

Groton Daily Independent

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The Groton Area boys' basketball team pulled out a 70-63 exciting win over Britton-Hecla last night. The stats are lost in cyberspace so we hope to get them for tomorrow's edition.

Thursday

Girls basketball hosts Ipswich
C game is cancelled. JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Friday

1 p.m.: Elementary Christmas Concert
2 p.m.: Early Dismissal

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

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**

No. 12 Wolves Fall to MSU Moorhead in Overtime

Moorhead, Minn. – In their first overtime contest of the 2017-18 season, the No. 12 Northern State University women's basketball team fell to MSU Moorhead 64-61 on the road. The Wolves led 28-24 at the half, however 24 fourth quarter points from the Dragons forced the first overtime period. NSU drops to 9-2 overall and 5-1 in the league, while MSU improves to 7-3 overall and 4-2 in the NSIC.

The Wolves were unable to get things going in the overtime period with just four points in the Dragons seven. MSU Moorhead quickly got out to a 4-point lead, which was their largest of the game, as Northern could not overcome the deficit.

NSU shot 35.7 percent from the floor, 33.3 percent from the 3-point line, and 84.2 percent from the foul line. They tallied 12 points in the paint, 13 second chance points, and nine points off the bench. The Wolves out-rebounded the Dragons 44-41.

Jill Conrad led the team with a season high 20 points, shooting 53.8 percent from the floor, and adding seven rebounds and one block. Miranda Ristau was second on the team with 12 points. The senior notched her third double-double of the season with a team leading 13 rebounds. Ristau also added three blocks, three assists, and one steal.

Jessi Marti was the final Wolf in double figures with ten points, notching two of the team's five made 3-pointers. Marti added five rebound, two assists, and one steal to the team total. Brianna Kusler and Alexis Tappe rounded out the starters with eight and two points respectively. Kusler notched a team leading four assists, while Tappe tallied two. The pair also combined for nine team rebounds.

Haley Froelich led the team off the bench with six points, shooting 50.0 percent from the floor. Froelich added one rebound and one steal. Gabby Laimer added three points of her own in nine minutes of action.

The Wolves will return to action over the New Year's weekend with a pair of match-ups against Concordia-St. Paul and Minnesota State on the road. Northern will face the Golden Bears on Saturday the 30th at 4 p.m., and the Mavericks at 2 p.m. on Sunday the 31st.

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
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carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
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genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

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

No. 13 Wolves Notch Second Double Figure Victory over MSU Moorhead

Moorhead, Minn. – The No. 13 Northern State University men's basketball team ran away with an 89-70 victory over MSU Moorhead on Tuesday evening. The Wolves scored 53 points in the first half, improving to 12-1 overall and 6-0 in the NSIC.

The Wolves held a 25-point lead at the half, after a nearly perfect 20 minutes of action. NSU shot 69.0 percent from the floor, 61.6 percent from the arc, and 83.3 percent from the foul line. Defensively the Wolves held the Dragons from reaching the foul line in the half and forced six turnovers.

MSUM rallied back in the second out-scoring the Wolves 42-36, however were unable to overcome the first half deficit. In the game, NSU shot 57.4 percent from the floor, 48.0 percent from the 3-point line, and 93.8 percent from the foul line, going a perfect 10-for-10 in the second half. The Wolves tallied 20 points in the paint, 17 points off turnovers, 16 points off the bench, and another eight points off five offensive boards.

Logan Doyle led six in double figures with 19 points in the win, shooting 80.0 percent from the floor. The senior added three rebounds and three assists in just 20 minutes of action. Darin Peterka was second on the team with 15 points, shooting a team leading 6-of-7 from field goal range. Peterka added a team leading five rebounds, as well as two assists and two steals.

Gabe King was on fire from the arc, leading the team with four made 3-pointers and 14 total points. Kind shot 50.0 percent from the 3-point line, and added two assists and one steal. DJ Pollard and Ian Smith rounded out the NSU starters with 13 and 12 points respectively. The duo dished out a team leading four assists and tallied two steals each, while Pollard added four rebounds and Smith notched three.

Carter Evans led the team off the bench with 13 points. Evans matched Peterka, shooting 85.7 percent from the floor, while adding three rebounds, one assist, one block, and one steal. Bo Fries tallied the final points of the night for the Wolves with a made three points. Fries added two rebounds and one assist.

Northern returns to action over the New Year's weekend against Concordia-St. Paul and Minnesota State. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Saturday the 30th versus the Golden Bears and 4 p.m. on Sunday the 31st against the Mavericks.

South Dakota Farmers Union to EPA: Stop Blowing Smoke and Enforce the Law

HURON, S.D. - Today, South Dakota Farmer Union President Doug Sombke called on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stop hiding the true source and quantities of some of most harmful emissions of gasoline by updating their models and enforcing the law.

In a letter to Christopher Grundler, Director of EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Sombke blasted the agency for its unwillingness to take the lead in reducing secondary organic aerosols that comprise the majority of urban particulates (PM2.5) and are, by EPA's own admission, directly linked to gasoline.

His letter was prompted by a report in the Wall Street Journal that leaf blowers emit as much as cars in terms of PM 2.5 with the supporting data in the story derived from an EPA chart titled Blowing Smoke.

"To suggest that leaf blowers are on par with 270 million cars is absurd," said Sombke. "And that absurdity is drawn from outdated information and bad science."

"Whether this is an error of omission or just a refusal to take action, EPA data ignores the fact that counting primary sources that lead to particulate formation is at best half the story," he added, "It is the secondary aerosols from gasoline and the benzene based hydrocarbons that are used for octane which is the real problem."

The letter called on Mr. Grundler to "come clean" and not mislead the public, media and policy makers by incorrectly claiming diesel fuel and vehicles are the problem rather than gasoline and its carcinogenic components.

"Mr. Grundler, I think that you and your colleagues are the ones blowing smoke...do your duty to protect the health and welfare of the American people, especially the most vulnerable among us - our children," Sombke said.

S & S Lumber

of Groton

**will be closing at Noon
on Wednesday, Dec. 20th
for Inventory**

**Will reopen at regular hours on
Thursday, Dec. 21st**

Thank you for your patronage!

September Students of the Month

The student council is sponsoring Student of the Month. Each month the faculty select students who show outstanding academic achievement. These students receive certificates and have an end of the year lunch with the principal.

Students of the Month for September

6th Claire Heinrich,
7th Cole Bisbee
8th Madeline Flihs
9th Samantha Pappas
10th Kaycie Hawkins
11th AnneMarie Smith
12th Madilyn Wright



Claire Heinrich, sixth grade from Groton, is the child of Kevin Heinrich, Joni Heinrich and Crystal Peltier. Siblings are Madi Heinrich, Doug Heinrich and Alyssa Flanigan.

Claire's activities include MathCounts and her accomplishments include getting first in MathCounts and making the honor roll. Favorite subject is social studies and Claire is interested in biology. Claire's future plans include working with and helping animals and her role model is her mom.



Cole Bisbee, seventh grader from Columbia, is the son of Amanda and Tony Bisbee. Siblings are Anna and John.

Cole's activities include football, basketball, baseball and band. His accomplishments are All Stars, Middle School All State Band and earning the Bubba Hanson award. He is interested in sports, hunting, fishing and archery. Math is his favorite subject and he plans to take up Law Enforcement at SDSU. His role model is his dad.



Madeline Flihs, eighth grader from Groton, is the daughter of Jeff and Bridget Flihs. Her siblings are Elizabeth, Sophia and Zachary.

Madeline's activities include basketball, volleyball, Lacrosse, soccer, MathCounts, archery, youth group and band. She has earned first place in MathCounts competitions, a 4.0 GPA and her soccer team made it to the playoffs. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, hunting and fishing. English is her favorite subject and she plans to attend college where she plans to become an anesthesiologist. Her role models are her grandmas - Val Flihs and Sharon Hoffer.



Samantha Pappas, freshman, is the daughter of Val and Kelly Pappas, Groton. Her sisters are Johnna Hepola, Shannon Pappas, Keri Pappas and KaSandra Pappas.

Samantha's activities include multiple band functions, oral interp, debate, Student Congress and tutoring. She went to the Global Finals in Destination Imagination, won multiple awards in band, oral interp, debate and Student Congress. She has been on the honor roll every quarter and has been named Student of the Month multiple times. She is interested in science, technology, math, reading and band. Science is her favorite subject. She plans to get a double major in electrical engineering and computer science and then go on to med school. Her older sister, Keri, is her role model.

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Kaycie Hawkins, sophomore, is the daughter of Lance and Kristie Hawkins, Groton. Her siblings are Katelyn, Kylie and Kelby.

Kaycie's activities are basketball, volleyball, softball, track and field, FBLA, FCCLA, United Methodist Youth Group and Student Council. She has been on the honor roll, a past Student of the Month, and an officer in both FBLA and FCCLA. She likes playing sports, being outside and hanging out with friends and family. Math is her favorite subject and she plans to attend college. Her mom is her role model.



AnneMarie Smith, junior, is the daughter of Steve and Carol Smith, Groton. Her siblings are Sam Smith, Mar Von Diest, Luke Smith, Erin Smith and Isaac Smith.

AnneMarie's activities include show choir, One-Act, All-School Play, Dynamics Dance Team, cross country, oral interpretation, Jazz Band, Chamber Choir and Marching Band. Her accomplishments include being a member of the South Dakota Honor Choir, alternate for All-State Choir, Class A State Show Choir champion, superior Ensemble at State One-Act, Excellent award at State Oral Interpretation and placed multiple times at the Northern Math competitions. She liked playing the piano, singing, reading and spending time with friends and family. Organic Chemistry is her favorite subject. Her future plans are undecided right now. Sarah Honerman is her role model.



Madilyn Wright, senior, is the daughter of Lynn and Stephen Wright, Houghton. Nathan is her brother.

Madilyn's activities include FFA, 4-H, Show Choir, Dance Team, cheerleading and Chamber Choir. She has been president of the Groton FFA chapter, been on the honor roll and lettered in cheerleading. She likes being on the farm and being around animals and she likes to sing and dance and hang out with friends. Math is her favorite subject and she wants to attend the University of South Dakota and major in accounting. Her brother, Nathan, is her role model.

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Today in Weather History

December 20, 1991: Light freezing drizzle and freezing rain developed over northern South Dakota from Timber Lake to Webster. Numerous car accidents were attributed to slippery conditions. The Aberdeen Police Department reported 24 accidents in Aberdeen, but only one resulted in an injury. Numerous businesses closed and schools were canceled.

December 20, 2008: Arctic air combined with blustery northwest winds brought extreme wind chills to central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota from the late afternoon of the 20th until the afternoon of the 21st. Wind chills of 35 below to 45 below zero were common across the area.

December 20, 1836: A famous "sudden freeze" occurred in central Illinois. A cold front with 70 mph winds swept through around Noon dropping the temperature from 40 degrees to near zero in a matter of minutes. Many settlers froze to death. Folklore told of chickens frozen in their tracks and men frozen to saddles. Ice in streams reportedly froze to six inches in a few hours. Click [HERE](#) for more information from Dr. Heidorn.

1942 - An early cold wave sent the temperature plunging to 3 degrees below zero at Nantucket, MA, and to 11 degrees below zero at Boston MA. (The Weather Channel)

December 20, 1977: A "Once in a Lifetime" wind and dust storm struck the south end of the San Joaquin Valley in California. Winds reached 88 mph at Arvin before the anemometer broke and gusts were estimated at 192 mph at Arvin by a U.S. Geological Survey. Meadows Field in Bakersfield recorded sustained 46 mph winds with a gust of 63 mph. The strong winds generated a wall of dust resembling a tidal wave that was 5,000 feet high over Arvin. Blowing sand stripped painted surfaces to bare metal and trapped people in vehicles for several hours. 70% of homes received structural damage in Arvin, Edison and East Bakersfield. 120,000 Kern County customers lost power. Agriculture was impacted as 25 million tons of soil was loosened from grazing lands. Five people died and damages totaled \$34 million dollars.

These strong winds also spread a large fire through the Honda Canyon on Vandenberg Air Force Base in southern California. This fire, which started from a power pole on Tranquillon Ridge being blown over, claimed the lives of Base Commander Colonel Joseph Turner, Fire Chief Billy Bell and Assistant Fire Chief Eugene Cooper. Additionally, severe burns were experienced by Heavy Equipment Operator Clarence McCauley. He later died due to complications from the burns. Click [HERE](#) for video of the fire.

December 20, 1984: Lili, a rare December hurricane, was officially declared a tropical system in the central Atlantic as a well-defined eye type feature was apparent on satellite imagery. The hurricane peaked at sustained 80 mph winds and a pressure of 980 millibars or 28.94 inches of mercury, very respectable Category 1 Hurricane in December.

1987 - Heavy snow fell in the northern mountains of Colorado, with 15 inches reported in the Mary Jane ski area. Strong and gusty winds prevailed from the Northern High Plains to the Great Lakes. Winds gusted to 54 mph at Buffalo NY, and reached 66 mph at Livingston MT. Rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow fell across New England, with up to seven inches of snow in Maine. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong southerly winds ahead of a cold front in the central U.S. gusted to 70 mph at Indianapolis IN. The high winds toppled a masonry wall killing a construction worker. Low pressure and a trailing cold front brought rain and snow and high winds to the western U.S. Winds gusted to 90 mph at the Callahan Ranch south of Reno NV. Soda Springs, in the Sierra Nevada Range of California, received 17 inches of snow in less than 24 hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Brutal northwest winds ushered bitter cold arctic air into the north central U.S. International Falls, MN, and Warroad, MN, tied for honors as the cold spot in the nation with morning lows of 34 degrees below zero. Minot ND reported a wind chill reading of 81 degrees below zero. Squalls produced more heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Erie PA received 21 inches of snow, including four inches in one hour, to bring their total snow cover to 39 inches, an all-time record for that location. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2006 - A major winter storm affected Colorado, dumping several feet of snow on areas of the Rocky Mountains. The snowstorm temporarily closed the Denver International Airport.

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Gradual Clearing	Mostly Clear	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 35 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 19 °F	Low: 6 °F	High: 26 °F	Low: 7 °F	High: 20 °F



Today



 25 to 50°
Warmest in South Central SD

Tonight



 5 to 15°

Light Snow Possible

Published on: 12/20/2017 at 5:45AM

12/20/2017 5:37 AM

Expect breezy southerly winds today with gusts of 35 mph. High temperatures today will range from the upper 20s, in western Minnesota, to the mid-50s, in southwest South Dakota. A cold front sliding across the region tonight will bring northerly winds, along with the potential for light snow. No accumulation is expected tonight.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 35.6

Low Outside Temp: 25.5

High Gust: 15

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1893

Record Low: -29° in 1916

Average High: 24°F

Average Low: 4°F

Average Precip in Dec: 0.33

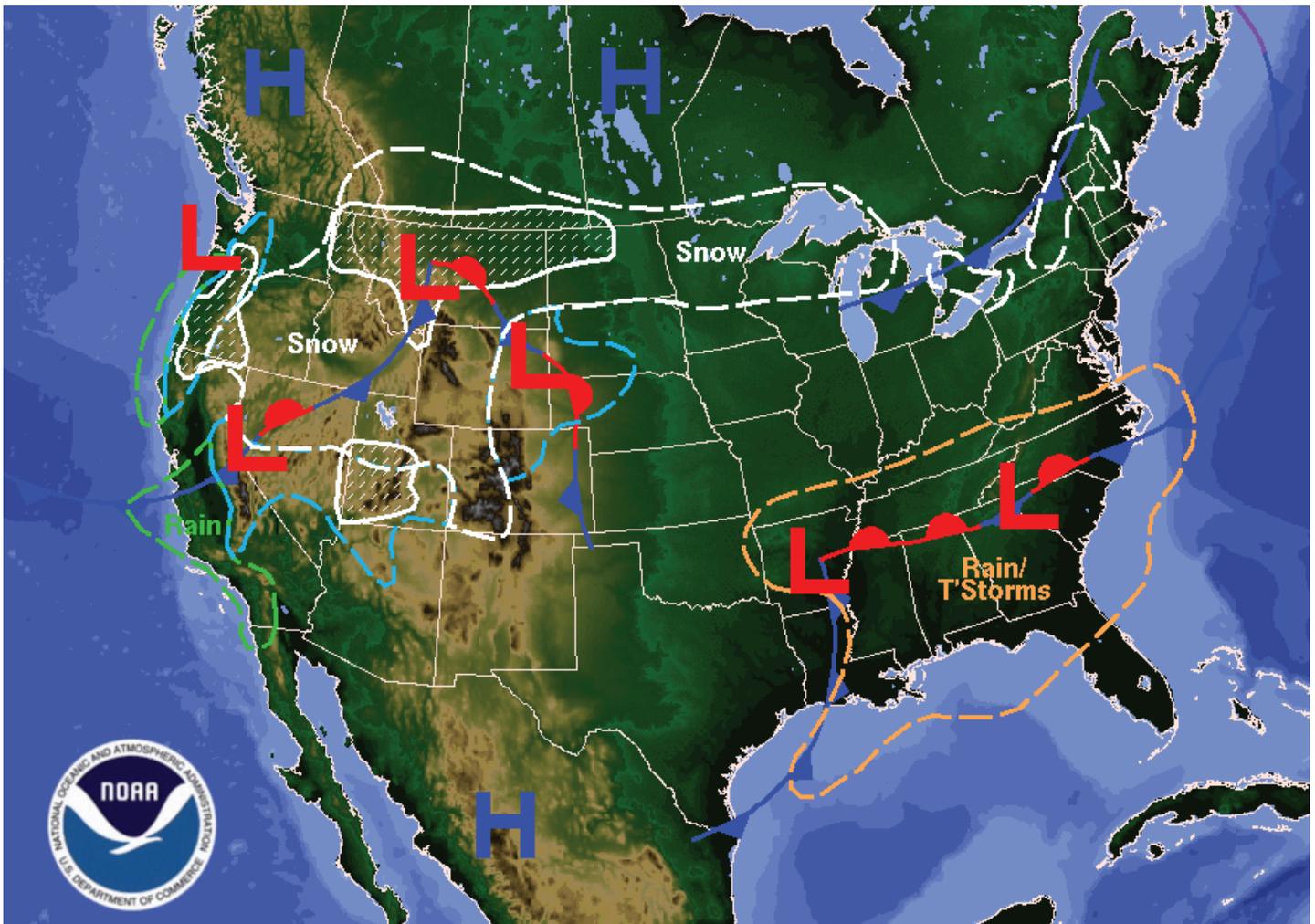
Precip to date in Dec: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.53

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:52 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:10 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Dec 20, 2017, issued 4:35 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)



THE JOY THAT COMES FROM CHRISTMAS

A young run-away girl collapsed on the streets of a large city at the beginning of the Christmas season. She was rushed to a hospital, placed in intensive care and finally made it to a room where she made slow progress in regaining her health.

One evening a group of carolers stopped by her room and sang the beautiful songs that describe the birth of Jesus. After they sang, a young lady approached her bed and asked if she knew the Baby that they sang about.

Quietly, barely above a whisper she said, "I heard about Him when I went to Sunday school. But don't remember too much about Him."

The young lady reminded her of the story and meaning of the birth of Jesus and the plan of salvation. She accepted the Lord as her Savior.

Finally, it was time for her to leave and a nurse said, "Well, now that you're better, it's time for you to leave."

Happily she said, "Yes, but I'm not leaving alone. I'm taking Jesus with me. Do you know Jesus?"

"Oh, yes," replied the nurse, in a grumpy voice.

"Well, then," she asked, "why aren't you filled with joy like I am? If you truly know Jesus, you'll be happy all the time."

David said, "Restore the joy of Your salvation!"

Prayer: Lord, sometimes we surrender our joy to the stress and strains of life. Come now and return the joy we once had when we accepted Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Arlington 66, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 34
Avon 74, Centerville 30
Bridgewater-Emery 79, Canistota 56
Brookings 51, Mitchell 46, OT
Chester 72, McCook Central 64
Dell Rapids St. Mary 63, DeSmet 62
Deuel 78, Deubrook 43
Ethan 75, James Valley Christian 52
Flandreau 79, Castlewood 54
Gregory 56, North Central, Neb. 47
Groton Area 70, Britton-Hecla 63
Hanson 53, Parkston 39
Kimball/White Lake 72, Highmore-Harrold 64
Lake Preston 78, Estelline 47
Langford 74, Eureka/Bowdle 53
Miller 70, Wolsey-Wessington 51
Northwestern 62, Waverly-South Shore 41
Oelrichs 61, Hay Springs, Neb. 20
Rapid City Central 77, Douglas 70
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 63, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 54
Sioux Falls Lincoln 59, Sioux Falls Washington 56
Stanley County 71, Jones County 57
Takini 56, Wakpala 46
Tiospa Zina Tribal 73, Sisseton 66
Vermillion 77, Tri-Valley 60

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Brandon Valley 68, Sioux Falls Washington 58
Brookings 43, Mitchell 34
Burke/South Central 66, Lyman 31
Castlewood 46, Flandreau 40
Chester 72, McCook Central/Montrose 64
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 70, McLaughlin 60
Ethan 71, James Valley Christian 22
Faith 64, Dupree 35
Jones County 55, Stanley County 18
Kimball/White Lake 51, Chamberlain 47
Lemmon 59, Mobridge-Pollock 44
North Central, Neb. 67, Gregory 23
Rapid City Central 77, Douglas 38
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 48, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 42
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 58, Freeman Academy/Marion 26
Vermillion 65, Tri-Valley 33
Wakpala 77, Takini 30

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Wall 54, Newell 34
Warner 61, Milbank Area 25
Waubay/Summit 50, Webster 36
Waverly-South Shore 50, Northwestern 40
Wilmot 43, Hankinson, N.D. 30
Sanford Classic
Sioux Falls Lincoln 50, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 28

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

28-37-39-42-58, Mega Ball: 2, Megaplier: 3

(twenty-eight, thirty-seven, thirty-nine, forty-two, fifty-eight; Mega Ball: two; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$223 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$269 million

UCLA holds off S Dakota 85-82

By TOM CONNOLLY, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thomas Welsh scored 19 points and Aaron Holiday added 15 to lead UCLA to an 85-82 victory over South Dakota on Tuesday night.

Welsh, who is averaging a double-double this season, made 7 of 14 shots, pulled down 11 rebounds, had four assists and three blocks.

"I got a lot of good looks tonight and I took them," Welsh said.

Jaylen Hands and Gyorgy Goloman scored 12 points apiece and Chris Smith added 10 for the Bruins.

UCLA (8-3) snapped a two-game losing streak and dealt the Coyotes its first loss in five games. The Bruins improved to 6-1 at home and South Dakota dropped to 11-4 and 4-3 on the road.

Matt Mooney led the Coyotes with 23 points on 10-of-18 shooting. Brandon Armstrong scored 15 points and Tyler Peterson added 12.

Trailing by three at halftime, the Bruins went on a 10-3 run to start the second half and Welsh's basket with 17:25 remaining put UCLA up 46-39. Chris Smith's back-to-back 3-point plays increased UCLA's lead to 69-52 with 7:59 to play and the Bruins led 78-54 on Prince Ali's dunk with 5:01 remaining.

But the Coyotes battled back, going on a 28-6 surge behind Peterson and Armstrong in the final five minutes to cut it to 84-82 with 1.7 seconds left following Armstrong's 3-pointer.

South Dakota got the ball back with 1.5 seconds remaining following a UCLA free throw but Armstrong was unable to get off a 3-point attempt as the game ended. After a lengthy delay the referees reviewed the inbounds play replay and ruled that the Welsh had tipped the ball, allowing the clock to run out and end the game.

"It was the right call," UCLA coach Steve Alford said.

Welsh agreed. "I tipped the ball on the inbounds play," Welsh said. "They made the right call. They made a run on us, but we got the win."

The Bruins defense also stepped up in the second half as they held the Coyotes to seven free throws over a 10:14 stretch midway through.

"The first 36 minutes was beautiful basketball and unselfish, but the last four minutes was selfish," Alford said. "The hardest thing to do is to get up when you've been knocked down. It's a teaching moment for me, not the way I want to do it but they learned a valuable lesson tonight."

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The Bruins led 7-2 but then went cold. The Coyotes countered with a 17-5 run to take a 19-12 lead following a basket by Mooney at the 8:46 mark. Hands' 3-pointer just before the buzzer cut the Coyotes' lead to 36-33 at the break.

"I really thought we came out really strong at the start and we were righting the ship," South Dakota coach Craig Smith said. "And to be up by three points was disappointing. I thought we really had control of the game and felt like we should have been up more. We played too much one-on-one and that just fed into their transition and that led to their separation."

South Dakota, the reigning Summit League champions, entered the game with a 48.9 shooting percentage but was held to 41.4 percent (29 of 70).

BIG PICTURE

South Dakota: The Coyotes entered Tuesday's game as one of five NCAA Division I teams to reach 11 wins thus far this season (Duke, Purdue, Albany and Villanova are the others). UCLA has five players averaging in double figures this season: Holiday (17.6), Welsh (12.6), Kris Wilkes (12.3), Hands (12.0) and Ali (10.4).

UCLA SUSPENDED PLAYERS UPDATE

Bruins freshmen Jalen Hill and Cody Riley missed their 11th consecutive game and are still suspended indefinitely as a result of their shoplifting arrest in China in November. LiAngleo Ball, the third player involved in the incident, left UCLA and signed a professional contract to play in Lithuania.

NICE MEETING YOU

Monday was the first time that UCLA and South Dakota have met on the hardwood.

CLOSING IN ON A PLATEAU

UCLA senior center Thomas Welsh and junior guard Aaron Holiday are on the verge of reaching 1,000 career points. Welsh needs 24 points and Holiday 37 points to reach the milestone.

NOT TO SHABBY

South Dakota entered Tuesday's game fifth in Division I in free throws made (224) and fifth in total rebounds (527). The Coyotes are shooting 48.9 percent from the field and have outscored their opponents 544-356 in the paint this season.

UP NEXT

South Dakota opens a four-game home stand beginning Thursday night against Northland College.

UCLA travels to New Orleans and will take on Kentucky (9-1) Saturday in the fourth annual CBS Sports Classic. It will be the fifth time the two teams have met in the past four seasons.

S Dakota St downs Drake 87-74 behind Daum's 35 points

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum grabbed 14 rebounds and scored 35 points on 14-of-24 shooting, and South Dakota State beat Drake 87-74 on Tuesday night.

It's the fifth time Daum has scored 30 points this season and the second time in as many games. The 6-9 forward is the nation's highest-scoring junior. His career high is 51 points and 10 3-pointers.

Drake twice closed to within nine points after Nick McGlynn opened the second half with a jumper and layup, but Daum hit a layup and a 3 amid an 8-0 run and the Jackrabbits pulled ahead. David Jenkins Jr.'s two free throws with 6:41 left put SDSU up by 20 and the Bulldogs got no closer than 13 the rest of the way.

Reed Tellinghuisen scored 13 points, Jenkins had 12 with four assists, and Lane Severyn added 10 points for the Jackrabbits (10-5), who outrebounded the Bulldogs 42-24 and scored 14 second-chance points off of 12 offensive boards.

Tevin King's jumper put the Jackrabbits up for good, 4-2, and SDSU led 43-32 at halftime.

De'Ante McMurray scored 13 points, C.J. Rivers had 12 and Reed Timmer 11 for Drake (5-7).

Custer State Park: South Dakota wildfire fully contained

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Officials say a wildfire that has burned more than half of South Dakota's Custer State Park is completely contained.

The park tweeted Tuesday that staff are busy fixing fences, removing hazard trees and monitoring park wildlife. The tweet says that park burros, which had been burned in the fire, are "holding their own" and remain under veterinary care.

The fire burned more than 84 square miles (218 square kilometers) since it started from a downed power line on Dec. 11.

The park will stay open on a limited basis.

The park just south of Mount Rushmore National Memorial is a top tourist destination, featuring hills with ponderosa pine and prairie. Visitors often drive through to see roaming buffalo and other wildlife.

Police: Student brought unloaded gun to school to sell

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a student brought an unloaded handgun to a Brandon high school to sell to another student.

Brandon Valley High School was locked down Tuesday morning after the student brought a small-caliber gun into the building.

Superintendent Jarod Larson says police were called after another student alerted administrators about the gun, which was unloaded.

The Argus Leader reports police were quickly on the scene and had the student in custody. The gun and two knives were found in the student's backpack.

Brandon Police Chief David Kull says no threats were made to other students.

Two students were taken into custody and released to their parents. Their age and gender were not released.

The school was temporarily placed on lockdown while police investigated.

Few farmers applied to South Dakota buffer strip program

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Few South Dakota farmers have taken advantage of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's tax break program that rewards those who plant grass or wildflowers between their crops and polluted lakes, rivers or streams.

The state's Department of Revenue received only 30 applications in the first year of the buffer strip program, the Argus Leader reported .

The governor's program permits farmers who put runoff-absorbing grass or wildflowers between crops and certain water bodies to have their land taxed at 60 percent of its value.

The buffer strip applications amount to about 300 acres of the state's more than 338,000 eligible acres of land. The sparse number of applicants suggests that many qualified landowners were either unaware of the tax break or didn't see enough value to bother signing up.

"Why they didn't all come in and apply, I don't know," said Mike Houdyshell, director of the South Dakota Department of Revenue.

David Ganje is a Rapid City lawyer who specializes in natural resources. Ganje called the buffer strip program "a good idea with weak muscles" in part because it's managed by the Revenue Department. "The department has no expertise in environmental or agricultural matters and is not a 'go-to' agency for landowners with questions," said Ganje.

Janell Christiansen of Lennox said she applied to the program after stumbling across an article online. "That was not advertised very well," Christiansen said. "I think I really did luck out."

The governor's office sent out a press release. The Revenue Department posted deadline reminders over Twitter and Facebook. But, there was little to no other formal outreach beyond these efforts.

Getting the word out is critical, according to Krystil Smith of the South Dakota Farm Bureau. "It does emphasize a need for people to be out talking about it," Smit said.

Clashes over state ballot initiatives could spill into 2018

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Joyce Scott made hundreds of phone calls and knocked on countless doors, helping persuade South Dakota voters to approve a ballot measure last year tightening campaign contribution limits and creating a government ethics watchdog.

Republican lawmakers quickly torched the new rules this year and instead are seeking changes that would make it far tougher for residents to bypass the statehouse at all.

Scott and others angry about the swift repeal of the voter-backed anti-corruption initiative have turned to the 2018 ballot, hoping to enact a new constitutional amendment that even the Legislature can't touch.

"I was disgusted that we had to go through this again," said Scott, a 75-year-old Democrat who collected signatures for the new campaign after seeing lawmakers dismantle the first ethics package. "We had already told them once what we wanted."

Legislatures from the Dakotas to Maine this year brushed aside voter measures, some working to hamper citizens' ability to pass ballot questions. In 2018 and beyond, states including Ohio, Maine, Missouri and the Dakotas could tussle over the states' ballot question systems.

The power struggle between the people and politicians is particularly stark in South Dakota, where supporters of new constitutional protections for ballot measures are competing against lawmakers who would curtail them.

One ballot measure proposed by a Republican lawmaker would ban out-of-state fundraising for initiatives, and another legislative plan would make it harder for constitutional changes to pass at the ballot box. Both would require voter support to take effect.

Josh Altic, ballot measures project director at Ballotpedia, an organization that aggregates electoral data, called 2017 a "standout year" for lawmakers changing or repealing citizens' initiatives.

"In recent history, we haven't seen any year in which legislators have been so brash as they have been this year," Altic said.

Unless a state law or constitution prohibits a legislature from changing a law passed by ballot measure, lawmakers are permitted to do so and there's no basis for a lawsuit challenging such a move, said Paul S. Ryan, a vice president at the Washington watchdog Common Cause.

In Massachusetts and North Dakota, legislators delayed and changed voter-approved marijuana initiatives. Maine lawmakers killed a tax hike for schools, cut back a minimum wage measure and stalled a law allowing voters to rank their choice of candidates on the ballot.

Republican Sen. Roger Katz, who sponsored the minimum wage rollback to allow employers to pay less than minimum wage to workers who make up the difference in tips, said he believes most Maine voters who backed the hike didn't know about the tip credit issue.

"It's important in general to honor the spirit of the voters, but it's also our job to fix problems in laws which have been passed, whether they're passed by the Legislature, or whether they're passed by the people," he said.

Democratic Maine Sen. Justin Chenette said he saw an "assault on the democratic process" at the Legislature.

Ranked-choice voting supporters have embarked on a referendum do-over, seeking enough signatures for a vote to nullify the legislative delay and implement the system for the June primary elections.

Scott watched the South Dakota Senate send emergency legislation to the governor to scrap the ethics law, called Initiated Measure 22. That day, an airplane circled the Capitol with a banner that read, "Shame on you! Respect our vote!"

"Under God the People Rule?" Scott said, invoking the state's motto. "Obviously, the people did not rule with the IM22 rejection."

Republicans defended the reversal, saying the campaign to pass the initiative was deceptive and that the ballot measure was likely unconstitutional; a judge had put the measure on hold before it was repealed.

Supporters gathered more than 50,000 signatures — using volunteers and paid petitioners — for the

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2018 constitutional amendment. It would require that laws changing the ballot question process must pass a public vote.

Lawmakers in at least 10 states have offered or approved proposals that would make it harder for voters to pass laws or change their constitutions since the 2016 election. The number will likely continue to grow next year.

After Arizona voters backed a minimum wage increase in 2016, Republicans passed two laws targeting initiatives. One law allows measures to be tossed out for paperwork or language errors, and the other makes it illegal to pay petition circulators by the signature and easier to sue to block initiatives.

Republican lawmakers in several states have branded new offensives in the conflict as necessary to stop out-of-state special interest groups from meddling with local laws.

An Ohio Republican in November proposed a constitutional amendment to increase the number of signatures to get on the ballot and the vote total required for approval. Rep. Niraj Antani cited failed efforts on recreational marijuana in 2015 and on prescription drug prices this year, saying Ohioans are sick of outsiders "trying to buy our ballot."

South Dakota House Speaker Mark Mickelson is pushing a 2018 ballot measure to ban out-of-state political contributions for ballot questions, a move that would kneecap initiative fundraising. The proposed law wouldn't stop political candidates from taking money from outside the state.

Since Election Day 2016, Republicans have complained about outside interests experimenting with South Dakota's laws and constitution. Out-of-state donors pumped over \$10 million into campaigns for or against the state's questions. For example, a California billionaire bankrolled an amendment that established constitutional rights for crime victims and a Massachusetts group funded the transformative government ethics initiative.

"It's a perversion of the initiated measure process," Mickelson said.

A South Dakota legislative task force endorsed a different measure to increase the vote threshold required to change the state constitution. A North Dakota legislative commission is also studying the ballot measure process, and Katz said Maine lawmakers could consider future legislation that would make it harder to pass ballot questions.

Meanwhile, citizen initiatives supporters want South Dakota to join at least 10 states that have provisions to protect ballot measures from lawmakers. Missouri activists have proposed a similar plan, but have struggled attracting people to help gather signatures, and Chenette, the Maine senator, proposed an unsuccessful constitutional amendment in October that would have safeguarded ballot initiatives for a year after their passage. He plans to try again.

Joyce Scott was among those angry and disappointed enough at the ethics initiative repeal to be out on the streets enlisting support to try again — channeling confidence from a year selling encyclopedias door-to-door. She said lawmakers' dismantling of the overhaul had cemented for her the need to safeguard citizen initiatives.

"Who would have ever thought that something that the voters passed, that the Legislature would just do away with it totally," she said.

Massive fire destroys oil company in northern Minnesota

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, Minn. (AP) — A massive fire in northern Minnesota has destroyed a heating oil and fuel company near the Canadian border.

Rainy Lake Oil Co. erupted in huge plumes of fire, fueled by eight or nine tanks inside the company's warehouse Monday night near International Falls.

The local fire department says the cause of the fire is under investigation.

The company's office manager, Janelle Heem, says a warehouse, office and gas station were destroyed. She says the company was talking with suppliers Tuesday in order to get the business back on track.

The company distributes in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Heem says the company has set up a temporary office and is making fuel deliveries with four trucks

spared in the fire.

Several fire departments assisted after the blaze erupted around 7 p.m.

Court documents reveal criminal probe into building collapse

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Court documents show that officials could bring criminal charges related to a South Dakota building collapse that resulted in a worker's death.

The Argus Leader reports the U.S. attorney's criminal investigation into Hultgren Construction is the second federal inquiry into the December 2016 building collapse in downtown Sioux Falls.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration started an immediate civil investigation into the collapse, which killed Hultgren employee Ethan McMahon.

A court report filed in OSHA's civil proceeding dated Nov. 20 said the U.S. attorney's criminal investigation could continue for at least 90 days. The inquiry includes a review of data related to McMahon's death including video, photographs, interview statements and more.

South Dakota U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler and Aaron Hultgren, president of Hultgren Construction, didn't comment to the newspaper.

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

Nebraska panel denies request to amend Keystone XL ruling

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska commission that approved a route for the Keystone XL pipeline through the state is declining requests to amend its decision.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission on Tuesday denied motions by pipeline developer TransCanada and leading opponents of the project. The decision to approve a route through the state is expected to be appealed in court.

Opponents have said the commission overstepped its jurisdiction and denied due process to affected landowners when it approved a different route than what TransCanada had preferred. They say the alternative pathway will affect landowners who weren't along the company's preferred route and didn't have a chance to speak against it.

TransCanada had asked the commission to let it file an amended application to thwart an appeal on those grounds.

Some lawmakers, activists at odds over ballot measure laws

By The Associated Press

Lawmakers in several states this year changed or erased voter-approved ballot measures. While some officials are pushing to make it harder to pass future such initiatives, people in a few states have been scrambling to protect them from legislative tampering.

Here's a look at some of the areas where the power struggle between citizens and their politicians is occurring:

MAINE

A legislative government accountability office is reviewing Maine's citizen initiative process. Lawmakers could consider changes including raising the threshold to get on the ballot.

A Democratic senator in October proposed to safeguard ballot initiatives for a year after their passage, but the effort was unsuccessful. He plans to try again.

Lawmakers have recently brushed aside several voter initiatives. They eliminated a surcharge on high-income earners for education and rolled back a minimum wage measure. They also delayed a ranked-choice voting law until 2021; it would then be repealed unless the state constitution is amended to allow it.

Supporters are mounting a "People's Veto" referendum campaign.

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MISSOURI

A proposed constitutional amendment would ban the Legislature from changing or repealing any approved ballot measures without going back to voters. Supporter Winston Apple said backers have had trouble getting people to help gather signatures for the plan.

NORTH DAKOTA

The Legislature approved a commission this year to review the initiative process and the cost of placing them on the ballot

It was spurred largely by voters' approval of medical marijuana and a different measure financed solely by a California billionaire that incorporated victims' rights provisions into the state constitution.

OHIO

A Republican lawmaker is after a constitutional change to make it more difficult for voter initiatives to reach the ballot and ultimately win approval.

Rep. Niraj Antani says Ohio must take steps to "remove the 'for sale' sign" currently on its constitution and laws, criticizing out-of-state special interest groups.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Voters could face divergent proposals on the 2018 ballot.

A proposed constitutional amendment would stop lawmakers from changing future ballot measures and the state's initiative system without taking the changes to a public vote.

Meanwhile, a Republican legislator is pushing an initiative that would ban out-of-state political contributions for ballot questions, and some lawmakers want to ask voters to make it harder to change the state constitution.

The choices would come after Republicans this year repealed a government ethics overhaul that voters approved in 2016.

Elk herd to be thinned in Wind Cave National Park

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The National Park Service and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department are seeking skilled volunteers to help thin out the elk herd in Wind Cave National Park.

Officials say they hope the effort will reduce the rate of chronic wasting disease among the herd.

Eight volunteer shooters will be selected through a lottery system, to help park staff reduce the herd in February.

There are 260 elk in the park. Officials want the herd size closer to the low end of the population objective, which is 232 animals. Meat from elk that aren't infected with CWD will go to a hunger relief charity.

Park staff also recently fitted 24 elk in the park with GPS radio collars to help monitor for CWD.

Schools, labor officials target cyber security pathways

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A partnership between three schools and state labor officials is focused on advancing opportunities in the field of cyber security.

Dakota State University, Southeast Technical Institute, the Sioux Falls School District and the Department of Labor and Regulation are collaborating on creating more pathways to a career in cyber security, network security and administration. The Argus Leader says the initiative is called South Dakota Partnership for Student Success — or SDPASS.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced the partnership at a news conference at Southeast Tech Monday afternoon. The partnership seeks to expand cyber security career options beyond the traditional college path to high school students, people looking to change careers and high school graduates who do not enroll directly in college.

Yankton man shot by trooper, charged won't get new attorney

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A Yankton man facing charges after being shot by a state trooper a year ago has been denied his request for a new attorney.

Curt Adams Sr. is charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault of a police officer and aggravated eluding in the December 2016 incident that involved a police chase. An investigation concluded the trooper was justified in shooting Adams.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that Adams wasn't happy with his court-appointed attorney and requested different counsel, but prosecutors argued there was no compelling reason for a change.

First Circuit Judge Tami Bern sided with the prosecution Monday.

Adams has entered pleas of not guilty or not guilty by reason of insanity. He faces trial in April. He has pleaded guilty to related drug possession charges.

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

Rapid City man sentenced to 8 years in overdose death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been sentenced to eight years in prison for giving heroin to a woman who overdosed on the drug and died.

Twenty-one-year-old Ryan Reif pleaded guilty to the federal offense in May, a year after he woke up one morning and found 19-year-old Kaitlyn Kempfer dead beside him. He admitted going to Kempfer's home to use heroin, watch a movie and hang out.

The Rapid City Journal reports Reif said during his recent sentencing that he loved Kempfer and did not intend her harm.

But U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken said Reif had a "pharmacy" of illegal drugs, and the judge went above the sentencing guideline range. He also ordered Reif to pay Kempfer's family \$15,500 in restitution.

Reif is appealing his sentence.

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

Cardinal Law, disgraced figure in church abuse scandal, dies

By RACHEL ZOLL and NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Cardinal Bernard Law, the disgraced former archbishop of Boston whose failures to stop child molesters in the priesthood sparked what would become the worst crisis in American Catholicism, died early Wednesday, the Vatican said. He was 86.

Law had been sick and was recently hospitalized in Rome.

Law was once one of the most important leaders in the U.S. church. He broadly influenced Vatican appointments to American dioceses, helped set priorities for the nation's bishops and was favored by Pope John Paul II.

But in January 2002, The Boston Globe began a series of reports that used church records to reveal that Law had transferred abusive clergy among parish assignments for years without alerting parents or police. Within months, Catholics around the country demanded to know whether their bishops had done the same.

Law tried to manage the mushrooming scandal in his own archdiocese by first refusing to comment, then apologizing and promising reform. But thousands more church records were released describing new cases of how Law and others expressed more care for accused priests than for victims. Amid a groundswell against the cardinal, including rare public rebukes from some of his own priests, Law asked to resign and the pope said yes.

"It is my fervent prayer that this action may help the archdiocese of Boston to experience the healing, reconciliation and unity which are so desperately needed," Law said when he stepped down as head of

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the Boston archdiocese in December of that year. "To all those who have suffered from my shortcomings and mistakes, I both apologize and from them beg forgiveness."

It was a stunning fall from grace for Law and a rare step for the church, which deeply resists public pressure but could no longer hold out given the scope of the crisis. Since 1950, more than 6,500, or about 6 percent of U.S. priests, have been accused of molesting children, and the American church has paid more than \$3 billion in settlements to victims, according to studies commissioned by the U.S. bishops and media reports. As the leader of the archdiocese at the epicenter for the scandal, Law remained throughout his life a symbol of the church's widespread failures to protect children.

Still, Law retained some support in the Vatican. In 2004, he was appointed archpriest of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of four principal basilicas in Rome. When John Paul died the next year, Law was among bishops who presided at a memorial Mass for the pontiff in St. Peter's Basilica. Law also continued for several years to serve in Vatican dicasteries, or policy-making committees, including the Congregation for Bishops, which recommends appointments to the pope. Advocates for victims saw the posts as a sign of favor for Law by church officials unrepentant about abused children.

And even today, 15 years after the scandal broke in Boston, the question of holding bishops accountable for their failures to protect children remains a pressing issue for the church. Pope Francis had promised to go after these negligent bishops, but he backed off a proposed Vatican tribunal to prosecute them and opted instead to use existing measures, leading survivors to question his commitment to the task.

Law's successor as archbishop, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, said it was a "sad reality" that Law's legacy will forever be tied to the abuse scandal since he led the Boston archdiocese at a time "when the church seriously failed" in its job to care for its flock and protect children.

"I offer my sincere apologies for the harm they suffered, my continued prayers and my promise that the archdiocese will support them in their effort to achieve healing," O'Malley said in a statement.

Mitchell Garabedian, a Boston attorney who has represented dozens of people who say they were sexually abused by priests, said Law's death has reopened old wounds.

"Many victims are reminded of the pain of being sexually abused upon hearing of Cardinal Law passing away," Garabedian said. "Cardinal Law turned his back on innocent children and allowed them to be sexually abused and then received a promotion in Rome."

Alexa MacPherson, who says she was a victim of clergy sex abuse for six years as a small child, had no words of sorrow at the news of Law's death.

"Good riddance to bad rubbish. I hope the gates of hell are swinging wide to allow him entrance," she told The Associated Press.

"I won't shed a tear for him - I might shed a tear for everyone who's been a victim under him."

MacPherson's mother Barbara Sidorowicz, whose two sons were also abused, also was not mourning him.

"I'm a person, I cannot ever turn my back on my faith, but I can't find it in my heart to forgive," she said. "I cry over what happened to my children, but I can't cry over him. I can't even get myself to say a prayer for him. He should have been in jail."

Francis, who met with Law briefly the day after he was elected pope when he went to pray at St. Mary Major, made no comment about Law's passing during his weekly general audience Wednesday. Francis though was expected to send an official telegram of condolence later in the day and celebrate Law's funeral Mass, an honor accorded to all Rome-based cardinals.

Law was expected to be buried in Rome, O'Malley said. The location hasn't been disclosed, but Law would be entitled to be buried at St. Mary Major.

Law had been expected to leave a far different mark on the church.

Born Nov. 4, 1931, in Torreon, Mexico, Law was the only child of a U.S. Air Force colonel and a mother who was a Presbyterian convert to Catholicism. He was educated throughout North and South America and the Virgin Islands before graduating in 1953 from Harvard University. He was ordained in 1961 and campaigned for civil rights in Mississippi, sometimes traveling in the trunks of cars for safety. After a post with the national bishops' conference, he was named bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau in Missouri, then archbishop of Boston in 1984, a prominent appointment to the country's fourth-largest

diocese.

Law was a prominent voice in Massachusetts and beyond, especially on abortion. He publicly challenged public officials such as Gov. William Weld and Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci over their support for abortion rights. The cardinal was among a chorus of bishops sharply critical of Geraldine Ferraro, the 1984 Democratic nominee for vice president and a Catholic over her support for abortion rights. Under President George W. Bush, Law was a regular visitor to the White House.

Within the church, he was devoted to building Catholic-Jewish relations, including leading a delegation of Jewish and other Massachusetts leaders in a 1986 visit to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland. He worked closely with church leaders in Latin America, acting as an unofficial envoy of the pope to Cuba and revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

However, Law's legacy has been overshadowed by the scandal. In the notorious case that started the 2002 crisis, as recounted in the movie "Spotlight," the Globe reported that Law and two of his predecessors as Boston archbishop had transferred former priest John Geoghan among parish assignments despite knowing he molested children. More than 130 people eventually came forward to say Geoghan abused them. The archdiocese paid \$10 million in settlements with 86 of his victims and their relatives as Law was clinging to his job. It was nowhere near enough to ease the growing anger.

As he announced he would leave, Law asked Boston Catholics, "Please keep me in your prayers."

Rachel Zoll reported from New York. Rodrique Ngowi in Holbrook, Massachusetts, contributed to this report.

Officials: Why was train in fatal Amtrak wreck speeding?

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and HAVEN DALEY, Associated Press

DUPONT, Wash. (AP) — Federal investigators probing a deadly Amtrak derailment are trying to determine why the train was traveling at more than double the posted speed limit as it entered the curve where it left the tracks and plunged off an overpass and partly onto a busy freeway, killing three people and injuring dozens.

Early details from the probe indicate a conductor-in-training was in the cab with the engineer at the time of the derailment and the brake that eventually stopped the train was automatically activated instead of being applied by the engineer, National Transportation Safety Board member Bella Dinh-Zarr said Tuesday.

A federal official told The Associated Press that investigators are looking into whether the engineer was distracted by the presence of an employee-in-training next to him in the locomotive. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said investigators want to know whether the engineer lost "situational awareness."

Investigators also confirmed that technology that can automatically slow or stop a speeding train — known as positive train control — was not in use on that stretch of track. Track sensors and other PTC components have been installed, but the system is not expected to be completed until the spring, Dinh-Zarr said. Regulators have been pressing railroads for years to install such technology, and some have done so, but the deadline has been extended repeatedly at the industry's request and is now set for the end of 2018.

Dinh-Zarr said it was too early in the investigation to say whether positive train control would have prevented Monday's tragedy but noted that a "mandate" to install the system on tracks nationwide by 2015 had been pushed back by Congress.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, speaking on the floor of the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, said failing to enforce the new deadline to install positive train control would be a "moral failure."

"If we do nothing else in this Congress, let us insist that that deadline without additional delay," said Blumenthal, D-Connecticut.

The train was hurtling at 80 mph (129 kph) in a 30 mph (48 kph) zone Monday morning when it ran off the rails along a curve south of Seattle, sending some of its cars plummeting onto an interstate highway below, Dinh-Zarr said, citing data from the locomotive's event recorder.

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Skid marks — so-called “witness marks” — from the train’s wheels show where it left the track, she added. Federal investigators will remain on scene past Christmas to complete a wide-ranging investigation that involves at least eight local, state and federal agencies, rail lines and train car manufacturers.

The train, with 85 passengers and crew members, was making the inaugural run along a fast new bypass route that was created by refurbishing freight tracks alongside Interstate 5. The 15-mile (24-kilometer), \$180.7 million project was aimed at speeding up service by bypassing a route with a number of curves, single-track tunnels and freight traffic.

Investigators will talk to the engineer and other crew members and review the event data record from the lead locomotive as well as an identical device from the rear engine, which has already been studied. Investigators are also trying to extract data from inward- and outward-facing on-board cameras that were damaged in the crash, Dinh-Zarr said.

Investigators were also looking into what training was required of the engineer and other crew members to operate on the new route, said Ted Turpin, the lead NTSB investigator of the crash. That includes assessing the training process and how much time the workers were required to spend on the trains before they shuttled passengers, he said.

“Under Amtrak policy he couldn’t run this train without being qualified and running this train previously,” Turpin said of the engineer.

At least some of the crew had been doing runs on the route for two weeks prior to the crash, including a Friday ride-along for local dignitaries, Dinh-Zarr added.

The bypass underwent testing by Sound Transit and Amtrak beginning in January and lasting at least until July, according to documents on the Washington Department of Transportation website.

The conductor training in the cab was familiarizing himself with the new route, which is expected of conductors before they start work on a new itinerary, she said. A second conductor was in the passenger section of the train at the time of the crash, which is also part of the job responsibility, she said.

In previous wrecks, investigators looked at whether the engineer was distracted or incapacitated. It is standard procedure in a crash investigation to test the engineer for alcohol or drugs and check to determine whether he or she was using a cellphone, something that is prohibited while the train is running.

The engineer, whose name was not released, was bleeding from the head after the crash and his eyes were swollen shut, according to radio transmissions from a crew member. The transmissions mentioned a second person in the front of the train who was also hurt.

In 2015, an Amtrak train traveling at twice the 50 mph (80 kph) speed limit derailed along a sharp curve in Philadelphia, killing eight people. Investigators concluded the engineer was distracted by reports over the radio of another train getting hit by a rock.

In September, a judge threw out charges of involuntary manslaughter and reckless endangerment against the engineer, saying the crash did not appear to rise to a crime. Prosecutors are trying to get the case reinstated.

Amtrak agreed to pay \$265 million to settle claims filed by the victims and their families. It has also installed positive train control on all its track between Boston and Washington.

Balsamo reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Phuong Le and Sally Ho in Seattle, Michael Sisak in Philadelphia, Gillian Flaccus in Portland, Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington and Manuel Valdes in Dupont contributed to this report.

For complete coverage of the deadly derailment, click here: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/TrainDerailment>

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10 Things to Know Today

The Associated Press

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

1. US SENATE PASSES BIG TAX BILL

Jubilant Republicans pushed their deeply unpopular tax overhaul through the Senate, bringing the most sweeping rewrite of the nation's tax laws in more than three decades to the brink of passage.

2. WHY SWEEPING TAX PLAN FACES WIDESPREAD DOUBTS

Democrats and most nonpartisan analysts say the sweeping tax bill is unlikely to provide much lasting stimulus to an economy already in the ninth year of expansion.

3. WHICH SYMBOL OF THE CHURCH ABUSE CRISIS DIED

Cardinal Bernard Law, the disgraced former archbishop of Boston whose failures to stop child molesters in the priesthood sparked what would become the worst crisis in American Catholicism, died at 86.

4. NEW BLOW FOR UBER AS TOP EU COURT SAYS IT'S A TAXI COMPANY

The decision that could change the way it functions across the continent.

5. HOW MANY NON-COMBATANTS DIED IN BATTLE WITH IS GROUP FOR MOSUL

The battle to drive Islamic State group extremists from their largest urban stronghold, Mosul, killed far more civilians than has previously been reported — between 9,000 and 10,000 people, according to an analysis by The Associated Press of databases from independent monitors and the city's morgue.

6. PULP GIANT TIED TO COMPANIES ACCUSED OF FIRES

Despite its denials, one of the world's biggest paper producers has extensive behind-the-scenes ties and significant influence over wood suppliers linked to fires and deforestation that have degraded Indonesia's stunning natural environment, The Associated Press has found.

7. HOW TECHNOLOGY COULD'VE PREVENT AMTRAK CRASH

The rush to launch service on a new, faster Amtrak route near Seattle came at a deadly cost — critical speed-control technology that could have prevented a derailment was not active before the train set off on its maiden voyage.

8. HOW TRUMP'S JERUSALEM MOVE IS PLAYING OUT IN BETHLEHEM

President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital has hit Christmas festivities this year in the traditional birthplace of Jesus, but Palestinians plan to use the annual spotlight to broadcast their own message to the world.

9. A JUDGE DISMISSED ONE OF THE LAST MICHAEL JACKSON SUITS

The dismissal of a lawsuit brought by a choreographer who said Michael Jackson molested him as a child, resolving one of the last lawsuits against the entertainer.

10. WHERE ANIMALS WERE ABANDONED AFTER A HURRICAN STRUCK

In Puerto Rico, pets have been tossed over fences, tied to gates and even left with a \$20 bill under their collar — abandoned animals are overwhelming the island's shelters in the wake of Hurricane Maria as people leave the island or find they can no longer cope with pets amid the hardship.

Senate moves tax cut legislation to brink of final passage

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER** and **MARCY GORDON**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jubilant Republicans pushed on early Wednesday to the verge of the most sweeping rewrite of the nation's tax laws in more than three decades, a deeply unpopular bill they insist Americans will learn to love when they see their paychecks in the new year. President Donald Trump cheered the lawmakers on, eager to claim his first major legislative victory.

After midnight, the Senate narrowly passed the legislation on a party-line 51-48 vote. Protesters interrupted with chants of "kill the bill, don't kill us" and Vice President Mike Pence repeatedly called for order. Upon passage, Republicans cheered, with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin among them.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., insisted Americans would respond positively to the tax bill.

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"If we can't sell this to the American people, we ought to go into another line of work," he said. Trump hailed the vote in an early morning tweet and promised a White House news conference, likely Wednesday, when the House completes legislative action on the measure.

The early morning vote came hours after the GOP rammed the bill through the House, 227-203. But it wasn't the final word in Congress because of one last hiccup.

Three provisions in the bill, including its title, violated Senate rules, forcing the Senate to vote to strip them out. So the massive bill was hauled back across the Capitol for the House to vote again on Wednesday, and Republicans have a chance to celebrate again.

Hours earlier, House Speaker Paul Ryan, who has worked years toward the goal of revamping the tax code, gleefully pounded the gavel on the House vote. GOP House members roared and applauded as they passed the \$1.5 trillion package that will touch every American taxpayer and every corner of the U.S. economy, providing steep tax cuts for businesses and the wealthy, and more modest help for middle- and low-income families.

Despite Republican talk of spending discipline, the bill will push the huge national debt ever higher.

"This was a promise made. This is a promise kept," Ryan and other GOP leaders said at a victory news conference.

After the delay for a second House vote, the measure then heads to Trump, who is aching for a big political victory after 11 months of legislative failures and nonstarters. The president tweeted his congratulations to GOP leaders and to "all great House Republicans who voted in favor of cutting your taxes!"

Congressional Republicans, who faltered badly in trying to dismantle Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, see passage of the tax bill as crucial to proving to Americans they can govern — and imperative for holding onto House and Senate majorities in next year's midterm elections.

"The proof will be in the paychecks," Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, said during the Senate's nighttime debate. "This is real tax relief, and it's needed."

Not so, said the top Senate Democrat as the long, late hours led to testy moments.

"This is serious stuff. We believe you are messing up America," New York Sen. Chuck Schumer told Republicans, chiding them for not listening to his remarks.

The GOP has repeatedly argued the bill will spur economic growth as corporations, flush with cash, increase wages and hire more workers. But they acknowledge they have work to do in convincing everyday Americans. Many voters in surveys see the legislation as a boost to the wealthy, such as Trump and his family, and a minor gain at best for the middle class.

"I don't think we've done a good job messaging," said Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore. "Now, you're able to look at the final product."

Ryan was positive, even insistent. He declared, "Results are what's going to make this popular."

Democrats called the bill a giveaway to corporations and the wealthy, with no likelihood that business owners will use their gains to hire more workers or raise wages. And they mocked the Republicans' contention that the bill will make taxes so simple that millions can file their returns "on a postcard" — an idea repeated often by the president.

"What happened to the postcard? We're going to have to carry around a billboard for tax simplification," declared Rep. Richard Neal of Massachusetts, the top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee.

Tax cuts for corporations would be permanent while the cuts for individuals would expire in 2026 to comply with Senate budget rules. The tax cuts would take effect in January, and workers would start to see changes in the amount of taxes withheld from their paychecks in February.

For now, Democrats are planning to use the bill in their campaigns next year. Senate Democrats posted poll numbers on the bill on a video screen at their Tuesday luncheon.

"This bill will come back to haunt them, as Frankenstein did," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said.

The bill would slash the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. The top tax rate for individuals would be lowered from 39.6 percent to 37 percent.

The legislation repeals an important part of the 2010 health care law — the requirement that all Americans carry health insurance or face a penalty — as the GOP looks to unravel the law it failed to repeal and

replace this past summer. It also allows oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The \$1,000-per-child tax credit doubles to \$2,000, with up to \$1,400 available in IRS refunds for families that owe little or no taxes.

Disgruntled Republican lawmakers from high-tax New York, New Jersey and California receded into the background as the tax train rolled. They oppose a new \$10,000 limit on the deduction for state and local taxes.

GOP Rep. Peter King of New York conveyed what people in his Long Island district were telling him about the tax bill: "Nothing good, especially from Republicans. ... It's certainly unpopular in my district."

The bill is projected to add \$1.46 trillion to the nation's debt over a decade. GOP lawmakers say they expect a future Congress to continue the tax cuts so they won't expire. That would drive up deficits even further.

The bill would initially provide tax cuts for Americans of all incomes. But if the cuts for individuals expire, most Americans — those making less than \$75,000 — would see tax increases in 2027, according to congressional estimates.

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly, Kevin Freking and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

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

APNewsBreak: Michael Jackson sex abuse lawsuit dismissed

By ANDREW DALTON, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge on Tuesday dismissed the lawsuit brought by a choreographer who alleged Michael Jackson molested him as a child, resolving one of the last major claims against the late singer's holdings.

Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff's summary judgment ruling against the now-35-year-old Wade Robson found that the two Jackson-owned corporations, which were the remaining defendants in the case, were not liable for Robson's exposure to Jackson. He did not rule on the credibility of Robson's allegations themselves.

Robson's attorney, Vince Finaldi, said he strongly disagrees and plans to appeal.

Robson, a native of Australia who has worked with Britney Spears and NSYNC, met Jackson when he was 5 years old.

He testified in Jackson's defense at the singer's 2005 criminal trial, saying he had spent the night at Jackson's Neverland Ranch more than 20 times and usually slept in Jackson's room, but Jackson never molested him. Jackson was acquitted in that trial.

Then in 2013 about four years after the singer's death, Robson sued the Jackson estate for what his attorneys described as molestation that spanned a seven-year period.

A court ruled in 2015 that Robson had filed his lawsuit too late to get any of Jackson's estate. That left two remaining defendants, both corporate entities owned by Jackson in his lifetime: MJJ Productions, Inc., and MJJ Ventures, Inc.

The judge ruled Tuesday that those two corporate defendants could not be held responsible for Robson's exposure to Jackson, the way a school or the Boy Scouts can be found liable for bringing together an abusive adult and a child victim.

Finaldi said the reasoning sets a dangerous precedent.

"What the judge is saying is that you if own a corporation or a company, you can hire people, use these people to facilitate your sexual abuse, use them to facilitate victims," Finaldi told The Associated Press by phone. "So long as you're the sole owner of that corporation, the corporation can't be held liable."

Jackson estate attorney Howard Weitzman said in a statement that he "believes the court made the correct decision in dismissing Wade Robson's claim against it. "In my opinion Mr. Robson's allegations, made 20 plus years after they supposedly occurred and years after Mr. Robson testified twice under oath — including in front of a jury — that Michael Jackson had never done anything wrong to him was always

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about the money rather than a search for the truth.”

Finaldi replied that the Jackson camp’s interest in the truth was “hollow.”

“If someone’s trying to search for the truth, why not let the lawsuit proceed?” Finaldi said. “Why not exonerate him and let a jury decide.”

During the criminal trial, Robson bristled at testimony by other witnesses that they had seen Jackson molest him.

“I’m telling you nothing happened,” Robson testified at the time when a prosecutor challenged him.

Another Robson attorney said when his lawsuit was filed that stress and sexual trauma led Robson to finally accept that he had been molested by Jackson.

Prosecutors seek 15 years for 2nd man in beheading plot

BOSTON (AP) — Prosecutors and defense attorneys are seeking a 15-year prison sentence for a Rhode Island man who admitted to participating in a plot to behead a conservative blogger on behalf of the Islamic State group.

Nicholas Rovinski, of Warwick, is scheduled to be sentenced Wednesday in federal court in Boston. Rovinski pleaded guilty last year to conspiracy for his role in a plot to kill New York resident Pamela Geller, who organized a Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest in Garland, Texas, in 2015.

Rovinski’s sentencing comes a day after 28-year-old David Wright, of Everett, Massachusetts, was sentenced to 28 years in prison. A jury convicted Wright in October after Rovinski testified against him.

Prosecutors say Wright was the “mastermind” of the Islamic State-inspired plot.

Official: Train brake automatically activated in fatal wreck

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and HAVEN DALEY, Associated Press

DUPONT, Wash. (AP) — Investigators are looking into whether the Amtrak engineer whose speeding train plunged off an overpass, killing at least three people, was distracted by the presence of an employee-in-training next to him in the locomotive, a federal official said Tuesday.

The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said investigators want to know whether the engineer lost “situational awareness” because of the second person in the cab.

Preliminary information indicated that the emergency brake on the Amtrak train that derailed in Washington state went off automatically and was not manually activated by the engineer, National Transportation Safety Board member Bella Dinh-Zarr said.

The train was hurtling at 80 mph (129 kph) in a 30 mph (48 kph) zone Monday morning when it ran off the rails along a curve south of Seattle, sending some of its cars plummeting onto an interstate highway below, Dinh-Zarr said, citing data from the locomotive’s event recorder.

Skid marks — so-called “witness marks” — from the train’s wheels show where it left the track, she added.

Dinh-Zarr said it is not yet known what caused the train to derail and that it was too early in the investigation to conclude why it was going so fast.

Investigators will talk to the engineer and other crew members and review the event data record from the lead locomotive as well as an identical device from the rear engine, which has already been studied. Investigators are also trying to get images from two on-board cameras that were damaged in the crash, she said.

There were two people in the cab of the train at the time of the crash, the engineer and an in-training conductor who was familiarizing himself with the route, Dinh-Zarr said. A second conductor was in the passenger cabin at the time of the crash, which is also part of the job responsibility, she said.

In previous wrecks, investigators looked at whether the engineer was distracted or incapacitated. It is standard procedure in a crash investigation to test the engineer for alcohol or drugs and check to determine whether he or she was using a cellphone, something that is prohibited while the train is running.

The engineer, whose name was not released, was bleeding from the head after the crash and his eyes

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were swollen shut, according to radio transmissions from a crew member.

The train, with 85 passengers and crew members, was making the inaugural run along a fast new bypass route that was created by refurbishing freight tracks alongside Interstate 5. The 15-mile, \$180.7 million project was aimed at speeding up service by bypassing a route with a number of curves, single-track tunnels and freight traffic.

Investigators were also looking into what training was required of the engineer and other crew members to operate on the new route, said Ted Turpin, the lead NTSB investigator of the crash. That includes assessing the training process and how much time the workers were required to spend on the trains before they shuttled passengers, he said.

"Under Amtrak policy he couldn't run this train without being qualified and running this train previously," Turpin said of the engineer.

At least some of the crew had been doing runs on the route for two weeks prior to the crash, including a Friday ride-along for local dignitaries, Dinh-Zarr added.

The bypass underwent testing by Sound Transit and Amtrak beginning in January and at least until July, according to documents on the Washington Department of Transportation website.

Positive train control — technology that can automatically slow or stop a speeding train — was not in use on that stretch of track. Track sensors and other PTC components have been installed, but the system is not expected to be completed until the spring, transit officials said.

Regulators have been pressing railroads for years to install such technology, and some have done so, but the deadline has been extended repeatedly at the industry's request and is now set for the end of 2018.

Dinh-Zarr said it was too early in the investigation to say whether positive train control would have prevented Monday's tragedy.

In addition to those killed, more than 70 people were injured. As of Tuesday, 35 were still hospitalized, including 21 in critical or serious condition.

Two of the dead were identified as train buffs and members of the rail advocacy group All Aboard Washington and were excited to be on board for the inaugural run: Jim Hamre, a retired civil engineer with the state Transportation Department, and Zack Willhoite, a customer service employee at a local transit agency.

"It's pretty devastating. We're having a tough time," said All Aboard Washington executive director Lloyd Flem.

In 2015, an Amtrak train traveling at twice the 50 mph (80 kph) speed limit derailed along a sharp curve in Philadelphia, killing eight people. Investigators concluded the engineer was distracted by reports over the radio of another train getting hit by a rock.

Amtrak agreed to pay \$265 million to settle claims filed by the victims and their families. It has also installed positive train control on all its track between Boston and Washington.

Balsamo reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Phuong Le and Sally Ho in Seattle, Michael Sisak in Philadelphia, Gillian Flaccus in Portland, Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington and Manuel Valdes in Dupont contributed to this report.

For complete coverage of the deadly derailment, click here: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/TrainDerailment>

12 killed as bus carrying foreign tourists crashes in Mexico

By GABRIEL ALCO CER and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

CANCUN, Mexico (AP) — A bus carrying cruise ship passengers on an excursion to Mayan ruins in south-eastern Mexico flipped over on a narrow highway Tuesday, killing 11 travelers and their guide and injuring about 20 others, officials said.

Seven Americans and two Swedes were among the injured, said Vicente Martin, spokesman for the Quintana Roo state Civil Defense agency. Authorities had not yet established the nationalities of the dead.

The bus ended up on its side in vegetation along the two-lane road. Video taken after the crash showed some survivors lying on the pavement and others walking around. One body lay on the roadside covered

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by a white sheet or other object, as the crash scene was cordoned off with yellow police tape.

Miami-based Royal Caribbean Cruises said in a statement that passengers from two of its ships, the Celebrity Equinox and Serenade of the Seas, were on the bus. The company expressed its sympathies and said it was assisting with medical care and transportation.

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City said it was aware of reports that several American citizens had been injured and U.S. officials were working with local authorities to assess the citizenship and identity of individuals involved in the accident. It said the U.S. Consulate in Merida was ready to provide assistance.

Martin said investigators were working to determine the cause of the crash, which occurred as the bus was on its way to the ruins at Chacchoben, about 110 miles (175 kilometers) south of Tulum.

The Quintana Roo state prosecutor's office reported that the fatalities were 11 tourists, including one child, and a Mexican tour guide.

It said in a statement Tuesday night that seven injured tourists had returned to their boat while 13 remained hospitalized, six of them in Tulum and seven in the city of Chetumal, near the Belize border.

The dead were being transferred to the forensics service for identification and subsequent notification of consular authorities.

Chris Brawley, a passenger on the Serenade of Seas, was on a bus headed to the same Mayan ruins when they came on the scene minutes after the accident.

It was shortly after 9 a.m. and a convoy of buses from the cruise port at Mahahual was headed to Chacchoben, he said. They had been on the road for about 35 to 40 minutes before the accident.

Brawley said the sky was clear and the road was dry and he didn't see any sign of another vehicle being involved in the crash, which happened on a narrow, two-lane road with no shoulder or guardrail.

He said he did not see the crash, but "the bus clearly lost control somehow as there were swerve marks all over the road surface."

Brawley, of Haslet, Texas, said his ship departed Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Friday for a seven-day cruise. They were in Roatan, Honduras, on Monday and were scheduled to be in Cozumel on Wednesday.

Michael Schuenemeyer, a minister from Cleveland, was on another bus that passed the crash about an hour later.

Tow trucks were lifting up the bus when they passed by, he said. "It was in pretty sad shape," Schuenemeyer said.

Costa Maya Mahahual, the bus company involved, said in a statement that in addition to the tourists, a guide and driver were aboard the bus.

Associated Press writer Gabriel Alcocer reported this story in Cancun and AP writer Christopher Sherman reported from Mexico City. AP writers Peter Orsi in Mexico City and Jennifer Kay in Miami contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show the passenger's last name is Schuenemeyer.

US short of options to punish NKorea for serious cyberattack

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON** and **KEN THOMAS**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration vowed Tuesday that North Korea would be held accountable for a May cyberattack that affected 150 countries, but it didn't say how, highlighting the difficulty of punishing a pariah nation already sanctioned to the hilt for its nuclear weapons program.

The WannaCry ransomware attack infected hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide and crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service. It was the highest-profile cyberattack North Korea has been blamed for since the 2014 hack of Sony Pictures after it produced "The Interview," a satirical movie imagining a CIA plot to kill leader Kim Jong Un.

While that destructive attack led to leaks of confidential data from the movie studio and emails that embarrassed Sony talent, the implications of the WannaCry intrusion were altogether more serious.

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Homeland security adviser Tom Bossert said it was "a reckless attack and it was meant to cause havoc and destruction." He said it put lives at risk in British hospitals.

Other experts say the attack was more likely an attempt by Kim's cash-strapped government to extract money. Last year, the same hacking group was suspected in a malware attack that penetrated the Bangladesh Central Bank's computer system, stealing \$81 million.

Whatever the motivation, the public declaration of blame by Washington reflects growing concern over North Korea's cyber capabilities that appear all the more threatening because of Pyongyang's scant regard for international norms. North Korea is the only country to test nuclear weapons this century and is closing in on a missile that could strike anywhere on U.S. mainland.

"President Trump has used just about every lever you can use, short of starving the people of North Korea to death, to change their behavior," Bossert told reporters at the White House. "And so we don't have a lot of room left here to apply pressure to change their behavior."

In a sign of continuing malevolent online activity, Microsoft and Facebook said Tuesday that they worked together last week to help disable hackers tied to the same hacking group that was behind WannaCry.

Under Trump, the U.S. has piled on economic sanctions against North Korea, both on its own and with wide international support. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Tuesday that the pressure campaign "will be intensified as time goes by." Experts say North Korea's access to hard cash could be further hurt by more targeting of Chinese intermediary banks and companies, but U.S. options for punishing steps are limited.

"Sanctions on North Korea really aren't going to change its behavior," said James Lewis, a technology and intelligence expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who proposes not just targeting North Korea's revenue sources but also its government's own limited access to the internet. "Sending a carrier battle group off North Korea won't get them to stop hacking."

In January 2015, President Barack Obama responded to the Sony attack by imposing sanctions on North Korea's primary intelligence agency and a state corporation involved in ballistic missiles and arms trading, as well as on officials who worked for it. He also warned of further unidentified actions that would take place "at a time and manner of our choosing."

If any further action was taken, it was never made public.

While experts say North Korea lacks the elite capabilities of Russia or China, it has honed its cyber skills and has been accused of increasingly serious attacks.

South Korea, which said in 2015 that North Korea had a 6,000-member cyberarmy, says the North was suspected of hacking a South Korean military data center. Last year, the North was also accused of hacking the personal data of more than 10 million users of an online shopping site and dozens of email accounts used by government officials and journalists. It is also suspected of targeting South Korean banks and the operator of the nation's nuclear power plants.

"Their technical abilities are not the best out there, but they are plenty good enough to find a weak point and take advantage of it," said Benjamin Read, manager for cyberespionage analysis at online security provider FireEye.

FireEye says that in September it detected and stopped spear phishing emails sent to U.S. electric companies by a group affiliated with the North Korean government, though it did not observe the use of any method designed to compromise power supply. They also believe that North Korean hackers are targeting bitcoin exchanges to supplement the government's income.

Bossert said Microsoft and foreign governments, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Japan, confirmed the U.S. finding of responsibility for WannaCry. He said the U.S. seeks to partner with other nations and the private sector to prevent future attacks.

While WannaCry raised relatively little money for its perpetrators — few paid up after it proved that paying the ransom didn't unlock affected computers — its impact was vast. Government offices in Russia, Spain and other countries were disrupted, as were Asian universities, Germany's national railway and global companies such as automakers Nissan and Renault.

British hacker Marcus Hutchins disarmed the attack by identifying a "kill switch" in the code. In a twist, the FBI arrested Hutchins months later during a visit to the U.S.; he pleaded not guilty and awaits trial on

charges he created unrelated forms of malware.

Associated Press writers Matt O'Brien in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, and Josh Lederman in Ottawa, Canada, contributed to this report.

Saudis intercept Yemen rebel missile targeting royal palace

By ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI and AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Shiite rebels said it intercepted a missile fired over southern Riyadh on Tuesday, which the rebels said was targeting a "top leadership" meeting at the royal palace in the kingdom's capital.

It was the second time in as many months that a rebel projectile had reached as far inside the kingdom as Riyadh.

The Yemeni rebels, known as the Houthis, said they launched a ballistic missile to target Yamama Palace in Riyadh, where King Salman chairs weekly government meetings and receives dignitaries and heads of state from around the world.

The statement from the U.S.-backed coalition, carried by Saudi state TV, said the missile was fired by the Houthis. State TV said no damage was caused by the intercepted missile.

The coalition later said the missile launch proved the "continued involvement" of Iran in supporting the Houthis. It also repeated its claim that the rebels use "relief work outlets" to smuggle such missiles inside Yemen to target the kingdom.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, said that "the very fact of this attack is a flashing red siren" for the Security Council.

While not all evidence is in, "it bears all the hallmarks of previous attacks using Iranian-provided weapons," Haley told a council meeting on implementation of a U.N. resolution that endorsed the July 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran.

Last week, Haley displayed what she said was "undeniable" evidence that Iran was supplying the Houthis with missiles.

Iran rejected the allegations and has repeatedly denied arming the rebels. The Houthis say their missiles are produced in Yemen, which is awash with weapons.

Residents of Riyadh posted videos on social media Tuesday showing a small cloud of smoke in the sky after hearing a loud explosion.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdul-Salam tweeted that a ballistic "Volcano H-2" missile was used in the attack. The rebels' military media said the missile targeted "an expanded meeting of the Saudi top leadership at Yamama palace in Riyadh."

In a televised address, rebel leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said the range of missiles in the Houthi arsenal was being extended. "Our long hand will reach other places, God willing," he said.

"As long as you continue to target Sanaa we will strike Riyadh and Abu Dhabi," he said, referring to the seat of government of the United Arab Emirates, a key member of the coalition. Earlier this month, the Houthis claimed they fired a missile at an under-construction nuclear plant in the Emirates. The UAE denied the claim.

On Nov. 4, the Houthis targeted Saudi Arabia's international airport in Riyadh, and Saudi Air Defense said it was intercepted. However, a New York Times analysis of photos and videos from the attack suggested air defenses may have missed the projectile and that the warhead struck near its intended target.

Saudi Arabia has the U.S.-made Patriot surface-to-air anti-missile system, which President Donald Trump credited for bringing the Nov. 4 missile down.

In the almost three years that the Saudi-led coalition has waged war with Yemen's rebels, dozens of other missiles have been fired by the Houthis across the border into Saudi Arabia, reaching as far as some border towns. There have been casualties among local residents in those attacks.

The Saudi-led coalition has been at war with the Houthis since March 2015. The Houthis, who are allied with Saudi Arabia's rival, Iran, have forced into exile the Saudi-backed and internationally recognized government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

Despite a fierce air campaign against the Houthis, the rebels still control the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north along the border with Saudi Arabia.

Earlier this month, the Houthis killed Yemen's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, after he broke off his alliance with them and appeared ready to switch sides.

Yemen's war has killed more than 10,000 civilians and driven millions to the brink of famine.

Associated Press writer Abdullah al-Shihri reported this story in Riyadh and AP writer Aya Batrawy reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. AP writers Hamza Hendawi in Cairo, Ahmed al-Haj in Sanaa, Yemen, and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

Striking a chord, NIH taps the brain to find how music heals

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Like a friendly Pied Piper, the violinist keeps up a toe-tapping beat as dancers weave through busy hospital hallways and into the chemotherapy unit, patients looking up in surprised delight. Upstairs, a cellist plays an Irish folk tune for a patient in intensive care.

Music increasingly is becoming a part of patient care — although it's still pretty unusual to see roving performers captivating entire wards, like at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital one fall morning.

"It takes them away for just a few minutes to some other place where they don't have to think about what's going on," said cellist Martha Vance after playing for a patient isolated to avoid spreading infection.

The challenge: Harnessing music to do more than comfort the sick. Now, moving beyond programs like Georgetown's, the National Institutes of Health is bringing together musicians, music therapists and neuroscientists to tap into the brain's circuitry and figure out how.

"The brain is able to compensate for other deficits sometimes by using music to communicate," said NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, a geneticist who also plays a mean guitar.

To turn that ability into a successful therapy, "it would be a really good thing to know which parts of the brain are still intact to be called into action. To know the circuits well enough to know the backup plan," Collins added.

Scientists aren't starting from scratch. Learning to play an instrument, for example, sharpens how the brain processes sound and can improve children's reading and other school skills. Stroke survivors who can't speak sometimes can sing, and music therapy can help them retrain brain pathways to communicate. Similarly, Parkinson's patients sometimes walk better to the right beat.

But what's missing is rigorous science to better understand how either listening to or creating music might improve health in a range of other ways — research into how the brain processes music that NIH is beginning to fund.

"The water is wide, I cannot cross over," well-known soprano Renee Fleming belted out, not from a concert stage but from inside an MRI machine at the NIH campus.

The opera star — who partnered with Collins to start the Sound Health initiative — spent two hours in the scanner to help researchers tease out what brain activity is key for singing. How? First Fleming spoke the lyrics. Then she sang them. Finally, she imagined singing them.

"We're trying to understand the brain not just so we can address mental disorders or diseases or injuries, but also so we can understand what happens when a brain's working right and what happens when it's performing at a really high level," said NIH researcher David Jangraw, who shared the MRI data with The Associated Press.

To Jangraw's surprise, several brain regions were more active when Fleming imagined singing than when she actually sang, including the brain's emotion center and areas involved with motion and vision. One theory: it took more mental effort to keep track of where she was in the song, and to maintain its

emotion, without auditory feedback.

Fleming put it more simply: "I'm skilled at singing so I didn't have to think about it quite so much," she told a spring workshop at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where she is an artistic adviser.

Indeed, Jangraw notes a saying in neuroscience: Neurons that fire together, wire together. Brain cells communicate by firing messages to each other through junctions called synapses. Cells that regularly connect — for example, when a musician practices — strengthen bonds into circuitry that forms an efficient network for, in Fleming's case, singing.

But that's a healthy brain. In North Carolina, a neuroscientist and a dance professor are starting an improvisational dance class for Alzheimer's to tell if music and movement enhance a diseased brain's neural networks.

Well before memory loss becomes severe, Alzheimer's patients can experience apathy, depression and gait and balance problems as the brain's synaptic connections begin to falter. The NIH-funded study at Wake Forest University will randomly assign such patients to the improvisation class — to dance playfully without having to remember choreography — or to other interventions.

The test: If quality-of-life symptoms improve, will MRI scans show correlating strengthening of neural networks that govern gait or social engagement?

With senior centers increasingly touting arts programs, "having a deeper understanding of how these things are affecting our biology can help us understand how to leverage resources already in our community," noted Wake Forest lead researcher Christina Hugenschmidt.

Proof may be tough. An international music therapy study failed to significantly help children with autism, the Journal of the American Medical Association recently reported, contradicting earlier promising findings. But experts cited challenges with the study and called for additional research.

Unlike music therapy, which works one-on-one toward individual outcomes, the arts and humanities program at Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center lets musicians-in-residence play throughout the hospital. Palliative care nurses often seek Vance, the cellist, for patients anxious or in pain. She may watch monitors, matching a tune's tempo to heart rate and then gradually slowing. Sometimes she plays for the dying, choosing a gently arrhythmic background and never a song that might be familiar.

Julia Langley, who directs Georgetown's program, wants research into the type and dose of music for different health situations: "If we can study the arts in the same way that science studies medication and other therapeutics, I think we will be doing so much good."

This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

FBI involved with airport blackout probe; no sign of terror

By JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The FBI is part of the probe into what caused a fire that knocked out power to the world's busiest airport in Atlanta, but an agency spokesman said Tuesday there was no sign of anything connected to terrorism.

"There's no indication at this point of anything nefarious," FBI spokesman Kevin Rowson said.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has also been involved in the investigation, Georgia Power spokesman Craig Bell said.

"We're bringing everything we have to bear to the situation to make sure this doesn't happen again," Bell said Tuesday.

No conclusions have been drawn as to the cause of the fire, which took out the airport's power supply and also its backup electricity for about 11 hours Sunday. The blackout stranded thousands of passengers on grounded jets and in darkened concourses and led to the cancellation of more than 1,500 flights just ahead of the frenzied holiday travel period.

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Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the main hub for Delta Air Lines, is a crucial cog in the nation's air travel system. Delays there typically ripple across the nation because so many U.S. and international flights are routed through the Atlanta hub.

Because of the magnitude of Sunday's outage, "we want to be able to rule out any possible scenario that wasn't equipment malfunction," Bell said.

"We really don't expect any answers like that to come forth for a few days," he said.

The power company is working with the airport to explore how to prevent the situation from happening again.

Among ideas being discussed: Encasing in concrete the area that holds key electric equipment, or moving parts of the system to other areas. The blaze took out the main power and the backup system because the fire burned through parts of both in the same underground utility tunnel, authorities have said.

Delta and other carriers said they expected to be running normally Tuesday. But passengers trying to catch Tuesday morning flights faced wait times of up to an hour just to get through the main security checkpoint in the domestic terminal, the airport's website showed.

No matter how fast Delta and other airlines move, it will take a few days to get the hundreds of thousands of grounded passengers to their final destinations, said Robert Mann, president of an airline consulting firm in Port Washington, New York. In rare cases, some passengers won't arrive until Thursday, he said.

"There are just so few seats available during a peak holiday week, that's just going to take a lot of flights with four or five seats apiece," Mann said.

Among the sad stories: The blackout caused Kennesaw State University's women's basketball team to miss a three-day tournament in Puerto Rico. After the blackout, the Owls looked for flights to the island from airports throughout the Southeast but had no luck, coach Agnus Berenato said in a statement.

On Tuesday — two days after the outage — passengers were still sleeping in the atrium area that's often used for events aimed at showcasing the world's busiest airport. Video from news outlets showed passengers sprawled out on benches and chairs, and luggage piled up in a nearby area of the domestic terminal.

Mann said the rebooking of passengers was probably complicated by the large number of inexperienced travelers this time of year.

"They're more elderly, they're more young people, they're more infrequent travelers," he said. "All these folks are going to require a lot of face time, a lot of hand-holding."

Hartsfield-Jackson serves an average of 275,000 passengers a day. Nearly 2,500 planes arrive and depart each day.

Associated Press writers Tom Krisher in Detroit; David Koenig in Dallas; and Don Schanche Jr., Kate Brumback, Johnny Clark, and Robert Ray in Atlanta contributed to this report.

UN says there are 258 million international migrants today

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — An estimated 258 million people have left their birth countries and are now living in other nations — an increase of 49 percent since 2000, says a U.N. report on international migration released Monday.

The biennial report released on International Migrants Day said the percentage of the world's people who are international migrants has increased modestly from 2.8 percent in 2000 to 3.4 percent this year.

But the report from the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs said the percentage living in high-income countries rose from 9.6 percent in 2000 to 14 percent in 2017.

"Reliable data and evidence are critical to combat misperceptions about migration and to inform migration policies," said Undersecretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Liu Zhenmin.

In September 2016, all 193 U.N. member states, including the United States under President Barack Obama, adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It said no one country can manage international migration on its own.

The countries agreed to implement well-managed migration policies and committed to sharing more

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equitably the burden of hosting refugees. They also agreed to protect the human rights of migrants and to counter xenophobia and intolerance toward migrants.

They further agreed to launch a process leading to the adoption of a global compact in 2018.

Liu said the new estimates "will provide an important baseline for member states as they begin negotiations on the Global Compact."

One important country will not be taking part. In early December, the United States said it was ending its participation in negotiations on the compact.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said the declaration "is simply not compatible with U.S. sovereignty." A statement from the U.S. Mission said numerous provisions were "inconsistent with U.S. immigration and refugee policies" under President Donald Trump.

The U.N. report said that in 2017, high-income countries hosted 64 percent of the international migrants worldwide, or nearly 165 million people.

This year, two-thirds of migrants were living in just 20 countries, the report said. The largest number — 49.8 million, or 19 percent of the global total — live in the United States. Saudi Arabia, Germany and Russia are hosting the second, third and fourth largest amounts, at around 12 million, while the United Kingdom is fifth with nearly 9 million, the report said.

It said migrants have contributed to population growth in North America and Oceania, and without migrants the population of Europe would have declined from 2000 to 2015.

Analysis: GOP's tea party promises dashed in tax cut embrace

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tea party class of 2010 vowed to usher in a new era for the Republican Party, one where conservatives clamoring for fiscal discipline would roll back government spending to rein in trillion-plus budget deficits.

Not anymore.

Republicans are returning to their Ronald Reagan-era roots — tax cuts first, followed by vague promises of cutting spending down the road. Concerns about growing budget deficits have been shelved as Republicans controlling Washington focus instead on delivering tax breaks along with spending increases for the military.

GOP leaders insist they haven't abandoned their desire to confront trillion-dollar deficits. Looking toward 2018, House Speaker Paul Ryan has raised the prospect of tackling runaway benefit programs — with the spike in the deficit caused by the tax overhaul already being used to justify a potential round of austerity next year.

That would require political courage that's rare in an election year in which Republicans face the prospect of daunting losses.

If history repeats, the spending cuts won't be realized. Reagan's assault on the bureaucracy sputtered. Republicans in Congress haven't made a serious run at cutting spending since a failed 2011 budget deal delivered automatic cuts known as sequestration to Washington. Those, too, have unraveled.

And whether President Donald Trump's tax cuts prove to be durable remains to be seen. Reagan's 1981 tax cut was pared back several times. Three of the following four presidents — George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama — signed tax increases into law.

For now, the clear winners are the individuals soon to pocket tax cuts, along with corporations and businesses that stand to reap a windfall. The potential losers are the people who rely on the social safety net. But if Republicans fail, again, in their promises to wrestle the budget under control, the joke will be on the tea party base that thought it was voting for fiscal conservatism.

The budget deficit, which registered \$666 billion in the 2017 budget year, is set to soar even higher, fueled by the tax cuts, a disaster relief total set to breach \$130 billion, and long-promised, record budget increases for the military. Trillion-dollar deficits loom before the end of Trump's term, which has Republicans already planning a pivot to long-promised curbs on government benefit programs such as food stamps,

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Medicaid and Medicare.

"There is no way out," Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., a member of the party's deficit-hawk wing, said Tuesday. "The tax bill is in essence the nail in the coffin on driving the absolute mathematical necessity of reform to entitlement programs. You can't have both."

Ryan said in an interview Tuesday that "even if we get the kind of growth we hope to get (from tax cuts), you still have to reform entitlements if you're going to get this debt under control. You cannot grow your way out of the entitlement problem we have coming."

It bears noting that Republicans have promised spending cuts for years. The triumphant 2010 tea party class of GOP lawmakers who seized control of the House ran on fiscal discipline, and their demands for austerity brought the nation to the brink of default in the summer of 2011.

But the 2011 budget deal that delivered much-maligned automatic cuts to annual spending for agencies is unraveling, and controversial, long-promised curbs to the rapid growth of Medicare haven't ever left the planning stages. Cuts in domestic programs such as food stamps or housing just won't make a mathematical dent in the \$20 trillion debt that future generations will bear.

Next year, the arrival of Doug Jones, D-Ala., will cut the Senate GOP advantage to just 51-49. The recent track record of Congress making difficult budget choices in election years doesn't inspire confidence. And any potential savings from so-called welfare reform are dwarfed by the \$1.5 trillion or more deficit tag for the tax measure.

"Once you cut taxes, it's real hard to turn around and tell people you have to cut spending for fiscal responsibility," said Brian Riedl, a senior fellow at the conservative Manhattan Institute. "Entitlement reform was hard before the tax cuts; it'll be nearly impossible after."

In passing the tax bill and then promising spending cuts later, Republicans are attacking the GOP policy menu like their predecessors — dessert first, vegetables later.

It's a replay of the experience under President George W. Bush, who powered through tax cuts in 2001 and 2003 and the creation of a Medicare prescription drug benefit in 2003 as well. But when the agenda turned to cutting spending, particularly a 2005 bid to shore up Social Security, Bush flopped badly, while the tortured legislative path later that year to enact modest spending cuts of \$40 billion over five years proved almost comically difficult.

In the 2006 midterms, the GOP president and Republicans lost control of the House and Senate.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Andrew Taylor has covered the budget and government spending for the AP since 2005.

Asian shares mixed in listless trading on Wall Street fall

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mixed Wednesday in listless trading after the fall on Wall Street that reversed the recent gains over the Republican-backed U.S. tax bill.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 0.1 percent to 22,849.81 in morning trading. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was little changed at 6,074.10. South Korea's Kospi was also unchanged at 2,478.44. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.2 percent at 29,314.09, while the Shanghai Composite added nearly 0.1 percent to 3,298.61.

US TAXES: The recent upbeat sentiments over the U.S. tax bill appeared to be waning. Investors like the proposed tax cut because it would boost corporate profits and likely raise stock prices along with it. The bill, set for a final vote in the House later in the day, would initially cut taxes for most Americans, but by 2027 would increase tax bills for most.

WALL STREET: The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 8.69 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,681.47. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 37.45 points, or 0.2 percent, to 24,754.75. The Nasdaq composite gave up 30.91 points, or 0.4 percent, to 6,963.85. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks fell 12.17 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,536.75. It climbed almost 3 percent over the previous two days.

THE QUOTE: "In the run up to the year-end, equity markets can be seen cruising broadly in a cautious

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manner, where the confirmation of the U.S. tax bill passage is still needed for prices to further its run," says Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 20 cents to \$57.76 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 13 cents to \$63.93 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 112.91 yen from 112.58 yen late Tuesday in Asia. The euro rose slightly to \$1.1844 from \$1.1811.

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2017. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

On this date:

In 1790, the first successful cotton mill in the United States began operating at Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

In 1812, German authors Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published the first volume of the first edition of their collection of folk stories, "Children's and Household Tales."

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Georgia, as Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman nearly completed his "March to the Sea."

In 1924, Adolf Hitler was released from prison after serving nine months for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch.

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1946, the Frank Capra film "It's A Wonderful Life," starring James Stewart and Donna Reed, had a preview showing for charity in New York, a day before its official world premiere.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1976, Richard J. Daley, the mayor of Chicago since 1955, died in office at age 74.

In 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In 1995, an American Airlines Boeing 757 en route to Cali, Colombia, slammed into a mountain, killing all but four of the 163 people aboard. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, NATO began its peacekeeping mission, taking over from the United Nations.

Ten years ago: Police used chemical spray and stun guns on protesters outside a New Orleans City Council meeting where members unanimously supported demolition of 4,500 public housing units for post-Hurricane Katrina redevelopment. Thieves broke into the Sao Paulo Museum of Art in Brazil and made off with two paintings, one by Pablo Picasso and the other by Candido Portinari. (The works were recovered in January 2008.) Utah opened the bowl season with a wild 35-32 victory over the Navy Midshipmen in the Poinsettia Bowl.

Five years ago: The State Department acknowledged major weaknesses in security and errors in judgment exposed in a scathing independent report on the deadly Sept. 11, 2012 assault on a U.S. diplomatic mission in Libya. The National Hockey League, in a labor fight with its players, announced the cancellation

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of the 2012-13 regular-season schedule through Jan. 14, 2013. Michael Phelps was named The Associated Press male athlete of the year. Three-time Olympic runner Suzy Favor Hamilton acknowledged working as an escort following a report on The Smoking Gun website about her double life.

One year ago: President Barack Obama designated the bulk of U.S.-owned waters in the Arctic Ocean and certain areas in the Atlantic Ocean as indefinitely off limits to future oil and gas leasing. A deadly chain-reaction explosion ripped through Mexico's best-known fireworks market on the northern outskirts of the capital, killing at least 36 people. Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova was injured in her playing hand by a knife-wielding attacker at her Czech Republic home and underwent surgery (the attacker remains at large).

Today's Birthdays: Original Mouseketeer Tommy Cole (TV: "The Mickey Mouse Club") is 76. Rhythm and blues singer-musician Walter "Wolfman" Washington is 74. Rock musician-music producer Bobby Colomby is 73. Rock musician Peter Criss is 72. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue is 71. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 71. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 71. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 69. Actress Jenny Agutter is 65. Actor Michael Badalucco is 63. Actress Blanche Baker is 61. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 60. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, FIREHOSE) is 60. Actor Joel Gretsch is 54. Country singer Kris Tyler is 53. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 51. Actress Nicole deBoer is 47. Movie director Todd Phillips is 47. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 35. Actor Jonah Hill is 34. Actor Bob Morley is 33. Singer JoJo is 27.

Thought for Today: "It's the friends you can call up at 4 a.m. that matter." — Marlene Dietrich, German-born actress (1901-1992).