

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith named to fill Franken seat

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Lt. Gov. Tina Smith today to replace fellow Democratic Sen. Al Franken until a special election in November, setting up his longtime and trusted adviser for a potentially bruising 2018 election.

Smith was widely seen as Dayton's top choice from the moment Franken announced his resignation last week. But her previous decision not to run for governor had raised questions about whether she would want to launch a Senate campaign that would be in the national spotlight.

Smith told reporters today that she intends to run to complete Franken's term through 2020.

"I can tell you I shouldn't be underestimated and if I weren't confident I wouldn't be doing this," she said.

It's not clear when Smith will head to Washington. Franken, who resigned under pressure from his own party after he was accused of improper behavior by at least eight women, announced last Thursday that he would resign "in the coming weeks." His office said Tuesday that he had not yet set a final departure date.

The appointment won't change the balance of power in the Senate.

Smith, 59, may have competition from her own party as well, with several Democrats who had hoped to succeed Dayton likely to eye the Senate race as well. And her past work with Planned Parenthood in Minnesota and other Midwestern states, where she served as an executive, was sure to become a flash point with Republicans on the campaign trail.

A native of New Mexico, she graduated from Stanford and earned an MBA from Dartmouth. A marketing job with General Mills brought her to Minnesota, where she eventually started her own marketing and political consulting firm.

House, Senate leaders reach deal on tax package

WASHINGTON — House and Senate GOP leaders forged an agreement today on a sweeping overhaul of the nation's tax laws, paving the way for final votes next week to slash taxes for businesses and give many Americans modest tax cuts starting next year.

Top GOP aides said lawmakers had reached an agreement in principle on the final package. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly about private negotiations.

Details still need to be drafted and assessed by congressional scorekeepers, but the final House-Senate compromise is on track to be unveiled this week, the aides said.

Asked if there is a deal in principle on the tax cuts, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said, "It's more than that. I think we've got a pretty good deal."

The measure would give President Donald Trump his first major victory in Congress. It fulfills a longstanding goal by top Republicans such as Speaker Paul Ryan to rewrite the loophole-cluttered tax code.

The measure has come under assault by Dem-



AP Photo/Aijaz Rahi

Dire Straits lead guitarist Mark Knopfler performs in 2005 in Bombay, India.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ocrats who say it is unfairly tilted in favor of business and the wealthy.

Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer said today GOP leaders should pump the brakes on taxes and delay a final vote until Sen.-elect Doug Jones, D-Ala., is sworn in.

"It would be wrong for Senate Republicans to jam through this tax bill without giving the newly elected senator from Alabama the opportunity to cast his vote," Schumer told reporters. "That's exactly what Republicans argued when (former Massachusetts GOP Sen.) Scott Brown was elected in 2010."

Back then, the issue was a sweeping overhaul of the nation's health care system that Democrats muscled through Congress in March 2010.

Palestinian leader rejects US role in peace process

ISTANBUL — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told an international summit today that the United States was unfit to mediate the Mideast conflict, marking a major policy shift after decades spent courting American goodwill.

He announced the shift, which came in response to President Donald Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, at a summit of Muslim leaders that condemned the U.S. move and called for world recognition of a Palestinian state with its capital in east Jerusalem.

Abbas said Trump's decision was a "crime," which came at a time when the Palestinians were engaged with Washington in a new push to reach a long-elusive peace agreement with Israel, the "deal of our times."

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

The summit of the 57-member Organization of Muslim Cooperation concluded with the so-called Istanbul Declaration, outlining the bloc's response to Trump's declaration. It called the decision "null and void" and urged Trump to reconsider the move, which it said was an "unlawful decision that might trigger chaos in the region."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who hosted the summit, said it is "out of the

question" for Washington to continue mediating between Israel and the Palestinians. "That process is now over," he said. An earlier draft communiqué had similarly declared the U.S. role over, but it was not clear if that language was ultimately adopted by the attendees.

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

Crews gain on huge California fire but wind threat remains

LOS ANGELES — After announcing increased containment on one of the biggest wildfires in California history, officials warned that communities remain at risk and the threat could increase as unpredictable winds whip up again.

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

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

Officials announced Tuesday night that crews had carved containment lines around one-quarter of the blaze straddling Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

The so-called Thomas fire has burned over 900 structures, at least 700 of them homes, since it broke out Dec. 4. It stretches across nearly 370 square miles of Southern California, making it the fifth-largest in state history.

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

Russian nuclear plant says it emits leaked nuclear isotope

MOSCOW — A senior executive at the Russian nuclear processing plant suspected of being behind a spike of radioactivity over Europe this fall admitted today that the isotope recorded does emerge as part of the plant's production cycle, but said its levels are negligible.

Russian officials last month reported high levels of Ruthenium-106 in areas close to the Mayak nuclear plant in the Ural Mountains.

The environmental group Greenpeace alleged that Mayak could have been the source of a Ruthenium-106 leak, but the plant said it has not extracted the isotope or conducted any other operations that may lead to its release "for many years."

But Yuri Mokrov, adviser to Mayak's director general, said in a webcast press conference Wednesday that Ruthenium-106 routinely emerges during the processing of spent nuclear fuel. Mokrov insisted, however, the plant was not the source of any major leak, saying it does not produce the isotope on purpose and that the emissions that the plant makes are so insignificant "we can only see it in the chimney."

**TV SCHEDULE** THE DAILY ASTORIAN **Evening listings WEDNESDAY**

A - Charter Astoria/Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach

WEDNESDAY EVENING		DECEMBER 13											
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Speechless (N)	Modern Family (N)	Am.Housewife (N)	Designated Survivor "Line of Fire" (N)	KATU News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Speechless (N)	Modern Family (N)	Am.Housewife (N)	Designated Survivor "Line of Fire" (N)	KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	The Wall		Golden Globes A showcase of the best moments of the Golden Globes. (N)			KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show	
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Survivor (N)		SEAL Team "Collapse"		Criminal Minds "Wheels Up"	KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Colbert	
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Survivor (N)		SEAL Team "Collapse"		Criminal Minds "Wheels Up"	KIRO News (N)	(35) Colbert	
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	The Wall		Golden Globes A showcase of the best moments of the Golden Globes. (N)			KGW News (N)	(35) Tonight Show	
9	KRCW	(9) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	River "Silent Night, Deadly Night" (N)		Dynasty "Rotten Things" (N)		News at 10 (N)	Mom	Two and a Half	
10	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature "Soul of the Elephant"		Nova "Secret Tunnel Warfare"		City in the Sky "Departure"	How to Stay Young		
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Empire "Slave to Memory" (N)		Star "Climax" (N)		10 O'Clock News (N)	News (N)	Page Six TV	
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)		9 O'Clock News (N)		Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game	
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Empire "Slave to Memory" (N)		Star "Climax" (N)		Q13 News at 10 (N)	Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons	
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal (N)	Conan (N)	
22	KZJO	(22) Friends	Friends	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) NBA Basketb.	NBA Basketball	Charlotte Hornets at Houston Rockets Site: Toyota Center -- Houston, Texas (L)		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)		SportsCenter (N)		Jalen & Jacoby (N)	The Fantasy Show	NBA Basketball Oklahoma vs Indiana	
30	ESPN2	(30) The Fantasy Show	Boxing Top Rank	SC Featured (N)	SportsCenter (N)	Baseball Tonight (L)							
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	SpongeBob	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Friends	
32	DISN	(32) Jessie	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Andi Mack	Stuck in Middle		Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	K.C. Undercover	Liv and Maddie	Bizaardvark	
34	FAM	(34) (4:30) Elf ('03, Com)	(4:00) *** The Santa Clause ('94) Judge Reinhold, Wendy Crewson, Tim Allen.	(5:00) *** The Santa		Clause 3: The Escape Clause ('07, Family)	Martin Short, Abigail Breslin, Tim Allen.					The 700 Club	
35	FMC	(35) Movie	(5:00) *** Night at the Museum (2006, Comedy) Robin Williams, Dick Van Dyke, Ben Stiller.			(05) FXM Presents	*** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty ('13) Kristen Wiig, Adam Scott, Ben Stiller.	(45) FXM Presents					
36	LIFE	(36) Little Women: Atlanta "Cruise Control"	LW Atlanta "Unexpected Ending"	Little Women: LA "A Little Festive" (N)		LW Atlanta "Rumor Has It" (N)		Little Women: LA (N)		Little Women: LA "A Little Festive"			
38	ROOT	(38) NCAA Basketball Kennesaw State at Texas Tech (L)		In Depth	Press Pass	Press Pass (N)	UEFA Soccer Champions League Borussia Dortmund vs. Real Madrid					UEFA Soccer	
39	FS1	(39) (5:00) NCAA Basketball (L)	UFC Tonight	Speak for Yourself		TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.					UFC Main Event	
43	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*** The Day After Tomorrow (2004, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal, Ian Holm, Dennis Quaid.					
44	COM	(44) (2:00) South Park "Obama Wins!"	(5:55) South Park	(4:45) ** The Hangover Part III (2013, Comedy) Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms, Bradley Cooper.		The Fake News With Ted Nelsms (N)		The Daily Show (N)	The Opposition (N)				
45	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Vikings "Homeland"		Vikings "The Plan" (N)		Knighfall "Find Us the Grail" (N)	(05) Knightfall "Find Us the Grail"		
46	A&E	(46) Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)		OzzyandJack "Pearls of Wisdom" (N)	(05) Storage Wars	(35) Storage Wars	
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	My 600-lb Life "Erica's Story" Erica regrets not keeping a promise to her mom.		My 600-lb Life "Brandi and Kandi's Story"						My 600-lb Life "Erica's Story"	
49	DISC	(49) Fat Follow Ups "Chippa and Baby" (N)	Fat Follow Ups "Coco and Niko" (N)	Fat Follow Ups "Fletcher and Paddy" (N)		Fat Follow Ups "Stella and Petey" (N)		Big Fat "Beau Nugget and Gracie" (N)		Pet Makeover "Thor God of Blubber"			
49	NGEO	(49) StarTalk "James Cameron"	The Real Amelia Earhart	Librarians "And the Dark Secret" (N)		*** A Christmas Carol ('99, Dra) Richard E. Grant, Joel Grey, Patrick Stewart.		*** A Christmas Carol ('84) George C. Scott.		Locked Up "Masters of Disguise"		Locked Up "Broad" Jamaica	
50	TNT	(50) (5:30) *** The Blind Side ('09) Tim McGraw, Quinton Aaron, Sandra Bullock.		*** This Christmas (2007, Comedy) Idris Elba, Loretta Devine, Delroy Lindo.		*** A Christmas Carol ('99, Dra) Richard E. Grant, Joel Grey, Patrick Stewart.		*** A Christmas Carol ('84) George C. Scott.					
51	AMC	(51) (5:00) *** The Notebook ('04) Rachel McAdams, Gena Rowlands, Ryan Gosling.		*** This Christmas (2007, Comedy) Idris Elba, Loretta Devine, Delroy Lindo.		*** A Christmas Carol ('99, Dra) Richard E. Grant, Joel Grey, Patrick Stewart.		*** A Christmas Carol ('84) George C. Scott.					
52	USA	(52) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Intoxicated"	WWWE NXT	Iron Chef Show. "Italian Holiday Battle"		Iron Chef "Battle Bobby Play All Day" (N)		Mr. Robot "shutdown-r" (SF) (N)		(10) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Trade"		Iron Chef America "Winter Ice Battle"	
53	FOOD	(53) Iron Chef America	WWWE NXT	Iron Chef Show. "Italian Holiday Battle"		Iron Chef "Battle Bobby Play All Day" (N)		Mr. Robot "shutdown-r" (SF) (N)		(10) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Trade"		Iron Chef America "Winter Ice Battle"	
54	HGTV	(54) Buying/Sell "Letting Go Is Hard to Do"	Buying/Sell "Moving in With the Folks"	Property Brothers		Property "Make Room for Guests" (N)		House Hunter (N)	House Hunters (N)	Property Brothers			
56	FX	(56) (5:00) *** Jack Reacher ('12, Act) Rosamund Pike, Richard Jenkins, Tom Cruise.		*** Lucy (2014, Action) Morgan Freeman, Analeigh Tipton, Scarlett Johansson.		*** Lucy (2014, Action) Morgan Freeman, Analeigh Tipton, Scarlett Johansson.		*** Lucy (2014, Action) Morgan Freeman, Analeigh Tipton, Scarlett Johansson.		*** Lucy (2014, Action) Morgan Freeman, Analeigh Tipton, Scarlett Johansson.			
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	(58) Hannity	The Ingraham Angle	Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank	Job Interview (N)	The Job Interview		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Job Interview	The Job Interview	Paid Program	
63	BRAV	(63) Wives NJ "A Retreat to Remember"	Wives NJ "Walking on Broken Glass"	Housewives NJ "When Chairs Fly"		Housewives NJ "When Chairs Fly"		Housewives NJ "Meltdown in Milan" (N)		Housewives NJ "Meltdown in Milan" (N)		WatchWhat	
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) To Be Announced										Housewives NJ	
65	SYFY	(65) (4:45) Immortals ('11, Act) Henry Cavill.	(15) *** Shooter (2007, Action) Michael Peña, Danny Glover, Mark Wahlberg.							Happy! (N)	(50) *** Shooter ('07, Act) Michael Peña, Mark Wahlberg.		
162	RFD	(162) Dude Ranch (N)	Cowboy (N)	WesternSport	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	Racer's Edge	Cowboy TV	Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Product Showcase	

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