

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Sheriff: Facebook post led search for lawmaker found dead

FRANKFORT, Ky. — An ominous Facebook post from a Kentucky lawmaker facing sexual assault allegations is part of what prompted his family to report him missing to authorities, a sheriff said today.

The post from Dan Johnson on Wednesday night asked people to take care of his wife and said "heaven is my home." Sometime after the post, the Republican apparently killed himself on a bridge in a secluded area. A day earlier, he had defiantly denied the sex assault allegations.

The accusations came amid a sexual harassment scandal involving other Republican lawmakers at the state Capitol.

Bullitt County Coroner Dave Billings said Johnson died of a single gunshot wound, "probably suicide." He stopped his car at the end of a bridge in a secluded area, got out and walked to the front of the car. An autopsy is scheduled for today.

Bullitt County Sheriff Donnie Tinnell said police recovered a 40 mm pistol next to Johnson's body. Johnson's family had reported him missing because they could not reach him after he posted the Facebook message about 5 p.m.

Johnson was elected to the state legislature in 2016, part of a wave of Republican victories that gave the GOP control of the Kentucky House of Representatives for the first time in nearly 100 years. He won his election despite Republican leaders urging him to drop out of the race after local media reported on some of his Facebook posts comparing Barack and Michelle Obama to monkeys.

The pastor of Heart of Fire church in Louisville, Johnson sponsored a number of bills having to do with religious liberty and teaching the Bible in public schools. But he was mostly out of the spotlight until Monday, when the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting published an account from a woman saying Johnson sexually assaulted her in the basement of his home in 2013.

Farenthold to retire from House amid harassment accusations

WASHINGTON — Two Republicans say Texas GOP Rep. Blake Farenthold won't seek re-election next year. The lawmaker is under pressure from sexual misconduct allegations that surfaced three years ago but have come under renewed focus.

Mike Bergsma is Republican county chairman in Farenthold's home county of Nueces. He tells The Associated Press that Farenthold campaign manager Joseph Walter told him Thursday that the lawmaker is not seeking re-election.

Another Republican in Washington confirmed that Farenthold is retiring. The source spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a decision that the congressman had not officially announced.

A former Farenthold aide sued him in 2014, claiming sexually suggestive comments and behavior.

Three members of Congress facing sexual harassment accusations announced their resignations last week.

Disney buying large part of 21st Century Fox in \$52.4 billion deal

NEW YORK — Disney is buying the Murdoch family's Fox movie and television studios and some cable and international TV businesses for about \$52.4 billion, as the home of Mickey Mouse tries to meet competition from technology companies in the entertainment business.



Rich Fury/Invision

Tavis Smiley in 2016 at the 33rd annual ASCAP Pop Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Smiley, suspended by PBS, vows to fight back

NEW YORK — PBS has suspended radio and TV host Tavis Smiley after finding what it called "troubling allegations" of sexual misconduct, making him the second high-profile star to be ousted from a network known for its high-brow, genteel programming.

The Public Broadcasting Service said Wednesday an independent investigation uncovered "multiple, credible allegations of conduct that is inconsistent with the values and standards of PBS." His show's page at PBS was scrubbed today.

Smiley shot back on Facebook, saying PBS "overreacted" and calling it "a rush to judgment." He said he has never harassed anyone and claimed one relationship the network uncovered was consensual.

"If having a consensual relationship with a colleague years ago is the stuff that leads to this kind of public humiliation and personal destruction, heaven help us," he said. "This has gone too far. And, I, for one, intend to fight back."

The ouster comes weeks after PBS cut ties with anchor and talk show host Charlie Rose, citing "extremely disturbing and intolerable behavior" by him toward women at his PBS talk show.

Smiley brought rare diversity to late-night TV and has drawn the ire of conservatives and liberals alike for some of his views. He has worked for six networks over a 30-year career. His radio program "The Tavis Smiley Show" was distributed by Public Radio International from 2005 to 2013. He has been with PBS for 14 seasons and some 3,000 episodes.

Disney's all-stock deal for 21st Century Fox gives it the studios behind "Avatar," "The Simpsons" and "Modern Family," though Murdoch will keep the Fox News Channel, the Fox television network and other U.S. television businesses. The deal also brings Marvel characters such as X-Men and The Avengers under one roof.

That Rupert Murdoch and his sons were willing to sell off much of the business that has been built up over decades came as a shock to the entertainment industry.

Murdoch, who built a global media and entertainment empire out of an inheritance from his father in Australia, says selling much of the 21st Century Fox entertainment businesses to Disney allows what remains of his family's business to focus on American news and sports. During a call with investors today, Murdoch describes the move as a return to the company's lean and aggressive roots.

The deal comes as the entertainment business goes through big changes. TV doesn't have a monopoly on home entertainment anymore. There's Netflix, which is spending up to \$8 billion on programming next year. Amazon is building its own library, having splashed out on global TV rights to "Lord of the Rings." Facebook, Google and Apple are also investing in video.

FCC votes down 'net neutrality' rules, opponents brace for long fight

NEW YORK — The Federal Communications Commission has voted on party lines to undo sweeping Obama-era "net neutrality" rules that guaranteed equal access to the internet.

The agency's Democratic commissioners dissented in the 3-2 vote today.

The vote could usher in big changes in how Americans use the internet, a radical departure

from more than a decade of federal oversight. The proposal would not only roll back restrictions that keep broadband providers like Comcast, Verizon and AT&T from blocking or collecting tolls from services they don't like, it would bar states from imposing their own rules.

The broadband industry promises that the internet experience isn't going to change, but its companies have lobbied hard to overturn these rules. Protests have erupted online and in the streets as everyday Americans worry that cable and phone companies will be able to control what they see and do online.

That growing public movement suggests that the FCC vote won't be the end of the issue. Opponents of the move plan legal challenges, and some net-neutrality supporters hope to ride that wave of public opinion into the 2018 elections.

Ample tax cuts for business, wealthy in new GOP tax accord

WASHINGTON — Generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans would be delivered in a sweeping overhaul of the tax laws, under a new agreement crafted by Republicans in Congress.

Middle- and low-income families would receive smaller tax cuts, though President Donald Trump and Republican leaders have billed the package as a huge benefit for the middle class. The agreement reached Wednesday by House and Senate GOP leaders also calls for scrapping a major tax requirement of the "Obamacare" health law, a step toward the ultimate GOP goal of unraveling the law.

The agreement combines key elements of separate tax bills recently passed by the House and Senate, striking compromises on some of them. The Republicans are pushing to deliver

final legislation to Trump before Christmas as the first major legislative accomplishment of his presidency.

At the White House, Trump was eager to receive it. "The cynical voices that opposed tax cuts grow smaller and weaker, and the American people grow stronger, he said. "This is for people of middle income, this is for companies that are going to create jobs. This is for very, very special people, the great people of America."

The business tax cuts would be permanent, but reductions for individuals would expire after a decade — saving money to comply with Senate budget rules. In all, the bill would cut taxes by about \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years, adding billions to the nation's mounting debt.

Judges to examine if drug stash-house stings racially biased

CHICAGO — The question of whether federal agents display racial bias by staging phony drug stash-house stings overwhelmingly in black neighborhoods is the focus of hearings beginning today in Chicago and could determine whether agencies curtail or even abandon their use nationwide.

A first-of-its-kind panel of federal trial judges holds two days of hearings on the stings, which are overseen by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and typically involve agents posing as cartel couriers who talk suspects into agreeing to rob drugs that don't exist from what they are told are guarded stash houses that are also fictitious.

The nine panelists — each of whom presides over 12 separate stash-house cases with 43 defendants in all — chose to hear evidence simultaneously on the question after defense teams in the dozen cases all moved for the indictments to be tossed on grounds of racial bias.

How the judges rule in coming weeks — and they could submit a single ruling — is expected to influence how courts around the country deal with similar claims about the stings, which have been a favorite tool of federal law enforcement dating back to the 1990s. Rulings in Chicago could also encourage the U.S. Supreme Court to take up issue.

Among the panelists is Ruben Castillo, whose ruling in 2013 that there's a "strong showing of potential bias" in the stings generated years of legal motions and dueling expert reports — culminating in this week's hearings. He ruled just weeks after he was sworn in as the federal court's first Hispanic chief judge.

South Korean President Moon in China on visit to repair ties

BEIJING — South Korean President Moon Jae-in met his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping today during a visit to Beijing aimed at repairing ties frayed by a dispute over the deployment of an American anti-missile system.

The two leaders were to preside over a document signing ceremony following their talks, although there was no indication they would be issuing statements. While the visit is a sign of progress toward resolving the more than one-year-old dispute, China continues to demand the removal of the U.S. Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, known as THAAD, saying it allows South Korea and its U.S. ally to spy on military activity in northeastern China.

South Korean businesses in China have suffered as a result of the dispute. China suspended group tours to South Korea that are a mainstay of the local tourism industry, pulled South Korean soap operas off television and banned the country's popular K-Pop stars from visiting.

South Korea's Lotte business group, which provided the land for the missile-defense system, had to suspend business amid the anti-South Korea sentiments.

THURSDAY EVENING												DECEMBER 14													
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	A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach											
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (P) (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	Celebration (N)	Prep and Landing	Baking Show "Dessert Week" (N)	Baking Show "Cookie Week" (N)	Baking Show "Cookie Week" (N)	KATU News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel													
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (P) (N)	Celebration (N)	Prep and Landing	Baking Show "Dessert Week" (N)	Baking Show "Cookie Week" (N)	Baking Show "Cookie Week" (N)	KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel													
5	KING	(5) (5:20) NFL Football Denver Broncos at Indianapolis Colts Site: Lucas Oil Stadium -- Indianapolis, Ind. (L)		Extra	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Young Sheldon	Mom (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	S.W.A.T. "Homecoming" (N)	KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show													
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Young Sheldon	Mom (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	S.W.A.T. "Homecoming" (N)	KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Colbert													
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Young Sheldon	Mom (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	S.W.A.T. "Homecoming" (N)	KIRO News (N)	(35) Colbert													
8	KGW	(8) (5:20) NFL Football Denver Broncos at Indianapolis Colts Site: Lucas Oil Stadium -- Indianapolis, Ind. (L)		(35) Paid Program	Paid Program	Inside Edition	Dateline NBC				KGW News (N)	(35) Tonight Show													
9	KRCW	(9) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Jingle Ball Performances from Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran. (N)	Whose Line Is It?	News at 10 (N)	Mom	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Two and a Half													
10	KOPB	(10) Mickela Mallozi	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	Art Beat (N)	Oregon Guide	Midsomer M.	(50) Midsomer M.	Blood Wedding	(35) Masterpiece Mystery!	Mystery! "Breathless" 1/3														
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Showtime Apollo	"Christmas" (N)	Taraji's White Hot Holidays (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	The Game														
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Showtime Apollo	"Christmas" (N)	Taraji's White Hot Holidays (N)	Q13 News at 10 (N)	Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons														
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)														
22	KZJQ	(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	Two and a Half													
29	ESPN	(29) NCAA Studio	NCAA Volleyball Division I Tournament (L)			SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)				SportsCenter (N)														
30	ESPN2	(30) (5:30) NCAA Basketball Texas Southern at Baylor (L)		Boxing Golden Boy Diego de la Hoya vs. Jose Salgado (L)				Mike Tyson's Hits	Jalen & Jacoby (N)	The Fantasy Show	30 for 30 "Mike and the Mad Dog"														
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	SpongeBob	** Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil Hayden Panettiere.	Full House	Fresh Prince	Friends	Friends	Friends														
32	DISN	(32) Jessie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Andi Mack	Stuck in Middle	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	K.C. Undercover	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home													
34	FAM	(34) Movie	(45) ** Four Christmases '08	Reese Witherspoon, Robert Duvall, Vince Vaughn.				(50) *** National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation '89	Beverly D'Angelo, Chevy Chase.		The 700 Club														
35	FMC	(35) (15) ** Identity Thief (2013, Comedy)	Melissa McCarthy, Amanda Peet, Jason Bateman.					FXM Presents (4:40) ** Just Married '03	Brittany Murphy, Ashton Kutcher.	(35) FXM Presents (4:40) * Getaway '13	Ethan Hawke.														
36	LIFE	(36) Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy "No Man's Land"			A Very Merry Toy Store '17, Dra) Mario Lopez, Beth Broderick, Melissa Joan Hart.		A Gift Wrapped Christmas '15	Travis Milne, Beverly Mitchell, Meredith Hagner.		AMA Supercross														
39	ROOT	(39) Rodeo Chase Hawks Rough Stock	Bull Riding Championship			Fantasy Football Hour (N)		Press Pass (N)	Press Pass	Poker Heartland Tour															
39	FS1	(39) (5:00) UFC UFC 212				Speak for Yourself		TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.		UFC Flashback														
43	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	** The Hangover (2009, Comedy)	Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms.		Rush Hour '98														
44	COM	(44) (5:20) ** The Hangover Part III '13	Bradley Cooper.	(50) The Fake News	With Ted Nelsms			(55) Drunk History	Drunk History	Drunk History	The Daily Show (N)	The Opposition (N)													
45	HIST	(45) Amer. Pickers "Sweet Homes Alabama"	American Pickers "Museum Man"			Pickers "Who's the Rarest of Them All?"	American Pickers "Unique Rides" (N)	(05) A. Pickers "Divide and Conquer"	(05) Pickers "May the Ford Be With You"																
46	A&E	(46) The First 48 "Graveyard Love"	The First 48 "The Fighter/ Final Ride"			The First 48 "Bad Love"		Menendez M "Abuse Excuse?" (N)	(05) The First 48 "Honour Code"																
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	90 Day Fiance "Breaking Point" David's kids meet Annie and it turns hostile. (N)	Unexpected "Ticking Clocks" (N)	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced															
48	DISC	(48) To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	Naked and Afraid "Nightcrawlers"	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced															
49	NGEO	(49) Hotels "Royal Mansour, Morocco" (N)	Wild Egypt			Running Wild "James Marsden"	Running Wild "Kate Winslet"	Running Wild "Ben Stiller"	Running Wild "Kate Winslet"	NBA Basketball L.A. Lakers vs Cleveland	NBA Basketball L.A. Lakers vs Cleveland	NBA Basketball L.A. Lakers vs Cleveland													
50	TNT	(50) (5:00) NBA Basketball L.A. Lakers vs Cleveland (L)		NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Golden State Warriors Site: The Oracle -- Oakland, Calif. (L)				** Ernest Saves Christmas '88, Comedy	Douglas Seale, Billie Bird, Jim Varney.	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Closet"	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Closet"														
51	AMC	(51) (5:30) *** This Christmas '07, Comedy	Idris Elba, Loretta Devine, Delroy Lindo.	** Deck the Halls '06, Com	Matthew Broderick, Kristin Davis, Danny de Vito.	WWWE Tribute to the Troops (N)	Chopped "Holiday Reality Check"	Chopped "Chopped Grand Holiday"	Beat Fly (N)	Beat Bobby Fly	Beat Bobby Fly	Beat Bobby Fly													
52	USA	(52) (5:30) *** Thor '11, Act) Anthony Hopkins, Natalie Portman, Chris Hemsworth.		Chopped "Holiday Reality Check"				Chopped "Chopped Grand Holiday"	House Hunter (N)	House Hunters (N)	Vintage Flip (N)	Vintage Flip													
53	FOOD	(53) Beat Bobby Fly	Beat Bobby Fly	Chopped "Holiday Reality Check"				Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop													
54	HGTV	(54) Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip-Ft. Worth (N)	Flip or Flop Vegas	House Hunter (N)	House Hunters (N)	Vintage Flip (N)	Vintage Flip												
58	FX	(58) ** Lucy (2014, Action) Morgan Freeman, Analeigh Tipton, Scarlett Johansson.		** White House Down (2013, Action)	Jamie Foxx, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Channing Tatum.			Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon													
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon				Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity	Hannity	The Ingraham Angle	The Ingraham Angle													
58	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle				The Profit "Monica Potter Home"	The Profit "The Soup Market"		Paid Program														
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Shark Tank				Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles (N)	Top Chef "Smile and Say Miso" (N)	(15) Watch (N)	(45) Million Listing														
63	BRV	(63) Top Chef "It'll Take More Than Pot Luck"		Top Chef Junior "Field Day"				Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles (N)	Top Chef "Smile and Say Miso" (N)	(15) Watch (N)	(45) Million Listing														
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Girl Crazy '43	Mickey Rooney.	** Alexander's Ragtime Band '38	Alice Faye, Don Ameche, Tyrone Power.			*** High Society (1956, Musical) Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Grace Kelly.	Ghost Wars "The Pain Connection" (N)	Happy! "What Smiles Are For"															
65	SYFY	(65) Movie	(35) ** Pan (2015, Family)	Garrett Hedlund, Hugh Jackman, Levi Miller.				Van Helsing "Base Pair" (N)	Ghost Wars "The Pain Connection" (N)	Happy! "What Smiles Are For"															
162	RFD	(162) SF Machinery (N)	Small Town (N)	Rural America 'Live' (N)		Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Market Journal	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library													