

# The Florida Times-Union

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Saturday  
JANUARY 6, 2018  
\$2

JU, UNF DEFENSE STRUGGLE BEFORE RIVER CITY RUMBLE  
Sports, C-1



DUVAL DISTRICT FIRES 26 TEACHERS, DISCIPLINES OTHERS  
Metro, B-1



JOBS SHOW MODEST GAIN IN DECEMBER  
Money, B-6

## FBI quietly investigates Clinton Foundation

Focus on whether donations linked to official acts

By Matt Zepatosky & Devlin Barrett  
The Washington Post

The FBI has been quietly investigating the Clinton Foundation for months, reviving a probe that was dialed back during the 2016 election amid tensions between Justice Department prosecutors and FBI

agents about the politically charged case, according to people familiar with the matter.

The investigation is being run out of the FBI's field office in Little Rock, Arkansas, where the foundation has offices in the William J. Clinton Presidential Center, the people said. Agents are trying to

determine if any donations made to the foundation were linked to official acts when Hillary Clinton was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013, these people said.

It was not immediately clear what specific donations or interactions agents were scrutinizing, and there was some skepticism



Clinton

charges.

The very existence of such a probe will likely lead to accusations from Democrats that the Republican administration is pursuing old, dead cases to punish

political enemies.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly urged the Justice Department to prosecute Clinton and her aides. But while the Clinton Foundation investigation was effectively stopped in 2016, that stoppage at the time was described by people familiar with the matter as temporary because Justice Department officials were concerned that if details of the probe were to become

public, it would appear that investigators were trying to hurt Clinton's chances in the election.

The Clinton Foundation inquiry was first reported by The Hill.

In a statement, Clinton Foundation spokesman Craig Minassian said: "Time after time, the Clinton Foundation has been subjected to politically

CLINTON continues on A-7

### NFL Wild Card Game

## Pumped for the playoffs



Jaguars fan Richard Jenkins gets fired up during the Bills Bustin' Bash pep rally Friday. (Will Dickey/Florida Times-Union)

### Jacksonville, Buffalo mayors bet on game: Subs vs. wings

By Matt Soergel  
matt.soergel@jacksonville.com

The Skype connection was awful, turning the words of the mayor of Buffalo, N.Y., into something like the indecipherable drone the adults made in those Charlie Brown TV shows.

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry wasn't sure if Buffalo could hear him either, so that limited the possibilities for good-natured smack-talking.

But the point was made Friday morning, clearly

**MORE INSIDE**  
**Oh, say, can you sing?** Susan Tedeschi will perform the national anthem Sunday. **A-7**

**Two honored:** Campbell, Ramsey named first-team All-Pro. **C-1**

**Happy return:** Hurns' calming voice back in lineup. **C-1**

**Notebook:** Lee expects to play Sunday. **C-3**

enough: Good luck with your city — everywhere but on the football field.

Ahead of Sunday's play-



Mayor Lenny Curry, with help of the Roar and his daughter Bridgett, leads fans in a cheer during the pep rally Friday. Jaguars alumni players, mascot Jaxson de Ville, the D-Line drum line and owner Shad Khan participated.

off game in Jacksonville between the playoff-starved Jaguars and Buffalo Bills, Curry and Buffalo's four-term mayor, Byron Brown,

made a little wager.

If the Bills lose, Brown's office sends Curry some

**WAGER** continues on A-7

### Jaguars playoff tickets priciest in first round

By Roger Bull  
roger.bull@jacksonville.com

Tickets for Sunday's game are still the most expensive of the first round of the playoffs. And the purchase price on at least one website is increasing, thanks primarily to Bills fans coming south.

Jack Slingland, director of client relations for TickPick.com, said 46.2 percent of the orders since the beginning of the week

have come from the state of New York. A total of 65.4 percent, he said, have come from the Northeastern states.

But at VividSeats.com, almost three times as many buyers are coming from Florida as from New York.

On StubHub, easily the largest of the online ticket marketplaces, the number of available tickets has dropped considerably.

**TICKETS** continues on A-7



At StubHub, the average selling price has been holding steady at \$237 for Sunday's Jaguars-Bills game. (File/AP)



Senate Republicans have issued a criminal referral asking the Justice Department to investigate the author of the "dossier" alleging the Trump campaign coordinated with the Kremlin. (Associated Press)

## Senators want dossier author investigated

Letter from Judiciary chair makes a criminal referral

By Devlin Barrett & Tom Hamburger  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON | The Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee recommended Friday that the Justice Department investigate for possible criminal charges the author of the now-famous "dossier" alleging the Trump campaign coordinated with the Kremlin during the 2016 election.

The move by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, marks a major escalation in conservatives' challenges to the FBI's credibility as the agency investigates whether any Trump associates committed crimes. Another Republican, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., joined in the letter to the Justice Department.

Their letter makes what is called a criminal referral to the Justice Department, suggesting it investigate the dossier author, former British spy Christopher Steele, for possibly lying to the FBI. It is a crime to lie to FBI agents about a material fact relevant to an ongoing investigation.

The move was viewed skeptically by some Democrats and experts in criminal law.

**DOSSIER** continues on A-7

## Solar panel maker plans up to 800 Jacksonville jobs

By Roger Bull  
roger.bull@jacksonville.com

An unnamed company that manufactures solar panels is proposing to bring up to 800 jobs to Jacksonville and is seeking close to \$54 million in state and local incentives, which could set a record in Jacksonville.

Called Project Volt in legislation that goes before City Council next week, the company's main manufacturing operation would be in a new building in the Cecil Commerce Center.

Its assembly facility and distribution warehouse would be at 2969 Faye Road.

Jobs would pay an average of \$46,346

**SOLAR** continues on A-7

Weather  
Slow moderation  
Forecast on A-2

52 Today's high

35 Sunday morning's low

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Classified D-8 Legals C-6  
Comics D-4 Life D-6  
Crosswords D-4, E-8 Money B-6  
Editorials B-8 Obituaries B-4

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NO. 6  
153RD YEAR  
6 SECTIONS  
58 PAGES

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## NFL Wild Card Game

## JAGUARS MANIA



**Above:** Jags fan Courtney Burgess takes a photo Friday of her friend Ricky Conway with "Touchdown," the Jaguars statue outside EverBank Field. Both were able to buy tickets for Sunday's playoff game with the Buffalo Bills. With the Jacksonville Jaguars in the NFL playoffs for the first time in a decade and the first playoff at home since 1999, a new version of Jags mania has hit the area. (Bob Mack/Florida Times-Union)

**Right:** William Floyd from PRI Productions installs Jaguars banners on light poles Friday along East Bay Street near the stadium.



## Tedeschi to sing anthem at Jaguars game

By Tom Szaroleta  
tom.szaroleta@jacksonville.com

Susan Tedeschi has sung the national anthem for big crowds at least a half dozen times, but she said being asked to sing it Sunday for the Jaguars' first home playoff game in 18 years is something special.

"When you care about a team — I love the Jags so much — I know I'm going to be nervous," said Tedeschi, singer and guitarist for the Jacksonville-based Tedeschi Trucks Band. "But I think it's going to be fun."

Tedeschi, who has held Jaguars season tickets with her husband and bandmate Derek Trucks for at least 15 years, said she's sung the anthem for the Seattle Mariners and the Philadelphia Phillies and before League Championship Series games in Boston and San Francisco.

"I've sung it a bunch in the past but I haven't done it in a while," she said. "I've only done two football games; one was the Patriots and the Bills and one was the Jags and the



Blues singer Susan Tedeschi performs the national anthem before Game 3 of an American League baseball division series between the Boston Red Sox and the Los Angeles Angels in Boston in 2009. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Titans."

There's no accompaniment out there, just her and the microphone — with a packed stadium and a national television audience watching.

"It's so different playing with a

band as opposed to singing an anthem," she said. "You just wing it."

Once the anthem's out of the way, she'll head for the seats to watch the game. "With LeSean McCoy out, I think we're going to do pretty good. We're going to have to run around a lot after Tyrod Taylor but I think our defense is pretty outstanding. We have a pretty rocking defense so I think they're gonna be in trouble."

If the team advances in the playoffs, she won't be able to follow them — the Tedeschi Trucks Band has shows booked next weekend in St. Petersburg and Boca Raton and in Asheville, N.C., the weekend after that.

The band is working on a new album at its studio behind her house in Jacksonville. "Every time we have free time, we'll be working on it. We hope to finish it by March or April."

Then they're off on their annual Wheels of Soul Tour — which, she said, will include a date at Daily's Place.

Tom Szaroleta: (904) 359-4548

## WAGER

Continued from A-1

Buffalo chicken wings and local beer: Flying Bison Buffalo IPA.

In the unlikely event the Jags lose, Curry sends out some of Jacksonville's Firehouse subs along with beer from Intuition Ale

Works.

As best could be told through the bad Skype connection, Buffalo had a pep-rally atmosphere inside its council chambers. Warm-up speakers led a couple of dozen jersey-wearing fans in chants, before Brown showed up in a Bills jacket and cap.

In contrast, Curry's

meeting room held just some City Hall staffers, in Jaguar colors, who sent up a "Duuuval" chant at the appropriate time.

Both cities' teams have a long record of futility they could bond over, if they chose to: The Jaguars haven't been in the playoffs since January 2008, and their last home

playoff game was after the 1999 season, which was also the last time the Bills even made it to the post-season.

Curry wouldn't make a prediction on the score, but did say the Jaguars would win. Good thing too: "I do like Buffalo wings."

Matt Soergel: (904) 359-4082

## TICKETS

Continued from A-1

There were 1,906 tickets available Friday afternoon, a spokesman said, down 700 from Thursday.

There, the prices were

holding steady at about \$160 for standing-room-only and just above or below \$200 for the upper deck.

Those are asking prices, though and, on those websites, the sellers can ask anything they want. At StubHub, the average

selling price has been holding relatively steady at \$237.

On TickPick, the average listing price was \$505 on Friday, but it's been falling each day. The purchase price, Slingland said, has been increasing. Since the matchups

were decided on Sunday, the average purchase price for Jaguars-Bills on TickPick.com has been \$214.16. The other matchups: Saints-Panthers, \$181.94; Rams-Falcons, \$153.38; Chiefs-Titans, \$77.61.

Roger Bull: (904) 359-4296

## CLINTON

Continued from A-1

motivated allegations, and time after time these allegations have been proven false. None of this has made us waver in our mission to help people. The Clinton Foundation has demonstrably improved the lives of millions of people across America and around the world while earning top ratings from charity watchdog groups in the process. There are real issues in our society needing attention that the Clinton Foundation works hard to solve every day. So we're going to stay focused on what really matters."

Republicans, in particular, have long raised concerns about what they viewed as corruption and conflicts of interest at the Clinton Foundation, in particular Hillary Clinton's dealings with its donors while she was secretary of state.

The Clinton Foundation probe dates back to 2015, when FBI agents in Los Angeles, New York, Little Rock and Washington, began looking at a variety of different figures who had made donations to the charity, based largely on news accounts, according to people familiar with the matter. In 2016, Justice Department prosecutors rejected a request from FBI agents to expand and intensify the foundation investigation, these people said.

Republican lawmakers had called on Attorney General Jeff Sessions in July and again in September to explore various Clinton Foundation dealings, as well as other matters, by appointing a special counsel to look into Clinton-related issues. In November, the Justice Department wrote that Sessions would direct senior prosecutors to look into the cases about which they raised concerns and hinted that some might already be under investigation.

Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd wrote that part of what the department would do was assess whether "any mat-

ters currently under investigation require further resources," though he said his letter should not be construed as confirming or denying any probe.

By that time, according to the people familiar with the matter, agents were already investigating the Clinton Foundation.

The Clinton Foundation inquiry is separate from the FBI's high-profile investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state, though Republicans have said that probe, too, needs to be reopened. The email investigation focused on whether Clinton or her aides mishandled classified information by using the private server. Then-FBI Director James Comey recommended in July 2016 the case be closed without charges, and though work on it briefly resumed in October — soon before the presidential election — he ultimately did not change his mind, and the Justice Department endorsed his recommendation.

Justice Department officials have said senior prosecutors are also reviewing investigative records on the Clinton email case to see if any of the concerns raised by Republican lawmakers merit appointment of a special counsel for further investigation.

Word of the ongoing foundation probe came shortly after Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., and Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio suggested in a Washington Examiner column Thursday that it might be time for a new attorney general.

Trump has publicly toyed with removing Sessions, and he has repeatedly criticized the Justice Department and said his attorney general should look into Clinton and her allies, taking aim most recently at top Clinton aide Huma Abedin. On the campaign trail, Trump's supporters frequently chanted "Lock her up!" at the mention of Clinton's name, and Trump specifically called for the appointment of a special counsel to investigate the Clinton Foundation.

## DOSSIER

Continued from A-1

Steele's role has become a matter of increasingly heated debate, with the White House and Republicans on Capitol Hill suggesting his reports were biased, since he was hired with money that ultimately came from the Hillary Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

Steele's allegations — in addition to other information, including intelligence intercepts and an Australian diplomat's account of a conversation with a Trump staffer in a London pub — prompted the FBI to open a counterintelligence investigation into Trump associates in July 2016, according to current and former officials. The Australian warning was first reported by The New York Times.

That investigation has since expanded into a special-counsel probe by Robert Mueller, whose work has led to indictments of two former Trump campaign officials, as well as guilty pleas and cooperation deals from two others. As the Russia probe has heated up, some Republicans have amplified their attacks on Steele's dossier, contending it was a weapon in a political smear campaign they claim was aided by the FBI.

Steele did not respond to a request for comment. But a lawyer for the consulting firm that hired him had a strong reaction.

A lawyer for Fusion GPS, Joshua Levy, said the senators' letter may be simply another effort to discredit the Russia investigation.

"After a year of investigations into Donald Trump's ties to Russia, the only person Republicans seek to accuse of wrongdoing is one who reported on these matters to law enforcement in the first place," Levy said in a statement. "Publicizing a criminal referral based on classified information raises serious questions about whether this letter is nothing more than another attempt to discredit government sources, in

the midst of an ongoing criminal investigation. We should all be skeptical in the extreme."

A veteran prosecutor, Peter Zeidenberg, said he had never heard of anything like the Grassley-Graham complaint and labeled it "nonsense" designed to detract from ongoing inquiries in to Russian interference in the 2016 election.

"The FBI doesn't need any prompting from politicians to prosecute people who have lied to them," said Zeidenberg, a federal prosecutor for 17 years. While members of Congress make criminal referrals from time to time, they are usually related to independent congressional investigations, not to material already known to the FBI. "They should stay in their lane," Zeidenberg said of the Grassley-Graham effort.

In this case, the referral suggests the committee has information indicating Steele may have lied to the FBI about the distribution of information contained in the dossier. Steele told a London court that he had off-the-record conversations with a handful of news organizations during that period.

"If we see what appears to be credible evidence of a violation that should be further investigated based on information from any source, public or non-public, we are going to formally notify the department," Grassley said in a statement.

Steele was a senior intelligence officer monitoring the Kremlin for Britain's intelligence service, MI6, before he left the agency.

The dossier is a compilation of reports he wrote for Fusion GPS between June and late October 2016, plus a final report in December, after the election. Among other things, the dossier alleged that the Russian government collected compromising information about Trump and that the Kremlin was engaged in an effort to assist his campaign for president.

Trump has vigorously denied the allegations in the dossier.

## SOLAR

Continued from A-1

per year and be filled by the end of 2019, according to paperwork filed with City Council. The city would provide up to \$24.6 million in incentives with another \$29.3 million from the state.

The company is described as currently having eight production facilities around the world, but that Jacksonville

would be its first in the United States. The local facility would be the company's U.S. headquarters.

The company would invest \$410 million, counting real estate improvements and machinery.

Most of the materials would come from China, at least in the first few years, and the company said it would use Jaxport for both importing and exporting.

The state and local incentives of up to \$53.9

million appears to be a record in Jacksonville. The agreement to bring GE Gas & Oil and its 500 jobs to the Cecil Commerce Center included up \$15.4 million in incentives in 2014.

In 2009, the French firm Saft was lured with a promise of \$20.2 million to bring its high-tech battery plant to Cecil Commerce Center. That deal also included \$95.5 million in federal incentives.

The city's incentives

for Project Volt would include a \$1,000 tax refund for each job added, a total of up to \$800,000, and up to \$23.8 million as a 75 percent rebate on the increased ad valorem taxes created by the company's investment.

The state's share, up to \$29.3 million, would come from a variety of tax credits and grants, including up to \$8,000 for each military veteran hired and trained.

Roger Bull: (904) 359-4296