

Groton Daily Independent

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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Saturday, Sept. 22

9:30am: Groton 3rd-4th grade football at Sis-seton Red.

Volleyball Tourney at SF Sanford Pentagon. Groton is in Pool D. On Court 9: 10 a.m.: Groton Area vs. Hitchcock-Tulare. Noon: Groton Area vs. Ethan. 2 p.m.: Groton Area vs. Western Christian. First place match at 5:30 p.m. Pool D first place plays Pool C first place at 4:30 p.m. on HCA. Pool D second place plays Pool C second place on Court 6 at 4:30 p.m. Pool D third place vs. Pool C third place at 4:30 p.m. on Court 7. Pool D fourth place vs. Pool C fourth place at 4:30 p.m. on Court 8. Finals are at 5:30 p.m.

1:00pm: Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Tea Area @ Tea Area

3:00pm: Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Tea Area @ Tea Area

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BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds and grass in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2018 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner. Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors
Betty Geist
Township Clerk

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Mobridge-Pollock
Tigers**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

Friday, Sept. 21, 2018
at Mobridge, 7:00 pm

GRANARY RURAL CULTURAL CENTER
LIVING HISTORY FALL FESTIVAL
The Past Comes Alive!

FREE ADMISSION

**Saturday
Sept 22, 2018
11 am - 5 pm**
at the **GRANARY**
Physical Address: 40161 128th St
RURAL GROTON, SD

**LUNCH CONCESSIONS BY:
THE BRASS KETTLE**

Music by **JAMI LYNN**
SD Arts Council Touring Artist
Performances at 12:30 & 2:30 pm
Support is provided with funds from the State of South Dakota, through the Department of Tourism and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Step Back in Time...
Historical Demonstrations & Re-enacting
Pioneer Home Life • One Room School • Music
Kid's Activities • Spelling Bee • Museum Gift Shop
Old Fashioned Entertainment & Much More!
COME DRESSED IN FRONTIER COSTUME - GET A PRIZE
An Event for All Ages!

The GRANARY is the Arts & Culture Campus of Dacotah Prairie Museum
Museum: www.dacotahprairiemuseum.com • Granary: granaryfinnarts.org
THE GRANARY is 5 mi. N of US Hwy 12 - Between Aberdeen & Groton - Driving Directions on Website

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
September 24, 2018 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Ted Dickey – State water program
2. Open Airport land rent sealed bids
3. Minutes
4. Bills
5. August Finance Report
6. Festival of Bands street closing and viewing stands
7. Pumpkin Festival update
8. Surplus Vehicle – 2003 White Chevrolet Silverado 1500 ½ ton
77,184 miles
\$5,500 value
9. Second reading of Ordinance #721 Water Rates for Municipal Utility Customers
10. Blood drives at community center
11. Safety and Loss control training conference Nov. 7 & 8th
12. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
13. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
14. Adjournment

Win number 14 comes for the top ranked Wolves over St. Cloud State

St. Cloud, Minn. – The top ranked Northern State University volleyball team made quick work of St. Cloud State on Friday evening, handing the Huskies their first NSIC loss of the season. Northern swept St. Cloud with set scored of 25-20, 25-14, and 25-20, improving to 14-0 overall and 6-0 in the NSIC. The Wolves currently sit atop the league standings, alongside No. 2 Concordia-St. Paul.

Collectively, the Wolves tallied 44 kills, 59 digs, six blocks, and one ace in the win, hitting .272 as a team. St. Cloud State on the other hand, recorded 34 kills, 54 digs, three blocks, and one ace. Northern hit a match high .419 in the second set with 16 combined kills.

Hailey Busch and Jenna Reiff led the team and the match as the only players in double figures offensively. Busch tallied 15 kills, hitting a team high .424 with just one attack error. Reiff added 11 kills, hitting .333, while the duo each recorded two block assists defensively. Laura Snyder was third on the team with seven kills, followed by Sally Gaul and Morgan Baufield with five and four respectively.

Ashley Rozell rounded out the Wolves offense with two kills, while dishing out 37 assists. The junior tallied a double-double with ten digs as well. The defense was led however by Jaiden Langlie with 19 digs, averaging 6.33 per set. Langlie also grabbed the lone ace of the evening for NSU. Bry Goar nearly broke into double figures, with nine digs, while Lexi Boesl and Busch each tallied eight. Baufield and Snyder led the team at the net with three blocks apiece.

With nearly a third of the NSIC season behind them, the Wolves lead the NSIC in hitting percentage (.350), opponent hitting percentage (.057), opponent assists per set (8.05), opponent kills per set (8.58), opponent blocks (0.84), opponent service aces (0.63), and opponent digs per set (12.11)

Northern faces off against No. 9 Minnesota Duluth tomorrow afternoon at 2 p.m. from Romano Gymnasium. The match will be their second top-25 contest of the 2018 season.



Lucas Hinman gets tapped up by Coach Shaun Wanner prior to the Mobridge-Pollock game. Groton Area won, 28-26, thanks to a tackle by Thomas Cranford to stop a Mobridge-Pollock touchdown with no time left on the clock at the one yard line. More details about yesterday's exciting game in tomorrow's edition. We are on the road this morning to Sioux Falls where GDILIVE.COM will be broadcasting the volleyball matches from the Sanford Pentagon.

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Today in Weather History

1890 - A severe hailstorm struck Strawberry, AZ. Fives days after the storm hail still lay in drifts 12 to 18 inches deep. (The Weather Channel)

1913 - Des Moines, IA, experienced their earliest freeze of record. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Hurricane Esther made a near complete circle south of Cape Cod. The hurricane then passed over Cape Cod and hit Maine. Its energy was largely spent over the North Atlantic Ocean, however, heavy rains over Maine resulted in widespread local flooding of cellars, low roads, and underpasses. (David Ludlum)

1983 - Forty-one cities reported record cold temperatures during the morning. Houston, TX, hit 50 degrees, and Williston ND plunged to 19 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Hurricane Emily, the first hurricane to roam the Carribean in nearly six years, made landfall over the Dominican Republic late in the day, packing 125 mph winds. Emily killed three persons and caused thirty million dollars damage. A record high of 92 degrees at Miami FL was their fifth in a row. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - An early morning thunderstorm produced baseball size hail at Plainview, in Hale County TX. Late in the evening more thunderstorms in the Southern High Plains Region produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Plainview TX and Crosby TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Hugo quickly lost strength over South Carolina, but still was a tropical storm as it crossed into North Carolina, just west of Charlotte, at about 7 AM. Winds around Charlotte reached 69 mph, with gusts to 99 mph. Eighty percent of the power was knocked out to Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Property damage in North Carolina was 210 million dollars, and damage to crops was 97 million dollars. The strongest storm surge occurred along the southern coast shortly after midnight, reaching nine feet above sea level at ocean Isle and Sunset Beach. Hugo killed one person and injured fifteen others in North Carolina. Strong northwesterly winds ushered unseasonably cold air into the north central U.S., in time for the official start of autumn, at 8" 20 PM (CDT). Squalls produced light snow in northern Wisconsin. Winds in Wisconsin gusted to 52 mph at Rhinelander. (Storm Data) (The Nati

2005 - For the first time in the historical record, two hurricanes reached category-5 intensity in the Gulf of Mexico in a single season as Hurricane Rita intensified before making landfall (Katrina and Rita).

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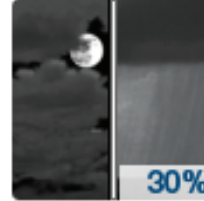
Today

Tonight

Sunday

Sunday
Night

Monday



Sunny and Breezy

Mostly Clear

Mostly Sunny

Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers

Chance Showers

High: 71 °F

Low: 46 °F

High: 73 °F

Low: 53 °F

High: 62 °F

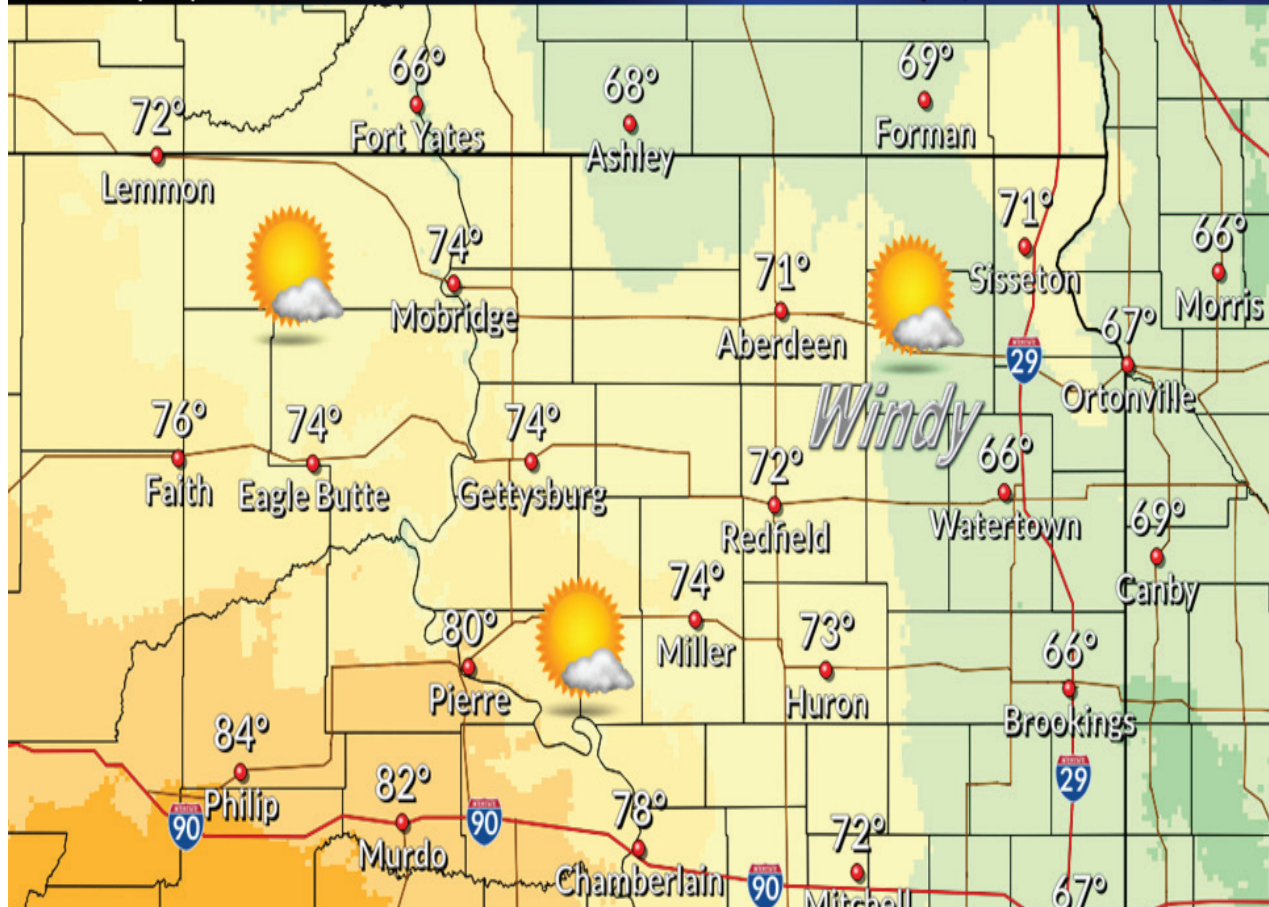
Highs Today

Saturday Sept 22

Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Issued Sep 22, 2018 4:39 AM CDT



High pressure will move off to the east with a stiff south wind developing in eastern South Dakota this morning. This will draw mild air into the region today and for Sunday. The next chance for rain is Monday, though it doesn't look like the area will receive very much.

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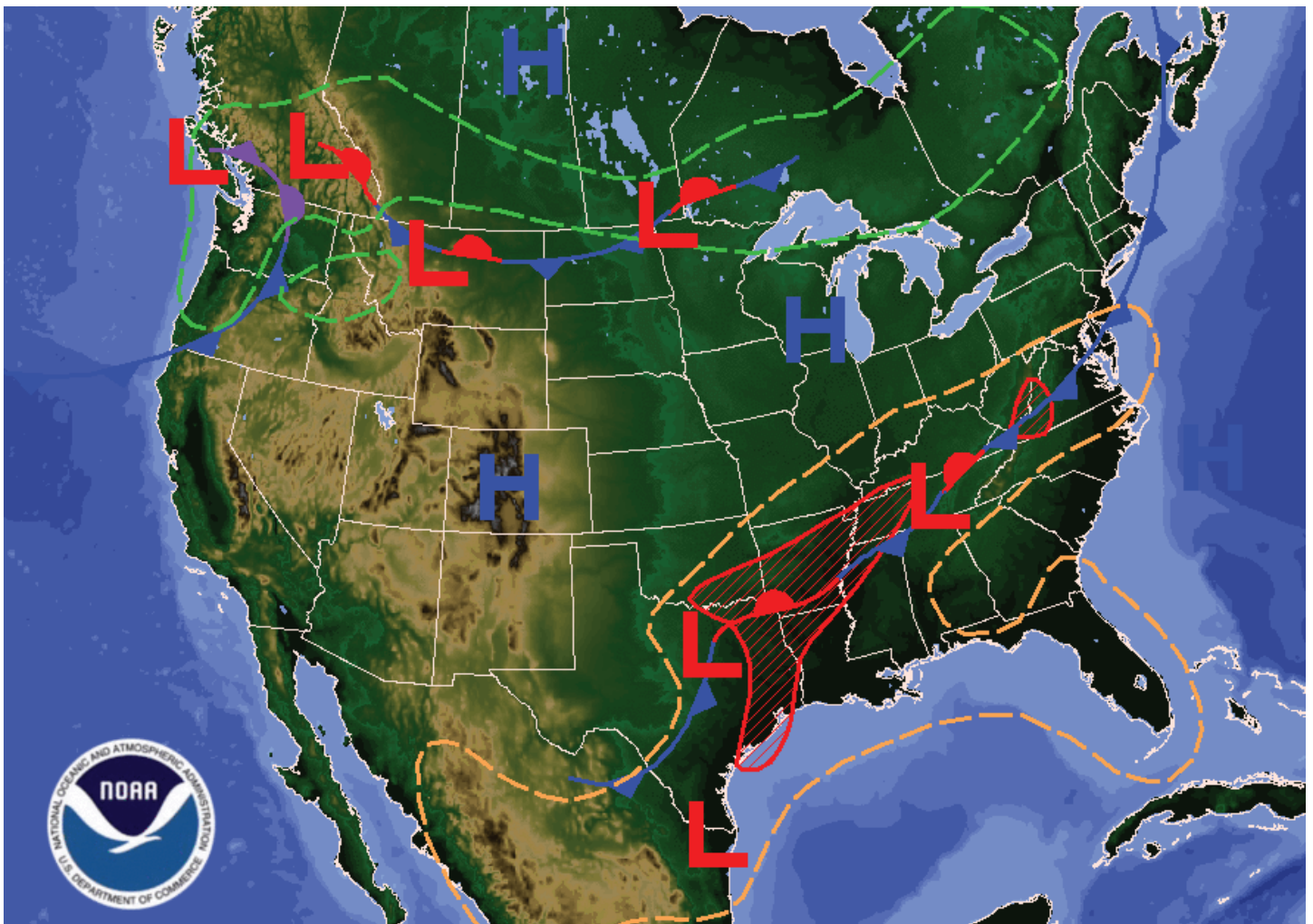
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 61.1 F at 4:45 PM
Low Outside Temp: 42.1 F at 11:17 PM
High Gust: 28.0 Mph at 5:59 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1936
Record Low: 20° in 1995
Average High: 69°F
Average Low: 43°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.55
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.80
Average Precip to date: 17.84
Precip Year to Date: 13.01
Sunset Tonight: 7:31 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:22 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Sep 22, 2018, issued 4:49 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain	Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Rain and T'Storms	Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Rain and Snow	Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Snow	Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE

A raging sea, a violent storm, a broken mast and a twenty-foot swell capsized the small ship. A survivor in a small rowboat was struggling for his life - looking for hope. Suddenly, through the dark clouds, he sighted a lone star shining brightly. Rowing with all his might, he said to himself over and over, If I lose that star, Im lost!

What an appropriate scene for us to visualize when all seems lost and storms of life refuse to give way to calm seas. It seems as though wave after wave rises and falls while the wind grows stronger and the night darker. We strain, and we struggle against all the odds to survive. Is the sun gone from my life forever? Will I never see another blossom? Will the clouds never allow the stars to shine again?

Often, we fix our eyes on things that give us no hope or people who do not care for our best. The immediate is right here right now, and thats all that matters! So we reach out and grab anything that is available.

However, there is a better way to respond when life has turned us upside down. The Psalmist wrote, The eyes of all look to You in hope. There are those who wish for better days when things are bleak and black. And then there are Christians who have hope!

The difference between a wish and hope that comes from faith in Christ is quite significant. A wish is a desire or a dream. But when we who belong to God say we have this hope, it means that because of His faithfulness we have the confident assurance that we can trust the Lord to save us and sustain us in lifes darkest hours.

Prayer: Lord, as unworthy and undeserving as we are, we know that You will rescue us if we have faith in You! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 145:15a The eyes of all look to You.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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News from the Associated Press

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL(equals)

Aberdeen Roncalli 23, McCook Central/Montrose 6
Bison 42, Edgemont 18
Bon Homme 7, Gregory 6
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 55, Flandreau 6
Britton-Hecla 28, Clark/Willow Lake 27
Burke/South Central 55, Centerville 6
Canistota 62, Irene-Wakonda 27
Castlewood 63, Dell Rapids St. Mary 14
Chester 42, Hanson 6
Colman-Egan 38, DeSmet 6
Colome 62, Alcester-Hudson 8
Dakota Valley 41, Milbank Area 0
Dell Rapids 33, Tri-Valley 6
Deuel 66, Tri-State 16
Elkton-Lake Benton 50, Estelline/Hendricks 6
Faulkton 36, Eureka/Bowdle 6
Florence/Henry 14, Waverly-South Shore 12
Garretson 13, Baltic 6
Gayville-Volin 46, Scotland 18
Groton Area 28, Mobridge-Pollock 26
Hamlin 45, Dakota Hills 6
Harding County 36, Faith 20
Harrisburg 23, Aberdeen Central 21
Hill City 32, Rapid City Christian 30
Hitchcock-Tulare 64, Tiospa Zina Tribal 12
Hot Springs 28, Belle Fourche 21
Howard 44, Menno/Marion 14
Jones County/White River 66, New Underwood 18
Langford 45, Northwestern 6
Linton-HMB, N.D. 34, Herreid/Selby Area 20
Lyman 24, Philip 20
Madison 30, West Central 14
Miller/Highmore-Harrold 48, Platte-Geddes 8
Mitchell 55, Douglas 20
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 30, Winner 28
Pierre 28, Brookings 0
Pine Ridge 50, Crow Creek 0
Redfield/Doland 22, Sisseton 0
Sioux Falls Christian 42, Elk Point-Jefferson 7
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 41, Rapid City Central 7
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 24, Brandon Valley 7
Sioux Falls Washington 41, Rapid City Stevens 10
Sioux Valley 28, Lennox 16

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Spearfish 32, Sturgis 21
St. Thomas More 53, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 0
Sully Buttes 50, Sunshine Bible Academy 10
Tea Area 46, Vermillion 0
Timber Lake 74, Lemmon/McIntosh 6
Todd County 39, Red Cloud 24
Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 26, Corsica/Stickney 6
Viborg-Hurley 24, Parker 18
Wall 56, Kadoka Area 14
Warner 27, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 2
Watertown 17, Sioux Falls Lincoln 10
Webster 54, Great Plains Lutheran 0
Wolsey-Wessington 42, Kimball/White Lake 14
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 13, Chamberlain 12, OT
Yankton 38, Huron 27

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

South Dakota woman donates kidney to former classmate

By LACEY PETERSON, Black Hills Pioneer

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — Twenty-five years after graduating from Belle Fourche High School together, Karen Carlton and James Helmberger will forever be connected after she donated her kidney to him last month.

Carlton, who currently lives in Rapid City, and Helmberger, who currently lives in Florida, both 42, grew up in Belle Fourche and attended school together since elementary school.

She said she followed Helmberger's journey searching for a kidney donor on Facebook.

Helmberger needed a kidney transplant due to a hereditary condition called polycystic kidney disease (PKD), a disease that destroys the kidneys over time, the Black Hills Pioneer reported. Helmberger's mother, grandfather, and extended family also suffered from the hereditary condition. Both his grandfather and mother, who'd received kidneys donated from deceased donors, eventually died from the condition.

Helmberger was diagnosed with PKD in his early 20s, and by 38, he'd reached stage 5 renal failure. At that point, Helmberger said he tried peritoneal dialysis. Peritoneal dialysis is a treatment that uses the lining of the abdomen called the peritoneum, along with a cleaning solution called dialysate, to clean a person's blood. Dialysate absorbs waste and fluid from the blood, using the peritoneum as a filter.

"You do it every night through your belly while you sleep," Helmberger said. "When I did that I was able to keep working, and it didn't change my life a whole lot."

The treatment worked well for Helmberger but he had to have two hernia repair surgeries because of it and had to go on hemodialysis. When a patient is on hemodialysis, a machine filters wastes, salts, and fluid from the patient's blood.

But, an old back injury Helmberger incurred while a paratrooper in the U.S. Army in his 20s caused problems while on hemodialysis. Hemodialysis required him to sit in a chair for four hours at a time hooked up to the machine that filtered and cleaned his blood, which was very painful for him. Helmberger, who worked for NASA, had to stop working after beginning hemodialysis.

As a result, Helmberger began doing everything he could to find a donor.

"The average wait time to receive a kidney donation from a deceased donor is five years," Helmberger, who'd had about a dozen surgeries in the last four or five years, said.

Due to the large waiting list, Helmberger embarked upon a search for a living donor who was both a match, physiologically, and willing to donate to him.

Throughout his search, Helmberger turned to social media to actively seek out possible donors with

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whom he'd be compatible. Until Carlton, Helmberger said he was beginning to lose hope.

A little more than a year ago, Carlton said, she started to pay closer attention to Helmberger's search. "It seemed like he would get another (potential) donor and he would say, 'Another beautiful person is trying to see if they're a match for me; let's hope everything goes well through this process,'" she said. "And then after the last one, I was just reading about what he was saying on there (about a third donor not being a match) . something just hit me, and I felt like it was something that I was supposed to do (try to donate my kidney to him)."

"I messaged James a few days later to let him know that I would like to try to be a donor for him," she said. "Naturally, he didn't really know what to say; he was speechless and, at the same time, a little hesitant because he'd been let down before so many times."

Helmberger couldn't have imagined that the person who'd donate to him was a long-lost friend he'd had little contact with for decades.

"I never would have thought to ask a high school classmate," Helmberger said. "To be able to take time from your life and make that kind of sacrifice is just absolutely amazing that she did it."

The next step in the process involved a battery of tests to verify whether Carlton's kidney was a good match for Helmberger.

Because Helmberger is a veteran, the transplant process was coordinated through the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas.

"It took a lot longer than I was hoping it was going to," she said.

Following the initial tests she had done coming back positively, Carlton said, she traveled to Texas for three-days' worth of testing.

"And that's where they really put you through a lot of labs, CT scans, any test you can think of that they would need to do for a kidney," she said.

After nearly a year of testing and correspondence, "they (hospital staff) finally gave me the good news that I was a perfect match," she said.

Carlton's left kidney was selected to be transplanted into Helmberger.

She wanted to tell Helmberger the news in a special way.

"I told him that I wanted him to be with me on (video chat) when I got the results back from the cancer screening," Carlton said.

She told him that she was nervous because she's got a family history of cancer and wanted his support when she received the news. That was not entirely true.

"When really I had already had the results, and I already knew that I was a perfect match and that it was going to happen," she said. "So I (video chatted) with him and I told him that I lied; I didn't want to go over my cancer results with him. And then I told him the good news . that he was getting my kidney."

Helmberger's response was priceless, Carlton said.

"And he just kind of stood there . and had this big grin on his face. I'll never forget it," Carlton said. "He was just kind of speechless; it was almost like it wasn't real for him."

Carlton and her husband were Texas-bound Aug. 9 to prepare for the surgery Aug. 14.

After final lab tests came back positively, the classmates had a free weekend together.

Helmberger, Carlton, and her husband caught a baseball game together.

"And just kind of hung out and did some stuff while we could before we were no longer going to be able to walk for a while," Carlton said. "So that was nice"

On the day of the surgery, the pair shuttled to the VA hospital together.

"We just sat there and talked until we both got called in to get prepped for surgery," Carlton said.

The procedures occurred almost simultaneously in operating rooms near one another.

"They coordinated our time perfect so that by the time my kidney was out, James was already ready to have the kidney put in," Carlton said.

Helmberger had one kidney removed about a year before the transplant and the second taken out during the transplant procedure.

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Carlton said the next day, Helmberger was up and moving around "and doing better than I was."

This is typical for organ donors and recipients, Carlton said.

"He goes from feeling very sick to almost like a million dollars," she said. "Where I am a very healthy person and then you feel really sick because something is taken from you that your body is used to, so it's normal."

After several days in the hospital and a recovering period, Carlton returned home on Aug. 28.

The pair's relationship is forever changed.

"I definitely can say that he's a great friend," Carlton said of Helmberger. "We speak daily. It's not always about the kidney; we've learned more about each other and growing up and our mutual friends. It's like 25 years of catch-up. It's never a boring conversation."

Another side effect Carlton expects Helmberger to be affected by is her choice in NFL football teams.

"James is a huge (Minnesota) Vikings fan," Carlton laughed. "I despise the Vikings and I love Green Bay (Packers). So I'm like (to Helmberger), "You know, you're not going to be able to fight it for too long because it's in you to love the Green Bay Packers and it's going to happen."

She felt peace about the decision from the beginning, Carlton said.

"I didn't have to think twice about this at all; I was never worried or concerned the entire time, I just had complete faith that this was all going to work," she said. "For whatever reason, I just had nothing but comfort knowing that I was doing this."

Zero regrets, she said.

"I would do it again if I had another kidney."

Carlton said she encourages others to consider becoming a living organ donor.

"That's what I hope that people get from this, is knowing that it's not as bad as maybe you think and having gone through this myself, I can actually talk to you about the whole experience," she said. "So if anyone ever thought about it or is afraid of it, I can definitely let them know that it is absolutely worth it."

The experience, which Carlton classified as humbling, inspired her husband to begin testing to becoming a potential donor.

"I feel good, and I think it's just knowing that he's (Helmberger is) going to be OK, and he's going to be able to have a life like me where he knows that he can continue to watch his kids grow and have grandchildren and enjoy them," she said. "Whereas, maybe if I hadn't done this, he may not have had that opportunity."

As for Helmberger, he said he's ready to get back to Florida and into the swing of normal life.

"I'm feeling pretty good," he said.

Although the average life of a donated organ from a living donor, Helmberger said, is about 10-15 years, he plans to do what he can to stretch it out.

"My goal is to make this last 20 years," he said. "I'm so thankful to Karen (Carlton)."

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

School district inputs program to combat possible shootings

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, Rapid City Journal

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — As students waft sage into their faces during a morning ceremony to start the Friday school day at Wolf Creek Middle, Superintendent Anthony Fairbanks recalls the day thirteen years earlier when violence last visited a school he knew well.

"That was just a normal, typical day. Who would've known?" said Fairbanks, who prior to coming to South Dakota served as an elementary principal in Red Lake, Minnesota. While he was away for a year pursuing his doctorate in 2005, a 16-year-old shot his grandfather, a tribal police officer, took his guns and Kevlar vest to Red Lake Senior High School and killed seven people, including Fairbanks' cousin, the security guard.

"He wasn't even armed," said Fairbanks, standing in the circular activity room at Wolf Creek, a 6th through 8th grade building currently housed in the SuAnne Big Crow Youth Development Center two miles east of

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Pine Ridge on Highway 18. "And the police were just a block away."

"The data shows these things happen too much," said Fairbanks. "It's our responsibility to keep them out."

Five years after South Dakota legislators passed Sentinel, a program that trains educational staff, including teachers, to carry firearms, a cloud of secrecy still pervades public information on which schools within the state have opted into the law. The state discloses four schools. But many schools are hesitant to share information. Not so, however, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation with the Oglala Lakota County School District. The K-8 district has the most sentinel-trained officers in the state with four, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"I feel great about this," said Brian Brewer, school board president for Oglala Lakota District. "We really pushed for this. I was always worried about our children. That something bad could happen to them. Now, God forbid if something does, we can say we did everything possible."

No teacher carries firearms yet. But the district's armed security resource officers carry Glock 17s. Officials also say locked 800-pound safes sit in each of the district's five schools (the fifth school is an online high school) containing a semi-automatic AR-15.

"I even feel better about that," said Brewer, a former principal at Pine Ridge High School down the road. "People come in with automatic weapons at most of these shootings, and we have pistols. How do you stand up to an automatic weapon with a pistol? So we went a little beyond, and long-rifles are now available."

Next summer the district plans to send more security officers, maybe as many as 10, including administrators, to the two-week Sentinel training held by the Division of Criminal Investigation in Pierre.

"I want to be part of this, too," said Connie Kaltenbach, curriculum director, who said she wears "many hats" as an administrator at the school. "We need to be prepared."

While in the aftermath of high-profile school shootings in Florida, the Sentinel debate was revved up again at many districts across South Dakota, officials at Pine Ridge stress they made an individual decision based upon their own school district. At a training held without notice at Rockyford School, an elementary school in the Badlands, tribal law enforcement needed 22 minutes to respond. School officials also say they're concerned about violence stemming from gangs.

"Our hallways had bullet holes in them at the high school," said Brewer, speaking of his time as Pine Ridge High School principal. "We were worried about students bringing guns to school and getting involved in gang things."

The memory of violence can be personal for many. Two years ago, Brewer's nephew was murdered in gang violence outside the SuAnne Big Crow Center, before the Wolf Creek School was temporarily housed in the center due to construction of a new high school.

"That was just right there," said J.L. Trueblood. "What might've happened if there were an armed guard nearby?"

In 2013, Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed into law a bill pulled from the NRA's talking points in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Shooting. Called "School Sentinel," the program legalized the arming of school employees, security personnel, or volunteers, given they undergo training and pass a background check.

But Superintendent Fairbanks laughs when asked about bumper stickers — frequent in western South Dakota — advertising unqualified support for gun rights.

"This is not even connected to that," said Fairbanks. "If something happens, we just want to be ready to face it. So far there have been 57 school shootings in the country. That's 57 times too many in my book."

Armed guards are also only part of the solution at Oglala Lakota District, Fairbanks said. Cameras outfit the buildings. A security assessment from a local team analyzed entrances and exits. And the school implemented ALICE (Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counter-Evacuate) training.

On a recent Friday morning on the road between Pine Ridge and Batesland, in this school surrounded by cow-dotted hills and within view of the Nebraska border, children ran laughing with arms raised out of the school's doors and head toward the road. Two students straggled a little behind.

"Come on, buddy!" yelled Jesse Trueblood, a security officer.

The boys pick up their feet and start running, a mix of gym class obligations and a twice-a-school-year

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training. Eighth graders had been in study hall, a few using school-issued tablets to research the history of tribes across the nation, when the first alarm bell sounded for the planned Friday-morning ALICE training.

"This is just part of our education now," said Jewelia Lebeau, 8th grader at Wolf Creek. "But it's just to keep us safe."

"We take it seriously," said Shayonna Waters, also an 8th grader. "It's a good thing knowing that J.L. has, like, an armed weapon on in case of anything."

Other districts who have publicly acknowledged opting in on Sentinel include Tri Valley School District west of Sioux Falls and the Northwestern Area School District south of Aberdeen. Rapid City Area Schools, the state's second largest district and about 90 minutes from Pine Ridge, has unarmed security staff on its campuses and a relationship with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office for deputized school resource officers to also patrol campuses.

One concern stated by the district is its insurance provider has threatened to pull coverage if teachers would be armed. Superintendent Fairbanks said, however, this was not a concern as the school resource officers, not teachers, would carry firearms. Moreover, while the training authorized by the legislature in 2013 requires 80 hours of training, NRA handgun training and an entire day on civil liability, officers at Oglala Lakota School District undergo even further training than legally required.

"We've gone above and beyond," said Fairbanks. "We've gotten 192 hours of instructional training and 48 hours of firearm training. That's 240 hours in addition to the 80 required by Sentinel."

They also do not hesitate when confronting the reality that someone they might shoot will be a student. "Teachers talk to our kids about safety, and we've notified parents," said Trueblood. "But we're training to identify a threat and stop that threat from causing more damage to the school."

Teachers, too, have accepted the new normal. Destiny Leftwich, a 6th grade teacher, corralled her students back into the classroom after the first ALICE drill.

"Let's get back on task now," she said.

The district is mum on whether any specific incidents prompted adopting Sentinel, though court records from an unrelated lawsuit in Oglala Lakota County show that the district did send students home early following a security scare at the Rockyford School, a pre-K through 8th grade school north of Porcupine, in 2016.

"The way I'll answer that is to say that you never know from day to day. You always want to be proactive," said Fairbanks.

After the first ALICE training activity two Fridays ago, when 200 students in various classrooms filed out into the hallway while Trueblood roamed the hallway, giving orders with a bullhorn. Then, after a brief calm, the students prepared for a second training, an evacuation.

Around 11 a.m., precisely after students had returned to their chairs and taken a bathroom break, the sirens keened again, heavy doors pushed open, and children fled past a yellow school bus carrying the county's old name, "Shannon County." Like huddling under desks during bomb raids of the early days of the Cold War, the children's dress rehearsal for the unthinkable can be both surreal and orderly. After about 5 minutes — the average school shooting is finished within 7, Fairbanks said — the entire student body of Wolf Creek, including those kids who crossed over the thistle patches along the sidewalk have congregated by the safe confines of the white security SUV.

As students stand with their teacher along the entrance, Superintendent Fairbanks and Trueblood spoke to the children for a job-well-done.

"You really made us proud today, and you took this seriously," he said. "That's the kind of attitude we want to see."

And he led the school in a school cheer.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

SD Lottery

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By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

01-02-11-52-64, Mega Ball: 9, Megaplier: 4

(one, two, eleven, fifty-two, sixty-four; Mega Ball: nine; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$275 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$178 million

Stricker shares lead at Sanford International in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Steve Stricker shot a 7-under 63 on Friday to share the first-round lead at the Sanford International.

The 51-year-old Stricker was 8 under through 17 holes at chilly, rain-softened Minnehaha Country Club but closed with a bogey to fall into a tie with Jerry Smith, Brandt Jobe and David McKenzie.

Stricker only got to play seven holes in the pro-am because of rain that prevented the field from getting in much practice.

"You've just kind of got to trust your yardage book and hit to the spots and then try to make a good game plan on the way into the green, too, not really knowing where to hit it or where to miss it up there on the green. Sometimes it's good, too," Stricker said. "You go around and you're focused a lot more on hitting it to a specific spot and not knowing what lies ahead in the course. So I guess today was the ultimate 'Take one hole at a time' because we didn't really know anything else, what was coming."

Stricker has two wins and has not finished worse than fifth in six starts this season on the over-50 tour as he continues to play a part-time schedule on the PGA Tour. Next week, he will be one of U.S. Ryder Cup captain Jim Furyk's assistants at the matches outside Paris.

McKenzie, a 51-year-old Australian, had two eagles on the back nine, holing a wedge from 116 yards on the par-5 16th.

"We got told ... to play faster on No. 16, and so my caddie just said, 'Hit it in the hole so you don't have to putt it,' so I just did what he told me," McKenzie said.

Smith had eagles on Nos. 4 and 12.

"Honestly, I was just trying to hit some good shots and I really wasn't with the irons," Smith said. "I just really didn't like the way I hit them today. You know, just the putter was the big difference for me. I just felt good with it all day, especially say outside of 10, 15 feet, where I felt like I was a lot."

Scott McCarron, Lee Janzen and Paul Goydos were one shot back. McCarron came in second in the Charles Schwab Cup money standings behind Miguel Angel Jimenez, who is not playing this week.

Vikings' Sendejo fined \$53,482 by NFL for hit vs. Packers

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Vikings safety Andrew Sendejo was fined \$53,482 by the NFL on Friday for his hit during a play in Minnesota's tie at Green Bay last weekend.

Sendejo was penalized 15 yards for unnecessary roughness after tackling Packers wide receiver Davante Adams in the third quarter. The safety knocked into Adams with his right shoulder just after Xavier Rhodes made initial contact.

Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said during his weekly radio show Wednesday that Sendejo was told by an official after the play that he did everything right on the tackle. It still resulted in a fine by the NFL, and it was a hefty one because Sendejo is considered a repeat offender.

Among those not fined Friday were Packers linebacker Clay Matthews and Vikings linebacker Eric Ken-

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dricks — both of whom were flagged for roughing the passer.

Atlanta safety Damontae Kazee was docked \$10,026 for his hit on Carolina quarterback Cam Newton last Sunday that also drew an ejection .

Kazee apologized this week for hitting into the helmet of Newton, who was sliding feet-first on a play in the second quarter. Newton was quickly checked on the sideline before returning to the field without missing a play.

Kazee, who made his second NFL start, said he needs to adjust to the new rule.

"I've got to learn to try to keep my head up when I tackle," he said.

The play drew two other \$10,026 fines: one on Panthers wide receiver Torrey Smith for a retaliatory hit on Kazee, and another on the Falcons' Takk McKinley for going after Smith.

Arizona safety Antoine Bethea was docked \$20,054 for roughing the passer after a hit on Rams quarterback Jared Goff in the third quarter last Sunday.

Chargers defensive end Melvin Ingram was also fined \$20,054 for unnecessary roughness after he took down Buffalo rookie quarterback Josh Allen by his shoulder pads. Los Angeles teammate Desmond King must pay \$10,026 for unsportsmanlike conduct after he taunted Bills wide receiver Zay Jones on an incomplete pass by waving "bye-bye" to him and making a kicking motion in the first quarter.

Houston linebacker Jadeveon Clowney has to pay a \$10,026 fine despite not playing last Sunday against Tennessee. He was penalized for taunting from the sideline in the fourth quarter after getting into it with Titans tight end Luke Stocker.

Detroit running back LeGarrette Blount also picked up a \$10,026 fine for his actions midway through the fourth quarter of the Lions' loss to San Francisco. Blount was ejected for a personal foul penalty after he came off the sideline and shoved 49ers linebacker Elijah Lee to the ground. That came right after Detroit quarterback Matthew Stafford was pushed out of bounds near the sideline. Blount took exception to a hit he thought might have been a tad bit late — although Stafford was still in bounds on the play and no penalty was called.

Also docked \$10,026 by the league was Jets cornerback Buster Skrine, who grabbed the facemask of Miami wide receiver Jakeem Grant while making a tackle.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Early voting begins as midterms season enters final phase

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **STEVE KARNOWSKI**, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Much of the political world is consumed with a battle over a Supreme Court nominee, an expanding international trade war and President Donald Trump's social media posts. Yet in Minnesota, the first votes of the 2018 midterm elections are being cast.

Voting machines are set up inside city buildings. A series of get-out-the-vote rallies is scheduled. And each party is spending millions of dollars to push its supporters to the polls.

While Election Day 2018 is technically Nov. 6, Minnesota law allows in-person voting to begin Friday — a full 46 days early — making it the first battleground state to begin casting actual votes in the broader fight for control of Congress.

Voters in every corner of the nation will soon follow.

South Dakota also opens early voting on Friday, and four more states follow in the next six days, including key states including New Jersey and Missouri. California, Montana and Arizona are among seven others that allow early voting in the subsequent two weeks.

It may feel early, but make no mistake: The final phase of the 2018 midterm season has begun.

"It's like Election Day every day," said Jake Schneider, spokesman for Minnesota Republican Senate candidate Karin Housley. "It really changes the dynamic of an election. It really does. And it's exciting."

The commencement of voting in key states underscores the heightened significance of virtually every major development — political or otherwise — on the state and national stage in the coming days. Eco-

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conomic indicators, the president's tweets, new revelations in the special counsel investigation and even the weather begin to matter much more as voters decide whether to go to the polls.

It's been an inauspicious beginning to the voting season for Trump and his Republican Party, which continue to struggle under the weight of near-constant self-imposed crises and chaos.

The president escalated a trade war with China in recent days, triggering new waves of concern among farmers and major employers across Minnesota and beyond. And the GOP's continued embrace of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, despite an allegation of decades-old sexual misconduct, threatens to further alienate suburban women, a key constituency this fall that has already largely turned away from Trump.

Political parties and their allies are ramping up voter outreach programs in several states to mark the beginning of the early voting phase.

The Democratic allies, Priorities USA Action and the Senate Majority PAC, for example, are launching a multimillion-dollar digital ad campaign next week as part of a voter mobilization program across five states that targets African-Americans, young Hispanics and other young people.

One of the new ads, shared with The Associated Press, highlights the rise of white supremacists in the Trump era. In another, a young black man says, "I'm willing to do whatever it takes to vote this year."

As is the case in many midterm battlegrounds, outside groups for several weeks have been dumping money into Minnesota, which features at least four competitive House elections, two U.S. Senate contests and a governor's race.

Each of the political parties deployed paid staff and volunteers on the ground several months ago to identify supporters and persuade them to vote.

Democrats are focused on turning out "communities of color" in Minnesota, particularly in the areas around Minneapolis that feature large Somali and Southeast Asian populations, according to Ramsey Reid, the Midwestern regional director for the Democratic National Committee.

Democrats are working to ensure that minorities, who are considered more sporadic voters in some cases, comprise more than 8 percent of the Minnesota electorate, Reid said, noting that they made up less than 6 percent in the last midterm elections.

Republicans are focused on trying to bank their own set of "low-propensity" voters in the initial days of early voting, a group identified through several months of on-the-ground work with its expanding network of field staff and volunteers, according to Matt Dailer, the political strategy director for the Republican National Committee.

The RNC has a permanent presence on the ground in Minnesota and 19 other early voting states, he said, noting that the GOP is running a series of nationwide get-out-the-vote tests beginning Oct. 1 to ensure its system is running smoothly.

Minnesota faces an unusually high number of competitive races this fall.

Recent polling gave narrow leads to Democratic Rep. Tim Walz in the gubernatorial race and incumbent Democratic Sen. Tina Smith in the special election to fill the final two years of Democratic former Sen. Al Franken's term, but their Republican opponents were within striking distance.

And four of the state's eight congressional races are considered tossups. Two of those races, in southern Minnesota's 1st District and northeastern Minnesota's 8th District, are for open seats held by retiring Democrats, and they afford Republicans two of their pickup opportunities in the nation. That's essentially the only place where the GOP is poised to flip a Democratic seat. In the suburban 2nd and 3rd districts, however, Democratic challengers stand good chances of defeating Republican incumbents.

Minnesota Democrats have planned an early vote campaign blitz this weekend with a series of rallies and surrogate appearances featuring people like former Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards and Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto.

After a Friday rally at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Smith and other Democrats planned to encourage attendees to hop on the nearby light-rail train and head downtown to vote.

Democratic congressional candidate Angie Craig, who's taking on GOP incumbent Rep. Jason Lewis in

the 2nd District, was planning her own "Early Vote Weekend of Action."

"This race will come down to who turns out to vote between Friday and Election Day," Craig told the AP. "We need every Democrat to turn out for this election."

Minnesota is among 37 states that offer "no-excuse" absentee voting or another kind of early voting this year. Roughly 40 percent of ballots nationwide were not cast in a polling place on Election Day in the 2014 and 2016 elections.

Minnesota's no-excuse absentee voting system has soared in popularity since it rolled out in 2014. Voters don't have to give a reason for voting early, as some states require, and they can change their minds until a week before Election Day.

"We no longer have an Election Day; we have an election window," said Wendy Underhill of the National Conference of State Legislatures. "It's beginning now."

Peoples reported from New York.

2 charged in killing of man whose body was found in ditch

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police have arrested two people in connection with a homicide earlier this week.

Authorities say 29-year-old Henry Little Long is charged with second-degree murder and an alternate count of first-degree manslaughter. Twenty-three-year-old Kelsey Roubideaux is charged with first-degree manslaughter and drug possession. They are being held on \$100,000 cash-only bonds.

Police say Roubideaux was driving a vehicle when LaKendrick Thornton was shot and killed in the back seat early Tuesday. Thornton's body was found in a ditch near Renner later that morning. An affidavit says Thornton had been shot once in the chest.

Court documents say Roubideaux, Thornton, Long and another woman were on their way to purchase drugs when the shooting occurred. Long and Thornton allegedly argued before he was shot.

Man looking at \$12 million payback in medical fraud case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge says former Rapid City dentist convicted of medical fraud should pay back about \$12 million to victims.

KOTA-TV reports that Larry Lytle was sentenced in April to 12 years in prison after he was accused of selling hand-held devices to more than 3,000 customers who fell for bogus claims about their effectiveness. Lytle and others claimed the devices could treat more than 200 medical conditions, including diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and AIDS.

Lytle admitted to selling the so-called QLasers for about \$4,000 each from 2005 through 2015.

Investigators say Lytle placed veterinary labels on the devices to evade review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Attorneys have 14 days to review accounting records, but prosecutors do not expect the amount of restitution to substantially change.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

Legionnaire's outbreak causes 1 death, 14 hospitalizations

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials say an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease around Sioux Falls has caused one death and has hospitalized 14 others.

The Department of Health has asked the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate the outbreak of Legionnaire's, which is a type of pneumonia caused by the Legionella bacteria.

The Argus Leader says the confirmed cases have been reported in people who live or have traveled to Sioux Falls. All patients are between the ages of 36 and 80.

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State epidemiologist Dr. Joshua Clayton says the CDC will help identify water sources that may contain the bacteria. Health officials say the state typically sees 8 to 15 Legionnaire's cases each year. This year that number has climbed to 24 so far.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Lakota museum to open in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man who grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is opening a Lakota museum in Rapid City this weekend.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 23-year-old Adonis Saltes will open the Lakota Dream Museum and Monument on Saturday after more than a year of planning and curating artifacts of cultural importance for the Lakota people.

Saltes says he believes it's the only museum that is "from the people."

The museum will feature paintings from imprisoned American Indian Movement member Leonard Peltier, text murals of the Treaty of Fort Laramie and Wounded Knee and a taxidermied white buffalo calf.

The current location of the museum may be temporary. Saltes and the museum's board of directors have sought funding for a more permanent location in the Black Hills.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Heavy rains impact roads, crops, PGA golf tournament

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Storms this week have dumped as much as 8 inches of rain on southeastern South Dakota, leading to flash flooding and inundated roads.

National Weather Service hydrologist Mike Gillispie says he expects problems with excess water to ease quickly.

The 2 inches that fell in Yankton Thursday pushed the city's yearly total to 34, within striking distance of a record. Mitchell set a daily rainfall record Wednesday with 2 inches.

The storms have put a damper on the harvest. Fremar Farmers Co-op elevator manager Mike Saylor says in some areas it will be a week before farmers can start combining again.

In Sioux Falls, the PGA Tour Champions Sanford International golf tournament used a helicopter Thursday night to help dry out the Minnehaha Country Club after about 5 inches of rain hit the course.

Woman accused of threatening medical center on Instagram

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City woman is accused of posting a video on social media threatening to bomb a local medical center.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 27-year-old Amy Butts is charged with making a terrorist threat against Regional Health Behavioral Health Center. She allegedly posted it on Instagram in June.

Butts has pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity. Her attorney says she has history of mental illness and is currently being evaluated.

She faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

\$3 million Belle Fourche school tech building dedicated

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — The Belle Fourche School District has dedicated a nearly \$3 million Career and Technical Education building after about a year of construction.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that the building will be used to educate students to work in several

industries, including welding, family and consumer science, accounting, hospitality and agriculture.

The 10,000-square-foot facility also includes an area for an expanded science, technology, engineering and math curriculum.

The district also is working with local businesses to make internships available for students to experience work in various career fields.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Gunmen attack Iran military parade, killing at least 24

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL**, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Gunmen attacked an annual Iranian military parade Saturday in the country's oil-rich southwest, killing at least 24 people and wounding 53 others, local media reported.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the assault in Ahvaz, which saw gunfire spray into a crowd of marching Guardsmen, bystanders and government officials watching from a nearby riser. However, Iran faced a bloody assault last year from the Islamic State group and Arab separatists in the region have attacked oil pipelines there in the past.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif immediately blamed the attack on regional countries and their "U.S. masters," further raising regional tensions as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers is in jeopardy after President Donald Trump withdrew America from the accord.

"Iran will respond swiftly and decisively in defense of Iranian lives," he wrote on Twitter.

State television aired footage of the aftermath of the assault on Ahvaz's Quds, or Jerusalem, Boulevard, which like many other places around the country saw an annual parade marking the start of Iran's long 1980s war with Iraq. The images included paramedics trying to help one person in military fatigues as other armed security personnel shouted at each other. The semi-official ISNA news agency published photographs of the attack's aftermath, with bloodied troops in dress uniforms helping each other walk away.

A local news agency in Khuzestan province, of which Ahvaz is the capital, aired grainy mobile phone footage showing parade goers fleeing as soldiers lay flat on the ground. Gunfire rang out in the background.

"Security forces have restored security in the area but the parade has totally been disrupted," a reporter on the scene for Iranian state television said by phone in a live broadcast. "People have been killed but we have no figures yet."

Zarif on Twitter said that the gunmen were "terrorists recruited, trained, armed & paid by a foreign regime." He did not immediately elaborate. However, Arab separatist groups in the region have launched attacks on oil pipelines there in the past and Iran. The separatists also accuse Iran's Shiite theocracy of discriminating against its Sunni Arab citizens. Iran has blamed its Mideast archrival, the Sunni kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for funding their activity.

Reports of how the attack unfolded remained unclear immediately afterward. The state TV reporter said the gunfire came from a park behind a riser. The semi-official Fars news agency, which is close to the Guard, said two gunmen on a motorcycle wearing khaki uniforms carried out the attack.

The state-run IRNA news agency said the attack killed 24 people and wounded 53, citing "knowledgeable sources" without elaborating. It said gunmen were dressed in Guard uniforms and targeted a riser where military and police commanders were sitting.

Khuzestan Gov. Gholamreza Shariati told IRNA that two gunmen were killed and other two were arrested.

Who carried out the assault also remained in question. State television immediately described the assailants as "takfiri gunmen," a term previously used to describe the Islamic State group. Iran has been deeply involved in the fight against IS in Iraq and has aided embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad in his country's long war.

Among those involved are members of the Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary force answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The Guard also has vast holdings in Iran's economy.

Meanwhile, Guard spokesman Gen. Ramazan Sharif told ISNA that an Arab separatist group carried

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out the attack, without elaborating. However, those groups in the past previously have only attacked unguarded oil pipelines at night.

Saturday's attack comes after a coordinated June 7, 2017 Islamic State group assault on parliament and the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Tehran. At least 18 people were killed and more than 50 wounded.

Khomeini led the 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the Western-backed shah to become Iran's first supreme leader until his death in 1989. The assault shocked Tehran, which largely has avoided militant attacks in the decades after the tumult surrounding the Islamic Revolution.

Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

Trump promises to rid Justice Dept. of 'lingering stench'

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — President Donald Trump has issued an ominous warning about the Justice Department and the FBI, promising further firings to get rid of a "lingering stench" following reports that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein discussed secretly recording the president.

Trump, speaking at a rally in Missouri Friday, did not explicitly mention the Rosenstein furor, which was first reported by The New York Times and confirmed by The Associated Press.

But Trump lashed out against what he sees as anti-Trump bias in the Justice Department, touting the firings he has orchestrated, unnerving many in federal law enforcement and sparking fears about the future of the special counsel's Russia probe, which Rosenstein oversees.

"You've seen what happened in the FBI and the Department of Justice. The bad ones, they're all gone. They're all gone," Trump said. "But there is a lingering stench and we're going to get rid of that, too."

One person present during Rosenstein's remarks said he was being sarcastic. The Times also said he raised the idea of using the 25th Amendment to remove Trump as unfit for office. Rosenstein said the story is "inaccurate and factually incorrect."

It was the latest storm to buffet the White House, which this week was battered by a number of potentially damaging stories. Beyond the speculation about Rosenstein, it was revealed that Trump's former fixer, Michael Cohen, is cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. The president also backed off his plan to declassify documents related to the ongoing probe, and the fate of his Supreme Court nominee remained uncertain.

Negotiations continued Friday about a possible appearance by Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who accused Judge Brett Kavanaugh, Trump's nominee, of sexual assault at a high school party more than three decades ago. Trump made the future of Kavanaugh and the federal judiciary a centerpiece of his rally in Springfield, which was designed to support the state's Republican Senate candidate, Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley, in his race against Democratic incumbent Claire McCaskill.

"I don't know who she is with but she is not with the state of Missouri," Trump said. "(Kavanaugh) is a fantastic man, a fantastic man. She won't vote for him."

But Trump, who used Twitter earlier Friday to cast doubt on Ford's claim, preached optimism on Kavanaugh, saying "he was born for the U.S. Supreme Court" and reassuring the crowd that "it's going to happen. It's going to happen."

He added: "We have to fight for him, not worry about the other side. And by the way, women are for that more than anybody would understand."

When Hawley praised Trump's judicial picks, the crowd began chanting Kavanaugh's name. And the president, drawing energy from a packed, raucous crowd, dished out plenty of red meat, pledging to build his signature border wall, telegraphing that he is willing to escalate trade conflicts with both China and Western allies and suggesting he was "willing to wait" to make a peace deal with North Korea. He also took a swipe at Sen. John McCain, who died away last month, for sinking the GOP health care bill, though

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he did not mention the late war hero by name.

Trump also repeatedly laced into the Democratic Party.

"They aren't just extreme," he said. "They are frankly dangerous and they are crazy."

The reports about Rosenstein created even greater uncertainty for the deputy attorney general's tenure at a time when Trump has lambasted Justice Department leadership and publicly humiliated both Rosenstein and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

More broadly, it's the latest revelation that could affect Mueller, the special counsel investigating possible coordination between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign in 2016. Sessions recused himself from that issue soon after he took office, to Trump's dismay, and Rosenstein then appointed Mueller. With all that hanging in the air, Trump has resisted calls from conservative commentators to fire both Sessions and Rosenstein and appoint someone who would ride herd more closely on Mueller or dismiss him.

A number of key FBI officials, including director James Comey and deputy director Andrew McCabe, have been fired since Trump took office.

Republicans view the McCaskill-Hawley contest as one of their best chances of flipping a seat in the Senate, where the GOP has a slim 51-49 majority, and polls show it's a toss-up.

Democrats are hoping the enthusiasm that's put the GOP-led House in play will spill over to the Senate, though the map there is much tougher. McCaskill is among 10 Democratic incumbents seeking re-election in states Trump won — some by wider margins than Missouri.

Hawley, the state's 38-year-old first-term attorney general, was on Friday repeatedly called a "star" by Trump, who carried Missouri by 19 percentage points in 2016.

Trump's rally for Hawley came a day after he held one for the Republican incumbent senator widely considered to be the most vulnerable, Dean Heller of Nevada. With the chances of Republicans keeping control of the House of Representatives looking increasingly dismal, the White House has fixated on keeping the Senate as a bulwark against any Democratic effort to impeach and then remove Trump from office.

Earlier Friday, Trump visited a Las Vegas-area veterans facility to sign a spending bill that includes nearly \$100 billion for veterans care and military construction, though he has continued to warn in recent days that he may be willing to shut down the federal government over spending for border security, including his long-promised wall.

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

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Committee gives Kavanaugh accuser more time

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The high-stakes brinkmanship over whether Brett Kavanaugh's accuser would testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee came to a momentary standstill as GOP Chairman Chuck Grassley gave Christine Blasey Ford more time to decide on the terms of her appearance.

The Republican-led committee insisted that if Ford missed a Friday night deadline to respond to the panel's latest offer it would hold a vote Monday on recommending Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination for the full Senate to consider.

Ford's accusations of Kavanaugh's behavior 35 years ago and the unusually tense standoff over the terms of her appearance have captivated the nation as the appellate court judge's confirmation to the court hangs in balance.

In a late-night tweet Grassley said he was granting Ford more time.

"I just granted another extension," Grassley wrote around midnight Friday. He did not say how long he would wait for Ford "to decide if she wants to proceed." Aides did not respond to requests for more information.

In backing away from his deadline, Grassley underscored the sensitivity with which Senate Republicans

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have tried handling Ford. Less than seven weeks before elections in which Democrats could capture congressional control, moderate female voters will be pivotal in many races and the #MeToo movement has elevated the political potency of how women alleging abuse are treated.

But Grassley also struck an apologetic tone toward Kavanaugh, adding he hoped the judge understands. "It's not my normal approach" to be "indecisive," Grassley tweeted.

The late-night back-and-forth left in question whether Ford would appear before the GOP-run committee and describe her allegation to millions of voters. Now a 51-year-old California psychology professor, Ford says an inebriated Kavanaugh pinned her on a bed, muffled her cries and tried removing her clothes when both were teenagers in the 1980s.

Kavanaugh, a District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals judge, has repeatedly denied the accusation. He has said he wants to appear before the committee as soon as possible to clear his name.

Lawyers have been negotiating various aspects of the public session and Grassley set a 10 p.m. deadline Friday to respond to the panel's latest offer.

Just as time was running out, Ford lawyer Debra Katz late Friday requested another day to decide. She called Grassley's deadline "arbitrary" and said its "sole purpose is to bully Dr. Ford and deprive her of the ability to make a considered decision that has life-altering implications for her and her family."

Earlier Friday, Grassley rejected concessions Ford wanted if she is tell her story publicly before the committee.

Grassley turned down Ford's request that only senators, not attorneys, be allowed to ask questions. The committee's 11 Republicans — all men — have been seeking an outside female attorney to interrogate Ford, mindful of the election-season impression that could be left by men trying to pick apart a woman's assertion of a sexual attack.

He also rejected her proposal that she testify after Kavanaugh, a position lawyers consider advantageous because it gives them a chance to rebut accusations.

Grassley's stance underscored a desire by President Donald Trump and GOP leaders to usher the 53-year-old Kavanaugh onto the high court by the Oct. 1 start of its new session and before the November elections, when Democrats are mounting a robust drive to grab congressional control.

Friday was the latest in a string of tumultuous days for Kavanaugh, whose ascension to the Supreme Court seemed a sure bet until Ford emerged last weekend and provided details of the alleged assault.

Earlier, Trump ended a week of constraint and sarcastically assailed Ford, tweeting that if the episode was "as bad as she says," she or "her loving parents" surely would have reported it to law enforcement.

Trump's searing reproach of the California psychology professor defied the Senate Republican strategy, and the advice of White House aides, of not disparaging her while firmly defending his nominee and the tight timetable for confirming him.

The president's tweet brought blistering rejoinders from Democrats and a mix of silence and sighs of regret from his own party. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, who hasn't declared support for Kavanaugh, called the remark "appalling."

The Judiciary panel's top Democrat expressed fury at Grassley's negotiating position with Ford and maintained Democrats' effort to build the battle into a larger election-year question about the treatment of women.

"Bullying a survivor of attempted rape in order to confirm a nominee — particularly at a time when she's receiving death threats — is an extreme abuse of power," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California.

Grassley said he'd schedule a hearing for Wednesday, not Thursday, as Ford prefers.

Grassley rebuffed other Ford requests, including calling additional witnesses. Ford wants an appearance by Mark Judge, a Kavanaugh friend who Ford asserts was at the high school party and in the bedroom where Kavanaugh's assault occurred. Ford eventually escaped.

Grassley consented to other Ford demands, including that she be provided security and that Kavanaugh not be in the hearing room when she testifies.

Ford's request for security comes after her lawyers said she has relocated her family due to death threats.

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The GOP letter to Ford's lawyers said Kavanaugh and his family have received death threats too, "And they're getting worse each day."

Kavanaugh had seemed to gain momentum among Republican senators this week, with growing numbers saying it was approaching time to vote and those who'd voiced concern about Ford's charges stopping short of expressing opposition to Kavanaugh. But with the slender 51-49 GOP majority and the unpredictability of how Ford and Kavanaugh would come across to millions of American voters should she agree to testify, his approval remains in question.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell played verbal hardball of his own, drawing a standing ovation when he assured a gathering of evangelical activists that the conservative Kavanaugh would soon be a justice.

"Keep the faith, don't get rattled by it," McConnell said at the Values Voter Summit. "We're going to plow right through and do our jobs."

AP reporters Catherine Lucey, Mary Clare Jalonick, Eric Tucker, Ken Thomas, Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller contributed.

Small North Carolina town latest to feel Florence's fury

By **GARY D. ROBERTSON, MARTHA WAGONER and ALAN SUDERMAN, Associated Press**

BLADENBORO, N.C. (AP) — Benetta White and David Lloyd slogged through waist-deep water filling their yard to escape Hurricane Florence's latest life-threatening punch to a town in the Carolinas.

It was their second evacuation in a week. They were among 100 people rescued with helicopters, boats and high-wheeled military vehicles during a six-hour rescue operation in southeastern North Carolina's Bladen County that lasted into Friday morning.

Officials in North and South Carolina warn that the flooding danger is far from over, with South Carolina also ordering more evacuations as rivers rise. At least 43 people have died since the hurricane slammed into the coast more than a week ago.

White and Lloyd, who live in the North Carolina town of Kelly, were given little time Thursday night to evacuate when the Cape Fear River came rushing onto their property. By the time they loaded their van, the water was waist-high and they had to slog through a foul-smelling soup to get to a neighbor's pickup.

From there they went to the town's fire department, and were taken out of town by an Army truck. Now they are staying in a shelter at a Bladen County high school. It's the second time they've evacuated in a week.

"We had to evacuate again, all over again, and got trapped in a bunch of water in a car and almost lost our lives," she said.

The National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard rushed in to help, with aircraft pilots wearing night-vision goggles. The mandatory evacuation issued Thursday for Kelly, population about 800, was the third for the town since the storm began lashing the state more than a week ago.

A CH-47 Chinook from the Minnesota National Guard's 211th Aviation Regiment was wrapping up a 12-hour shift Thursday evening when they began hearing about stranded residents. It soon became clear that they were needed.

"So at that point it was game on," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tom Knutson of St. Cloud, Minnesota, in an interview Friday.

Knutson said his helicopter made a landing at a church about 9:45 p.m. where there was barely enough room to put down the aircraft.

"We were loading up men, women, children, elderly, pets, law enforcement personnel, rescue personnel," said Knutson, describing the situation as chaotic.

"We understand that a lot of them are losing their houses," said Sgt. Derek Vollmer of St. Cloud, another crew member, adding those rescued "seemed very thankful."

Around the state since the storm hit last week, first responders have performed about 5,000 rescues

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so far, Gov. Roy Cooper said. "We are eternally grateful to our first responders, who continue to show unflinching courage in the face of danger," Cooper said.

He warned flooding would continue into next week, meaning "that lives are still at risk."

Cooper's sentiments were echoed by South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, who said Friday: "Although the winds are gone and the rain is not falling, the water is still there and the worst is still to come."

The South Carolina governor estimated damage from the flood in his state at \$1.2 billion. In a letter he said the flooding will be the worst disaster in the state's modern history. McMaster asked congressional leaders to hurry federal aid.

Speaking in Las Vegas, President Donald Trump said South Carolina is in for a "tough one" as floodwaters continue to rise.

"They got hit, but the big hit comes days later and it will be the biggest they've ever had," said Trump, who visited North and South Carolina this week.

Environmental concerns were also continuing to mount. Duke Energy said a dam containing a large lake at Wilmington power plant had been breached by floodwaters from Florence, and it was possible that coal ash from an adjacent dump was flowing into the Cape Fear River.

Kevin Tovornik was scrambling to prepare for flooding in Conway, South Carolina. He loaded all of his furniture into a borrowed flatbed hay trailer and took it to a warehouse where space was being donated to possible flood victims. Tovornik's neighborhood already flooded early Monday because of Florence's heavy rain. He lost his wife's car.

Tovornik wanted to go back to his house on Friday for more preparations, but with bridges starting closing all around Conway because of floodwaters, the few open roads were jammed. He had gone half a mile (800 meters) in an hour. He heard friends stuck in traffic Thursday night for four hours.

"This is ridiculous. This is the worst I've ever seen, and that includes hurricane evacuations," Tovornik said.

Waggoner and Robertson reported from Raleigh, N.C. Also contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina; Meg Kinnard in Galivants Ferry, South Carolina; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama and Michael Biesecker in Washington.

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes>

GOP, Kavanaugh accuser in standoff over her Senate testimony

By ALAN FRAM, LISA MASCARO and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high-stakes standoff between Republicans and the woman accusing Brett Kavanaugh of a three-decade-old sexual attack stretched into the weekend after the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman said his panel would vote Monday on Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination without a deal on her conditions for testifying.

Nearly two hours after a deadline set by Chairman Chuck Grassley expired Friday night, the Iowa Republican tweeted that he'd "just granted another extension" for Christine Blasey Ford to agree to terms for telling his panel and a captivated nation about her allegation. He provided no details of the extension, and participants from both sides didn't immediately return messages requesting clarification.

"She shld decide so we can move on I want to hear her. I hope u understand," he wrote just before midnight in a comment directed at Kavanaugh.

Earlier, Grassley had rejected proposals by Ford's attorneys that only senators interrogate Ford and that she appear after Kavanaugh should she appear. Ford lawyer Debra Katz requested another day to decide and said Grassley's deadline's "sole purpose is to bully Dr. Ford and deprive her of the ability to make a considered decision that has life-altering implications for her and her family."

In backing away from his deadline, Grassley underscored the sensitivity with which Senate Republicans have tried handling Ford. Less than seven weeks before elections in which Democrats could capture congressional control, moderate female voters will be pivotal in many races and the #MeToo movement has

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elevated the political potency of how women alleging abuse are treated.

The late-night brinkmanship between Grassley and Ford left in question whether she would appear before the GOP-run committee and describe her allegation to millions of voters. Now a 51-year-old California psychology professor, Ford says an inebriated Kavanaugh pinned her on a bed, muffled her cries and tried removing her clothes when both were teenagers in the 1980s.

Kavanaugh, a District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals judge, has repeatedly denied the accusation.

Grassley's move capped a tumultuous day President Donald Trump began with an incendiary tweet of his own, stating that if the long-ago incident was "as bad as she says," she or "her loving parents" surely would have reported it to law enforcement.

The Judiciary committee's 11 Republicans — all men — have been seeking an outside female attorney to interrogate Ford, mindful of the election-season impression that could be left by men trying to pick apart a woman's assertion of a sexual attack.

He also rejected her proposal that she testify after Kavanaugh, a position lawyers consider advantageous because it gives them a chance to rebut accusations.

"We are unwilling to accommodate your unreasonable demands," Grassley said in a written statement.

Grassley's stance underscored a desire by Trump and GOP leaders to usher Kavanaugh, 51, onto the high court by the Oct. 1 start of its new session and before the November elections.

Trump's searing tweet reproaching Ford defied the Senate Republican strategy, and the advice of White House aides, of not disparaging her while firmly defending his nominee and the tight timetable for confirming him.

It brought blistering rejoinders from Democrats and a mix of silence and sighs of regret from his own party. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, who hasn't declared support for Kavanaugh, called the remark "appalling."

It was also the latest provocation — from a man who's faced a litany of sexual misconduct allegations himself — of moderate female voters whose support Republicans will need to fend off Democrats in the approaching midterm elections.

At a campaign rally in Missouri later Friday, Trump didn't mention Ford but said Kavanaugh was born to be on the Supreme Court and "it's going to happen."

The Judiciary panel's top Democrat expressed fury at Grassley's negotiating position with Ford and maintained Democrats' effort to build the battle into a larger election-year question about the treatment of women.

"Bullying a survivor of attempted rape in order to confirm a nominee — particularly at a time when she's receiving death threats — is an extreme abuse of power," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California.

Female interrogators "are sensitive to the particulars of Dr. Ford's allegations" and would "generate the most insightful testimony and will help de-politicize the hearing," said a letter Grassley's staff sent Ford's lawyers.

Grassley said he'd schedule a hearing for Wednesday, not Thursday, as Ford prefers.

He also rebuffed other Ford requests, including calling additional witnesses. Ford wants an appearance by Mark Judge, a Kavanaugh friend who Ford asserts was at the high school party and in the bedroom where Kavanaugh's assault occurred. Ford eventually escaped.

Grassley consented to other Ford demands, including that she be provided security and that Kavanaugh not be in the hearing room when she testifies.

Ford's request for security comes after her lawyers said she has relocated her family due to death threats. She planned to meet with FBI agents in the San Francisco area to discuss those threats, said a person close to her who would describe her plans only anonymously.

The GOP letter to Ford's lawyers said Kavanaugh and his family have received death threats too, "And they're getting worse each day."

Kavanaugh had seemed to gain momentum among Republican senators this week, with growing numbers saying it was approaching time to vote and those who'd voiced concern about Ford's charges stopping short of expressing opposition to Kavanaugh. But with the slender 51-49 GOP majority and the unpredict-

ability of how Ford and Kavanaugh would come across to millions of American voters should she agree to testify, his approval remains in question.

Minutes after Trump's tweet Friday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell played verbal hardball of his own, drawing a standing ovation when he assured a gathering of evangelical activists that the conservative Kavanaugh would soon be a justice.

"We're going to plow right through and do our jobs," he said at the Values Voter Summit.

Trump's tweet infuriated many who've long argued that women are frequently overwhelmed, confused and ashamed by sexual attacks and keep silent or even bury the memory without confiding with anyone. Using a combination of Justice Department statistics and Census Bureau surveys, the government says fewer than 1 in 4 rapes and sexual assaults were reported to police in 2016.

Ford has said she never mentioned the alleged incident to anyone until 2012, when she revealed it during a marriage counseling session with her husband.

AP reporters Mary Clare Jalonick, Eric Tucker, Ken Thomas, Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller contributed.

NC river swirls with gray muck near flooded coal ash dump

By **MICHAEL BIESECKER** and **ALAN SUDERMAN**, Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — Gray muck is flowing into the Cape Fear River from the site of a dam breach at a Wilmington power plant Friday where an old coal ash dump had been covered over by Florence's floodwaters.

Duke Energy spokeswoman Paige Sheehan said Friday the utility doesn't believe the breach at the L.V. Sutton Power Station poses a significant threat of increased flooding to nearby communities.

The potential environmental threat was unclear.

No environmental regulators were at the scene, with officials citing unsafe conditions.

Floodwaters breached several points early Friday in the earthen dam at Sutton Lake, the plant's 1,100-acre (445-hectare) reservoir. Lake water then flooded one of three large coal ash dumps lining the lakeshore.

Sheehan said the company can't rule out that ash might be escaping the flooded dump and flowing through the lake into the river.

The ash left over when coal is burned to generate electricity contains mercury, lead, arsenic and other toxic heavy metals. Duke said Friday the inundated basin at the plant contains about 400,000 cubic yards (305,820 cubic meters) of ash.

The area received more than 30 inches (75 centimeters) of rain from former Hurricane Florence, with the Cape Fear River still rising Friday and expected to crest Sunday and remain at flood stage through early next week.

Gray material the company characterized as "coal combustion byproducts" could be seen floating in the lake and river.

Earthjustice, an environmental advocacy group with a boat in the river, provided The Associated Press with images Friday showing wide gray slicks in the water. A team member plucked a turtle from the muck and rinsed it off.

"Any big spill like this raises concerns about the impacts on the estuary ecosystem in the lower Cape Fear River," said Pete Harrison, a staff attorney with Earthjustice on the boat. "This is Duke's third coal ash spill in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, and it looks like it's the biggest yet."

North Carolina's top environmental regulator said the possible environmental harm isn't yet known. No state inspectors had arrived by late Friday, though officials said they would be there as soon as conditions are considered safe for personnel to navigate the river and be onsite.

"What we don't know at this point is if any coal ash has filtered into the Cape Fear River," said Mike Regan, secretary for the state Department of Environmental Quality, at a news conference in Raleigh. "We plan to conduct flyovers."

Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator Trey Glenn said his staff was monitoring the

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situation at Sutton from the state Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) northwest of the Sutton plant. He said dozens of EPA staff were scattered throughout the region impacted by Florence, checking on toxic waste sites and oil storage facilities.

"EPA serves in a support role to the impacted states and has offered assistance to North Carolina to help them respond to the reported Sutton coal ash incident," Glenn said. "As of this evening, North Carolina has not requested additional support."

With no regulators at the Sutton plant, it was left to Duke employees to collect water samples that would be tested in the company's in-house lab. Environmental groups also collected samples from the river that would be sent to a private lab.

Security personnel for Duke blocked access Friday to Sutton Lake Road, leading to a public dock on the reservoir, a popular boating and fishing site.

Duke denied a request for an Associated Press reporter to cross the barricade, saying the lake situation "continues to change" and is "not safe."

Sutton Lake is the former cooling pond for a coal-fired plant Duke retired in 2013 and replaced with a new generating station running off natural gas. Duke said that power plant was shut down overnight and all employees safely evacuated.

The breach at the Wilmington site is separate from last weekend's reported rupture at a nearby coal ash landfill, which spilled enough material to fill 180 dump trucks.

Duke's ash waste management has faced intense scrutiny since a drainage pipe collapsed under a waste pit at an old plant in Eden in 2014, triggering a massive spill that coated miles (kilometers) of the Dan River in gray sludge. The utility later agreed to plead guilty to nine Clean Water Act violations and pay \$102 million in fines and restitution for illegally discharging pollution from ash dumps at five North Carolina power plants. It plans to close all its ash dumps by 2029.

At the separate Duke plant near Goldsboro, three old coal-ash dumps capped with soil and trees were underwater Thursday after the Neuse River flooded.

Staff from the environmental group Waterkeeper Alliance visited the flooded dumps at the H.F. Lee Power Plant by boat Wednesday, took photographs and collected samples of gray sludge washing into the floodwaters.

State environmental regulators visited the site Thursday, but said they were unable to make a full assessment because of high water levels. The Duke spokeswoman Sheehan said any coal ash release at the Goldsboro site appeared "minimal."

Meanwhile, South Carolina's state-owned utility said it expected floodwaters to enter a coal ash pond at one of its closed power plants. Santee Cooper spokeswoman Mollie Gore said the overtopping of an ash basin at the Granger plant near Conway should not be environmentally significant.

Gore said nearly all the ash has been removed from the basin and water pumped in to prevent the dike from breaking. The company had placed a 2 1/2-foot (72-centimeter) high inflatable berm around the top of a second pond that has more coal ash in it. She estimates 200,000 tons (181 million kilograms) of ash are in a corner of the pond furthest from the rising Waccamaw River.

Associated Press reporter Jeffrey Collins contributed from Columbia, S.C.

Biesecker reported from Washington. Follow him at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

AP sources: Rosenstein spoke of possible secret Trump taping

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein discussed secretly recording President Donald Trump last year as law enforcement agencies grew increasingly unnerved about chaos in the White House, according to people familiar with the exchange. One person who was present at the time

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said Rosenstein was just being sarcastic.

Trump spoke later Friday of a "lingering stench" at the Justice Department, though he didn't name names. But the reports add fuel to Trump's longstanding claims that his law enforcement agencies are biased against him and determined to undermine his presidency.

Rosenstein's comments were first reported Friday by The New York Times. The Times also said Rosenstein raised the idea of using the 25th Amendment to remove Trump as unfit for office.

Rosenstein issued a swift denial.

"I never pursued or authorized recording the President and any suggestion that I have ever advocated for the removal of the President is absolutely false," he said.

The reports create even greater uncertainty for Rosenstein in his position at a time when Trump has lambasted Justice Department leadership and publicly humiliated both him and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

It's also the latest revelation that could affect Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating possible coordination between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign in 2016. Sessions recused from that issue soon after he took office, to Trump's dismay, and Rosenstein later appointed Mueller. With all that hanging in the air, Trump has resisted calls from conservative commentators to fire both Sessions and Rosenstein and appoint someone who would ride herd more closely on Mueller or dismiss him.

The reported conversation about possibly secretly recording the president took place at a tense May 2017 meeting during the tumultuous period that followed Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey, a decision that upset many rank-and-file agents and that the White House said was based on the Justice Department's recommendation.

Among the participants was Andrew McCabe, the FBI official who was temporarily elevated to director after Comey's firing and who documented conversations with senior officials, including Rosenstein, in memos that have been provided to Mueller as part of his investigation.

The interactions lay bare the conflicts that roiled the FBI and Justice Department early in the Trump administration after Rosenstein, just weeks into his job, wrote a memo critical of Comey's handling of the Hillary Clinton email server investigation that the White House used as justification for firing the FBI director.

Friday's news reports threatened to cloud Rosenstein's fate at the Justice Department, with some conservatives calling for him to be fired immediately. Any dismissal could affect Mueller's Russia probe given that Rosenstein still oversees Mueller's work.

Trump told a campaign rally in Missouri that the department has some "great people" but also "some real bad ones." He said the bad ones are gone, "but there's a lingering stench and we're going to get rid of that, too." It was unclear to whom he was referring.

It was difficult amid the conflicting accounts to discern the precise context of Rosenstein's comments and how they were intended.

The Justice Department, for instance, released an email from one attendee who said Rosenstein's "statement was sarcastic and was never discussed with any intention of recording a conversation with the president."

Rosenstein called the Times story "inaccurate and factually incorrect."

One of the people briefed on the conversation in question, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the interaction, said it occurred during a moment of frustration between McCabe and Rosenstein.

Rosenstein was rankled by the revelation that Comey had kept memos about his interactions with the president; McCabe wanted a more aggressive approach toward the White House, the person said.

At that point, Rosenstein said to McCabe something to the effect of, "What do you want, you want me to wear a wire?" according to the person. Rosenstein was asked in the meeting if he was serious, and he said yes, but he did not mean for the wire comment to be taken seriously as a tactic to investigate Trump, the person said.

The person also said that a memo from McCabe describes Rosenstein as referencing the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, which says that a president can be declared "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office" upon a majority vote of the vice president and the Cabinet.

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But the person said notes and recollections from other attendees at the meeting, including former FBI lawyer Lisa Page, do not include the 25th Amendment reference.

McCabe's lawyer, Michael Bromwich, said in a statement that McCabe had drafted memos to "memorialize significant discussions he had with high level officials and preserved them so he would have an accurate, contemporaneous record of those discussions." He did not address the content of the memos.

Rosenstein has been a target of Trump's ire since appointing Mueller as special counsel last year. He chose Mueller one week after he laid the groundwork for the firing of Comey by writing a sharply critical memo of his performance. The White House initially cited that memo as justification for Comey's firing, though Trump later said he was thinking about "this Russia thing" when he made the move.

As deputy attorney general, Rosenstein oversees Mueller's work and has made two public announcements of indictments brought by the special counsel — one against Russians accused of hacking into Democratic email accounts, the other against Russians accused of running a social media troll farm to sway public opinion.

The news elicited a quick response from members of Congress.

Rep. Mark Meadows, a North Carolina Republican who chairs the conservative Freedom Caucus, said in a tweet that "if this story is true, it underscores a gravely troubling culture at FBI/DOJ and the need for FULL transparency."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said the Times story "must not be used as a pretext for the corrupt purpose of firing Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein in order to install an official who will allow the president to interfere with the special counsel's investigation."

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire in Springfield, Missouri, contributed to this report.

AP NewsBreak: DHS secretary says FEMA chief won't lose job

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the federal disaster response agency used government vehicles without proper authorization, but will not lose his job over it, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said Friday.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator William "Brock" Long had been under investigation by the Homeland Security Department's watchdog over possibly misusing government vehicles to travel to his home in Hickory, North Carolina. Word leaked of the investigation just as Hurricane Florence was poised to make landfall earlier this month.

Nielsen said in a statement Friday that there had been a longstanding practice to transport FEMA administrators in government vehicles to ensure they could remain connected during a crisis. But despite this practice, use of government vehicles for home-to-work travel was not officially authorized, and that practice was eliminated in April.

Nielsen said the report by Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General also found Long used government vehicles for non-official reasons.

She said they spoke about the problems and Long agreed to reimburse the government, though it wasn't clear how much money that might be. She said she directed the department to review policy on home-to-work transportation problems, assess communication requirements at FEMA so officials can be best connected during disasters, and to review of and training regarding proper use of government vehicles.

"We had a productive conversation where we discussed my expectations regarding the agency's use of government vehicles going forward," Nielsen said in a statement. "The administrator acknowledged that mistakes were made, and he took personal responsibility."

The inspector general's report has not been made public. The House Oversight Committee is also looking into the allegations and has asked Long to turn over to the committee all documents related to the trips by Oct. 1, including whether his staff was put up in hotels paid for by taxpayer dollars.

The inspector general's office has turned the review over to federal prosecutors to determine whether

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any criminal charges are warranted, according to a person familiar with the probe. It's not uncommon for an inspector general to refer cases so federal prosecutors can determine whether charges are warranted, and it doesn't mean he'll be charged with a crime. The person was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter and requested anonymity.

In the days after Florence struck, Long said he was not focused on the investigation, and instead was working to help the region get back on its feet after the devastation. More than 40 have died and rising floodwaters cut off roads and drowned livestock.

In a statement Friday, Long said he accepted full responsibility.

"The secretary and I are taking corrective action to prevent such mistakes from happening in the future," he said. "I remain committed to the critical mission of FEMA - helping people before, during and after disasters."

He has been head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency since June 2017, presiding over a particularly grueling hurricane season that included Irma, Harvey and Maria, plus wildfires in California. The response to Maria has been heavily criticized and Long has said FEMA learned lessons on how to better prepare for this year's storms.

Other Trump administration officials have lost their jobs over ethics issues related to travel, but they involved more outsized allegations. The former head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, resigned in July after allegations of massive security spending, first-class flights and a sweetheart condo lease.

Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

When will it end? Florence's floodwaters rising in Carolinas

By MEG KINNARD and JEFFREY COLLINS, Associated Press

GALIVANTS FERRY, S.C. (AP) — With muddy river water still washing over entire communities on Friday, eight days after Hurricane Florence slammed into land with nearly 3 feet of rain, new evacuation orders forced residents to flee to higher ground amid a sprawling disaster that's beginning to feel like it will never end.

At least 43 people have died, included an elderly man whose body was found in a submerged pickup truck in South Carolina, and hundreds were forced from their homes as rivers kept swelling higher.

Leaders in the Carolinas warned residents not to get complacent, warning additional horrors lie ahead before things get much better.

"Although the winds are gone and the rain is not falling, the water is still there and the worst is still to come," said South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster.

Speaking in Las Vegas, President Donald Trump said South Carolina is in for a "tough one" as flood waters keep rising.

"They got hit, but the big hit comes days later and it will be the biggest they've ever had," said Trump, who visited North and South Carolina this week.

While most peoples' lights are back on in the Carolinas and Virginia and trucks are picking up mountains of storm debris, water draining toward the sea from inland areas is sending rivers over their banks across a wide region.

Rescuers wearing night-vision goggles used helicopters, boats and big-wheeled military vehicles overnight to evacuate about 100 people from a southeastern North Carolina county where high water breached a levee, flooding a town.

In South Carolina, emergency managers ordered about 3,000 people to flee homes along the Lynches River. The National Weather Service said the river could reach record flood levels late Saturday or early Sunday.

In tiny Galivants Ferry, Audra Mauer said she lost her home two years ago when Hurricane Matthew hit and she's losing it again to Florence. No area improvements were made after Matthew, she said, and a

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frustrated Mauer has no faith any will happen now.

"They didn't clean the ditches," she said. "Same levee. Same dams. What have we been doing for two years?"

About 25 miles (40 kilometers) nearer to the South Carolina coast, Kevin Tovornik tore out carpet and removed furniture as a preventative measure because he expected flooding at the house he has owned for 20 years in Conway, where the Waccamaw River was still rising. Bridges are starting to close because of flooding, he said, and friends were struck in traffic for hours trying to cross the town of 23,000.

"This is ridiculous. This is the worst I've ever seen," Tovornik said.

Road travel also was a daunting problem in Wilmington, a city of 120,000 people still mostly cut off from the rest of North Carolina. A photograph posted by the state transportation agency showed flowing water and buckled highway asphalt on one of the few passable routes into the city, where officials have distributed food and water to residents.

With the Great Pee Dee River receding, state officials said Interstate 95 in South Carolina would reopen after a safety check, but travelers couldn't get very far since the highway was still closed in North Carolina because of the flooded Lumber River.

Along the Cape Fear River, David and Benetta White and their four children were given short notice to evacuate overnight as floodwaters swept over their property. By the time they got loaded into their van, water was waist-high and they had to slog through a foul-smelling soup to get to a neighbor's pickup.

"We almost lost our lives, I'm here to tell you we did," said White, whose family previously evacuated last Thursday as Florence, then a hurricane, approached from the Atlantic.

The South Carolina governor estimated damage from the flood in his state at \$1.2 billion. In a letter, he said, the flooding will be the worst disaster in the state's modern history. McMaster asked congressional leaders to hurry federal aid.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said the damage in his state is in the billions of dollars, but there was no way to make a more accurate estimate while flooding continues.

As environmental worries mount, Duke Energy said a dam containing a large lake at Wilmington power plant had been breached by floodwaters, and it was possible that coal ash from an adjacent dump was flowing into the Cape Fear River.

Paige Sheehan, a Duke Energy spokeswoman, said the company didn't believe the breach at the L.V. Sutton Power Station posed a significant threat for increased flooding to nearby communities because the river is already running high.

Something else could be a problem, though. The National Hurricane Center said it was monitoring four areas in the Atlantic for signs of a new tropical weather threat. One was off the coast of the Carolinas with a chance of drifting toward land.

Collins and reported from Columbia, South Carolina. Associated Press writers Martha Waggoner and Gary D. Robertson in Raleigh; Alan Suderman in Bladenboro, North Carolina; Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina; Michael Biesecker in Washington; and Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama, contributed to this report.

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes> .

Trump says he'll rid Justice Dept. of 'lingering stench'

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — President Donald Trump issued an ominous warning about the Justice Department and the FBI on Friday, promising further firings to get rid of a "lingering stench" following reports that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein discussed secretly recording the president.

Trump, speaking at a rally in Missouri, did not explicitly mention the Rosenstein furor, which was first reported by The New York Times and confirmed by The Associated Press.

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But Trump lashed out against what he sees as anti-Trump bias in the Justice Department, touting the firings he has orchestrated, unnerving many in federal law enforcement and sparking fears about the future of the special counsel's Russia probe, which Rosenstein oversees.

"You've seen what happened in the FBI and the Department of Justice. The bad ones, they're all gone. They're all gone," Trump said. "But there is a lingering stench and we're going to get rid of that, too."

One person present during Rosenstein's remarks said he was being sarcastic. The Times also said he raised the idea of using the 25th Amendment to remove Trump as unfit for office. Rosenstein said the story is "inaccurate and factually incorrect."

It was the latest storm to buffet the White House, which this week was battered by a number of potentially damaging stories. Beyond the speculation about Rosenstein, it was revealed that Trump's former fixer, Michael Cohen, is cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. The president also backed off his plan to declassify documents related to the ongoing probe, and the fate of his Supreme Court nominee remained uncertain.

Negotiations continued Friday about a possible appearance by Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who accused Judge Brett Kavanaugh, Trump's nominee, of sexual assault at a high school party more than three decades ago. Trump made the future of Kavanaugh and the federal judiciary a centerpiece of his rally in Springfield, which was designed to support the state's Republican Senate candidate, Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley, in his race against Democratic incumbent Claire McCaskill.

"I don't know who she is with but she is not with the state of Missouri," Trump said. "(Kavanaugh) is a fantastic man, a fantastic man. She won't vote for him."

But Trump, who used Twitter earlier Friday to cast doubt on Ford's claim, preached optimism on Kavanaugh, saying "he was born for the U.S. Supreme Court" and reassuring the crowd that "it's going to happen. It's going to happen."

He added: "We have to fight for him, not worry about the other side. And by the way, women are for that more than anybody would understand."

When Hawley praised Trump's judicial picks, the crowd began chanting Kavanaugh's name. And the president, drawing energy from a packed, raucous crowd, dished out plenty of red meat, pledging to build his signature border wall, telegraphing that he is willing to escalate trade conflicts with both China and Western allies and suggesting he was "willing to wait" to make a peace deal with North Korea. He also took a swipe at Sen. John McCain, who died away last month, for sinking the GOP health care bill, though he did not mention the late war hero by name.

Trump also repeatedly laced into the Democratic Party.

"They aren't just extreme," he said. "They are frankly dangerous and they are crazy."

The reports about Rosenstein created even greater uncertainty for the deputy attorney general tenure at a time when Trump has lambasted Justice Department leadership and publicly humiliated both Rosenstein and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

More broadly, it's the latest revelation that could affect Mueller, the special counsel investigating possible coordination between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign in 2016. Sessions recused himself from that issue soon after he took office, to Trump's dismay, and Rosenstein then appointed Mueller. With all that hanging in the air, Trump has resisted calls from conservative commentators to fire both Sessions and Rosenstein and appoint someone who would ride herd more closely on Mueller or dismiss him.

A number of key FBI officials, including director James Comey and deputy director Andrew McCabe, have been fired since Trump took office.

Republicans view the McCaskill-Hawley contest as one of their best chances of flipping a seat in the Senate, where the GOP has a slim 51-49 majority, and polls show it's a toss-up. Democrats are hoping the enthusiasm that's put the GOP-led House in play will spill over to the Senate, though the map there is much tougher. McCaskill is among 10 Democratic incumbents seeking re-election in states Trump won — some by wider margins than Missouri.

Hawley, the state's 38-year-old first-term attorney general, was on Friday repeatedly called a "star" by Trump, who carried Missouri by 19 percentage points in 2016.

Trump's rally for Hawley came a day after he held one for the Republican incumbent senator widely considered to be the most vulnerable, Dean Heller of Nevada. With the chances of Republicans keeping control of the House of Representatives looking increasingly dismal, the White House has fixated on keeping the Senate as a bulwark against any Democratic effort to impeach and then remove Trump from office.

Earlier Friday, Trump visited a Las Vegas-area veterans facility to sign a spending bill that includes nearly \$100 billion for veterans care and military construction, though he has continued to warn in recent days that he may be willing to shut down the federal government over spending for border security, including his long-promised wall.

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

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Shame, fear: Survivors explain not reporting sexual assaults

By JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Shame. Guilt. Embarrassment. Denial. Disgust.

And fear — of losing a job, friends, colleagues, privacy, safety, even one's life.

There are a myriad of reasons why survivors of sexual assault wait years to come forward — if at all. Indeed, about 7 out of 10 people who experience sexual assault never report it, according to Justice Department statistics.

So survivors responded with fury Friday to President Donald Trump's remarks challenging the veracity of Christine Blasey Ford, the accuser of Judge Brett Kavanaugh. The president said she would surely have reported the assault to police "immediately" if the attack was "as bad as she says."

On Twitter, the hashtag "WhyIDidn'tReport" was trending, with survivors coming forward with their own reasons.

"Because he was a member of our family," one user wrote. "Because he threatened to kill me," wrote another. "He was supposed to be my friend, but he beat me when I said no," wrote yet another.

One of the most searing came from Ashley Judd, the actress who was an early Harvey Weinstein accuser.

"The first time it happened, I was 7," she wrote. "I told the first adults I came upon. They said, 'Oh, he's a nice old man, that's not what he meant.' So when I was raped at 15, I only told my diary. When an adult read it, she accused me of having sex with an adult man."

On Facebook, Kathy Gosnell, a retired newspaper copy editor in DeKalb, Illinois, was inspired by Ford's revelation to finally share with a group of Facebook colleagues — a day before Trump's tweet — that she had been drugged and raped, she said, by a colleague more than three decades earlier.

"It's time to say something," Gosnell, now 73, wrote on Facebook. "In the early 1980s, I was drugged, beaten and raped by one of our colleagues at the L.A. Times. ... Never again did I say his name or speak to him."

In an interview, Gosnell said the man is now deceased and she still has no desire to say his name. He had invited her to dinner, she said, then gave her a drink, and that was the last she remembered until she woke up hours later in his bed, naked and bruised around her arms, chest and neck. She went home, "took seven or eight showers" and told no one until 15 months ago, when she told her daughter.

"I wanted to keep my job," Gosnell said. "And I was afraid I would be ridiculed by colleagues, who might have said, 'But he's a great guy!'" (The newspaper did not immediately respond to an email asking for comment.)

Gosnell said she's furious at the treatment of Ford, especially Trump's tweet. "Of course I understand why she didn't report. She must have known what would happen to her. And look what's happening to her now."

Scott Berkowitz, president of the anti-sexual violence organization RAINN, said reasons for not reporting assaults include fear of retaliation, fear of the perpetrator attacking again, social pressure from peer

groups and simple shame.

"The president is misguided about standard behavior following a sexual assault," Berkowitz said of Trump's tweet.

There's also, Berkowitz added, a guilt factor: "People are often blaming themselves, even though they are clearly not at fault."

The same reasons are only exacerbated when victims are in their teens, he said, adding that 54 percent of those under 18 who call the National Sexual Assault Hotline say they have not told a single other person.

Ford and Kavanaugh were high school students — she 15, he 17 — when she alleges the assault occurred. And that, Berkowitz pointed out, was decades ago, when the environment was even less welcoming than it is today for someone reporting an assault.

Katie Cogan, a trauma psychotherapist in the Washington, D.C., area, said teenagers especially "almost never tell anyone (about an assault), and if they do it's usually years later. They think it's their fault or try to convince themselves it was no big deal."

Cogan said she received a number of calls on Friday morning, following Trump's tweet, from patients expressing distress over the comments and feeling anew that "they will never be believed."

Lea Grover was 14 and a freshman in high school when, she said, she was raped at a basement party that she had agreed to attend to accompany a friend, who never showed up. She said her assailant fed her alcohol for several hours until she was extremely drunk, then led her into a utility closet where he assaulted her.

She had been saying "no" all evening, but finally agreed to go into another room with him, she said, thinking she could grab someone on the way and escape. But she didn't have that chance.

She was "paralyzed with fear," she recalled. "I didn't think I had anywhere to go or any other option" but to submit.

She didn't report it — "I was utterly convinced it was my fault because I had gone to a party where I didn't know anyone," she said. Soon after, she attempted to take her own life, she said.

Years later, as an adult, she suffered another assault, and she did report that one, though she did not ultimately press charges. Last year she wrote an article about the fear involved in coming forward, titled "Don't Tell Me Not to Speak Up When I Can't Even Say His Name."

Asked her response to Trump's remarks, Grover, now 34 and a writer who works with survivors of gender-based violence, noted that her assault in high school was so bad that she was still unable to discuss it with her parents until 15 years later — when she began speaking publicly about it.

Coming forward was — and still is — painful for both them and for her, she said. "Only someone incapable of human empathy wouldn't understand that."

Rising oil prices haven't hurt the US economy so far

By DAVID KOENIG, AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — America's rediscovered prowess in oil production is shaking up old notions about the impact of higher crude prices on the U.S. economy.

It has long been conventional wisdom that rising oil prices hurt the economy by forcing consumers to spend more on gasoline and heating their homes, leaving less for other things.

Presumably that kind of run-up would slow the U.S. economy. Instead, the economy grew at its fastest rate in nearly four years during the April-through-June quarter.

President Donald Trump appears plainly worried about rising oil prices just a few weeks before midterm elections that will decide which party controls the House and Senate.

"We protect the countries of the Middle East, they would not be safe for very long without us, and yet they continue to push for higher and higher oil prices!" Trump tweeted on Thursday. "We will remember. The OPEC monopoly must get prices down now!"

Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, who account for about one-third of global oil supplies, are scheduled to meet this weekend with non-members including Russia.

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The gathering was not expected to yield any big decisions — those typically come at major OPEC meetings like the one set for December. Oil markets, however, were roiled Friday by a report that attendees were considering a significant increase in production to offset declining output from Iran, where exports have fallen ahead of Trump's reimposition of sanctions.

OPEC and Russia have capped production since January 2017 to bolster prices. Output fell even below those targets this year, and in June the same countries agreed to boost the oil supply, although they didn't give numbers.

Oil prices are up roughly 40 percent in the past year. On Friday, benchmark U.S. crude was trading around \$71 a barrel, and the international standard, Brent, was closing in on \$80.

The national average price for gasoline stood at \$2.85 per gallon, up 10 percent from a year ago, according to auto club AAA. That increase likely would be greater were it not for a slump in gasoline demand that is typical for this time of year, when summer vacations are over.

The United States still imports about 6 million barrels of oil a day on average, but that is down from more than 10 million a decade ago. In the same period, U.S. production has doubled to more than 10 million barrels a day, according to government figures.

"Because the U.S. now is producing so much more than it used to, (the rise in oil prices) is not as big an impact as it would have been 20 years ago or 10 years ago," said Michael Maher, an energy researcher at Rice University and a former Exxon Mobil economist.

The weakening link between oil and the overall economy was seen — in reverse — just three years ago. Then, plunging oil prices were expected to boost the economy by leaving more money in consumers' pocket, yet GDP growth slowed at the same time that lower oil prices took hold during 2015.

Other economists caution against minimizing the disruption caused by energy prices.

"Higher oil prices are unambiguously bad for the U.S. economy," said Philip Verleger, an economist who has studied energy markets. "They force consumers to divert their income from spending on other items to spending on fuels."

Since energy amounts to only about 3 percent of consumer spending, a cutback in that other 97 percent "causes losses for those who sell autos, restaurants, airlines, resorts and all parts of the economy," Verleger said.

The federal Energy Information Administration said this month that the U.S. likely reclaimed the title of world's biggest oil producer earlier this year by surpassing the output of Saudi Arabia in February and Russia over the summer. If the agency's estimates are correct, it would mark the first time since 1973 that the U.S. has led the oil-pumping pack.

And that has made the impact of oil prices on the economy a more complicated calculation.

When oil prices tumbled starting in mid-2014, U.S. energy producers cut back on drilling. They cut thousands of jobs and they spent less on rigs, steel pipes and railcars to ship crude to refineries. That softened the bounce that economists expected to see from cheaper oil.

Now, with oil prices rising, energy companies are boosting production, creating an economic stimulus that offsets some of the blow from higher prices on consumers. Oil- and gas-related investment accounted for about 40 percent of the growth in business investment in the April-June quarter this year. The number of active oil-drilling rigs is near a three-year high, although not back to levels seen before the 2014 oil-price crash.

Moody's Analytics estimates that every penny increase at the pump reduces consumer spending by \$1 billion over a year, and gasoline has jumped 24 cents in the past year, according to AAA. That is "a clear-cut negative," but not deeply damaging, said Ryan Sweet, director of real-time economics at Moody's.

"Usually with gasoline prices, speed kills — a gradual increase (like the current one), consumers can absorb that," Sweet said. Consumers have other factors in their favor, he added, including a tight job market, wage growth, better household balance sheets, and the recent tax cut.

Sweet said the boon that higher prices represent to the growing energy sector, which can invest in more wells, equipment and hiring, means that the run-up in crude has probably been "a small but net positive" for the economy.

"That could change if we get up to \$3.50, \$4," he said.

Sheriff: Shooter had mental illness but legally owned gun

By DAVID McFADDEN and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, Associated Press

ABERDEEN, Md. (AP) — The woman who killed three people and wounded others before shooting herself to death at a Maryland drugstore warehouse had been diagnosed with a mental illness and used a legally purchased gun in the rampage, a law enforcement official said Friday.

Harford County Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler told news reporters Friday that the suspect, 26-year-old Snochia Moseley of Baltimore County, had been diagnosed with a mental illness in 2016. "That's as far as I'll go with it," he said, declining to give any more details about the illness.

He said Moseley had become increasingly agitated in recent weeks, and relatives had been concerned for her well-being.

Gahler said she used a handgun that she legally purchased in March to fire a total of 13 rounds Thursday morning and died after shooting herself in the head.

Gahler identified the three people Moseley fatally shot as Sunday Aguda, a 45-year-old man from Baltimore County; Hayleen Reyes, a 41-year-old woman from Baltimore; and Brindra Giri, a 41-year-old woman from Baltimore County.

A family friend said Giri was a mother of two and recent immigrant from Nepal whose relatives were devastated. Attempts to reach family members of the other victims were not immediately successful.

The sheriff identified the wounded survivors as Hassan Mitchell, a 19-year-old man from Harford County; Wilfredo Villegas, a 45-year-old man from Montgomery County; and Acharya Purna, a 45-year-old man from New York.

He also gave more details about how the violence unfolded.

Moseley had been hired for the holiday season and had been working there for less than two weeks. She entered the building at 6:30 a.m. As people lined up to come in the building, Gahler said she cut in line and words were exchanged, but it was a "little incident." She left around 7:21 a.m. Moseley, who had worked security jobs in the past, drove to her White Marsh home and got a handgun, pepper spray and handcuffs. She arrived back at the parking lot around 8:35 a.m. and entered the front door around 8:52 a.m.

He says she pulled a hooded shirt over her head and began shooting, striking and killing Aguda outside the building. Inside, where there were about 65 people, she fatally shot Giri and Reyes and also shot Mitchell, Villegas and Purna, who survived. She shot herself twice before police arrived, he said — once with a grazing wound and then with the fatal shot. She was already down when officers arrived and an officer moved her from the scene, not knowing that she was the shooter, he said.

When asked how Moseley could legally buy a gun after being diagnosed with a mental illness, officials said it had not been determined that she had a "propensity for violence to self or others."

The sheriff said the motive is still a mystery and may remain so.

"There's just no way to make sense of something so senseless," he said. "There's still a lot of questions that we don't know."

The shooting sent survivors screaming and running in all directions from the Rite Aid distribution center in northeastern Maryland. Others nearby helped the wounded, and one person tied blood-soaked jeans around an injured man's leg trying to stanch the bleeding.

Giri had joined her husband in the U.S. in April, bringing her son and daughter and thinking the children would do well here, said Harry Bhandari, a community leader and candidate for Maryland state delegate who said he has known her family for about 10 years.

"It's terrible," he said.

Giri was an energetic hard worker who saw the job at the distribution center as a "stepping stone," said Bhandari, who was at a funeral home with her relatives Friday afternoon as they made arrangements.

Speaking through Bhandari, Giri's husband said they had married young and were happy together and that there was not a bad thing to say about her.

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The attack came nearly three months after a man with a shotgun attacked a newspaper office in Annapolis, Maryland, killing five staff members. Authorities accused Jarrod W. Ramos of attacking The Capital Gazette because of a longstanding grudge against the paper. It came less than a year after a fatal workplace shooting less than 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the warehouse, in which five were shot, three fatally.

Harford County Executive Barry Glassman said that, unfortunately, shooting like this are "becoming a too-often occurrence" in the nation.

Associated Press writers Sarah Rankin Richmond, Virginia, and Sarah Brumfield in Washington contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Acharya Purna is a man based on new information from authorities.

APNewsBreak: Army misses 2018 recruiting goal

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time since 2005, the U.S. Army missed its recruiting goal this year, falling short by about 6,500 soldiers, despite pouring an extra \$200 million into bonuses and approving some additional waivers for bad conduct or health issues.

Army leaders said they signed up about 70,000 new active duty recruits in the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30 — well below the 76,500 they needed. The Army National Guard and Army Reserves also fell far short of their goals, by more than 12,000 and 5,000 respectively. The Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, meanwhile, all met their recruiting goals for 2018.

The Army's shortfall, said Maj. Gen. Joe Calloway, was fueled by the strong American economy and increased competition from private sector employers who can pay more. But the failure has triggered an overhaul in Army recruiting, including an increase in recruiters, expanded marketing and a new effort to reach out to young, potential recruits through popular online gaming.

"We obviously thought we would do better than that," said Calloway, director of military personnel management for the Army, when asked about the recruiting gap in an Associated Press interview. He said there were several thousand permanent legal residents seeking to enlist, but they did not get through the screening process in time. And, he said that in the last three years Army recruiters have brought in 3,000-5,000 more enlistees than planned during the last three months of the fiscal year.

"There was hope that they would be able to do the same thing this year," he said. "That did not pan out."

The recruiting struggles come at the end of a tumultuous year for the Army, which faced questions from Congress over its expanded use of waivers for recruits with previous marijuana use, bad conduct and some health problems. The debate prompted the Army to cut back on some waivers and require higher level officers to approve ones involving drug use and some health and conduct issues.

Top Army leaders have repeatedly said they are not lowering standards to meet higher recruiting goals. But they have faced skepticism from Congress, amid concerns the service would repeat mistakes made during the peak of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars more than a decade ago when it rushed to add soldiers to the ranks to meet deployment needs. At that time, the Army brought in more recruits with misconduct waivers, triggering discipline and other problems.

The Army is planning to grow to 500,000 by 2024, triggering increased recruiting goals. Initially the Army was supposed to recruit 80,000 this year, but that was cut to 76,500 in April, as more serving soldiers re-enlisted.

Military recruiters have struggled to compete in a growing U.S. economy, with low unemployment rates and private companies paying more to graduating seniors. Only about 30 percent of 17- to 24-year-olds meet the physical, mental and moral requirements for the military, and only one in eight are interested in serving.

Finding those few is a challenge.

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Calloway and Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, head of Army Recruiting Command, said fewer potential recruits or their families answer the phone in these digital days.

When recruiters call a parent or other adult, "nobody wants to talk to us," Muth said. "If we do get ahold of a potential recruit, they actually don't want to talk to you on the phone, what they want to do is meet you online first in some type of digital format and then, if they agree to meet with you, you can get the phone call."

So, Muth said Army recruiting is moving deeper into the online world.

That will include sending teams of recruiters into CrossFit sports competitions and popular gaming contests such as Ultimate Fighter, Madden Football or the addictive Fortnite: Battle Royale, an online survival game.

Muth said an Army recruiter from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who has a high ranking on Ultimate Fighter, served as an emcee at a recent tournament. He said the soldier was in uniform and was able to talk about his Army job while on air.

"We reached 2.4 million people over one hour, and he was able to get the message out," said Muth.

The goal, he said, is to have recruiters in uniform playing the games in tournaments, reaching out to their target audience. The soldiers will be restricted on the games they will be able to play, and there will be oversight by senior officers.

In addition, he said the Army's Golden Knights parachute demonstration team, the Marksmanship Unit and other similar teams that travel the country will now be used mainly as recruiting tools.

"When these games or these events occur, the focus and the number one priority is recruitment and prospecting and getting leads," said Muth.

The immersion into gaming is reflective of a larger online presence that recruiters will use to find and reach recruits. Muth said they will now use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitch on their government phones to speak online with young people.

He said if a recruiter visits a high school and a student "likes" the local recruiting Facebook page, the soldier can follow up and message the student to see if they are interested in the Army.

It's too soon to tell if any of the new online maneuvers are working. Muth said the first quarter of the year will be critical.

"I don't have benchmarks yet," he said. "But history will tell you if you talk to any recruiter, you've got to come out strong. And it's the momentum you build that carries you through the year."

Tanzania leader orders arrests as ferry death toll over 130

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA, Associated Press**

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Hundreds of solemn people watched Friday as body after body was pulled from a capsized ferry that Tanzanian authorities said was badly overcrowded and upended in the final stretch before reaching shore. The death toll was above 130 but horrified witnesses feared that would rise as a second day of searching neared an end.

"This is a great disaster for our nation," President John Magufuli said. He announced four days of national mourning and urged calm in the East African country with a history of deadly maritime disasters. And he ordered arrests of all responsible as a criminal investigation began.

In a televised address, the president said the ferry captain already had been detained after leaving the steering to someone who wasn't properly trained, The Citizen newspaper reported.

The MV Nyerere's capacity was 101 people but the ferry had been overloaded when it capsized Thursday afternoon, the government's Chief Secretary John Kijazi told reporters.

At least 40 people had been rescued, he said, but the number on Friday barely rose. Dozens of security forces and volunteers wearing gloves and face masks had resumed work at daybreak after suspending efforts overnight, hauling bodies into wooden boats.

"More than 200 people are feared dead," based on accounts from fishermen and other witnesses, because passengers had been returning from a busy market day, Tanzania Red Cross spokeswoman Godfrida Jola told The Associated Press. "But no one knows" just how many people were on board.

It was obvious that more bodies were trapped in the overturned ferry, the president said, according to The Citizen report. He said even the cargo far exceeded the 25 tons allowed.

Tanzanian ferries often carry hundreds of passengers and are overcrowded, and shifts in weight as people move to disembark can become deadly. Images from the scene showed the ferry's exposed underside not far from shore.

Bodies were lined up on plastic sheeting as hundreds of people pressed near the water's edge, watching the search efforts.

Pope Francis, the United Nations secretary-general, Russian President Vladimir Putin and a number of African leaders expressed shock and sorrow.

"His Holiness Pope Francis expresses his heartfelt solidarity with those who mourn the loss of their loved ones and who fear for the lives of those still missing," the condolence telegram said, according to the Vatican.

The MV Nyerere, named for the former president who led the East African nation to independence, was traveling between the islands of Ukara and Ukerewe when it sank, according to the government agency in charge of servicing the vessels.

Worried residents on Friday waited for any word of survivors.

"We try to make calls to friends, relatives," a local guide, Paschal Phares, told the AP. He recalled how crowded his trip on the aging ferry had been last month: "Most of us were standing up. It was full."

Accidents are often reported on the large freshwater lake surrounded by Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Some of the deadliest have occurred in Tanzania, where passenger boats are often said to be old and in poor condition.

In 1996, more than 800 people died when passenger and cargo ferry MV Bukoba sank on Lake Victoria.

Nearly 200 people died in 2011 when the MV Spice Islander I sank off Tanzania's Indian Ocean coast near Zanzibar.

Associated Press writers Cara Anna in Johannesburg and Frances D'Emilio in Rome contributed.

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Woman stabs 5 - including newborns - at New York nursery

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A woman stabbed five people — including three newborn babies — and then slashed her wrist early Friday inside a New York City home that was apparently being used as an unlicensed neighborhood nursery for new mothers and their children, authorities said.

All of the victims in the attack, which happened before 4 a.m., were hospitalized but expected to survive.

The 52-year-old suspect — an employee at the nursery — was taken into police custody and was being treated for her wounds and undergoing a psychiatric examination, authorities said.

No immediate charges were filed, and police said the motive was under investigation.

Investigators were trying to piece together what happened inside the building, a three-story, multifamily townhouse in a neighborhood popular with Chinese immigrants in the Flushing section of Queens. Nine babies were there during the attack, and the place had at least 11 cribs, the district attorney's office said.

Local elected officials said it appeared it was an unlicensed facility for new mothers and their babies to convalesce for a month, in keeping with Chinese tradition.

"This is every parent's worst nightmare imaginable," said state Assemblyman Ron Kim. He said it had apparently been operating for more than 10 years.

Police responding to a 911 call discovered a 3-day-old girl and a 1-month-old girl who had been stabbed in the abdomen, and a 20-day-old girl with cuts on her ear, chin and lip. The father of one of the children and a woman who worked there were also stabbed, police said.

A butcher knife and meat cleaver were found at the scene.

The woman suspected in the attack was discovered bleeding and unconscious in the basement, and after officers applied a tourniquet, she regained consciousness and was taken to the hospital, police said.

"We pray that all of the victims will be fine and will survive these injuries," Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said. "We are hoping these young babies — small and so very fragile — are also strong enough to overcome this horrible act of senseless violence."

A Pampers box could be seen outside the building's front door. In the afternoon, a woman emerged from the house carrying a baby in her arms. She was driven away in a police vehicle.

State records indicate that a business called Mei Xin Care Inc. was registered at the address, but there was no listed phone number for that company.

Dr. Anderson Sungmin Yoon, who works at a nearby community center offering counseling, came by on Friday to offer comfort to neighbors. He said there is often a stigma in the community about seeking counseling for psychological problems.

Associated Press writers Stephen Groves and Jennifer Peltz contributed to this report.

Memory's frailty may be playing role in Kavanaugh matter

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — She says he sexually assaulted her; he denies it. Is somebody deliberately lying? Not necessarily.

Experts say that because of how memory works, it's possible that both Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford — the woman who says a drunken Kavanaugh pinned her to a bed and groped her at a party when they were teenagers in the early 1980s — believe what they say.

And which one of them believes his or her version more strongly is no tipoff to what really happened.

"Confidence is not a good guide to whether or not someone is telling the truth," said Nora Newcombe, a psychology professor at Temple University in Philadelphia. "If they think they're telling the truth, they could plausibly both be confident about it."

As the nation ponders the accusations from Ford that could derail Kavanaugh's nomination, the possibility that one of them simply got it wrong has been floated on Capitol Hill. Ford's lawyers have said some senators appear to have made up their mind that she is "mistaken" and confused. Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah told CNN, "Somebody's mixed up."

Experts say a person's memory is not like a video recorder, perfectly capturing an objective record of everything that happens for later retrieval.

"Memory is mostly true but sometimes unreliable," said psychologist Jennifer Talarico of Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Generally, "we get the gist mostly right."

Your beliefs and expectations shape what you perceive in your life and how you later remember those events, researchers say.

"You are constructing the reality out there as it happens, and therefore you get stuck with that ... as the most accurate you can have for your memory," said David Rubin, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Duke University. "That's all you have to base your memory on."

So in a situation where a woman fears being raped by a man, her memories might be shaped by that fear into a recollection that overestimates the threat, whereas the man might consider it "just playing around" and simply forget it later on, Rubin said. And both could be completely honest about their recollections.

Rubin noted the obvious fact that people can forget things they did while drunk. But he said the man in his scenario could forget about the event even if he had been sober.

Typically, when people make mistakes in recalling an event, they unknowingly slip in details that would be typical on such occasions, Talarico said. (She would not speculate on particular memories at issue in the Kavanaugh matter.)

When it comes to emotionally charged events, it's typical to remember a central person or an item such as a gun but forget the context and details, Newcombe said. "You have this vivid central thing and every-

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thing else is fuzzy," she said. "Emotion makes one thing go up and the other go down."

So it would be wrong to challenge Ford's memory of the alleged incident over inability to recall details, Newcombe said.

Ford, a 51-year-old California psychology professor, told The Washington Post that she told nobody about the alleged incident in any detail until 2012, while in couples therapy. Her husband said he recalled her using Kavanaugh's last name at that time.

Some experts cited a classic case of how memory can fail: the 1973 Senate committee testimony of John Dean, former counsel to President Richard Nixon, regarding the Watergate affair. He testified about conversations that, it later turned out, had been recorded.

In 1981, a psychologist published a comparison of his testimony to the tapes and found that even though Dean was basically right about the existence of a cover-up, his accounts of conversations were often wrong.

As for the Kavanaugh matter, Rubin said, "We don't have the tapes for what happened at the party."

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For more on Kavanaugh's nomination, go to: <https://apnews.com/tag/KavanaughNomination>

Race central to Chicago case, even if jury doesn't hear it

By DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — In front of jurors in the trial of a white Chicago police officer charged with murder in the shooting of a black teenager, race is hardly mentioned at all.

Just once, during opening statements, have prosecutors even brought up the fact that 17-year-old Laquan McDonald was black, drawing a sharp rebuke from a defense attorney for Officer Jason Van Dyke. Yet the trial is being watched closely in Chicago and around the country as another chapter in a long national story about race and law enforcement.

"At this point we have no precedent that says an African-American can get justice in this country when they are shot down in cold blood by a police officer," the Rev. Marvin Hunter, McDonald's great uncle, told reporters this week, trying to put the case in historical context. "From the days of Jim Crow until today we have never gotten justice for anything that has happened to us as African-Americans ... by rogue and unjust police officers."

The issue of race permeates the case — from concerns that releasing video of the shooting would ignite racial tensions in a city with a long history of troubled police relationships with minority communities, to protests after it was finally made public, to allegations during jury selection that Van Dyke's attorneys were trying to keep blacks from sitting on the panel, to concerns about possible unrest if Van Dyke is acquitted.

The shooting of McDonald happened on Oct. 20, 2014, just a few months after a white officer shot 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, leading to months of sometimes-violent protests. In April 2015, the same month Freddie Gray died in police custody in Baltimore, touching off protests there, Chicago was agreeing to pay \$5 million to McDonald's family for his death.

It would be seven more months before the release of squad car video that would appear to contradict officers' accounts that McDonald had lunged at police with a small knife he had in his right hand. Even before its release, rumors swirled that the video would lead to unrest in a city where the names Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, two Illinois Black Panther Party leaders killed in a 1969 police raid, still resonate in the black community.

The trial is of such consequence that local activist William Calloway has held community meetings to prepare residents for the disappointment an acquittal would bring and perhaps head off the kind of violent confrontations that erupted in Baltimore and Ferguson — his concerns silently underlined by Van Dyke and his wife, Tiffany, as they left the courthouse holding hands, both wearing bulletproof vests.

Calloway said there is really no other way to see Van Dyke's trial than as a "watershed moment" for

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the city.

"This is the first time in my life, and I'm 29, when there have been hundreds of police shootings and dozens ended up fatal, that a Chicago cop has gone on trial for first-degree murder," he said.

A University of Illinois at Chicago sociologist who's written extensively on segregation and racial attitudes agrees.

"I think people are watching this very carefully and through a racial lens that will have implications for race relations," said Maria Krysan.

The case's impact on race relations was underscored when the Rev. Jesse Jackson told a reporter that the 16 shots fired into the body of McDonald was "the most heinous crime since the lynching of Emmett Till," the 14-year-old Chicago boy whose killing in Mississippi in 1955 shocked the nation and galvanized the civil rights movement.

If that sounds like hyperbole, consider what McDonald's death has wrought since a judge forced the city to release video of the shooting: a police superintendent fired from his job, a top prosecutor losing hers at the polls, and a U.S. Justice Department investigation that ended with a scathing report that found a history of widespread civil rights abuses by the police force.

Inside the courtroom, Van Dyke's attorneys have argued that he was afraid for his life and acted according to his training when he shot McDonald, while prosecutors have stressed that no other officers opened fire. Prosecutors rested their case Thursday and defense attorneys are expected to call witnesses on Monday.

Race became an issue during jury selection when prosecutors accused defense attorneys of illegally trying to keep minorities from sitting on the jury. The 12-person jury includes just one African-American member, although blacks make up one-third of Chicago's population. Defense attorneys used preemptory challenges — an objection in which attorneys don't have to state a reason for wanting someone off the jury — to remove at least three African-Americans from the jury. But the judge said he was satisfied that the challenges were "race-neutral." The jury also has seven whites, three Hispanics and one Asian-American.

Special prosecutor Joseph McMahon touched on race in his opening statement when he noted that Van Dyke didn't know that McDonald was a ward of the state or had PCP in his system when the officer encountered him that fall night.

"What he did see was a black boy walking down a street ... with the audacity to ignore the police," McMahon said.

"The government wants you think this is a racial issue," Van Dyke's lead attorney Dan Herbert later told the jury. "Race had absolutely nothing to do with this."

UK leader May hits back on Brexit plan; pound falls

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May accused the European Union on Friday of creating an "impasse" in divorce negotiations by bluntly rejecting her blueprint for Brexit, sending the value of the pound falling as worries about a chaotic U.K. exit from the EU soared.

With British newspapers declaring that May had been "humiliated" by EU leaders, the prime minister used a televised statement from 10 Downing St. to insist she was prepared to take Britain out of the bloc without a deal if it did not treat the country with more respect.

Declaring that "we are at an impasse," May said the EU must lay out "what the real issues are and what their alternative is."

"Throughout this process, I have treated the EU with nothing but respect," she said. "The U.K. expects the same. A good relationship at the end of this process depends on it."

The pound fell 1.5 percent to \$1.3066 on May's comments, which seemed to make the prospect of an economically disruptive "no deal" Brexit more likely.

May's strong words belied her weak position: She is a prime minister without a parliamentary majority, caught between the EU and a pro-Brexit wing of her Conservative Party that threatens to oust her if she makes a compromise too far.

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May's combative remarks were calibrated to appease euroskeptic Conservatives ahead of what's likely to be a bruising annual party conference at the end of the month.

May's statement followed a fraught EU summit in Salzburg, Austria, which dashed hopes of a breakthrough in stalled divorce talks with only six months to go until Britain leaves the bloc on March 29.

European Council President Donald Tusk said at the meeting that parts of the U.K.'s plan simply "will not work." French President Emmanuel Macron called pro-Brexit U.K. politicians "liars" who had misled the country about the costs of leaving the 28-nation bloc.

The judgment of British newspapers was brutal. The broadly pro-EU Guardian said May had been "humiliated." The conservative Times of London said: "Humiliation for May as EU rejects Brexit plan."

The Brexit-supporting tabloid Sun branded bloc leaders "EU dirty rats," accusing "Euro mobsters" Tusk and Macron of "ambushing" May.

UK Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab said the bloc had "yanked up the handbrake" on the negotiations.

But despite all the heated British rhetoric, the EU's position was not new.

May's "Chequers plan" — named for the prime minister's country retreat where it was hammered out in July — aims to keep the U.K. in the EU single market for goods but not services, in order to ensure free trade with the bloc and an open border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland.

EU officials have been cool on the plan from the start, saying Britain can't "cherry-pick" elements of membership in the bloc without accepting all the costs and responsibilities.

Yet British politicians and diplomats were taken aback by Tusk's blunt dismissal of the Chequers plan on Thursday — and by his light-hearted Instagram post showing Tusk and May looking at a dessert tray and the words: "A piece of cake, perhaps? Sorry, no cherries."

In a statement Friday, Tusk said the bloc's position had "been known to the British side in every detail for many weeks." He said EU leaders regarded Chequers as "a step in the right direction" but had been taken aback by May's "uncompromising" stance in Salzburg.

Tusk said in Salzburg that an EU summit on Oct. 18-19 would be the moment of truth, when an agreement on divorce terms and the outlines of future trade would be sealed or would fail.

The biggest single obstacle to a deal is the need to maintain an open Irish border. Failing to do so could disrupt the lives of people and business on both sides, and undermine Northern Ireland's hard-won peace.

Britain and the EU have agreed on the need for a legally binding backstop to guarantee there is no return to customs posts and other border checks. But Britain rejects the EU's proposed solution, which would keep Northern Ireland inside the bloc's customs union while the rest of the U.K. leaves.

May said Friday the EU was "making a fundamental mistake" if it believed she would agree to "any form of customs border between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K."

May said she wanted to reassure people in Northern Ireland "that in the event of no deal, we will do everything in our power to prevent a return to a hard border."

She also said more than 3 million EU citizens living in the U.K. would retain their rights even if Britain left the bloc without an agreement.

"You are our friends, our neighbors, our colleagues. We want you to stay," May said.

Dealing with the EU is only part of May's problem. Pro-Brexit Conservatives, including former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, hate the Chequers plan, saying it would keep Britain tethered to the bloc, unable to strike new trade deals around the world.

Conservative lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg, an arch-Brexitteer, praised May for "standing up to the EU bullies," but urged her to ditch the Chequers plan for a much looser "Canada-style" free trade agreement.

Pro-EU politicians don't like the Chequers plan either, saying it will cut the U.K.'s vast services sector out of the EU's single market. Many are pushing for a new referendum that would let voters choose between accepting whatever deal she manages to negotiate with the bloc and staying in the EU.

Labour Party Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer said May was "in denial."

"I don't understand why she's failed to hear the message that the Chequers proposal wasn't going to be accepted by the EU and frankly it's not going to be accepted by her own party," he said.

Despite the somber mood music, Britain and the EU hinted there could be a way forward.

"I remain convinced that a compromise, good for all, is still possible," Tusk said. "I say these words as a close friend of the U.K. and a true admirer of PM May."

May said a solution required "serious engagement on resolving the two big problems in the negotiations" — trade and the Irish border.

"We stand ready," she said.

Associated Press writers Danica Kirka and Carlo Piovano contributed.

Call for men to 'step up' puts Sen. Hirono in the spotlight

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hawaii Sen. Mazie Hirono, one of only four women on the 21-member Senate Judiciary Committee, asked Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh the same questions on sexual harassment she has asked dozens of other nominees.

Had Kavanaugh "made unwanted requests for sexual favors" or committed verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature since he became a legal adult? And had he ever faced discipline or settled with anyone over that kind of conduct?

Kavanaugh said "no" to both questions at his confirmation hearing earlier this month. But few in the room, or watching on television, knew at the time how relevant Hirono's questions would prove to be.

A little more than a week later, a California professor named Christine Blasey Ford contended that at a house party in the 1980s, a drunken, 17 year-old Kavanaugh tried undressing her and muffling her cries on a bed before she fled. Kavanaugh denies that account.

Ford's accusation has upended his previously smooth confirmation process for Kavanaugh — and thrust the often low-key Hirono, 70, into the spotlight as one of the most outspoken senators in Ford's defense.

"I just want to say to the men in this country: Just shut up and step up. Do the right thing, for a change," Hirono said Tuesday, stealing the show at a press conference that featured several high-profile Democrats.

Hirono told The Associated Press Thursday in an interview that her "shut up and step up" comment hasn't just resonated with women.

"I have talked to a lot of men who are really happy I said that, because they want to be part of the movement," Hirono said.

Hirono's outrage — and her commitment to holding male nominees accountable — has a deep history. When she was a child, her mother fled an abusive marriage in Japan and took Hirono and her brother to Hawaii, crossing the Pacific in steerage of an American ship.

"There is an environment where people see nothing, hear nothing, and say nothing," Hirono said this week about the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct. "That is what we have to change."

Hirono became a state legislator in 1980, where she says she worked on improving sexual assault laws. The issue remained important to her as she became Hawaii's lieutenant governor in 1994, a member of the House in 2007 and eventually replaced longtime Democratic Sen. Daniel Akaka in 2013. She has kept a mostly low profile in her 12 years in Washington, but that has changed in the past year.

At a news conference Thursday, Hirono and New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand defended Ford and said the Judiciary panel is being unfair to her. President Donald Trump and Senate Republicans have rejected Ford's request for an FBI investigation of her accusation, which she says should take place before she testifies. Gillibrand accused Republicans of "bullying her."

As Hirono arrived at the press conference, people cheered her arrival, with several yelling her name. Her newfound political celebrity was also apparent earlier in the day, when protesters against Kavanaugh's nomination greeted her with cheers and applause at a Senate office building. Some of the protesters snapped selfies with her.

"They knew who I was and came up and encouraged me, and I thanked them," Hirono said. "It was very energizing."

It wasn't the first time Hirono has interacted with protesters. Earlier this year, she was one of just a few

senators who mingled among a large group in the same Senate Hart Office building who were opposing the Trump administration's separation of families at the border. Hirono often calls herself the only immigrant in the Senate, and she is the sole senator who was born outside the United States to parents who were not citizens, according to the Senate Historical Office.

She acknowledges her profile has risen in recent months, saying "The Trump administration gives me so many more opportunities to be verbal and vocal."

Hirono's public ascent has also come amid health troubles, as she announced last year that she had been diagnosed with kidney cancer. She is still undergoing immunotherapy treatment.

"She's a badass," said Christina Reynolds of the advocacy group EMILY's List, which supports women candidates. "The fact that she's getting up there and calling it out, I think it's inspiring for us to watch."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer says Hirono may have seemed soft-spoken over the years, but adversaries shouldn't forget that she has a "spine of steel."

Hirono is encouraging other women to be active in politics, predicting their frustration will be felt in the outcome of the midterm elections.

"We work really hard to get elected," Hirono said. "Nobody hands anything to us."

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Dustin Weaver contributed to this report.

Is \$1,100 too much for an iPhone? Get an older one for less

By ANICK JESDANUN, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The \$1,100 price tag on Apple's latest iPhone turned heads when the company announced it last week. But for less than half as much, you can still get a good camera, a decent-sized screen and other popular features.

Just buy a two-year-old iPhone 7.

That phone was Apple's first to come with water resistance and its first to lose the standard headphone jack. Its 4.7-inch screen is adequate and on par with other smartphones, even though its resolution falls short of high definition. And the phone still has a fingerprint sensor and a home button, both of which have vanished in the latest iPhones.

Or, if you want to pay more for wireless charging, there's the iPhone 8. An edge-to-edge screen? You'll need the upcoming budget iPhone XR or one of its more expensive siblings. And if you want a supersized display, that's where the \$1,100 iPhone XS Max comes in. That model and a smaller version start selling in the U.S. and several other countries on Friday.

If you're shopping for a new phone, it pays to think hard about what you really want and what you're willing to pay for it. Improvements over the previous generation tend to be incremental, but can add up over time — and so do the sums you'll pay for them.

Here's what to consider if you're thinking of bargain-hunting in the iPhone history bin.

IPHONE 7 (\$449)

The big jump in iPhone cameras came a generation earlier with the iPhone 6S, when Apple went from 8 megapixels to 12 megapixels in resolution. With the iPhone 7, the front camera goes from 5 megapixels to 7 megapixels, so selfies don't feel as inferior. Headphones go into its Lightning port, which is used for both charging and data transfer. It's a pain when you want to listen to music while recharging the phone. For that, you need \$159 wireless earphones called AirPods. Apple no longer includes an adapter for standard headphones; one will set you back \$9 if you need it.

IPHONE 7 PLUS (\$569)

This larger version of the iPhone 7 has a second camera lens in the back, allowing for twice the magnification without any degradation in image quality. It also lets the camera gauge depth and blur backgrounds in portrait shots, something once limited to full-featured SLR cameras. The dual-lens camera alone is a good reason to go for a Plus, though the larger size isn't a good fit for those with small hands or small pockets.

IPHONE 8 (\$599)

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New color filters in the camera produce truer and richer colors, while a new flash technique tries to light the foreground and background more evenly. Differences are subtle, though. The year-old model, similar in size to the iPhone 7, restores a glass back found in the earliest iPhones. That's done so you can charge it on a wireless-charging mat, which also solves the problem of listening to music while charging. But with more glass, it's even more important to get a case and perhaps a service plan.

IPHONE 8 PLUS (\$699)

Again, the Plus version has a larger screen and a second lens. For those shots with blurred backgrounds, a new feature lets you add filters to mimic studio and other lighting conditions.

IPHONE XS (\$999)

As with the iPhone X it replaces, the new XS has a display that largely runs from edge to edge, getting rid of the surrounding bezel along with the home button. Many tasks now require swipes rather than presses. The fingerprint ID sensor is replaced with facial recognition to unlock the phone. The display has about the same surface area as the iPhone 7 Plus and 8 Plus, while the phone itself is only slightly larger than the regular iPhone 7 and 8. Improved display technology means vivid colors and better contrasts, including black that is black rather than simply dark. You also get a dual-lens camera and software improvements for regular shots.

IPHONE XS MAX (\$1,099)

This is essentially the "Plus" version of the iPhone XS. The phone itself is about the size of the Plus, but with more room for the display. This phone won't feel big for existing Plus users, but think twice if you have small hands or small pockets.

COMING SOON

Consider waiting a month for the iPhone XR. Its display lacks the vivid colors, contrast quality and resolution of the XS, but the price tag is nicer at \$749. As with the XS models, you'll get an edge-to-edge screen to minimize wasted space. There's more display than the regular XS, but the phone itself is also larger — just not as large as the Max. The XR won't have the dual-lens camera, though Apple says it can offer the blurred-background effect with software.

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Apple quietly discontinued the iPhone SE, which is essentially a three-year-old iPhone 6S, packed in a body that's smaller but thicker than the iPhone 7 and 8. Though the trend in phones has been to go bigger, some people preferred the smaller size — and the \$350 price tag. Apple no longer sells it, though you can get it from some wireless carriers and other retailers, at least for now.

ALL IN THE MEMORY

If you get an SE, 7 or 7 Plus, consider spending another \$100 to quadruple the storage. Those phones come with a paltry 32 gigabytes, just half of what's standard these days. If you don't upgrade, you risk filling up your phone quickly with photos, video, songs and podcasts.

Dow hits another all-time high on mixed day for US stocks

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Wall Street capped a milestone-setting week Friday with a mixed finish for the major U.S. stock indexes and the second all-time high in two days for the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

An afternoon sell-off erased modest gains for the S&P 500 that had the benchmark index on track to eke out its own record high for much of the day.

Losses for technology companies and retailers, two of the market's hottest sectors this year, offset gains in energy and industrial stocks.

"When you have a big up week like we've had, we're at all-time highs, for people to take a little bit of risk off the table going into the weekend isn't a big surprise," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives at Charles Schwab.

The S&P 500 index dropped 1.08 points, or 0.04 percent, to 2,929.67, just under its latest all-time high set a day earlier. The Dow gained 86.52 points, or 0.3 percent, to 26,743.50, thanks largely to gains in

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Boeing and McDonald's.

The Nasdaq composite lost 41.28 points, or 0.5 percent, to 7,986.96. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies gave up 7.87 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,712.32.

The Dow and S&P 500 each ended the week with their 10th weekly gain in the past 12 weeks.

Coming off Thursday's record-setting rally, trading was listless for much of Friday. A couple of factors may have contributed to the market's late-afternoon pullback.

Friday was "quadruple witching" day, when options and futures contracts expire, which often results in heavy trading.

Also, next Monday the S&P 500 is changing the lineup of the 11 company sectors that make up the benchmark index. Technology giants Google and Facebook will join Netflix and 15 other companies in a new communications services sector.

The change forces exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, and other funds that track the S&P 500's sectors to make trades to reflect the new alignment of the index.

"There's probably some selling going on in ETFs and mutual funds right now and also probably on Monday," Frederick said.

Micron Technology was among the biggest decliners in the technology sector. The chipmaker said Friday its profits would be hurt by new tariffs on Chinese imports that go into effect next week. Shares in the company slid 2.9 percent to \$44.74.

The trade dispute between the U.S. and China is set to escalate Monday. That's when an additional 10 percent tax on \$200 billion of Chinese imports kicks in. The tariffs will rise to 25 percent on Jan 1. Beijing has said it would retaliate by imposing tariffs of 5 or 10 percent on \$60 billion of U.S. goods including coffee, honey and industrial chemicals.

Still, investors have been taking the potential negative impact of the trade dispute in stride this week, drawing comfort from the latest signs that the economy is on solid ground and driving the market higher.

"Finally, the market has shrugged off all the trade war fears," said Karyn Cavanaugh, senior markets strategist at Voya Investment Management. "The robustness of the economy just won't be put down."

Other sectors fared better Friday. Several airlines notched gains, part of a broad pickup in industrial sector stocks. American Airlines Group climbed 4.1 percent to \$43.60 after the company said it will raise fees for checked bags. The move came a day after Delta Air Lines announced its own plans to raise baggage fees. Delta shares added 2.5 percent to \$59.61. Southwest Airlines rose 2 percent to \$63.77.

Mazor Robotics surged 10.2 percent to \$58.15 after the surgical guidance system maker agreed to be bought by Medtronic for \$1.54 billion.

Benchmark U.S. crude gained 0.7 percent to settle at \$70.78 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 0.1 percent to close at \$78.80 a barrel in London.

The rise in crude oil prices sent many energy stocks higher. Cimarex Energy rose 2.1 percent to \$92.34.

Shares in Duke Energy slid 1 percent to \$79.82 after floodwaters inundated a large lake near a retired coal-fired power plant, raising concerns of a potential breach.

Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 3.07 percent.

The dollar rose to 112.52 yen from Thursday's 112.48 yen. The euro edged down to \$1.1747 from \$1.1776. The British pound weakened to \$1.3078 from \$1.3268 after British Prime Minister Theresa May said talks over exiting the European Union are at an impasse.

Gold fell 0.8 percent to \$1,201.30 an ounce. Silver gained 0.4 percent to \$14.36 an ounce. Copper surged 4.3 percent to \$2.86 a pound.

In other energy trading, heating oil gave up 0.1 percent to \$2.23 a gallon, wholesale gasoline added 0.1 percent to \$2.02 a gallon and natural gas was little changed at \$2.98 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Major stock indexes in Europe posted solid gains Friday. Germany's DAX added 0.8 percent, while France's CAC 40 rose 0.8 percent. London's FTSE 100 index climbed 1.7 percent.

In Asia, markets closed mostly higher. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 1.7 percent and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 rose 0.8 percent. Seoul's Kospi added 0.7 percent. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 picked up 0.4 percent.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 22, the 265th day of 2018. There are 100 days left in the year. Autumn arrives at 9:54 p.m. Eastern time.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 22, 1949, the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb.

On this date:

In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Capt. Nathan Hale, 21, was hanged as a spy by the British in New York.

In 1792, the French First Republic was proclaimed.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in rebel states should be free as of January 1, 1863.

In 1911, pitcher Cy Young, 44, gained his 511th and final career victory as he hurled a 1-0 shutout for the Boston Rustlers against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Forbes Field.

In 1927, Gene Tunney successfully defended his heavyweight boxing title against Jack Dempsey in the famous "long-count" fight in Chicago.

In 1950, Omar N. Bradley was promoted to the rank of five-star general, joining an elite group that included Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, George C. Marshall and Henry H. "Hap" Arnold.

In 1959, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev arrived in Iowa for a two-day stopover, during which he visited a corn farm, held talks with former Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson, and ate his first hot dog.

In 1961, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued rules prohibiting racial discrimination on interstate buses.

In 1975, Sara Jane Moore attempted to shoot President Gerald R. Ford outside a San Francisco hotel, but missed. (Moore served 32 years in prison before being paroled on December 31, 2007.)

In 1980, the Persian Gulf conflict between Iran and Iraq erupted into full-scale war.

In 1985, rock and country music artists participated in "FarmAid," a concert staged in Champaign, Illinois, to help the nation's farmers.

In 1993, 47 people were killed when an Amtrak passenger train fell off a bridge and crashed into Big Bayou Canot near Mobile, Alabama. (A tugboat pilot lost in fog pushed a barge into the railroad bridge, knocking the tracks 38 inches out of line just minutes before the train arrived.)

Ten years ago: Jury selection began in Washington for the federal corruption trial of Republican Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska. (Jurors later found that Stevens had lied on Senate financial disclosure forms to conceal hundreds of thousands of dollars in gifts and home renovations from a wealthy oil contractor, but the Justice Department later moved to dismiss the indictment because prosecutors had mishandled the case; Stevens lost his re-election bid.) Marjorie Knoller, whose dogs viciously attacked and killed her neighbor, Dianne Whipple, in their San Francisco apartment building in 2001, was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison after her second-degree murder conviction was reinstated.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama spoke at a memorial service for the 12 men and women killed in the Washington Navy Yard shooting, calling on Americans to raise their voices against gun violence. A pair of Sunni militant suicide bombers blew themselves up inside a church in Peshawar, Pakistan, killing 85 Christian worshippers. German Chancellor Angela Merkel led her conservatives to a stunning election victory. "Breaking Bad" won best drama series while "Modern Family" was recognized as best comedy series at the 65th annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

One year ago: As the scale of the damage from Hurricane Maria started to become clearer, Puerto Rican officials said they could not contact more than half of the communities in the U.S. territory, where all power had been knocked out to the island's 3.4 million people. President Donald Trump said NFL owners should fire players who kneel during the national anthem. The federal government told election officials

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in 21 states that hackers had targeted their systems before the 2016 presidential election. Sen. John McCain declared his opposition to the GOP's last-ditch effort to repeal and replace "Obamacare," the second time in three months McCain had emerged as the destroyer of his party's signature promise to voters.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda is 91. Actress Anna Karina is 78. Former NBA Commissioner David Stern is 76. Actor Paul Le Mat is 73. Musician King Sunny Ade (ah-DAY') is 72. Capt. Mark Phillips is 70. Rock singer David Coverdale (Deep Purple, Whitesnake) is 67. Actress Shari Belafonte is 64. Singer Debby Boone is 62. Country singer June Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 62. Singer Nick Cave is 61. Rock singer Johnette Napolitano is 61. Actress Lynn Herring is 61. Classical crossover singer Andrea Bocelli (an-DRAY'-ah boh-CHEL'-ee) is 60. Singer-musician Joan Jett is 60. Actor Scott Baio is 58. Actress Catherine Oxenberg is 57. Actress Bonnie Hunt is 57. Actor Rob Stone is 56. Actor Dan Bucatinsky (TV: "24: Legacy") is 53. Musician Matt Sharp is 49. Rock musician Dave Hernandez is 48. Rapper Mystikal is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Big Rube (Society of Soul) is 47. Actor James Hillier (TV: "The Crown") is 45. Actress Mireille Enos is 43. Actress Daniella Alonso is 40. Actor Michael Graziadei (GRAHT'-zee-uh-day-ee) is 39. Actress Ashley Drane (Eckstein) is 37. Actress Katie Lowes is 36. Rock musician Will Farquarson (Bastille) is 35. Actress Tatiana Maslany is 33. Actor Ukweli Roach (TV: "Blindspot") is 32. Actor Tom Felton is 31. Actress Juliette Goglia is 23.

Thought for Today: "I saw old Autumn in the misty morn/ Stand shadowless like silence, listening/ To silence." — Thomas Hood, English author (1799-1845).