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GATES PLEADS GUILTY IN PROBE

Ex-Trump campaign aide cooperating in Mueller inquiry

BY MARK MAZZETTI & MAGGIE HABERMAN

WASHINGTON

A former top adviser to Donald Trump's presidential campaign has agreed to cooperate with the special counsel inquiry into Russia's interference in the 2016 election after pleading guilty on Friday to financial fraud and lying to investigators.

The adviser, Rick Gates, is a longtime political consultant who once served as Trump's deputy campaign chairman. The plea deal

could be a significant development in the investigation — a sign that Gates plans to offer incriminating information against his longtime associate and the former Trump campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and possibly other members of the campaign in exchange for a lighter punishment. He faces up to nearly six years in prison.

The deal came as the special counsel, Robert Mueller, has been raising pressure on Gates and Manafort with dozens of new charges of money laundering and bank fraud unsealed on Thursday.

Both men were first indicted in October and pleaded not guilty. The plea agreement was part of a flurry of recent activity by the special counsel's team, which indicted 13 Russians last week for a carefully planned scheme to incite political discord in the United States in the months before the 2016 election.

Gates changed his plea on Friday during an appearance in a Washington courtroom, his eyes cast down as the government outlined the charges against him. A man who had made millions of

SEE GATES • A9



SUSAN WALSH AP

Rick Gates leaves a federal courthouse in Washington, D.C., Friday after entering his plea.

FLORIDA OFFICIALS SUPPORT RAISING AGE LIMIT ON GUNS

U-T NEWS SERVICES

Florida Gov. Rick Scott joined a growing list of Republican lawmakers Friday to endorse raising the minimum age for purchasing rifles to 21 years old, marking a major break from the policy priorities of the National Rifle Association.

The GOP leadership of the Florida House and Senate quickly stood with Scott in backing a broad package of legislative initiatives, including additional school-security funding and a new process to take guns out of the hands of those deemed to pose a danger. The proposals have come in response to the deadly mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Feb. 14.

Any new regulation of firearms represents a dramatic shift in position for the state's Republican leaders, who have spent decades easing the regulation of guns and giving legal protection to those who use firearms in self-defense. The split with the powerful NRA also underscores the potency of a growing movement led by teenage survivors of the attack and demanding tighter gun restrictions.

"I'm an NRA member, a supporter of the Second Amendment, and the First Amendment, and the entire Bill of Rights for that matter. SEE GUNS • A7

■ A7 • Tipster warned FBI shooter was "going to explode."

BABIES MOST AT RISK FOR WHOOPING COUGH

Vaccines urged in third trimester as surge expected in '18

BY PAUL SISSON

It was the homeless with hepatitis A and older people with the flu, but the next public health danger is threatening newborns.

Fresh from the fight against two deadly vaccine-preventable outbreaks, San Diego's public health leaders aren't taking any chances with whooping cough, also known as pertussis.

They are warning that, if historical patterns hold, 2018 could see epidemic levels of the highly contagious respiratory disease that is particularly deadly for the youngest among us.

1,011

Number of pertussis cases reported in S.D. County last year, up from 390 in 2016

However, just as is the case with hepatitis and the flu, there is plenty that can be done to safeguard the most vulnerable.

While more widespread vaccination against the two recent threats would surely have slowed or even prevented many cases and deaths, preventing whooping cough in the very young is a little different.

Babies don't get their first dose of DTaP, the vaccine that prevents pertussis infection, until they're 2 months old, and it takes three more shots — delivered at 4 months, 6 months and 15 to 18 months of age — for immunity to reach a peak of 70 to 90 percent.

Because protection isn't fully established until the second year of life, the strategy is to start building their defenses before birth, explained Dr. Mark Sawyer, an infectious disease specialist at Rady Children's Hospital.

"The evidence is good that when you vaccinate the mother in the third trimester. SEE COUGH • A10

2018 WINTER OLYMPICS



MATTHIAS SCHRADER AP

Reaching for Olympic heights

Kyle Mack, of the United States, soared to a silver medal in the Olympic debut of the men's big air snowboard competition today at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Medal count

	G	S	B	Total
Norway	13	14	10	37
Canada	11	8	9	28
Germany	13	7	6	26
U.S.	8	8	6	22
Netherlands	8	6	4	18

Complete medal list on page D4.

■ D1 • Canadian wins big air, collects first Olympic medal.

SCHOOL THREATS UP AFTER SHOOTING

Menacing messages targeted campuses across S.D. County

BY DEBORAH SULLIVAN BRENNAN & LYNSAY WINKLEY

Less than a week after 17 students and teachers were killed at a Florida high school, photos of a boy brandishing a gun appeared in the social media accounts of San Marcos High School students Monday, raising alarms at the North County campus.

A day later, a 14-year-old freshman was arrested and suspended from Torrey Pines High School in San Diego, accused of making verbal and written threats.

By Friday evening, there were reports of menacing messages targeting five other San Diego campuses and one in Ramona.

In the aftermath of the deadly shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Feb. 14, local schools are confronting a wave of violent images or messages, some SEE SCHOOLS • A6



KARLA PETERSON

GENDER INEQUALITY ON SCREEN

■ B1 • Women are still a too-rare commodity on the silver screen, according to annual SDSU study.

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