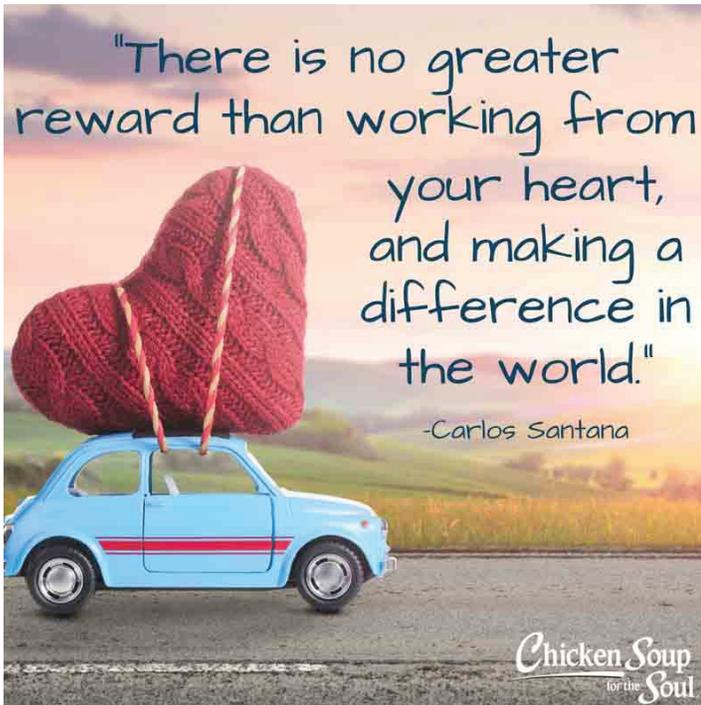


Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 1 of 31



- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Groton Ford Ad
- 1- Service Notice: Mary Ann Thompson
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 2- Skating Clinic
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Custer State Park Remains Closed Due to Wildfire
- 4- Don't Be Fueled: Premium Not Always Worth the Price
- 5- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 6- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Today's Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Weather
- 9- Today's Weather Info
- 9- National Weather Map
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2018 Community Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Boys Basketball hosts Hitchcock-Tulare JV boys at 6:30 followed by varsity Varsity game to be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM

Service Notice

Mary Ann Thompson

Mass of Christian Burial for Mary Ann Thompson, 86, will be Thursday, December 14th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. Father Mike Kelly will officiate. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. with a wake service at 7:00 p.m.

Mary Ann passed away December 10, 2017 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

Put our experienced team to work for you!

GROTON
Ford

GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

☆☆☆ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ **\$3,000 for LPNs** ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ **\$4,500 for RNs** ☆☆☆

Alzheimer's Care Unit Director Medication Aid

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



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

Skating Clinic

We are excited to offer a free skating clinic for all levels of skaters this year. It will be held on Friday, Dec. 29 and will be taught by Aubray Harry, one of our former skaters and current instructors. Clinic attendance is vital to learning the necessary skills which will be needed for their performance routine, so we highly encourage attendance of skaters from all levels.

1:00 - 1:45 Pre-school – 1st grade

1:45 – 2:30 2nd grade – 4th grade

2:30 – 3:15 5th grade – 8th grade

3:15 – 4:00 9th grade - 12th grade

Beginners

Advanced Beginners

Intermediate

Skaters

Please mark your calendars for important upcoming dates for the Carnival.
Costume handout --- it will be held on Friday, January 5 from 3:30 - 8:00 at Emmanuel
Lutheran Church in Groton.

Picture day - Saturday, Jan. 13 --- more details and schedule to come!



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

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

Custer State Park Remains Closed Due to Wildfire

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The Legion Lake Fire, which began early Monday morning by Wilson's Corner, has now risen to 2,500 acres burned. The fire is being transitioned to Rocky Mountain Team Blue type two. The fire remains zero percent contained. Custer State Park will remain closed through Tuesday, Dec. 12.

The fire began roughly around 7:30 a.m. and the origin of the fire remains under investigation. It moved south and east along Centennial Trail toward the Star Academy East Campus and Badger Hole. The head of the fire has crossed Heddy Draw and lies on both sides of Barnes Canyon Road.

Heavy air tankers, helicopters, additional hand crews and various overhead have been ordered. There are currently 200 firefighters on scene.

The State Game Lodge, Blue Bell Lodge area and other facilities in the park are currently being threatened. One out building has been lost.

Objectives created by South Dakota Wildland Fire are to keep the fire East of Highway 87, South of Highway 16A, West of the Wildlife Loop Road and North of Custer State Park Road 4 and 5 to Ridge Road.

Fire Desk information and updates can be provided by emailing LegionLakeFire@gmail.com or by calling 605.646.3263.

Don't Be Fueled: Premium Not Always Worth the Price

AAA tests show premium fuel benefits some vehicles, but comes at a high cost

December 12, 2017 - According to new research from AAA, premium gasoline offers some benefit to select vehicles, but is becoming increasingly expensive for drivers. In recent years, the price gap between premium and regular-grade gasoline has risen from a historically steady 10 percent to 25 percent or more per gallon. While past AAA research has shown no benefit in using premium gasoline in a vehicle designed to operate on regular fuel, new testing indicates that some vehicles – those that recommend, but do not require premium gasoline – may see increased fuel economy and performance under certain driving conditions when using the higher-octane gasoline. Unfortunately, the high cost of premium gasoline may outweigh that advantage for many drivers. As a result, AAA recommends drivers weigh the potential benefits against the cost of using premium gasoline, if their vehicle does not require it.

"AAA's testing reveals that drivers could see modest gains in fuel economy and performance when opting for premium gasoline in vehicles that recommend, but do not require, the higher-octane fuel," said Megan McKernan, manager of the Automobile Club of Southern California's Automotive Research Center. "Those seeking the maximum capabilities of their performance-focused or utility vehicle may see some benefit from using premium gasoline, particularly over the long haul."

In partnership with the Automobile Club of Southern California's Automotive Research Center, AAA tested a variety of vehicles that recommend, but do not require, the use of premium (91 octane or higher) gasoline. Although drivers of these vehicles are unlikely to see any benefit from using premium gasoline during typical city or highway driving, a combination of laboratory and on-road tests were performed to simulate extreme driving scenarios such as towing, hauling cargo and aggressive acceleration. When using premium fuel in these vehicles under these conditions, AAA tests found that:

Fuel economy for test vehicles averaged a 2.7 percent improvement. Individual vehicle test result averages ranged from a decrease of 1 percent (2016 Audi A3) to an improvement of 7.1 percent (2016 Cadillac Escalade).

Horsepower for test vehicles averaged an increase of 1.4 percent. Individual vehicle test result averages ranged from a decrease of 0.3 percent (2016 Jeep Renegade) to an improvement of 3.2 percent (2017 Ford Mustang).

According to national averages, the price difference between regular and premium gasoline is approximately 20 to 25 percent, or 50 cents per gallon.

The modest fuel economy improvements found in AAA tests do not offset the higher cost of premium gasoline.

"There's no question that higher-octane premium fuel has the potential to boost a vehicle's fuel economy and performance, however, engines have to be calibrated to require that fuel to see the full benefit," said John Nielsen, AAA's managing director of Automotive Engineering and Repair. "Based on AAA's testing, vehicles that only recommend premium gasoline can't take full advantage of higher octane fuel and, as a result, the benefit that comes from upgrading to premium gasoline may not offset its high cost."

Last year, nearly 1.5 million new vehicles sold in the United States recommend, but do not require, premium gasoline. The trend toward recommending or requiring higher-octane fuel continues to rise as manufacturers work toward meeting stringent CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards. However, a vehicle that requires the more expensive premium gasoline may dissuade a car buyer, leaving automakers to balance higher performance with what consumers desire. Rising prices for premium gasoline, coupled with great variation in prices across the country, compounds this issue. AAA urges drivers who use premium gasoline to shop around for the best price, as it could vary dramatically between gas stations in any given city. The AAA Mobile app, available for iPhone, iPad and Android, can help drivers identify the least expensive premium gasoline near them.

"The gap between premium and regular gas has been steadily rising since 2009, with the most dramatic increase occurring in the last two years," said Jeanette Casselano, AAA gas price expert. "Fewer than five years ago, only a 10 percent gap existed between premium and regular. Today, that spread has doubled with premium gasoline costing almost 50 cents more per gallon and is still climbing despite the fact that consumer demand for premium isn't necessarily increasing."

For those vehicles that do not recommend or require premium gasoline, AAA suggests drivers opt for the lower priced, regular fuel. In a study released last year, AAA found that consumers wasted nearly \$2.1 billion dollars fueling these vehicles with higher-octane gasoline. However, drivers of vehicles that require premium gasoline should always use it. Additionally, any vehicle that makes a "pinging" or "knocking" sound while using regular gasoline should be evaluated by a repair facility and likely switched to a higher-octane fuel. Drivers seeking a higher quality fuel for their vehicle should consider using one that meets Top Tier standards, as previous AAA research found it to keep engines up to 19 times cleaner.

The full report, fact sheet and other information regarding this study can be found on the AAA NewsRoom.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



We're Standing at the Doorstep of History

The term "historic" is a bit of a relative term, I suppose. In most cases, it's in the eye of the beholder. "History," on the other hand, is far more finite. It either is or it isn't. All of the actions we take in Congress eventually become part of history, and many of them, to one degree or another, are historic. With Congress poised to pass the first major tax reform legislation in more than three decades, I believe we're about to take one of those historic steps that will mark a critical point in America's history, and I'm excited about what it means for South Dakotans.

The idea of reforming the U.S. tax code is not new. Since I joined the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee in 2011, we've held nearly 70 hearings on tax-related issues. In 2015, I chaired one of the Finance Committee's bipartisan working groups that made recommendations on how to reform the tax code. When the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was in the Finance Committee, we spent nearly 24 hours over several days debating and voting on 63 Democrat amendments to the bill. We spent nearly an entire legislative week debating the bill on the Senate floor, considering amendments and motions from Republicans and Democrats. I'm proud that this process has been open and that it followed regular order.

Is the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act perfect? No, it's not. But in my experience in Congress, the legislative process very rarely, if ever, yields a perfect outcome. Whether we like it or not, that's how our democracy works. The bill does, however, represent some of the best ideas we've considered over the years, and it would go a long way in providing relief to low- and middle-income Americans throughout the country.

The Senate bill would double the standard deduction, which would expand the "zero tax bracket" for low-income Americans and significantly reduce the tax burden for other filers. It would double the child tax credit – welcome news for families that are struggling to make ends meet – and it would cut taxes for taxpayers in all income groups. The bill also makes important reforms to the business side of the tax code that would spur economic growth and create more opportunities for American job creators and their employees.

The House and Senate have both passed tax reform bills that reflect the same broad principles I've just described. It's now time for the two chambers to negotiate a final bill that we can pass and send to the president. I'm humbled to have been selected as one of only a handful of members to help merge the two bills and, by doing so, get us closer to the finish line. I'm looking forward to the work that's ahead.

Hours before the Senate passed its bill on December 2, I went to the Senate floor to share some thoughts with my colleagues, and I think there are a few points worth repeating. America may have been through a rough patch lately, but she is coming back stronger than ever. America led the world in the 20th century, and this tax

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 6 of 31



Broken Budget System Wastes Taxpayer Dollars, Hurts Military

The federal government's budget process hasn't worked in more than four decades. I have been a vocal critic of the current system, which largely rubber-stamps federal spending with very little debate or discussion. I recently voted "no" on a continuing resolution, which funds the government for two weeks, through December 22, 2017. This is not a decision I take lightly, and I'd like to take this opportunity to explain what led me to this decision.

This year, working within this broken system, we gave negotiators extra time to work out a compromise on spending. Rather than getting to work on a compromise package during that period, a day before the extended deadline of Dec. 8, Congress was forced to vote on another extension because no progress had been made in the nearly three months when the original deadline was extended. This new deadline comes just before the holidays, hoping it will add pressure for Members to accept conditions they may otherwise disagree with. This is not a good policy.

A number of us have worked on proposals to modify our current budget 'process' – a term I use loosely – so that we can actually do the work we were sent here to do: make informed policy decisions and make certain the federal government is being a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. Yet Congress continues this pattern of passing short-term, stopgap spending bills.

I cannot, in good conscience, lend my support to this continuing resolution that merely continues federal spending and whose lone policy change could actually end up hurting South Dakota families. If we are ever to get our spending under control, eliminate wasteful programs and provide much-needed stability for our military, we must reject the status quo.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am concerned about the impact continuing resolutions have on military readiness. Military leaders have repeatedly warned our committee of the dangers that these short-term, stopgap spending bills have on their ability to adequately train, equip and maintain the force.

In particular, under continuing resolutions, the Defense Department is restricted from starting new programs, which is deeply concerning in today's rapidly-changing threat environment. One example is the mounting cyber threat to our armed forces and our civilian critical infrastructure. If we are to adequately recover readiness levels that were lost over the last eight years, as well as modernize our armed forces in this increasingly dangerous and complex world, we must give them the funding stability and certainty that continuing resolutions fail to provide.

The federal government has an obligation to the American people to be good stewards of their hard-earned dollars. We simply cannot continue to allow spending to run on auto-pilot, without a genuine opportunity for Congress to manage and debate the merits of individual programs. This practice will not change until more of us send the message that we must either repair this broken system or we get our work done on time. The American people expect no less.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 7 of 31

Today in Weather History

December 12, 1968: An intense blizzard visited most of South Dakota and Minnesota on the 12th and 13th of December. The storm began in the western part of South Dakota on the morning of the 12th then spread into the eastern part of the state and west central Minnesota by that afternoon, where it continued into the morning of the 13th. Freezing rain preceded snow, and in west central Minnesota, with thunder and lightning as well. Winds of over 50 mph caused blowing and drifting snow, which occasionally reduced visibilities to near zero. Gusts reached 70 mph in many places. Temperatures were falling to near zero during the day also resulted in dangerously low wind chills, particularly in Minnesota. The eastern half of South Dakota into west central Minnesota experienced the most severe blizzard conditions. Many schools were closed, and most other activities were greatly curtailed.

Automobile accidents were numerous across the area. Multiple utility lines were downed, and power and telephone outages were numerous due to the high winds. Power outages from less than an hour up to 12 hours were common across Minnesota. Snowfall ranged from around one inch in western South Dakota, to five inches in eastern South Dakota, to five to ten inches in west central Minnesota. One death in South Dakota was attributed to the storm when a man died of exposure to the cold near Allen in southwest South Dakota. In Minnesota, one man was found frozen to death near his car after it had run into the ditch several miles northwest of Boyd in Lac Qui Parle County. Another man was killed by a train when his vehicle became stalled on a railroad crossing at Hancock. 5 inches of snow fell at Watertown, Sisseton, and Webster with 6 inches at Clear Lake.

1882 - Portland, OR, was drenched with 7.66 inches of rain, a record 24 hour total for that location. (12th-13th) (The Weather Channel)

1960 - The first of three Middle Atlantic snowstorms produced a foot of snow at Baltimore MD. A pre-winter blizzard struck the northeastern U.S. producing wind gusts as high as 51 mph, along with 16 inches of snow at Nantucket MA, and 20 inches at Newark NJ. (David Ludlum)

December 12, 1967: From December 12th through the 20th, Flagstaff, Arizona, a series of snow storms buries Flagstaff with nearly 85 inches of snow.

1969 - The worst tornado of record for western Washington State tracked south of Seattle, traveling five miles, from Des Moines to Kent. The tornado, 50 to 200 yards in width, began as a waterspout over Puget Sound. One person was injured and the tornado caused half a million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - While a developing winter storm began to spread snow across New Mexico into Colorado, high winds ushered unseasonably cold air into the southwestern states. Winds in California gusted to 60 mph in the Sacramento River Delta, and in the San Bernardino Valley. (The National Weather Summary)

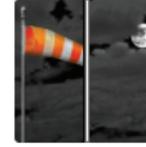
1988 - Cold arctic air spread from the Great Lakes Region to the Appalachian Region. Twenty-five cities, mostly in the northeastern U.S., reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 12 degrees below zero at Albany NY was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. Saranac Lake NY was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 28 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A winter storm produced snow from northern Mississippi to the Middle Atlantic Coast, with 10.5 inches reported at Powhatan VA. Heavy snow whitened the Black Hills of South Dakota, with 36 inches reported at Deer Mountain. Thirteen cities in the north central U.S., from Minnesota to Texas, reported record low temperatures for the date, including Duluth MN and Yankton SD with morning lows of 22 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1995 - A severe coastal storm is blamed for five deaths and loss of power to over one million people in Oregon and Washington. Winds at Sea Lion Caves near Florence topped out at 119 mph before problems developed with the anemometer. In Newport, a gust of 107 mph occurred downtown, while Astoria and Cape Blanco also had gusts of over 100 mph. Astoria's air pressure dropped as low as 28.53 inches, an all-time record (and comparable to the central pressure of a Category 2 hurricane!). Gusts in the Willamette Valley exceeded 60 mph.

Broton Daily Independent

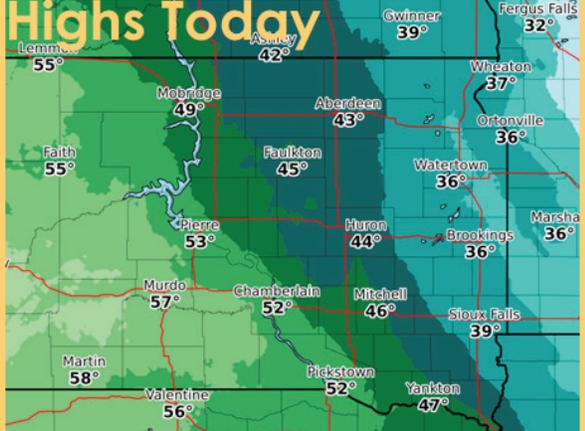
Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 8 of 31

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
	 30%			 30% 20%		
Decreasing Clouds	Partly Cloudy then Chance Wintry Mix and Blustery	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow then Slight Chance Rain/Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 43 °F	Low: 31 °F↑	High: 37 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 35 °F	Low: 20 °F	High: 36 °F

TODAY
Highs 36 to 57°

Warm

10 to 20° above normal



WEDNESDAY
Highs 34 to 45°

Windy
gusts 35 to 45 mph


FIRE DANGER




National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD
 Updated: 12/12/2017 6:02 AM Central Published on: 12/12/2017 at 6:03AM

Warm today (10 to 20 degrees above normal)! 50s and even a few 60s possible over western and central South Dakota. Low pressure diving in from the north tonight will bring a slight chance of a light wintry mix of precipitation overnight and into Wednesday morning. Windy northwest winds gusting 35 to 45 mph will develop tonight and continue through Monday, as low pressure exits into Minnesota. www.weather.gov/abr

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 9 of 31

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 40.9

Low Outside Temp: 9.5

High Gust: 36

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 54° in 1924

Record Low: -28° in 1893

Average High: 26°F

Average Low: 7°F

Average Precip in Dec: 0.21

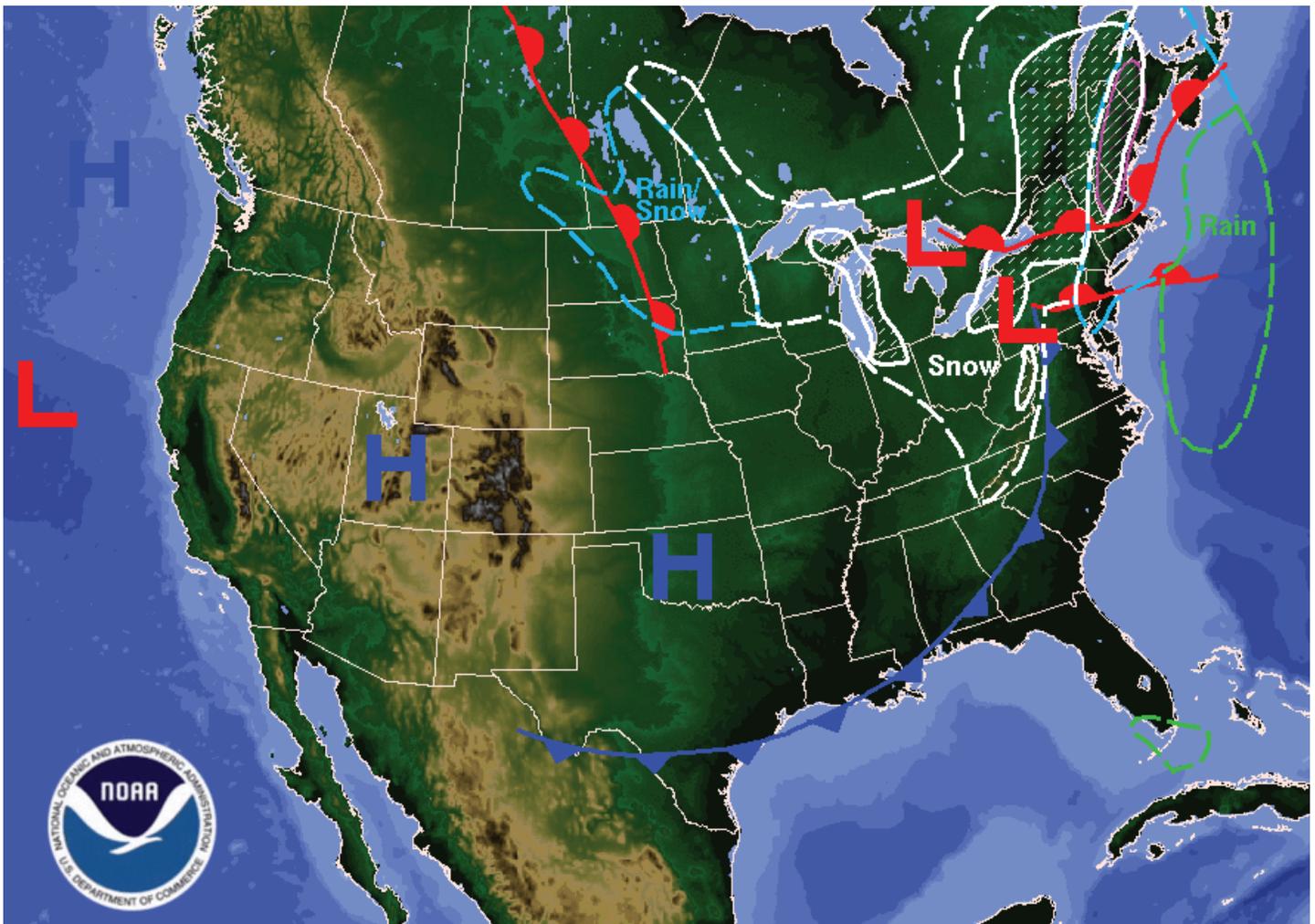
Precip to date in Dec: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.41

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:50 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:05 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Dec 12, 2017, issued 4:05 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 10 of 31



WHAT KIND OF DAY WILL IT BE?

As you look forward to Christmas, what special memories will remain with you after it's over? Will it be a "horrible day," a "holiday" or a "holy day?"

For some it will be a "horrible" day. It will be a day when families gather and feuds erupt, unwanted gifts are exchanged, stomachs are stuffed, alcohol generated hangovers will dull minds and memories, and promises to "never do this again" are made. Not ever!

Or, will it be a holiday? Families traveling many miles to get together to share problems and pains that brought them closer together, share joyous memories of special events that united them in love and laughter, introducing a new-born child or one who will soon be the next in-law uniting two "love-birds."

Would it not be special, however, if we made it a holy day? A day of worship and praise, a day when we set aside time to emphasize the gift of our new birth through Christ?

Paul wrote some inspiring words about the gift of our new birth made possible because of the birth of Jesus. "You have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you."

This "new nature" means it is possible for us to have a new life through His Son and one day we will be like Him and spend eternity with Him.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for the gift of Jesus Who will give us a new life and the joy and peace of salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 11 of 31

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 12 of 31

News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 70, Mobridge-Pollock 43
Bridgewater-Emery 69, Dell Rapids St. Mary 54
Castlewood 65, Elkton-Lake Benton 43
Chadron, Neb. 65, Hot Springs 60, OT
Florence/Henry 72, Waverly-South Shore 44
Kadoka Area 59, Takini 50
Wilmot 55, Waubay/Summit 54

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 70, Mobridge-Pollock 43
Bridgewater-Emery 69, Dell Rapids St. Mary 54
Castlewood 65, Elkton-Lake Benton 43
Chadron, Neb. 65, Hot Springs 60, OT
Florence/Henry 72, Waverly-South Shore 44
Kadoka Area 59, Takini 50
Wilmot 55, Waubay/Summit 54

Wildfire grows in Custer State Park in South Dakota

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire is spreading and forcing evacuations in Custer State Park in the Black Hills of southwest South Dakota.

The fire had grown to about 4 square miles by Monday afternoon. The state Wildland Fire Division says five homes in the park have been evacuated, though no buildings have burned and no one has been hurt.

The division says another concern is the historic Blue Bell Lodge, which is closed for the season. Officials say it's not currently threatened by the fire, but they're keeping an eye on the area.

About 200 firefighters are battling the blaze, which erupted Monday amid dry, warm weather. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Custer State Park features hills with ponderosa pine and prairie. The park is closed, as are all roads in and out of the park.

Girl's Basketball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school girl's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Aberdeen Central	(13)	1-0	86	1	
2. Harrisburg	(6)	0-0	81	2	
3. Rapid City Stevens	-	2-0	43	RV	
4. Sioux Falls Lincoln	-	0-0	31	4	
5. Brandon Valley	-	0-0	22	5	

Others receiving votes: Sioux Falls O'Gorman 12, Pierre 4, Brookings 3, Sioux Falls Washington 2, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 1.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 13 of 31

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. St. Thomas More		(19) 1-0	95	1
2. Lennox -	1-0	71	2	
3. Hamlin -	1-0	39	3	
4. Vermillion -	1-0	38	4	
5. McCook Central-Montrose	-	-	1-0	19 RV

Others receiving votes: Dell Rapids 14, Sioux Falls Christian 4, Groton 3, Belle Fourche 1, Tri-Valley 1.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Sully Buttes	(12) 1-0	78	1	
(tie) Warner (6)	1-0	78	2	
3. Avon (1)	1-0	53	3	
4. De Smet -	1-0	43	4	
5. Hanson -	1-0	8	RV	

Others receiving votes: Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 6, Ethan 6, New Underwood 5, Deubrook Area 4, Castlewood 2, Alcester-Hudson 1, Menno 1.

Boy's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Prep Media basketball poll for the week of Dec. 11 is listed below, ranking the top-five teams, the team's record, points received and ranking in the previous poll. First-place votes are indicated in parentheses.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Aberdeen Central	(16)	1-0	91	1
2. Sioux Falls Lincoln	(1)	1-0	70	2
3. Sioux Falls O' Gorman	(1)	2-0	54	3
4. Harrisburg	(1)	0-0	32	4
5. Sioux Falls Washington -		1-0	25	5

Others receiving votes: Yankton 7, Rapid City Stevens 3, Rapid City Central 2, Sturgis 1.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Tea Area (19)	1-0	95	1	
2. Madison -	1-0	74	2	
3. Sioux Falls Christian	-	2-0	57	3
4. Dell Rapids	-	1-0	17	RV
5. Sioux Valley	-	1-1	15	4

Others receiving votes: Flandreau 7, Tri-Valley 5, Pine Ridge 3, Baltic 4, Deuel 2, Red Cloud 2, Sisseton 2, Hamlin 1, Bon Homme 1.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Bridgewater-Emery	(16)	0-0	92	1
2. Clark-Willow Lake	(3)	1-0	76	2
3. Sully Buttes	-	0-0	51	3

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 14 of 31

4. Irene-Wakonda - 0-1 27 4
5. Canistota - 1-0 13 T5
(tie) Langford Area - 0-0 13 T5

Others receiving votes: Warner 3, White River 3, Colman-Egan 2, Corsica-Stickney 1, Arlington 1, Sanborn Central-Woonsocket 1, Oelrichs 1, Freeman Academy-Marion 1.

Some area leaders question homeless campus in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Several community leaders are voicing concerns about the proposed location of a campus to serve the homeless in western South Dakota.

Rapid City Collective Impact's proposed Transformation Center Campus would offer transitional housing, addiction treatment, counseling and job training to Rapid City's homeless population. The campus would centralize city, county and local nonprofit services on four acres of land in downtown Rapid City.

Some area property owners are concerned about safety problems created by congregating the city's homeless population into one area, the Rapid City Journal reported .

The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology is about half a mile west of the proposed center.

"We at SD Mines very much support efforts to improve the lives of homeless individuals in our community," the school's interim president Jan Puszynski said. "We are concerned, however, how the proposed location of the transition facility will impact the safety of our students."

Pennington County Commission Chairwoman Deb Hadcock owns a salon a quarter mile west of the proposed center. Hadcock said she won't vote to approve the project until those public safety issues are addressed.

Mayor Steve Allender said he thinks the concerns are justified but may be overblown. "To those who have already decided that this will be a detriment to the neighborhood, (they) are not listening to the experts who have been planning and preparing for this move for the last couple years," Allender said.

Collective Impact Project Manager Charity Doyle said a centralized campus could mitigate problems with panhandling and public drunkenness. Doyle said the center's programs require those participating to be sober and committed to getting out of their situations.

Collective Impact's next step is to secure city funding.

"This whole thing is going to take years, and we're just a few months into it," said Doyle. "All of those issues will be addressed and doors won't open until we know that those things are mitigated."

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

Los Angeles subway work uncovers array of Ice Age fossils

CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As part of the crew digging a subway extension under the streets of Los Angeles, Ashley Leger always keeps her safety gear close by.

When her phone buzzes, she quickly dons a neon vest, hard hat and goggles before climbing deep down into a massive construction site beneath a boulevard east of downtown.

Earth-movers are diverted, and Leger gets on her hands and knees and gently brushes the dirt from a spot pointed out by a member of her team. Her heart beats faster because there's a chance she'll uncover what she calls "the big find."

Leger is a paleontologist who digs for fossils in the middle of a city rather than an open plain or desert. She works for a company contracted by Los Angeles transportation officials to keep paleontologists on hand as workers extend a subway line to the city's west side.

"They're making sure that they're recovering every single fossil that could possibly show up," Leger says of her team of monitors. "They call me anytime things are large and we need to lead an excavation."

Since work on the extension began in 2014, fossilized remains have routinely turned up from creatures

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 15 of 31

that roamed the grasslands and forests that covered the region during the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago.

They include a partial rabbit jaw, mastodon tooth, camel foreleg, bison vertebrae, and a tooth and ankle bone from a horse.

But the discovery that still makes Leger shake her head in disbelief came about a year ago, shortly after construction began on the project's second phase. She was at home getting ready for bed when a call came in from one of her monitors.

"It looks big," he told her.

The next morning, Leger knelt at the site and recognized what appeared to be a partial elephant skull.

It turned out to be much more. After 15 hours of painstaking excavation, the team uncovered an intact skull of a juvenile mammoth.

"It's an absolute dream come true for me," said Leger, who spent the previous decade at a South Dakota mammoth site with no discoveries even close to the size of the one in Los Angeles. "It's the one fossil you always want to find in your career."

California's stringent environmental laws require scientists to be on hand at certain construction sites.

Paleontologists have staffed all L.A. subway digs beginning in the 1990s, when work started on the city's inaugural line, said Dave Sotero, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Paying for the paleontologist staff from Cogstone Resource Management is factored into the project's cost, he said. When scientists are brought in to see what crews might have unearthed, work on the project continues, albeit in a different location.

"Our crews try to be as mindful as possible to help them do their jobs. We get out of their way," Sotero said, adding that when the mammoth skull was uncovered, construction workers helped deliver it to the mouth of the site.

From there, the skull was hauled a mile or so to Los Angeles' La Brea Tar Pits and Museum, home to one of America's most fossil-rich sites.

Assistant curator Dr. Emily Lindsey called it a "pretty remarkable find," noting that while thousands of dire wolf and saber-toothed cat remains have been uncovered in L.A., there have been only about 30 mammoths.

A few hundred pounds and the size of an easy chair, the skull is especially rare because both tusks were attached. It's being studied and is available for public viewing inside the museum's glass-walled Fossil Lab.

With a nod to Hollywood, the 8- to 12-year-old Colombian mammoth was named Hayden, for the actress Hayden Panettiere, featured in the TV series "Nashville" and "Heroes."

The Cogstone monitor at the construction site had been watching her on television before spotting the speck of bone that turned out to be the intact skull.

Similar endeavors have turned up subterranean treasures during digs in other cities.

Workers at a San Diego construction site found fossils including parts of a mammoth and a gray whale and multiple layers of ancient seashells.

Last year, crews working on a development near Boston's seaport uncovered a 50-foot (15-meter) wooden boat possibly dating as far back as the late 18th century.

Lindsey praised California's efforts to ensure science and urban development overlap, while bemoaning what bygone treasures may have been lost before the regulations went into place in the early 1970s.

"Most of the past is below the ground, so you're only going to find it when you dig," she said. "As the city grows, I'm sure we'll find more exciting fossil material."

Follow Christopher Weber at <https://twitter.com/WeberCM> .

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 16 of 31

Firefighters cut hole in overturned trailer to free bison

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have rescued nearly all of the bison that were in a semi-trailer that overturned near Fort Pierre.

Pierre Fire Chief Ian Paul says the rig was northbound Sunday on Highway 1806 when it rolled into its side in the ditch. The people in the cab got out unhurt.

However, Paul says, around 40 bison were in the trailer. He says about a dozen got out on their own through a small hole. He says firefighters from the Pierre and Fort Pierre departments cut a hole in the trailer to safely remove most of the other bison. Video on the department's Twitter feed shows some bison running out. One animal died.

Paul says the owners were keeping an eye on the herd to make sure there were no further injuries.

Man pleads not guilty to using golf club in assault

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Wounded Knee man accused of using a golf club as a weapon has pleaded not guilty in federal court.

Authorities allege 50-year-old Virgil Left Hand Sr. used a golf club to assault another man in Wounded Knee in September, causing serious injury.

Left Hand is scheduled for trial Feb. 6. He could face up to 10 years in federal prison if convicted.

City official: San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee dead at 65

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco Board of Supervisors President London Breed says that Mayor Edwin Lee has died. He was 65.

Breed said early Tuesday that Lee passed away just after 1 a.m. at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

A statement from the mayor's office said: "It is with profound sadness and terrible grief that we confirm that Mayor Edwin M. Lee passed away on Tuesday"

The statement says family, friends and colleagues were at Lee's side.

Lee was not known to be ill. No other details have been released.

Lee was appointed as mayor in 2011, replacing Mayor Gavin Newsom, who was elected the state's lieutenant governor. He went on to win the 2011 election and was re-elected in 2015.

He was known for his work against homelessness.

Breed assumes the role of acting San Francisco mayor.

Turbulent Senate race now in hands of Alabama voters

By **BILL BARROW** and **KIM CHANDLER**, Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Depending on who is making the case, Alabama's special Senate election Tuesday is about either continuing the "Trump miracle" in Washington or allowing "decency" to prevail back home.

At the center is Roy Moore — "Judge Moore," to his supporters. The 70-year-old Republican was twice ousted as state Supreme Court chief justice after flouting federal law, and now he's attempting a political resurrection amid accusations of sexual misconduct with teenage girls when he was in his 30s.

In Moore's path is Democrat Doug Jones, 63, a former U.S. attorney best known for prosecuting two Ku Klux Klansmen who killed four black girls in a 1963 church bombing.

The winner will take the seat previously held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Republicans hold a narrow 52-48 Senate majority. A routine election in Republican-dominated Alabama wouldn't be expected to alter that balance, because Alabamians haven't sent a Democrat to the upper chamber of Congress since 1992. President Donald Trump notched a 28-point win here in 2016 and remains popular in the state.

But Moore's baggage leaves the outcome enough in doubt that both Trump and his Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama, have weighed in with last-minute robocalls trying to sway voters.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 17 of 31

The intensity also has spawned a steady stream of fake news stories that fill social media feeds of interested people in Alabama and beyond. An Associated Press analysis, in cooperation with Facebook, counted as many as 200 false or misleading reports heading into the weekend. One website claimed one of the women who have accused Moore of sexual misconduct had recanted. She did not. Meanwhile, Moore's detractors took to social media to claim he had written in a 2011 textbook that women shouldn't hold elected office. He didn't.

In his final pitch before polls open, Jones called the choice a "crossroads" and asked that "decency" prevail. "We've had this history in the past, going down the road that ... has not been productive," Jones said. "We've lagged behind in industry. We've lagged behind in education. We've lagged behind in health care. It's time we take the road that's going to get us on the path to progress."

At his own election eve rally, Moore again denied all the allegations, calling them "disgusting" and offering voters a clear measure: "If you don't believe in my character, don't vote for me." Earlier in the day, Moore cast himself as the victim. "It's just been hard, a hard campaign," he said.

For Alabama, the outcome could be defining.

Democrats and moderate Republicans see an opportunity to reject a politician who is already regular fodder for late-night television and enough of a curiosity that Chinese leader Xi Jinping paused a presidential meeting in Beijing recently to ask Trump through an interpreter, "Who is Roy Moore?"

Alabama's senior senator, Richard Shelby, confirmed publicly that he wrote in a "distinguished Alabama Republican" rather than vote for Moore.

Many Republicans, however, see an opportunity to defend the state's conservative, evangelical bent in the face of unfair liberal criticism while delivering another victory for Trump and sending an anti-establishment senator into a federal government that has been reflexively unpopular among Alabama majorities for generations.

Trump's campaign architect and former White House adviser Steve Bannon told Moore supporters Monday evening that the race is a "national election" that will determine whether the "Trump miracle" continues. Moore says he is aligned with the president and he makes similar arguments to Trump, blasting "the elite" in the "swamp" of Washington, D.C.

For Jones to win, he must build an atypical coalition, maximizing turnout among African-American voters and white liberals who often don't combine for more than 40 percent of the electorate, while coaxing votes from enough white Republicans who can't pull the lever for Moore.

One of Jones' celebrity backers framed the choice as being much less complicated.

"I love Alabama," said Leeds native and former NBA basketball star Charles Barkley, "but at some point we've got to draw a line in the sand and say, 'We're not a bunch of damn idiots.'"

Polls will close at 7 p.m. CST.

Chandler reported from Midland City, Alabama. Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> and Chandler at <https://twitter.com/StatehouseKim>.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. TURBULENT SENATE RACE NOW IN HANDS OF ALABAMA VOTERS

The controversies surrounding Republican Roy Moore give Democrat Doug Jones an opening in the GOP-dominated state.

2. TRUMP SLAMS 'CHAIN MIGRATION'

A would-be suicide bomber's rush-hour blast in the New York City subway system is adding new fuel to the president's push to limit immigration based on family ties.

3. WORLD LEADERS, HIGH SECURITY AT CLIMATE SUMMIT

More than 50 world leaders are joining bankers, energy magnates and others in Paris for a summit that

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 18 of 31

France's president hopes will give new momentum to the fight against global warming with the U.S. and Trump sidelined.

4. HOW WHITE HOUSE, ANALYSTS DIFFER ON TAX POLICY

The Trump administration says the GOP tax plan will send hundreds of billions pouring into federal tax coffers, but nonpartisan analysts make a less rosy projection.

5. ICELAND CLOSES GENDER GAP BUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REMAINS

A push for equality is intensifying in the Nordic island nation, with campaigners working in classrooms and nightclubs to educate both men and women.

6. FREED PRISONER WITNESSED RADICALIZATION IN EGYPTIAN JAILS

An Irish citizen recently acquitted after four years in prison saw dozens of cellmates radicalize and adopt views of the Islamic State group.

7. DANGEROUS WINDS PERSIST AS WILDFIRES WHIP IN CALIFORNIA

The fifth largest blaze in state history is threatening thousands of homes as it churns through coastal mountains amid persistently hazardous weather conditions.

8. WHAT IS THE WORD OF THE YEAR

In 2017, lookups for "feminism" increased 70 percent over the year before on Merriam-Webster.com and spiked several times after key events, the company's editor at large told the AP.

9. 'ALTERNATIVE FACTS' TOPS NOTABLE QUOTES LIST

The use of the term by Kellyanne Conway, an adviser to Trump, tops a Yale Law School librarian's compilation.

10. DOLPHINS STUN PATS

Tom Brady is intercepted twice by Xavien Howard and held without a third-down conversion as Miami beat New England 27-20, ending the Patriots' eight-game winning streak.

NYC commuters returning to subway amid heightened security

By COLLEEN LONG and JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A would-be suicide bomber's rush-hour blast in the heart of the New York City subway system failed to cause the bloodshed he intended, authorities said, but it gave new fuel to President Donald Trump's push to limit immigration.

Hours after Monday's explosion in an underground passageway connecting two of Manhattan's busiest stations, Trump cited the background of the bomber in renewing his call for closer scrutiny of foreigners who come to the country and less immigration based on family ties.

The man arrested in the bombing, Akayed Ullah — who told investigators he wanted to retaliate for American action against Islamic State extremists — came to the U.S. from Bangladesh in 2011 on a visa available to certain relatives of U.S. citizens.

"Today's terror suspect entered our country through extended-family chain migration, which is incompatible with national security," Trump said in a statement that called for various changes to the immigration system. Earlier, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump's proposed policies "could have prevented this."

In a scenario New York had dreaded for years, Ullah strapped on a crude pipe bomb with Velcro and plastic ties, slipped unnoticed into the nation's busiest subway system and set off the device, authorities said.

The device didn't work as intended; authorities said Ullah, 27, was the only person seriously wounded. But the attack sent frightened commuters fleeing through a smoky passageway, and three people suffered headaches and ringing ears from the first bomb blast in the subway in more than two decades.

"This is one of my nightmares ... a terrorist attack in the subway system," Gov. Andrew Cuomo told cable channel NY1. "The good news is: We were on top of it."

Ullah was being treated for burns to his hands and abdomen but spoke to investigators from his hospital bed, law enforcement officials said. He was "all over the place" about his motive but indicated he wanted to avenge what he portrayed as U.S. aggression against the Islamic State group, a law enforcement of-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 19 of 31

ficial said.

The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the blast.

Ullah's low-tech bomb used explosive powder, a nine-volt battery, a Christmas light and matches, the officials said. Investigators said the suspect was seen on surveillance footage igniting the bomb.

In the end, it wasn't powerful enough to turn the pipe into deadly shrapnel, the officials said.

Law enforcement officials said Ullah looked at IS propaganda online but is not known to have any direct contact with the militants and probably acted alone. Cuomo said there was no evidence, so far, of other bombs or a larger plot. The Democrat said officials were exploring whether Ullah had been on authorities' radar, but there was no indication yet that he was.

The attack came less than two months after eight people died near the World Trade Center in a truck attack that, authorities said, was carried out by an Uzbek immigrant who admired the Islamic State group.

Since 1965, America's immigration policy has centered on giving preference to people with advanced education or skills, or people with family ties to U.S. citizens and, in some cases, legal permanent residents. Citizens have been able to apply for spouses, parents, children, siblings and the siblings' spouses and minor children; the would-be immigrants are then screened by U.S. officials to determine whether they can come.

Trump's administration has called for a "merit-based" immigration system that would limit family-based green cards to spouses and minor children.

Ullah lived with his father, mother and brother in a Brooklyn neighborhood with a large Bangladeshi community, residents said. He was licensed to drive a livery cab between 2012 and 2015, but the license was allowed to lapse, according to law enforcement officials and New York City's Taxi and Limousine Commission.

His family was "deeply saddened" by the attack but also "outraged by the way we have been targeted by law enforcement," the family said in a statement sent by the New York Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. A teenage relative was pulled out of class and questioned in school without a parent, guardian or lawyer, the statement said.

Bangladesh's government condemned the subway attack.

"Bangladesh is committed to its declared policy of 'Zero Tolerance' against terrorism, and condemns terrorism and violent extremism in all forms or manifestations anywhere in the world, including Monday morning's incident in New York City," the South Asian nation's government said in a statement.

Security cameras captured the attacker walking casually through a crowded passageway when the bomb went off around 7:20 a.m. A plume of white smoke cleared to show the man sprawled on the ground and commuters scattering.

Port Authority police said officers found the man injured on the ground, with wires protruding from his jacket and the device strapped to his torso. They said he was reaching for a cellphone and they grabbed his hands.

The last bomb blast in the subway system was believed to be in December 1994, when an explosive made from mayonnaise jars and batteries wounded 48 people in a car in lower Manhattan. Prosecutors said unemployed computer programmer Edward Leary set off the explosion to try to extort \$2 million from the city's transit agency; he claimed insanity. He was convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to 94 years in prison.

Associated Press writers Tom Hays, Jake Pearson, Kiley Armstrong, Larry Neumeister and David James Jeans in New York, Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles, Matt Pennington in Washington, D.C., and AP researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

Moore's wife: 'One of our attorneys is a Jew'

MIDLAND CITY, Ala. (AP) — The wife of embattled Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore fought back against accusations that her husband doesn't support blacks or Jews, saying at one point that one of their attorneys "is a Jew."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 20 of 31

Speaking at a campaign rally Monday night in Midland City, Alabama, Kayla Moore pointed out that her husband appointed the first black marshal to the state Supreme Court. She said they also have many friends who are black.

But she raised the most eyebrows in her defense against claims that her husband, who's a Republican, is anti-Semitic.

"Well, one of our attorneys is a Jew," Kayla Moore said. "We have very close friends who are Jewish and rabbis."

Roy Moore's campaign has been rocked by accusations of sexual misconduct with teenage girls when he was in his 30s. He's running against Democrat Doug Jones in Tuesday's special election.

Dangerous winds persist as wildfires roar in California

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The winds aren't changing for Southern California's wildfires yet.

The fifth largest blaze in state history was threatening thousands of homes as it churned through coastal mountains amid persistently dangerous weather conditions.

Red Flag warnings for fire danger due to Santa Ana winds and a critical lack of moisture were extended into the week instead of expiring Monday afternoon as was initially forecast.

"It doesn't get much drier than this folks," the National Weather Service Service tweeted, adding that more than 80 observation sites in the region reported afternoon relative humidity levels between just 1 and 9 percent.

On Monday, ash fell like snow and heavy smoke had residents gasping for air in foothill towns near Santa Barbara, the latest flare-up after a week of wind-fanned wildfires throughout the region.

With acrid smoke thick in the air, even residents not under evacuation orders were leaving, fearing another shutdown of a key coastal highway that was closed intermittently last week.

Officials handed out masks to those who stayed behind in Montecito, an exclusive community about 75 miles (120 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles that's home to stars such as Oprah Winfrey, Jeff Bridges and Drew Barrymore.

Actor Rob Lowe wore a mask as he live-streamed his family evacuating Sunday from their smoke-shrouded home.

"Praying for the people in my area," he said to his Instagram followers. "Hope everybody's getting out safe like we are, and thanks for the prayers and thoughts. And good luck to the firefighters, we need you!"

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres tweeted that neighbors were helping each other and their animals get to safety.

"I'm sending lots of love and gratitude to the fire department and sheriffs. Thank you all," she wrote.

The blaze — known as the Thomas fire — has destroyed 683 homes, officials said. It was partially contained after burning 362 square miles (937 square kilometers) of dry brush and timber.

Customers coming into Jeannine's American Bakery in Montecito brushed ash from their clothes and marveled at smoke so heavy that visibility was down to just a few feet.

"There's so much ash it's unbelievable," manager Richard Sanchez said. "Everything is white. The streets are covered, cars are covered, our parking lot is covered."

Dr. Helene Gardner, an expert in air quality at University of California, Santa Barbara, watched ash fall "like a fine snow" from her home after the school postponed final exams until January. She said her environmental sciences students got a kick from the fact that the delay was directly related to their field of study.

Gardner warned that the air alerts should be taken seriously because of airborne particulates — "nasty buggers" — that can lodge in lungs and cause respiratory problems.

She said the levels of particulates from a wildfire can approach those seen near coal-burning plants in pollution-heavy China and are especially problematic for people exerting themselves.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 21 of 31

"When I look out my window and see someone bicycling I think, 'No, no, no, get off your bike and walk!'" she said.

Santa Ana winds have long contributed to some of the region's most disastrous wildfires. They blow from the inland toward the Pacific Ocean, speeding up as they squeeze through mountain passes and canyons.

The National Weather Service said that if the long-term forecast holds, there will have been 13 consecutive days of dry offshore flow before it ends Friday afternoon. There have only been 17 longer streaks since 1948, including the record of 24 days set between December 1953 and January 1954.

High fire risk is expected to last into January.

John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Follow Weber at <https://twitter.com/WeberCM> .

For complete coverage of the California wildfires, click here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires>.

World leaders, high security at Paris climate summit

By ANGELA CHARLTON and SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — More than 50 world leaders are joining bankers, energy magnates and others Tuesday in Paris for a summit that President Emmanuel Macron hopes will give new momentum to the fight against global warming — despite U.S. President Donald Trump's rejection of the Paris climate accord.

Sean Penn, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bill Gates and Elon Musk are among prominent figures joining the world leaders at the summit, where participants are expected to announce billions of dollars' worth of projects to help poor countries and industries reduce emissions.

Activists kept up pressure with a protest in the shadow of the domed Pantheon monument calling for an end to all investment in oil, gas and resource mining.

That wasn't far from the message from top officials opening the summit: They agreed that the global financial system isn't shifting fast enough away from carbon emissions and toward energy and business projects that don't aggravate climate change.

"Financial pledges need to flow faster through more streamlined system and make a difference on the ground," said Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, whose island nation is among those on the front lines of the rising sea levels and extreme storms worsened by human-made emissions.

"We are all in the same canoe," rich countries and poor, he said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono described ways Japan is investing in climate monitoring technology and hydrogen energy, but said "we have to do more and better."

Some 3,100 security personnel are fanned out around Paris for Tuesday's event, including extra patrol boats along the Seine River. Macron will accompany the visiting leaders to the summit site on a river island by boat.

Macron, who's also using the event to raise his international profile, did not invite Trump.

On Monday, Macron awarded 18 climate scientists — most of them based in the U.S. — multimillion-euro grants to relocate to France for the rest of Trump's term. Trump has expressed skepticism about global warming and said the Paris accord would hurt U.S. business.

The "Make Our Planet Great Again" grants — a nod to Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan — are part of Macron's efforts to counter Trump on the climate change front. Macron announced a contest for the projects in June, hours after Trump declared he would withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate accord.

The summit, co-hosted by the U.N., World Bank and Macron, is being held on the second anniversary of the Paris climate accord, ratified by 170 countries.

Germany's Angela Merkel, who was once labeled the 'climate chancellor' for her efforts to curb global warming, has faced domestic criticism for failing to attend the summit.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 22 of 31

Annalena Baerbock, a spokeswoman on climate issues for the opposition Green party, said Tuesday that Macron appeared to be overtaking Merkel as Europe's leading lobbyist on climate issues.

"I think that's not a good sign," Baerbock told public broadcaster Deutschlandfunk. She said Germany had lost international credibility on the issue by allowing its carbon emissions to stagnate over the past decade and refusing to join a recent international declaration on ending the use of coal, one of the most polluting fossil fuels.

Baerbock said Europe's biggest economy also could have sent a signal on climate financing — a major topic in Paris — by declaring that civil servants' pensions wouldn't be invested in fossil fuels companies anymore, as some countries have already done.

Macron hosted leading world philanthropists Tuesday morning to encourage more climate-related investment.

Frank Jordans in Berlin and Masha Macpherson in Paris contributed.

5 things to watch in Alabama's high stakes Senate race

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Alabama votes to fill the seat vacated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the choice between Republican Roy Moore and Democrat Doug Jones has taken on outsized significance. Moore has faced allegations of sexual misconduct with teenagers, dividing the GOP and giving Democrats hope of picking up a seat in a reliably red state. Here is what to look for in Tuesday night's results:

WHAT IS THE TRUMP DRAW?

Alabama has once already proven the bounds of President Donald Trump's political influence. He endorsed Moore's GOP rival, Sen. Luther Strange, in the September primary, campaigning for him in Alabama hours before he was trounced by the state's conservative voters. Now Trump has wagered a greater sum on Moore's candidacy. The president resisted calls from his party's senior leadership to abandon Moore after the sexual misconduct allegations surfaced. He directed the Republican National Committee to re-enter the race on Moore's behalf, repeatedly attacked Jones, and recorded last-minute robo-calls on the Republican's behalf. A GOP defeat in the deep-red state would speak to the limits of Trump's ability to sway and motivate Republican voters.

WILL DEMOCRATIC TURNOUT EFFORTS PAY OFF?

In recent days, Democrats have pulled out the stops for Jones, including recorded calls from former President Barack Obama and visits from high-profile surrogates. They're trying to boost turnout among those most likely to be aggravated by Moore's controversial past, including black voters, and make inroads with suburban women who proved to be pivotal to Democratic victories last month. Strong turnout and Democratic gains on both those fronts could point to trouble for Moore, and for the GOP going into next year.

WILL DEMOCRATS END THEIR SPECIAL ELECTION BAD LUCK?

Despite a ripe political climate, high-profile coverage, and huge injections of cash, Democrats are winless in five contests for vacant Republican congressional seats this year. All have been held in reliably Republican strongholds, but the defeats have still taken their toll on a party in a struggle for its identity. Wins in Virginia, New Jersey, and Maine in the November off-year election have provided some sorely-needed optimism for the 2018 midterms, and a Senate seat pick-up in Alabama would add pep to the party's step.

HOW WILL IT AFFECT RETIREMENTS?

Sensing a difficult midterm election looming, 16 Republican members of the House and two in the Senate have already announced they will not run again next year. The retirement gap only six Democrats in the House and one in the Senate have said they won't run can be an early indicator of what's to come in a midterm election. (A more even split of retirements exists for lawmakers retiring from Congress to seek other office.) Republican leaders are anticipating more retirements on their side from lawmakers in competitive seats where members are facing challenging and expensive contests. A Democratic victory

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 23 of 31

statewide in Alabama could foretell a dire year ahead for Republicans, which could send more Republicans to announce their departures on their own terms.

WAS MOORE WORTH IT?

The Republican Party's decision to maintain support for Roy Moore stands to be a defining choice for years to come. The party chose to embrace a one-time pariah for reasons of political expediency, and then doubled-down in the face of troubling allegations of sexual assault and harassment. For the president, it's a matter of practicality—a loss would narrow the GOP's thin majority in the Senate even further at a time when his agenda faces critical tests. But other Republicans worry it's a short-term ploy that has sacrificed their moral authority and that may come back to haunt them in the coming year. Republican lawmakers have spent the past months struggling to answer questions about Moore and his long history of divisive comments, and should he win, his presence will loom large in the Capitol and on the campaign trail. If Moore keeps the Senate seat in Republican hands, it may justify the backlash for some GOP officials. If he loses, the GOP has stuck by a candidate despite accusations of sexual impropriety, and who has alienated vast swaths of the electorate, with nothing to show for it.

US-based climate scientists to take research to France

By SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — It is a dream come true for U.S.-based climate scientists — the offer of all-expenses-paid life in France to advance their research in Europe instead of in the United States under climate skeptic President Donald Trump, two of the winners say.

American scientist Camille Parmesan and British scientist Benjamin Sanderson are among the 18 initial winners, including 13 based in the U.S., of French President Emmanuel Macron's "Make Our Planet Great Again" climate grants.

Macron congratulated the winners during a brief ceremony in Paris on Monday evening, ahead of a climate summit that gathers more than 50 world leaders in the French capital Tuesday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Parmesan expressed elation at the prospect of spending the next five years doing her research in France instead of the United States.

A scientist from the University of Texas at Austin, she is a leader in the field on how climate affects wildlife. She lived for a few years in Britain for family reasons and was considering returning to the U.S. until Trump's election.

"He very, very rapidly has been actively trying to erode science in the U.S.A. and in particular climate science," she said. "And it's hard for two reasons: Funding is becoming almost impossible, and in a psychological sense."

Parmesan answered with enthusiasm Macron's appeal for climate researchers to come work in France, minutes after Trump's rejection of the Paris climate accord. "It gave me such a psychological boost, it was so good to have that kind of support, to have the head of state saying I value what you do," she said.

Parmesan, who said she is looking forward to improving her French, will be working at an experimental ecology station in the Pyrenees mountains.

Sanderson, who also worked in the U.S., told the AP that he found it "very reassuring" that France is "openly encouraging climate research."

He said his application was motivated by "the fact that France is making a stand on prioritizing climate change research, but also it's increasingly hard to get research funding in the U.S."

Sanderson used to work at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, on risks and uncertainties under climate change. For the next few years, he will be living in Toulouse, in southern France, where the country's national meteorological service is based.

France's ministry of Research said the selection of the laureates focused on "scientific excellence and relevance to the call".

"It's very troubling," that researchers feel they need to leave the United States to get needed support for their work, said Chris McEntee, chief executive officer of the American Geophysical Union, an organization

of more than 60,000 Earth and space scientists. "Ever since the election there has been fear and anxiety among the scientific community.

"It's not good for the U.S. but it's not good for the world either," McEntee said.

Science writer Seth Borenstein contributed from New Orleans.

Admin says big revenue from GOP tax plan; analysts less rosy

By MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican tax plan will deliver a swift adrenaline shot to the economy that will send hundreds of billions pouring into federal tax coffers, the Trump administration asserts in a new analysis. But nonpartisan analysts make a less rosy projection of new revenue from the tax legislation now before Congress.

House and Senate negotiators are rushing to finalize the tax legislation and deliver the promised measure to President Donald Trump before Christmas. Trump will try on Wednesday to sell the American people on a GOP tax overhaul that is unpopular with many. His pitch: the plan will lift all economic boats, bringing a brighter future for taxpayers and their families, according to spokeswoman Lindsay Walters.

A Treasury Department analysis issued Monday estimated the tax legislation will generate a large part of \$1.8 trillion in new revenue over 10 years.

Trump and Republican leaders in Congress have promoted the massive tax plan by promising that the tax cuts will boost the economy and create jobs. Their idea is that growth sparked by the legislation will let the tax cuts pay for themselves and not balloon the \$20 trillion deficit.

Public polling shows many Americans are unhappy with the proposal. The separate bills recently passed by the House and Senate combine steep tax cuts for corporations with more modest reductions for most individuals.

Both measures would cut taxes by about \$1.5 trillion over the next decade while adding billions to the deficit. They would bring the biggest overhaul of the U.S. tax system in 30 years, pushing into every corner of the U.S. economy and society. They would double the standard deduction used by most Americans to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for couples.

The administration's estimate of new revenue from the tax plan is a lot higher than nonpartisan congressional analysts have projected. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that growth stimulated by the anticipated tax cuts in the Senate bill will generate some \$408 billion in additional tax revenue over 10 years. For the House bill, the House-Senate committee sees \$483 billion in new revenue.

The Treasury analysis "is nothing more than one page of fake math," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer.

The analysis includes an assumption that tax cuts and other administration policies would cause the economy to expand at a 2.9 percent annual pace over 10 years. Economic growth at that level would, in theory, be enough to keep the national debt from rising.

But most analyses have concluded that the tax plan would add at least \$1 trillion to budget deficits in the next decade because the analyses foresee significantly less growth resulting from the tax cuts.

The Treasury Department analysis says about half the expected increase in economic growth likely will result from tax benefits for corporations. Trump and the Republicans have insisted that businesses will use the tax savings to invest and create new jobs.

According to the analysis, the other half of the increased growth will come from tax reductions for individuals and businesses whose profits are reported on owners' personal income tax returns, as well as from planned administration initiatives such as infrastructure development and a welfare overhaul.

GOP leaders in Congress aim to iron out the significant differences between the House and Senate tax bills to pass a final blended package. Republicans are determined to produce the first revamp of the nation's tax code in three decades and prove they can govern after their failure to dismantle Barack Obama's health care law.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 25 of 31

Rep. Kevin Brady, who heads the House Ways and Means Committee and is a key leader in the House-Senate compromise talks, said Monday that lawmakers were moving toward a vote on the final package next week. Still, key issues appeared to remain unresolved.

"I'm pleased with the progress we're making," Brady, R-Texas, told reporters. "We still have work to do."

The only issue for which Brady noted a firm commitment was repeal of the inheritance tax on multimillion-dollar estates, a benefit for ultra-wealthy Americans. "In the House, we feel very strongly about fully repealing the estate tax," he said.

Republican leaders have struggled to placate GOP lawmakers from high-tax states like California, New York and New Jersey whose constituents would be hit hard by the elimination of the prized federal deduction for state and local taxes. Repeal of the deduction added up to \$1.3 trillion in revenue over a decade that could be used for deep tax cuts.

Lawmakers finally settled on a compromise in both bills — full repeal of the state and local deductions for income and sales taxes, but homeowners would be able to deduct up to \$10,000 in local property taxes.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Josh Boak contributed to this report.

#MeToo spotlight increasingly pointed at past Trump conduct

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump sailed past a raft of allegations of sexual misconduct in last year's presidential election.

Now the national #MeToo spotlight is turning back to Trump and his past conduct. Several of his accusers are urging Congress to investigate his behavior, and a number of Democratic lawmakers are demanding his resignation.

With each day seeming to bring new headlines that force men from positions of power, the movement to expose sexual harassment has forced an unwelcome conversation on the White House. In a heated exchange with reporters in the White House briefing room on Monday, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders steadfastly dismissed accusations against the Republican president and suggested the issue had already been litigated in Trump's favor on Election Day.

But to Trump's accusers, the rising #MeToo movement is an occasion to ensure he is at last held accountable.

"It was heartbreaking last year. We're private citizens and for us to put ourselves out there to try and show America who this man is and how he views women, and for them to say, 'Eh, we don't care,' it hurt," Samantha Holvey said Monday. The former beauty queen claimed that Trump ogled her and other Miss USA pageant contestants in their dressing room in 2006.

"Let's try round two," she said. "The environment's different. Let's try again."

Holvey was one of four women to make her case against Trump on Monday, both in an NBC interview and then in a news conference. Rachel Crooks, a former Trump Tower receptionist who said the celebrity businessman kissed her on the mouth in 2006 without consent, called for Congress to "put aside party affiliations and investigate Trump's history of sexual misconduct."

"If they were willing to investigate Sen. Franken, it's only fair that they do the same for Trump," Crooks said.

Franken, the Democratic senator from Minnesota, announced last week that he would resign amid an ethics probe into accusations that he sexually harassed several women. Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., and Trent Franks, R-Ariz., also resigned after misconduct accusations.

But a Capitol Hill investigation into Trump's conduct appears unlikely. The Senate and House Ethics Committees investigate members of Congress, not presidents, and Republican-led committees are not apt to investigate Trump on sexual misconduct unless there is some sort of connection to the ongoing Russia probe.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Congress shouldn't investigate the allegations against Trump.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 26 of 31

"I don't think there's any forum for us to do that," he said. "Just think about how that could be abused." Nonetheless, several Democratic senators have seized the moment and called for Trump to step down. "President Trump should resign," New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand told CNN on Monday. "These allegations are credible; they are numerous. I've heard these women's testimony, and many of them are heartbreaking."

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley have also called on Trump to resign. White House aides have warily watched the movement sweep Capitol Hill, opting to repeat rote denials about allegations against the president. The president's advisers were stunned Sunday when one of the highest-ranking women in the Trump administration broke with the White House line and said the accusers' voices "should be heard."

"They should be heard, and they should be dealt with," Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in a CBS interview. "And I think we heard from them before the election. And I think any woman who has felt violated or felt mistreated in any way, they have every right to speak up."

Haley's comments infuriated the president, according to two people who are familiar with his views but who spoke on condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to speak publicly about private conversations. Trump has grown increasingly angry in recent days that the accusations against him have resurfaced, telling associates that the charges are false and drawing parallels to the accusations facing Republican Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore.

Sixteen women have come forward with a range of accusations against Trump, many after the release of the "Access Hollywood" tape last October in which Trump was caught on an open microphone bragging about groping women. One woman, Summer Zevos, a contestant on Trump's reality show, "The Apprentice," sued, contending that Trump's denials of her accusations amount to false and defamatory statements.

Jessica Leeds, who appeared at Monday's news conference, recalled sitting on an airplane next to Trump in the 1970s when he began to fondle her.

"All of a sudden, he's all over me. Kissing and groping, groping and kissing," she said. "Nothing was said. It was just this silent groping going on."

Trump denied the allegations during the campaign, and Sanders did the same Monday.

"Look, as the president said himself, he thinks it's a good thing that women are coming forward, but he also feels strongly that a mere allegation shouldn't determine the course," Sanders said. "And again, the American people knew this and voted for the president. And we feel like we're ready to move forward in that process."

Sanders declined to say whether she believed the accusers or if she herself had been the victim of harassment. She grew impatient with the repeated questions and pledged to provide a list of eyewitnesses whose accounts exonerated the president.

The White House did not provide the list by late Monday.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Richard Lardner contributed to this report from Washington.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

This story has been corrected to show that Holvey was a contestant in the Miss USA pageant, not the Miss America pageant.

Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2017: 'Feminism'

By **LEANNE ITALIE**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — This may or may not come as a surprise: Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2017 is "feminism."

Yes, it's been a big year or two or 100 for the word. In 2017, lookups for feminism increased 70 percent over 2016 on Merriam-Webster.com and spiked several times after key events, lexicographer Peter Sokolowski, the company's editor at large, told The Associated Press ahead of Tuesday's annual word reveal.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 27 of 31

There was the Women's March on Washington in January, along with sister demonstrations around the globe. And heading into the year was Democrat Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and references linking her to white-clad suffragettes, along with her loss to President Donald Trump, who once boasted about grabbing women.

The "Me Too" movement rose out of Harvey Weinstein's dust, and other "silence breakers" brought down rich and famous men of media, politics and the entertainment worlds.

Feminism has been in Merriam-Webster's annual Top 10 for the last few years, including sharing word-of-the-year honors with other "isms" in 2015. Socialism, fascism, racism, communism, capitalism and terrorism rounded out the bunch. Surreal was the word of the year last year.

"The word feminism was being use in a kind of general way," Sokolowski said by phone from the company's headquarters in Springfield, Massachusetts. "The feminism of this big protest, but it was also used in a kind of specific way: What does it mean to be a feminist in 2017? Those kinds of questions are the kinds of things, I think, that send people to the dictionary."

Feminism's roots are in the Latin for "woman" and the word "female," which dates to 14th century English. Sokolowski had to look no further than his company's founder, Noah Webster, for the first dictionary reference, in 1841, which isn't all that old in the history of English.

"It was a very new word at that time," Sokolowski said. "His definition is not the definition that you and I would understand today. His definition was, 'The qualities of females,' so basically feminism to Noah Webster meant femaleness. We do see evidence that the word was used in the 19th century in a medical sense, for the physical characteristics of a developing teenager, before it was used as a political term, if you will."

Webster added the word in revisions to his "An American Dictionary of the English Language." They were his last. He died in 1843. He also added the word terrorism that year.

"We had no idea he was the original dictionary source of feminism. We don't have a lot of evidence of what he was looking at," Sokolowski said.

Today, Merriam-Webster defines feminism as the "theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes" and "organized activities on behalf of women's rights and interests."

Another spike for the word feminism in 2017 occurred in February, after Kellyanne Conway spoke at the Conservative Political Action Committee.

"It's difficult for me to call myself a feminist in the classic sense because it seems to be very anti-male and it certainly seems to be very pro-abortion. I'm neither anti-male or pro-abortion," she said. "There's an individual feminism, if you will, that you make your own choices. ... I look at myself as a product of my choices, not a victim of my circumstances. And to me, that's what conservative feminism is all about."

She was applauded, and she sent many people to their dictionaries, Sokolowski said. The company would not release actual lookup numbers.

Other events that drew interest to the word feminism was the popular Hulu series, "The Handmaid's Tale," and the blockbuster movie, "Wonder Woman," directed by a woman, Patty Jenkins, Sokolowski said.

Merriam-Webster had nine runners-up, in no particular order:

- Complicit , competitor Dictionary.com's word of the year.
- Recuse , in reference to Jeff Sessions and the Russia investigation.
- Empathy , which hung high all year.
- Dotard , used by Kim Jong-un to describe Trump.
- Syzygy , the nearly straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies, such as the sun, moon and earth during a solar or lunar eclipse.
- Gyro , which can be pronounced three different ways, a phenom celebrated in a Jimmy Fallon sketch on "The Tonight Show."
- Federalism , which Lindsey Graham referred to in discussing the future of the Affordable Care Act.
- Hurricane , which Sokolowski suspects is because people are confused about wind speed.
- Gaffe , such as what happened at the Academy Awards when the wrong best picture winner was announced. That was a go-to word for the media, Sokolowski said.

Houston 18-year-old arrested on charges of trying to aid IS

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston 18-year-old has been arrested and charged with illegally distributing explosive-making information and attempting to support the Islamic State organization.

The U.S. Justice Department said Monday that Kaan Sercan Damlarkaya, a U.S. citizen, was arrested on Dec. 8 following an undercover FBI operation. A statement says Damlarkaya said he intended to travel overseas and fight for IS and said he tried to get to Syria twice. He told agents that he would commit a U.S. attack if efforts to travel overseas failed.

It also says Damlarkaya provided to alleged IS supporters a formula for explosive Triacetone Triperoxide and instructions how to use it in a pressure cooker device containing shrapnel.

If convicted, he faces a possible 20-year maximum prison term. The U.S. has designated IS as a terrorist organization.

MLB ump Dale Scott retires rather than risk more concussions

By BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — As a big league umpire, Dale Scott saw maybe 1 million pitches from the field. His final call, it turned out, was the easiest of all.

Rather than risk yet another concussion, Scott has decided to retire at 58.

"I'm done," he told The Associated Press.

The veteran crew chief missed nearly the entire 2017 season after a foul ball off the bat of Baltimore slugger Mark Trumbo in Toronto on April 14 caught him hard in the mask, causing Scott's second concussion in nine months and fourth in five years.

Within a few days, while undergoing treatment for head, neck and shoulder injuries, Scott realized it was the end of a major league career that began in 1985 and included three World Series assignments, three All-Star Games and 91 postseason games.

"In fact, it was pretty easy," he said. "I wasn't planning on this year being the last one. But I thought, this is a sign."

Especially when he asked three doctors about the possible long-term effects if he got jarred again.

"They said, 'We just don't know,'" Scott said. "But they told me that the more times you get hit, the more probability that you'll have issues."

This summer, he saw Bruno Mars and Green Day in concert, watched Fourth of July fireworks from a boat near his home in Portland, Oregon, and enjoyed more time with husband Michael Rausch.

They've been together since 1986 and were married in November 2013 in Palm Springs, California, by the city's mayor.

Scott came out as gay after the 2014 season. The next spring training, Reds outfielder Marlon Byrd gave Scott a big hug while trotting to the dugout.

"You're free, brother. I'm so proud of you," Byrd told him.

Says Scott: "I did feel free. I am who I am."

Scott's decision will resonate, said Billy Bean, Major League Baseball's vice president for social responsibility and inclusion. Bean came out as gay after his big league career ended in 1995.

"He has achieved everything in his umpiring career, and has carried himself with integrity and garnered the respect of his peers and MLB players," Bean said. "I am filled with pride as I reflect on all of his accomplishments. He's a pro's pro, who's been a wonderful example to the LGBT community and all sports fans."

"Years ago, Dale reached out to me after my personal story went public," he said. "If we had been able to have that conversation when I was still playing, I know it would have changed the course of my career. Dale's legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire others to pursue their dreams, and I hope we see the results around MLB soon."

Scott worked 3,897 regular-season games and was a crew chief for 16 seasons, half his career.

"I was fortunate enough to have Dale as my crew chief for 10-plus years. A gifted umpire and true professional, he ran the crew with a smile as he mentored many of today's most successful umpires," fellow

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 29 of 31

ump Dan Iassogna said.

"The courage that he showed in coming out while still working on the field is as much of an accomplishment as his many World Series and postseason assignments," he added.

Scott acknowledged his decision to retire might have been more difficult if his circumstances were different — say, he was 40 and hadn't worked the World Series.

Now, he walks away with his health intact. And if there were any doubts, he keeps the video of that last violent concussion on his cellphone.

MLB provides long-term disability for umpires who cannot work because of concussion effects, the same as it does for other permanent injuries.

Scott wonders about umpires who are cleared as part of the concussion protocol and then face the choice of continuing to work and risk further injury, or leaving the game.

"That needs to be addressed," he said. "Maybe my situation can be a catalyst for that."

His future will include rooting like crazy for the Oregon Ducks and, having been a Top 40 AM radio DJ in high school, perhaps some voice work.

Scott also can look back on all the games he did: Among them, he was the plate umpire for Scott Erickson's no-hitter, he worked a season-opening series in Australia, and was the last umpire to eject hot-tempered manager Billy Martin.

And there was that game at old County Stadium in 1986, when a big crowd turned out to welcome the hugely popular Gorman Thomas back to the Milwaukee Brewers.

The first time Thomas batted, Scott called strike three. The fading slugger went 0 for 4 and when he got rung up in his last at-bat, it was more than Thomas could take.

"It's my night," he pleaded with the rookie ump, "not yours!"

Brady intercepted twice as Dolphins beat Pats 27-20

By STEVEN WINE, AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — The Miami Dolphins wore their perfect season uniforms, and for at least one game in 2017, they looked the part.

Tom Brady was intercepted twice by Xavien Howard and held without a third-down conversion Monday night, and Miami snapped the New England Patriots' eight-game winning streak with a surprising 27-20 victory.

The Dolphins (6-7) were 11-point underdogs at home, but they kept the Patriots (10-3) from clinching their ninth consecutive AFC East title — at least for another week.

"It was a bad night," Brady said. "We've had a lot of good nights this year. This was a bad night."

Brady went 24 for 43 for 233 yards and one touchdown. Miami sacked him twice and hit him five times, and held the Patriots to 25 yards rushing. New England was 0 for 11 on third down.

"Our focus every game is to hit the quarterback as hard as we can and make him uncomfortable," defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh said. "I think we did a pretty good job of it."

The Dolphins' Jay Cutler threw for 263 yards and three scores, including two to Jarvis Landry. Kenyan Drake had 114 yards rushing and 79 receiving.

A Brady touchdown pass cut the deficit to 10 points with 13 minutes left, but the Patriots' next three possessions netted 5 yards. After a New England field goal, Miami sealed the victory by recovering an onside kick with 53 seconds to go.

"This gives us a boost," Cutler said. "Winning is what keeps you in this game. The locker room after a game, there's nothing like it."

The Dolphins wore their 1972 uniforms, and for the first time in four prime-time appearances this season, they rose to the occasion. Miami tried to turn the game into a laugh in the third quarter when Landry caught a touchdown pass and then set the ball down in the end zone and pumped it repeatedly — a reference to the Patriots' Deflategate scandal.

"It's all about taking the air out of the ball," Landry said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 30 of 31

Coach Adam Gase beat New England for the first time in four tries. His team snapped the Patriots' 14-game road winning streak, second-best ever behind San Francisco's 18 in a row from 1988-90.

Gase threw a lot of wrinkles at the Patriots early, with tight end MarQueis Gray and receivers Landry and Jakeem Grant taking turns lining up in the backfield.

"We used a lot of guys," Cutler said. "We were mixing it up. Adam was dialing it up well."

Cutler spun out of the grasp of blitzing safety Jordan Richards to throw a completion that kept Miami's first touchdown drive going.

The 5-foot-7 Grant made a leaping catch against Malcolm Butler for his first career touchdown reception, a 25-yarder.

Meanwhile, the Patriots sputtered without tight end Rob Gronkowski, who served a one-game suspension for a late hit to the head of an opponent.

"We got beat in all three areas of the game," coach Bill Belichick said.

BALL HAWK

Brady underthrew an open Brandin Cooks deep, and Howard closed for the interception and a 29-yard return to set up a touchdown. Howard also had two interceptions a week ago against Denver.

Brady came into the game with only four interceptions all season.

SLOW START

The temperature was 55 degrees at kickoff — frosty by Miami standards — and the Patriots were sluggish from the outset. They were outgained 123 yards to 2 in the first quarter, when Brady went 0 for 4 with an interception.

ANTHEM

The Dolphins' Kenny Stills, Michael Thomas and Julius Thomas knelt in protest during the national anthem, as they've done for most of the season. Stills was nominated by his teammates last week for the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.

INJURIES

Patriots DT Alan Branch left the game with a knee injury. Starting S Patrick Chung limped off in the final minute.

UP NEXT

The Patriots visit AFC North champion Pittsburgh on Sunday in a possible playoff preview.

The Dolphins play the Bills in two of their final three games, including Sunday at Buffalo.

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

Late-night host Kimmel holds son, pleads for health care

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jimmy Kimmel held his baby son as he returned to his late-night show after a week off for the boy's heart surgery.

Kimmel was crying from the first moment of his monologue Monday night as he pleaded with Congress to restore and improve children's health coverage, a cause he has championed since his son Billy was born with a heart defect in April.

Billy needed one surgery just after his birth and had a follow-up operation last week.

Kimmel kept up his ardent advocacy Monday night, urging Congress to restore the Children's Health Insurance Program, which has been left unfunded and stuck in a political stalemate since September.

Kimmel said it's "disgusting" that Congress is putting tax cuts for millionaires ahead of the lives of children.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2017. There are 19 days left in the year. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlights in History:

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 156 ~ 31 of 31

On Dec. 12, 1917, during World War I, a train carrying some 1,000 French troops from the Italian front derailed while descending a steep hill in Modane (moh-DAN'); at least half of the soldiers were killed in France's greatest rail disaster. Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Nebraska.

On this date:

In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1897, "The Katzenjammer Kids," the pioneering comic strip created by Rudolph Dirks, made its debut in the New York Journal.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt nominated Oscar Straus to be Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Straus became the first Jewish Cabinet member.

In 1925, the first motel — the Motel Inn — opened in San Luis Obispo, California.

In 1937, Japanese aircraft sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. (Japan apologized, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.)

In 1946, a United Nations committee voted to accept a six-block tract of Manhattan real estate offered as a gift by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to be the site of the U.N.'s headquarters.

In 1947, the United Mine Workers union disaffiliated from the American Federation of Labor.

In 1963, Kenya became independent of Britain.

In 1977, the dance movie "Saturday Night Fever," a Paramount Pictures release starring John Travolta, premiered in New York.

In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.

In 1997, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the international terrorist known as "Carlos the Jackal," went on trial in Paris on charges of killing two French investigators and a Lebanese national. (Ramirez was convicted, and is serving a life prison sentence.)

In 2000, George W. Bush became president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election.

Ten years ago: Republican presidential rivals gathered in Johnston, Iowa, called for deep cuts in federal spending in a debate remarkably free of acrimony. President George W. Bush vetoed a second bill that would have expanded government-provided health insurance for children. Ike Turner, the rock pioneer and ex-husband of Tina Turner, died in San Marcos, California, at age 76.

Five years ago: North Koreans danced in the streets of their capital, Pyongyang, after the regime of Kim Jong Un succeeded in firing a long-range rocket in defiance of international warnings. Pope Benedict XVI sent his first tweet from his new account; it read, "Dear friends, I am pleased to get in touch with you through Twitter. Thank you for your generous response. I bless all of you from my heart."

One year ago: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan endorsed investigations into the CIA's belief that Russia had meddled in the November election to help Donald Trump win, a claim the president-elect called "ridiculous."

Today's Birthdays: Former TV host Bob Barker is 94. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Pettit is 85. Singer Connie Francis is 80. Singer Dionne Warwick is 77. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 74. Hall of Fame race car driver Emerson Fittipaldi is 71. Actor Wings Hauser is 70. Actor Bill Nighy (ny) is 68. Actor Duane Chase (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 67. Country singer LaCosta is 67. Gymnast-turned-actress Cathy Rigby is 65. Author Lorna Landvik is 63. Singer-musician Sheila E. is 60. Actress Sheree J. Wilson is 59. Pop singer Daniel O'Donnell is 56. International Tennis Hall of Famer Tracy Austin is 55. Rock musician Eric Schenkman (Spin Doctors) is 54. Rock musician Nicholas Dimichino (Nine Days) is 50. Author Sophie Kinsella is 48. News anchor Maggie Rodriguez is 48. Actress Jennifer Connelly is 47. Actress Madchen Amick is 47. Actress Regina Hall is 47. Country singer Hank Williams III is 45. Actress Mayim Bialik is 42. Model Bridget Hall is 40. Actor Lucas Hedges (Film: "Manchester by the Sea") is 21. Actress Sky Katz (TV: "Raven's Home") is 13.

Thought for Today: "Experience has taught me that the only cruelties people condemn are those with which they do not happen to be familiar." — Ellen Glasgow, American author (1874-1945).