

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 1 of 46

“Trust the still, small voice that says, ‘this might work and I’ll try it.’”

-Diane Mariechild



- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping Ad
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 2- Boys beat Hitchcock-Tulare
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Bowling Scores
- 3- Dog Licenses Available
- 4- Varsity Stat Sheet
- 5- JV Stat Sheet
- 6- Obit: Mary Ann Thompson
- 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

Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping
Simple Solutions for YOU
605/216-4474 ~ peterson4@nvc.net

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**

Shabazz has double-double in win over Patriots

Three players hit double figures Tuesday night as the Groton Area Boys' Basketball team improved to 2-1 on the season with a 66-32 win over Hitchcock-Tulare.

Seric Shabazz had a double-double on the night with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Brodyn DeHoet led the Tigers with 15 points while Jonathan Doeden and Shabazz each had 11, Treyton Diegel made three-three-pointers for nine points, Anthony Sippel had six, Marshall Lane five, Kaden Kurtz and Cade Guthmiller each had three points, Peyton Johnson had two and Austin Jones added one point.

The Tigers made 42 percent of their field goals while the Patriots made 24 percent. Hitchcock-Tulare had 27 turnovers, 15 of which were steals with Brandon Keith and Seric Shabazz each having five. Groton Area had 22 turnovers of which 11 were steals with Ty Hofer having four.

The Tigers had the edge on the boards, 48-29. Groton Area made 15 of 30 free throws off of the Patriots' 26 team fouls while Hitchcock-Tulare made seven of 14 free throws off of Groton Area's 16 team fouls.

Zach Binger led the Patriots in scoring with eight points and Ty Hofer had seven.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 42-14. Scoring for the Tigers were Cade Guthmiller with 10, Kaden Kurtz eight, Darien Shabazz, Austin Jones and Jackson Cogley each had five points, Peyton Johnson, Riley Thurston and Lucas Simon each had three.

It will be a Thursday-Friday scheduled for the basketball teams as the boys host Redfield-Doland on Thursday and the girls travel to Redfield on Friday.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 3 of 46



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

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

Groton Coffee Cup League

Dec. 11 Team Standings: James Valley 31 winners of the first half, Ten Pins 29, Kens 25 ½, Jungle Lanes 18 ½

High Games: Joyce Walter 172, Gert Erickson 168, Angie Carlson 167

High Series: Joyce Walter 451, Vicki Walter 447, Nancy Radke 428

Conde National League

Dec. 11 Team Standings: Mets 30 winners of the first half Colts 29, Cubs 28 ½, Pirates 25 ½, Giants 24, Braves 18

Men's High Games: Ryan Bethke 183, Lance Frohling 181, Russ Bethke 179

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 507, Ryan Bethke 476, Russ Bethke 465

Women's High Games: Vickie Kramp 180. Joyce Walter 178, Nancy Radke 172

Women's High Series: Joyce Walter 482, Nancy Radke 471, Vickie Kramp 471, Mary Larson 423

2018 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!!



**Licenses due by Dec. 29, 2017
Fines start Jan. 2, 2018**



Please bring proof of rabies shot information for each dog to City Hall or
email to library@grotonsd.net or fax to 397-4498

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog,
otherwise \$10 per dog

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 4 of 46

Boys Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Hitchcock/Tulare

Hitchcock-Tulare NO PLAYER	TOT-FG		3-PT		REBOUNDS												MIN
	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	
5 Hamilton, Grant	*	2	5	0	0	2	6	1	0	1	3	6	2	4	0	2	32:00
10 Binger, Zach	*	2	13	1	6	3	4	1	9	10	4	8	1	9	0	2	32:00
12 Stoner, Coby	*	1	5	1	4	1	2	1	1	2	4	4	0	1	0	0	8:00
20 Wanner, Caileb	*	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	6	7	5	4	2	3	0	2	16:00
23 Hofer, Ty	*	3	13	1	2	0	0	0	4	4	4	7	0	3	0	4	32:00
0 Brooker, Wyatt		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0:00
2 Waldner, Titus		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
11 Gilbert, Logan		1	3	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	32:00
14 Binger, Bailey		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
21 Anderson, Anthony		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	8:00
22 Gahm, Dawson		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0:00
24 Clark, Gabe		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								1	2	3				2			
Team Totals		11	46	3	16	7	14	5	24	29	26	32	6	27	0	11	160

Total FG% - 1st: 6/23 0.261 2nd: 5/23 0.217 Game: 0.239 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/8 0.250 2nd: 1/8 0.125 Game: 0.188 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 5/8 0.625 2nd: 2/6 0.333 Game: 0.500 (4,0)

NO PLAYER	TOT-FG		3-PT		REBOUNDS												MIN
	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	
20 KEITH, BRANDON	F	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	3	0	5	8:00
42 DEHOET, BRODYN	C	6	12	2	5	1	4	3	5	8	3	15	0	3	0	0	16:00
3 SIPPEL, ANTHONY	G	2	5	1	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	6	0	5	0	1	0:00
4 DOEDEN, JONNY	G	5	9	1	3	0	2	3	2	5	2	11	3	3	0	2	16:00
5 SHABAZZ, SERIC	G	3	10	1	7	4	8	1	9	10	1	11	6	1	0	5	16:00
10 LANE, MARSHALL		0	0	0	0	5	8	2	4	6	1	5	1	2	0	1	8:00
12 SHABAZZ, DARIEN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
14 KURTZ, KADEN		0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	16:00
22 GUTHMILLER, CADE		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	16:00
34 JONES, AUSTIN		0	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	16:00
40 JOHNSON, PEYTON		1	2	0	0	0	0	2	5	7	4	2	0	1	0	0	8:00
50 TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
55 DIEGEL, TREYTON		3	8	3	6	0	0	0	1	1	0	9	0	2	0	0	24:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								2	4	6				2			
Team Totals		21	50	9	26	15	30	15	33	48	16	66	13	22	0	15	160

Total FG% - 1st: 11/25 0.440 2nd: 10/25 0.400 Game: 0.420 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 6/15 0.400 2nd: 3/11 0.273 Game: 0.346 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/9 0.222 2nd: 13/21 0.619 Game: 0.500 (5,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Hitchcock-Tulare	7	12	13	0	32
Groton	16	14	17	19	66

Last FG: Hitchcock-Tulare 3rd-08:00, Groton 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Hitchcock-Tulare NONE, Groton by 34 4th-08:00

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 5 of 46

Boys Junior Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Hitchcock/Tulare

Hitchcock/Tulare		TOT-FG		3-PT		REBOUNDS											MIN	
NO	PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
2	Waldner, Titus	*	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	24:00
11	Gilbert, Logan	*	2	4	1	1	4	6	1	1	2	1	9	0	3	0	4	16:00
14	Binger, Bailey	*	1	5	1	1	0	0	0	4	4	3	3	1	7	0	2	16:00
22	Gahm, Dawson	*	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	24:00
24	Clark, Gabe	*	1	6	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	4	0	0	24:00
0	Brooker, Wyatt		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	16:00
4	Boomsma, Jack		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
21	Miller, Caden		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
23	Gilbert, Zach		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0:00
25	Hamilton, Kyle		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	8:00
25	Clark, Alex		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00
31	Harford, Elliott		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
34	Waldner, Jed		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									0	1	1				3			
Team Totals			4	24	2	6	4	6	2	14	16	12	14	1	26	0	10	160

Total FG% - 1st: 3/13 0.231 2nd: 1/11 0.091 Game: 0.167 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/4 0.250 2nd: 1/2 0.500 Game: 0.333 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 4/6 0.667 2nd: 0/0 0.000 Game: 0.667 (1,0)

Groton Area		TOT-FG		3-PT		REBOUNDS											MIN	
NO	PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
12	SHABAZZ, DARIEN	F	2	6	1	4	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	0	2	0	1	16:00
34	JONES, AUSTIN	F	2	4	0	1	1	1	2	2	4	0	5	0	1	0	1	8:00
40	JOHNSON, PEYTON	C	1	5	1	1	0	0	2	3	5	1	3	1	2	0	2	8:00
14	KURTZ, KADEN	G	3	6	1	3	1	3	2	2	4	0	8	2	3	0	1	16:00
22	GUTHMILLER, CADE	G	5	6	0	1	0	0	0	4	4	1	10	1	4	0	2	8:00
3	SCHINKEL, ANTHONY		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	8:00
4	DEHOET, CYRUS		0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	16:00
5	COGLEY, JACKSON		1	2	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	1	8:00
10	THURSTON, RILEY		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	16:00
20	SIMON, LUCAS		1	3	1	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	1	1	0	0	16:00
32	LARSON, CHANDLER		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	24:00
50	TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	16:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									1	0	1				1			
Team Totals			16	38	6	20	4	6	8	19	27	6	42	8	17	0	11	160

Total FG% - 1st: 9/19 0.474 2nd: 7/19 0.368 Game: 0.421 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/7 0.286 2nd: 4/13 0.308 Game: 0.300 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/1 1.000 2nd: 3/5 0.600 Game: 0.667 (1,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Add New Team	8	3	3	0	14
Add New Team	8	13	8	13	42

Last FG: Add New Team 3rd-08:00, Add New Team 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Add New Team NONE, Add New Team by 28 4th-08:00
 Score tied: 1 times, Lead changed: 0 times

The Life of Mary Ann Thompson

Mass of Christian Burial for Mary Ann Thompson, 86, will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, December 14th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. Father Mike Kelly will officiate. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen.

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.

Mary Ann was born on December 30, 1930 in Sisseton to George and Agnes (Kreich) Dohman. She attended school in Groton, and later attended Andover High School where she graduated in 1948. Mary Ann was united in marriage with Darwin Thompson on February 21, 1950 in Groton and the couple made their home on the family farm. They were blessed with three children, Terry, Lon and Beth.

Mary Ann was a member of St. John The Baptist Catholic Church, later re-named St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. She was active in the Altar Society for many years. Mary Ann also belonged to Putney Ladies Aid and Putney bridge club. She enjoyed gardening, playing bingo and coffee with friends.

Celebrating her life are her children, Terry (Judy) Thompson of Groton, Lon (Jewel) Thompson of McMinnville, Oregon, Beth Thompson of Zumbrota, Minnesota, grandchildren, Jennifer (Bob) Lessinger, Mark (June) Thompson, Jackie (Tony) Mulder, Josh (Holly) Thompson, Lynnsey Thompson and 15 great-grandchildren. Mary Ann is also survived by her siblings, Les (Carol) Dohman of Groton, Richard (Lorraine) Dohman of Aberdeen, Herb (Catherine) Dohman of Sioux Falls, Elaine Reinhardt of Stillwater, Minnesota and her brother-in-law, John Gerding of Littleton, Colorado.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband, three brothers, Bill, Bob and France and sisters, Dorothy "Dort", Liz and Berdeen, as well as an infant sister.

Casketbearers will be Dave Dohman, Bob Lessinger, Mark Thompson, Tony Mulder, Drew Dohman and Gabe Dohman.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 7 of 46

Today in Weather History

December 13, 2008: An intense low-pressure area moved out of the Rockies and across the Central Plains bringing widespread snow, blizzard conditions, and extreme winds chills to central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota into the early morning hours of the 15th. Snowfall amounts of 1 to as much as 12 inches along with winds gusting to 50 mph caused widespread near zero visibilities and dangerous travel conditions. Winds chills fell into the 35 below to 45 below zero range. Many vehicles became stuck or stranded along several highways and along Interstates 29 and 90. Interstate 90 was closed from the Wyoming line to Murdo from late on the 13th until the morning of the 14th. Interstate 29 was also closed for much of the 14th. The Onida, Agar, and Gettysburg Volunteer Fire Department found it difficult to respond to a structure fire south of Gettysburg. Due to whiteout conditions, the structure was lost to the fire by the time the fire departments arrived. Most area schools were closed on Monday due to the road conditions along with the bitter cold wind chills. Some of the heaviest snowfall amounts included: 6 inches at Watertown, Browns Valley, Sisseton, Waubay, and Castlewood; 7 inches at Ortonville, Webster, Clear Lake, Faulkton, and Aberdeen; 8 inches at Milbank, 9 inches at Britton and Wheaton; 10 inches at Clear Lake, and 12 inches at Roscoe. Mobridge received 2 inches and Pierre received 4 inches of snowfall with this storm.

915 - A heavy snowstorm kicked off the snowiest winter in modern records for western New England. (The Weather Channel)

1962 - A severe Florida freeze occurred. Morning lows reached 35 degrees at Miami, 18 degrees at Tampa, and 12 degrees at Jacksonville. It was the coldest December weather of the 20th century and caused millions of dollars damage to crops and foliage. In Georgia, the morning low of 9 degrees below zero at Blairsville established a state record for the month of December. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A major winter storm produced high winds and heavy snow in the Southern Rockies and the Southern High Plains. Snowfall totals in New Mexico ranged up to 25 inches at Cedar Crest, with up to three feet of snow reported in the higher elevations. Winds of 75 mph, with gusts to 124 mph, were reported northeast of Albuquerque NM. El Paso TX was buried under 22.4 inches of snow, including a single storm record of 16.8 inches in 24 hours. The snowfall total surpassed their previous record for an entire winter season of 18.4 inches. Record cold was experienced the next three nights as readings dipped into the single numbers. High winds ushering unseasonably cold air into the southwestern U.S. gusted to 100 mph at Grapevine CA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure off the Atlantic coast produced up to a foot of snow in eastern Nassau County and western Suffolk County of southeastern New York State. Mild weather prevailed across the western half of the country. Nine cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Goodland KS with a reading of 74 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong northwesterly winds, ushering bitterly cold arctic air into the central U.S., produced squalls with heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Snowfall totals in Upper Michigan ranged up to 24 inches at Manistique. Nine cities in Arkansas and Texas reported record low temperatures for the date, including Calico Rock AR with a reading of 4 degrees above zero. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

December 13, 1997: A freak cold snap and snowstorm struck parts of northern Mexico left 12 people dead, and the area paralyzed. It snowed in the city of Guadalajara for the first time since 1881, leaving amazed residents to gawk at the white stuff and make snowmen. The temperature plunged to 5 degrees in Chihuahua.

2002 - A powerful Pacific storm system plowed into the western United States during the 13th-16th, producing high winds, heavy rains, significant mountain snowfall and causing 9 deaths (Associated Press). Rainfall amounts exceeding 10 inches occurred in parts of California, and wind gusts over 45 mph produced up to 1.9 million power outages during the period (Pacific Gas & Electric).

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 8 of 46

Wind Advisory

Today



Increasing
Clouds and
Windy

High: 39 °F ↓

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 23 °F

Thursday



Chance Snow

High: 34 °F

Thursday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 19 °F

Friday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 36 °F

Friday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 25 °F

Saturday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 38 °F

Wind Advisory in Effect Today

WINDY

Winds: Northwest gusts of 35 to 50 mph

When: Continuing through mid afternoon

Moderate to Very High
Grassland Fire Danger



FIRE DANGER



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created:
12/13/2017 5:30 AM

Published on: 12/13/2017 at 5:33AM

Windy through the day today, with a Wind Advisory in effect through mid afternoon. Gusts out of the northwest of 35 to 50 mph are expected. These winds, and dry weather, will push the Grassland Fire Danger Index values into the Moderate to Very High categories. Check out the latest forecast for your area at www.weather.gov/abr

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 9 of 46

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 45.7

Low Outside Temp: 9.3

High Gust: 23

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 57° in 1921

Record Low: -34° in 1917

Average High: 26°F

Average Low: 6°F

Average Precip in Dec: 0.23

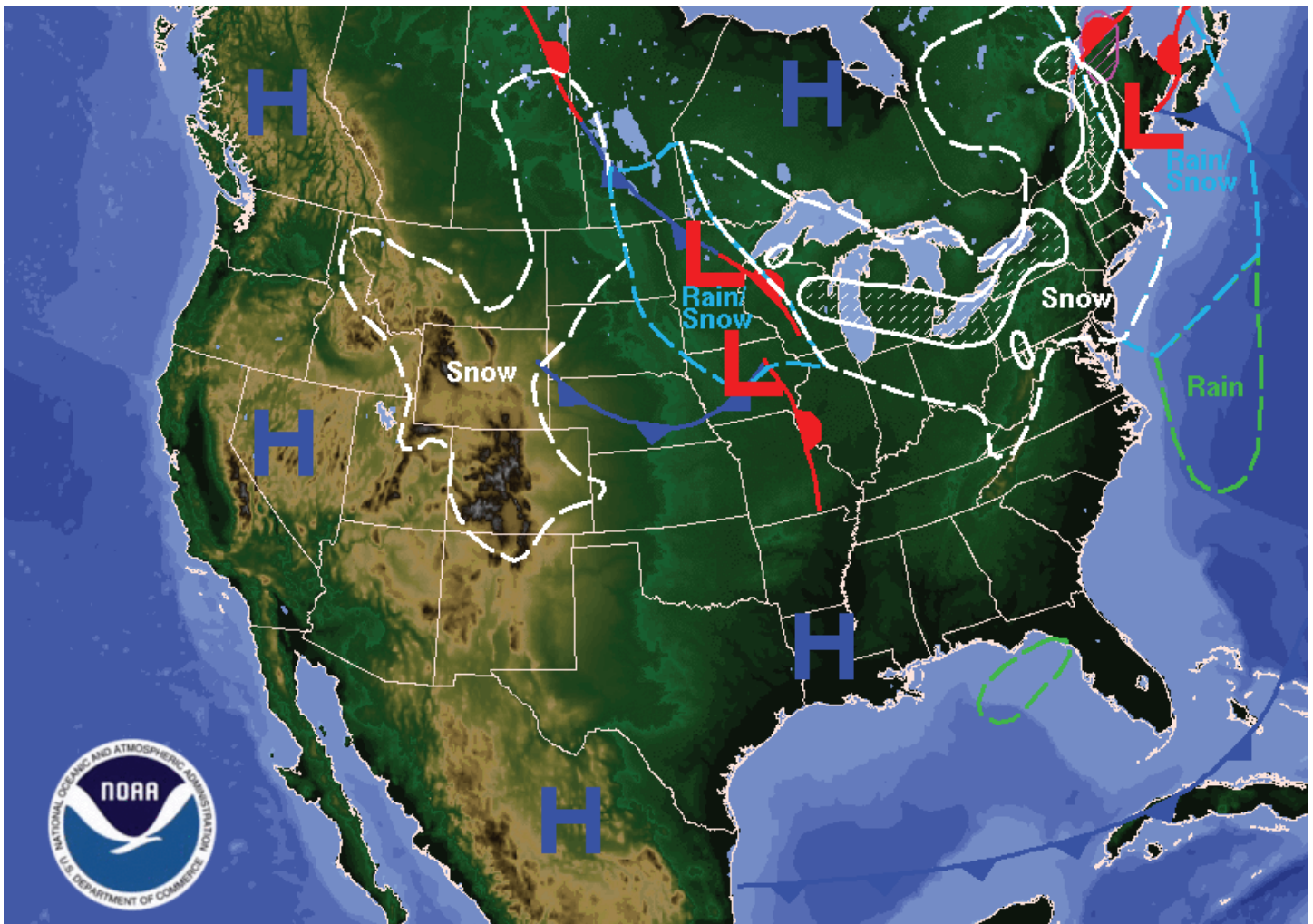
Precip to date in Dec: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.43

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:50 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Dec 13, 2017, issued 5:01 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

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 10 of 46



THE REAL THING!

It has always been difficult for missionary families to be together at special times. Often hearts ache for the joy and happiness that unites loved ones at special times for special reasons and seasons.

The headmaster of a school for the children of missionaries knew that feeling very well. His parents were missionaries and he spent many birthdays alone as well as many holidays. He knew that one of his students was having a particularly difficult time one Christmas and decided to visit him in his room.

After talking for a few minutes he asked, "John, what would you like for Christmas this year?"

Looking at a picture of his father on the wall he said, "I would like my father to step out of that frame."

That's what Jesus did. He "stepped out" of the Old Testament "frames" that prophesied of His coming. He became the "real thing" when he walked among the people, laid His hands on the sick and restored them to health, fed the hungry with bread that would last throughout eternity and gave the water of life to those dying of thirst.

The Son of God willingly and voluntarily made Himself "nothing" when He assumed a human body and a human nature and became the "real thing." Jesus is God seeing us through human eyes, hearing us with human ears, touching lives with human hands and loving us with a human heart. In Jesus, we see God with us!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for sending us the "Real Thing." Through Him we know how much You love us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 2:5-11 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

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

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 12 of 46

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

08-23-24-25-27, Mega Ball: 9, Megaplier: 2

(eight, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-seven; Mega Ball: nine; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$191 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$229 million

Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Avon 50, Corsica/Stickney 38

Brookings 56, Huron 53

Canton 79, Garretson 62

Chamberlain 63, Gregory 24

Chester 72, Howard 41

Clark/Willow Lake 63, DeSmet 38

Dakota Valley 66, Beresford 43

Douglas 76, St. Thomas More 56

Ethan 67, Andes Central 58

Faulkton 66, Sunshine Bible Academy 46

Groton Area 66, Hitchcock-Tulare 32

Hamlin 64, Flandreau 61

Hanson 37, McCook Central/Montrose 28

Harding County 70, Tiospaye Topa 45

Harrisburg 74, Pierre 30

Herreid/Selby Area 67, Timber Lake 35

Ipswich 66, Eureka/Bowdle 43

Langford 62, Leola/Frederick 58

Lead-Deadwood 52, Newell 25

Madison 70, Tri-Valley 49

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 70, West Central 50

North Central, Neb. 49, Burke/South Central 42

Northwestern 74, Edmunds Central 28

Parker 75, Baltic 70

Santee, Neb. 87, Centerville 36

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 63, Sioux Falls Washington 62

Sisseton 60, Milbank Area 43

South Sioux City, Neb. 63, Sioux Falls Lincoln 18

Sturgis Brown 65, Belle Fourche 52

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 13 of 46

Sully Buttes 79, Lyman 53
Vermillion 88, Flandreau Indian 66
Viborg-Hurley 57, Bridgewater-Emery 52
Watertown 55, Aberdeen Central 51

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 57, Watertown 56
Aberdeen Roncalli 69, Mobridge-Pollock 29
Avon 50, Corsica/Stickney 38
Belle Fourche 58, Sturgis Brown 44
Brookings 56, Huron 45
Chester 47, Howard 37
Colman-Egan 41, Canistota 29
Dakota Valley 54, Beresford 46
Dell Rapids 53, Sioux Falls Christian 48
Dell Rapids St. Mary 61, Mitchell Christian 43
Deubrook 46, Deuel 44
Faulkton 51, Sunshine Bible Academy 36
Florence/Henry 52, Arlington 18
Garretson 60, Canton 49
Hamlin 49, Flandreau 30
Harrisburg 56, Pierre 38
Ipswich 58, Eureka/Bowdle 20
Irene-Wakonda 63, Wagner 43
Kimball/White Lake 36, Platte-Geddes 35
Lead-Deadwood 53, Newell 39
Lemmon 60, Dupree 47
Lyman 46, Stanley County 16
Madison 63, Tri-Valley 43
Menno 41, Scotland 21
Milbank 55, Sisseton 50
Miller 58, Potter County 42
North Central, Neb. 65, Burke/South Central 53
Parker 50, Baltic 30
Santee, Neb. 67, Centerville 64
Sioux Falls Lincoln 65, South Sioux City, Neb. 62
Timber Lake 60, Herreid/Selby Area 30
Viborg-Hurley 57, Bridgewater-Emery 52
Waubay/Summit 48, Wilmot 30
Wausa, Neb. 48, Gayville-Volin 38
Waverly-South Shore 60, Clark/Willow Lake 57
West Central 47, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 27

S Dakota St routs N Dakota 99-63 behind Daum's 25 points

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum scored 25 points with 10 rebounds and South Dakota State ran away from North Dakota 99-63 on Tuesday night to win their sixth straight at home.

It was Daum's 39th career game with 20 points or more.

David Jenkins Jr.'s jumper put South Dakota State up for good, 11-10, and the Jackrabbits led 55-30 at halftime after shooting 71.4 percent from the floor and scoring on 28 of their 39 possessions.

Marlon Stewart, Dale Jones and Geno Crandall each hit 3s and North Dakota closed to 57-39 early in

the second half, but Reed Tellinghuisen scored five in a 10-2 run and the Jackrabbits led by as many as 37 the rest of the way.

Jenkins scored 15 points with seven rebounds, Tellinghuisen added 13 points, and Tevin King had 11. The Jackrabbits (9-4) finished shooting 58.9 percent from the floor, outscored the Fighting Hawks 48-32 in the paint and outrebounded them 40-29.

Jones scored a career-high 18 points and Conner Avants added 10 for North Dakota (4-6), which has lost three straight.

Wind gusts, smoke complicate firefighters job in Custer park

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Strong wind gusts and thick smoke were making it difficult for firefighters battling a spreading wildfire late Tuesday in Custer State Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The fire grew to more than 6.25 square miles (16.2 square kilometers) Tuesday and was only 7 percent contained, according to the park and state officials.

Custer State Park is one of South Dakota's most popular destinations, featuring hills with ponderosa pine and prairie. It is known for its herds of bison and other wildlife. Officials say wildlife isn't at risk because animals in the park are familiar with wildfire and naturally avoid dangerous areas.

Firefighters have concentrated on protecting structures including popular tourist sites such as the Blue Bell Lodge and the State Game Lodge.

"We can tip our hats and thank our firefighters that we haven't lost any of these buildings," Kobee Stalder, the park's visitor services program manager, told KELO-AM. "I'm very confident to say that we are not going to lose any of these buildings."

Five homes in the park have been evacuated and one unused building was burned down. No one has been injured.

The blaze erupted Monday during dry, warm weather. The cause is under investigation.

The park will remain closed at least until Friday.

South Dakota school district investigated for discrimination

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal agency is investigating allegations that a western South Dakota school district discriminated against students with disabilities and retaliated against the individual who filed a complaint.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is investigating the Rapid City Area Schools district based on a discrimination complaint from August 2016, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The agency is determining whether the district systematically denied students with disabilities a free appropriate education in two ways. First, the department will investigate whether the district failed to address timely evaluations of students suspected of having dyslexia and other disabilities. The agency will also determine whether the district capped the number of students who can be evaluated and receive appropriate help.

Dyslexia is a learning disability in which a person has difficulty reading and writing letters or numbers.

The district is also being investigated for allegations of retaliatory actions against the complainant. The complainant alleges "harassment in the workplace" and increased monitoring of her performance. The department will also investigate whether the complainant's contract with the district wasn't renewed because of her legislative advocacy efforts or her complaint.

The district is receiving \$3.4 million from the federal education department for special education this school year. Recipients of federal funding cannot intimidate, threaten, coerce or discriminate against anyone to interfere with a right or privilege secured by federal law, according to the Office of Civil Rights.

Katy Urban, the school district's spokeswoman, said district officials cannot comment because the allegations involve a staff issue. Urban said the district created a "dyslexia work group" to develop a support plan for students over the summer, before the district learned of the complaint.

Attorney Stephanie Trask said the district knew about the complaint since May 2016, when her client filed

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 15 of 46

an "aggravance" and met with district officials. Trask also said there were two discrimination complaints against the district originally, but they were consolidated.

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

James Madison leads with 3 on AP FCS All-America team

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

Defending national champion and top-ranked James Madison placed three players on The Associated Press FCS All-America first team, more than any other school.

The team, chosen by a panel of 10 media members who cover the second tier of Division I football, was released Tuesday.

James Madison was represented by offensive lineman Aaron Stinnie, defensive lineman Andrew Ankrah and defensive back Jordan Brown. The Dukes play South Dakota State in the FCS semifinals on Saturday.

South Dakota quarterback Chris Streveler and UC Davis receiver Keelan Doss, two of the three finalists for the Walter Payton Award that goes to the best offensive player in FCS, were also selected as All-Americans. The other finalist, Sam Houston quarterback Jeremiah Briscoe, was selected to the second team. Briscoe won the Payton last year.

South Dakota placed offensive lineman Jacob Ohnesorge and tight end Dallas Goedert on the first team. Goedert is an All-American for the second straight season.

The other FCS semifinal features North Dakota State and Sam Houston State, both of which had two FCS All-Americans.

North Dakota was represented on the first team by linebacker Nick DeLuca and offensive lineman Austin Kuhnert. Sam Houston had receiver Davion Davis and defensive lineman P.J. Hall on the first team.

Hall is also an All-American for the second straight year along with linebacker Darius Leonard of South Carolina State.

The 2017 Associated Press FCS All-America team:

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Chris Streveler, senior, South Dakota.

Running backs — Dominick Bragalone, junior, Lehigh; Josh Mack, sophomore, Maine.

Linemen — Brandon Parker, senior, North Carolina A&T; Austin Kuhnert, senior, North Dakota State; Jacob Ohnesorge, senior, South Dakota State; Aaron Stinnie, senior, James Madison; Justin Lea, senior, Jacksonville State.

Tight end — Dallas Goedert, senior, South Dakota State.

Receivers — Keelan Doss, junior, UC Davis; Davion Davis, junior, Sam Houston State.

All-purpose player — John Santiago, junior, North Dakota.

Kicker — Trey Tuttle, freshman, Weber State.

DEFENSE

Linemen — Andrew Ankrah, senior, James Madison; Jonathan Petersen, senior, San Diego; Darius Jackson, senior, Jacksonville State; P.J. Hall, senior, Sam Houston State.

Linebackers — Brett Taylor, senior, Western Illinois; Darius Leonard, senior, South Carolina State; Nick DeLuca, senior, North Dakota State.

Backs — Mike Basile, senior, Monmouth; George Odum, senior, Central Arkansas; Taron Johnson, senior, Weber State; Jordan Brown, senior, James Madison.

Punter — Joe Zema, senior, Incarnate Word.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 16 of 46

Quarterback — Jeremiah Briscoe, senior, Sam Houston State.

Running backs — Roc Thomas, senior, Jacksonville State; Zane Dudek, freshman, Yale.

Linemen — Stetson Dagel, senior, South Dakota; John Cook, junior, Central Arkansas; Timon Parris, senior, Stony Brook; Ben Huss, senior, Duquesne; Matthew Schmidt, senior, Furman.

Tight end — Andrew Vollert, senior, Weber State.

Receivers — Neil O'Connor, junior, New Hampshire; Jaelon Acklin, senior, Western Illinois.

All-purpose player — Elijah Marks, senior, Northern Arizona.

Kicker — Gunnar Raborn, junior, McNeese State.

DEFENSE

Linemen — Anthony Ellis, senior, Charleston Southern; Ahmad Gooden, junior, Samford; Jaison Williams, sophomore, Austin Peay; Abdullah Anderson, senior, Bucknell.

Linebackers — Matthew Oplinger, senior, Yale; Jared Farley, senior, Northern Iowa; Brandon Bryant, senior, Lafayette.

Backs — Marlon Bridges, sophomore, Jacksonville State; Phillip Parham, senior, senior, Lafayette; Davontae Harris, senior, Illinois State; Rashad Robinson, junior, James Madison.

Punter — Ian Berryman, junior, Western Carolina.

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Chandler Burks, junior, Kennesaw State.

Running backs — De'Lance Turner, senior, Alcorn State; Detrez Newsome, senior, Western Carolina.

Linemen — Skyler Phillips, senior, Idaho State; Zach Mitchler, junior, Kennesaw State; Alex Thompson, senior, Monmouth; Iosua Opeta, junior, Weber State; Ross Demmel, junior, Wofford.

Tight end — Ross Dwelley, senior, San Diego.

Receivers — Nathan Stewart, sophomore, Sam Houston State; Justin Watson, senior, Penn.

All-purpose player — Khris Gardin, senior, North Carolina A&T.

Kicker — Lorrان Fonseca, junior, Nicholls State.

DEFENSE

Linemen — Darin Greenfield, sophomore, South Dakota; Chris Terrell, sophomore, Central Arkansas; Ben Sorensen, senior, Sacramento State; Nick Wheeler, sophomore, Colgate.

Linebackers — Garrett Dolan, senior, Houston Baptist; Thomas Costigan, junior, Bryant; Christian Rozeboom, sophomore, South Dakota State.

Backs — Elijah Campbell, sophomore, Northern Iowa; Franklin McCain III, redshirt freshman, North Carolina A&T; Tremon Smith, senior, Central Arkansas; Davanta Reynolds, junior, North Carolina Central.

Punter — Austin Barnard, senior, Samford.

Voters: John Bohnenkamp, The Hawk Eye, Burlington, Iowa; George Madia, Daily News-Record, Harrisonburg, Virginia; Kevin Gore, Nacogdoches (Louisiana) Daily; Gene Henley, Times Free Press, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Jeff Kolpack, KFGO, Fargo, North Dakota; Colter Nuanez, Skyline Sports, Bozeman, Montana; Teddy Renois, Daily Comet, Thibodaux, Louisiana; Justin Rust, Journal Gazette & Times Courier, Mattoon, Illinois; Damien Sordelett, The (Lynchburg, Virginia) News & Advance; Donal Ware, DW Communications, Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina.

More AP college football: <http://collegefootball.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

Sanford donation made to Lutheran school

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Health will donate 30 acres and a matching gift of up to \$5 million to help a Sioux Falls Lutheran school realize its plans for a new facility.

Sanford CEO Kelby Krabbenhoft says the gift reflects the heritage of the health care provider as a Lu-

theran hospital. The school of about 300 has outgrown its current facility. Principal Tia Esser says the 30 acres will provide plenty of space for the school, which will include an early childhood center, a high school-sized gym, a chapel and performing arts center.

The Argus Leader says Sanford's donation will expedite the timeline for a new building from five to 10 years down the road to two to four years away.

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

Sioux Falls man charged with kidnapping, sexual exploitation

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is charged with kidnapping and sexually exploiting a 13-year-old boy.

Authorities say 65-year-old Robert Larson, a registered sex offender, is being held without bond following a court appearance Monday. Court documents say he was reported missing Nov. 27 and stopped at a Sioux Falls gas station where Larson was working. Prosecutors say Larson wouldn't let the boy leave, later locked him in his van and then took him to his house. The boy told police Larson groped him.

The Argus Leader says Larson has denied having sexual contact with the child and told police he felt it was unsafe for the boy to leave the gas station late at night.

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

Evidence hearing ends in pipeline protest shooting case

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A Denver woman accused of shooting at law enforcement officers during a protest against the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota is seeking to suppress some evidence and statements she made to police.

The Bismarck Tribune reports attorneys for Red Fawn Fallis argued during a two-day hearing in federal court in Bismarck that her arrest in October 2016 violated her free speech rights.

The hearing ended Monday. Attorneys agreed to file written arguments by Dec. 18.

Fallis is set for trial beginning Jan. 29 on allegations she fired a handgun three times as officers tried to arrest her. No one was hurt. She has pleaded not guilty to federal charges that include discharge of a firearm in a crime of violence and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

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

Palestinian president says no role for US in peace process

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY and SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told Arab and Islamic leaders on Wednesday that the United States is no longer fit to broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and should be replaced as mediator by the United Nations, outlining a significant policy shift in response to President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

In an impassionate speech, Abbas said his people will no longer accept the United States as a peace broker but added that they remain committed to international resolutions which have formed the basis of the process.

Abbas was speaking at the gathering of heads of state and top officials from Islamic nations at a summit in Turkey that is expected to forge a unified Muslim world's stance against Trump's move.

Abbas said Trump's decision was a "crime" which came at a time when the Palestinians were engaged with Washington in a new push to reach what he said was anticipated to be the "deal of our times."

"Instead we got the slap of our times," Abbas said. "The United States has chosen to lose its qualification as a mediator ... We will no longer accept that it has a role in the political process from now."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 18 of 46

The speech marked a significant shift in Abbas' approach toward the United States, after years of focusing on courting U.S. goodwill because of Washington's role as sole mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Immediately after Trump's announcement last week, Abbas had said the U.S. effectively disqualified itself as a broker, but Wednesday's speech was more sharply worded and delivered to a global audience. It was also part of a speech that called on the gathering for specific steps to counter the U.S. decision on Jerusalem.

"We call that the (peace) process in its entirety be transferred to the United Nations," Abbas said. He also called on countries that believe in the two-state solutions to recognize Palestine as a state, and urged Arab and Muslim nations to financially support east Jerusalem.

In his over-an-hour-long speech, Abbas also urged Muslim nations and countries with relations with Israel to take necessary political and economic measures against Israel "to force it to abide by international consensus" to end its occupation of Palestinian territories, including east Jerusalem.

Last week, Abbas' aides said the Palestinian leader would not meet with Mike Pence during the U.S. vice president's planned visit to Israel and the West Bank next week. Abbas had initially planned to meet with Pence in the biblical West Bank town of Bethlehem, but two senior aides have said the meeting would not take place because of Trump's pivot on Jerusalem.

The Istanbul gathering of heads of state and top officials from the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation was also an opportunity for the Muslim world to offer its strongest response yet to Washington's move.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan— the current president of the OIC — called on countries to urgently recognize the Palestinian state and Jerusalem as its capital.

Erdogan has been among the most vocal critics of Trump's announcement. In remarks to the summit, he said Israel is an "occupying state" and a "terror state."

Jerusalem's status is at the core of the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Trump's Dec. 6 announcement was widely perceived as siding with Israel. It also raised fears of more bloodshed as past crises over Jerusalem had triggered violent outbreaks.

King Abdullah II of Jordan told the gathering that the Trump decision was "grave", threatening the resumption of any peace talks.

Earlier, in opening remarks to a pre-summit meeting, Turkey's foreign minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, told OIC foreign ministers that the U.S. decision aims to "legitimize Israel's attempt to occupy Jerusalem."

"They expect the Islamic nation to remain silent," he said. "But we will never be silent. This bullying eliminates the possibility of peace and the grounds for shared life. The U.S.' decision is null for us."

Most countries around the world have not recognized Israel's 1967 annexation of east Jerusalem. Under a long-standing international consensus, the fate of the city is to be determined in negotiations.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Lebanon's President Michel Aoun, and top ministers of numerous nations were also attending the gathering in Istanbul.

The secretary general of OIC called on countries that have not recognized Palestine as a state to do so. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen told the summit the U.S. decision on Jerusalem is "an exceptional challenge" facing Muslim nations and that it will fan violence in the region, giving extremists an excuse to sow chaos.

In an emergency meeting in Cairo last weekend, Arab League foreign ministers demanded that the U.S. rescind Trump's decision. In a resolution long on rhetoric but short on concrete actions, the ministers also called for the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution condemning Trump's decision, but acknowledged that Washington would most likely veto it.

Israel has considered Jerusalem its capital since the state's establishment in 1948 and sees the city as the ancient capital of the Jewish people. In the 1967 Mideast war, Israel captured the city's eastern sector and later annexed it in a move that is not recognized internationally.

The Palestinians equally lay claim to Jerusalem and want the eastern part of the city as capital of their future state. Some 320,000 Palestinians live in that part of the city and Palestinians claim a deep cultural,

historical and religious connection to the city.

The Old City, located in east Jerusalem, is home to sites holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims. These include the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site.

El Deeb reported from Beirut. Associated Press writer Karin Laub in Jericho, the West Bank, contributed to this report.

Rock Hall 2018 class: Nina Simone, Bon Jovi, the Moody Blues

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Iconic singer Nina Simone and New Jersey rockers Bon Jovi lead the 2018 class of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, which includes four first-time nominees.

The Cars, as well as first-time contenders Dire Straits, The Moody Blues and Sister Rosetta Tharpe, also are part of the 2018 class announced Wednesday. They will be inducted on April 14, in Cleveland, Ohio.

The six inductees were chosen from a group of 19 nominees, including Radiohead, who were expected to enter in the Rock Hall in their first year of eligibility, but didn't make it.

Tharpe, a pioneering guitarist who performed gospel music and was known to some as "the godmother of rock 'n' roll," will be inducted with the "Award for Early Influence." She died in 1973. The other five acts will be inducted as performers.

The jazzy and soulful Simone, also a first-time nominee, was a leader in pushing for civil rights and influenced the likes of Alicia Keys and Aretha Franklin before her death in 2003.

The Cars, founded in Boston in 1976, combined New Wave and classic rock sounds. This year marked the band's third nomination.

Bon Jovi, first nominated in 2011 and again this year, have sold more than 120 million albums and launched No. 1 hits with "Livin' on a Prayer," "You Give Love a Bad Name," "Bad Medicine" and "I'll Be There for You."

Rock Hall voters have recently opened their hearts to progressive rockers, which benefited "Nights in White Satin" singers The Moody Blues. English rockers Dire Straits, which includes brothers Mark and David Knopfler, blended blues into their music.

Each year, between five and seven acts usually make it into the Rock Hall following a vote by 1,000 people, including performers, music historians and industry experts. Fans also were able to vote on the Rock Hall's website. All of the inductees had to have released their first recording no later than 1992 to be eligible.

The 33rd annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held at Public Auditorium. Tickets will go on sale in January and the event will later air on HBO and be heard on SiriusXM Radio.

Online:

<https://www.rockhall.com/>

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. DEMOCRAT WINS IN STUNNING ALABAMA UPSET

Doug Jones won the state's special Senate election, beating back history, an embattled Republican opponent and Trump, who endorsed Roy Moore despite a litany of sexual misconduct allegations.

2. SENATOR PARRIES TRUMP TWITTER JOUST

Kirsten Gillibrand gets the fight she wants after the president attacked her in a provocative tweet that claimed she'd begged him for campaign contributions and would "do anything" for them.

3. NYC SUBWAY ATTACK CASE OPENS, CLOSES QUICKLY

It took less than 24 hours for authorities to conclude that a would-be suicide bomber was responsible for the botched attack on a Manhattan transportation hub.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 20 of 46

4. MINNESOTA GOVERNOR TO REVEAL SENATE SUCCESSOR

Sources tell the AP that Lt. Gov. Tina Smith is Mark Dayton's top contender to replace Al Franken, who announced his impending resignation last week following allegations of sexual misconduct.

5. WHO HAS EMERGED AS A KEY STAKEHOLDER IN MIDDLE EAST

Under Trump's inconsistent foreign policy, and in an era of an inward looking, America-first ideology, Putin's intervention in Syria became all the more poignant on the global stage.

6. WHAT ABBAS IS SAYING ABOUT US ROLE IN MIDEAST PEACE

The Palestinian president says his people will not accept any role for Washington in the Middle East peace process "from now on," following Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

7. WORKING-CLASS CITY IN WASHINGTON STATE TACKLING HOMELESSNESS

The city north of Seattle, hard-hit by the opioid epidemic, is trying an array of strategies to tackle homelessness, addiction and untreated mental illness, AP finds.

8. 'NOBODY SAVED US'

Jamey Anderson fled North Carolina's Word of Faith Fellowship church when he was 18, but more than a decade later, he still struggles to find his footing in a world that he doesn't understand — having been raised in a "cult," he tells AP.

9. SOLD NORTH KOREAN BRIDES FACE HARD CHOICES IN CHINA

Some of the North Koreans get along with their new families and are satisfied with their new life in China. Others are abused by their husbands or ignored or mocked by their new relatives and neighbors, AP learns.

10. 'HEY GOOGLE, SEARCH ...'

Matt Lauer. Bitcoin. DACA. Monkey selfies. Jeremy Lin's hair. Do-it-yourself eclipse glasses. Tom Petty's death. National anthem protests in the NFL and "Cash Me Outside" were the top trending searches for 2017.

Gillibrand got a fight she wants after Trump's fiery tweet

By **RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand got a fight she wants after President Donald Trump lashed out at the New York Democrat in a provocative tweet that claimed she'd begged him for campaign contributions and would "do anything" for them.

Gillibrand, who's up for re-election next year and is considered a possible presidential contender in 2020, has been an outspoken voice in the national debate over how to confront sexual assault and harassment. She's argued that the rules in institutions from Congress to Hollywood to the U.S. military are set to benefit the powerful and the favored at the expense of the vulnerable.

A fiery exchange with Trump on Tuesday could brighten the spotlight on Gillibrand's campaign to upend the dynamics and put power in the hands of the victims while simultaneously pushing the 51-year-old mother of two boys to the forefront of an unformed Democratic presidential field.

She's scathed icons in her own party along the way. Gillibrand was appointed to Hillary Clinton's Senate seat, but she recently said Bill Clinton should have resigned the presidency for his improprieties. That led Clinton loyalists to criticize her as an ungrateful opportunist.

The back-and-forth between Trump and Gillibrand came as a wave of sexual misconduct allegations roils Capitol Hill, forcing several lawmakers out of office in just the last week alone. Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., announced 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 quit after misconduct accusations surfaced.

"I do think this is a reckoning. This is a watershed moment," Gillibrand said of the resignations in speaking to The Associated Press late last week. "Politicians should be held to the highest standards, not the lowest standards."

And she rejected the notion that she and other Democrats, by demanding Franken and Conyers step aside, are making a calculation they hope will pay off politically as Trump continues to fend off allegations of sexual misconduct lodged over the last year by more than a dozen women.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 21 of 46

"That couldn't be more cynical and backward," said Gillibrand, who was one of the first Democrats to call for Franken to step down. "It has nothing to do with politics. This whole debate is, 'Do we care about women.'"

Gillibrand served notice several years ago that combating sexual assault would be her issue. A member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, she and other female lawmakers dressed down senior military leaders at a headline-making hearing, insisting sexual assault in the ranks has cost the services the trust and respect of the American people as well as the nation's men and women in uniform.

"Not every single commander necessarily wants women in the force. Not every single commander believes what a sexual assault is. Not every single commander can distinguish between a slap on the ass and a rape because they merge all of these crimes together," Gillibrand told the uniformed men in 2013.

Four years later, Gillibrand added her voice to the growing number of male senators calling for Trump to resign in the face of multiple accusations of inappropriate sexual behavior. A day after her broadside, Trump singled her out.

The president tweeted: "Lightweight Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a total flunky for Chuck Schumer and someone who would come to my office "begging" for campaign contributions not so long ago (and would do anything for them), is now in the ring fighting against Trump. Very disloyal to Bill & Crooked-USED!"

Gillibrand was at a bipartisan Bible study in the office of Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., when she stepped out to take a call alerting her to Trump's tweet. She fired back, calling the president's tweet a "sexist smear" aimed at silencing her voice. She also renewed her call for a congressional inquiry into the accusations against Trump.

Gillibrand silently shook her head at the idea that she had "begged" Trump for campaign contributions. Democrats rushed to Gillibrand's defense.

"Are you really trying to bully, intimidate and slut-shame @SenGillibrand?" Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts tweeted back at Trump. "Do you know who you're picking a fight with? Good luck with that."

Senate Republicans steered clear of the latest uproar involving Trump's Twitter account. Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, a frequent Trump critic, was an exception, telling reporters he "didn't think it was appropriate at all."

At the White House, however, Trump's spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said "there's no way" the president's tweet was "sexist at all." She said Trump was talking about a rigged political system and the fact that lawmakers repeatedly plead for money. Federal Election Commission records show Trump and his daughter Ivanka Trump donated nearly \$8,000 to Gillibrand's congressional campaigns.

Gillibrand, of Dartmouth and UCLA law, has fought since 2013 to overhaul the way the U.S. armed forces deals with allegations of sexual misconduct. A bill she crafted aims to stop sexual assaults by stripping senior U.S. military officers of their responsibilities to decide whether to prosecute sexual assault cases and giving that authority to seasoned military trial lawyers.

But the Pentagon has stridently opposed the change and the bill has remained stalled.

Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

Would-be suicide bomber in New York City faces court hearing

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In less than 24 hours, authorities say a would-be suicide bomber's botched attack on a Manhattan transportation hub underneath Times Square became an open-and-shut case after a search of his apartment and hearing the suspect's own words.

Akayed Ullah, who's expected to make his first court appearance on Wednesday, made it clear from a hospital bed where he was being treated for burns from a pipe bomb he strapped to his body that he was on a mission to punish the United States for attacking the Islamic State group, said Acting U.S. Attorney Joon Kim. A search of the Bangladeshi immigrant's apartment turned up bomb-making materials, including screws matching those found at the scene intended as carnage-creating shrapnel.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 22 of 46

"His motivation," the prosecutor said, "was not a mystery."

Kim said Ullah picked the morning rush on Monday to maximize casualties in his quest "to kill, to maim and to destroy."

Ullah, 27, with a hate-filled heart and an evil purpose," carried out the attack after researching how to build a bomb a year ago and planned his mission for several weeks, Kim said.

The bomb was assembled in the past week using fragments of a metal pipe, a battery and a Christmas tree light bulb, along with the metal screws, authorities said.

The defendant "had apparently hoped to die in his own misguided rage, taking as many innocent people as he could with him, but through incredible good fortune, his bomb did not seriously injure anyone other than himself," Kim said.

Ullah was influenced by the sermons and writings of a radical Muslim preacher, but appeared to have no known links to local radical groups, Bangladeshi officials said Wednesday.

He was charged with providing material support to a terrorist group, use of a weapon of mass destruction and three bomb-related counts. He could get up to life in prison.

With a tragedy averted and a growing certainty that he acted alone, attention turned to how best secure New York City's vast public transportation system and the daunting task of identifying those eager to do it harm.

The security "requires every single member of the public's help," said New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill. "It requires their vigilance."

There also was political fallout, heightened by news that Ullah had taunted President Donald Trump on Facebook with a post that read, "Trump you failed to protect your nation."

In reaction to the bombing, the president demanded a tightening of immigration rules that allowed Ullah to enter the country in 2011 on a visa available to certain relatives of U.S. citizens. Less than two months ago, an Uzbek immigrant who came to the U.S. through a visa lottery was accused of killing eight people in New York by mowing them down with a truck along a bike path.

"We're going to end both of them — the lottery system and chain migration. We're going to end them fast," Trump said at the White House.

Republican Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley requested background information on Ullah's visa history and whether he'd ever been on a terrorism watch list.

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 from 2012 to 2015, but the license was allowed to lapse, officials said.

Democrat Jones wins stunning red-state Alabama Senate upset

By KIM CHANDLER and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — In a stunning victory aided by scandal, Democrat Doug Jones won Alabama's special Senate election, beating back history, an embattled Republican opponent and President Donald Trump, who urgently endorsed GOP rebel Roy Moore despite a litany of sexual misconduct allegations.

It was the first Democratic Senate victory in a quarter-century in Alabama, one of the reddest of red states, and proved anew that party loyalty is anything but certain in the age of Trump. Tuesday's Republican loss was a major embarrassment for the president and a fresh wound for the nation's already divided GOP.

"We have shown not just around the state of Alabama, but we have shown the country the way — that we can be unified," Jones declared as supporters in a Birmingham ballroom cheered, danced and cried tears of joy. Still in shock, the Democrat struggled for words: "I think that I have been waiting all my life, and now I just don't know what the hell to say."

Moore, meanwhile, refused to concede and raised the possibility of a recount during a brief appearance at a somber campaign party in Montgomery.

"It's not over," Moore said. He added, "We know that God is still in control."

From the White House, Trump tweeted his congratulations to Jones "on a hard-fought victory" — but

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 23 of 46

added pointedly that "the Republicans will have another shot at this seat in a very short period of time. It never ends!"

Jones takes over the seat previously held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The term expires in January of 2021.

The victory by Jones, a former U.S. attorney best known for prosecuting two Ku Klux Klansmen responsible for Birmingham's infamous 1963 church bombing, narrows the GOP advantage in the U.S. Senate to 51-49. That imperils already-uncertain Republican tax, budget and health proposals and injects tremendous energy into the Democratic Party's early push to reclaim House and Senate majorities in 2018.

Still, many Washington Republicans viewed the defeat of Moore as perhaps the best outcome for the party nationally despite the short-term sting. The fiery Christian conservative's positions have alienated women, racial minorities, gays and Muslims — in addition to the multiple allegations that he was guilty of sexual misconduct with teens, one only 14, when he was in his 30s.

"Short-term pain, long-term gain," former Minnesota Sen. Norm Coleman, a Republican, tweeted. "Roy Moore and Steve Bannon losing tonight is big win for the GOP. ... Moore would have buried GOP in 2018."

A number of Republicans declined to support Moore, including Alabama's long-serving Sen. Richard Shelby. But Trump lent his name and the national GOP's resources to Moore's campaign in recent days.

Had Moore won, the GOP would have been saddled with a colleague accused of sordid conduct as Republicans nationwide struggle with Trump's historically low popularity. Senate leaders had promised that Moore would have faced an immediate ethics investigation.

Republicans on Capitol Hill have expressed hopes of scheduling a vote on their tax legislation before Jones is sworn in, but lawmakers are still struggling to devise a compromise bill to bridge the divide between the House and Senate legislation that can win majority support in both chambers.

The Republican loss also gives Democrats a clearer path to a Senate majority in 2018 — albeit a narrow one — in an election cycle where Democrats are far more optimistic about seizing control of the House of Representatives.

Ultimately, Tuesday's contest came down to which side better motivated its supporters to vote. Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill said turnout likely would not exceed 25 percent of registered voters.

Jones successfully fought to cobble together an unlikely coalition of African-Americans, liberal whites and moderate Republicans.

He had his strongest support across Alabama's "black belt," named for the color of its soil, and in the larger urban areas, including Montgomery, Birmingham, Mobile, Tuscaloosa and Huntsville. Turnout in those areas, which features a large African-American population, also ran higher than in some of the more heavily Republican parts of the state.

At his election night headquarters, stunned supporters erupted in celebration as news of his victory was announced. Many danced to the song "Happy." Some cried.

"I honestly did not know that this was even an option. I didn't think that we could elect a Democrat," said 26-year-old campaign volunteer Jess Eddington, her eyes red from tears of joy. "I am so proud we did."

Moore, who largely avoided public events in the final weeks of the race and spent far less money on advertising than his opponent, bet big — and lost — on the state's traditional Republican leanings and the strength of his passionate evangelical Christian supporters.

He sidestepped questions about sexual misconduct as he arrived at his polling place on horseback earlier in the day.

Alabama state law calls for a recount if the margin of victory is less than one-half of one percentage point. With all precincts reporting, Jones led by 1.5 points — three times that margin.

If the secretary of state determines there were more write-in votes than the difference between Jones and Moore, the state's counties would be required to tally those votes. It's not clear how that would help Moore, who ended the night trailing Jones by more than 20,000 votes.

Democrats were not supposed to have a chance in Alabama, one of the most Republican-leaning states in the nation. Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton here by nearly 28 points just 13 months ago. Yet Moore had political baggage that repelled some moderate Republicans even before allegations of sexual

misconduct surfaced.

Virtually the entire Republican establishment, Trump included, supported Moore's primary opponent, Sen. Luther Strange in September. Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, was one of the only early high-profile Moore backers.

Moore was once removed from his position as state Supreme Court chief justice after he refused to remove a boulder-sized Ten Commandments monument at the state court building. A second time, he was permanently suspended for urging state probate judges to refuse marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez: "The people of Alabama sent a loud and clear message to Donald Trump and the Republican Party: You can't call yourself the party of family values as long as you're willing to accept vile men like Roy Moore as members."

Peoples reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Jay Reeves and Emily Wagster Pettus in Birmingham, Alabama, Bill Barrow in Montgomery and Emily Swanson in Washington contributed to this report.

Monkey selfies, eclipse, bitcoin, Lauer top Google in 2017

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Matt Lauer. Bitcoin. DACA. Monkey selfies. Jeremy Lin's hair. Do-it-yourself eclipse glasses. Tom Petty's death. National anthem protests in the NFL. And "Cash Me Outside."

These were some of the people, topics and memes that trended to the top of Google searches in 2017. The search terms reflected the United States in upheaval over sexual misconduct allegations against powerful men, reeling from the tumultuous presidency of Donald Trump (What is "covfefe," by the way?), and people around the world searching for information about the latest iPhone and how to make slime.

Three of the top 10 TV shows in the U.S. debuted on Netflix, the same as last year.

April the Giraffe made news by giving birth live on YouTube.

And the world grooved to Luis Fonsi singing "Despacito."

Here are some of the terms Google says had the highest sustained spike in traffic compared to 2016, filtered for spam, repeat queries and adult keywords. The full list is here .

UNITED STATES

Searches

1. Hurricane Irma
2. Matt Lauer
3. Tom Petty
4. Super Bowl
5. Las Vegas Shooting
6. Mayweather vs. McGregor Fight
7. Solar Eclipse
8. Hurricane Harvey
9. Aaron Hernandez
10. Fidget Spinner

People

1. Matt Lauer
2. Meghan Markle
3. Harvey Weinstein
4. Michael Flynn
5. Kevin Spacey
6. Bill O'Reilly
7. Melania Trump
8. Kathy Griffin
9. Milo Yiannopoulos

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 25 of 46

10. Gal Gadot

Losses

1. Tom Petty

2. Aaron Hernandez

3. Chris Cornell

4. Bill Paxton

5. Hugh Hefner

6. Chester Bennington

7. Charlie Murphy

8. Lil Peep

9. Jim Nabors

10. David Cassidy

How to

1. How to make slime

2. How to make solar eclipse glasses

3. How to watch the solar eclipse

4. How to watch Mayweather vs. McGregor

5. How to buy Bitcoin

6. How to freeze your credit

7. How to solve a Rubix Cube

8. How to make a fidget spinner

9. How to cook a turkey in the oven

10. How to screen record

What is

1. What is DACA?

2. What is Bitcoin?

3. What is a solar eclipse?

4. What is antifa?

5. What is net neutrality?

6. What is covfefe?

7. What is the antikythera mechanism?

8. What is a fidget spinner?

9. What is the Paris Climate Agreement?

10. What is a hurricane?

GLOBAL LISTS

Searches

1. Hurricane Irma

2. iPhone 8

3. iPhone X

4. Matt Lauer

5. Meghan Markle

6. 13 Reasons Why

7. Tom Petty

8. Fidget Spinner

9. Chester Bennington

10. India National Cricket Team

Songs/Lyrics

1. Despacito

2. Shape of You

3. Perfect

4. Havana
5. Look What You Made Me Do
6. HUMBLE.
7. Versace on the Floor
8. Closer
9. Bad and Boujee
10. Rockstar

Memes

1. Cash Me Outside
2. United Airlines
3. Elf on the Shelf
4. What in Tarnation
5. Spongebob Mocking
6. Romper
7. IT
8. Joe Biden
9. Game of Thrones
10. Hot dog

Elections

1. French election
2. German federal election
3. UK election
4. Uttar Pradesh election
5. Georgia special election
6. Montana special election
7. British Columbia election
8. BMC election
9. Sicilian regional election
10. Dutch election

Days of toil bring hard-won gains over huge California fire

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Firefighters finally eked out progress on the titanic task of cutting fire lines around one of the biggest blazes in California history.

As the fire straddling Santa Barbara and Ventura counties entered its 10th day, crews had carved containment lines around one-quarter of it.

But the wildfire still raged Tuesday, threatening thousands of homes and stranding tens of thousands of evacuees.

The so-called Thomas fire, one of several burning around the state, has burned over 900 structures, at least 700 of them homes. And it has stretched across nearly 370 square miles (958 sq. kilometers) of territory, making it the fifth largest in state history.

Elsewhere, fire officials announced that a cooking fire at a homeless encampment sparked a blaze last week that destroyed six homes in the Bel Air neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Arson investigators determined that the so-called Skirball fire near the world-famous Getty museum was started by an illegal fire at a camp near a freeway underpass, city fire Capt. Erik Scott said.

The camp was empty when firefighters found it but people apparently had been sleeping and cooking there for at least several days, he said.

Back at the largest of the wildfires, firefighters protected foothill homes while the fire grew mostly into forest land, Santa Barbara County Fire Department spokesman Mike Eliason said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 27 of 46

Red Flag warnings for fire danger due to Santa Ana winds and a critical lack of moisture were extended into the week, with a possible increase in gusts Thursday into Friday.

Evacuations continued for the seaside enclaves of Montecito, Summerland and Carpinteria and the inland agricultural town of Fillmore.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Eric Burdon and his wife, Marianna, of Ojai were among the people who fled the smoke Tuesday. Last week, Burdon wrote on Facebook about having to flee and returning temporarily to find their home still standing with ashes all around.

"A week like this gives you the perspective that life is what truly matters," he wrote.

A photo accompanying the post showed his handprint and signature written in ashes.

Residents near a Carpinteria avocado orchard said the trees could end up saving their homes.

"You have a thick layer of leaves underneath the bottom and they are watered regularly, so it's like a sponge," Jeff Dreyer, who lives nearby, told KEYT-TV. "So the fire gets to the sponge full of water and it slows it down."

Officials handed out masks to those who stayed behind in Montecito, an exclusive community about 75 miles (120 kilometers) from Los Angeles that's home to stars such as Oprah Winfrey, Jeff Bridges and Drew Barrymore. Actor Rob Lowe was among residents who evacuated over the weekend.

AP reporter John Antczak contributed to this report.

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

FBI agent removed from Russia probe called Trump an 'idiot'

By SADIE GURMAN and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two FBI officials who would later be assigned to the special counsel's investigation into Donald Trump's presidential campaign described him with insults like "idiot" and "loathsome human" in a series of text messages last year, according to copies of the messages released Tuesday.

One of the officials said in an election night text that the prospect of a Trump victory was "terrifying."

Peter Strzok, a veteran FBI counterintelligence agent, was removed over the summer from special counsel Robert Mueller's team following the discovery of text messages exchanged with Lisa Page, an FBI lawyer who was also detailed this year to the group of agents and prosecutors investigating potential coordination between Russia and Trump's Republican campaign.

Hundreds of the messages, which surfaced in a Justice Department inspector general investigation of the FBI's inquiry into Democrat Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, were being provided to congressional committees, which had requested copies, and were reviewed by The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

The existence of the text messages, disclosed in news reports earlier this month, provided a line of attack for Trump, who used the revelation to disparage FBI leadership as politically tainted. Republicans have also seized on the exchange of texts between two officials who worked for Mueller to suggest that the team is biased against Trump and its conclusions can't be trusted.

The issue is likely to be a focus of a congressional hearing Wednesday involving Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller as special counsel in May and oversees his team's work.

A spokesman for Mueller has said Strzok was removed from the Mueller team as soon as the allegations were brought to the office's attention, and that Page had already concluded her detail by that time anyway and returned to the FBI. Strzok has been reassigned within the FBI.

Working telephone numbers for Strzok and Page could not immediately be found.

Strzok had been deeply involved in the Clinton inquiry and was in the room when she was interviewed by the FBI. He later helped investigate whether the Trump campaign worked with Russia to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

The texts seen by the AP began in the summer of 2015, soon after the FBI launched its email server

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 28 of 46

investigation, and continued over the next year and a half as the presidential race was in full swing and as Trump and Clinton were looking to defeat their primary challengers and head toward the general election.

The messages — 375 were released Tuesday evening — cover a broad range of political topics and include an exchange of news articles about the race, often alongside their own commentaries.

There are some derogatory comments about Democratic officials, including presidential candidate Bernie Sanders and former Attorney General Eric Holder, but some of the harshest comments are reserved for Trump.

In a March 4, 2016, back-and-forth provided to Congress, Page refers to Trump as a “loathsome human” and Strzok responds, “Yet he may win.” After Strzok asks whether she thinks Trump would be a worse president than fellow Republican Ted Cruz, Page says, “Yes, I think so.”

The two then use words like “idiot” and “awful” to characterize Trump, with Strzok saying, “America will get what the voting public deserves.”

In another exchange, on Oct. 18, 2016, Strzok writes to Page and says: “I am riled up. Trump is an (expletive) idiot, is unable to provide a coherent answer. I CAN’T PULL AWAY. WHAT THE (expletive) HAPPENED TO OUR COUNTRY???!?”

Weeks later, on election day, as it seemed to become clearer that Trump could defeat Clinton, he says, “OMG THIS IS (expletive) TERRIFYING: A victory by Mr. Trump remains possible...”

Page replies, “Yeah, that’s not good.”

In August 2016, Strzok responded to a New York Times story that carried the headline of “Donald Trump is Making America Meaner” by saying, “I am worried about what Trump is encouraging in our behavior.”

But he also adds, “I’m worried about what happens if HRC is elected,” using the initials for Hillary Rodham Clinton.

AP Exclusive: Sold NKorean brides face hard choices in China

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press**

WESTERN LIAONING PROVINCE, China (AP) — The North Korean woman drives a motorbike slowly down a narrow lane shaded by tall corn to the farmhouse where she lives with the disabled Chinese man who bought her.

It’s been 11 years since she was lured across the border by the prospect of work and instead trafficked into a life of hardship. In those years, she’s lived with the dread that Chinese police will arrest her and send her back to be jailed and tortured in North Korea. She’s struggled with the scorn of neighbors who see her as an outsider.

But most of all, she’s been haunted by grief and regret over the children she had to leave behind.

“When I first came here, I spent all day drinking because I worried a lot about my kids in North Korea,” said the woman, who asked to be identified only as S.Y. due to safety concerns. “I was quite out of my mind.”

Experts estimate that thousands, and perhaps tens of thousands, of North Korean women have been trafficked across the border and sold as brides since a crippling famine in North Korea killed hundreds of thousands of people in the mid-1990s. Brokers tell the women they can find jobs in China, but instead sell them to Chinese men, mostly poor farmers in three border provinces who struggle to find brides in part because Beijing’s one-child policy led to the abortion of many female fetuses.

Like S.Y., many of the women have children still in their homeland.

Their plight is largely ignored, partly because the women almost never agree to interviews. The Associated Press spoke with seven trafficked North Korean women and three Chinese husbands.

Because the women have been trafficked to China, they are living in the country illegally and have never officially married their husbands.

Some of the North Koreans get along with their new families and are satisfied with their new life in China. Others are abused by their husbands or ignored or mocked by their new relatives and neighbors. Others have risked the perilous journey to South Korea — with some having to make the heart-wrenching choice to leave children behind again, this time in China.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 29 of 46

THE BRIDES WHO STAY

The first years were the hardest were for S.Y.

A widow from a city near Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, she didn't even give her two sons a proper goodbye when she left for China, thinking she would be able to quickly return home after making some money. Instead a broker sold her to her new husband for 14,000 yuan (\$2,100).

Though the now 53-year-old said she was treated well by her Chinese husband — and the two have a daughter together — she was never able to forget her North Korean children who she last saw in 2006.

One day, saddened and frustrated, she swallowed a box of sleeping pills in a suicide attempt. When she was revived she said she began to realize that her half-Chinese daughter needed her.

She's passed on the chance to flee to South Korea, saying she worries about leaving her daughter and husband, a poor farmer with polio.

"I'm living here because of my family ... and because I feel grateful to my husband," S.Y. said. "What matters is not breaking up our family."

Her 55-year-old husband and his relatives sold hogs and corn to pay brokers to check on S.Y.'s children in North Korea. They found that her brother was raising her sons and S.Y.'s husband sent 15,000 yuan (\$2,260) to help support them.

"I felt really, really good when I first met her," S.Y.'s sun-bronzed husband said, his crutch by his side. "But I'm a disabled man and I thought it was unfair to her. She could have met a better husband."

Two other North Korean women interviewed in western Liaoning province said their husbands treated them well, but others described abuse. One former bride who fled to South Korea said her Chinese husband tied her to a post for hours after she once tried to escape.

The women who stay live with the worry of being arrested and repatriated to North Korea. They avoid traveling because they say authorities in recent years require citizens to show their ID cards before leaving the area. They speak little Chinese, have few local friends and don't enjoy the same social and medical benefits that ordinary Chinese have.

They stay because of their half-Chinese children.

"My 10-year-old son knows his friends' (North Korean) mothers have all fled, so he's very obedient to me because he worries I could leave him too," said another North Korean woman from a village near where S.Y. lives. She asked to be identified by only her surname, Kim.

Chinese authorities, including the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing and police in the three provinces closest to North Korea where most of the women end up, did not respond to requests to comment on the plight of the trafficked brides.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said in a written response that China has worked to fight the trafficking of women and children in recent years by strengthening laws, efforts that "have had noticeable results."

THE BRIDES WHO FLEE

For North Korean brides who want out of Chinese towns, South Korea is a tempting option because of the promise of citizenship, resettlement money, almost-free apartments and no language problems.

But reaching South Korea requires a long, treacherous journey and once again putting trust in brokers. Some lie to their husbands and say they'll return after making money in South Korea. Some flee in the middle of the night. Often they have to leave their children behind.

After living in a village in China's northeastern Liaoning province for 2 1/2 years, Kim Jungah could no longer bear the possibility of her daughter seeing her dragged away by Chinese authorities.

"I slept badly every night," the 41-year-old said. "Whenever I heard the sound of cars, I was afraid they might be the police."

So in 2009 she left, thinking that later she could persuade her husband to come to South Korea with her daughter if she made enough money. She eventually made such an offer, but her husband rejected it.

Kim hasn't spoken to her daughter since early 2013, when her husband changed his phone number after

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 30 of 46

finding that she had gotten married in South Korea.

She said her daughter's biological father is actually North Korean and that she didn't know she was pregnant when she was sold to her Chinese husband in 2006 for 19,000 yuan (\$2,860).

During a recent visit to the man's house, Kim's daughter, now 10, looked cheerful and healthy as she ran around her yard. Her Chinese father said he treats the girl like his biological daughter and that she's doing well at school.

Kim said she would give her former husband 50,000 yuan (\$7,530) if he sends her daughter to her and if he refuses she will sue him. He said he won't allow the girl to reunite with Kim until she becomes an adult.

The man, who asked that his name not be revealed in order to protect the girl, called himself a victim of "marriage fraud."

"She came here, bore a child and left," the 50-year-old said. "She had food and a place to live. I don't understand why she left."

Others have been able to reunite.

North Korean defector Kim Sun-hee, 38, who came to South Korea in 2008, lives in a small apartment near Seoul with her Korean-Chinese husband, Chang Kil-dong, 48, who bought her for 8,000 yuan (\$1,200) when she was 18.

Chang, now a manual laborer in the South, said he was delighted when his wife called him to come to South Korea because he thought she might abandon him. Still the two don't like to talk about how their relationship started.

Chang said he wishes he could go back and instead of paying a broker, give money to his wife's family in a traditional marriage contract.

"It was human trafficking," he said.

LASTING PAIN

All three of the North Korean women interviewed in China left children behind in their homeland, thinking their trip across the border would be temporary.

S.Y. wants to raise hogs to make money to hire brokers again so she can find out how her sons in North Korea are doing. Kim, the woman with the 10-year-old half-Chinese son, said she is too poor to hire someone to search for her 12-year-old son who she left back home in 2007.

"I cry whenever I think about my child in the North," the 46-year-old said.

So many North Korean women have run away — 13 out of 15 in one of the women's village — that those who stay are looked down on.

"People call us 'hens.'" S.Y. said. "They say we aren't real mothers because we lay eggs and then flee to somewhere else."

The children of North Korean women left behind in China also face a stigma. One of the North Korean women said her daughter's high school classmate, whose mother fled soon after he was born, is often teased at school.

Some of the women who fled to South Korea are conflicted — torn between the life they have made for themselves and the life they were sold into. A woman who fled to South Korea in 2006 has not contacted her Chinese family even though she has a son there because she was treated poorly.

She asked to be identified only as Y because of worries that publicity about her past could destroy her new life, adding that the South Korean father of her newest child left them when he found out about her life in China.

"Some might say I am cold-hearted, but I left that house determined never to go back," she said with tears in her eyes. "Now I sometimes feel like going there because I'm curious about how my boy has grown up. But I can't do that."

Follow Hyung-jin Kim at www.twitter.com/hyungjin1972

San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee leaves behind city in turmoil

By JANIE HAR, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Under Mayor Ed Lee's seven-year watch, San Francisco went from a city mired in recession to a technology-fueled economic powerhouse where housing costs skyrocketed and the chasm between the wealthy and everyone else grew. Lee died Tuesday at 65 after collapsing while grocery shopping.

He leaves behind a rapidly transforming city where the median home value is more than \$1.2 million and grumpy residents are unhappy with homelessness, clogged traffic and frequent auto break-ins.

Supporters touted his dedication to building new housing and sending out workers to clean up dirty streets in a city known for its entrenched homelessness. Critics said Lee, a Democrat, catered too much to tech companies, citing a 2011 tax break he brokered for Twitter as part of a remake of the city's dilapidated downtown.

Still, many on Tuesday mourned the city's first Asian-American mayor as a reluctant politician dedicated to civil service who was more comfortable working on details than on delivering the perfect political sound bite. No cause was given for his death but an autopsy was planned.

"He believed in a city where a poor kid from public housing could become mayor," acting San Francisco Mayor London Breed told reporters at a briefing attended by hundreds of city workers and civic leaders.

"What mattered most to him always was helping his fellow San Franciscans, and occasionally delivering the almost perfectly timed corny joke."

Local celebrities, sports figures, and national politicians sent condolences. California Gov. Jerry Brown, attending a climate change conference in Paris, called Lee a gentleman.

"Very honest, very human, he was well liked by people who knew him," Brown said. "People are shocked and surprised. My sympathies go out to his family and all the people of San Francisco."

Former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and the late Chinatown political power broker Rose Pak talked Lee into filling out the rest of former Mayor Gavin Newsom's term when he was elected California's lieutenant governor in 2010.

Lee, city administrator at the time, said he had no interest in taking on the role permanently. But he changed his mind and won a four-year term in 2011, beating 15 other contenders. He was re-elected in 2015, beating out five others.

Willie Brown said Lee showed that non-typical politicians could win elective office.

"At all times it was for the love of the city," he said, "it was not self."

The former mayor also praised Lee as the man who "stepped up and made it possible for Silicon Valley to almost relocate to our city," a change not cheered by San Francisco's more politically progressive faction.

Members of that faction railed against his perceived lenience with vacation-stay rental platform Airbnb, which they say has exacerbated San Francisco's already tight housing market. Lee vetoed a measure approved by city officials to crack down on short-term rental stays.

When Lee took office in January 2011, Zillow reported the median home value in San Francisco was just over \$656,000. The figure has nearly doubled since then. The percentage of households earning at least \$100,000 increased from 38 percent in 2011 to 45 percent in 2016, according to the American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau.

San Francisco Supervisor Hillary Ronen said she did not agree with Lee on corporate issues but was surprised to develop a great working relationship with him. They worked to open a new homeless center in her district last summer.

"He got the urgency of the issue and was tough in making solutions happen quickly," she said.

Lee battled with fellow Democrats on development issues, but was a staunch supporter of many of the liberal policies most associated with San Francisco — including higher minimum wages, marriage equality and sanctuary status for those living in the country illegally.

He reiterated his support for sanctuary policies last month after a Mexican man who had been repeatedly deported was acquitted of murder in the 2015 killing of Kate Steinle in a case that sparked a national

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 32 of 46

debate over illegal immigration. President Donald Trump repeatedly cited the case during his presidential campaign.

Edwin Mah Lee was born May 5, 1952, in Seattle to Chinese immigrants who from Toisan, a rural village in China's southern province of Guangdong. His father was a cook and his mother a seamstress. They raised Lee and his five siblings in public housing.

"We learn modesty. We learn sacrifice. We learn to be humble from people who may have even less. But we learn how to fight and survive at the same time," Lee said in an interview with KTVU-TV in February.

Lee graduated from Bowdoin College in 1974 and from the University of California, Berkeley law school in 1978. He worked as a housing activist and civil rights attorney before joining city government in 1989 as a whistleblower investigator.

Dr. Susan Ehrlich of Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital said Lee arrived at the hospital in critical condition shortly after 10 p.m. Monday and died at 1:11 a.m. Tuesday after several hours of live-saving measures were tried.

Lee Houskeeper, a publicist and friend of the mayor, said Lee collapsed at a Safeway store while grocery shopping Monday night.

A spokeswoman for Safeway stores, Wendy Gutshall, declined to confirm the report but said the store's employees "will miss seeing him in the neighborhood."

The last San Francisco mayor to die in office was George Moscone, who was fatally shot by a disgruntled former Board of Supervisors member in 1978, leading to the ascension of then-Board of Supervisors President Dianne Feinstein to mayor. Feinstein, a Democrat, is now California's senior U.S. senator.

Lee's death now will likely upend the race to replace him, which had been scheduled for 2019. Former state Sen. Mark Leno, a onetime member of the Board of Supervisors and longtime political figure and Democrat, has already announced his candidacy.

Breed, also a Democrat, was also expected to seek the office.

Associated Press writers Angela Charlton in Paris and Juliet Williams in San Francisco also contributed to this report.

This version corrects that Lee did not serve on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors.

Some of Facebook's early friends now its sharpest critics

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Some of Facebook's former friends are starting to express some serious doubts about the social network they helped create.

Facebook exploits a "vulnerability in human psychology" to addict its users, Sean Parker, the company's first president, said in a public forum last month. Chamath Palihapitiya, a former Facebook vice president who joined the company in 2007, recently told an audience at Stanford that the company is "ripping apart the social fabric of how society works."

And Roger McNamee, a venture capitalist and early investor in both Facebook and Google, wrote that both companies "threaten public health and democracy" in an August USA Today op-ed .

It has been a rough year for the tech industry, especially social media companies. It opened with concerns about fake news and "filter bubbles" that can shield people from contrary beliefs, segued into pressure on Facebook and Twitter to clamp down on trolling and online harassment, and culminated with congressional hearings into Russian agents' alleged use of their platforms to meddle with the 2016 presidential election .

All of that, of course, came against a steady drumbeat of tweets from President Donald Trump, who used the service to praise his allies and castigate his foes, often in inflammatory fashion.

But the unkindest cut of all may have come from three people who helped build Facebook in its early days. In early November, Parker told the news site Axios that Facebook was built to answer the question, "How do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible?" He called its stream of

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 33 of 46

comments, "likes" and reactions a "social validation feedback loop that exploits how human brains work."

A few days later, McNamee wrote another essay for the Guardian in which he argued that Facebook and Google have used "persuasive techniques developed by propagandists and the gambling industry," combining them with modern technology to maximize their profits while pushing "appeals to fear and anger" and other material that reinforces filter bubbles and addictive behavior.

Palihapitiya piled on too, saying at a Stanford Graduate School of Business talk last month that he feels "tremendous guilt" about helping create tools that have widened social divisions. He recommended that people take a break from social media.

Facebook, in an emailed comment, said it is "working hard to improve," and noted that it's not the same company it was when Palihapitiya, who left six years ago, worked there.

"We've done a lot of work and research with outside experts and academics to understand the effects of our service on well-being, and we're using it to inform our product development," the company's statement read. "We are willing to reduce our profitability to make sure the right investments are made."

Not all early investors are critical. LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman acknowledged in an interview concerns around how social media systems are causing what he called "lightly addictive behavior." But, he added, "that's also been true of television, that's also been true of sugar."

Tax package would lower top tax rate for wealthy Americans

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER and MARCY GORDON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans on Tuesday rushed toward a deal on a massive tax package that would reduce the top tax rate for wealthy Americans to 37 percent and slash the corporate rate to a level slightly higher than what businesses and conservatives wanted.

In a flurry of last-minute changes that could profoundly affect the pocketbooks of millions of Americans, House and Senate negotiators agreed to expand a deduction for state and local taxes to allow individuals to deduct income taxes as well as property taxes. The deduction is valuable to residents in high-tax states like New York, New Jersey and California.

Negotiators also agreed to set the corporate income tax rate at 21 percent, said two congressional aides who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private negotiations. Both the House bill and the Senate bill would have lowered the corporate rate from 35 percent to 20 percent.

Business and conservative groups lobbied hard for the 20 percent corporate rate. Negotiators agreed to bump it up to 21 percent to help offset revenue losses from other tax breaks, the aides said.

As the final parameters of the bill took shape, negotiators agreed to cut the top tax rate for individuals from 39.6 percent to 37 percent in a windfall for the richest Americans. The reduction is certain to provide ammunition for Democrats who complain that the tax package is a massive giveaway to corporations and the rich.

Under current law, the top tax rate applies to income above \$470,000 for married couples, though lawmakers are completely reworking the tax brackets.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who has previously expressed opposition to reducing the rate for the wealthiest earners, acknowledged Tuesday that the negotiators appear to have agreed on the move. "I don't think lowering the top rate is a good idea," Collins said.

She didn't threaten to vote against the final bill, however, if it included a lower rate, saying "I'm going to wait and look at the entire conference report and see what all the provisions are."

Among the other tax breaks, negotiators agreed to eliminate the alternative minimum tax for corporations, a big sticking point for the business community, the aides said. They also agreed to let homeowners deduct interest on the first \$750,000 of a new mortgage, down from the current limit of \$1 million.

The GOP goal is to deliver to President Donald Trump the first major rewrite of the U.S. tax system in more than 30 years, pushing into every corner of the American economy and society. Lawmakers hope to finalize a bill no later than Friday, vote next week and deliver the package of steep tax cuts for corpora-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 34 of 46

tions and more modest cuts for families to the president's desk before Christmas.

Republican lawmakers were optimistic Tuesday that a deal was imminent. The total amount of tax breaks cannot exceed \$1.5 trillion over the next decade, under budget rules adopted by both the House and Senate.

Lawmakers and aides were working to blend separate tax bills that were passed by the House and Senate.

The Senate's No. 2 Republican, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, said an agreement in principle on a final package could come as soon as Tuesday. "I think it could and I hope it is," he said.

Lawmakers said workers could start seeing changes in the amount of taxes withheld from their paychecks early next year. However, taxpayers won't file their 2018 tax returns until the following year.

Both the House and Senate bills would scale back the deduction for state and local taxes, limiting it to \$10,000 in property taxes. California Republicans have pushed to amend the bill to enable individuals to deduct state and local income taxes as well as property taxes. Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, said there is an agreement on how to address the issue, though he wasn't specific.

"It's a huge issue in districts and there's an agreement about how they are going to approach it and I just want to see that issue taken care of," said Sessions, chairman of the House Rules Committee. "Once again, we're in negotiation, and sometimes when you negotiate you have to decide what you're willing to fight for and we need to fight for that."

The House bill would limit the mortgage interest deduction to the first \$500,000 of a new mortgage, while the Senate bill would keep the current limit of \$1 million. Two congressional aides said negotiators have agreed to split the difference.

The provision would not affect current mortgages.

The housing industry lobbied hard against changes to the deduction, arguing it would hurt home values.

For corporations, the House-passed bill would eliminate the alternative minimum tax, but the Senate bill would retain it. The tax was meant to ensure that corporations pay at least some tax.

Republican lawmakers from both the House and Senate said retaining the tax would limit the ability of corporations to take advantage of popular tax credits, including one for research and development.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., has come out in favor of repealing the corporate AMT, giving the proposal momentum.

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., said he talked with GOP leaders about setting the corporate tax rate at 21 percent. Meadows, who chairs the conservative Freedom Caucus, said he prefers a 20 percent corporate rate. When asked whether the higher rate is a deal-breaker, Meadows said it depends on what else is in the bill.

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.

Both the House and Senate bills would cut taxes by about \$1.5 trillion over the next decade while adding billions to the deficit.

Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

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

NTSB blames captain, bad safety culture for loss of El Faro

By JASON DEAREN, Associated Press

A ship captain's unwillingness to listen to his crew's suggestions to change course from the path of a raging hurricane. A weak corporate safety culture that left crewmembers ill-prepared to deal with heavy weather. An old ship with outdated lifeboats, open to the elements.

All these factors contributed to the sinking of the El Faro in the fury of Hurricane Joaquin on Oct. 1, 2015, which killed all 33 people on board, the National Transportation Safety Board announced on Tuesday. The report concludes a 2-year investigation into the worst U.S. maritime disaster in modern history.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 35 of 46

The NTSB issued 53 safety recommendations along with its findings, which investigators hope will be adopted by the industry, maritime safety inspectors and weather forecasters to make the seas safer for future generations.

"I hope that this tragedy at sea can serve as a lighthouse to guide the safety of marine transportation," said Robert Sumwalt, the board's chairman.

The El Faro, which means lighthouse in Spanish, sank between Jacksonville and San Juan, Puerto Rico after losing engine power in the Category 3 storm. The NTSB retrieved the ship's voyage data recorder, or "black box," from the sea floor near the Bahamas, 15,000-feet (4,570 meters) under the surface. The device held 26 hours of data, including audio of conversations on the ship's bridge as the frantic crew struggled to save the ship and themselves.

While the board found no fault with El Faro Capt. Michael Davidson's decision to leave port in Jacksonville, they did blame his reliance on an emailed weather forecasting system that contained hours-old data, rather than online updates from the National Hurricane Center. Investigators believe, based on his decisions and recorded comments, that he wasn't aware of the delay in the data, and that instead of skirting the storm, he sent the El Faro on a collision course with the hurricane.

"Although up-to-date weather information was available on the ship, the El Faro captain did not use the most current weather information for decision-making," NTSB investigator Mike Kucharski said at the meeting, held in Washington, D.C. "The captain did not take sufficient action to avoid Hurricane Joaquin, thereby putting El Faro and its crew in peril."

The board also criticized the "weak safety culture" of ship owner TOTE Maritime, Inc., including the lack of employee training for dealing with heavy weather situations and flooding. A hatch had been left open, allowing water from the roiling sea to flood an interior hold; this led to the ship tilting, disrupting the flow of oil to the engines. Once the freighter lost engine power, it was at the mercy of battering swells.

Also, the ship's wind gauge, called an anemometer, was broken and the 40-year-old freighter's open-top lifeboats would not have protected the crew, even if they had been able to launch them. The El Faro was legally allowed to carry lifeboats that expose people to the elements — just like the lifeboats on the Titanic and the Lusitania — due to safety-rule exemptions for older ships.

Whether the crew could have survived Joaquin's punishing winds and high seas had the El Faro been equipped with the closed-top lifeboats used by newer ships is unknown, but NTSB safety investigator Jon Furukawa said it could have helped crewmembers fighting for their lives .

"We believe that would've been the best method of departing the vessel under these conditions. It is still challenging, and we don't know if they would've survived," Furukawa said. "But enclosed lifeboats are the current standard and the El Faro did not have the current standard."

The board is not only recommending closed-top boats for all merchant ships, but also that the entire industry require crewmembers to carry personal locator beacons to better locate them during marine emergencies.

The El Faro had an older emergency position-indicating radio beacon, or EPIRB, which did not transmit global position system coordinates, and that made locating the ship more difficult for search-and-rescue crews. Given the heavy weather, rescuers probably couldn't have reached the ship any sooner, but the board believes the new requirement would help in future sea accidents.

The NTSB's draft recommendations are not law, but are used to guide industry changes or updates to existing safety procedures overseen by the U.S. Coast Guard and so-called "classification societies" like the American Bureau of Shipping, which conducts a large percentage of marine inspections on the Guard's behalf. The recommendations also can be used by Congress to create new laws meant to improve safety.

Larry Brennan, a maritime law professor at Fordham Law School and retired U.S. Navy captain, said the NTSB's recommendations highlighted major safety problems in the entire industry, including the Coast Guard and classification societies that are in charge of inspecting vessels for safety.

"El Faro was a worn, aged ship which succumbed to heavy weather in large part because of multiple unseaworthy conditions, poor leadership and bad decisions by the captain, American Bureau of Shipping, the owners as well as inadequate surveys and inspections by the U.S. Coast Guard," Brennan said.

Follow Jason Dearen on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/JHDearen>

Trump says female senator 'would do anything' for money

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fending off the renewed focus on sexual harassment allegations against him, President Donald Trump lashed out at Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand on Tuesday, declaring the New York Democrat and frequent presidential critic had come to his office "begging" for campaign contributions and "would do anything" to get them.

A chorus of Democrats accused Trump of insinuations about Gillibrand that were unsavory at best.

Nothing of the kind, retorted White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. She said "there is no way that this is sexist at all," and she suggested the tweet could be considered sexually charged "only if your mind is in the gutter."

Gillibrand, who had called for the president's resignation a day earlier because of allegations of sexual misconduct, called his attack a "sexist smear attempting to silence my voice."

"I will not be silenced on this issue," she said. "Neither will the women who stood up to the president yesterday," referring to those who have accused the president of sexual harassment.

With nearly each week bringing new headlines about sexual misconduct forcing men from positions of power, the rising #MeToo movement has landed squarely at the front door of Trump's White House. A handful of Democratic senators have called for his resignation, nearly 60 lawmakers are urging a congressional probe into his behavior and some of the 16 women who have accused Trump of harassment have resurfaced their stories.

Gillibrand, one of the leading lawmakers advocating against sexual harassment and a potential 2020 presidential contender, was at a bipartisan Bible study session when a staffer alerted her to Trump's tweet, according to an aide.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., another potential presidential contender, tweeted to the president: "Are you really trying to bully, intimidate and slut-shame @SenGillibrand? Do you know who you're picking a fight with? Good luck with that, @realDonaldTrump."

Trump's tweet Tuesday did not directly address sexual harassment, but said of Gillibrand: "Lightweight Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a total flunky for Chuck Schumer and someone who would come to my office 'begging' for campaign contributions not so long ago (and would do anything for them), is now in the ring fighting against Trump. Very disloyal to Bill & Crooked-USED!"

Sanders insisted that Trump meant to denounce Gillibrand's role within the Washington political culture and nothing more.

"The president is very obvious. This is the same sentiment that the president has expressed many times before when he has exposed the corruption of the entire political system," Sanders said during the White House press briefing. "If you look back at past comments that this president has made, he's used that same terminology many times in reference to men."

Trump frequently derides "the swamp" of campaign finance and he has previously tweeted about politicians "begging" for donations. In 2013, he wrote of New York's attorney general: "Why did lightweight A.G. Eric Schneiderman come to my office on numerous occasions begging for campaign contributions?"

Trump donated \$4,800 to Gillibrand's Senate campaign in 2010, according to federal campaign finance records. Before launching his presidential campaign, he frequently bestowed donations on politicians of both parties.

His broadside against Gillibrand was the latest example of Trump hurling a provocative, if vague, attack that was open to interpretation, allowing him to distance himself from criticism that he's being inflammatory.

His tweet outraged Democrats, who said the president was again debasing a woman. Several Democratic senators have now demanded that Trump step down, including Hawaii's Mazie Hirono.

"He is a liar. He is an admitted sexual predator and the only thing that will stop him is his resignation,"

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 37 of 46

Hirono said. "He not only owes Kirsten an apology, he owes an apology to our entire country, particularly the women in this country."

The Democratic Women's Working Group held a news conference to demand that the House Oversight Committee investigate sexual misconduct allegations against Trump. Republican lawmakers, who control both houses of Congress, have indicated that such a probe is unlikely.

The criticism largely came from one side of the aisle: Republicans mostly remained silent about the tweet, with Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, a frequent Trump critic, being an exception. He said, he "didn't think it was appropriate at all."

More than a dozen women came forward during last year's campaign to say that Trump had harassed them or worse, many speaking out in the wake of the "Access Hollywood" tape in which he is heard bragging about groping women. Several have spoken out again this week, saying that the #MeToo movement is an occasion to ensure he is held accountable.

White House aides have warily watched the movement sweep across Capitol Hill, fearful of another distraction for a president saddled with poor approval numbers and a thin legislative track record.

And the president is said to have fumed when Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in a weekend interview that the president's accusers' voices "should be heard." His reaction was described by two people who are familiar with his views but who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Trump has denied the women's claims. In a heated exchange with reporters on Monday, Sanders said anew that the issue had been settled in Trump's favor on Election Day.

Sanders also promised that the White House would provide a list of eyewitnesses and corroborating evidence to exonerate Trump. Nearly 24 hours later, the White House sent along an email that, citing news reports that quoted witnesses, offered rebuttals to two of the accusations.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Nancy Benac, Juliet Linderman, Kevin Freking and Matthew Daly contributed to this report from Washington.

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

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, while on medical leave, 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 38 of 46

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 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 permanent concussion effects, the same as it does for other lasting 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" in talks between MLB and the umpires' union, 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.

Orioles manager Buck Showalter was in the dugout for Scott's last game, when he was carried off the dirt at Rogers Centre on a spinal board. Showalter was there, too, the first time Scott worked the plate in the postseason, in a 1995 AL Division Series matchup between Seattle and New York.

That playoff game at Yankee Stadium went 15 innings and took more than five tense hours. Both sides were barking at Scott and at some point Showalter, then New York's manager, walked out for a word with him.

"I said, 'Dale, relax, don't worry about it, it's just a ballgame,'" Showalter recalled. "He said, 'Easy for you to say.'"

"Good guy, good umpire," Showalter said Tuesday at the winter meetings. "I'm very proud of Dale for a lot of things, on and off the field,"

Scott can look back on a lot of games. 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 evening 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!"

Paris hosts major climate summit _ and it's all about Trump

By THOMAS ADAMSON and PHILIPPE SOTTO, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The global climate summit in Paris was designed to bypass Donald Trump, but the U.S. president ended up playing a starring role.

Trump became the unwitting villain as world leaders, investors and other Americans assailed him Tuesday for rejecting the Paris climate accord.

To emphasize their point — and prevent others from following his lead — they announced more than \$1 billion in investments to make it easier for countries and industries to give up oil and coal.

French President Emmanuel Macron used the summit to seize the global spotlight, capitalizing on Trump's isolationist policies and German Chancellor Angela Merkel's domestic weakness to position himself as the world's moral compass on climate change.

"We're not moving fast enough," Macron said, warning that the 2015 Paris climate accord is "fragile."

"It's time to act and move faster and win this battle" against climate change, he told the more than 50 world leaders and others gathered in Paris.

After opening the summit on a pessimistic note, Macron was more encouraging at the closing, praising the "very concrete" commitments made by the participants.

"We started today to make up some ground in this battlefield," he said in his closing speech. Today's commitments will be able to be tracked and verified on a dedicated platform, he added.

Bill Gates, Richard Branson and other energy executives and investment fund leaders announced a dozen international projects emerging from the summit that will inject money into efforts to curb climate change.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim won rousing applause when he announced that his agency would stop financing oil and gas projects in two years.

The summit, co-hosted by the U.N., the World Bank and Macron, was held on the second anniversary of the Paris climate accord, which was ratified by 170 countries. More than 50 heads of state and government took part.

Trump wasn't invited, but he was ubiquitous.

One by one, officials including former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, billionaire Michael Bloomberg and former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry insisted the world will shift to cleaner fuels and reduce emissions regardless of whether the Trump administration pitches in.

Central to the summit was countering Trump's main argument that the 2015 Paris accord on reducing global emissions would hurt U.S. business.

Macron, a 39-year-old former investment banker, argues that the big businesses and successful economies of the future will be making and using renewable energy instead of oil.

The projects announced Tuesday include a program for eight U.S. states to develop electric vehicles, an investment fund for the hurricane-hit Caribbean and money from Gates' foundation to help farmers adapt to climate change and develop low-carbon technology.

The projects also aim to speed up the end of the combustion engine to reduce the emissions that contribute to global warming.

Activists kept up pressure with protests — including one on a bridge at the summit venue, an island in the Seine River — calling for companies and governments to stop investing in oil and coal now.

Top officials agreed with them, saying the global financial system isn't shifting fast enough away from carbon emissions and toward renewable energy and business projects.

"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 his country is investing in climate monitoring technology and hydrogen energy, but he said, "We have to do more and better."

Bloomberg, the former New York mayor, said environmentalists owed Trump a debt of "gratitude" for acting as a "rallying cry" for action on climate change. Bloomberg said the private sector coalition called "America's Pledge," that promises to honor the climate goals set in 2015, "now represents half of the U.S. economy."

Brown, the California governor, argued against Trump's plans to resurrect coal mining and said "it's time for President Trump to join the rest of the world, not oppose it" on climate change.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Brown cited recent wildfires in his state as an example of extreme weather worsened by human-made climate change.

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.

Merkel, who was once labeled the "climate chancellor" for her efforts to curb global warming, faced criticism in Germany for failing to attend the summit.

In the Dutch city of The Hague, experts launched a plan Tuesday aimed at addressing threats created by water and food shortages.

Associated Press writers Angela Charlton, Sylvie Corbet, Jeffrey Schaeffer and Masha Macpherson in Paris and Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed.

Trump says senator 'would do anything' for cash

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pushing into the sexual harassment debate, President Donald Trump laced into Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand on Tuesday, tweeting that the New York Democrat had begged him for campaign contributions in the past and "would do anything" to get them. Democrats accused the president of comments that were crude and worse.

Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who had called for Trump's resignation a day earlier while citing allegations of sexual misconduct, called Trump's attack a "sexist smear attempting to silence my voice."

"I will not be silenced on this issue," Gillibrand insisted. "Neither will the women who stood up to the president yesterday," referring to women who have accused the president of sexual misconduct.

The Democrats were badly misreading the president's comments, said Trump spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "There's no way" his tweet was sexist, she said, and only people with their minds in the gutter would read anything sexual into it.

Standing up for Gillibrand, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., tweeted to the president: "Are you really trying to bully, intimidate and slut-shame @SenGillibrand? Do you know who you're picking a fight with? Good luck with that, @realDonaldTrump. Nevertheless, #shepersisted."

The phrase "she persisted" went viral earlier this year after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell silenced Warren in the chamber as she tried to read a letter from Coretta Scott King about Attorney General nominee Jeff Sessions.

Trump's tweet Tuesday did not directly address sexual harassment, but said of Gillibrand: "Lightweight Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a total flunky for Chuck Schumer and someone who would come to my office 'begging' for campaign contributions not so long ago (and would do anything for them), is now in the ring fighting against Trump. Very disloyal to Bill & Crooked-USED!"

A day earlier, Gillibrand said Trump should resign because there were credible accusations against him. And barring that, she said, "Congress should investigate the multiple sexual harassment and assault allegations against him."

Trump's tweet Tuesday morning inflamed Democrats who said the president was again debasing a woman. Trump had not responded to earlier resignation calls from three male senators, Independent Bernie Sand-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 41 of 46

ers of Vermont and Democrats Cory Booker of New Jersey and Jeff Merkley of Oregon.

Hours later, Hawaii Sen. Mazie Hirono also called for the president to step down, declaring that Trump's "tweet against Kirsten was just another example of his misogyny."

"He is a liar. He is an admitted sexual predator and the only thing that will stop him is his resignation," Hirono said. "He not only owes Kirsten an apology, he owes an apology to our entire country, particularly the women in this country."

Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif., called it "an ugly and suggestive tweet, and we all know what he was trying to say there, and it is beneath the office of the presidency."

The criticism of Trump largely came from one side of the aisle. Republicans largely remained silent about the tweet, with Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, a frequent Trump critic, being an exception, saying he "didn't think it was appropriate at all."

More than a dozen women came forward during last year's campaign, many in the wake of the "Access Hollywood" tape in which Trump is heard bragging about committing sexual assault, to say that the celebrity businessman had harassed them.

With each day seeming to bring new headlines that force men from positions of power, four of Trump's accusers re-upped their claims Monday, believing the national movement on sexual harassment should force change at the White House too.

Trump has denied the claims. In a heated exchange with reporters in the White House briefing room on Monday, press secretary Sanders steadfastly dismissed accusations against the Republican president and suggested the issue had been decided in Trump's favor on Election Day.

Sanders also promised that the White House would provide a list of eyewitnesses and corroborating evidence to exonerate Trump. Nearly 24 hours later, the White House sent along an email that, citing news reports that quote witnesses, offered rebuttals to two of the accusations.

Trump donated \$4,800 to Gillibrand's Senate campaign in 2010, according to federal campaign finance records. Before launching his presidential campaign, Trump frequently bestowed donations on politicians of both parties.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Richard Lardner contributed to this report.

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

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 since September has been left unfunded and stuck in a political stalemate.

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

Hard-hit by opioids, a city struggles with hardcore homeless

By PHUONG LE, Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. (AP) — This is the lesson that the working-class city of Everett has learned: It takes a community to rescue the hardcore homeless.

It takes teams of outreach workers — building relationships with men and women struggling with addiction or untreated mental illness, prodding them to get help. It takes police and other agencies, working

Everett Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 42 of 46

together to provide for their needs.

Everett, hard-hit by the opioid epidemic, is trying an array of strategies to tackle homelessness, addiction, untreated mental illness and other problems on its streets.

For starters, the city put together a team that would track the 25 most costly and vulnerable cases, and hover over each one individually until he or she was in treatment or housing.

"It was when everything else seems to have failed," said Hil Kaman, who left his job prosecuting the homeless about a year-and-a-half ago and took up the challenge of finding solutions as the city's public health and safety director.

Officials also are pushing new permanent supportive housing and sending social workers out with police officers.

The city of 110,000 people north of Seattle and surrounding Snohomish County saw a 65 percent jump in people living outside in the past two years — among the largest increases on the West Coast in that time.

The number of unsheltered chronically homeless — those who have been homeless for longer than a year while struggling with a serious mental illness, substance use disorder or physical disability — has grown steadily in the Everett region, more than doubling since 2015.

The opioid epidemic, poverty, lack of unskilled jobs, rising rents and a shortage of affordable housing have made it harder for those who fall into homelessness to get out.

The problem is not limited to Everett. Up and down the West Coast, the high cost of housing has forced thousands of people to live on the streets, a trend that opioids have exacerbated.

"These are expensive places to live. It's expensive for everybody. But the burden falls the hardest on people with the biggest problems," said Steve Berg, vice president for programs and policy with the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

In 2011, roughly one in every five opioid-related deaths in Washington state took place in the city and surrounding Snohomish County. That was the peak, but heroin deaths remain high and deaths from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl are climbing.

The crisis had become so dire that Everett city officials became the first to sue the manufacturer of the painkiller OxyContin in January. The lawsuit blames Purdue Pharma for an addiction crisis that has overwhelmed city resources and deepened its homelessness problem.

While that case works through the court, outreach workers are fanning out to find people camping under the freeway or living in the woods and try to connect them to services. Many of them initially deflect treatment. Some are too ill to even know they need aid.

James McGee, a former heroin addict who is now more than three months clean, sought help after he overdosed in a parking lot.

Over the summer, he walked into a police station and pleaded for help. Kaitlyn Dowd, a social worker with Everett police, helped connect him to treatment.

"It took me losing everything," said McGee, 27, who was living in his minivan but is now in sober housing and working, determined to fix his life.

For every person who finds a treatment bed or permanent supportive housing, many more wait.

Experts say lack of on-demand treatment and a shortage of housing to meet specific needs are the biggest barriers to helping people off the streets. Without permanent housing, advocates and city officials say the homeless will end up back on the street after completing their treatment, repeating the cycle.

That's why Everett is breaking ground next month on a low-barrier permanent supportive housing project on city land. The project with Catholic Housing Services will house 65 chronically homeless people without requiring they first deal with substance abuse or other issues. Residents will have access to mental health, recovery and other services and around-the-clock, on-site staff.

Studies have found that such housing can save taxpayer money when compared to the costs of serving the chronically homeless in emergency rooms, shelters and jails.

But so many are on the waitlist that those units will fill up when it opens in 2019.

Hard cases resist easy solutions, but Everett's team persists.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 43 of 46

A specialized team of mental health professionals, housing and recovery experts, social workers and officers worked for more than a year to build a relationship with Joshua Rape, a chronically homeless man who has bounced in and out of jail and the streets.

When he decided this fall that he was ready for treatment, the team got him into a motel until a slot opened up. They took turns checking in daily. In October, they drove him to catch a bus to the recovery center 200 miles away.

"We've all been counting down the days until he's been ready," said Dowd, the social worker.

Now Rape is back in Everett, having finished 30 days of inpatient treatment. For the first time, the man who has been homeless for six years will have his own place — a one-bedroom apartment that he'll move into this month.

"I had to make multiple attempts at doing this," he said. "It can be done. You have to work for it."

3 things to watch for from the Federal Reserve on Wednesday

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the day when Janet Yellen will hold her final news conference as Federal Reserve chair, the Fed has left little doubt what it plans to do Wednesday: Raise its benchmark interest rate for the third time this year.

The increase would be in line with the series of incremental rate hikes the Fed has been making to keep up with a steadily rising U.S. economy. Over time, the rate increases could mean somewhat more expensive business and consumer loans, including mortgages.

But investors have barely blinked at the prospect of higher rates. The financial markets appear confident that the economy remains vigorous enough to withstand slightly higher borrowing costs.

It's a testament to how far the economy has come: In the midst of the 2008 financial crisis, the Fed slashed its key rate to a record low near zero — and then kept it there for seven years to support a fragile economy that had endured the Great Recession. The central bank finally raised rates modestly in December 2015 and then again in December 2016 and in March and June this year. Even so, the benchmark rate remains in a still-low range of 1 percent to 1.25 percent.

Investors seeking clues about what the Fed may do in the coming months will scrutinize its updated economic outlook Wednesday and assess Yellen's remarks in her last meeting with reporters before Jerome Powell succeeds her in February.

Here are three things to watch for after the Fed's meeting ends:

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The Fed will update its economic outlook, which it does four times a year. The outlook includes its projections for inflation, unemployment, economic growth and the path of rate increases. Since the Fed's last update in September, Congress has moved to the edge of passing a tax bill that could have far-reaching consequences. Some analysts say the tax cuts could slightly raise economic growth but also swell federal deficits, which might eventually compel government spending cuts.

Analysts will be watching to see whether the prospect of an economic stimulus, in the form of \$1.5 trillion in tax reductions over a decade, leads the Fed to cast a brighter outlook for the economy. If so, that, in turn, could make it likelier that the Fed would decide at some point to accelerate its rate increases.

In September, the Fed projected economic growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, at 2.4 percent this year but then slowing over the next three years until reaching 1.8 percent growth in 2020. That's far below the expectations of Trump, who has boasted that his economic program would double the lackluster 2 percent average growth during the Obama years to 4 percent annual GDP growth or better.

The Fed's forecast in September had estimated that unemployment would be 4.3 percent at year's end. The rate has already reached a 17-year low of 4.1 percent. The Fed also put its long-term unemployment rate — the level it sees as achieving its goal of maximum employment — at 4.6 percent. If the Fed lowers that figure, it could suggest that the policymakers are willing to accept lower unemployment without

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 44 of 46

worrying about inflation.

Likewise, the Fed target for average annual inflation is 2 percent. Yet inflation has remained below that level for more than five years. Fed officials have blamed temporary factors for the slowdown. But analysts will watch to see whether the Fed reduces its inflation forecast or still projects that it can achieve its 2 percent target.

DOT PLOTS

The Fed will issue a diagram showing where each official expects to see the path of interest rates in coming years. These forecasts appear as dots representing the anonymous projections of each Fed policymaker. Analysts study any shifts in the so-called dot plot for signals about the Fed's likely rate plans.

Powell stressed during his confirmation hearing that he planned to continue Yellen's gradual approach to raising rates. Many economists expect the Powell Fed to raise rates three more times in 2018. But some predict four hikes next year on the belief that the Fed will feel compelled to accelerate its rate increases to prevent the economy, fueled by Republican tax cuts, from triggering high inflation.

YELLEN'S GOODBYE

The Fed will hold one more policy meeting before Yellen's four-year term ends Feb. 3, but Wednesday will mark her final quarterly news conference as chair. Yellen has also said that she will give up her board seat once Powell is confirmed by the Senate as the next chairman.

Still, she will likely face a flurry of questions from reporters trying to determine how the Fed might respond to chronically slow inflation in 2018. Fed officials have spent much of 2017 debating what the puzzling slowdown in inflation might be signifying about the economy. Yellen is certain to be asked about that debate.

Yellen, the first woman to lead the nation's central bank, will likely face questions about Trump's decision to break with a long tradition of offering a sitting Fed chairman a second four-year term. Trump chose Powell rather than renominate Yellen — as a way, he acknowledged, to put his own stamp on the Fed.

At her final news conference, many Fed watchers say it's unlikely that Yellen will deviate from her typically cautious demeanor, in part out of concern that in speaking her mind, she might jeopardize what she is hoping will be a smooth handover to Powell.

Asian stocks mixed ahead of Fed rate announcement

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks were mixed Wednesday following overnight gains on Wall Street as investors looked ahead to a likely U.S. interest rate hike.

KEEPING SCORE: The Shanghai Composite Index was unchanged at 3,279.43 while Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 0.3 percent to 22,805.80. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.5 percent to 28,925.73 and Seoul's Kospi advanced 0.4 percent to 2,471.74. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 was unchanged at 6,015.00. Benchmarks in New Zealand and Singapore declined while Taiwan and other Southeast Asian bourses were higher.

WALL STREET: Big-name companies gained, delivering records for two of the major stock indexes. Banks and other financial stocks led the gainers as the Fed met to discuss interest rates. Technology stocks declined the most. Energy stocks also fell as crude oil prices closed lower. Bitcoin futures fell on their second day of trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.2 percent to 2,664.11. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.5 percent to 24,504.80. The Nasdaq composite lost 0.2 percent to 6,862.32.

FED WATCH: The U.S. central bank is expected to raise rates Wednesday for the third time this year, which allows banks to charge more to lend money. Even though inflation has remained low, the Fed has seen a path to gradually raise rates as the economy and labor market have strengthened. An increase of 0.25 percent in short-term interest rates "is as good as a done deal" based on options markets pricing, Mizuho Bank said in a report. Investors will be listening for any hints the Fed could pick up its pace on rate hikes next year.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The Fed looks set to hike the Fed funds rate, so it is really down to how quickly we

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 45 of 46

can react to any changes in the 'dots plot,' as well as to the general tone of the statement," said Chris Weston of IG in a report. He noted outgoing Fed chair Janet Yellen will be holding her final press conference. "One questions how much the market will react to her views, although she does speak on behalf of the collective," said Weston. "Either way, it promises to be a big night for markets even if implied volatility is still quite subdued and options markets are not pricing in fireworks."

EUROPE: The European Central Bank and the Bank of England will have policy announcements on Thursday. Neither is expected to change rates, leaving the focus on their economic forecasts.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 113.45 yen from Tuesday's 113.54 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.1749 from \$1.1739.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 41 cents to \$57.55 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 85 cents on Tuesday to \$57.14. Brent crude, used to price international oils, advanced 61 cents to \$63.95 in London. It plunged \$1.35 the previous session.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2017. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 1937, the Chinese city of Nanjing fell to Japanese forces during the Sino-Japanese War; what followed was a massacre of war prisoners, soldiers and citizens. (China maintains that up to 300,000 people were killed; Japanese nationalists say the death toll was far lower, and some maintain the massacre never happened.)

On this date:

In 1642, Dutch navigator Abel Tasman sighted present-day New Zealand.

In 1769, Dartmouth College in New Hampshire received its charter.

In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew two days later.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's "An American in Paris" had its premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1944, during World War II, the light cruiser USS Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack off Negros Island in the Philippines that claimed 133 lives.

In 1962, the United States launched Relay 1, a communications satellite which retransmitted television, telephone and digital signals.

In 1977, an Air Indiana Flight 216, a DC-3 carrying the University of Evansville basketball team on a flight to Nashville, crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all 29 people on board.

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 1994, an American Eagle commuter plane crashed short of Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina, killing 15 of the 20 people on board.

In 1996, the U.N. Security Council chose Kofi Annan (KOH'-fee AN'-nan) of Ghana to become the world body's seventh secretary-general.

In 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

Ten years ago: Democratic presidential hopefuls meeting in Johnston, Iowa, called for higher taxes on the highest-paid Americans and on big corporations in an unusually cordial debate. Rupert Murdoch completed his \$5 billion-plus deal to acquire Dow Jones & Co., adding The Wall Street Journal to his global media conglomerate. Major League Baseball's Mitchell Report was released, identifying 85 names to differing

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 157 ~ 46 of 46

degrees in connection with the alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Five years ago: U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice withdrew from consideration to replace outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton after running into opposition from Republicans over her explanation of the September attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. (Rice had said the attack stemmed from a spontaneous protest over an anti-Islamic video, an assertion which later proved incorrect.)

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump announced his choice of ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson to be U.S. secretary of state. Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson was named The Associated Press' college football Player of the Year. Actor Alan Thicke, best remembered as the beloved dad on the ABC series "Growing Pains," died in Los Angeles at age 69. Lawrence Colburn, a helicopter gunner during the Vietnam War who helped end the slaughter of hundreds of unarmed Vietnamese villagers by U.S. troops at My Lai (mee ly), died in Canton, Georgia, at age 67.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 97. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 92. Actor Christopher Plummer is 88. Country singer Buck White is 87. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 84. Singer John Davidson is 76. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 72. Singer Ted Nugent is 69. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 69. Country musician Ron Getman is 69. Actor Robert Lindsay is 68. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 68. Actress Wendie Malick is 67. Former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 67. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 64. Country singer John Anderson is 63. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 63. Singer-actor Morris Day is 61. Actor Steve Buscemi (boo-SEH'-mee) is 60. Actor Johnny Whitaker (TV: "Family Affair") is 58. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; Twilight Hours) is 55. Actress-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 51. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 50. Actor Bart Johnson is 47. Actor Jeffrey Pierce is 46. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 43. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 42. Actor James Kyson Lee is 42. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 36. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 36. Actor Michael Socha is 30. Neo-soul musician Wesley Watkins (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 30. Actor Marcel Spears (TV: "The Mayor") is 29. Singer Taylor Swift is 28. Actress Maisey Stella is 14.

Thought for Today: "A society in which men recognize no check upon their freedom soon becomes a society where freedom is the possession of only a savage few." — Judge Learned Hand, American jurist (1872-1961).