing it.

Leaders' changes included helping millions of companies whose owners pay individual, not corporate, taxes on their profits by allowing deductions of 23 percent, up from 17.4 percent. That helped win over Wisconsin's Johnson and Steve Daines of Montana.

People would be allowed to deduct up to \$10,000 in property taxes, a demand of Sen. Susan Collins of Maine. That matched a House provision that chamber's leaders included to keep some GOP votes from high-tax states like New York, New Jersey and California.

The changes added nearly \$300 billion to the tax bill's costs. To pay for that, leaders reduced the number of high-earners who must pay the alternative minimum tax, rather than completely erasing it. They also increased a one-time tax on profits U.S.-based corporations are holding overseas and would require firms to keep paying the business version of the alternative minimum tax.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz. — who like Corker had been a holdout and has sharply attacked Trump's capabilities as president — voted for the bill. He said he'd received commitments from party leaders and the administration "to work with me" to restore protections, dismantled by Trump, for young immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children. That seemed short of a pledge to actually revive the safeguards.

The Senate bill would drop the highest personal income tax rate from 39.6 percent to 38.5 percent. The estate tax levied on a few thousand of the nation's largest inheritances would be narrowed to affect even fewer.

Deductions for state and local income taxes, moving expenses and other items would vanish, the standard deduction — used by most Americans — would nearly double to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for couples, and the per-child tax credit would grow.

The bill would abolish the "Obamacare" requirement that most people buy health coverage or face tax penalties. Industry experts say that would weaken the law by easing pressure on healthier people to buy coverage, and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has said the move would push premiums higher and leave 13 million additional people uninsured.



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Drilling would be allowed in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Another provision, knocked out because it violated Senate budget rules, would have explicitly let parents buy tax-advantaged 529 college savings accounts for fetuses, a step they can already take but which anti-abortion forces wanted to inscribe into law. There were also breaks for the wine, beer and spirits industries, Alaska Natives and aircraft management firms.

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor in Washington and Scott Bauer Milwaukee contributed to this report.

## Amid accusations, Roy Moore fighting for campaign cash

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Alabama Republican Roy Moore has celebrated his isolated fight against the political establishment in both parties. The outsider story may resonate with Alabama voters, but the reality has a clear downside: The Senate candidate and his allies are almost completely cut off from the GOP's traditional donor network and struggling to raise money for the final-weeks sprint to Election Day.

Federal fundraising reports released Friday reveal that Moore is losing the battle for campaign cash to Democrat Doug Jones. And he's losing badly.

Moore raised \$1.7 million from Oct. 1 to Nov. 22, according to a filing with the Federal Election Commission. Jones raised \$9.9 million over the same period.

The dramatic disparity has allowed the Democrat to dominate the Alabama airwaves and get-out-the-vote efforts with the Dec. 12 election fast approaching. Money isn't always deciding factor — particularly for a Democrat running in conservative Alabama — but Moore's struggle hasn't helped his effort to fight back against allegations of sexual misconduct that prompted much of his party's leadership to turn their backs on his bid.

Abandoned by many GOP donors, Moore is now looking to President Donald Trump and his political network for a final-days boost.

On the same week that the White House said the president would not campaign in Alabama on Moore's behalf, Trump agreed to headline a campaign-style rally in Pensacola, Florida — less than 20 miles from the Alabama border — just four days before the Alabama election.

At the same time, a political group aligned with former Trump strategist Steve Bannon is spending at least \$150,000 on a new television, radio and digital advertising campaign set to begin running across Alabama on Saturday. The investment, which is largely aimed at attacking Jones, could swell to \$400,000 to help counter Democrats' steady advertising dominance in race, according to Great America Alliance senior adviser Andy Surabian.

The Trump-aligned super PAC, America First Action, has been polling the Alabama race and could follow Great America's lead, according to spokeswoman Erin Montgomery.

But on the ground in Alabama, the super PAC created to benefit Moore directly, Proven Conservative PAC, has failed to attract big money, according to John Giles, who leads the group. His organization made specific pitches to several major donors across the country in recent weeks seeking between \$7 million and \$8 million. Almost all of the appeals were rejected, Giles said.

He blames the national Republican establishment, particularly Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, for the money woes.

"Our largest handicap to raising money has been Sen. McConnell," Giles said, adding that he believes McConnell's calls for Moore to leave the race have had a chilling effect on donors.

Proven Conservative filed a fundraising report with the Federal Election Commission this week that showed receipts of less than \$80,000 since The Washington Post first published the accounts of women who accused Moore of sexual misconduct, including one who said he molested her when she was 14 and he was in his 30s. More than half of the recent receipts — \$50,000 — came from one donor, Illinois-based Republican Richard Uihlein.

Moore has denied the accusations. Yet prominent Republican fundraisers note that Moore was unpopular

among mainstream donors long before explosive allegations surfaced about his past.

"The lack of donations, for a lot of people, I don't think has anything to do with the allegations," said Spencer Zwick, who leads national fundraising efforts for House Speaker Paul Ryan.

Zwick said donors have kept their distance largely because of Moore's turbulent history in Alabama, where he was twice removed from his position as the chief justice of the state Supreme Court for letting his Christian conservative values interfere with his judicial decisions. The first time he disobeyed a federal court order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the lobby of the state judicial building, and the second he urged state probate judges to defy the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized gay marriage.

Zwick cited "a scarcity of time and dollars" in explaining his decision not to send money to the Alabama Republican. "Roy Moore is unfortunately just not on my radar," he said.

Desperate for fundraising dollars, Moore highlighted his money troubles in a pitch to new donors this week.

His campaign issued a "Defeat the Elite money bomb" on Tuesday declaring that he needed help because his Democratic opponent was outspending him 10-to-1 by one account. The "money bomb" was designed to raise \$300,000. Three days later, the appeal had raised less than \$65,000, according to the fundraising website on Friday evening.

"I am facing enemy fire from all angles," Moore wrote in the fundraising appeal. "Of course, I refuse to back down or give up — no matter the costs. But resources are limited."

Backed by their fundraising advantage, Democrats have spent far more money on the Alabama Senate contest than Republicans since Moore clinched his party's nomination in late September.

Jones and his allies spent \$6.1 million on television and radio advertising between Sept. 26 and Wednesday, according to campaign officials monitoring spending in the race. By contrast, Moore and his allies spent just \$1.1 million. The totals include television advertising reserved through Election Day.

Jones' flood of cash is coming from unusual places in some cases.

California-based Republican strategist Tim Miller, who previously worked for Jeb Bush's presidential bid, made his first-ever donation to a Democrat last week. He gave Jones less than \$200, a small but meaningful gift that he promoted on social media, he said.

Nearly 56,000 people liked his tweet, which linked to a Jones' fundraising page, and another 17,000 shared it.

"Given all the re-tweets, I probably raised more money for Doug Jones than I ever raised for Jeb," Miller said. He opposes most of Jones' policies, but called the Democrat "a better option than someone who's a child molester who feels that gays should be in jail."

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Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Flynn pleads guilty, is cooperating in Trump-Russia probe**

**By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Flynn, the retired general who vigorously campaigned at Donald Trump's side and then served as his first national security adviser, pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about reaching out to the Russians on Trump's behalf and said members of the president's inner circle were intimately involved with — and at times directing — his contacts.

His plea to a single felony count of false statements made him the first official of the Trump White House to be charged so far in the criminal investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. And his action could be an ominous sign for a White House shadowed for the past year by investigations, turning Flynn into a potentially key government cooperator as prosecutors examine whether the Trump campaign and Russia worked together to influence the 2016 presidential election in Trump's favor.

Friday's developments don't resolve the paramount question of possible Trump-Russia coordination in the campaign, but they do show that Flynn lied to the FBI about multiple conversations last December

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with the Russian ambassador to the United States. Court papers make clear that senior Trump transition officials were fully aware of Flynn's outreach to Russian officials in the weeks before the inauguration.

The officials were not named in court papers, but people familiar with the case identified two of them to The Associated Press as Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, and former Deputy National Security Adviser KT McFarland, now up for an ambassadorship.

That revelation moves the Russia investigation deeper into the White House. And, given the direct involvement of the transition team in Flynn's calls with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, the plea also raises questions about the accuracy of repeated assertions by the administration that Flynn had misled Mike Pence and other officials when he denied having discussed sanctions with the diplomat.

Flynn, the longtime soldier, stood quietly during his plea hearing except to answer brief questions from the judge. He accepted responsibility for his actions in a written statement, though he said he had also been subjected to false accusations. He said, "My guilty plea and agreement to cooperate with the Special Counsel's Office reflect a decision I made in the best interests of my family and of our country."

A former Defense Intelligence Agency chief, Flynn was a considerably more vocal Trump surrogate during the campaign, known for leading rally crowds in "Lock her up" chants regarding Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server.

Though prosecutors also had investigated Flynn lobbying work on behalf of the Turkish government, the fact that he was permitted to plead guilty to just one count, and faces a guideline range of zero to 6 months in prison, suggests that prosecutors see him as a valuable tool in their investigation and are granting a degree of leniency in exchange for cooperation.

White House lawyer Ty Cobb sought to distance the plea from Trump himself, saying: "Nothing about the guilty plea or the charge implicates anyone other than Mr. Flynn."

Nonetheless, the Russia investigation has persistently followed Trump the first year of his presidency, angering the president and repeatedly distracting from his agenda. Flynn's plea came as Republican senators labored to pass a far-reaching tax bill, which would be a significant victory for Trump.

On Friday, the president ignored reporters' shouted questions as he welcomed the Libyan prime minister to the White House, and aides canceled media access to a later meeting between the two. He did appear briefly at an afternoon White House holiday reception for the media, where he offered season's greetings and departed without addressing the Mueller investigation.

Early on in his administration, Trump had taken a particular interest in the status of the Flynn investigation. Former FBI Director James Comey, whose firing in May precipitated the appointment of Mueller as special counsel, has said Trump asked him in a private Oval Office meeting to consider ending the investigation into Flynn. Comey has said he found the encounter so shocking that he prepared an internal memo about it.

Flynn, who was interviewed by the FBI days after Trump's inauguration, was forced to resign on Feb. 13 following news reports indicating that the Trump White House had been warned by Obama administration officials that he had discussed sanctions with Kislyak and was therefore compromised and potentially vulnerable to blackmail.

White House officials including Pence, who had declared publicly that Flynn never discussed sanctions, said they had been misled.

The court case Friday concerns a series of conversations that Flynn had with Kislyak during the transition period between the November election and the Jan. 20 inauguration.

Prosecutors say Flynn on Dec. 29 spoke with an unnamed senior transition team official about what, if anything, to say about sanctions that had been imposed on Russia one day earlier by the Obama administration in retaliation for election interference. Flynn then requested the Russian ambassador "not escalate the situation" and respond "in a reciprocal manner," a conversation that prosecutors say he then reported to transition team members.

Two former transition officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter, identified McFarland as the unnamed official.

The court papers do not allege that there was anything illegal about Flynn's conversations with the Rus-

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sians — but his lies about the talks amounted to a felony.

Still, if the Trump transition made secret back-door assurances to Russian diplomats, that could potentially run afoul of the Logan Act, a 1799 law that bars private American citizens from attempting to intervene in “disputes or controversies” between the United States and foreign powers without government approval.

Another conversation with Kislyak occurred one week earlier after a “very senior member” of the presidential transition team directed Flynn to contact foreign government officials, including from Russia, about a U.N. Security Council resolution regarding Israeli settlements. That “very senior member” was identified to AP as Kushner by a former transition official.

In a striking rupture with past practice, the Obama administration refrained from vetoing the condemnation of the settlement expansion, opting instead to abstain. The rest of the 15-nation council, including Russia, voted unanimously against Israel. At the time, Israel was lobbying furiously against the resolution and the Trump team spoke up on behalf of the Jewish state.

Former U.S. officials and foreign diplomats said Kushner led the effort to defeat that U.N. vote.

During his conversation with Kislyak, prosecutors say, Flynn requested that Russia vote against or delay the resolution, though he admitted in his plea deal that he later lied to the FBI by saying he had not made that request.

Mueller’s team announced charges in October against three other Trump campaign officials, former chairman Paul Manafort and his business associate Rick Gates, and a former campaign foreign policy adviser, George Papadopoulos. Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his own foreign contacts.

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Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Jonathan Lemire, Michael Biesecker, Desmond Butler and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

## Hawaii’s attack siren barely heard on popular tourist beach

By **CALEB JONES** and **JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER**, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii officials were checking if sirens intended to alert tourists and residents to a possible nuclear attack from North Korea malfunctioned or were not loud enough Friday after the first test of the warning system since the end of the Cold War was barely heard at one of the state’s most popular beaches.

The sirens largely were drowned out by crashing waves and wind along Waikiki, the famous stretch of beach in the shadow of the Diamond Head volcano. Beachgoers hardly noticed the test, which sounded like a distant siren. The warning would give people 20 minutes to take shelter ahead of an imminent missile strike.

“I was out in the ocean playing around, and I heard this siren,” said tourist Tom Passmore from Calgary, Canada, adding that he didn’t think much of it.

“I think it’s a good idea,” he said of the test, “but judging by everyone’s reaction around here, nobody moved.”

Vern Miyagi, administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, said early reports indicate the test went well, but officials could get complaints later. They will document any they receive and investigate if there were any glitches — a process they carry out after every monthly test of a siren for natural disasters.

There are 385 warning sirens throughout the islands. How well someone hears them depends on how close they are to a device, Miyagi said.

Hawaii officials said it is the first state to bring back the Cold War-era attack warning system. The wailing siren sounded for a minute after the usual testing of the steady alert for tsunamis and other events that residents are used to hearing.

The possibility of a strike is remote but it’s important to be prepared, Gov. David Ige said this week. The test will ensure the public knows what to do in case of an impending attack, he said.



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The state delayed the test for a month to let people know it would be happening, Miyagi said. Hawaii turned to public service announcements on TV and radio, town hall meetings, information on agency websites and media stories.

Honolulu resident Mark Valdez was taking a walk in Ala Moana Beach Park, about a mile away from Waikiki, during the test. He said he's heard some information about it but that he "wouldn't know what to do" in an emergency.

Also in the park, Thomas Hanes and his wife sat in hammocks as the sirens sounded.

"We heard it quite clearly, and it was effective," he said. "I just didn't know what it was for."

The Los Angeles residents, who stopped in Hawaii on their way to Australia, had not heard anything about the test.

"I assumed it was a test," Hanes said. "I thought if it is a nuclear missile attack, there's nothing I can do about it, so I'm just going to relax."

It comes the same week North Korea fired a powerful nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile it calls the Hwasong-15, leading analysts to conclude the nation has made a jump in its missile capability. The weapon would have a range of more than 8,100 miles (13,000 kilometers), easily reaching the U.S. mainland.

Hawaii is one of the closest states to North Korea, and its large military presence could make it more of a target. The island of Oahu is home to U.S. Pacific Command, the military's headquarters for the Asia-Pacific region. It also hosts dozens of Navy ships at Pearl Harbor and is a key base for the Air Force, Army and Marine Corps.

Miyagi has previously said a nuclear strike on Hawaii would result in thousands of deaths, thermal radiation, severe damage to critical infrastructure and other chaos.

The tests will continue on the first business day of every month.

Karen Lindsay and Carolyn Fujioka of Honolulu kept eating their lunch in Ala Moana Beach Park during the test. They thought that if it were a real emergency, there would not be time to do much.

"It's great to alert us, I guess to say our last goodbyes, which is basically all you can do," Lindsay said. "You just hope it never comes to that."

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Associated Press writer Haven Daley contributed to this report.

## Beleaguered World Cup gets weak opener: Russia-Saudi Arabia

By **ROB HARRIS**, AP Global Soccer Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — A World Cup shrouded in corruption controversies and struggling to attract sponsors could have the dreariest of starts.

Host Russia and Saudi Arabia play June 14 at Moscow in an opener lacking global appeal, but things pick up the next day when 2010 champion Spain and defending European champion Portugal meet in Sochi.

The Iberian neighbors were drawn into Group B at a Kremlin ceremony Friday. Morocco coach Herve Renard hoped to avoid the "two ogres" but will face them along with Iran.

"It's a complicated group," Spain coach Julen Lopetegui said. "It will be tough. Portugal is a great team. It is the defending European champion and has a squad filled with top players."

None more so than Cristiano Ronaldo, who recently joined Argentina's Lionel Messi as the only five-time winners of FIFA's player of the year award. Messi's quest for his first World Cup title begins the following day when Argentina takes on Iceland — at 334,000 the least-populous country to qualify for the World Cup.

Iceland coach Heimir Hallgrímsson already knows what he must tell his team: "Watch out for No. 10."

The United States is missing from soccer's top event for the first time since 1986 and four-time champion Italy will be watching from afar for the first time since 1958.

Germany remains the favorite. Its depth was clear when an experimental squad won the Confederations Cup in Russia in July. Germany opens against Mexico in its quest to become the first country to win back-to-back World Cup titles since Brazil in 1962. The Germans then face Sweden and South Korea in Group F.

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"We got opponents that are not unknown to us," Germany captain Manuel Neuer said. "That's what I like best, when we know what to expect."

Germany is hoping to be based in Sochi along with Brazil. The only five-time world champion does not intend to move its training camp despite a schedule that has none of its games in the Black Sea resort. The Selecao, beaten 7-1 at home by Germany in the 2014 semifinals, were drawn in Group E with Switzerland, Costa Rica and Serbia.

"Despite the distances, there are quick ways to get there," Brazil coach Tite said.

England, eliminated in the group stage three years ago, was drawn into Group G along with newcomer Panama, Tunisia and Belgium. Gareth Southgate's first World Cup game as a coach will be a repeat of his first as a player — Southgate made his World Cup debut in England's 2-0 win over Tunisia in 1998.

"We've been good at writing off teams and then getting beaten by them," Southgate said.

Roberto Martinez also will be making his World Cup debut. But the Belgium coach knows England well after spending two decades there as a coach and player.

"It is going to be one of those games with no secrets," said Martinez, a former Everton manager. "We have 25 players in the British game. That brings that understanding. That brings that competitive level."

Peru, the last of the 32 teams to qualify for Russia, is in Group C with 1998 champion France, Australia and Denmark.

"It could have been worse," France coach Didier Deschamps said.

The only group without a former World Cup champion is H — Poland, Senegal, Colombia and Japan.

The Russians have been placed with the winners of the first World Cup — Uruguay — in Group A along with Egypt and Uruguay. At No. 65, Russia is the lowest-ranked team at the tournament, with Saudi Arabia only two places higher.

"I've never seen them," Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov said.

The ceremony was opened by Russian President Vladimir Putin, one day short of the seventh anniversary of the FIFA executive committee vote that awarded the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 tournament to Qatar — the subject of bribe allegations against soccer executives brought up nearly daily in New York during a corruption trial against top soccer officials. Putin urged fans to visit and enjoy his "big and multifaceted" country, a rallying cry that comes amid concerns about racism and hooliganism.

"We will do everything to make it a major sporting festival," Putin said, anticipating a World Cup of "friendship and fair play, values that do not change with time."

The Olympic doping scandal surrounding Russia hung over the final countdown to the draw. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko, head of the local World Cup organizing committee, defended himself against accusations he helped orchestrate state-sponsored doping at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

"Nowadays everyone is trying to make some kind of axis of evil out of us, just because we're a great sporting power," Mutko said.

The International Olympic Committee executive board will decide on Tuesday whether to ban Russia from the upcoming Pyeongchang Olympics.

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AP Sports Writers Graham Dunbar and James Ellingworth contributed to this report.

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AP World Cup coverage: [www.apnews.com/tag/WorldCup](http://www.apnews.com/tag/WorldCup)

## Postal regulators move to let stamp prices jump higher

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seeking to bolster the ailing U.S. Postal Service, federal regulators moved on Friday to allow bigger jumps to stamp prices beyond the rate of inflation, a move that could eventually add millions more dollars to companies' shipping rates from prescription drugs to magazine subscriptions.

The Postal Regulatory Commission announced the decision as part of a much-anticipated, 10-year review of the Postal Service's stamp rates. It concluded that the post office's mounting red ink from declining

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mail volume and costs from its pension and health care obligations hamper the ability to provide reliable mail and package service in the digital age.

The commission's plan would give the Postal Service freedom to raise the price of its first-class stamp, now at 49 cents, by an additional 2 percent above the rate of inflation to help avoid bankruptcy and make needed multi-billion dollar investments, such as upgraded information technology and new delivery trucks.

The post office could also tack on another 1 percent to the stamp price if it met certain standards for "operational efficiency" and quality service.

In all, that could translate to an increase of up to a few cents each year, depending on rates of inflation, compared with roughly 1 cent per year previously. The new pricing system would be in place for at least the next five years.

Businesses immediately voiced objections, calling the regulatory plan "disappointing."

"The more-than-doubling over 5 years at current inflation rates proposed by the commission would be harmful to postal customers and the Postal Service," said Art Sackler, manager of the Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service, a broad trade group that includes mailers such as Amazon and the National Retail Federation. He said higher stamp rates could drive more price-sensitive consumers to online communications, decreasing postal revenue further.

"Once mail leaves, it rarely comes back," he said.

Groups including eBay, Netflix and Greeting Card Association had urged the commission to defer on major changes to the Postal System's pricing system, arguing in part that Congress had intended to keep a rate cap in place based on a law passed in 2006. Only lawmakers can provide financial relief from the onerous requirements placed on the Postal Service to pre-fund retiree health benefits, which have been the biggest factor behind its financial losses over the last decade, the groups said.

The Postal Service, which had sought almost complete freedom to raise postal rates, said it was still reviewing the proposal to see if it was sufficient. "We continue to believe that any price cap is unnecessary in the rapidly evolving postal marketplace, for which all of our customers have alternatives to using the mail," said Postmaster General Megan Brennan.

The regulators' plan now will go through public comment, taking effect next spring unless there is substantial pressure from Congress, businesses or the public.

Robert Taub, the Republican chairman of the Postal Regulatory Commission, made clear Friday that changes are needed to address the Postal Service's dire financial situation and help keep it competitive with rival shipping companies.

The Postal Service, now in the midst of the busy holiday shipping season, has projected it will reach new highs this year in holiday package delivery but warned that it may not be sustainable as finances continue to deteriorate.

"The system has not maintained the financial health of the Postal Service," Taub declared.

Shipping rival UPS, which has opposed higher stamp rates as potentially anticompetitive, said Friday it hoped the regulatory commission would take additional steps to protect companies that the Postal Service competes with. UPS argues the post office could unfairly use revenue from higher stamp rates to lower package delivery rates, "which would be against U.S. law."

An independent agency of government, the Postal Service has lost money for 11 straight years. While online shopping has led to years of double-digit growth in its package-delivery business, it hasn't offset declines in lucrative first-class mail. Overall mail volume, which makes up more than two-thirds of postal revenue, dropped 27 percent over the last decade as people relied more on email and online bill payments.

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Follow Hope Yen on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/hopeyen1>

## NBC source: No payout for Lauer on rest of his contract

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NBC is standing firm against giving fired “Today” host Matt Lauer a payout on the multimillion-dollar salary he’s leaving behind, according to a person at the network.

Lauer, said to have earned around \$25 million a year, reportedly is negotiating to receive the remainder of his salary for the current contract that runs through 2018 and made him one of TV’s highest-paid journalists.

But NBC won’t agree, said the person, who spoke Friday on condition of anonymity because a personnel matter was involved.

Some NBC News employees who raised the question of Lauer’s compensation at a staff meeting were told that he was fired “for cause” and wouldn’t be paid beyond his last day worked, according to a Variety report Friday.

A representative for Lauer didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Also Friday, NBC News Chairman Andrew Lack said an internal review into Lauer’s alleged sexual misconduct is underway, including how it happened and why it wasn’t stopped earlier.

In a company-wide memo released publicly, Lack said those are among the questions NBC employees are asking in the wake of the “Today” host’s firing for what Lack labeled “appalling behavior.”

A team of NBCUniversal legal and human resources leaders have started a “thorough and timely review” of what occurred and how the company can foster greater transparency and mutual respect, Lack said in the memo.

“At the conclusion of the review we will share what we’ve learned, no matter how painful, and act on it,” he said.

His memo didn’t address if the report will be made public. NBC News publicists didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Reiterating comments from a memo he sent Wednesday, Lack said the top priority is to create a safe workplace environment and that unacceptable actions are “met with consequences, no matter who the offender.”

NBC’s announcement Tuesday that Lauer was being fired for “inappropriate sexual behavior” meant that the network was cutting loose the popular, long-established star of its highly lucrative morning show.

How much Lauer’s status may have protected him from allegations is among the questions raised by observers. NBC has said current executives didn’t receive any complaints before the one Monday that triggered Lauer’s immediate dismissal the next day.

Two other women came forward with accusations, with one telling The New York Times that Lauer had sexually assaulted her in his office in 2001. A Variety magazine investigation outlined a pattern of alleged salacious behavior, including three women who said Lauer harassed them.

In his first public response, Lauer said in a statement Thursday that some of the allegations were untrue but others had enough truth that he felt “embarrassed and ashamed.”

Repairing the damage caused is his “full-time job,” Lauer said.

He joined a lengthening list of prominent men toppled by misconduct claims, starting with movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and expanding out to others in Hollywood, media and politics.

In his memo, Lack said the company’s mandatory online training on sexual harassment and other workplace issues will be augmented in the news division by in-person training

“This week we saw that when an employee comes forward to report misconduct, the system works. The complaint is quickly assessed and meaningful action is taken,” he said. But workers must be empowered to “take the crucial first step of reporting bad behavior.”

NBC has been caught up in other misconduct-related matters.

Last fall, the network was accused of sitting on an “Access Hollywood” audio tape in which then-candidate Donald Trump was heard telling Billy Bush that prominence came with a license to grope women. The exchange was first reported by the Washington Post.



In the Weinstein scandal, the first report was by The New York Times while a story by Ronan Farrow did for NBC News went unaired. Reporting by Farrow on Weinstein was subsequently published in New Yorker stories.

Earlier this month, NBC News fired the man who headed its talent booking department after multiple women accused him of inappropriate conduct.

Lynn Elber can be reached at [lelber@ap.org](mailto:lelber@ap.org) and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/lynnelber>.

## First baby from a uterus transplant in the US born in Dallas

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer

The first birth as a result of a womb transplant in the United States has occurred in Texas, a milestone for the U.S. but one achieved several years ago in Sweden.

A woman who had been born without a uterus gave birth to the baby at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

Hospital spokesman Craig Civale confirmed Friday that the birth had taken place, but said no other details are available. The hospital did not identify the woman, citing her privacy.

Baylor has had a study underway for several years to enroll up to 10 women for uterus transplants. In October 2016, the hospital said four women had received transplants but that three of the wombs had to be removed because of poor blood flow.

The hospital would give no further information on how many transplants have been performed since then. But Time magazine, which first reported the U.S. baby's birth, says eight have been done in all, and that another woman is currently pregnant as a result.

A news conference was scheduled Monday to discuss the Dallas baby's birth.

A doctor in Sweden, Mats Brannstrom, is the first in the world to deliver a baby as a result of a uterus transplant. As of last year, he had delivered five babies from women with donated wombs.

There have been at least 16 uterus transplants worldwide, including one in Cleveland from a deceased donor that had to be removed because of complications. Last month, Penn Medicine in Philadelphia announced that it also would start offering womb transplants.

Womb donors can be dead or alive, and the Baylor study aims to use some of both. The first four cases involved "altruistic" donors — unrelated and unknown to the recipients. The ones done in Sweden were from live donors, mostly from the recipients' mother or a sister.

Doctors hope that womb transplants will enable as many as several thousand women born without a uterus to bear children. To be eligible for the Baylor study, women must be 20 to 35 years old and have healthy, normal ovaries. They will first have in vitro fertilization to retrieve and fertilize their eggs and produce embryos that can be frozen until they are ready to attempt pregnancy.

After the uterus transplant, the embryos can be thawed and implanted, at least a year after the transplant to make sure the womb is working well. A baby resulting from a uterine transplant would be delivered by cesarean section. The wombs are not intended to be permanent. Having one means a woman must take powerful drugs to prevent organ rejection, and the drugs pose long-term health risks, so the uterus would be removed after one or two successful pregnancies.

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine issued a statement Friday calling the Dallas birth "another important milestone in the history of reproductive medicine."

For women born without a functioning uterus, "transplantation represents the only way they can carry a pregnancy," the statement said. The group is convening experts to develop guidelines for programs that want to offer this service.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at [@MMarchioneAP](https://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP)

## Dutch autopsy shows dead war criminal had cyanide in system

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A former Croatian general who died after swallowing a liquid at a war crimes hearing in the Netherlands had cyanide in his system, Dutch prosecutors said after an autopsy was performed Friday.

Preliminary results from a toxicological test revealed “a concentration of potassium cyanide” in Slobodan Praljak’s blood, the Hague Public Prosecutor’s Office said in a statement.

The cyanide caused heart failure, which investigators “pointed out” as the 72-year-old Praljak’s “suspected cause of death,” according to the prosecutor’s statement.

On Wednesday, Praljak drank from a small bottle that he said contained poison seconds after an appeals judge at the U.N.’s International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia confirmed his 20-year sentence for crimes during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

He was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital a little while later.

Meanwhile, the United Nations tribunal ordered an independent review of its “internal operations” following the dramatic event in its courtroom. The tribunal said its review was meant to complement the ongoing investigation of Praljak’s death by Dutch prosecutors.

The announcement came after Croatia’s justice minister raised doubts about whether security and medical staff at the tribunal responded quickly enough when Praljak raised the bottle to his lips with a trembling right hand and consumed its contents.

Before the toxicological test results came back, Dutch prosecutors had confirmed the bottle carried a toxic chemical. It remains unclear how Praljak, who was in custody before the hearing, obtained the substance and managed to smuggle it into the courtroom.

Cyanide is a fast-acting chemical that can be deadly in different forms. Cyanide gas is considered the most harmful, but swallowing cyanide can also be lethal.

Potassium cyanide, found in Praljak’s blood, is a white powder that can have a bitter, almond-like odor. Cyanide kills by preventing the cells of the body from using oxygen, and is particularly harmful to the heart and brain, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The tribunal’s review will begin next week and be led by Hassan Jallow, a former prosecutor with the U.N.’s Rwanda war crimes tribunal. It aims to file a report by Dec. 31, when the tribunal formally closes its doors, having completed all its cases.

The court says Jallow “is mandated to undertake an assessment of relevant existing procedures as well as make any recommendations which may assist other courts in the future.”

Tribunal spokesman Nenad Golcevski said it is not the first time such a probe has been ordered by the court.

“Similar internal reviews have been initiated, for example, after the death of Slobodan Milosevic,” Golcevski said, referring to the former Yugoslav president who died in his tribunal cell in 2006 before judges could deliver verdicts in his trial.

Two Croatian experts observed the autopsy on Praljak’s body at the tribunal’s request.

Late Thursday, Croatian Justice Minister Drazen Bosnjakovic said the country would ask Dutch authorities to be included in the ongoing investigation into Praljak’s death.

Bosnjakovic told Croatia’s state TV that “much remains unclear, including how the poison was taken in, why security didn’t react in time and why medical help arrived so late.” He added that Croatia wants “all facts cleared about this tragic event.”

Praljak’s defense lawyer, Nika Pinter, told Croatia’s Nova TV she did not know how Praljak managed to get the bottle past security.

“But that was his decision, his decision,” Pinter said. “He would not want to live for one day with handcuffs on his hands, and (the) stigma of war criminal on his back.”

## Attorney: Conyers to assess future plans based on health

By COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — An attorney for Michigan Rep. John Conyers said on Friday that the congressman will discuss in the next few days whether to resign following allegations of sexual misconduct, but his health will be the paramount factor and not pressure from Washington politicians.

Arnold Reed told a news conference Friday that he will be meeting with doctors to assess the medical prognosis for the 88-year-old Conyers following a second round of medical tests.

Facing growing calls for his resignation, Conyers returned to Detroit from Washington on Tuesday and was hospitalized the next day. He remains there although no details of his condition have been released.

"We will discuss in the next day or so what Mr. Conyers plans to do. As you know his health is not the best. It's not what it should be," Reed said. "It will be Congressman John Conyers who decides what it is he is going to do."

Reed told reporters that he had not spoken Conyers in two days, allowing his client to rest.

Multiple women have accused Conyers of sexual misconduct including inappropriate touching and harassment.

Striking a defiant tone, Reed continued to stress that Conyers denies he sexually-harassed anyone.

A number of fellow Democrats have called on Conyers to resign, including Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and fellow Michigan Rep. Dan Kildee. Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan has also urged Conyers to step down.

The House Ethics Committee has been reviewing the allegations against Conyers, who is the longest-serving current member of the House. He has stepped aside from his post as ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The accusations against Conyers are part of a wave of allegations against titans of entertainment, media and sports since the explosive reports of sexual misconduct by Hollywood executive Harvey Weinstein.

A Nov. 20 BuzzFeed report said that Conyers' office paid a woman more than \$27,000 under a confidential agreement to settle a complaint in 2015 that she was fired from his Washington staff because she rejected his advances. Marion Brown has since publicly alleged that Conyers propositioned her for sex multiple times over more than a decade.

Brown is preparing to testify sometime next week before the House Ethics Committee, her attorney, Lisa Bloom told The Associated Press Friday.

"We hope it will take place next week in an open forum," Bloom said of the hearing.

Another former staff member, Deanna Maher, who ran a Michigan office for Conyers from 1997 to 2005, accused Conyers of sexual misconduct including partially undressing in front of her and feeling her legs in a vehicle.

A former scheduler alleged sexual harassment, retaliation and a hostile work environment in a February 2017 proposed complaint, but took no further action after a judge refused to file it under seal.

Brown, 61, worked for Conyers in a variety of capacities from 2003 until 2014, mostly in the Detroit district office. Brown said she kept the job partly because she had four children in college.

But Reed questioned why the women continued to work for Conyers if he harassed them and said that a number of other people around the congressman saw a positive interaction between Conyers and the women.

He especially attacked Brown's credibility, called her an "opportunist."

He showed reporters a photo of Conyers and Brown standing next to each and smiling for the camera around six years ago at an annual attorneys' ball.

He also said that Brown asked Conyers to hire her daughter and he did.

"When you bring your daughter into a situation that you describe that is completely hell, it is fundamentally incongruous with anything that resembles logic and truth," Reed said.

Bloom responded: "I'm not going to debate the facts of this case with Mr. Conyers' attorney in the media."

## Trump denies Tillerson out as secretary of state

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday denied he wants to oust Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, calling reports to that effect “fake news,” as his top diplomat brushed off speculation that he has lost the confidence of the White House.

As Tillerson went about his normal schedule of diplomatic activities, including two meetings with Trump, the president said his secretary of state is “not leaving.”

“The media has been speculating that I fired Rex Tillerson or that he would be leaving soon - FAKE NEWS!” Trump tweeted. “He’s not leaving and while we disagree on certain subjects, (I call the final shots) we work well together and America is highly respected again!”

The tweet was Trump’s strongest endorsement of his top diplomat since senior White House officials on Thursday began telling reporters that a plan had been devised to push Tillerson out and replace him with CIA chief Mike Pompeo. Immediately after reports of the plan emerged, Trump offered only tepid support for Tillerson, noting only that he was at the White House for a previously scheduled meeting.

The halfhearted backing amid the swirl of speculation over Tillerson’s imminent demise had threatened to impair his effectiveness, particularly as he prepares for an official trip to Europe next week.

On Friday, Tillerson attended two meetings at the White House with Trump — one with Libya’s visiting prime minister and then a lunch with the president and Defense Secretary James Mattis. Before those meetings, Tillerson told reporters at the State Department that speculation he was on his way out was “laughable.”

Tillerson aides had said the secretary was sanguine and remained comfortable in his role despite the turmoil in Trump’s national security team centering on him. Aides said Tillerson would continue to serve until the president asked him not to and stressed that such a request had not been made.

The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Although Tillerson looks safe for now, he will be losing a senior aide and conduit to the public in coming weeks.

R.C. Hammond, who has run State Department strategic communications since Tillerson took office, will leave his post in mid-December, officials said.

The departure of Hammond, one of the few senior Tillerson aides who was accessible to journalists, may hurt the department’s already difficult task of defending the secretary against a slew of negative reports about his leadership, particularly after senior White House officials amplified them Thursday.

According to senior White House officials, the plan centered around replacing Tillerson with Pompeo, which would have led to a major realignment early in Trump’s term. It would create a vacancy atop the CIA that officials said could be filled by Republican Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas.

Such an overhaul could produce a significant shift in both the tone and direction of the president’s foreign policy, removing it from the understated former oil man whose style has never fit well with Trump’s.

It is exceedingly rare for a secretary of state, America’s face on the global stage, to be fired or to serve for a year or less. Nor is it common for presidents to have such a significant Cabinet revamp so soon after taking office.

“There’s no question this is incredibly damaging to whatever credibility the secretary had left,” said Derek Chollet, a former State Department, Pentagon and National Security Council official in the Obama administration.

Friction between the president and the nation’s top diplomat has grown increasingly public through the year.

After a report in October that Tillerson had called the president a “moron,” Tillerson appeared before cameras to pledge fealty to his boss. Soon after, Trump publicly challenged his secretary to an IQ match.

For Tillerson, who left his job as Exxon Mobil’s CEO, a premature departure from the Cabinet has seemed increasingly inevitable.



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When Tillerson was tapped for the job late last year, many Trump critics expressed quiet relief that he'd picked a sober "adult" who could form a counterweight to the president's brasher, more impulsive approach, especially on critical matters of war and peace.

Yet divisions on key foreign policy issues emerged quickly, and Trump has repeatedly undermined Tillerson by voicing positions at odds with his.

When Tillerson in June called on Arab nations to ease their blockade on Qatar, Trump hours later lambasted Qatar for funding terrorism. Trump also deemed diplomacy with North Korea a waste of time, when Tillerson was pursuing just that. Tillerson's advice to Trump to stay in the Paris climate deal and certify Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal was similarly overruled.

Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

## Quick firing not an option in political sex-misconduct cases

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When sexual misconduct allegations surface in the private sector, a boss can say, "You're fired" — as Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose and others can attest. In the political world, it's never that simple.

Rep. John Conyers has refused to step down even after House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi urged the veteran Democrat from Detroit to do so. Democratic Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota faces a Senate ethics investigation but plans to stay on. And Republican Roy Moore is pressing ahead with his Senate candidacy in Alabama despite allegations he sexually assaulted two teenage girls decades ago.

In the recent cases where the alleged harasser worked for a major media organization, the firings have been depicted as necessary to uphold the company's reputation.

But elected officials "are their own brands," said Gayle Goldin, a Democratic state senator from Rhode Island. "It's up to them to decide how they're going to respond to pressure on them to step down."

Members of Congress can, as a matter of fact, be expelled by their colleagues. But lawmakers historically have been loath to do that. Since the Civil War, only two have been expelled; they were ousted in 1980 and 2002, both of them for corruption.

Politicians often try to hang on by retaining the support of their base, and cling to the notion that in a democracy, the voters are the ultimate bosses.

In Moore's case, elements of the national Republican Party have repudiated the fiery religious conservative, but the Alabama GOP — and many voters — remain supportive as he faces Democrat Doug Jones in a Dec. 12 special election.

Debra Katz, an attorney in Washington who specializes in sexual harassment cases, noted that Moore doesn't need nationwide good will to the extent that TV personalities like Rose and Lauer do.

"With politicians, there's a spin machine that immediately goes into place — and a different constituency they are playing to," Katz said. "They're assuming their political base will allow them to continue in their roles, and they can continue to slap at the press and brand any continued reporting as fake news."

The Rev. Robert Franklin, professor of moral leadership at Emory University's school of theology in Atlanta, said an accusation against a politician can play out differently than one against someone in the private sector.

In the political arena, "an alleged transgression often triggers protection, loyalty and 'circling the wagons,' rather than abandonment," Franklin said by email. "In Roy Moore's case, the transgression plays into a narrative of persecution of the courageous, righteous leader, even when he has obvious flaws."

Conyers similarly has a loyal base of supporters in the Detroit area who have been electing him to Congress since 1964. Conyers' lawyer, Arnold Reed, said Friday that the congressman has done nothing wrong and will "defend himself until the cows come home."

However, Reed noted that Conyers, 88, was recently hospitalized with health problems and said he will decide in the coming days whether to resign or stay in office.

"John Conyers will be the one to decide," Reed said. "It's not going to be Washington."

One of the factors complicating sexual misconduct cases in politics is the power of partisanship. Attorney Emily Martin, vice president for workplace justice at the National Women's Law Center in Washington, said some voters would rather retain a flawed politician from their own party than run the risk of yielding a seat to someone from the other side.

"If you're a consumer-facing industry, you don't want to alienate any segment of your audience," Martin said. "A lot of politicians don't care if they alienate a big section of the public as long as they keep their core group."

Some politicians have been toppled by sexual misconduct allegations. A state representative in California and two lawmakers in Minnesota recently announced their resignations. And Kentucky Rep. Jeff Hoover stepped down as state House speaker, though he remains in the Legislature.

In Congress, even when members initiate action against one of their own, ethics investigations can drag on and on. After 19 women accused Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., of sexual harassment, it took three years for the Senate Ethics Committee to complete its investigation. He resigned in 1995, a day after the panel recommended expulsion.

To some members, the traditional approach by Congress is no longer acceptable.

Rep. Kathleen Rice, D-N.Y., cited the recent firings of media figures and told reporters, "We don't do the same, and I think it's a disgrace."

Goldin, the Rhode Island legislator, shares some of those frustrations, saying she and other female lawmakers have to contend with "a toxic mix of power and sexism in a heavily male-dominated field."

"I can't fire people," she said. "I can't change who is in the room, beyond encouraging other women to run for office."

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Follow David Crary on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CraryAP>

## **Michael Flynn's rise was rapid, his fall even faster**

**By CHAD DAY, ERIC TUCKER and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Flynn was President Donald Trump's favorite general, rapidly vaulted to prominence by his fiery speech at the 2016 Republican National Convention about jailing Hillary Clinton and by Trump's decision to reward him with a plum job as his top national security aide.

Flynn's plunge was even faster. He was fired by Trump after just a month in the White House and left to contend with a mounting criminal probe that led to his decision to plead guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian ambassador.

Flynn, 58, is the first person who served in the Trump White House to be charged in the wide-ranging investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller into possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia. He also becomes the first former national security adviser to be charged with a felony since the fallout from the Iran-Contra affair of the mid-1980s.

Flynn came to the fore as the stern, hawkish persona of the tough national security image Trump sought to project to the nation and the world during last year's campaign. Trump admired "my generals," as he described the military men he brought into his campaign, and for Flynn, the growing bond with the insurgent GOP candidate was life altering.

Flynn was a familiar presence on the Trump campaign trail, his appearance intended to lend national security gravitas to an election effort short on established names. At campaign events, and at the Republican convention, Flynn led cheers of "Lock her up" about the Democratic candidate and her email practices.

Flynn's vaunted military career as an intelligence specialist had ended in a forced dismissal by senior Obama administration officials. As a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general, he had to scramble for opportunities advising cybersecurity companies and starting up his own consulting firm. But Trump's growing admiration provided Flynn with the promise of a pivotal national role and a public forum for his increasingly defiant screeds against "radical Islam" and the Obama administration.

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Trump lauded Flynn as an “invaluable asset” in November 2016 as he named him his national security adviser. And even after Trump fired him in February, the president continued to hold Flynn in high esteem, grouching that such a “wonderful man” had been laid low by leaks and pesky media.

Flynn’s path to the courtroom can be traced back to two events on the same day — Election Day 2016. That morning, Flynn published an op-ed in The Hill newspaper, trumpeting the talking points of the Turkish government. That evening, Trump won the election, thrusting the retired general known for his attacks on Islam into position for a top national security post.

Within weeks, Flynn had been named national security adviser and the Justice Department had taken an interest in the op-ed as possible evidence of unregistered foreign agent work.

While Flynn’s attorneys began the process of determining whether he would need to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, Flynn had a phone conversation with the Russian ambassador to the United States that was recorded by the U.S. government and that swiftly caught the attention of the Justice Department.

He was interviewed by FBI agents on Jan. 24 about his communications with the ambassador, Sergey Kislyak, and about whether they had discussed sanctions imposed on Russia following its election interference.

Days later, then-acting Attorney General Sally Yates warned White House counsel Don McGahn that Flynn had been compromised because of discrepancies between the White House public narrative — that Flynn and Kislyak had not discussed sanctions — and the reality of what occurred.

White House officials took no immediate action against Flynn, and he was not forced to resign his position until after news reports indicated that he had discussed sanctions and that Justice Department officials had raised concerns.

In the weeks after his firing, Flynn registered retroactively with the Justice Department, disclosing that \$530,000 worth of lobbying his company did for a Turkish businessman could have benefited the government of Turkey. Flynn’s business partner, former Export-Import Bank board member Bijan Kian, also registered.

In the filings, both men laid out a contract Flynn signed in the final months of the presidential campaign that called for his firm, the Flynn Intel Group, to gather information that could support a criminal case against a Turkish cleric living in the U.S. The cleric, Fethullah Gulen, has been accused of being behind a failed coup last year, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called for his extradition. The U.S. has rebuffed those calls for lack of evidence.

But Flynn’s retroactive disclosure of the work did not satisfy federal prosecutors. A grand jury in the Eastern District of Virginia soon began investigating, and FBI agents began asking questions about how much Flynn and Kian knew about Ekim Alptekin, the Turkish businessman who hired them.

When Mueller was appointed in May, he incorporated that investigation.

The Turkish contract landed by Flynn’s consulting firm was the first significant promise of business success since he had left the military. Flynn had won plaudits as a military intelligence officer in combat zones in Afghanistan and Iraq and was rewarded in July 2012 with a post as director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the military’s spy organization.

He lasted two years, criticized by Obama administration officials for his management and temper, and was forced to retire in August 2014. Flynn’s post-military career was a succession of consulting gigs and directorships at small defense contractors. He traveled to the Mideast in 2015 to lend credibility to a proposal for a U.S.-Russia private nuclear partnership that has yet to work out. And he took payments from several foreign firms that have come back to haunt him.

Congressional committees investigating Flynn earlier this year found that he had been paid more than \$37,000 by RT, a Russian state-sponsored television station, to attend its anniversary gala in Moscow in December 2015. Flynn was given a dignitary’s welcome, seated beside Russian President Vladimir Putin at the network’s lavish dinner. The Russian network has since been identified by a U.S. intelligence community assessment as a propaganda arm of Putin’s government.

Flynn is also under investigation by the Defense Department's inspector general to determine whether he failed to obtain government approval before accepting payments from foreign governments.

Flynn's rise in prominence in conservative circles came as he became an outspoken critic of President Barack Obama's handling of terrorism. Flynn called for a more aggressive campaign against the Islamic State group and turned his fire on Islam itself, calling it a "cancer" and a "political ideology" that "definitely hides behind being a religion."

Flynn harped on similar themes on the campaign trail, joining Trump at rallies and working his way into the campaign inner circle. Most notably, Flynn also became the face of Trump's calls for Clinton to be jailed over her use of a private email server.

"If I did a tenth of what she did, I would be in jail today," Flynn said at the Republican convention.

Associated Press writer Desmond Butler contributed to this report.

## Schools cut ties with honorees accused of sexual misconduct

By COLLIN BINKLEY, Associated Press

Dozens of U.S. colleges have bestowed honors upon prominent men from Hollywood to the nation's capital who have recently been accused of sexual misconduct. Their dilemma: deciding whether to revoke them.

More than 10 men facing allegations have received honorary degrees that could face scrutiny, including fired news anchor Charlie Rose, who has collected at least nine, and Pixar executive John Lasseter, with at least 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 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 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.

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 Ohio University 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



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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 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 of 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.

## Pope says 'Rohingya' in emotional encounter with refugees

By NICOLE WINFIELD and JULHAS ALAM, Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Pope Francis asked for forgiveness Friday from refugees in Bangladesh for all the hurt and persecution they have endured, demanded their rights be recognized and pronounced the word he had so assiduously avoided only days earlier in Myanmar: "Rohingya."

In a deeply moving encounter, Francis greeted and blessed a group of Rohingya Muslim refugees, grasping their hands and listening to their stories in a show of public solidarity amid Asia's worst refugee crisis in decades. He apologized for the "indifference of the world" to their plight and then pronounced the name

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of their ethnic group to a gathering of Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Christian leaders.

"The presence of God today is also called 'Rohingya,'" he said.

The 16 Rohingya — 12 men, two women and two young girls — had traveled to Dhaka from Cox's Bazar, the district bordering Myanmar where refugee camps are overflowing with more than 620,000 Rohingya who have fled what the U.N. says is a campaign of ethnic cleansing by Myanmar's military.

The campaign has included the burning of Rohingya villages and fleeing Rohingya have described rape and shootings by Myanmar soldiers and Buddhist mobs that left them no option but to make the dangerous and sometimes deadly journey through jungles and by sea to Bangladesh.

The Myanmar government has denied any such campaign is underway. The army says "clearance operations" are targeting militants who attacked security positions in August.

Myanmar's government and most of the Buddhist majority recoil from the term "Rohingya," saying the members of the Muslim minority are "Bengalis" who migrated illegally from Bangladesh. Myanmar doesn't acknowledge them as a local ethnic group and won't give them citizenship, even though they have lived in Myanmar for generations.

One by one, each one of the refugees approached the pope at the end of Friday's event in the tented garden of the Dhaka archbishop's residence. Francis blessed one little girl, placing his hand on her head, and grasped the shoulder of a young man. The women who approached him pushed aside their headscarves so they could speak, offering their hands out for him to hold.

"Maybe we can't do much for you, but your tragedy has a place in our hearts," Francis told them.

His voice trembling with emotion, he continued: "In the name of all those who persecute you, who have persecuted you, and those who have hurt you, above all in the indifference of the world, I ask you for forgiveness. Forgiveness."

Citing the "big heart" of Bangladesh that welcomed them in, Francis said: "Now I appeal to your big hearts, that you are able to grant us the forgiveness that we seek."

He called for continued aid for the refugees, and continued advocacy "so that their rights are recognized."

"We won't close our hearts. We won't look away," he said.

Francis had refrained from publicly raising the crisis or using the word Rohingya while in Myanmar out of diplomatic deference to his hosts. The Holy See only established diplomatic relations with Myanmar in May, and the local Catholic Church had begged Francis not to create waves — and possible problems for them — by using the term.

Human rights organizations and Rohingya themselves had voiced disappointment at Francis' public silence, given he had previously denounced the persecution of "our Rohingya brothers and sisters" at the Vatican. 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.

Prior to the pope's comments, the Rohingya who had traveled from Cox's Bazar urged him to recognize their identity publicly.

"He is the leader of the world. He should say the word as we are Rohingya," said Mohammed Ayub, 32, whose 3-year-old son was killed by the Myanmar military.

After the encounter, they seemed pleased that Francis had assured them of his prayers.

"He also said he would do whatever he can, and with Allah's help, all my troubles will go away," said refugee Abdul Khoyam. "He asked me to not lose patience."

Francis' encounter with the refugees was the highlight of his day that began with a Mass to ordain 16 new priests.

Bangladesh's tiny Catholic community 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 threats.

In his homily ordaining 16 new priests, Francis thanked those who came out for the Mass, noting that some people had traveled two days to attend.

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

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Late in the day, the Catholic community received welcome news: A Catholic priest who had gone missing on the eve of Francis' arrival was found in a northeastern district and was returned to Dhaka.

Khairul Fazal, a local police chief in Sylhet, said the Rev. Walter William Rosario was picked up at a bus counter. It wasn't immediately clear what happened to him, but earlier reports suggested he might have been kidnapped given his family reported receiving ransom calls.

## **Jimmy Kimmel, Senate candidate Roy Moore feud on Twitter**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Late night host Jimmy Kimmel stepped up his feud with U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore, saying he's open to fighting the Republican in his home state of Alabama.

Kimmel made the comments in reference to a Twitter fight with Moore on Thursday.

It began when Moore took issue with Kimmel's show sending a comedian to crash a talk Moore was giving at a south Alabama church Wednesday night.

Moore tweeted to Kimmel Thursday: "If you want to mock our Christian values, come down here to Alabama and do it man to man." Kimmel replied: "Sounds great Roy - let me know when you get some Christian values and I'll be there!"

On his show Thursday, Kimmel offered to go to Alabama to either talk about Christian values or fight for charity with the money raised going to Moore's accusers.

## **US stocks mostly recoup their losses after early slide**

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Wall Street took investors on a turbulent ride Friday as stock indexes veered into a steep slide that knocked 350 points off the Dow Jones industrial average before the market eventually clawed back most of its losses.

The market stumbled after former national security adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI and said he would cooperate with the probe into Russian meddling in the U.S. presidential election.

That raised concerns among traders that the White House's legislative agenda, including a tax overhaul under debate in Congress, could be at risk. Those jitters were allayed somewhat by early afternoon, when Senate Republicans signaled they have enough votes to push forward on the tax legislation.

"Once the Senate did announce that they had sufficient votes to move forward, there was a respite and we did come off the lower levels," said Eric Wiegand, senior portfolio manager for Private Wealth Management at U.S. Bank.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 5.36 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,642.22. The index still ended the day with its best week since mid-September. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 40.76 points, or 0.2 percent, to 24,231.59. The Nasdaq composite lost 26.39 points, or 0.4 percent, to 6,847.59. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 7.12 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,537.02.

The indexes, which hit record highs earlier this week, had been little changed before Flynn's plea deal was announced.

"The losses that we saw right when the Flynn information came out — the market just hit an air pocket," said Phil Orlando, chief equity strategist at Federated Investors.

In pleading guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian ambassador, Flynn admitted he followed directions from a member of President Donald Trump's transition team. Special Counsel Robert Mueller is examining possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign to influence the outcome of the 2016 election. Flynn is the first official who worked in the Trump White House to make a guilty plea in the investigation.

The news of Flynn's plea came as investors were keeping an eye on Washington, where Republicans moved to make major changes to their proposed tax overhaul package.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said after a closed-door meeting of Republican senators that the GOP had the votes to deliver the legislation, which is expected to add \$1 trillion to the nation's deficit

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over 10 years. It would also slash the corporate tax rate, offer more modest cuts for families and individuals and eliminate several popular deductions.

"The tax bill, in our mind, is going through," said Orlando. "This Flynn situation, the Mueller investigation, does not derail the tax reform, which we think is essentially at hand."

The technology sector, an investor favorite since the beginning of the year, accounted for some of the biggest losses Friday. Qorvo fell \$2.37, or 3.1 percent, to \$74.21.

Qualcomm declined 1.3 percent after Bloomberg News reported that Broadcom, a rival chipmaker, won't make a new offer for the company until next year. Qualcomm shed 85 cents to \$65.49. Broadcom lost \$6.38, or 2.3 percent, to \$271.56.

Several airlines traded lower as industrial stocks declined.

American Airlines Group fell \$1.49, or 3 percent, to \$49, while Alaska Air Group gave up \$2.26, or 3.3 percent, to \$66.91.

Ulta Beauty slid 4.1 percent after the beauty products retailer issued a disappointing forecast for the current quarter that overshadowed solid third-quarter results. The stock dropped \$9.13 to \$212.58.

Investors welcomed news that Blue Apron named a new CEO. The meal kit maker has struggled since its initial public offering in June. The stock rose 24 cents, or 8 percent, to \$3.23.

A pickup in crude oil priced helped lift energy stocks, giving the sector the biggest gain in the S&P 500.

Oil and gas producer Apache Corp. also posted the big gain among S&P 500 companies, climbing \$2.39, or 5.7 percent, to \$44.22.

Benchmark U.S. crude New York rose 96 cents, or 1.7 percent, to settle at \$58.36 a barrel. Brent, the international standard, added \$1.10, or 1.8 percent, to close at \$63.73 a barrel.

In other energy futures trading, wholesale gasoline gained a penny to \$1.74 a gallon. Heating oil picked up 4 cents to \$1.94 a gallon. Natural gas gained 4 cents to \$3.06 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 2.36 percent from 2.41 percent late Thursday.

The dollar fell to 112.05 yen from 112.53 yen on Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.1893 from \$1.1896.

Gold added \$5.60, or 0.4 percent, to \$1,278.80 an ounce. Silver dropped 9 cents to \$16.30 an ounce. Copper rose 3 cents to \$3.07 a pound.

Major stock indexes in Europe closed lower. Germany's DAX fell 1.2 percent, while France's CAC 40 fell 1 percent. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares lost 0.4 percent.

Indexes in Asia were mixed. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.4 percent. South Korea's Kospi fell less than 0.1 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped 0.4 percent. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.3 percent.

## Black Friday deals boosted US auto sales in November

By DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Black Friday deals and strong consumer confidence pushed auto sales higher in November despite waning demand for post-hurricane replacement vehicles.

U.S. sales of new cars and trucks rose 1 percent to nearly 1.4 million, according to Autodata Corp., a market analysis firm.

Some analysts initially predicted that November sales would drop as post-hurricane sales slowed in Texas and Florida. But Black Friday promotions — which began in early November — helped lure buyers to dealerships.

Fiat Chrysler was offering up to \$16,000 off its Chrysler 300 sedan, while Hyundai was kicking \$3,750 off the price of a Santa Fe SUV. Car buying site KBB.com said automotive credit applications rose 42 percent on Black Friday compared to other Fridays in November.

Automakers were offering an average of \$3,700 to \$3,800 in incentives per vehicle in November. As prices creep up, deals are creeping up with them, analysts say. The trend will likely continue in 2018, when U.S. sales are expected to drop and automakers will be keen to hold on to their market share.

November sales were buoyed by strong U.S. consumer confidence, which was at its highest level since November 2000, according to the Conference Board.



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Here are other details about November sales:

- Subaru brand sales rose 1 percent to 51,721 vehicles. Sales of the recently revamped Impreza sedan more than tripled, offsetting declines for the Outback SUV.
- Hyundai Motor Co. sales fell 9 percent to 55,435 vehicles. Sales of its Tucson SUV were up 51 percent but couldn't offset steep declines in car sales. Genesis luxury sales rose slightly.
- Toyota Motor Corp. sales fell 3 percent to 191,617 even though the revamped Camry sedan and the RAV4 small SUV posted record November numbers. Increased truck and SUV sales were offset by steep declines in car sales. Luxury Lexus sales were down 7 percent.
- Honda Motor Co. sales rose 8 percent to 133,156. Sales of the CR-V SUV jumped 25 percent. Luxury Acura sales were up 10 percent.
- General Motors Co.'s sales fell 3 percent to 245,387. Cadillac sales dropped 13 percent, but GMC, Chevrolet and Buick saw smaller declines. GM's best-seller, the Chevrolet Silverado pickup, was up 3 percent.
- Fiat Chrysler sales fell 4 percent to 154,919. Chrysler brand sales jumped 14 percent on strong sales of the Pacifica minivan, and Alfa Romeo sales rose. But sales fell for the company's Ram, Jeep, Dodge and Fiat brands.
- Volkswagen brand sales were down 1.6 percent to 29,207 as a new Tiguan SUV started rolling out to dealerships.
- Ford Motor Co. sales jumped 7 percent to 210,771 on strong demand for trucks and SUVs. Ford sold 72,769 F-Series pickups, marking that vehicle's best November since 2001. Luxury Lincoln sales fell 5.5 percent.
- Nissan Motor Co. didn't report its sales due to a computer problem. Based on preliminary data, Autodata estimated Nissan's sales rose 14 percent to 131,138.

## **Today in History** **By The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2017. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 2, 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

On this date:

In 1697, London's St. Paul's Cathedral, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was consecrated for use even though the building was still under construction.

In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French.

In 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October. Artist Georges-Pierre Seurat was born in Paris.

In 1927, Ford Motor Co. unveiled its Model A automobile that replaced its Model T.

In 1939, New York Municipal Airport-LaGuardia Field (later LaGuardia Airport) went into operation as an airliner from Chicago landed at one minute past midnight.

In 1954, the U.S. Senate passed, 67-22, a resolution condemning Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., saying he had "acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first full-scale commercial nuclear facility in the U.S., began operations. (The reactor ceased operating in 1982.)

In 1967, Cardinal Francis Spellman died in New York at age 78.

In 1970, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency opened its doors under its first director, William D. Ruckelshaus.

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

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In 1997, the film drama "Good Will Hunting" starring Robin Williams, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck was released by Miramax Films.

In 2015, a couple loyal to Islamic State opened fire at a holiday banquet for public employees in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others before dying in a shootout with police.

Ten years ago: Venezuela President Hugo Chavez (OO'-goh CHAH'-vez) suffered defeat as voters rejected sweeping constitutional reforms by 51 to 49 percent. Russian President Vladimir Putin's party swept 70 percent of the seats for a new parliament in a vote whose fairness was called into question by European election monitors. Brian Wilson, Martin Scorsese, Steve Martin, Diana Ross and pianist Leon Fleisher received Kennedy Center honors for their career achievements.

Five years ago: Hundreds of concrete slabs, each weighing more than a ton, fell from the roof of a highway tunnel west of Tokyo, crushing vehicles below and killing nine people. Dustin Hoffman, David Letterman, Led Zeppelin, Chicago bluesman Buddy Guy and ballerina Natalia Makarova received Kennedy Center Honors.

One year ago: Thirty-six people died when fire erupted in an illegally converted warehouse in Oakland, California, during a dance party (two men have pleaded not guilty to charges of involuntary manslaughter). President-elect Donald Trump spoke with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen (tsy ying-WEN') in a highly unusual move that was bound to antagonize China.

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 86. Former Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 78. Actress Cathy Lee Crosby is 73. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 72. Actor Ron Raines is 68. Country singer John Wesley Ryles is 67. Actor Keith Szarabajka is 65. Actor Dan Butler is 63. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 63. Actor Dennis Christopher is 62. Actor Steven Bauer is 61. Country singer Joe Henry is 57. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 57. Actor Brendan Coyle is 54. Rock musician Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) is 49. Actress Suzy Nakamura is 49. Actress Rena Sofer is 49. Rock singer Jimi (cq) HaHa (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 49. Actress Lucy Liu (loo) is 49. Rapper Treach (Naughty By Nature) is 47. Actor Joe Lo Truglio is 47. International Tennis Hall of Famer Monica Seles is 44. Singer Nelly Furtado is 39. Pop singer Britney Spears is 36. Actress-singer Jana Kramer is 34. Actress Yvonne Orji is 34. Actress Daniela Ruah (roo-ah) is 34. NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers is 34. Actor Alfred Enoch is 29. Pop singer-songwriter Charlie Puth is 26. Actresses Deanna and Daniella Canterman are 25.

Thought for Today: "Misery loves company, but company does not reciprocate." — Addison Mizner, American architect (1872-1933).