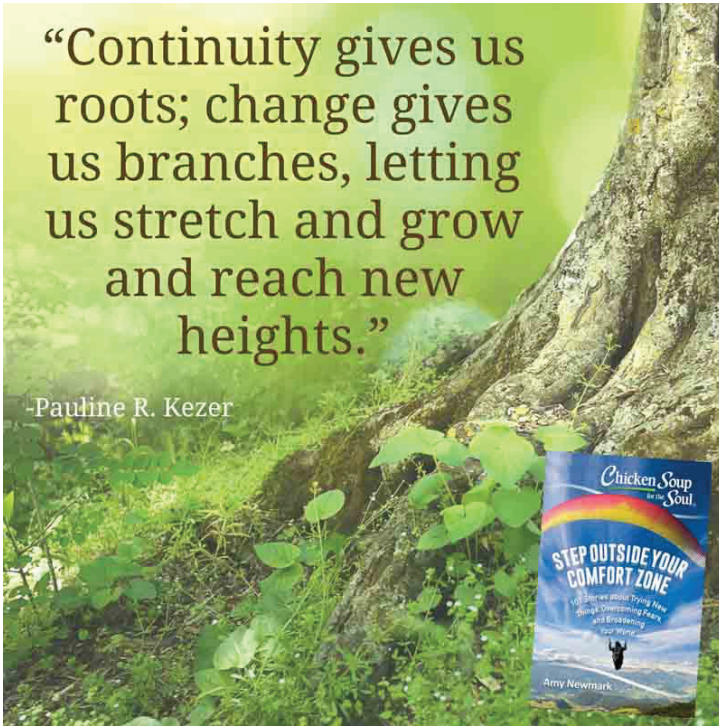


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“Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.”

-Pauline R. Kezer



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**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**

## Monday

**City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Groton Community Center**

## Tuesday

**Milbank Novice Debate**  
**Practice ACT Test at GHS**  
**JHGGB at Ipswich (7th grade at 5:30 p.m.,**  
**8th grade at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Wrestling at Britton-Hecla is cancelled**

## NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

☆☆☆ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ **\$3,000 for LPNs** ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ **\$4,500 for RNs** ☆☆☆

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



# GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

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



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**Save \$2-\$4 /tank**  
& grow your local economy  
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94 octane, more power,  
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\*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")**

## WINTER STORM WATCH

Issue Date:5:07 AM Sun, Dec 3, 2017

Expiration:9:00 PM Mon, Dec 4, 2017

...Snow and strong winds Monday...

...WINTER STORM WATCH REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM MONDAY MORNING THROUGH MONDAY EVENING...

\* WHAT...Blizzard conditions possible. Travel could be very difficult to impossible, including during the evening commute on Monday. Damage to trees and power lines is possible. Total snow accumulations of 2 to 4 inches and ice accumulations of a light glaze are possible.

\* WHERE...Portions of northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota.

\* WHEN...From Monday morning through Monday evening.

\* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Winds gusting as high as 60 mph could cause whiteout conditions in blowing snow.

A Winter Storm Watch for blizzard conditions means there is a potential for falling and/or blowing snow with strong winds and extremely poor visibilities. This can lead to whiteout conditions and make travel very dangerous.



## OPEN GYM

### GHS ARENA

December 3, 10, 17

January 7, 14, 21, 28

February 4, 11, 25

March 4, 11

Grades JrK-8 2:30-4:30 PM

Students grades JK-8 must be accompanied by an adult from 2:30-4:30.

Grades 6-12 4:30-6:30 PM

Students will be admitted free of charge.

They must sign in when they arrive.

Students are expected to behave appropriately.

**HAVE FUN!**

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## Anderson, Monson win at Clark/Willow Lake wrestling tourney

Groton Area notched up 64 points at the Clark/Willow Lake wrestling tournament held Saturday in Clark. Clark/Willow Lake WBC Invitational Results for Groton Area

Brandyn Anderson placed first while Dragr Monson and Wyatt Locke both placed second, Bailey Reich placed third and Hunter McClean and Corbin Reich both placed fourth.

### **120 - Dragr Monson (1-1) placed 2nd and scored 12.00 team points.**

Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 1-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Round 2 - Hunter Rucktaeschel (Webster Area) 2-0 won by fall over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 1-1 (Fall 1:27)

Round 3 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 1-1 won by fall over Cael Schoenfelder (Kingsbury County) 0-2 (Fall 0:30)

### **126 - Hunter McClean (0-3) placed 4th and scored 4.00 team points.**

Round 1 - Charlie Spieker (Clark/Willow Lake) 1-2 won by fall over Hunter McClean (Groton Area) 0-3 (Fall 3:53)

Round 2 - Andy Johnson (Webster Area) 2-1 won by fall over Hunter McClean (Groton Area) 0-3 (Fall 1:08)

Round 3 - Alec Dobson (Kingsbury County) 3-0 won by fall over Hunter McClean (Groton Area) 0-3 (Fall 0:18)

### **152 - Lane Krueger (0-2)**

Quarterfinal - Chase Mundt (Britton/Hecla) 1-2 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:04)

Cons. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Zach Mulder (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-1 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:17)

### **160 - Bailey Reich (2-1) placed 3rd and scored 12.00 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Bailey Reich (Groton Area) 2-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Gavin Holland (Kingsbury County) 1-1 won by fall over Bailey Reich (Groton Area) 2-1 (Fall 0:36)

Cons. Semi - Bailey Reich (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Dalton Kerr (Britton/Hecla) 0-2 (Fall 1:23)

3rd Place Match - Bailey Reich (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Cody Perez (Webster Area) 1-2 (Fall 3:26)

### **182 - Thomas Cranford (1-2) scored 4.00 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 1-2 won by fall over Tyeson Alsalihi (Britton/Hecla) 1-2 (Fall 5:37)

Semifinal - Cade Shoemaker (Webster Area) 2-0 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 0:54)

Cons. Semi - Colton Lauen (Webster Area) 3-1 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 1:25)

### **220 - Wyatt Locke (2-1) placed 2nd and scored 14.00 team points.**

Round 1 - Tristen Bent (Webster Area) 3-0 won by decision over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 2-1 (Dec 3-0)

Round 2 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Connor Hoffman (Kingsbury County) 1-2 (Fall 0:53)

Round 3 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Corbin Reich (Groton Area) 0-3 (Fall 0:14)

### **220 - Corbin Reich (0-3) placed 4th.**

Round 1 - Connor Hoffman (Kingsbury County) 1-2 won by fall over Corbin Reich (Groton Area) 0-3 (Fall 1:02)

Round 2 - Tristen Bent (Webster Area) 3-0 won by fall over Corbin Reich (Groton Area) 0-3 (Fall 2:47)

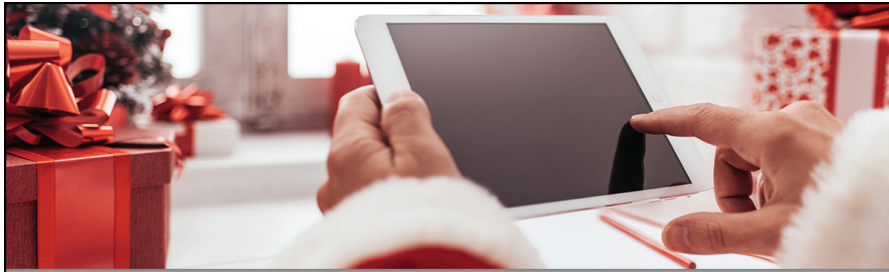
Round 3 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Corbin Reich (Groton Area) 0-3 (Fall 0:14)

### **285 - Brandyn Anderson (2-0) placed 1st and scored 18.00 team points.**

Round 1 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 2-0 received a bye () (Bye)

Round 2 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 2-0 won by fall over Chase Sigdestad (Webster Area) 1-1 (Fall 0:45)

Round 3 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 2-0 won by fall over Riley Schmidt (Clark/Willow Lake) 0-2 (Fall 1:11)



## **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**

## **No. 21 Northern State Surges Past U-Mary as King Notches a Career High 18 Points**

Bismarck, N.D. – The No. 21 Northern State University men's basketball team completed the NSIC opening weekend sweep with a 75-66 victory over the University of Mary. The Wolves improve to 8-1 overall and 2-0 in the league.

The Marauders were out to a quick start leading 6-1 through the first minute of play, however the Wolves tied things up at the 16 minute and took the 9-6 lead just seconds later. That would be the only lead of the game for the Marauders, as Northern ran away with the game. The Wolves led by 11 at the half, and held their largest lead of the evening, 17 points, just four minutes into the second.

Northern shot 50.0 percent from the floor, 40.7 percent from the 3-point line, and 71.4 percent from the charity stripe. They out-rebounded the Marauders 36-25 in the game, scoring a total of 11 points off ten offensive boards. NSU added 30 points in the paint and 19 points off the bench, while dishing out a game leading 20 assists.

Gabe King led the team with a career high 18 points in the win. The sophomore shot 7-of-12 from the floor, knocking four made 3-pointers. He also added a team leading two blocks, as well as one assist and one steal. DJ Pollard was second on the team with 16 points, shooting at 55.6 percent clip. Pollard added a team second best four assists, and notched six rebounds and one block.

Darin Peterka was the final Wolf in double figures scoring ten points, while adding three rebounds, four assists, and one steal. After a career high a night ago, Ian Smith notched nine points and a team leading nine rebounds and five assists.

Bo Fries led the team off the bench with nine points of his own, going 3-of-5 from the arc. Fries added two rebounds, three assists, and one steal. Carter Evans was close behind with seven points and four rebounds, while Logan Doyle and Andrew Kallman notched three points each. Doyle was second on the team grabbing eight rebounds.

The Wolves return to action on Monday with a non-conference doubleheader against Presentation College. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m. from Wachs Arena. Northern will remain at home over the weekend as they welcome Bemidji State and Minnesota Crookston to Aberdeen.

## **No. 16 Wolves Defeat U-Mary on the Back of Sara Tvedt Career High**

Bismarck, N.D. – Sara Tvedt rallied the No. 16 Northern State University Wolves with a career high 20 points in the first half, leading the team to a 72-61 victory over the University of Mary. Northern rolls to their fifth straight victory, improving to 6-1 overall and 2-0 in the NSIC.

The Wolves held the lead throughout the game, with a 19 point spread in the second quarter. As a team, the Wolves shot 49.2 percent from the floor, 46.2 percent from the arc, and 57.1 percent from the foul line. They out-rebounded the Marauders 46-29 in the win, notching 13 offensive boards, and 33 defensive. Northern tallied a game leading 25 assists, while adding three steals and one block.

Tvedt led the team off the bench with a career high 20 points, as the Wolves tallied 28 points outside of their starting five. NSU added 10 second chance points and nine points off turnovers. Defensively they held the Marauders to a 37.7 field goal percentage and 29.4 3-point percentage.

Jill Conrad and Miranda Ristau were second on the team with 15 and ten points respectively. Conrad, as well as Brianna Kusler led the team with eight rebounds, while Ristau, Tvedt, and Haley Froelich tallied a team second best six. Alexis Tappe and Jessi Marti notched nine and seven points each, while Froelich tallied five and Kusler and Brynn Flakus combined for six.

Tvedt not only notched a career high, but was efficient shooting a team leading 72.7 percent from the floor. Marti, Conrad, and Froelich each shot above 50.0 percent in the game, each recording one of the team's six 3-point baskets.

Tappe and Kusler each dished out a team leading seven assists, combining for over half of the team total. The seven assists per a career high for both players as Tappe previously had four, and Kusler matched her career high set against Winona State last season. Marti followed with three of her own, while Conrad,

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Froelich, and Anika Fredrick notched two each. Conrad led the team with two steals, while Ristau tallied the lone block for the Wolves.

The Wolves will have a quick turn-around, as they face off against Presentation College on Monday evening from Wachs Arena. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. with the men's game to follow. Northern will remain at home over the weekend as they welcome Bemidji State and Minnesota Crookston to Aberdeen.

## Skoric and Wolves Shine on Day Two of Rochester Invite

Rochester, Minn. – The Northern State University swim team posted a strong day from the Rochester Invite notching 30 season best time, nine personal records, four school records, and one NCAA 'B' cut. Northern finished the second day of competition with 516 team points in fifth place overall.

Sophomore Edda Skoric led the charge for the Wolves with two season bests, two school records, and a race win in the 100 back. Skoric notched her first NCAA 'B' cut in the 100 back, winning the event with a school record time of 56.57. The 'B' cut mark is set at 56.95 for the season, with Skoric now holding the 13th fastest time in the nation.

She added a personal best in the 500 free, finishing in fifth overall with a time of 5:09.85. She was not done yet, as she tallied a third place finish in the 200 free with a time of 1:54.82. Finally Skoric was a member of the school record breaking 200 medley relay and school record tying 200 free relay.

The 200 medley relay team of Skoric, Kady Harris, Karlie Brown, and Josie Gillund finished fifth overall with a new school record time of 1:47.96. The 'B' relay team of Jamie Fuse, Lexie Malimanek, Gentry Musgrove, and Maida Walter also notched team points in the event, finishing with a time of 1:56.03.

The Wolves then matched the school record of 1:39.58 in the 200 free relay, from the team of Gillund, Ashley Dunn, Skoric, and Harris. The 'B' relay of Brown, Walters, Musgrove, and Sierra Ohm finished in 1:43.20 earning 18 team points.

Kalina Emaus tallied three top-15 finishes of her own in the 400 IM, 500 free, and 200 fly. Emaus finished 14th in the 400 IM with a time of 4:49.73. She followed that with a personal best of 5:12.72 in the 500 free, finishing 11th overall. Emaus capped off the day with her highest finish from the meet, taking fifth in the 200 fly with a time of 2:10.27.

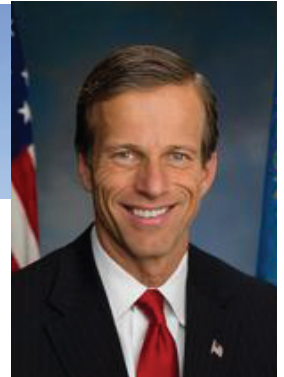
Brown and Harris each recorded two top-15 finishes for the Wolves. Brown took 11th in the 400 IM with a time of 4:45.09, and tenth in the 200 fly hitting the wall at 2:14.26. Harris opened individual events with a 13th place finish in the 100 back with a time of 59.93, and finished off competition winning the 'B' final of the 100 breaststroke in ninth with a time of 1:06.75 .

Also scoring team points were Gillund in the 500 free and 200 free, Ashley Dunn in the 100 IM, Makyl Ziegler in the 100 IM, Musgrove in the 400 IM, Malimanek in the 400 IM, and Camille Kawasaki in the 400 IM.

Northern's nine personal records came from Hazel Ohm (50 free, 100 back, 200 free), Skoric (100 back, 500 free), Gillund (200 free), Jordan Metz (200 free), Emaus (500 free), and Harris (100 back).

The Wolves return to action tomorrow beginning at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. from Rochester in the final day of the invitational.

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Behind-the-Scenes Work in the Senate

If you tune in to a cable news show, you'll likely find members of Congress, pundits, and other analysts dissecting the latest stories of the day or providing their perspective on why a certain policy would be good or bad for the American people. If you flip over to C-SPAN, you might find a similar scene. While it's certainly not primetime, edge-of-your-seat television, it does offer Americans an important glimpse into the democratic process.

Sometimes, though, rather than watching a heated debate between Republicans and Democrats, a loyal C-SPAN viewer might instead discover an empty Senate or House chamber with classical music filling the otherwise quiet airwaves. Such a scene doesn't mean members of Congress aren't hard at work – quite the opposite, actually. A lot of the work that's done in Congress is accomplished behind the scenes in the various committees on which we serve.

In the Senate alone, there are 20 committees, 68 subcommittees, and four joint committees. All of them play a distinct and integral role in writing legislation and providing oversight of the executive branch. The Senate is in the personnel business, too. The committees vet and the Senate confirms the president's nominees to posts in the executive and judicial branches of the federal government. All that to say, without committees, it would be very difficult to get our work done for the American people.

I serve on three committees in the 115th Congress: the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee; the Finance Committee; and the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, of which I serve as chairman. These committee assignments put me in a unique position to deliver positive results on the issues that matter most to South Dakotans.

Planes, trains, and automobiles – that's a quick and easy way to describe a large portion of the issues we oversee in the Commerce Committee. In a state that depends on all forms of transportation, leading this committee gives me the chance to highlight South Dakota and all of its particular needs. With the committee's involvement in advancing 21st Century technology, I'm hoping South Dakota can be at the forefront on issues like autonomous vehicle and 5G mobile broadband technologies.

The benefit of serving on the Agriculture Committee is an obvious one. Agriculture is the top industry in South Dakota, and it helps put food on dining room tables around the state, country, and world. With the 2018 farm bill right around the corner, the Agriculture Committee is going to be working hard to get a bill on the president's desk next year. I've gotten a head start and have already introduced multiple individual farm bill proposals that would improve current programs in different titles of the bill. I'm planning to introduce additional proposals throughout this process, too.

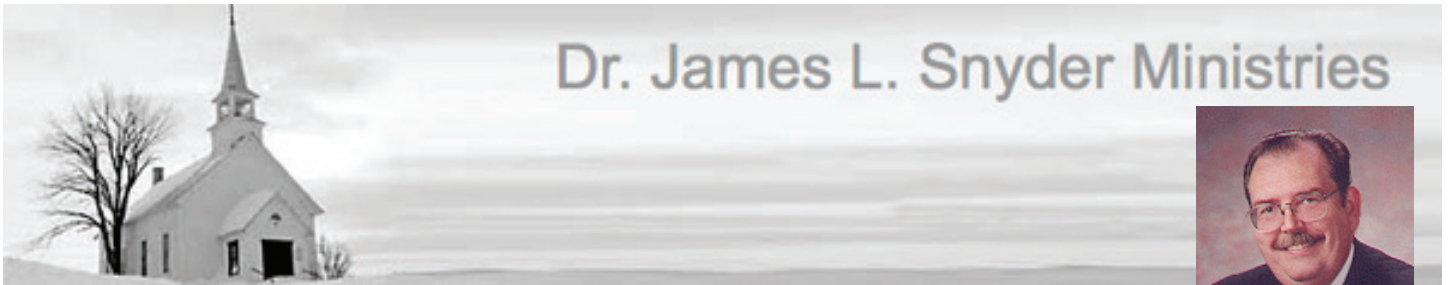
The Finance Committee has been the epicenter for a number of the Senate's major legislative initiatives this year, most notably the effort to pass a pro-growth tax reform bill to help middle-income South Dakota families keep more of their hard-earned paycheck. The government takes too large of a bite out of family budgets, which is why tax reform is needed now more than ever.

Every day that I serve in the Senate is a humbling one, and the opportunity to pursue opportunities like these on behalf of South Dakotans through my committee work makes my job even more fulfilling.



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## Nice Is a Matter of Perspective

Sitting in the living room the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and me were enjoying some hot apple cider tea and listening to some Christmas music. The song came that referred to Santa's nice list and naughty list. I was not paying too much of attention, but somebody else in the room was.



"Do you think you are on," my wife said rather sarcastically, "Santa's nice list or naughty list?"

I always get trapped by such questions. I have been married long enough to know that questions are not posed to get an answer, but rather to get someone in trouble, mainly me.

I did not want to answer that question and I didn't know how to get away from it. Suddenly the answer came to me.

The telephone rang and I jumped up to answer it. It was some Robo call trying to sell me something I did not want. I took advantage of the situation and carried on a one-way conversation, hoping someone would forget the question they had asked previously.

Finally, I hung up the phone and resumed drinking my hot apple cider tea in the living room.

Then it came back again. "Well, are you on the nice list or the naughty list?"

This only points out the difference between us. Nice is really a matter of perspective. Some people think something is nice while other people think the same thing is naughty.

For instance. My wife thinks eating too many apple fritters is very naughty. I think you cannot eat too many apple fritters and it is really nice to eat one. Or two. Or three, or four.

I cannot see what naughty has to do with eating an apple fritter.

If eating an apple fritter puts me on Santa's naughty list, then I gladly apply for that position.

My problem is, looking at Santa and the dimensions of his waist, I do not think he believes eating an apple fritter is naughty. I am not sure my wife considered that aspect.

After all, everybody sets out cookies for Santa to eat when he brings the presents. What is the difference between a cookie and an apple fritter?

I think my wife will be surprised when at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven there will be apple fritters for dessert.

Then there is the idea of organizing your mess.

According to the other resident in our home, organizing and cleaning up after yourself is nice. If you do not do that, it is naughty.

I sure would like to know who set those rules. I think if your mess is comfortable and you are happy with it, it should be nice.

If she thinks organizing her space is nice, then why can't she allow me the same privilege to think that my messy space is also nice?

It is all just a matter of perspective.

Then it is Christmas time and people should be able to indulge in certain activities that at another time may be naughty.

One of my holiday indulgences is eating.

A bunch of us gathered to have a Christmas dinner before the actual Christmas holiday and we had a merry time. I was enjoying myself and indulging in the luxury of eating everything set before me.

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Someone was passing a pumpkin pie and asked if I wanted another piece of pie. I've already had three pieces of pie, but this is the time of the year to indulge. Before I could even process the word "yes," my better half jumped in and said, "No, he's had enough pie for tonight."

Her definition of "enough pie" is a little different from mine. My definition is, "Yes, I'll take one more piece." It does not matter how many pieces I have had up to that point, one more is always on my plate. That is what makes eating pie nice for me.

The most disturbing part of that conversation was when she looked at me and said, "Remember, you're on a diet!"

Her idea of being on a diet is to watch what you eat. That's nice in her regard.

My idea of being on a diet is to watch what I put in my mouth. That's nice in my regard.

"So," my wife said after a long pause, "are you on Santa's nice list or naughty list?"

"That all depends," I said rather slowly, "on your definition of nice and naughty."

What I think is nice for me may not be nice for someone else. And what someone else thinks is naughty I may not consider to be naughty at all. It is all just a matter of perspective.

Then a thought popped into my head.

"Are you referring to Santa's list or to your list?"

For once, she had nothing to say. She just looked at me and could not come up with a comeback. Now that's nice.

I believe Paul had this in mind when he writes, "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more" (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

The question needs to be restated; are we on God's nice list or God's naughty list?

To please God in everything I do is the great ambition of my life. I know that I cannot please God and other people at the same time.

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## Today in Weather History

December 3, 1991: Strong northwesterly winds behind a departing surface low brought blizzard conditions and dangerously cold wind chill readings across west central and southwest Minnesota on the 3rd. A general 1 to 3-inch snowfall occurred across the area and combined with winds gusting to 50 mph at times to generate whiteout conditions from the morning into the evening. Air temperatures coupled with the strong wind to produce wind chill values ranging from 30 to 50 below zero. Some schools and businesses were closed during the morning as the storm intensified. Several car accidents and jackknifed tractor-semitrailers littered roadways. Many roads were closed at the height of the storm. Power outages occurred over a small portion of the area due to the strong winds downing ice-covered power lines.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

December 3, 1838: Cleveland Abbe, an American meteorologist, and advocate of time zones was born on this day. He was trained as an astronomer and was appointed the director of the Cincinnati Observatory in 1868. He eventually turned to meteorology and inaugurated a public weather service that served as a model for today's National Weather Service.

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






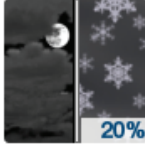

1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

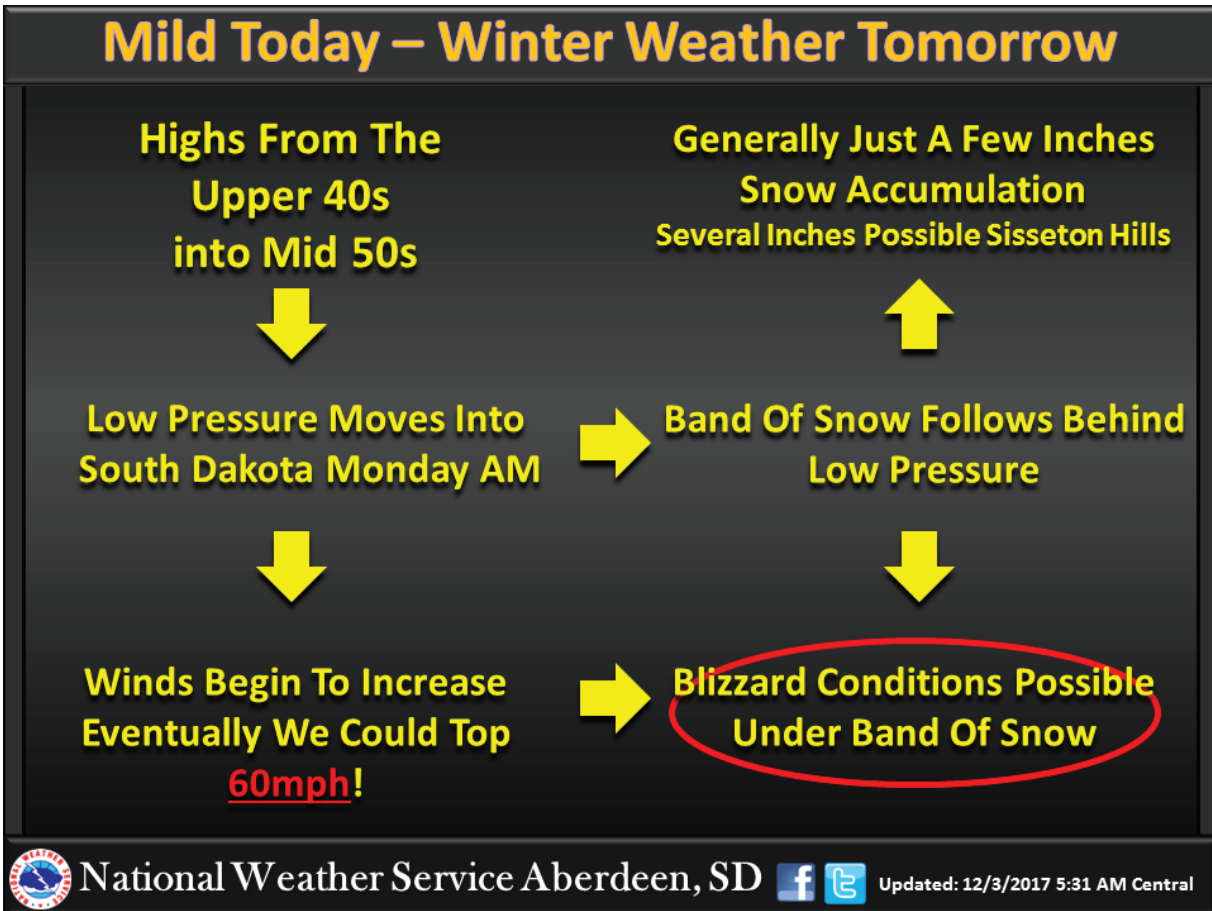
1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Rain/Snow	Wintry Mix and Blowing Snow	Areas Blowing Snow and Windy then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny and Blustery	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny
High: 49 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 11 °F	High: 22 °F	Low: 10 °F	High: 26 °F

## Mild Today – Winter Weather Tomorrow



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 12/3/2017 5:31 AM Central

Published on: 12/03/2017 at 5:40AM

Its your last day to tackle the Honey-do list...because after todays mild temperatures its looking more and more like winter will finally set in. We will see low pressure move across the area Monday. Snow on the backside of this low will combine with 60mph winds to potentially cause some travel difficulties across the region. We aren't looking at much snow overall, generally 1 to 4 inches, though the Sisseton hills could see some higher totals.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 50.9

Low Outside Temp: 17.7

High Gust: 14

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 63° in 1941

Record Low: -18° in 1905

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 10°F

Average Precip in Dec: 0.05

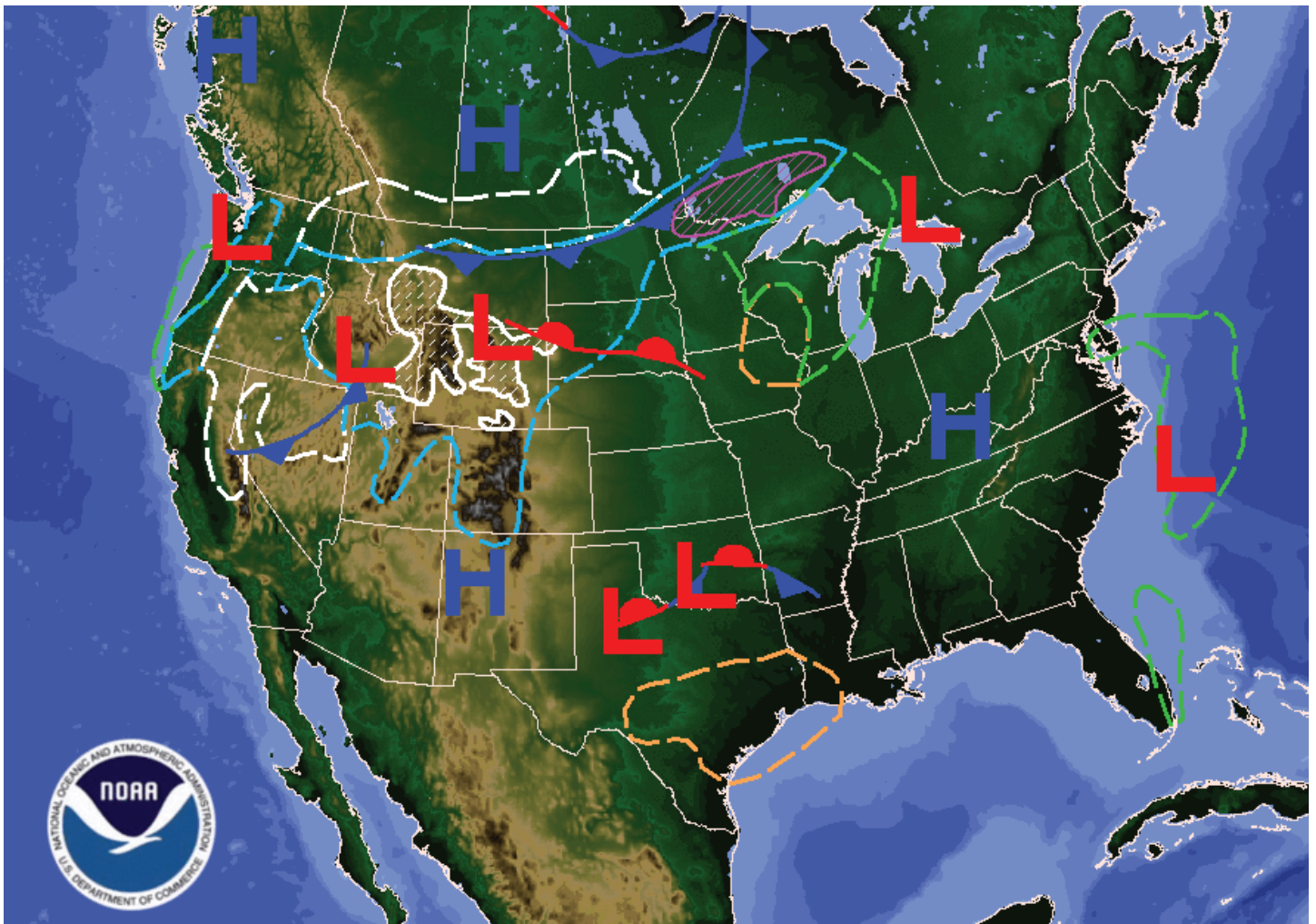
Precip to date in Dec: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.25

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:56 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Dec 03, 2017, issued 3:58 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 GIFT?

Joyce fell behind in her Christmas shopping and suddenly realized that she had neglected to purchase cards for her friends. Hurriedly, she ran to the card section of a large greeting card store and purchased 100 cards with a beautiful scene of a family gathered in front of a glowing fireplace enjoying its warmth.

Returning home she hastily signed each of the cards without reading the message. Several days later she was sitting with her husband reviewing the guest list for a family dinner. She decided to show him the card she had sent to their friends.

After looking at the picture, she opened the card and read the verse to Jason, her husband:

"This card is sent to you to say,  
A lovely gift is on the way!"

Quite a surprise!

God sent us a "card" to inform us that He would and did send us a "lovely gift" – His son. All of the books of the Bible tell us of the Gift that He was going to send, tell us the reason He sent us this gift and what we can enjoy now and in the life to come because of this gift.

But as with every gift, there are two parts: one is giving and the other is receiving. An angel rejoiced and proclaimed: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." That is God giving. And John said, "As many as received Him...to them He gave life." But the choice to receive God's gift is ours.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for the Gift of life You provided for each of us. May we accept Your Gift in faith believing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 1:11 & John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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News from the  Associated Press

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash  
02-05-06-11-35  
(two, five, six, eleven, thirty-five)  
Estimated jackpot: \$21,000

Lotto America  
22-28-45-47-51, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 3  
(twenty-two, twenty-eight, forty-five, forty-seven, fifty-one; Star Ball: six; ASB: three)  
Estimated jackpot: \$15.82 million

Mega Millions  
Estimated jackpot: \$160 million

Powerball  
28-30-32-36-58, Powerball: 6, Power Play: 3  
(twenty-eight, thirty, thirty-two, thirty-six, fifty-eight; Powerball: six; Power Play: three)  
Estimated jackpot: \$177 million

## Johnson has 20 points, 14 boards as Missouri St. beats SDSU

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Alize Johnson had 20 points while grabbing 14 rebounds to lead Missouri State to its fifth straight win, a 73-53 victory over South Dakota State on Saturday night.

Reggie Scurry came off the bench to score 14 points, hitting 6 of 9 field goals, and Jarrid Rhodes made all four attempts from long range for 12 points for Missouri State (7-2).

The Bears never trailed, taking a 43-26 lead into the break and pushing their advantage to 70-48 with 2:42 left in the game.

Missouri State hit 48 percent (30-62) from the floor, nailing 9 of 24 from long range. The Jackrabbits (7-3), who saw their four-game win streak snapped, was held to 21-of-59 (35 percent) shooting.

Tevin King led SDSU with 13 points and Reed Tellinghuisen added 12. Mike Daum, who averages 20 points a game, was held to just seven points on 3-of-14 shooting.

## Sam Houston run past S Dakota 54-42 in FCS playoffs

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Jeremiah Briscoe threw four touchdowns — three to Davion Davis — and Corey Avery ran for two scores and No.6 seed Sam Houston State outlasted South Dakota State 54-42 on Saturday in the second-round of the FCS playoffs.

The Bearkats (11-1), who piled up 33 first downs and 708 yards of total offense and won their 20th straight home game, play host to Kennesaw State in the quarterfinals next weekend.

Briscoe was 28 of 43 for 505 yards and one interception. Davis had touchdown receptions of 44 and 13 yards in the first quarter and 12 yards in the final minute of the second quarter to produce a 41-14 lead. Davis had eight receptions for 131 yards and also scored on a 7-yard run in the second quarter.

Nathan Stewart had seven receptions for 180 yards and a 44-yard touchdown. Avery finished with 100 yards, surpassing 3,000 for his career, with his second 1-yard TD giving Sam Houston a 51-42 lead with



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8:07 to play.

Chris Streveler was 33 for 54 for 520 yards and five touchdowns for the Coyotes (8-5) but was intercepted twice. Streveler broke the Missouri Valley passing record with 4,234 yards this season. He also ran 15 times for 51 yards and a TD. Brant Van Roekel had 11 catches for 234 yards, both career highs, and a touchdown. Streveler's final touchdown at 10:54 of the fourth quarter pulled South Dakota within 44-42.

South Dakota had 32 first downs and 637 yards on offense but turned the ball over on downs three times.

## Christion has 4 TDs; South Dakota State beats UNI 37-22

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Taryn Christion threw for three touchdowns and ran for another score to lead South Dakota State in a 37-22 victory over Northern Iowa on Saturday in the FCS playoffs.

Fifth-seeded South Dakota State (10-2) avenged a 38-18 loss to Northern Iowa (8-5) on Oct. 14. The Jackrabbits have won six straight since then and will play in the quarterfinals against New Hampshire, who upset fourth-seeded Central Arkansas.

In the first half, Christion threw a 2-yard score to Cade Johnson, ran for a 21-yard touchdown, and floated a 28-yard pass to Dallas Goedert in the end zone just before halftime for a 26-7 lead.

Christion's 30-yard touchdown pass to Jacob Brown stretched the lead to 34-7 early in the fourth. Chase Vinatieri made three field goals, including a 55-yarder, for South Dakota State.

Eli Dunne threw for 287 yards and a 6-yard touchdown pass to Daurice Fountain for Northern Iowa. Jared Farley and Trevor Allen each had 1-yard touchdown runs in the fourth.

## No. 1 Duke beats South Dakota 96-80 to improve to 10-0

By AARON BEARD, AP Basketball Writer

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Duke dominated the first half to build a big lead, only to see South Dakota answer with a 50-point second half in the top-ranked Blue Devils' famously hostile Cameron Indoor Stadium.

And for the most part, Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski was good with that.

Grayson Allen scored 15 of his 25 points in an 8-minute opening blitz to help Duke beat South Dakota 96-80 on Saturday in its first home game in nearly two travel-filled weeks.

"What I saw was a team that put the (previous) nine games behind them and showed up ready to play," Krzyzewski said. "And I didn't help my team as much as I could in the second half because I subbed differently."

"But that was OK, because we needed to get time for a bunch of kids. I saw us beating a good team today, overall."

Duke (10-0) got its usual strong performances from top-liners Allen and freshman Marvin Bagley III, who had 19 points and 12 rebounds. Duke got a boost from sophomore Javin DeLaurier off the bench as Krzyzewski took a long look at his reserves in the second half.

Duke shot 62 percent to lead 56-30 by halftime, then maintained a comfortable margin the rest of the way — though South Dakota (7-3) shot 50 percent after halftime and made 7 of 13 3-point attempts to outscore the Blue Devils 50-40 after the break.

"I feel like everyone had good intensity," Allen said. "It just kind of dropped off a little bit in the second half when they got 50 points. It's something we have to continue through the whole game."

Tyler Hagedorn and Nick Fuller each scored 16 points for the Coyotes, though top scorer Matt Mooney (18.3 points) struggled to just three points on 1-for-5 shooting with four turnovers.

"They did a great job of making him work for everything," South Dakota coach Craig Smith said, adding: "He's seen that before but certainly not against this level of competition."

BIG PICTURE

South Dakota: The Coyotes entered the game ranked 23rd nationally by holding opponents to 37 percent shooting, but slowing Duke on its famously hostile home court was asking a lot. The Coyotes fell to 0-6 against ranked opponents in their Division I era since 2008, though this was the first matchup against No. 1 for a Summit League program that had never played a team ranked higher than seventh in that time

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before Saturday.

Duke: Duke had played four straight games away from Cameron Indoor Stadium, first with three games in the PK80 Invitational in Portland, Oregon, followed by Wednesday's visit to Indiana in the Big Ten/ACC Challenge. That win capped an opening month that saw Duke travel roughly 8,500 round-trip miles that included a win against Michigan State in the Champions Classic in Chicago on Nov. 14 — and prompted Krzyzewski to note his team has played much more than it has practiced.

"Look we're 10-0, and with this schedule, it's been really good," Krzyzewski said. "Can it be better? Yeah. Can it be worse? Hell yes. It can be a lot worse, it can be a lot worse."

## ENERGY GUY

Krzyzewski said DeLaurier provided "a good jolt" off the bench.

The 6-foot-10 sophomore finished with a career-best 13 points to go with nine rebounds. He also had some hustle plays, such as when he ran over to a corner and dived on the court to force a first-half tie-up — which brought Krzyzewski to his feet in applause.

"Sometimes your shot's not always going to fall," DeLaurier said, "but you can always play hard."

## ALLEN'S FLURRY

Allen made 6 of 7 shots with three 3-pointers in the early flurry that had him single-handedly outscoring the Coyotes midway through the opening half. He made 8 of 11 shots for the game and 4 of 5 3s while also aiding the defensive effort on Mooney.

## TOPS IN THE USA

Bagley posted his eighth double-double of the season to tie Minnesota's Jordan Murphy for the national lead.

## UP NEXT

South Dakota: The Coyotes host Drake on Wednesday night.

Duke: The Blue Devils host St. Francis (Pennsylvania) on Tuesday night.

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More AP college basketball: <http://collegebasketball.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25)

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Follow Aaron Beard on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/aaronbeardap>

## Man accused of pulling gun on snow plow driver found guilty

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of pulling a gun on a snow plow truck driver was found guilty of assault charges after a two-day trial.

The Argus Leader reports that 41-year-old Jason Schmidt was indicted earlier this year on charges of aggravated assault, simple assault, intentional damage to property and disorderly conduct.

The incident happened on Jan. 25 in the parking lot of a convenience store in Sioux Falls. Authorities say Schmidt pulled a gun in the lot on one snow plow truck driver, whom he said he believed to be armed, after arguing with a different driver both outside and inside the store.

The store clerk called police after Schmidt struck and broke the first plow truck's mirror.

Schmidt argued that he had pulled the gun in self-defense.

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

## Soil support: Builder gives Sioux Falls dirt worth \$100,000

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The city of Sioux Falls has hit pay dirt.

The Argus Leader reports that Lloyd Companies has donated 10,000 cubic yards of dirt to the city, which will go toward the development of an amphitheater in Falls Park West.

The grimy gift is valued at about \$100,000.

Parks Director Don Kearney says the dirt donation will allow the city to start on the project sooner than they expected.

The city plans to break ground next spring on the Levitt at the Falls amphitheater. It will sit across the street from The Cascades, a \$43.5 million Lloyd Companies project that will involve removing tons of dirt from the 2.5 acre site.

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

## South Dakota to auction juvenile detention center again

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — State officials will try again to sell a former juvenile detention center in western South Dakota after an auction failed to attract any buyers.

The governor's office has decided to hold a second public auction of the 173-acre former STAR Academy property near Custer, the Rapid City Journal reported . The auction is scheduled for Jan. 4 at the Custer County Courthouse.

The first public auction was held Oct. 18, but failed to draw interest from the three bidders in attendance. The minimum reserve bid was set at \$2.34 million.

The state's School and Public Lands Commissioner Ryan Brunner said the second auction's initial bid will need to be the same amount.

"We'll work to sell it to any bidder who will pay minimum appraised price," Brunner said. He said the sale could bring job creation and tax revenue to the area.

"It's one thing to sell," said Brunner. "It's another to find somebody that would be a good fit for the area."

The STAR Academy property includes 11 residences, a gym, a barn, and administrative, housing and maintenance buildings. It closed in April 2016.

The property will need substantial maintenance and repair work before it's in working condition. Those costs were included in the appraisal price.

If the second auction ends without sale, the governor's office will decide whether to hold another auction or try a different route.

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

## South Dakota city chosen for wildfire risk reduction program

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A western city near South Dakota's Black Hills National Forest is among eight communities chosen for a national wildfire risk reduction program next year.

The Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire program will help Deadwood create local planning measures to reduce the impact of wildfires, the Black Hills Pioneer reported. Across the U.S., wildfires are burning longer and causing more damage.

The program will create a team of community consultants, including land use planners, foresters and risk mapping experts.

"This is a great opportunity for the city of Deadwood, and this selection comes at a great time, as we are in the process of updating the city's comprehensive plan," said Mayor Chuck Turbiville. He said there's still evidence of the Grizzly Gulch Fire that nearly destroyed Deadwood about 15 years ago.

"We believe that Deadwood is in an excellent position to benefit from CPAW due to the community's wildfire risk, anticipated planning updates, and strong leadership support for this opportunity," said Molly Mowery, president of Wildfire Planning International, one of the program's founders.

City Planning and Zoning Administrator Bob Nelson Jr. said the program's services are provided at no cost, but the value is between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

Nelson said the program will likely take a year to complete. Nelson will attend training to kick off the program in Boulder, Colorado, in January.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

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## Authorities say Box Elder man died in Rapid City crash

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Box Elder man was killed in a two-vehicle crash in Rapid City earlier this week.

The victim has been identified as 25-year-old Frank Gott. The South Dakota Highway Patrol says Gott lost control of his car on a curve and drifted into the oncoming lane, colliding with a pickup truck. The accident happened Tuesday night.

Gott was pronounced dead at the scene. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

The 49-year-old man driving the pickup was taken to a hospital with what authorities said were serious injuries that are not life-threatening.

## Police find inmate who failed to return from work release

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a state prison inmate who failed to return from his work-release job is back in custody.

Thirty-four-year-old Lalo Montoya was supposed to return to the Yankton Community Work Center Friday following an appointment with his employer. Escape procedures were enacted when he failed to return on time.

Montoya was apprehended at a Yankton residence Saturday morning.

Montoya was serving a nearly six-year sentence for a possession of a controlled substance conviction out of Minnehaha County and a consecutive four-year sentence for keeping a place for use or sale of a controlled substance.

## 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

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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.

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

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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."

"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.

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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.

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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 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."

## UAE denies claim of Yemen missile attack against its plant

By AYA BATRAWY and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates on Sunday denied a claim by Yemen's Shiite rebels that they fired a missile toward an under-construction Emirati nuclear plant. The denial came as heavy fighting in Yemen's capital unraveled a rebel alliance that has been at war with a Saudi-led coalition, including the UAE.

The Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis, have been clashing in the capital, Sanaa, for five consecutive days with supporters of Yemen's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, an ally turned adversary.

The alliance between the Houthis and Saleh had helped the rebels retain control of Sanaa, despite nearly three years of coalition airstrikes.

The Houthis accuse Saleh of striking deals with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Since the recent clashes erupted in Sanaa, the Saudi coalition has been targeting the Houthis and backing Saleh's camp.

The Houthi claim Sunday came as the UAE celebrated its 46th National Day with public sector holiday that began on Thursday with a commemoration of the country's fallen soldiers.

In a statement posted on the UAE's state-run WAM news agency, authorities said: "The National Emergency and Crisis and Disasters Management Authority denies the claim that the Houthis fired a missile toward the country."

"The UAE possesses an air defense system capable of dealing with any threat of any type or kind," the statement added, saying that the nuclear power plant in Abu Dhabi was well-protected.

The National, a state-aligned newspaper in Abu Dhabi, also reported that Barakah's operations were "unaffected on Sunday, while sources on the ground confirmed there were no signs of an attack to the structure." The newspaper did not elaborate.

The \$20 billion Barakah nuclear power plant, being built with help from South Korea, is near Abu Dhabi's border with Saudi Arabia. The plant lies some 225 kilometers (140 miles) west of the UAE capital.

The first of its four reactors is scheduled to come online in 2018. When fully built, officials hope the nuclear plant will provide up to 25 percent of all energy needs in the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula.

The UAE is a major U.S. ally that hosts some 5,000 American troops and is the U.S. Navy's busiest foreign port of call. The U.S. military declined to comment on the Houthi missile claims, other than to acknowledge being aware of them.

Like other U.S. Gulf allies in the region, the UAE has the Patriot Missile defense system capable of shooting down ballistic missiles and is the only international client to have on delivery the U.S.-made Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system.

The Houthis last month had targeted the Saudi capital, Riyadh, with a ballistic missile that was intercepted by Saudi air defenses. It was the deepest strike inside the kingdom since the war between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis and their allies began in March 2015.

For the Houthis to launch a missile from Yemen at the UAE, it would likely have to fly over Saudi Arabia's vast southeastern desert in order to reach Abu Dhabi.

Senior Houthi official Deif-Allah al-Shami told The Associated Press that the missile fired toward Abu Dhabi was a "message to the United Arab Emirates for its political and financial support to Saleh."

He said that the UAE has hosted members of Saleh's family, including his son who was an ambassador to the UAE and believed to be residing here during the conflict. Al-Shami also said the rocket attack was a message that "we will continue to target every nation that participated in the aggression against Yemen."

The UAE's forces have mostly focused on securing the southern region of Yemen, while Houthis control much of the north.

At least 100 Emirati soldiers have been killed in the war, which was launched to dislodge the Houthis from Sanaa after they overran the capital and kicked out the internationally-backed Yemeni government from power. The conflict has killed more than 10,000 Yemeni civilians and pushed millions to the brink of famine.

Both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have accused its rival Iran of supplying Houthis with missiles, including



the one used to target Riyadh on Nov. 4. Both the Houthis and Iran deny the claim.

Iran, meanwhile, has close trade ties with the UAE. In November, Iranian authorities ordered a two-day ban on a hard-line Iranian newspaper after it ran a headline saying the UAE's tourism hub of Dubai was the "next target" for Yemen's Houthi rebels.

Associated Press writers Maggie Michael in Cairo and Ahmed Al-Haj in Sanaa, Yemen, contributed to this report.

## Trump says he never asked Comey to stop Flynn probe

By CALVIN WOODWARD and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday in a tweet that he never asked former FBI Director James Comey to stop investigating his ex-national security adviser Michael Flynn, issuing a fresh denial amid a shifting timeline on when he may have known that Flynn had lied to the FBI.

Trump said on Twitter before dawn, "I never asked Comey to stop investigating Flynn. Just more Fake News covering another Comey lie!" The president reiterated his version of events after Comey testified before Congress in June that Trump had asked him in a one-on-one meeting if he could see to "letting Flynn go."

Trump shifted his story Saturday on why he fired Flynn, lumping in the retired Army lieutenant general's lies to the FBI along with his untruthfulness with Vice President Mike Pence. The president's initial explanation was that Flynn had to go because he hadn't been straight with Pence about contacts with Russian officials.

Lying to the FBI is a crime, and one that Flynn acknowledged Friday in pleading guilty and agreeing to cooperate with the special counsel's Russia investigation.

Trump tweeted Saturday: "I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!"

Amid questions raised by the tweet, Trump associates tried to put distance Saturday evening between the president himself and the tweet. One person familiar with the situation said the tweet was actually crafted by John Dowd, one of the president's personal attorneys. Dowd declined to comment when reached by The Associated Press on Saturday night.

In another email wrinkle in the investigation into Trump's ties to Russia, The New York Times reported Saturday that emails among top Trump transition officials suggested that Flynn was in close contact with other senior members of the transition team before and after he spoke to Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. A Dec. 29 email from K.T. McFarland, a transition adviser to Trump, suggested that Russian sanctions announced by the Obama administration had been aimed at discrediting Trump's victory.

She wrote the sanctions could also make it more difficult for Trump to ease tensions with Russia, "which has just thrown the U.S.A. election to him," she wrote in the emails obtained by the Times. A White House attorney told the newspaper McFarland only meant that Democrats were portraying it that way.

It's unclear why Trump would cite lying to the FBI as a reason for firing Flynn. Doing so suggests the president knew at the time that Flynn had done something that is against the law, and therefore the investigation could not be as frivolous as he's been portraying.

It's also unclear how he would know that, if information about Russian contacts had not reached him, as he has been implying in his own defense.

Flynn left the White House in February, only acknowledging that he had given an incomplete account to Pence of his conversations with Kislyak. After Trump forced Flynn out, he asked Comey to end the bureau's probe in the matter, according to Comey's account. Comey refused, and Trump fired him, too.

Then-White House spokesman Sean Spicer said after Flynn's firing that it was the result of a "trust issue" and the White House counsel's office had determined there was not a legal issue.

"Whether or not he actually misled the vice president was the issue, and that was ultimately what led

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to the president asking for and accepting the resignation of Gen. Flynn," Spicer told reporters on Feb. 14. "That's it, pure and simple. It was a matter of trust."

Trump has been publicly dismissive of Comey and of special counsel Robert Mueller's continuing investigation, and was often generous in his appraisal of Flynn, except to say his adviser could not stay on the job after misleading his vice president.

At the time, Pence said Trump was justified in firing Flynn because Flynn had lied to him. Neither Trump nor Pence indicated concern then that the FBI had not been told the true story.

Pence, who served as head of Trump's transition, has not publicly commented on Flynn's plea.

Trump turned to Twitter again later Saturday night, railing about why Flynn was prosecuted but his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton was not for her alleged misdeeds.

He tweeted: "So General Flynn lies to the FBI and his life is destroyed, while Crooked Hillary Clinton, on that now famous FBI holiday 'interrogation' with no swearing in and no recording, lies many times...and nothing happens to her? Rigged system, or just a double standard?"

He then added: "Many people in our Country are asking what the 'Justice' Department is going to do about the fact that totally Crooked Hillary, AFTER receiving a subpoena from the United States Congress, deleted and 'acid washed' 33,000 Emails? No justice!"

Clinton was voluntarily interviewed for more than three hours at FBI headquarters in July 2016. She was not in custody during her interview and so, in accordance with standard FBI and Justice Department protocol, her interview would not have been recorded. A Justice Department policy on recorded interrogations applies to individuals who have been arrested and are in custody.

It is nonetheless a crime to lie to the FBI about any material fact in an investigation. Comey has said Clinton did not lie to the FBI during her interview.

## Trump suggests openness to negotiations on GOP tax plan

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump suggested Saturday he may be willing to negotiate changes to a significant portion of the tax overhaul, the corporate tax rate, injecting an element of uncertainty into the tax plan only hours after it cleared the Senate.

Trump told reporters at the White House before a trip to New York City that he would consider setting the corporate tax rate at 22 percent, compared to a 20 percent rate that he has pushed for with House and Senate Republicans during the fall.

Pointing to expected talks between House and Senate negotiators this month, Trump predicted "something beautiful is going to come out of that mixer" and the business tax would come "all the way down from 35 to 20. It could be 22 when it comes out, but it could also be 20. We'll see what ultimately comes out."

Trump spoke after the Senate approved a \$1.5 trillion tax bill early Saturday that would rewrite the nation's tax code, cut individual rates and slash the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent beginning in 2019. If enacted, the bill would provide the most sweeping changes to the tax system in three decades and help Trump deliver the first major legislative win of his presidency.

Trump's suggestion of a higher corporate tax rate than what has been included in legislation approved by the House and Senate represented an about-face after the president and administration officials maintained a hard line that a corporate rate higher than 20 percent was a nonstarter.

Vice President Mike Pence said in a speech to the Tax Foundation in mid-November that the administration would "cut the corporate tax rate from one of the highest in the developed world down to 20 percent — and not a penny more."

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who accompanied Trump to New York for fundraisers on Saturday, said in September that the 20 percent corporate rate was "not negotiable."

The shift perplexed some Republicans. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., tried to pare back the proposed cut in corporate tax rates to 20.94 percent to provide a more generous increase in the child tax credit. But he was rebuffed.

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"Senate leaders & White House fought hard to defeat expanded #ChildTaxCredit b/c of 20.94% rate but now 22% is ok?" Rubio tweeted Saturday.

White House officials did not immediately respond to questions seeking clarity on Trump's views of the proposed corporate tax rate.

Senate and House Republicans now head into a new phase of seeking to reconcile differences in the legislation passed by both chambers, a behind-closed-doors process that could move quickly. Trump has said he wants to sign the tax package into law before Christmas.

Republicans have pointed to the tax bill as crucial to retaining its House and Senate majorities in next year's midterm elections. Democrats have said the bill will solely help the wealthy and corporations at the expense of more modest-earning workers.

Democrats have noted that while the corporate tax rates would be permanently reduced under the plan, it would only offer temporary tax cuts to individuals, lasting until 2026.

On Twitter follow Ken Thomas at @KThomasDC.

## After erroneous Flynn report, ABC News suspends Brian Ross

By JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC News on Saturday suspended investigative reporter Brian Ross for four weeks without pay for his erroneous report on Michael Flynn, which it called a "serious error."

Ross, citing an unnamed confidant of Flynn, the former national security adviser, had reported Friday that then-candidate Donald Trump had directed Flynn to make contact with the Russians. That would have been an explosive development in the ongoing investigation into whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia to interfere in the election. But hours later, Ross clarified his report on the evening news, saying that his source now said Trump had done so not as a candidate, but as president-elect. At that point, he said, Trump had asked Flynn to contact the Russians about issues including working together to fight ISIS.

ABC was widely criticized for merely clarifying and not correcting the report. It issued a correction later in the evening.

"We deeply regret and apologize for the serious error we made yesterday," the network said in a statement Saturday. "The reporting conveyed by Brian Ross during the special report had not been fully vetted through our editorial standards process. As a result of our continued reporting over the next several hours ultimately we determined the information was wrong and we corrected the mistake on air and online.

"It is vital we get the story right and retain the trust we have built with our audience — these are our core principles. We fell far short of that yesterday. Effective immediately, Brian Ross will be suspended for four weeks without pay."

The news brought swift reaction from Trump, who tweeted: "Congratulations to @ABC News for suspending Brian Ross for his horrendously inaccurate and dishonest report on the Russia, Russia, Russia Witch Hunt. More Networks and "papers" should do the same with their Fake News!"

As for Ross, who is ABC's chief investigative correspondent, he tweeted: "My job is to hold people accountable and that's why I agree with being held accountable myself."

Ross, 69, joined the network in 1994. He has won a slew of journalism awards, including, according to his ABC bio, six George Polk awards, six Peabody awards and two Emmys, among others.

He also, though, has drawn criticism for previous errors. In just one example, ABC had to apologize in 2012 when Ross reported on "Good Morning America" that James Holmes, the suspect in the movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado, might be connected to the tea party, based on a name listed on a web page. It turned out to be a different "Jim Holmes." Ross was criticized for politicizing the story with the error.

Journalism analyst Roy Peter Clark, senior scholar at the Poynter Institute, a nonprofit journalism school based in Florida, noted that while reporting errors are always serious, the current media climate — in which the president is accusing mainstream outlets of purveying "fake news" — renders the stakes even higher.

"There has been a significant change in the political culture in the last two years," Clark said. "That

change has had many consequences for the practice of journalism. When the president of the United States refers to the press collectively as an enemy of the people, the people who support that view will interpret certain acts of journalism as being evidence that the president is correct."

"The problem," Clark added, "is that a mistake like this, even though it's ultimately corrected, and the reporter punished for it, feeds into a narrative that is now poisonous. When there is a clear mistake, it can be translated by folks who are attacking the press as bias. I think it's very important for journalists in this political culture to be more aggressive, and more cautious at the same time."

## Trump suggests he may be flexible on corporate tax rates

By **KEN THOMAS, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has suggested that he may be willing to negotiate changes to a significant portion of the tax overhaul, the corporate tax rate, injecting an element of uncertainty into the tax plan only hours after it cleared the Senate.

Trump told reporters at the White House before a trip to New York City Saturday that he would consider setting the corporate tax rate at 22 percent, compared to a 20 percent rate that he has pushed for with House and Senate Republicans during the fall.

Pointing to expected talks between House and Senate negotiators this month, Trump predicted "something beautiful is going to come out of that mixer" and the business tax would come "all the way down from 35 to 20. It could be 22 when it comes out, but it could also be 20. We'll see what ultimately comes out."

Trump spoke after the Senate approved a \$1.5 trillion tax bill early Saturday that would rewrite the nation's tax code, cut individual rates and slash the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent beginning in 2019. If enacted, the bill would provide the most sweeping changes to the tax system in three decades and help Trump deliver the first major legislative win of his presidency.

Trump's suggestion of a higher corporate tax rate than what has been included in legislation approved by the House and Senate represented an about-face after the president and administration officials maintained a hard line that a corporate rate higher than 20 percent was a nonstarter.

Vice President Mike Pence said in a speech to the Tax Foundation in mid-November that the administration would "cut the corporate tax rate from one of the highest in the developed world down to 20 percent — and not a penny more."

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Republicans have pointed to the tax bill as crucial to retaining its House and Senate majorities in next year's midterm elections. Democrats have said the bill will solely help the wealthy and corporations at the expense of more modest-earning workers.

Democrats have noted that while the corporate tax rates would be permanently reduced under the plan, it would only offer temporary tax cuts to individuals, lasting until 2026.

On Twitter, follow Ken Thomas at @KThomasDC.

## 13 dead, 2 missing after boat capsizes in South Korea

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — At least 13 people were dead and two missing on Sunday after a South Korean fishing boat collided with a refueling vessel and capsized, the coast guard said.

An official from the Korea Coast Guard said seven people were rescued and the two missing included the boat's captain. He said 22 people were aboard the 9.8-ton fishing boat that capsized after colliding with the 336-ton refueling vessel in waters off the port city of Incheon.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules. The refueling vessel did not suffer damage.

President Moon Jae-in ordered authorities to deploy as many helicopters and other aircraft as possible to search for the missing, according to his office.

The coast guard official said 19 coast guard and naval vessels and five aircraft including helicopters were dispatched to the site. Authorities were questioning the crew of the refueling vessel to determine the cause of the collision.

South Korea has seen its share of significant maritime accidents in recent years, including the 2014 sinking of a ferry that killed more than 300 people, mostly schoolchildren. More than 50 fishermen died or went missing months later after their vessel sank in the Bering Sea.

## Remembering 1963 eruption, Bali's elderly wary of another

By STEPHEN WRIGHT and WAYAN NAMBI, Associated Press

KLUNGKUNG, Indonesia (AP) — Bali's glowering Mount Agung has seemingly quieted since hurling huge columns of ash from its crater a week ago, but some villagers on the Indonesian island who survived the catastrophic 1963 explosions believe a bigger eruption is coming.

Ash plumes have dissipated in the past few days though an online seismogram from the mountain's monitoring post resembles a crazed abstract painting, indicating the tremendous forces churning within.

Explosions from the smoking crater and tremors still rattle the surrounding region and authorities have maintained Agung's alert at the highest level. Its 1963 eruptions killed about 1,100 people.

"The situation now is almost the same," said Nengah Tresni, who was 12 when Agung erupted in 1963. She recalls being at one of the Hindu temples that dot the volcano's slopes and the sky suddenly turning dark as she left with her family.

"I'm sure there will be a big eruption. It is just a matter of time," said Tresni, who came with family members on Tuesday to an ageing sports center that's serving as an evacuation camp after officials told them to leave their village.

"In the old eruption many people did not expect it to be big because there were small eruptions for a long time and villagers just went to the temple to pray," she said.

It's the second time Tresni has fled to the camp since September, when the 3,140-meter (10,300-foot) volcano burst into life after more than half a century of inactivity. Officials lowered the volcano's alert level at the end of October and most of the 140,000 people who had evacuated returned home. It proved to be a brief respite.

"I actually didn't want to go back because I thought there would be big eruptions, but my family wanted to go home," she said. "And now we're refugees here again."

Nyoman Siki from a village high on the volcano's slopes was 6 or 7 years old in 1963 and remembers it being said that 200 people from his area were killed. But he was philosophical about the situation. When people returned a year after the eruption, he said they were happy because it had renewed the fertility of the land.

"After years of cultivation, the volcano is just about to erupt again," he said.

More than 55,000 people are living in shelters such as sports halls, temples and tent camps since officials expanded the no-go area around the volcano on Monday. Many centers appear well organized, but one visited by Associated Press reporters in Rendang district on Saturday was tightly packed and muddy

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from the frequent rains. Tourists who were stranded when the idyllic island's airport closed for nearly three days have rushed to leave.

Nyoman Merta said that after the 1963 eruption, he and his family walked for three days from their village before authorities picked them up and took them to an evacuation camp.

"I was 9 years old but I can remember many people still stayed. There were no warnings like now and maybe that was why many people were killed then," he said.

The family stayed in Denpasar in the south of Bali for a year. When they returned home, he said, their house was uninhabitable because of damage caused by the eruptions.

He compared the recent months of escalating danger signs from Agung with 1963.

Scientists agree the danger remains though making an exact prediction is difficult if not impossible.

"At all volcanoes we can expect fluctuations in activity. This does not mean that the threat is over," said Heather Handley, a volcanologist at Sydney's Macquarie University. "It is clearly still in an active phase."

In the 1963 eruption, there were small ash explosions in February followed by a lava flow and then a large explosive eruption on March 17, she said. A second major eruption occurred two months later "so activity can stop and start again," said Handley.

At the muddy Rendang camp, bare-chested 77-year-old Nyoman Arse remembered the 1963 disaster in great detail and was unperturbed by Agung's ash eruptions in the past week.

Recalling events when he was 24, Arse said the mountain sent out ash for a month and then exploded about the same time as Galungan, an important religious celebration in majority Hindu Bali that in 1963 fell in mid-March.

"I saw the rocks coming down the mountain with a very loud noise," he said, imitating crashing sounds. "The rocks were huge," he said. "What's happening now is still nothing."

## **FBI agent removed from Mueller probe for anti-Trump messages**

**By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A veteran FBI counterintelligence agent was removed from special counsel Robert Mueller's team investigating Russian election meddling after the discovery of an exchange of text messages seen as potentially anti-President Donald Trump, a person familiar with the matter said Saturday.

The removal of the agent, who also had worked on the investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, occurred this summer. The person who discussed the matter with The Associated Press was not authorized to speak about it by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Peter Carr, a spokesman for Mueller, said Mueller removed the agent, Peter Strzok, from the team "immediately upon learning of the allegations." He would not elaborate on the nature of the accusations.

The swift removal almost certainly reflected a desire to insulate the investigators from any claims of political bias or favoritism. Trump and many of his supporters have at times sought to discredit the integrity of the investigation, in part by claiming a close relationship between Mueller and fired FBI Director James Comey and by pointing to political contributions to Democrats made by some lawyers on the team.

The existence of the text messages was brought to the attention of Mueller's office by the Justice Department inspector general's office, which has been conducting a wide-ranging investigation of the FBI's handling of the Clinton email case.

Mueller has been investigating whether Trump campaign associates coordinated with Russia to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election, and Strzok's background in counterintelligence would have been seen as particularly valuable for a secretive FBI probe examining foreign contacts.

So far, four people have been charged as a result of Mueller's investigation. The most recent criminal case was brought Friday when former national security adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the Russian ambassador. He has agreed to cooperate with the investigation.

On Saturday, Trump tweeted that he "had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!"

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The tweet suggests that Trump was aware when the White House dismissed Flynn on Feb. 13 that he had lied to the FBI, which had interviewed him weeks earlier. Comey has said Trump the following day brought up the Flynn investigation in private at the White House and told him he hoped he could "let this go."

The content of the messages Strzok exchanged and the person with whom he communicated were not revealed either by the FBI or the Justice Department. But in his statement, Carr noted that an FBI lawyer, Lisa Page, had briefly been detailed to Mueller's team but left "before our office was aware of the allegations."

Phone numbers for Strzok and Page could not immediately be found.

The FBI said in a statement Saturday night that the bureau "has clearly defined policies and procedures regarding appropriate employee conduct, including communications."

"When the FBI first learned of the allegations, the employees involved were immediately reassigned, consistent with practices involving employee matters," the statement said.

The New York Times first reported the reason for the agent's removal. ABC News had reported in August that Strzok had left the team.

Strzok was present during Clinton's July 2016 interview with the FBI about her use of a private email server while she was secretary of state, according to an unclassified summary of the interview commonly referred to as an FBI 302 form. Several other FBI agents and officials from the Justice Department also attended. The investigation was concluded without criminal charges days later.

On Saturday, the Justice Department's inspector general's office released a statement confirming that it was continuing to review unspecified allegations made about the department's and the FBI's actions "in advance of the 2016 election."

"The OIG has been reviewing allegations involving communications between certain individuals, and will report its findings regarding those allegations promptly upon completion of the review of them," the inspector general's office said.

The statement didn't refer to any agents or officials by name.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement Saturday night that the allegations confirmed by the inspector general's office, "if proven to be true, would raise serious questions of public trust. I look forward to receiving the Inspector General's report. We will ensure that anyone who works on any investigation in the Department of Justice does so objectively and free from bias or favoritism."

Sessions, who recused himself in March from the Russia investigation, also said he had directed the FBI director to conduct a review and "promptly make any necessary changes to his management and investigative teams consistent with the highest professional standards."

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Associated Press writer Chad Day contributed to this report.

## Trump alters story on why he fired Flynn

By CALVIN WOODWARD and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump changed his story Saturday on why he fired Michael Flynn as his national security adviser, now suggesting he knew at the time that Flynn had lied to the FBI as well as to Vice President Mike Pence about his contacts with Russians during the presidential transition.

That was a turnabout from his initial explanations that Flynn had to go because he hadn't been straight with Pence about those contacts. Lying to the FBI is a crime, and one that Flynn acknowledged Friday in pleading guilty and agreeing to cooperate with the special counsel's Russia investigation.

Trump's tweet: "I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!"

Amid questions raised by the tweet, Trump associates tried to put distance Saturday evening between the president himself and the tweet. One person familiar with the situation said the tweet was actually crafted by John Dowd, one of the president's personal attorneys. Dowd declined to comment when reached

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by The Associated Press on Saturday night.

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It's unclear why Trump would cite lying to the FBI as a reason for firing Flynn. Doing so suggests the president knew at the time that Flynn had done something that is against the law, and therefore the investigation could not be as frivolous as he's been portraying.

It's also unclear how he would know that, if information about Russian contacts had not reached him, as he has been implying in his own defense.

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Then-White House spokesman Sean Spicer said after Flynn's firing that it was the result of a "trust issue" and the White House counsel's office had determined there was not a legal issue.

"Whether or not he actually misled the vice president was the issue, and that was ultimately what led to the president asking for and accepting the resignation of Gen. Flynn," Spicer told reporters on Feb. 14. "That's it, pure and simple. It was a matter of trust."

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He tweeted: "So General Flynn lies to the FBI and his life is destroyed, while Crooked Hillary Clinton, on that now famous FBI holiday "interrogation" with no swearing in and no recording, lies many times...and nothing happens to her? Rigged system, or just a double standard?"

He then added: "Many people in our Country are asking what the "Justice" Department is going to do about the fact that totally Crooked Hillary, AFTER receiving a subpoena from the United States Congress, deleted and "acid washed" 33,000 Emails? No justice!"

Clinton was voluntarily interviewed for more than three hours at FBI headquarters in July 2016. She was not in custody during her interview and so, in accordance with standard FBI and Justice Department protocol, her interview would not have been recorded. A Justice Department policy on recorded interrogations applies to individuals who have been arrested and are in custody.

It is nonetheless a crime to lie to the FBI about any material fact in an investigation. Comey has said Clinton did not lie to the FBI during her interview.

## Tax bill clears Senate in big boost for Trump, GOP

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans muscled the largest tax overhaul in 30 years through the Senate early Saturday, taking a big step toward giving President Donald Trump his first major legislative triumph after months of false starts and frustration on other fronts.

"Just what the country needs to get growing again," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said



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in an interview after a final burst of negotiation closed in on a nearly \$1.5 trillion package that impacts the breadth of American society.

He shrugged off polls finding scant public enthusiasm for the measure, saying the legislation would prove its worth. "Big bills are rarely popular," he said. "You remember how unpopular 'Obamacare' was when it passed?"

Trump on Saturday tweeted his thanks to Senate and House Republicans as they now begin trying to reconcile differences in legislation passed by both chambers, a behind-closed-doors process that is expected to move swiftly. Trump is aiming to sign the tax package into law before Christmas. "Biggest Tax Bill and Tax Cuts in history just passed in the Senate," he tweeted inaccurately. The overhaul is significant but far from the largest.

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 said the package 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 quick trip through Congress for complex legislation. Democrats derided the hastily written, scribbles-in-the-margin crafting of the bill in the final hours Friday night.

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 dismissed the bill as a gift to its wealthy and business backers at the expense of lower-earning people. They played up the fact that the bill would permanently reduce corporate tax rates, from 35 percent to 20 percent, while offering only temporary tax cuts to individuals, lasting until 2026.

Congress' nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has said the bill's reductions for many families would be modest and 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 could 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, saying senators focus on the major provisions as opposed to the "mind numbing" comparisons to current law.

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.

Late changes introduced by GOP leaders 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.

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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 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 decided not to erase the alternative minimum tax. Instead, they reduced the number of high-earners who must pay it. They also increased a one-time tax on profits U.S.-based corporations are holding overseas and they 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.

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 inscribed into law. There were also breaks for the wine, beer and spirits industries, Alaska Natives and aircraft management firms.

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

## Victims of harassment, assault triggered by recent events

By TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Noelle Rose Andressen was raped by her grandfather as a toddler. As an adult, she thought she'd successfully dealt with the trauma, having gone through years of therapy. A professional dancer, she even choreographed a performance about sexual abuse to process her feelings.

But when sexual assault and harassment allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein exploded in October, followed by the barrage of claims against powerful men, Andressen became overwhelmed. The old feelings of fear, shame and anger resurfaced — especially when she watched news or read the endless stories posted on social media.

"I had to deactivate my personal Facebook account for a little while," said Andressen, who splits her time between New York and Los Angeles. "I love everybody but I need my space. I know how much I can take, and I try to keep myself in a protective bubble."

Since the Weinstein allegations, dozens of men have been publicly accused of sexual abuse and harassment. For women who have been raped, abused and harassed, each day is a fresh hell, as unnerving headlines and stories seep into daily life. Memories of past abuse, previous encounters with inappropriate co-workers, even lingering doubts as to how long-ago personal situations were handled have left women feeling raw, vulnerable and on edge.

"Retraumatizing is kind of the only word that really fits," said Samantha Field, a 30-year-old writer who has been assaulted by five different men. "It's difficult watching all of this."

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The Maryland woman has penned articles for online publications on the effects of sexual harassment and assault. She said she was once assaulted by her ex-boyfriend, and a few years ago, an older man in Field's parents' church kissed her on the mouth without asking. Writing about the violence against women means she's developed a protective layer to discuss the topic professionally, but the past few weeks have ratcheted up her stress level.

"I've spent the last couple of years making progress, seeing a therapist, making a lot of steps forward. It's a struggle not to let yourself despair," she said.

Then came allegations against Sen. Al Franken, a Democrat whom she'd admired.

"He was the one that kind of did me in. I broke down sobbing in the shower," she said.

After the Franken stories, Field changed her news and social media diet. She no longer reads the comments section on Facebook posts, and she turned off news push notifications on her phone.

"I set aside a time in my day that's for keeping up with the news, mentally armoring myself," she said. "I've sectioned it off as a part of my day, as opposed to just absorbing the news all day."

It's common for people to feel powerful emotions because of the avalanche of news, said Shari Botwin, a licensed clinical social worker in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

"People are very triggered, whether in a good way or in a negative way," she said. "People are having more flashbacks, getting more depressed, they end up reliving it. For some, it's a good thing, it motivates them to get help. For others, they're staying quiet."

It's not just depression, either. Botwin said that some victims — especially those who have been harassed at work — feel it's unfair that privileged women are able to speak out against their harassers and have the media's ear, while women in regular jobs are forced to endure more of the same.

For some, the stories are indicators of change, signals that women are finally being heard.

Dawn Skillen, a 43-year-old stay-at-home mom in Jacksonville, Florida, was molested by a babysitter's father when she was 5 and experienced sexual harassment when she was in the Navy. Prior to this year, she didn't dwell on the past.

"I don't think about what happened to me. In my mind, I'm tough, I could handle it," she said. But story after story eroded that strength, and when one of her favorite actors, Kevin Spacey, was accused of attacking teens and young men, anger surfaced.

"It ruins lives. You can't ever get that security or innocence back. You hurt for everybody," she said. "I think people don't realize, when one person speaks out, it emboldens you. It's not an 'I'm going to jump on the bandwagon,' it's more of an empowerment."

Andressen hopes this is a moment where individually and collectively, women will find their voices. In a video for a performance that's about her abuse, Andressen speaks to the camera as a scarlet, satin ribbon slips off her wrists.

"You will find your strength. You will find your hope. You will share your story," she says in the video. "You have much left to do. What was meant for evil, shall be redeemed for good."

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Follow Tamara Lush on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/tamaralush>

## How the Kate Steinle case became an immigration flashpoint

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A jury's decision to acquit a Mexican man in the 2015 slaying of Kate Steinle on a San Francisco pier has reignited the furor of critics who in the two years since have pointed to Steinle's death as evidence of the need for tougher immigration policies.

President Donald Trump on Friday called the verdict "a travesty of justice" and renewed his push for a wall on the border with Mexico. U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions demanded cities like San Francisco scrap immigration policies that limit cooperation with federal deportation efforts.

Here's a closer look at how the case unfolded and why it got embroiled in the intense national debate about immigration:

THE SLAYING:

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Steinle, 32, a medical device saleswoman, was shot while walking on a popular waterfront area in the city on the evening of July 1, 2015 with her father and a family friend who were visiting. Her father, Jim Steinle, testified that his daughter collapsed in his arms, saying, "Help me dad." He rolled her on her side and discovered a bullet hole. She was later declared dead at a hospital.

Jose Ines Garcia Zarate was arrested a short time later. He told police he found a gun on the pier wrapped in cloth, and that it fired accidentally when he picked it up. The gun was the service weapon of a U.S. Bureau of Land Management ranger, who reported it stolen from his car in late June.

## THE REACTION:

The shooting immediately sparked criticism of San Francisco's policy of limiting cooperation with federal immigration authorities and led to calls for stronger enforcement of federal immigration laws.

Garcia Zarate had been deported five times and was wanted for a sixth deportation when Steinle was shot. Before the shooting, he had finished a federal prison sentence for illegal re-entry to 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.

The story dominated conservative talk radio, but also had Democrats, including Hillary Clinton, saying San Francisco was wrong to let Garcia Zarate go free. As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump repeatedly referenced the Steinle shooting and vowed to crack down on sanctuary cities. His administration has moved to restrict funding from such cities, but judges have blocked those attempts.

Supporters of sanctuary policies say they improve public safety by allowing immigrants to cooperate with police without fear. They also say detaining people without a warrant just so immigration officials can pick them up is unconstitutional.

## THE TRIAL:

Garcia Zarate was charged with murder, and throughout most of the trial San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia portrayed the defendant as someone who willfully disregarded the safety of others when he fired the gun. But she spoke more strongly in her closing argument, saying he had come to the pier with a gun and a desire to hurt someone, and should be convicted of first-degree murder.

His attorneys argued that he found a gun wrapped in cloth under a chair on the pier, and it fired accidentally when he picked it up. Their forensic experts testified that the bullet that killed Steinle ricocheted from 15 feet away, something he could not have done intentionally.

Jurors found Garcia Zarate guilty only of being a felon in possession of a firearm, which carries a maximum sentence of three years in jail.

## WHAT MIGHT COME NEXT:

It's likely Garcia Zarate will have served long enough behind bars considering his time in custody.

But that might not be the end of his legal troubles. The Justice Department is considering bringing federal charges against him, and at its request, a judge in Texas on Friday unsealed an arrest warrant for Garcia Zarate that was issued days after Steinle's shooting. Federal officials say they believe the Steinle shooting violated the terms of Garcia Zarate's supervised release following his conviction for illegal re-entry to the U.S.

The Steinle family, separately, has also filed a lawsuit that names Garcia Zarate and alleges the U.S. Bureau of Land Management ranger negligently left the gun used in the slaying loaded inside a vehicle in San Francisco before it was stolen.

## Investigator: Some officials resisted Charlottesville review

By SARAH RANKIN, Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — An independent report that found serious police and government failures in responding to violence at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville this summer also accuses police agencies of putting up roadblocks to the investigation.

The report released Friday by former U.S. Attorney Tim Heaphy said Virginia State Police refused to

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make commanders on the ground at the Aug. 12 rally available for interviews or to provide most documents requested. It also said Charlottesville Police Chief Al Thomas deleted relevant text messages and made officers fearful of retaliation for speaking with investigators.

Thomas' lawyer denied texts were deleted. He spoke at a news conference in which community activists peppered Heaphy with questions and shouted at Thomas, illustrating the deep distrust between some of Charlottesville's citizens and law enforcement after white nationalists descended on the Virginia city over its decision to remove a Confederate monument.

"We are a community divided. We are still a community in crisis," Thomas said.

The report's findings come a little over three months after the rally, which was believed to be the largest gathering of white nationalists in at least a decade. Street fights erupted between white nationalists and counterdemonstrators before the event officially began, and the brawling lasted nearly an hour in view of officers until authorities forced the crowd to disband.

Later, as counterdemonstrators were peacefully marching downtown, a car drove into the crowd, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring many more.

Heaphy's report was sharply critical of Thomas' response as the violence began to escalate that day.

According to the report, as brawling first broke out, Thomas said, "Let them fight, it will make it easier to declare an unlawful assembly."

Thomas did not recall making that statement, which was cited in accounts by two other police employees, though he confirmed he waited to "see how things played out" before declaring an unlawful assembly, the report said.

"Chief Thomas' slow-footed response to violence put the safety of all at risk and created indelible images of this chaotic event," it said.

The report also said Thomas initially tried to limit access to certain information by directing subordinates not to answer certain questions. And it said Thomas and other Charlottesville police command staff deleted text messages relevant to the investigation.

Kevin Martingayle, an attorney for Thomas, said the chief disputes that.

Heaphy, now in private law practice, said he eventually got the information needed from city police, but that wasn't the case with Virginia State Police.

State police allowed Heaphy's team to interview the agency's leader and two troopers not present the day of the rally. But the report said state police refused requests to interview four others "important to our evaluation" and turned over just one document.

Heaphy's team said it obtained a second document, a detailed plan for state police resources on Aug. 12, after copies were accidentally left behind in a staging area.

State police Col. W. Steven Flaherty issued a statement Friday evening that did not directly address the report's characterization of the agency as unwilling to cooperate.

The statement said the rally brought individuals "from both the extreme right and extreme left" to Charlottesville "with the sole purpose of provoking violence from the opposing side."

"In that kind of volatile and rapidly-evolving environment, it is difficult for any one police plan to account for every possible circumstance and resulting scenario," Flaherty said.

Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran was initially willing to cooperate with Heaphy's investigation, the report says, but Moran's office later invoked executive privilege over certain information amid concerns about possible litigation against the state.

Moran didn't respond to AP's requests for comment.

The investigation — which involved around 150 interviews and a review of photos, video and more than half a million documents — found a lack of coordination between state and city police and a passive response to the chaos.

The report also found police removed an officer from the area where the car smashed into counterdemonstrators, leaving only a small sawhorse in place at the time.

The report also said the fact that officers were dressed in everyday uniforms, not riot gear, at the outset caused problems. Their helmets and shields were staged behind barricades, not beside officers, Heaphy

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said, requiring them to leave conflict areas to retrieve that equipment.

"Supervisors devised a poorly conceived plan that under-equipped and misaligned hundreds of officers. Execution of that plan elevated officer safety over public safety," the report said.

## House GOP unveils plan to avert government shutdown

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House GOP leaders unveiled a plan Saturday to avert a government shutdown next weekend and keep the government open through Dec. 22.

The measure would buy time for bipartisan talks on a bigger budget agreement that would give the Pentagon and government agencies significant relief from a pending budget freeze.

A temporary spending bill enacted in September expires at midnight on Friday.

The move comes despite opposition from some GOP conservatives who think they're being set up for a pre-Christmas deal they won't like.

House Democrats say they won't vote for the legislation without protections for immigrants brought to the country illegally as children. GOP leaders oppose the idea.

Talks on a budget agreement are likely to restart next week after a setback on Tuesday when top Democrats pulled out of a meeting with President Donald Trump after he attacked them on Twitter.

The measure also contains a short-term fix to prevent several states from running out of money to operate a popular program that provides health care to children from low-income families. The Children's Health Insurance Program's authorization ran out Oct. 1 and states have been limping along using carry over funding since then.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., said the new stopgap funding measure "will allow for additional time for a deal to be reached on top-line spending levels for this fiscal year. Once this agreement is made, my committee will rapidly go to work with the Senate to complete the final legislation."

"I am eager to know what Republican leadership believes they can accomplish in the next two weeks that they haven't been able to accomplish in the last two months," countered top House Appropriation Democrat Nita Lowey of New York.

## 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?

Trump himself was eager to settle that question as he offered his first public response to Flynn's plea, saying Saturday: "What has been shown is no collusion, no collusion. There's been absolutely no collusion."

But 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 govern-

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ments, 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 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.

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

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

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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.



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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.

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.

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

## 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

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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 Wednes-

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day, 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."

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

## The godfather of comedy looks back on a lifetime of laughs

By JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The godfather of comedy has a few secrets to share: First, he never intended to become the godfather of comedy, never had any idea how to accomplish the feat and, a half-century later, isn't quite sure how he did it.

When Budd Friedman opened a dingy brick-walled nightclub called The Improvisation on the edge of New York's theatre district in 1963, there were no other major comedy clubs to speak of in the U.S. Stand-up comics were generally relegated to playing small coffeehouses, telling mother-in-law jokes at summer resorts or keeping audiences entertained between strip shows.

There are comedy clubs across the country now, and in Friedman's just-published memoir, "The Improv: An Oral History of the Comedy Club That Revolutionized Stand-Up," generations of comedians from Jay Leno to Jimmy Fallon give the author the lion's share of the credit.

"Budd Friedman is one of the greatest influences in comedy ever. Bar none. He changed pop culture forever," Fallon says in the book co-authored by Friedman and veteran entertainment journalist Tripp Whetsell.

To hear Friedman tell it, changing comedy's direction was about the last thing the former ad man set out to do.

"It was a complete fluke. I wanted to be a theatrical producer," he said during a recent phone interview.

So he opened an after-hours club in a section of midtown Manhattan that although dicey was within walking distance of Broadway's theater district. He figured he'd bring in some aspiring singers and pianists, serve food and wait for deep-pocketed, hungry people leaving those Broadway shows to wander in.

At least one would surely decide to bankroll a show the distinguished-looking fellow wearing the monocle wanted to produce. (He wouldn't tell them he wore the monocle only because it was too difficult to read receipts in his darkened club.)

Most of the singers and pianists, save for Bette Midler and Barry Manilow, never caught on. But the comics poured in from the coffeehouses and began getting on stage.

Richard Pryor was one of the first to come through the door, followed soon after by George Carlin. Rodney Dangerfield wandered in drunk one night and bombed, then returned sober the next, killed and was quickly hired as the emcee.

It was the dawn of a decade of tumult that marked the Civil Rights Era, political assassinations, escalation of the Vietnam War and other events that provided endless amounts of dark humor.

"I think the time was just right for it," Friedman muses now.

It quickly became clear that the Improv was the place to express that dark humor — often in the most colorful language people like Carlin or Pryor could manage. Friedman might advise them to swear a little less, but he instituted no real restrictions. Of course, he didn't pay them either.

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"I went in there on open mic night. I didn't even know it was called that. It was probably called 'Bring some friends and buy some booze night,'" recalls Richard Lewis, who most recently can be seen playing a comical version of himself on Larry David's long-running pseudo-reality sitcom "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

To Lewis' surprise, Friedman came on stage after that first set, put his arm around him and, in a voice the comedian recalls sounding like that of the Greek god Zeus, declared he'd found the hottest young comic of 1971.

"Afterward I said to Budd, 'What does this mean?' He says, 'It means you can come here any night that you want and work for free.' I went, 'Wow, I can work for free!'

"But I was ecstatic," Lewis added more seriously during a recent interview. "Budd stands as the godfather of comedy. He really was that important of a figure. Everybody had to go through that club if they wanted to make it."

As the '60s melded into the '70s, '80s and '90s, they kept coming: Leno, Billy Crystal, Lily Tomlin, Jerry Seinfeld, Adam Sandler.

Now 85 and slowed by a recent stroke that has lowered the volume of that Zeus-like voice, the semi-retired Friedman says he still enjoys catching a new act.

In his book, he recounts a colorful life by any measure: Born Gerson Friedman and nicknamed Budd in childhood, he lost his father at age 5 to a blood infection and years later nearly lost his own life during the Korean War. Carried off the battlefield wounded, he says he saw dead soldiers lying all around him.

His New York Improv closed in 1992, years after it had been surpassed in importance by the one he opened in Hollywood in 1978 and that almost immediately burned down. Andy Kaufman and Robin Williams hosted fundraisers to keep him afloat until it reopened. Since then Friedman has added nearly two dozen franchised Improvs across the country.

There was never any secret formula to finding the comics for them, he says. All they had to do was be funny.

"I picked only the right guys," he says, adding, "There were some that got away."

Asked who, he struggles to name one.

The thing is, he says, if someone didn't make him laugh, he forgot their name.

"So if they got away, I guess I don't know who got away," he says, laughing.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 3, the 337th day of 2017. There are 28 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 3, 1967, a surgical team in Cape Town, South Africa, led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard (BAHR'-nard) performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the donor organ, which came from Denise Darvall, a 25-year-old bank clerk who had died in a traffic accident. The 20th Century Limited, the famed luxury train, completed its final run from New York to Chicago after 65 years of service.

On this date:

In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States by the Electoral College.

In 1833, Oberlin College in Ohio — the first truly coeducational school of higher learning in the United States — began holding classes.

In 1925, George Gershwin's Concerto in F had its world premiere at New York's Carnegie Hall, with Gershwin at the piano.

In 1926, English mystery writer Agatha Christie, 36, disappeared after driving away from her home in Sunningdale, Berkshire. (Christie turned up 11 days later at a hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire.)

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

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In 1953, the musical "Kismet," featuring the song "Stranger in Paradise," opened on Broadway.

In 1960, the Lerner and Loewe musical "Camelot" opened on Broadway.

In 1965, the Beatles' sixth studio album, "Rubber Soul," was released in the United Kingdom by Parlophone (it was released in the U.S. by Capitol Records three days later).

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where the British rock group The Who was performing.

In 1984, thousands of people died after a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a pesticide plant operated by a Union Carbide subsidiary in Bhopal, India.

In 1992, the first telephone text message was sent by British engineer Neil Papworth, who transmitted the greeting "Merry Christmas" from his work computer in Newbury, Berkshire, to Vodafone executive Richard Jarvis' mobile phone. The Greek tanker Aegean Sea spilled more than 21 million gallons of crude oil when it ran aground off northwestern Spain.

Ten years ago: A U.S. intelligence report concluded that Iran had halted its nuclear weapons development program in the fall of 2003 under international pressure but was continuing to enrich uranium. British teacher Gillian Gibbons, jailed in Sudan for insulting Islam after allowing her students to name a teddy bear "Muhammad," flew home after being pardoned by the country's president. Former commissioner Bowie Kuhn (BOO'-ee kyoon) was posthumously elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame; former Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley, managers Dick Williams and Billy Southworth and ex-Pirates owner Barney Dreyfuss also were elected.

Five years ago: The White House rejected a \$2.2 trillion proposal by House Republicans to avert the "fiscal cliff," a plan that included \$800 billion in higher tax revenue over 10 years but no increase in tax rates for the wealthy. St. James's Palace announced that Britain's Prince William and his wife, Kate, were expecting their first child (Prince George was born the following July).

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump, still mulling key Cabinet positions, attended a lavish costume party hosted by some of his most influential donors at their palatial Long Island, New York, mansion; Trump, who did not sport a costume, reveled with guests at the Mercer family estate for the annual Christmas party. Some 20,000 people filled a tiny stadium in Chapeco, Brazil, to say goodbye to members of a soccer club who died in a plane crash in Colombia.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Jean-Luc Godard is 87. Singer Jaye P. Morgan is 86. Actor Nicolas Coster is 84. Actress Mary Alice is 76. Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne is 69. Actress Heather Menzies Urich is 68. Rock singer Mickey Thomas is 68. Country musician Paul Gregg (Restless Heart) is 63. Actor Steven Culp is 62. Actress Daryl Hannah is 57. Actress Julianne Moore is 57. Olympic gold medal figure skater Katarina Witt is 52. Actor Brendan Fraser is 49. Singer Montell Jordan is 49. Actor Royale Watkins is 48. Actor Bruno Campos is 44. Actress Holly Marie Combs is 44. Actress Liza Lapira is 42. Actress Lauren Roman is 42. Pop-rock singer Daniel Bedingfield is 38. Actress Anna Chlumsky (KLUHM'-skee) is 37. Actor Brian Bonsall is 36. Actress Dascha Polanco is 35. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Andy Grammer is 34. Americana musician Michael Calabrese (Lake Street Dive) is 33. Actress Amanda Seyfried is 32. Actor Michael Angarano is 30. Actor Jake T. Austin is 23.

Thought for Today: "It is right noble to fight with wickedness and wrong; the mistake is in supposing that spiritual evil can be overcome by physical means." — Lydia Maria Child, American author (1802-1880).