

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Trump boasts of 'nuclear button' but doesn't really have one

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump boasted that he has a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" than North Korean leader Kim Jong Un does — but the president doesn't actually have a physical button.

The president's Tuesday evening tweet came in response to Kim's New Year's address, in which he repeated fiery nuclear threats against the United States. Kim said he has a "nuclear button" on his office desk and warned that "the whole territory of the U.S. is within the range of our nuclear strike."

Trump mocked that assertion, writing, "Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

But despite ratcheting up the tension, Trump doesn't really have a nuclear button.

The process for launching a nuclear strike is secret and complex and involves the use of a nuclear "football," which is carried by a rotating group of military officers everywhere the president goes and is equipped with communication tools and a book with prepared war plans.

If the president were to order a strike, he would identify himself to military officials at the Pentagon with codes unique to him. Those codes are recorded on a card known as the "biscuit" that is carried by the president at all times. He would then transmit the launch order to the Pentagon and Strategic Command.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump sounded open to the possibility of an inter-Korean dialogue after Kim made a rare overture toward South Korea in a New Year's address. But Trump's ambassador to the United Nations insisted talks would not be meaningful unless the North was getting rid of its nuclear weapons.

N. Korea reopens cross-border communications with S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reopened a key cross-border communication channel with South Korea for the first time in nearly two years today as the rivals explored the possibility of sitting down and talking after months of acrimony and fears of war.

The recent softening of contact between the rival Koreas may show a shared interest in improved ties, but there's no guarantee tensions will ease. There have been repeated attempts in recent years by the rivals to talk, but even when they do meet, the efforts often end in recriminations and stalemate.

Outside critics say Kim may be trying to use better ties with South Korea as a way to weaken the alliance between Washington and Seoul as the North grapples with toughened international sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs.

Kim's latest announcement, which was read by a senior Pyongyang official on state TV, followed a South Korean offer on Tuesday of high-level talks with North Korea to find ways to cooperate on next month's Winter Olympics in



This frame grab from video provided by Iran Press, a pro-government news agency based in Beirut, shows pro-government demonstrators marching today in Qom, Iran.

Pro-government rallies held in Iran after unrest

TEHRAN, Iran — Tens of thousands of government supporters took to the streets across Iran today as authorities tried to project a sense of stability after a week of nationwide protests sparked deadly clashes and calls for the downfall of the Islamic Republic.

But even as state television broadcast swooping helicopter shots showing support among Iran's 80 million people for its clerically overseen government, videos emerged showing the anti-government unrest that has swept major cities has also spread to the countryside.

The violence has killed at least 21 people and seen hundreds more arrested by authorities. Demonstrators' videos corresponded with Associated Press reporting from outside of Iran, though individual activists remain unreachable and the protests for now appear leaderless. It was not clear if new protests were held today or if the videos showed earlier incidents.

The past week's protests have been the largest since the disputed 2009 presidential election, which ended in bloodshed. While many Iranians denounce the violence that has accompanied some demonstrations, they echo the protesters' frustration over the weak economy and official corruption.

The protests began Dec. 28 in Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city and a bastion for hardliners, initially focusing on Iran's flagging economy and rising food prices. Now, they've morphed into demands for wholesale change in Iran's theocratic government.

State TV reported pro-government demonstrations today in dozens of cities and towns, including Ahvaz, the capital of the oil-rich province of Khuzestan, the Kurdish town of Kermanshah in the country's west and Qom, the religious capital of Shiite Islam in Iran. All those cities have seen protests in recent days.

the South and discuss other inter-Korean issues.

Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the state-run Committee for the Peaceful Reunification, cited Kim as welcoming South Korea's overture and ordering officials to reopen a communication channel at the border village of Panmunjom. Ri also quoted Kim as ordering officials to promptly take substantial measures with South Korea out of a "sincere stand and honest attitude," according to the North's state TV and news agency.

2 Democrats sworn in as senators, narrow GOP majority

WASHINGTON — The Republican majority in the Senate narrowed to 51-49 today as two new Democratic senators were sworn into office, complicating GOP efforts to advance the party's legislative agenda before the 2018 midterm elections.

Vice President Mike Pence administered the

oath of office to Doug Jones from Alabama and Tina Smith from Minnesota.

Jones is the first Alabama Democrat elected to the Senate in a quarter century. His victory over Republican Roy Moore shrinks the Republican majority, complicating Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's efforts to move the GOP's agenda and President Donald Trump's nominees.

Smith, the former lieutenant governor of Minnesota, was appointed to replace Al Franken following the Democrat's resignation over accusations of sexual misconduct. She becomes the 22nd woman currently serving in the Senate, a record.

Jones, 63, will represent one of the most conservative states in the nation and is stressing his desire to work with both parties. He will be under pressure to find some areas of agreement with Republicans and has cited the funding of infrastructure improvements as one possible avenue.

Smith, 59, served as chief of staff to Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton before becoming his No. 2 when the previous lieutenant governor declined to seek a second term.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN



SCHEDULE

Evening listings WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING												JANUARY 3	
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)	Match Game (SP) (N)		KATU News (N)	(3:35) 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)	Match Game (SP) (N)		KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	The Blacklist "Ruin" (N)		Law&Order: SVU "Gone Baby Gone" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Rabbit Hole" (N)			KING 5 News (N)	(3:35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	The Amazing Race (N)		SEAL Team "Pattern of Life" (N)	Criminal Minds "Submerged" (N)			KOIN 6 News (N)	(3:35) Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	The Amazing Race (N)		SEAL Team "Pattern of Life" (N)	Criminal Minds "Submerged" (N)			KIRO News (N)	(3:35) Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	The Blacklist "Ruin" (N)		Law&Order: SVU "Gone Baby Gone" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Rabbit Hole" (N)			KGW News (N)	(3:35) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Riverdale		Dynasty "I Hardly Recognized You"	News at 10 (N)	Mom		Two and a Half	(3:35) Two and a Half
10	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature "Snow Monkeys"		Nova "Hubble's 25th Anniversary"	American Experience "Space Men"			Phoenix Mars Mission	Onto the Ice
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	The X-Files "My Struggle III" (SP) (N)		9-1-1 "Pilot" (P) (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)			Fox 12 News	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	The X-Files "My Struggle III" (SP) (N)		9-1-1 "Pilot" (P) (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	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal		Conan	
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	(3:35) Two and a Half
29	ESPN	(29) (5:00) NBA Basketball	Cleveland Cavaliers at Boston Celtics (L)	NBA Basketball	Oklahoma City Thunder at Los Angeles Lakers	Site: Staples Center (L)		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)	SportsCenter			NBA Basketball	Oklahoma vs L.A. Lakers
29	ESPN2	(29) (5:00) NCAA Basketball	Missouri at South Carolina (L)	UFC	The Ultimate Fighter Champions*	Speak for Yourself		TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed	Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.		UFC Great Fights	
43	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	** National Treasure (2004, Adventure)	Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Nicolas Cage.			The Daily Show (N)	The Opposition (N)
44	COM	(44) Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park		Black Hawk Down	(01) Josh Hartnett.
45	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Vikings "The Message"		Vikings "Full Moon" (N)	Knightfall (N)			Black Hawk Down	(01) Josh Hartnett.
46	A&E	(46) Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	OzzyandJack "Blizzard of Oz" (N)	OzzyandJack "Aloha, Osbournes" (N)			Dr. Pimple Popper (P) (N)	
47	TLC	(47) My 600-lb Life	"Steven and Justin's Story Part 2"			My 600-lb Life	"Steven & Justin Assanti" (N)					Fast N' Loud	"34 Ford Coupe"
48	DISC	(48) (4:00) Outlaws	Street Outlaws: Full Throttle	"It's Bristol, Baby!"				Street Outlaws "Bristol: Road to \$100K"				Locked up	"Brazen Breakouts" (N)
49	NGEO	(49) Extreme Ice (N)	Locked Up	"Busted in Mexico"				Locked up "Breaking Bad in Britain" (N)	Locked up			Locked up	"Breaking Bad in Britain" (N)
50	TNT	(50) *** Shrek 2 (04, Animated)	Voices of Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers.			The Librarians (N)		*** Shrek the Third (2007, Animated)	Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers.			Librarians	"And the Disenchanted Forest"
51	AMC	(51) (4:30) *** Armageddon (1998, Adventure)	Liv Uller, Ben Affleck, Bruce Willis.			** Enemy of the State (1998, Action)	Gene Hackman, Jon Voight, Will Smith.					Black Hawk Down	(01) Josh Hartnett.
52	USA	(52) NCIS "Rogue"	NCIS "Being Bad"			NCIS "Privileged Information"	NCIS "Shell Game"					NCIS "Homefront"	
53	FOOD	(53) Iron Chef USA "Guarnaschelli vs. Clark"	Iron Chef USA "Guarnaschelli vs. Clark"			Iron Chef: Behind "Battle Paiche" (N)	Iron Chef "Battle Fruit And Fowl" (N)					Iron Chef America	
54	HGTV	(54) Property Brothers	Property Brothers	Property Brothers	Property Brothers	Property Brothers "Lakeside Dreaming"	Property Brothers (N)					Property Brothers	"Taking the Renovation Leap"
56	FX	(56) *** Goosebumps (2015, Adventure)	Odeya Rush, Dylan Minnette, Jack Black.			Hotel Transylvania 2 (15) Voices of Selena Gomez, Andy Samberg, Adam Sandler.						Hotel Transylvania 2	(15) Voices of Selena Gomez, Andy Samberg, Adam Sandler.
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		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			The Ingraham Angle	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Billion Dollar Buyer (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	Billion Dollar Buyer			Shark Tank	
63	BRV	(63) Housewives NJ	"When Chairs Fly"	Housewives NJ	"Meldtown in Milan"	Housewives/NewJersey "Fauxpology"		Wives NJ "Ain't No Misbehaving" (N)	Housewives NJ "Ain't No Misbehaving" (N)			WatchWhat	Housewives NJ
64	TCM	(64) Movie	*** A Fistful of Dollars ('64) Gian Maria Volontè, Clint Eastwood.			Pather Panchali (1955, Drama) Karuna Bannerjee, Subir Bannerjee, Kanu Bannerjee.		Happy!	"What Smiles Are For"			Happy!	"Year of the Horse"
65	SYFY	(65) (5:30) *** Contagion (2011, Action)	Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Matt Damon.			Happy! "Saint Nick"		Happy!	"What Smiles Are For"			Happy!	"Year of the Horse"
162	RFD	(162) Dude Ranch	Cowboy (N)	WesternSport (N)	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	Racer's Edge	Cowboy TV			Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments
													Product Showcase

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