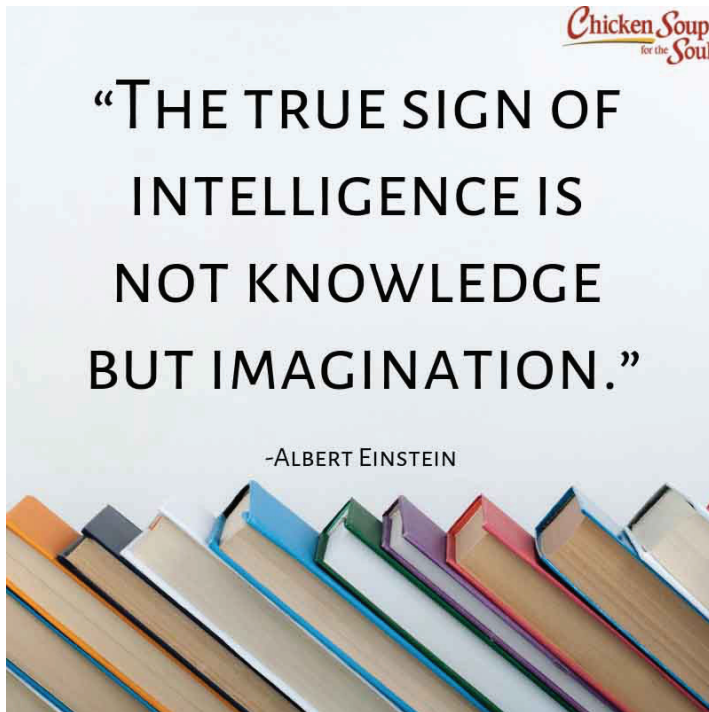


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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Oven Fresh Sandwiches Hot Desserts Snack Melts

11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627

New **DQ** BAKES! OVEN-HOT

DQ Grill & Chill Orange Julius

Ashley Flihs, Megan Flihs, Tiara Dehoet, Gabby Merkel)

Tailgate lunch @ 11:30 on Football Field

Students MUST report to 5th period @ 12:00pm for attendance. Students will be dismissed by intercom.

Homecoming Parade @ 1:00pm

Inflatables @ 2:00pm

GHS Pep Band @ 6:30pm

Football Game vs. Milbank @ 7:00pm

King and Queen will be announced at half time of football game

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Friday, September 28th:

1st Hour Attendance as usual @ 8:30 am
MS/HS Students dismissed with advisors to work on floats in designated areas: NO DRIVING FOR ANY REASON

Grades 6, 7, and 8: in the shop

Grade 9: South end of main student parking lot

Grade 10: North end of main student parking lot

Grade 11: East of Arena Parking lot

Grade 12: North of Arena Parking lot

FCCLA Students to Elementary School 9:45-11:00
(Kaycie Hawkins, Nicole Marzahn, Kaylin Kucker, Tiara DeHoet, Chloe Daly, Gabbie Merkel)

Football Cheerleaders to Elementary School 10:15-11:00
(Shyla Larson, Indigo Rogers, Tanee Lipp, Chloe Daly, Trinity Smith, Maddy Schuelke,

The Life of Steve Giedt



Services for Steve Giedt, 63, of Groton will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 29th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Craig Grams and Rev. Andrew Wolfram will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

Visitation will be held at the church on Friday from 4-6 with a 6 p.m. prayer service. Steve requested casual dress, with Purina attire, if possible.

Steve passed away September 25, 2018 at his home after a long battle with cancer.

Steven Wayne was born on December 21, 1954 in Bowdle to Lester "Dick" and Joyce (Merkel) Giedt. In his early years, he was active in sports, including baseball, football, basketball and track. Steve was also involved in 4-H for nine years and crowned King of Edmunds County 4-H in 1973. He traveled across the state to horse shows before graduating and won the Round Robin Showmanship Award three years in a row. After graduating from Bowdle High School in 1973, Steve continued his education at Lake Area Technical School in Watertown. There he earned his Associate's Degree in Ag Business in 1975.

Steve worked in Hatfield, Minnesota for Fruen Fertilizer as the Assistant Manager for several years. He moved to Groton in the fall of 1977, where he worked for Dr. Robert Snyder. He later purchased the Purina business from Doc Snyder and re-named it Professional Management Services. Steve was united in marriage with Lori Rudnick on July 25, 1981 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton. Together they were blessed with two children; Desiree and Heath.

Steve was community-minded, serving in Jaycees and the Kiwanis Club. He was also active on the Baseball Foundation and helped chair both the Groton Centennial and Quasi-Centennial Celebrations. He was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church, where he served in many capacities. Steve enjoyed hunting, bowling, golf and cooking/grilling.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Lori of Groton, his children, Desiree (Jeremy) Werner of Menlo Park, CA, Heath (Katelyn) Giedt of Aberdeen, grandchildren, Preslee and Emersyn, as well as a baby due in October, his mother, Joyce Giedt of Groton, and brother, Randy (Leigh Ann) Giedt of Madison, SD.

Preceding him in death was his father.

Casketbearers will be Roger Rix, Ike Kvasnicka, Jim Fetherhuff, Lars Hanson, Rob Wanous, Steve Schaller, Brad Larson, Brad Waage, Rod Hanson and Richard Kolker.

Memorials may be directed to SPURS, Groton Baseball Foundation or St. John's Lutheran Pre-School.

Lady Tigers whirl past Cyclones

Groton Area defeated Clark-Willow Lake in three sets to win the volleyball match played Thursday in Groton. Game scores were 25-17, 25-17 and 25-22.

Clark-Willow Lake won the junior varsity match, 25-14 and 25-21, and Groton Area won the C match, 25-21 and 25-11.

Coach Chelsea Hanson said that the match was a must win for the Tigers. "This was a crucial match for us," she said. "It sets the stage for the rest of the season. The girls played hard and smart and it showed on the court."

In the varsity first game, the game was tied three times and was last tied at 10 before Groton Area scored five straight points to take a 15-10 lead. Groton Area had 11 kills, three ace serves and one block in that game while Clark-Willow Lake had six kills, two blocks and two ace serves. Jennie Doeden had five kills and a block in the first game.

The second game was also tied at 10 before Groton Area scored three straight points and ended up leading by nine, 24-15. The Tigers had 12 kills, three ace serves and one block while the Cyclones had nine kills. In the second game, Nicole Marzahn had five kills, Portia Kettering had three and Doeden had two kills, two ace serves and a block.

Clark-Willow Lake jumped out to an 8-5 lead. The led switched to Groton Area, 15-10, before the Cyclones rallied to tie the game at 18. The Tigers then scored five straight points to post secure the win. Groton Area had 15 kills, three ace serves and one block in the third game while the Cyclones had 10 kills and two blocks. Nicole Marzahn had six kills in that game to lead the Tigers.



Portia Kettering
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Area, now 12-6 on the season, will host Florence/Henry on Monday, Oct. 1. Clark/Willow Lake goes to 12-5.

Groton Area was 63 of 73 in sets with nine ace serves. Jennie Doeden had three ace serves, Payton Maine, Miranda Hanson and Kaylin Kucker each had two and Tady Glover and Eliza Wanner each had one ace.

In attacks, Groton Area was 108 of 118 with 39 kills. Nicole Marzahn had 12 kills, Jennie Doeden nine, Portia Kettering and Eliza Wanner each had seven, Indigo Rogers had three and Kaylin Kucker had one.

The Tigers had 38 assists in setting with Kucker having 32.

Jennie Doeden had three blocks and Indigo Rogers had two. Eliza Wanner had 17 digs, Kaylin Kucker 14, Payton Maine 13, Miranda Hanson six, Nicole Marzahn five, Tady Glover and Jennie Doeden each had four and Indigo Rogers had three.



Tady Glover
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Payton Maine
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Miranda Hanson
(Eliza Wanner in background)
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Nicole Marzahn
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Kaylin Kucker
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Today on GDILIVE.COM

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Milbank
Bulldogs**



VS

Groton Area Tigers

7:00 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28, 2018
Doney Field, Groton

Groton Area Homecoming Parade

Friday, Sept. 28, 1 p.m.
Groton's Main Street

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Groton Senior News

Groton Seniors met on September 10, Nineteen members attended. President Ruby Donavon opened the meeting with flag pledge. Lee Schinkel played America. Minutes and Treasurers report were read and accepted. Darlene Fischer thanked for the memorial she received. A memorial was given to the Rescue Squad in memory of Wally Fischer. The Groton Senior float is planed for the homecoming parade. David Klienrossor and Delinda Nelson were voted King and Queen. They will ride in a convertible driven by Lee Schinkel. Nomanating committee for officers are Ella Johnson and Beulah Hoops. Meeting adjourned. Cards were played the winners are Whist-Tony Goldade and Pat Larson. Pinochle- Don Darwin, Canasta- Belinda Nelson and Beulah Hoops. Door prizes -Elda Stange , Ruth and Bob Pray.

On September 17 there were sixteen members were present. Vice President Eunice McColister lead the flag pledge. There was no meeting cards were played. Winners of the games are Whist- Ruth Pray, Canasta- Beulah Hoops and Eunice McColister, Pinochle- Don Darwin . Door prizes Belinda Nelson, Ruth Pray and Beulah Hoops.Lunch was served by Lee Schinkel and Ruth and Bob Pray.

September 24 Seniors met for a Pot luck dinner were eighteen members were present. Two visitors came later, cousins of Grace Albrecht from Montana. Bingo was played after dinner Belinda Nelson, Ruby Donavon, Marilyn Thorson and Jann Raap won black out, at the same time. Cards were played after bingo door prizes were Don Darwin, Elda Stange, and Ruth Pray.

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Today in Weather History

September 28, 1951: On this day in 1951 in the early morning hours, near record or record cold covered central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Temperatures across the area fell into the upper teens and 20s. Aberdeen recorded a record low of 18 degrees; Kennebec dropped to 20 degrees, Pierre fell to 21 degrees while Timber Lake had a record low of 23 degrees. The overnight low in Mobridge was 23 degrees, 24 degrees at Watertown, and 26 degrees at Sisseton.

1837: The first recorded storm to rake the entire Texas coast was Racer's Storm, named for a British sloop of war which encountered the system in the extreme northwestern Caribbean on September 28th. It is remembered as one of the most destructive storms of the nineteenth century due to its extreme duration and 2000 mile path of destruction.

1998: On the morning of September 28th, Hurricane George made landfall near Biloxi, Mississippi with maximum winds of 110 mph and a minimum pressure of 964 mb, making it a Category 2 hurricane. After landfall, Georges moved very slowly across southern Mississippi and weakened to a tropical depression by the morning of the 29th when the center was about 30 miles north-northeast of Mobile, Alabama. The storm dissipated near the northeast Florida/southeast Georgia coast by the morning of October 1, 1998.

1816 - A black frost over most of New England kills unripened corn in the north resulting in a year of famine. (David Ludlum)

1959 - A tornado 440 yards in width traveled twenty miles from near Hollow, OK, to western Cherokee County KS. Although a strong tornado, it was very slow moving, and gave a tremendous warning roar, and as a result no one was killed. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - Afternoon highs of 103 degrees at Long Beach, CA, and 105 degrees at the Los Angeles Civic Center were the hottest since September records were established in 1963. Fierce Santa Ana winds accompanying the extreme heat resulted in destructive fires. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A record early season snowstorm struck the Central High Plains Region. The storm left up to nineteen inches of snow along the Colorado Front Range, and as much as a foot of snow in the High Plains Region. (Storm Data)

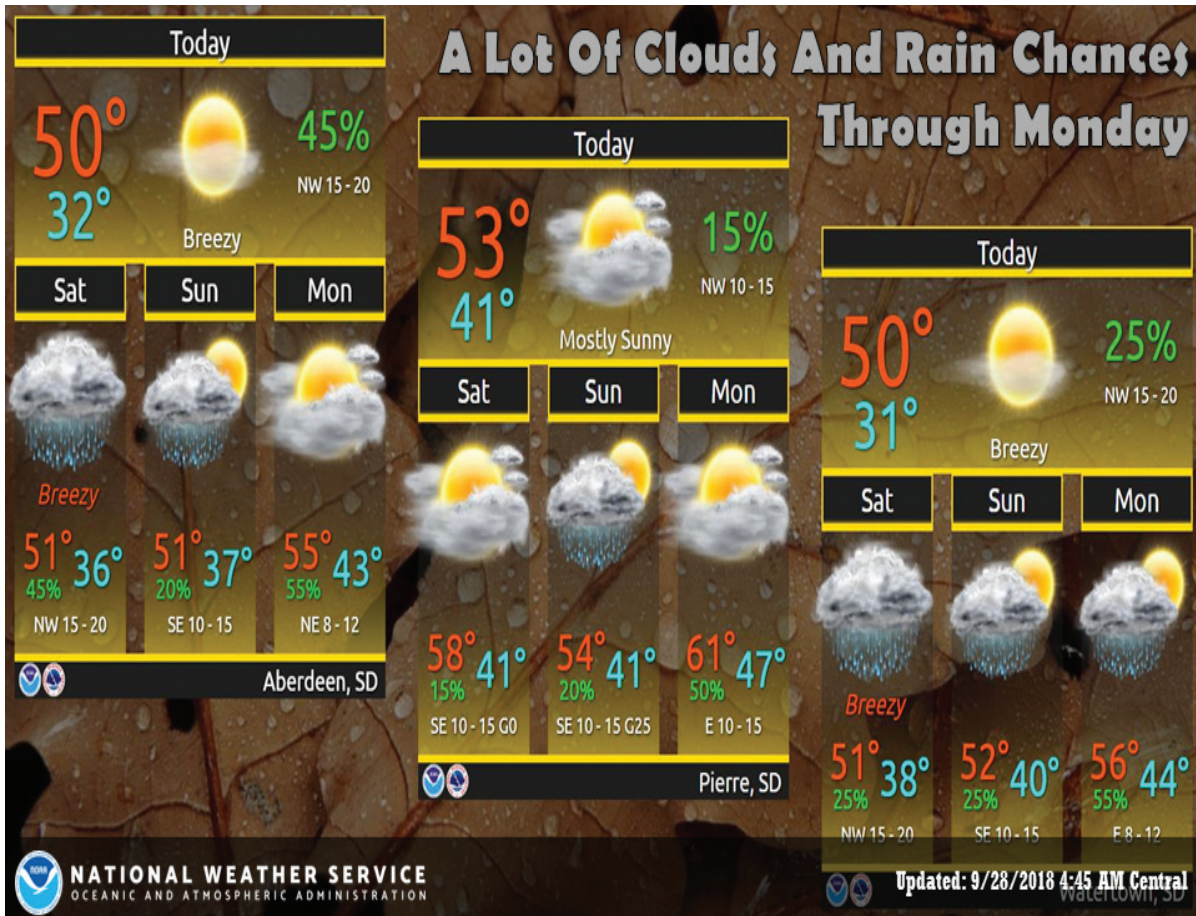
1987 - While those at the base of Mount Washington, NH, enjoyed sunny skies and temperatures in the 70s, the top of the mountain was blanketed with 4.7 inches of snow, along with wind gusts to 99 mph, and a temperature of 13 degrees. Severe thunderstorms developed along a cold front in the south central U.S. A thunderstorm west of Noodle TX produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 70 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced large hail in southeastern Wyoming during the afternoon, with tennis ball size hail reported at Cheyenne. Strong winds ushering the cold air into the north central U.S. gusted to 59 mph at Lander WY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Freezing temperatures were reported in the Great Lakes Region and the Ohio Valley. Houghton Lake MI reported a record low of 21 degrees. Thunderstorms in the western U.S. produced wind gusts to 50 mph at Salt Lake City UT, and gusts to 58 mph at Cody WY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Published on: 09/28/2018 at 4:52AM

After today, sunshine will be seen only in spurts. The 7-day forecast is riddled with precipitation chances, and most of the forecast calls for below normal temperatures. In fact, portions of northeast South Dakota into west central Minnesota could see freezing temperatures late tonight into Saturday morning.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 56.3

Low Outside Temp: 41.2

High Gust: 25

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 2011, 1897

Record Low: 18° in 1951, 1895

Average High: 67°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.97

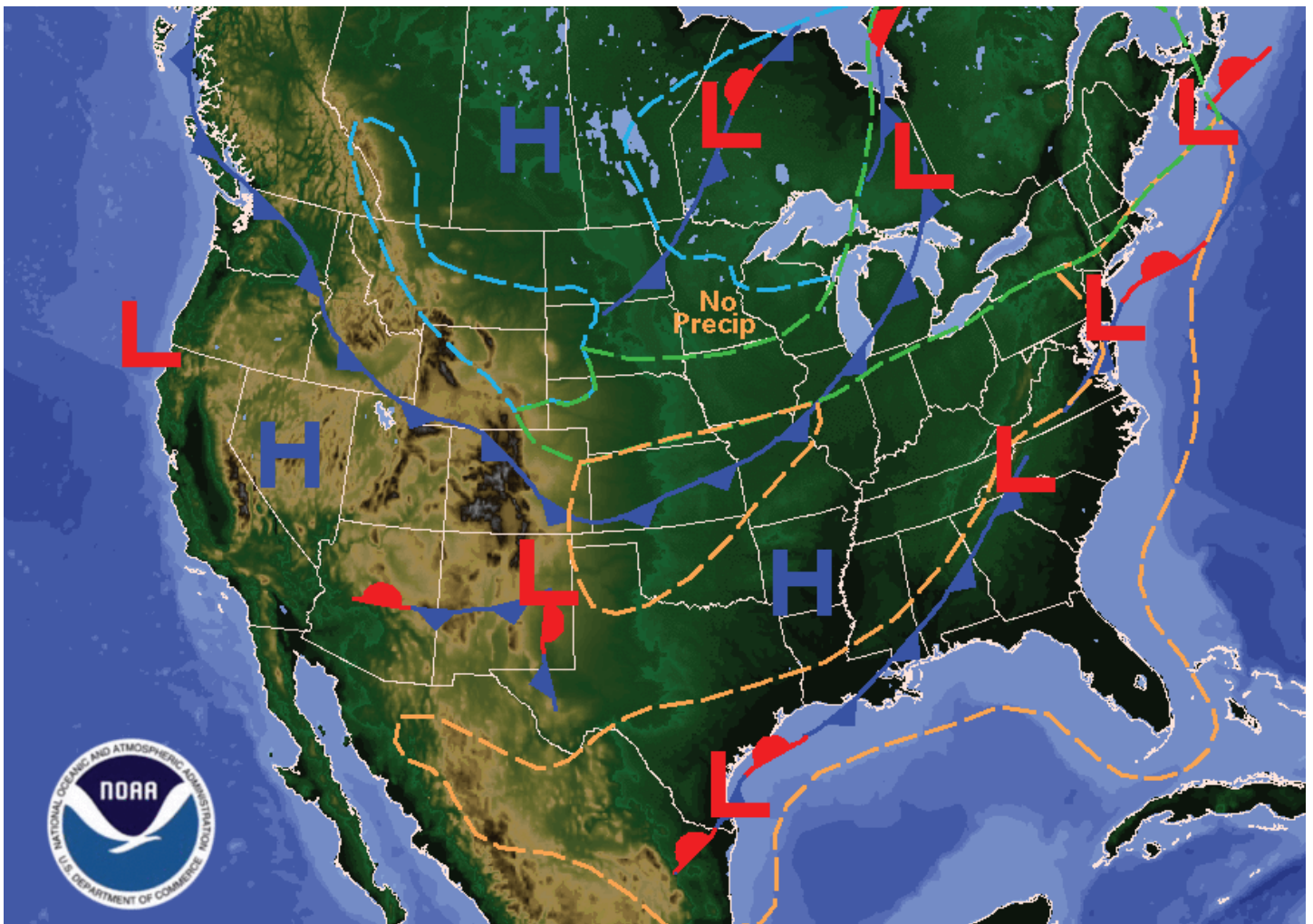
Precip to date in Sept.: 2.36

Average Precip to date: 18.26

Precip Year to Date: 13.57

Sunset Tonight: 7:20 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:29 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Sep 28, 2018, issued 4:41 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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TO TRUST OR NOT TO TRUST

It is more difficult to trust than not to trust. So, many people go through life angry and alone.

A father once said to his young son, James, climb to the second step of the ladder, turn around and look at me. Now, when I open my arms, I want you to jump, and I'll catch you.

Obediently, James did as his father asked him. However, when he jumped, his father stepped back and allowed him to fall to the ground. Hurting, crying, fearful and afraid, he looked at his father in amazement.

James, said his father, I wanted to teach you a lesson. Do not trust anyone. Not even your father.

What a tragic way for a father to teach his son about trust. Though many men and women are not trustworthy, there certainly are those who can be trusted. Many who are Christians strive to be people of integrity and honesty, openness, and trust.

But there is a difference between trusting someone and putting our trust in someone. While it is important to be able to trust others, we must be careful about what we trust them for.

So, God had a Psalmist give us a warning about putting our trust in people. Do not put your trust in... mortal men who cannot save. Our trust must be in God.

Many offers to save and protect us from the realities of life. Treaties are written, and policies are produced to assure us that they will save us from every enemy! But in the end, only God can do that. Only He can save us.

Prayer: Lord, Your Word assures us that we can trust in You for everything we need - salvation and eternal life. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 146:3 Do not put your trust in...mortal men who cannot save.

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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

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Bison def. Dupree, 25-18, 16-25, 16-25, 25-23, 15-7
Bridgewater-Emery def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-22, 25-7, 25-12
Castlewood def. Estelline/Hendricks, 20-25, 16-25, 25-17, 25-23, 15-11
Chadron, Neb. def. Belle Fourche, 25-14, 25-16, 25-14
Chester def. Beresford, 25-18, 25-14, 25-12
Corsica/Stickney def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-21, 25-17, 25-15
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-15, 20-25, 25-22, 25-23
Deubrook def. Lake Preston, 25-12, 25-15, 25-10
Deuel def. Sisseton, 25-20, 25-16, 23-25, 25-23
Faith def. Harding County, 25-16, 25-23, 25-13
Great Plains Lutheran def. Florence/Henry, 25-21, 25-23, 25-6
Gregory def. Chamberlain, 25-21, 25-27, 25-23, 25-23
Groton Area def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-17, 25-17, 25-22
Harrisburg def. Brandon Valley, 22-25, 18-25, 25-18, 26-24, 15-12
Ipswich def. Edmunds Central, 25-17, 17-25, 25-15, 25-13
Irene-Wakonda def. Centerville, 25-4, 25-8, 25-13
Kadoka Area def. Jones County, 25-8, 25-14, 25-7
Kimball/White Lake def. Hanson, 25-11, 25-18, 25-19
Langford def. Waubay/Summit, 25-11, 25-19, 25-9
Lennox def. Dell Rapids, 27-25, 21-25, 25-18, 25-19
Madison def. Hamlin, 25-14, 24-26, 25-12, 25-8
McCook Central/Montrose def. Tri-Valley, 25-9, 23-25, 25-9, 25-20
Menno def. Bon Homme, 25-17, 25-16, 23-25, 25-19
Mitchell def. Aberdeen Central, 25-23, 25-23, 21-25, 24-26, 15-8
Parker def. Garretson, 25-10, 25-9, 25-17
Parkston def. Scotland, 25-15, 25-16, 25-19
Philip def. Sully Buttes, 25-20, 25-19, 25-27, 25-16
Redfield/Doland def. Britton-Hecla, 25-16, 25-6, 25-18
Sioux Falls Christian def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-15, 25-20, 25-13
Sioux Falls Washington def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 21-25, 25-19, 25-20, 25-16
St. Thomas More def. Pine Ridge, 25-7, 25-23, 25-15
Sturgis def. Douglas, 26-24, 31-29, 27-25
Tea Area def. Canton, 25-20, 25-23, 18-25, 25-11
Warner def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-7, 25-18, 25-13
Waverly-South Shore def. Wilmot, 25-15, 25-13, 25-21
West Central def. Vermillion, 25-14, 18-25, 25-21, 19-25, 15-10
281 Conference Tournament
First Round
Hitchcock-Tulare def. James Valley Christian, 25-11, 25-20, 25-18
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Iroquois, 25-6, 25-8, 25-17
Wessington Springs def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-22, 25-13, 25-12
Wolsey-Wessington def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-12, 25-18, 25-10
Dakota Valley Triangular

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Dakota Valley def. Ponca, Neb., 25-16, 25-22, 25-17
Pierce, Neb. def. Dakota Valley, 25-23, 16-25, 25-23, 25-23
Pierce, Neb. def. Ponca, Neb., 25-18, 14-25, 25-23

Plea change hearing set for former education co-op director

ARMOUR, S.D. (AP) — A former South Dakota educational cooperative director who pleaded not guilty in 2016 after being accused of helping in an embezzlement scheme has a change of plea hearing scheduled Friday, according to the attorney general's office.

Former Mid-Central Educational Cooperative Director Dan Guericke's hearing will be held at the Douglas County Courthouse, Attorney General Marty Jackley said in a statement Thursday. Guericke and consultant Stacy Phelps had been scheduled to go on trial next week.

The trial date comes more than three years after Mid-Central business manager Scott Westerhuis shot his wife and their four children, then set fire to their home and killed himself in September 2015. Authorities have said they believe Westerhuis and his wife stole more than \$1 million before their deaths.

Guericke and Phelps are accused of backdating contracts between Mid-Central and a nonprofit organization in August 2015 before they were made available to legislative auditors. Investigators say in court records they believe the contract changes were an attempt to avoid a potential audit of the nonprofit.

An attorney for Guericke didn't immediately return a phone message from The Associated Press. Guericke was indicted in 2016 on six felony counts alleging he falsified evidence and conspired to offer forged or fraudulent evidence. Jackley said he couldn't discuss the hearing before it happens.

Phelps' lawyer, Dana Hanna, said Phelps won't change his plea.

"Not a chance," Hanna said. "We're going to trial. He didn't commit any crime, and we're going to prove it."

A jury in June cleared a former Mid-Central staffer accused of aiding in the embezzlement scheme. Stephanie Hubers was found not guilty of grand theft, grand theft by deception and alternative receiving stolen property charges.

Prosecutors had accused Hubers of receiving about \$55,000 to keep quiet about Westerhuis and his wife's alleged stealing.

Shannon Johnson wins US Women's Mid-Amateur

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Shannon Johnson birdied the par-5 18th hole to beat defending champion Kelsey Chugg 1 up Thursday in the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur final at Norwood Hills Country Club.

The 35-year-old Johnson, a sales representative for Ping Golf from Norton, Massachusetts, reached the 18th green in two with a 7-wood and two-putted for birdie from 20 feet, holing a 1 1/2-footer. Chugg missed a 10-foot birdie try.

"I was surprisingly really calm, even on the 18th tee," said Johnson, a former college player at New Mexico and Indiana. "I hit a great drive on 18. I didn't think I could get on in two as we were walking up, but then the yardage that we had, we just had to cover 200 to the front. I couldn't have hit it any better. It was unbelievable. Kelsey really didn't miss too many putts all day, and I thought for sure we were going to go to extra holes. I was very surprised when she missed it."

After losing three straight holes, Johnson tied it with a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-4 16th.

"It was just an incredible match," Chugg said. "I felt like I played as well as I could have. I would have loved the putt to go in on the last hole, but I really feel like I did a great job of hanging on. She's just an incredible player. Just rock solid."

Johnson won the event for players 25 and older as the qualifying medalist after losing the 2016 final to Julia Potter-Bobb and reaching the semifinals last year. Johnson earned spots in the U.S. Women's Open next year and the next two U.S. Women's Amateurs.

The 26-year-old Chugg, from Salt Lake City, is the membership director for the Utah Golf Association. She won last year at the Champions Golf Club in Houston.

Tied after 10 holes, Johnson won the par-4 11th with a par and par-3 12th with a birdie. Chugg rallied

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to take the lead, winning the par-4 13th with a par — Johnson had a double bogey — and the par-4 14th and par-5 15th with birdies.

Dave Hanten, Johnson's coach since she was 13 years old in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, drove from South Dakota to watch the match.

"This is unbelievable for him to be here to see it because he's wanted to come the last couple years, and they've just been too far away," Johnson said. "I think he got hopped in the car before that first match was done yesterday, and I was like, that's pretty bold there. He's got a herniated disc and he walked all 18. He couldn't stay away."

Standing Rock Sioux pledges support for pipeline protests

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — An American Indian tribe that has led opposition to the Dakota Access oil pipeline for more than two years has formally pledged its support for protests against three other pipeline projects.

The Standing Rock Sioux Council approved resolutions this month supporting efforts by other tribes to oppose the Enbridge Line 3 project in Minnesota, the Keystone XL pipeline in Montana and South Dakota, and the Bayou Bridge pipeline in Louisiana. The resolutions do not come with any promise of money or other aid but are a payback of sorts for other tribes' support of Standing Rock's struggle against Dakota Access.

"These are only to stand in solidarity with their fights," tribal spokeswoman Danielle Finn said.

Standing Rock led protests in 2016 and 2017 against Dakota Access, which is now moving oil from North Dakota to Illinois but is still the subject of a federal lawsuit spearheaded by the tribe. Thousands of people traveled to protest camps just outside of the reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border to support the tribe.

Standing Rock is formally backing the efforts of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in Montana and the Cheyenne River Sioux in South Dakota to oppose TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL oil pipeline; the effort of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to thwart Enbridge Energy's plans to replace its aging Line 3 oil pipeline across northern Minnesota; and the effort of the United Houma Nation to oppose the Bayou Bridge Pipeline in southern Louisiana. That project is being developed by Dakota Access builder Energy Transfer Partners.

Tribes fear the pipeline projects will harm the environment, while developers maintain they are safe.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By **The Associated Press**

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Sept. 27

East entrance to city gets a facelift

To the west, new buildings and facades have replaced dilapidated motels and other eyesores. To the east stands a new Popeyes, Sonic Drive-in and an On The Border Mexican restaurant. Menards and Rushmore Crossing lie beyond, and the empty spaces between will soon fill.

At the corner of East North and North Cambell streets, however, stands a black-tar desert from an earlier era. A large, squat rectangular building fits inside this unbroken field of asphalt.

A half century ago, this was vital retail. Shoppers in bell-bottomed jeans stuffed console color televisions into station wagons which circled the bustling lot. Times change and the city's retail center has wandered toward Rushmore Mall and then east to Rushmore Crossing. East North Street became almost invisible to those who drove it daily, but change continued anyway.

Developer Hani Shafai of Dream Design International now imagines a \$10 million transformation of the Northgate Shopping Center, anchored by Kmart, to rejuvenate the 51-year-old shopping center. Like a

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strategic domino, this redevelopment, which will become known as Dakota Market Square, fits into a bigger scheme. Improved properties soon will stretch from near downtown Rapid City to Rushmore Crossing, spiffing up another city entrance and commercial corridor.

This is how revitalization happens, stone upon stone until the parts harmonize. Developers endure scoffs until redevelopment becomes self sustaining and other projects follow. Eventually, new generations think revitalization must have been predestined.

This is how Sioux Falls built its River Walk, Omaha its Old Market and Lincoln its Haymarket. East North Street may never be the place residents take visitors to show off the town, but it could become the place they take former residents to show progress. Keystone developments like Shafai's, those that tie many parts together, add to the city's sense of place, build pride, and make better first impressions on visitors.

For two decades now, Shafai has shown a bullish confidence in Rapid City, investing where he lives, sometimes rejuvenating property before it becomes blight. Projects like Buffalo Crossing on the U.S. Highway 16 corridor south of Rapid City have changed the city's look. Apartments leased to South Dakota School of Mines & Technology have benefited both the university and the neighborhood.

Not everything his company touches has succeeded. In 2012, Dream Design took over development of a proposed \$50 million President's Plaza, which would have transformed the downtown skyline. The project stalled, but that only underscores the risks inherent in property development, the hard work that sometimes goes for naught.

Shafai deserves credit for this latest project. The east entrance to Rapid City will soon be much improved because of Shafai's conscientious efforts.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, Sept. 24

The river: What we take for granted

Let's pause for a moment to acknowledge a fact of life along this stretch of the Missouri River that many of us probably take for granted.

A good reminder of it came late last week after this area was swamped with heavy rains, ranging from 2 inches in the immediate Yankton area up to 7 inches or more in other parts of the region.

All that water has to go somewhere; the ground could only absorb so much. Thus, much of that deluge roared down gullies and creeks into rivers, swelling them out of their banks in a lot of places.

Fortunately, the process of evacuating that water was made a little easier by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which announced Thursday afternoon that it was reducing discharges from both the Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown and Gavins Point Dam at Yankton. This would lower the Missouri River below Yankton, which would help the James, Vermillion and Big Sioux rivers drain more quickly.

The Corps has done this many times before in the wake of heavy rains, so when the decision was made to cut the discharges at Gavins Point from 58,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 46,000 cfs for three days, it made sense. And it may have had an impact: The flood warning on the James River below Scotland was eventually amended from running through Wednesday to running through Monday. If the Corps' decision played any role in that — which it may well have — then we should be at least a little bit grateful.

But that's what we take for granted with the Pick-Sloan dams that regulate the upper reach of the Missouri River.

The Corps is criticized a lot sometimes for its management of the river system, especially after the historic 2011 flooding in which decisions were made that angered some people. And there is still a distrust that exists among land owners and politicians. Perhaps there is some justification for that.

And there are those who criticize what the damming of the Missouri River has done to that waterway. Certainly, the sedimentation issues now being confronted in Lewis & Clark Lake are due to the regulation of the river. Of course, Lewis and Clark Lake itself is also due to that.

But we tend to forget what living on this river would be like without the dams in place and the Corps regulating the flows.

We forget the epic floods that once threatened river towns after heavy winters or wet springs. We no

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longer fear what would happen to the land, say, in the valley below Chalkstone Hill west of Yankton, or any other low-lying areas at the river's edge.

We forget the droughts when there was no method of water storage and the water supply was tenuous.

We forget the times when there was no way to literally raise or lower the river in order to have an impact on the flooded tributaries that feed the Missouri.

But the Corps can do that — we can do that — and it's actually a rather amazing thing.

The Corps isn't perfect, and the damming of the vast Missouri River is still, really, a great experiment. As such, it's still a work in progress.

But it does produce benefits. In fact, they are often the best kinds of benefits: the ones that we take for granted every single day.

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Sept. 25

Road hunting is OK, but safety is key

It's now officially fall, which means hunting seasons are ramping up.

And in South Dakota, no hunting season is bigger or has a larger economic impact than pheasant hunting.

In our Saturday newspaper, we highlighted South Dakota's liberal laws compared to other nearby states to allow hunters to travel with loaded guns or hunt along or over roads. Road hunting, as it's known here, is welcomed for the most part, despite past shootings that have killed or injured others.

While we generally are OK with road hunting and recognize these open laws make our state more attractive to hunt wild game, it is rather unsafe for both people handling the firearm and landowners.

We think Ron Kolbeck, of Salem, said it best. The HuntSafe instructor for more than 20 years teaches safety over what's legal.

There's significant risk in traveling with a loaded gun. According to the report in Saturday's paper, there were 29 vehicle-related incidents leading to four deaths reported between 2003 and 2013. Of course, that's a very small percentage of all the people who road hunted during that time.

But road hunting isn't just about safety of the people in the vehicles. When a hunter exits a vehicle to chase a pheasant, there's a good chance the hunter doesn't know the area well. Perhaps there are cattle or farm implement nearby. Or, maybe there is a home behind a shelterbelt that's hidden.

The thrill of shooting a pheasant is great, but we hope people remember safety is more important than harvesting one bird.

When we hear about "hunting accidents" involving a loaded firearm in a vehicle, we question whether they truly are accidents. Most often, there was always a careless mistake made — the firearm's safety wasn't on, someone was rushing, or they had their finger on the trigger while exiting the vehicle.

Road hunting has a place in making South Dakota's pheasant hunting tradition great. Some people can't march through fields to hunt — and road hunting is a good alternative to harvest a pheasant.

But we hope people do it the right way by following the coinciding laws. Remember, it's just a bird. It's not worth harming anyone over.

Rapid City man accused of trying to get gun to kill doctor

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man accused of trying to get a gun to kill a doctor who treated his wife is facing an attempted first-degree murder charge.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 62-year-old William Thoman allegedly said he wanted to kill the Rapid City Regional Hospital doctor for incorrectly treating his wife, who recently died of cancer.

An acquaintance allegedly allowed police to listen as he called Thoman about a previous conversation in which Thoman asked for a handgun.

Authorities say they found 10 firearms and ammunition after arresting Thoman on Monday at his Rapid City home. Police also allegedly found the doctor's business card.

Thoman also faces a criminal solicitation charge. The Pennington County Public Defender's Office de-

clined to comment.

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

Teen charged in fatal Rapid City shooting pleads not guilty

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A teenager being tried as an adult in a fatal shooting in Rapid City has pleaded not guilty.

The Rapid City Journal reports the 16-year-old boy is charged with aiding and abetting and aggravated assault in the death of 43-year-old Nathan Graham. He could face life in prison if convicted.

Police say Graham was shot Aug. 17 after a fight and was declared dead the next day at a hospital.

The attorney for the 16-year-old could request that the case be moved back to juvenile court, where proceedings are not public. It's not known if the attorney will make that request. A status hearing is scheduled Nov. 19.

A 14-year-old boy also is charged in the case, in juvenile court. Prosecutors could seek to have him moved to adult court.

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

Aberdeen man shot by police officer set for trial in March

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — An Aberdeen man who was shot twice by a police officer two years ago has been declared competent to stand trial.

The American News reports that 23-year-old Ehkhu Poe faces drug and aggravated assault charges in the August 2016 incident in which he allegedly threatened family members and the officer.

Officer Ty Reinke shot Poe in the chest and arm after Poe allegedly charged him with a knife.

Poe has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. A four-day trial has been scheduled for next March.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Last of 3 hospitalized in workplace shooting is released

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The last victim wounded in a shooting at a Wisconsin software company has been released from the hospital.

UW Health says the WTS Paradigm employee was released Tuesday night. The other two employees hospitalized were released last Saturday. They were rushed to University Hospital after Anthony Tong opened fire at the Middleton company Sept. 19. Initially, one person was in critical condition and the other two were in serious condition.

Tong, also a WTS Paradigm employee, was fatally shot by police. Company officials say Tong passed a background check when he was hired and that they weren't aware a South Dakota judge had stripped him of his concealed carry permit in 2004 after Sioux Falls officers took him to a hospital's mental health unit on a 24-hour hold.

Winter wheat seeding reaches halfway point in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Winter wheat seeding in South Dakota has surpassed the halfway point.

The federal Agriculture Department in its weekly crop report says 53 percent of the crop is in the ground, ahead of the average pace. Winter wheat is seeded in the fall, goes dormant over the winter and is harvested the following summer.

Meanwhile, the late-season harvest continues to progress. Five percent of the corn crop and 12 percent of the soybeans are harvested. The sunflower and sorghum harvests are just getting underway.

Subsoil moisture is rated 58 percent adequate to surplus, and topsoil moisture is 70 percent in those

categories.

Pasture and range conditions are rated 40 percent in good to excellent condition, down slightly over the week.

Powerful quakes rock Sulawesi in Indonesia, destroying homes

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Powerful earthquakes jolted the Indonesian island of Sulawesi on Friday, destroying houses and killing at least one person. An official said widespread damage was expected and urged people to stay outdoors because of the danger of strong aftershocks.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the strongest quake had a magnitude of 7.5 and was centered at a depth of 6 miles (10 kilometers) about 35 miles (56 kilometers) northeast of the central Sulawesi town of Donggala. It briefly triggered a tsunami warning.

An official with the local disaster agency, Akris, said "many houses have collapsed."

"It happened while we still have difficulties in collecting data from nine villages affected by the first quake," he told The Associated Press. "People ran out in panic."

Television footage showed people running into the streets. Woman and children wailed hysterically in a video distributed by the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, which also released a photo showing a heavily damaged department store.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said communications with the region are disrupted.

He said in a statement there is "much damage" in the Donggala area, which is home to about 300,000 people.

A swarm of strong aftershocks including one of magnitude 6.7 shook the region.

"People are encouraged to remain vigilant," Sutopo said. "It is better not to be in a house or building because the potential for aftershocks can be dangerous. People are encouraged to gather in safe areas. Avoid the slopes of hills."

Donggala was hit earlier Friday by a magnitude 6.1 earthquake that based on preliminary information killed one person, injured 10 and damaged dozens of houses.

"All the things in my house were swaying and the quake left a small crack on my wall," Donggala resident Mohammad Fikri said by telephone.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra in western Indonesia triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Trump gets the fierce Kavanaugh showing he wanted

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Glued to high-stakes testimony on his Supreme Court nominee, President Donald Trump and his allies were shaken by Christine Blasey Ford's emotional appearance on Capitol Hill. But they stood by Judge Brett Kavanaugh after his forceful pushback against the woman who accused him of sexual misconduct.

Trump missed hardly a moment of the proceedings, relying on DVRs to keep up on the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Thursday from his private office on Air Force One as he traveled from New York to Washington, and continued monitoring back at the White House, where Ford's voice echoed from TVs around the building.

Within moments of the eight-hour proceedings concluding, Trump tweeted his approval of Kavanaugh's performance and called on the Senate to move swiftly to a vote. "His testimony was powerful, honest, and riveting," Trump said. "Democrats' search and destroy strategy is disgraceful and this process has been a total sham and effort to delay, obstruct, and resist. The Senate must vote!"

Ford's tearful recounting of allegations that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were in high

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school, led Trump to express sympathy for Kavanaugh and his family for having to listen to the testimony, according to two Republicans close to the White House but not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations. They added that Trump expressed some frustration at the process — and the staff work — that led Kavanaugh to this point.

After seeing Ford's powerful testimony, White House aides and allies expressed concern that Kavanaugh, whose nomination already seemed to be teetering, would have an uphill climb to deliver a strong enough showing to match hers.

White House officials believe Kavanaugh's passionate denials of Ford's claims, including the judge's tearful description of the impact the accusations had on his family, met the challenge. A White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly said the West Wing saw the judge's opening statement as "game changing" and said Trump appeared to be reacting positively.

Signaling the continued White House support for Kavanaugh, spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted praise for Sen. Lindsey Graham after the South Carolina Republican railed against Democrats, accusing them of treating Kavanaugh "despicably." Sanders tweeted that Graham "has more decency and courage than every Democrat member of the committee combined. God bless him."

Trump's son, Donald Jr., also tweeted his review: "I love Kavanaugh's tone. It's nice to see a conservative man fight for his honor and his family against a 35 year old claim with ZERO evidence and lots of holes that amounts to nothing more than a political hit job by the Dems."

Going into the hearing, Trump had grown increasingly frustrated, angry at members of his staff — and, in particular, White House counsel Don McGahn — for not better managing the confirmation process for his second Supreme Court nominee. McGahn, who is set to depart his post in coming weeks, had advocated for Kavanaugh, seeing his confirmation as the crowning achievement of his tenure — and part of a decades-long effort to install more conservatives on the high court.

Trump has also criticized Republican leaders in Congress for not speeding the process along, leading to days' worth of revelations against Kavanaugh. White House aides have bemoaned the drip-drip-drip nature of the emerging allegations and thought a faster process could have avoided Ford's testimony.

As the day unfolded, White House aides and allies offered a mix of optimism and frustration. Viewing the hearing from their desks, some aides expressed concerns that Ford appeared highly credible, though others noted there were still gaps in her decades-old story.

How the proceedings were playing out on television was a key anxiety. Some White House officials were not pleased with the questioning from Phoenix prosecutor Rachel Mitchell, saying she did not effectively target the weak spots in Ford's narrative and worrying that the Democrats had seized the moment.

But many felt the proceeding took a turn once Kavanaugh appeared. Aides said they thought Kavanaugh was effectively fighting back and expressed optimism he could survive the process.

Trump has also told allies that he wished Kavanaugh's Fox News interview Monday had gone better, believing it was a missed opportunity to change the momentum around the story, according to the two Republicans and another outside adviser. And White House allies noted the importance of how Fox would cover the proceedings in shaping Trump's reactions.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed from Washington.

Tesla without Musk at the wheel? It's what the SEC now wants

By TOM KRISHER and ALEXANDRA OLSON, AP Business Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Tesla without Elon Musk at the wheel? To many of the electric car maker's customers and investors that would be unthinkable. But that's what government securities regulators now want to see.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has asked a federal court to oust Musk as Tesla's chairman and CEO, alleging he committed securities fraud with false statements about plans to take the company private.

The agency says in a complaint filed Thursday that Musk falsely claimed in an Aug. 7 statement on Twitter that funding had been secured for Tesla Inc. to go private at \$420 per share, a substantial premium

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over the stock price at the time.

An SEC press release says the agency asked the U.S. District Court in Manhattan for a "bar prohibiting Musk from serving as an officer or director of a public company." It also is asking for an order enjoining Musk from making false and misleading statements along with repayment of any gains as well as civil penalties.

Ousting Musk, who has a huge celebrity status with more than 22 million Twitter followers, would be difficult and could damage the company. He's viewed by many shareholders as the leader and brains behind Tesla's electric car and solar panel operations.

The stock market shuddered at the prospect. Before the opening bell Friday, shares of Tesla plunged nearly 14 percent.

"Corporate officers hold positions of trust in our markets and have important responsibilities to shareholders," Steven Peikin, co-director of the SEC's Enforcement Division, said in a statement. "An officer's celebrity status or reputation as a technological innovator does not give license to take those responsibilities lightly."

Musk, in a statement issued by Tesla, called the SEC action unjustified.

"I have always taken action in the best interests of truth, transparency and investors. Integrity is the most important value in my life and the facts will show I never compromised this in any way," the statement said.

The complaint alleges that Musk's tweet harmed investors who bought Tesla stock after the tweet but before accurate information about the funding was made public.

Peter Henning, a law professor at Wayne State University and a former SEC lawyer, said it's the first fraud case involving use of social media by the CEO of a public company. Musk and Tesla didn't fully disclose details of the plan in the Aug. 7 tweet or in later communications that day as required, he noted.

"You can't make full disclosure in 280 characters," he said, referring to the length limit of a tweet.

Joseph Grundfest, a professor at Stanford Law School and former SEC commissioner, said Musk will likely want to settle before trial so that he could conceivably stay on as CEO, with some constraints such as prohibiting him from making public statements without supervision. But Musk also could agree to step down as CEO and instead take another title, such as chief production officer.

The Wall Street Journal, citing people familiar with the matter, reported that Musk had been close to settling with the SEC but that he and his lawyers decided at the last minute to fight the case. Tesla did not respond to a request for comment on the report.

Grundfest also said that the challenge for the SEC is to "appropriately discipline Musk while not harming Tesla's shareholders."

According to the complaint, Musk met with representatives of a sovereign investment fund for 30 to 45 minutes on July 31 at Tesla's Fremont, California, factory. Tesla has identified the fund as Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which owns almost 5 percent of the company.

Fund representatives expressed interest in taking Tesla private and asked about building a factory in the Middle East, Musk told the SEC. But at the meeting, there was no discussion of a dollar amount or ownership stake for the fund, nor was there discussion of a premium to be paid to Tesla shareholders, the complaint said. Musk told the SEC that the lead representative of the fund told him he would be fine with reasonable terms for a go-private deal.

"Musk acknowledged that no specific deal terms had been established at the meeting and there was no discussion of what would or would not be considered reasonable. Nothing was exchanged in writing," the complaint stated.

The SEC alleged in the 23-page complaint that Musk made the statements using his mobile phone in the middle of a trading day. That day, Tesla shares closed up 11 percent from the previous day. Musk has said that he posted the go-private tweet while driving to the airport and that no one reviewed it.

The statements, the complaint said "were premised on a long series of baseless assumptions and were contrary to facts that Musk knew." Later in the month, Tesla announced that the go-private plan had been scrapped.

In its complaint, the SEC said that Musk's statements hurt short sellers, investors who borrow a company's stock betting that it will fall. Then they buy the shares back at a lower price and return them to the lenders, pocketing the profit.

In August, more than \$13 billion worth of Tesla shares were being "shorted" by investors, the complaint said, as the stock was under pressure due to questions about Tesla's finances and Musk's erratic behavior.

Mark Spiegel, a short-seller and constant Musk critic, applauded the SEC for pursuing what he predicted would be easy for the government to prove.

Spiegel also echoed the concerns of corporate governance experts who have lambasted Tesla's board for being too beholden to a CEO that they are supposed to oversee.

"They should have fired him a long time ago. Will they now? I don't know," Spiegel said.

There was no indication of that in a joint statement issued late Thursday by the company and its board.

"Tesla and the board of directors are fully confident in Elon, his integrity, and his leadership of the company," the statement said.

Olson reported from New York. Michael Liedtke contributed from San Francisco.

Kavanaugh wrongly claims he could drink legally in Md.

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh has repeatedly said that he was legally allowed to consume beer as a prep school senior in Maryland. In fact, he was never legal in high school because the state's drinking age increased to 21 at the end of his junior year, while he was still 17.

Kavanaugh's drinking has come under intense scrutiny after California professor Christine Blasey Ford alleged that a heavily intoxicated Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her while they were both teenagers at a Maryland house party during the summer of 1982.

The legal age in that state was raised to 21 on July 1, 1982; Kavanaugh did not turn 18 until Feb. 12, 1983.

In a Fox News interview on Monday, Kavanaugh said, "Yes, there were parties. And the drinking age was 18. And yes, the seniors were legal."

In testimony Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee, he said all of his comments during the Fox interview were accurate and could be made part of the record.

Pressed at the hearing about his drinking habits in high school, he again claimed he had not broken the law.

"Yes we drank beer, my friends and I, boys and girls. Yes, we drank beer. I liked beer. I still like beer," he said. "The drinking age as I noted was 18, so the seniors were legal. Senior year in high school, people were legal to drink."

At another point, Kavanaugh, who has denied all of Ford's accusations, stated correctly that the drinking age had been 18 in Maryland for "most" of his time in high school, but the age limit had been at 21 for more than seven months before his 18th birthday.

While he admitted in his congressional testimony that there were probably occasions during his time at Georgetown Prep in Maryland that he had consumed "too many beers," a combative Kavanaugh denied he had ever gotten out of control or acted inappropriately toward women.

"I liked beer. I still like beer. But I did not drink beer to the point of blacking out, and I never sexually assaulted anyone," Kavanaugh said.

There was a grandfather clause in the Maryland law, but only for those who were 18, 19 or 20 on the day the increase went into effect, thereby not including Kavanaugh.

Alcoholic consumption by Kavanaugh also would have been illegal during notorious Beach Week, an annual trip to the Eastern Shore that involved heavy drinking, according to numerous eyewitness accounts.

Kavanaugh could legally drink in nearby Washington D.C., for the final five months of high school. The drinking age there did not increase to 21 from 18 until 1986.

Follow Alanna Durkin Richer on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/aedurkinricher> and read more of her work at <http://bit.ly/2hIhzDb>

Everybody on plane survives crash landing in Pacific lagoon

By NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — All 47 passengers and crew survived a plane's crash landing in a Pacific lagoon Friday morning, wading through waist-deep water to the emergency exits and escaping on local boats that came to the rescue in the Micronesia archipelago.

Seven people were taken to a hospital, according to officials, including one described as being in critical but stable condition.

Passenger Bill Jaynes said the Air Niugini plane came in very low as it was attempting to land at the Chuuk Island airport.

"I thought we landed hard," he said. "Until I looked over and saw a hole in the side of the plane and water was coming in. And I thought, well, this is not the way it's supposed to happen."

Jaynes said the flight attendants were panicking and yelling, and that he suffered a minor head injury. He said he called his wife, who started crying.

"I was really impressed with the locals who immediately started coming out in boats," he said in an interview with a missionary in Chuuk, Matthew Colson, that was posted online and shared with the AP. "One would think that they might be afraid to approach a plane that's just crashed."

The sequence of events remains unclear. The airline said the plane landed short of the runway. However, Jaynes said the only scenario he can imagine is that it hit the end of the runway and continued into the water.

The U.S. Navy said sailors working nearby on improving a wharf also helped in the rescue by using an inflatable boat to shuttle people ashore before the plane sank in about 30 meters (100 feet) of water.

The striking images of people being rescued from the half-submerged plane were reminiscent of the 2009 crash landing in New York City known as the "Miracle on the Hudson."

Louie Mallari, who was working at a hotel near the airport, said he could hear the whole thing happen. "As the plane approaches, the sound of the engine is getting stronger, then suddenly a splash of water," he said, adding that he then heard screaming.

He said it's a good thing that so many people use boats to travel and were able to quickly help with the rescue.

"It's really fortunate that we didn't have any fatalities," said Glenn Harris, a government aviation security inspector for the Federated States of Micronesia.

Harris said the plane left from the Micronesian island of Pohnpei about 700 kilometers (435 miles) to the east before ending up in the water at about 10 a.m.

He said he has yet to see a passenger manifest, but typical passengers would include businesspeople from Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia, as well as some tourists. Chuuk is known for its world-class diving, with dozens of World War II shipwrecks visible in the clear waters.

Harris said he doesn't know what caused the crash landing or whether the pilots had alerted air traffic control of any problems. He said an investigative team would be on the ground in Chuuk by Saturday to figure out what went wrong.

The airline said in a statement that the 35 passengers and 12 crew members aboard the Boeing 737 were all able to safely evacuate. It said the weather was poor at the time, with heavy rain and reduced visibility.

The airline said it was making all efforts to ensure the ongoing safety of the passengers and meet their immediate needs. It said it was in touch with embassies, passenger representatives, stakeholders and families of the crew.

Air Niugini is the national airline of Papua New Guinea and has operated since 1973. The airline identified the flight as PX 073 with the registration number P2-PXE. Flight histories show the aircraft has made recent flights to Manila, Sydney and Singapore.

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Air Niugini's network is concentrated on domestic routes linking the capital, Port Moresby, with isolated points across the Papua New Guinea archipelago, but it flies as far as Tokyo and Hong Kong.

The fleet includes Boeing 767 and 737 jets for international routes, according to the airline, as well as Fokker F-100 aircraft, Q400 and Dash 8 aircraft for challenging local terrain.

Micronesia, located north of Australia and east of the Philippines, is home to just over 100,000 people. It has close ties with the U.S. under an agreement known as a compact of free association.

The crash landing comes less than two months before Papua New Guinea hosts the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, expected to draw world leaders beginning on Nov. 17.

In the "Miracle on the Hudson," both engines on a U.S. Airways jet failed after it struck a flock of geese during takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport. Pilots Chesley Sullenberger and Jeffrey Skiles safely landed their powerless plane on the Hudson River and passengers and crew walked on the wings to be rescued.

In both crashes, everyone survived.

"I'm alive," said Jaynes, the passenger. "That's an extremely good thing."

Associated Press journalists Penny Yi Wang, Nicole Evatt, Kiko Rosario and Adam Schreck in Bangkok contributed to this report.

Kavanaugh-Ford hearing: A dramatic lesson on gender roles

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — He let his anger flare repeatedly, interrupted his questioners and cried several times during his opening statement. She strived to remain calm and polite, despite her nervousness, and mostly held back her tears.

Throughout their riveting, nationally televised testimony on Thursday, Christine Blasey Ford and Brett Kavanaugh served as Exhibits A and B for a tutorial on gender roles and stereotypes. Amid the deluge of reaction on social media, one prominent observation: Ford, as a woman, would have been judged as a far weaker witness had she behaved as Kavanaugh did.

"Imagine a woman openly weeping like this on a national stage and still getting elected to the Supreme Court. Or any office," tweeted Joanna Robinson, a senior writer with Vanity Fair.

Kavanaugh, nominated to fill a vacant seat on the U.S. Supreme Court, mixed tears with fury in his statement forcefully denying Ford's allegation that he sexually assaulted her in 1982 when they were both in high school. He choked up at several points when referring to how his family has been affected by the tempest surrounding allegations by Ford and other women.

Opponents of Kavanaugh's nomination said his behavior demonstrated a lack of judicial temperament. Some supporters said they were moved to tears when he broke down.

Later, during questioning by some of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Democratic members, Kavanaugh aggressively interrupted his interrogators and even asked sharp questions of his own.

"Have you ever drank so much you didn't remember what happened?" asked Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat.

"Have you?" countered Kavanaugh. He later apologized.

Ford, in contrast, sought to present herself as cooperative and respectful, expressing her wish that "we could collaborate in a way that could get at more information."

"I'm used to being collegial," she said at one point.

At another, she said when asked about her emotional state: "I think that's a great question."

Zoe Chance, a marketing professor at Yale School of Management, said that in terms of winning over public opinion, Ford and Kavanaugh "are both doing the right thing." She cited research indicating that men could seem more influential and competent through shows of anger, and women less so.

"When women express strong emotions, we judge them to be emotional — or, in the extreme, 'hysterical,'" Chance said in an email. "When men express strong emotions, we infer that they must be facing

extreme situations.”

However, Chance was unsure that Kavanaugh’s anger was effective in this case.

“In this particular situation, the emotional display casts doubt on his ability to be dispassionate and objective as a judge,” Chance suggested. “If we value the ability to separate emotion from facts, then Ford has behaved more judge-like than Kavanaugh has.”

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, communications professor and director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, said some of Kavanaugh’s statements “were more consistent with one’s expectations of a partisan than a judge or prospective associate justice of the Supreme Court.”

“It is unusual to see a middle aged professional —male or female—experience the range of emotions in public in a formal setting expressed by Judge Kavanaugh,” Jamieson said in an email. “We expect judges to sound and seem dispassionate.”

Michael Cunningham, a psychology professor at the University of Louisville, said he found Ford’s body language and tone of voice to be persuasive.

“Her generally calm and soft-spoken, yet firm, voice seemed consistent with the feminine sex-role,” he said. “At the end, I believe she retained her credibility.”

As for Kavanaugh, Cunningham said the nominee “was successful in conveying the emotions of a man who has convinced himself that he has done nothing wrong.” But the professor had doubts about the impact of Kavanaugh’s show of emotions.

“Judge Kavanaugh tearing up when mentioning his daughter conveyed a man who was feeling sorry for himself,” Cunningham said. “Society wants men to be sympathetic, and even tearful at times, but not for themselves.”

Glenn Sacks, a commentator who writes often about men’s issues, expressed dismay at social-media derision being directed at Kavanaugh due to his emotional displays.

“The mocking of his demeanor is indicative of the restraints still upon men — no weakness allowed, suck it up or get laughed at,” Sacks said in an email. “Men are taught this at an early age — when women cry, we sympathize. When a man cries, it’s so unseemly we can barely stand to look at it.”

Jo Langford, a Seattle-based therapist who works with men and boys who have committed sexual offenses, said he was struck by the contrast between Kavanaugh’s anger and Ford’s “stable and straightforward cadence.” He concluded that Ford may have fared better in the court of public opinion.

Among those closely following the hearing was Danielle Campoamor, a New York-based writer and editor who says she was sexually assaulted by a co-worker five years ago.

Ford “was calm in a way every sexual assault victim is asked to be, lest they be written off as ‘unhinged’ and ‘emotional’ and, as a result, no longer credible,” Campoamor said. “Kavanaugh, by contrast, was unapologetically angry. ... He embodied the anger so many sexual assault victims fear; the anger that keeps so many of us from coming forward.”

Associated Press writer Elizabeth Kennedy in Washington contributed to this report.

Macedonia or North Macedonia? Vote tests a nation’s identity

By KONSTANTIN TESTORIDES, Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) — Macedonians have had a country to call their own for less than three decades. Now, the citizens of one of Europe’s youngest countries are being asked to weigh matters of national identity and national interest as they decide a fundamental question: what their homeland will be called.

A referendum set for Sunday in Macedonia seeks voter support for changing the Balkan nation’s name to North Macedonia. Greece has agreed to drop longstanding objections to neighboring Macedonia joining NATO and eventually becoming a member of the European Union, if the new name is approved.

The proposed “North” prefix might seem minor, but it touches a nerve in the former Yugoslav republic that declared independence in 1991, and in Greece, which has a province named Macedonia that was the birthplace of the ancient warrior king Alexander the Great.

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After decades of tortuous and fruitless negotiations between Athens and Skopje, Macedonia's prime minister agreed to the change to North Macedonia. In return, the prime minister of Greece said his country would stop blocking Macedonia from pursuing NATO membership.

The referendum asks Macedonian voters: "Are you in favor of membership in the European Union and NATO by accepting the deal between (the) Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Greece?"

The agreement has met fierce opposition in both countries, with critics accusing their respective governments of conceding too much.

Some Greeks remain suspicious that Macedonia harbors territorial and historical claims to Macedonia province. Macedonian opponents see changing their country's name as a national humiliation.

Opinion polls nonetheless have indicated a likely win for the "yes" vote, although it is unclear if voter turnout will reach the 50-percent threshold required for the result to be valid. But even if turnout is below the required 50 percent, if most of the people vote "yes" it will give parliament and the government a mandate to proceed.

If voters back the deal on Sunday, Macedonia will then have to amend its constitution. The final step for NATO admission is ratification of the June deal by Greece's parliament, which is expected to vote only after Macedonia completes all necessary procedures.

The West has taken a keen interest in the referendum. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis were among the Western officials who visited Macedonia in recent weeks to urge voters to mark "yes" on their ballots.

Russia is against NATO picking up another member in a part of Europe that was within its sphere of influence for decades. Mattis has said there was "no doubt" Moscow funded groups inside Macedonia to campaign against the name change.

Supporters of the deal, led by Prime Minister Zoran Zaev, say it will create prosperity by bringing the small, landlocked Balkan country into the fold of international institutions.

The decision is between "integration and isolation," Zaev said during a recent campaign rally. "There is no other alternative for the Republic of Macedonia than integration into NATO and the EU."

But President Gjorge Ivanov has said he won't vote in the referendum and encouraged other voters to do the same — a move seen as a call for a boycott. Ivanov, a conservative, said at the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Thursday that the proposed name change Zaev negotiated would be a "flagrant violation of sovereignty."

More than 70 small political parties and civic associations campaigned against the deal under the umbrella of a coalition called Macedonia is Boycotting. The country's conservative opposition stopped short of asking voters to stay home.

"On Sunday, this generation is confronted with the choice of succumbing to the historical challenge, falling on its knees, folding its spine and giving up its own identity," Igor Janusev, a leading member of Macedonia's main opposition party, VMRO-DPMNE, said in a statement. "Or to continue to fight and proudly transmit to future generations an example of how to keep what is yours."

For retired economist Ljiljana Dimitrieva, the referendum presents a tough choice.

"Even with bitterness in my heart — there is no reason to ask someone to change their name— I'll vote 'yes' because of the future for all our children, for their opportunities," the 79-year-old Skopje resident said. "We have no other alternative."

Others see it differently. Homemaker Marina Stevcevska, 55, said she doesn't intend to cast her ballot despite wanting Macedonia to join NATO and the EU.

"I've decided to boycott," Stevcevska said. "I want Macedonia to be in NATO and EU, but I don't want everything which has an adjective 'Macedonian' to disappear."

Macedonia's ethnic Albanian minority, which makes up about a quarter of the country's population of roughly 2 million, is expected to play a crucial role in the referendum's outcome.

Members of the minority fought an armed insurgency against the government for greater rights in 2001. With a much looser emotional connection to the name Macedonia, ethnic Albanian voters are expected to back the name deal.

"They will vote for NATO, they will vote for European Union. They will vote for the future. They will vote for peace, stability and security," said Ali Ahmeti, head of Macedonia's ethnic Albanian DUI party. "I think there is no Plan B, and I don't want to think about Plan B because I don't want to return to the past. The past is painful and it should not be repeated."

Elena Becatoros in Athens, Greece contributed to this report.

1 hearing, 2 witnesses, vastly different takeaways

By **MARJORIE MILLER** and **JOCELYN NOVECK**, Associated Press

It was one hearing, with just two witnesses. But, in an era of political polarization and yawning cultural divides, Americans came away having heard very different things.

Millions of men and women listened to nervous-but-composed college professor Christine Blasey Ford tell the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday that she was "100 percent" certain that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were teenagers, and they lauded her credibility and courage in speaking out.

Others saw a woman with a spotty memory who failed to prove Kavanaugh was her abuser, and believed the judge as he repeatedly choked up and vigorously defended himself. "The allegation of misconduct is completely inconsistent with the rest of my life," he said.

Americans followed the hours of testimony from their homes, in their cars, in offices and in classrooms. Wherever they were, though, it seemed most responded through the prism of their own politics, and personal experiences. Few people interviewed by The Associated Press seemed to have had their minds changed by anything they heard.

Heather Lake of Omaha, a stay-at-home mother of four and registered Democrat, said she went into the hearings believing Ford, and that the professor's testimony only solidified her belief.

"Just seeing how vulnerable she is, it strikes me how cruel all the attacks on her have been," said Lake, 38, who was sexually assaulted in her teens. "This is why women keep their sexual assaults to themselves."

But Connie Cook Saunders, a 52-year-old fitness director for a San Diego athletic club who considers herself a moderate Republican, wasn't swayed by Ford's appearance.

"I personally feel like it's a witch hunt," she said. "It's political. If it happened to her I am sorry, but it doesn't make sense to bring it up now."

The hearing was to be the culmination of a Supreme Court nomination process that will determine the political bent of the court for decades, and quite likely decide issues such as the legality of abortion and gay marriage in the United States.

It took place in a week when "America's Dad," Bill Cosby, was declared a sexual predator and sentenced to jail, and at a time when the U.S. president himself has battled multiple accusations of sexual misconduct. The major backdrop was the #MeToo movement, in which women across the country have brought down powerful men they accused of sexually assaulting or harassing them.

Ford's detailed testimony brought many to tears in the wood-paneled hearing room and beyond as she described being locked in a bedroom as a 15-year-old by two drunk boys whom she identified as Kavanaugh and his friend Mark Judge. She said Kavanaugh groped her, tried to take off her clothes and covered her mouth to keep her from screaming.

"Both Brett and Mark were drunkenly laughing during the attack," she said, adding that she eventually escaped to a bathroom. In fact, she said, her most indelible memory was the "uproarious laughter," the two boys "having fun at my expense."

She was "terrified" to testify, she said, but did so because "I believe it is my civic duty to tell you what happened to me while Brett Kavanaugh and I were in high school."

Kavanaugh began his own testimony on a note of barely contained fury. He labeled Ford's accusation and two other allegations that have followed as "smears," "character assassination" and part of a "calculated and orchestrated political hit" fueled by a hatred of President Donald Trump and funded by left-wing

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opposition groups.

He repeatedly fought to control his tears as he talked about how the allegation has destroyed his family. "The truth is that I have never sexually assaulted anyone — not in high school, not in college, not ever," he said.

His supporters focused on what Ford could not remember. How is it possible, they wondered, that she didn't recall the exact address where the assault took place or how she got to and from the house?

Mary Ann Almeida, who said she was raped as a 14-year-old, thought Ford came across as untruthful. "When you're a true victim, you remember where it happened," said Almeida, now 60, who watched the hearing from her home in southeastern Kentucky. "You know who was in the room, you also remember every single detail."

But it was Kavanaugh whom Jalon Alexander, a 25-year-old Democrat and law student at the University of Pittsburgh, did not find credible.

"The more I listened to him, there was nothing he said that made me doubt Dr. Ford's accusation," Alexander said. "What makes him so special that we're willing to undermine the integrity and legitimacy of the court?"

In San Diego, Republican strategist Jennifer Jacobs was struck by Ford's sincerity. But she also was moved by Kavanaugh. "Clearly this is a passionate man," she said. "He's not some crazed barbarian." She added her "heart was breaking" for his wife and children.

But Jen Bradshaw in Quincy, Illinois, who was texting with a girlfriend as they watched Kavanaugh's opening statement, was shocked at his angry demeanor.

"Can you imagine if Dr. Ford had shown even a hint of that much anger or openly cried?" said the 36-year-old mother of two. She also wondered: "If this is him sober and angry, what is he like after one too many beers?"

At Yale, Kavanaugh's alma mater, student Samantha Peltz was troubled by what she called the partisan nature of the judge's remarks. "It's quite surprising to see him behave in such a partisan manner as someone being considered to be elevated to the highest court in the land," she said.

Another viewer, sympathetic to Kavanaugh, saw the hearing as an attack on a successful white man.

"He's on trial for being basically a white conservative who went to an elite school," said Mike Glasoe of West Fargo, North Dakota, who considers himself independent politically and said he has voted for both Democrats and Republicans.

But in Raleigh, North Carolina, artist and retired state employee Penney De Pas called it part of a movement of Americans fed up with men in positions of power abusing their status to get away with sexual assault.

"You have a group of baby boomers and Gen Xers and millennials ... who are like 'We're not going to put up with this anymore,'" De Pas said.

Many of the Americans who remembered the Clarence Thomas hearings in 1991 found themselves comparing the treatment of accuser Anita Hill then to the treatment of Ford now.

"I remember one of the questions asked of Anita Hill was something like, 'Are you a woman scorned?'" recalled Helen Anderson, 72, of Sioux City, Iowa. "I think some lessons have been learned since Ms. Hill was treated the way she was."

Thomas was confirmed despite Hill's allegations of sexual harassment, which he strenuously denied.

At least one thing seemed clear Thursday: The country's awareness and understanding of sexual assault has evolved markedly in the years since.

"Anita Hill happened at a time in our culture where women were not as empowered as they are now at all levels," said John Cowles, a former federal prosecutor and practicing attorney in Kansas City. "It makes sense to me women are believed more now than they were back in the 80s."

RAINN, the anti-sexual violence organization, estimated that its National Sexual Assault Hotline saw a 147 percent increase over normal volume Thursday.

Margery Beck in Omaha, Nebraska; Bill Cormier in Atlanta; Maryclaire Dale, Matt Sedensky and Errin

Haines Whack in Philadelphia; Alex Derosier in Raleigh, North Carolina; Amy Forliti in Minneapolis; Adam Geller in New York; Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco; Blake Nicholson in Bismarck; Stacey Plaisance in New Orleans; Jamie Stengle in Dallas; and Annika Wolters in Phoenix contributed to this story.

GOP races to first Kavanaugh vote after hearing from accuser

By LISA MASCARO and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans are plowing forward with a committee vote Friday on Judge Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to Supreme Court after an extraordinary and emotional day of testimony where he denied accusations of sexual assault as "unequivocally" false. His accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, testified that she was "100 percent" certain Kavanaugh attacked her.

The remarkable testimony appears to have only sharpened the partisan divide over President Donald Trump's nominee. Republicans praised Ford's bravery in coming forward, but many of them said her account won't affect their support for Kavanaugh.

President Donald Trump also made clear that he was sticking by his nominee. "His testimony was powerful, honest and riveting," he tweeted. "The Senate must vote!"

The Senate Judiciary Committee, where the initial vote on Kavanaugh will be held, is narrowly split with an 11-10 Republican majority. Democrats are expected to oppose the nominee. But even if the panel deadlocks on whether to recommend the judge for confirmation, the full Senate could start taking procedural votes Saturday on Kavanaugh, setting up a final vote as soon as Tuesday.

"We're going to move forward," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., as he exited a private late night strategy session with Republican senators. "The committee is going to vote."

The American Bar Association urged the Judiciary committee and the full Senate to slow down on the vote until the FBI has time to do a full background check on the assault claims.

"We make this request because of the ABA's respect for the rule of law and due process under law," the ABA letter to committee leadership said. "Each appointment to our nation's highest court (as with all others) is simply too important to rush to a vote."

Of the 11 Republicans on the Judiciary Committee, only the vote of GOP Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona remains in doubt. The retiring senator, who has stayed quiet in recent days, told reporters late Thursday, "this isn't easy."

Flake said the marathon hearing left him "with as much doubt as certainty." He said, "We just do the best we can."

At the daylong session Thursday, Ford and Kavanaugh both said the event and the public controversy that has erupted 36 years later had altered their lives forever and for the worse — perhaps the only thing they agreed on during a long day of testimony that was a study in contrasts of tone as well as substance.

Coming forward publicly for the first time, Ford, a California psychology professor, quietly told the nation and the Senate Judiciary Committee her long-held secret of the alleged assault in locked room at a gathering of friends when she was just 15. The memory — and Kavanaugh's laughter during the act — was "locked" in her brain, she said: "100 percent." Hours later, Kavanaugh angrily denied it, alternating a loud, defiant tone with near tears as he addressed the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"You have replaced 'advice and consent' with 'search and destroy,'" he said, referring to the Constitution's charge to senators' duties in confirming high officials.

Repeatedly Democrats asked Kavanaugh to call for an FBI investigation into the claims. He did not.

"I welcome whatever the committee wants to do," he said.

Republicans are reluctant for several reasons, including the likelihood that further investigations could push a vote past the November elections that may switch Senate control back to the Democrats and make consideration of any Trump nominee more difficult.

Across more than 10 hours, the senators heard from only the two witnesses. Ford delivered her testimony with steady, deliberate certitude. She admitted gaps in her memory as she choked back tears and said she "believed he was going to rape me." Kavanaugh's entered the hearing room fuming and ready to

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fight, as he angrily denied the charges from Ford and other women accusing him of misconduct, barked back at senators and dismissed some questions with a flippant "whatever."

"You may defeat me in the final vote, but you'll never get me to quit, never," he said.

Trump nominated the conservative jurist in what was supposed to be an election year capstone to the GOP agenda, locking in the court's majority for years to come. Instead the nomination that Republicans were rushing for a vote now hangs precariously after one of the most emotionally charged hearings Capitol Hill has ever seen. Coming amid a national reckoning over sexual misconduct at the top of powerful institutions, it exposed continued divisions over justice, fairness and who should be believed. And coming weeks before elections, it ensured that debate would play into the fight for control of Congress.

The day opened with Ford, now a 51-year-old college professor in California, raising her right hand to swear under oath about the allegations she said she never expected to share publicly until they leaked in the media two weeks ago and reporters started staking her out at home and at work in California.

Wearing a blue suit as Anita Hill did more two decades ago when she testified about sexual misconduct by Clarence Thomas, the mom of two testified before a committee with only male senators on the Republican side.

The psychology professor described what she says was a harrowing assault in the summer of 1982: How an inebriated Kavanaugh and another teen, Mark Judge, locked her in a room at a house party as Kavanaugh was grinding and groping her. She said he put his hand over her mouth to muffle her screams. "I believed he was going to rape me," she testified, referring to Kavanaugh.

Judge has said he does not recall the incident and he reiterated that point in a letter to the committee released late Thursday.

When the committee's top Democrat, Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, asked how she could be sure that Kavanaugh was the attacker, Ford said, "The same way I'm sure I'm talking to you right now." Later, she told Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., that her certainty was "100 percent."

Asked by Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., for her strongest memory of the alleged incident, Ford, said it was the two boys' laughter.

"Indelible in the hippocampus is the laughter," said Ford, who is a research psychologist, "the uproarious laughter between the two."

Republican strategists were privately hand-wringing after Ford's testimony. The GOP special counsel Rachel Mitchell, a Phoenix sex crimes prosecutor, who Republicans had hired to avoid the optics of their all-male line up questioning Ford, left Republicans disappointed.

Mitchell's attempt to draw out a counter-narrative was disrupted by the panel's decision to allow alternating five-minute rounds of questions from Democratic senators.

During a lunch break, even typically talkative GOP senators on the panel were without words.

John Kennedy of Louisiana said he had no comment. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said he was "just listening."

Then Kavanaugh strode into the committee room, arranged his nameplate just so, and with anger on his face started to testify with a statement he said he had shown only one other person. Almost immediately he choked up.

"My family and my name have been totally and permanently destroyed," he said.

He lashed out over the time it took the committee to convene the hearing after Ford's allegations emerged, singling out the Democrats for "unleashing" forces against him.

"This confirmation process has become a national disgrace," he said. He mocked Ford's allegations — and several others since — that have accused him of sexual impropriety. He scolded the senators saying their advice-and-consent role had become "search and destroy."

Even if senators turn vote down his confirmation, he said, "you'll never get me to quit."

Kavanaugh, who has two daughters, said one of his girls said they should "pray for the woman" making the allegations against him, referring to Ford. "That's a lot of wisdom from a 10-year-old," he said chocking up. "We mean no ill will."

The judge repeatedly refused to answer senators' questions about the hard-party atmosphere that has been described from his peer group at Georgetown Prep and Yale, treating them dismissively.

"Sometimes I had too many beers," he acknowledged. "I liked beer. I still like beer. But I never drank beer to the point of blacking out, and I never sexually assaulted anyone."

When Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., pressed if he ever drank so much he blacked out, he replied, "Have you?" After a break in the proceedings, he came back and apologized to Klobuchar. She said her father was an alcoholic.

Behind him in the audience as he testified, his wife Ashley sat, looking stricken.

Republicans who had been scheduled to vote as soon as Friday at the committee — and early next week in the full Senate — alternated between their own anger and frustration at the allegations and the process.

"You're right to be angry," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, his voice rising in anger, called the hearing the "most unethical sham since I've been in politics."

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking, Mary Clare Jalonick, Juliet Linderman, Padmananda Rama, Matthew Daly, Julie Pace and AP photographers J. Scott Applewhite and Carolyn Kaster contributed to this report.

What Happened: Top takeaways from Kavanaugh, Ford hearing

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh riveted Washington and the nation with hours of fiery, emotional testimony from the judge and Christine Blasey Ford, the woman accusing him of sexual assault when they were high schoolers. Kavanaugh denied the accusation.

Here are some takeaways from the extraordinary Thursday hearing:

HOW DID SHE DO?

Ford gave a soft-spoken and steady account about what she said happened three decades ago in a bedroom at a small gathering of friends. She said she came forward not for political reasons, but because it was her "civic duty."

She described in detail how an inebriated Kavanaugh and another teen, Mark Judge, locked her in a room at a house party as Kavanaugh was grinding and groping her. She said he put his hand over her mouth to muffle her screams, and testified, "I believed he was going to rape me."

The 51-year-old mother of two said the incident was seared into her mind through trauma, while admitting some gaps in her memory around the attack.

Ford, a California psychology professor making her first public remarks about the incident, choked up occasionally describing the alleged attack. Democratic senators questioned her directly, but the 11 Republican members on the committee instead chose to have a female sex crimes prosecutor from Arizona question Ford.

Asked how certain she was that Kavanaugh was her attacker, she declared, "100 percent."

HOW DID HE DO?

Kavanaugh ditched his prepared remarks and instead issued a blistering statement declaring the confirmation process "a national disgrace."

He strongly denied Ford's allegation, but said he believed she had been the victim of a sexual assault. The father of two daughters said one of his girls said they should "pray for the woman" accusing him.

"That's a lot of wisdom from a 10-year-old," he said, choking up.

Kavanaugh's scorched-earth strategy gave President Donald Trump what he wanted: a nominee willing to fight back aggressively and yield no ground to Democrats. Echoing Ford, he said he was "100 percent certain" he did not commit the assault.

At times, Kavanaugh's frustrations boiled over. When Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota asked if he ever drank so much he blacked out, he snapped, "Have you?"

He later apologized.

Moments after the hearing finished, Trump tweeted that Kavanaugh "showed America exactly why I

nominated him.”

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PROSECUTOR?

Republicans appointed Arizona sex crimes prosecutor Rachel Mitchell to question Ford, and she led off the questioning of Kavanaugh. Then she quickly faded away.

After Mitchell asked Kavanaugh several detailed questions about Ford’s allegations, the GOP senators took matters into their own hands. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., led the way with a scorching denunciation of Democrats for raising the allegations against Kavanaugh in the final days of the confirmation process. From there, each GOP senator handled his own questions, while Mitchell sat silently nearby.

Hours earlier, Mitchell opened her questioning of Ford by expressing sympathy for the professor, who said she was “terrified” to testify.

“I just wanted to let you know, I’m very sorry. That’s not right,” Mitchell said.

As her time for questioning Ford was coming to an end, Mitchell rhetorically asked Ford about the best way to question victims of sex crimes.

“Would you believe me that no study says that this setting in five-minute increments is the way to do that?” Mitchell asked.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Judiciary Committee Republicans are hoping to vote on the confirmation Friday. Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, a longtime committee member, said he thinks Kavanaugh will get confirmed by a party-line vote.

Republicans’ margin for error in the full Senate is slim. If all Democrats oppose the nomination, just two GOP senators would sink Kavanaugh’s confirmation if they were to oppose him as well.

Multiple Republican lawmakers haven’t said which way they will vote, including two women with reputations as moderates who have been willing to buck their party: Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

Graham cautioned them against voting no.

“To my Republican colleagues, if you vote no, you’re legitimizing the most despicable thing I have seen in my time in politics,” he said.

— Associated Press writer Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.

Iran denies Israeli accusation of ‘secret atomic warehouse’

By JENNIFER PELTZ and ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran on Thursday of keeping a “secret atomic warehouse” just outside its capital, despite the 2015 deal with world powers that was meant to keep it from obtaining nuclear weapons. Hours later, Iran dismissed the allegation.

Holding up a poster-board map of an area near Tehran as he spoke at the U.N. General Assembly, Netanyahu told world leaders that Iranian officials have been keeping up to 300 tons of nuclear equipment and material in a walled, unremarkable-looking property near a rug-cleaning operation.

Netanyahu’s disclosure — which he presented as a big reveal on the international community’s biggest stage — came four months after Israel announced the existence of what it said was a “half-ton” of Iranian nuclear documents obtained by Israeli intelligence in the Shourabad neighborhood near Tehran. Israel said the cache proved that Iranian leaders covered up their nuclear weapons program before signing the nuclear agreement. Iran hasn’t acknowledged the alleged seizure.

“You have to ask yourself a question: Why did Iran keep a secret atomic archive and a secret atomic warehouse?” Netanyahu asked. “What Iran hides, Israel will find.”

Netanyahu didn’t specify what the material and equipment was, and it was not immediately clear whether it proved to be a violation of the nuclear deal. The International Atomic Energy Agency, which has been monitoring Iran’s compliance with the agreement, had no immediate comment.

Netanyahu also said Iranian officials had been clearing some radioactive material out of the site, which

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sits a short distance from Shourabad, and "spread it around Tehran." He then even suggested that residents of the capital might want to buy Geiger counters.

In a tweet, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif derided the Israeli presentation as an "arts and craft show" by a country that he said needed to come clean about its own nuclear program.

Israel is widely believed to have a nuclear arsenal but has never publicly acknowledged it.

Zarif said there was nothing to the Israeli allegation, Iranian state-run media reported.

"The only purpose of this is to undercut the reality that Israel is the biggest threat to the region," he was quoted as saying. He noted that the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, has certified Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal.

The 2015 deal came after years of Western sanctions over Iran's contested atomic program. The West had feared it could be used to build nuclear bombs. Iran long has denied seeking atomic weapons.

Under terms of the deal, Iran is allowed to keep documents and other research. The deal strictly limits how many centrifuges — important equipment for making enriched uranium that can be used in nuclear power plants or in weapons — Iran can use and how large of a low-enriched uranium stockpile the country can keep.

Netanyahu said the warehouse stored "massive amounts of equipment and materiel," and he said Israel shared the information with the IAEA. The Vienna-based agency had no immediate comment.

He noted that Israel had long opposed the multinational agreement with Iran. Israel considers Iran its biggest threat, citing Tehran's calls for Israel's destruction, its support for hostile militant organizations like the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah group and Iran's development of long-range missiles.

U.S. President Donald Trump pulled his country out of the nuclear deal in May, and his administration has been re-imposing sanctions on Iran. Israel applauded the move, but many other nations lamented it as jeopardizing what they saw as the best chance to keep Iran from becoming a nuclear-armed power.

"Instead of coddling Iran's dictators," other countries should support the sanctions, Netanyahu said to applause. He accused Europe of "appeasement" of Iran, a word that harkens back to criticism of Europe's approach to Nazi Germany before World War II.

Netanyahu is known for his showmanship at the U.N. In 2012, he famously held up a drawing of a cartoon bomb while discussing Iran's nuclear program, saying "a red line should be drawn right here" and drawing it with a marker.

At the end of the day's speeches at the General Assembly, Iran used its "right of reply" to rebut Netanyahu's accusations.

"His fallacies and his statement confirm his pathological tendency to tell monstrous lies and distort reality," said a representative of the Iranian delegation. "Exhibiting some photographs of Google Street View, today the Israeli showman claimed that he discovered new nuclear facilities in Iran. This is yet another false story."

Israel did not ask for a "right of reply" to Iran's statement.

Netanyahu's accusation Thursday about Iran came shortly after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas criticized Israel and the U.S. in his own speech, declaring that his people's rights "are not up for bargaining" and that the U.S. was undermining the long-discussed two-state solution. But Netanyahu devoted less attention to the long-running conflict with the Palestinians.

Abbas halted ties with Trump's administration in December after the U.S. recognized contested Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and Palestinians have said a pending U.S. peace plan will be dead on arrival because of that and other recent U.S. moves that Palestinians see as favoring Israel.

"Jerusalem is not for sale," Abbas said to applause as he began his speech. "The Palestinian people's rights are not up for bargaining."

He said Palestinians would never reject negotiation, but that "it's really ironic that the American administration still talks about what they call the 'deal of the century.'"

"What is left for this administration to give to the Palestinian people?" he asked. "What is left as a political solution?"

Netanyahu, in return, said the Palestinians' accusations against his country were hypocritical and unwar-

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ranted.

"You condemn Israel's morality?" he asked. "This is not the way to achieve the peace we all want and need and to which Israel remains committed."

The Islamic militant group Hamas that rules Gaza has led protests for months along the border with Israel, aiming partly to draw attention to the Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007.

At least 137 Palestinians, mostly unarmed, have been killed by Israeli fire since the border protests began on March 30. During that time, a Gaza sniper killed an Israeli soldier. Hamas and Israel came close to serious conflict this summer as Gaza militants bombarded southern Israel with mortars and rockets, and Israel struck Hamas targets in Gaza.

Israel says it is defending its border against attempts by Hamas, a militant group sworn to its destruction, to infiltrate and carry out attacks. But Israel has faced heavy international criticism over the large number of unarmed protesters who have been killed or wounded.

While meeting with Netanyahu on Wednesday, Trump told reporters he believes that two states — Israel and one for the Palestinians — "works best."

Hours before Netanyahu's scheduled speech, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman expressed indifference to Trump's remarks, saying Israel wants "a safe Jewish state."

Netanyahu had reluctantly accepted the concept of Palestinian statehood but has since backtracked.

Palestinians have been split since Hamas seized Gaza in 2007, ousting forces of Abbas, who now governs just parts of the West Bank. Repeated reconciliation attempts have failed, and Abbas warned that further measures could be taken against Hamas if deadlock persists.

The Israeli and Palestinian speeches fell on the same day that members of a U.N. group of 135 developing countries formalized a decision to give the Palestinians the chairmanship in 2019. That stands to boost their aspirations for official statehood but angers Israel.

Palestinians were infuriated, and many Israelis were thrilled, by a series of decisions Trump has made, starting with his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The Palestinians also claim the holy city as the capital of an eventual state. Earlier this year, Trump followed up on the recognition by moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

His administration has also slashed aid to the Palestinians by hundreds of millions of dollars and ended U.S. support for the U.N. agency that helps Palestinian refugees.

Trump and his national security team have defended their position, saying decades of attempts to forge peace have failed.

Other leaders who spoke Thursday included Haiti's President Jovenel Moise, who told leaders he had "spared no effort to ensure that institutions are stable and to make sure we are creating a safe and stable environment conducive to investment and to relaunching growth" in his impoverished Caribbean island country since the U.N. peacekeeping mission there wrapped up in October 2017.

Associated Press writers Ian Deitch in Jerusalem and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed.

Trump shaken by Ford, but backs Kavanaugh after hearing

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Glued to high-stakes testimony on his Supreme Court nominee, President Donald Trump and his allies were shaken by Christine Blasey Ford's emotional appearance on Capitol Hill Thursday, but heartened by Judge Brett Kavanaugh's forceful pushback against the woman who accused him of sexual misconduct.

Trump missed hardly a moment of the proceedings, relying on DVRs to keep up on the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Thursday from his private office on Air Force One as he traveled from New York to Washington, and continued monitoring back at the White House, where Ford's voice echoed from TVs

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around the building.

Within moments of the eight-hour proceedings concluding, Trump tweeted his approval of Kavanaugh's performance and called on the Senate to move swiftly to a vote. "His testimony was powerful, honest, and riveting," Trump said. "Democrats' search and destroy strategy is disgraceful and this process has been a total sham and effort to delay, obstruct, and resist. The Senate must vote!"

At a GOP fundraiser at his Washington hotel later Thursday, Trump described the hearing as "brutal" and "hard to watch" but praised Kavanaugh's performance. He described Kavanaugh as a "great guy" and a "great man," according to an attendee who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to describe Trump's speech publicly.

Ford's tearful recounting of allegations that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were in high school, led Trump to express sympathy for Kavanaugh and his family for having to listen to the testimony, according to two Republicans close to the White House but not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations. They added that Trump expressed some frustration at the process — and the staff work — that led Kavanaugh to this point.

After seeing Ford's powerful testimony, White House aides and allies expressed concern that Kavanaugh, whose nomination already seemed to be teetering, would have an uphill climb to deliver a strong enough showing to match hers.

White House officials believe Kavanaugh's passionate denials of Ford's claims, including the judge's tearful description of the impact the accusations had on his family, met the challenge. A White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly said the West Wing saw the judge's opening statement as "game changing" and said Trump appeared to be reacting positively.

Signaling the continued White House support for Kavanaugh, spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted praise for Sen. Lindsay Graham after the South Carolina Republican railed against Democrats, accusing them of treating Kavanaugh "despicably." Sanders tweeted that Graham "has more decency and courage than every Democrat member of the committee combined. God bless him."

Trump's son, Donald Jr., also tweeted his review: "I love Kavanaugh's tone. It's nice to see a conservative man fight for his honor and his family against a 35 year old claim with ZERO evidence and lots of holes that amounts to nothing more than a political hit job by the Dems."

Going into the hearing, Trump had grown increasingly frustrated, angry at members of his staff — and, in particular, White House counsel Don McGahn — for not better managing the confirmation process for his second Supreme Court nominee. McGahn, who is set to depart his post in coming weeks, had advocated for Kavanaugh, seeing his confirmation as the crowning achievement of his tenure — and part of a decades-long effort to install more conservatives on the high court.

Trump has also criticized Republican leaders in Congress for not speeding the process along, leading to days' worth of revelations against Kavanaugh. White House aides have bemoaned the drip-drip-drip nature of the emerging allegations and thought a faster process could have avoided Ford's testimony.

As the day unfolded, White House aides and allies offered a mix of optimism and frustration. Viewing the hearing from their desks, some aides expressed concerns that Ford appeared highly credible, though others noted there were still gaps in her decades-old story.

How the proceedings were playing out on television was a key anxiety. Some White House officials were not pleased with the questioning from Phoenix prosecutor Rachel Mitchell, saying she did not effectively target the weak spots in Ford's narrative and worrying that the Democrats had seized the moment.

But many felt the proceeding took a turn once Kavanaugh appeared. Aides said they thought Kavanaugh was effectively fighting back and expressed optimism he could survive the process.

Trump has also told allies that he wished Kavanaugh's Fox News interview Monday had gone better, believing it was a missed opportunity to change the momentum around the story, according to the two Republicans and another outside adviser. And White House allies noted the importance of how Fox would cover the proceedings in shaping Trump's reactions.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed from Washington.

Kavanaugh confirmation spills into heated governor's races

By GEOFF MULVIHILL, Associated Press

The controversy over sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh spilled into governor's races across the country as the woman at the center of the claims told her story to a riveted nation.

The already highly charged contests became even more so after psychology professor Christine Blasey Ford gave her emotional but steady recounting of a sexual assault she says happened while she and Kavanaugh were teenagers. Later, an emotional and emphatic Kavanaugh denied it.

Her testimony and whether Kavanaugh's nomination should move forward became flashpoints in governor's races from New Hampshire to Oregon.

One Republican facing re-election this November, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, called Ford's allegations serious and said they should be fully investigated.

Through a campaign spokesman, Sununu said the Senate "should think carefully about the next steps in this process."

But his Democratic challenger Molly Kelly, said Sununu should go further and call for President Donald Trump to withdraw Kavanaugh's nomination.

"Sununu's latest statement is not enough," Kelly said in a statement. "And he owes the women of New Hampshire an apology."

It was similar in Oregon, where Republican challenger Knute Buehler called for an FBI investigation into Ford's charges while Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said Kavanaugh's nomination should be rejected.

In a Twitter message, Brown called the federal judge "a threat to women's rights in our nation."

Governors have no official role in how the U.S. Senate should handle Brett Kavanaugh's appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court, but their voices could add pressure to senators trying to decide how to vote.

In Illinois, Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner said earlier this month that there should be an investigation and the allegations, if true, should disqualify Kavanaugh. He did not specify whether he thought the Senate inquiry was sufficient or whether the FBI should investigate, as Democrats have asked.

Rauner's spokesman said the governor was traveling Thursday and did not watch Ford's testimony.

His Democratic challenger, J.B. Pritzker, criticized Rauner's response.

The governor, he said Thursday, "continues to support Trump and this troubling nominee. I've opposed Kavanaugh from day one because he poses a grave threat to Roe v. Wade, the Affordable Care Act, and critical consumer and environmental protections."

The allegations resonate deeply in Maryland, where Kavanaugh and Ford attended separate private prep schools. Ford says the assault took place at a gathering in a Maryland suburb of Washington, D.C.

Through a spokeswoman, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said Kavanaugh's nomination should not proceed without a full investigation of the allegations. A week earlier, Hogan had rejected a Democratic state senator's call for Maryland state police to investigate Ford's story.

Hogan's opponent in the November election, Democrat Ben Jealous, said Kavanaugh should not be confirmed.

"The women who have come forward should have the freedom to pursue legal remedy, and our leaders have the obligation to do everything they can to end this epidemic of sexual violence," he said in a statement.

Some other Republican governors and candidates for the office stopped short of calling for a full investigation. Others, including Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and Connecticut's Republican candidate, Bob Stefanowski, avoided the question by saying Kavanaugh's confirmation was not an issue for governors to decide.

Stefanowski drew groans at a debate on Wednesday, the day before Ford's testimony, when he responded to a question on the confirmation by saying, "I'm going to pass on that. That's a federal issue."

On Thursday, he issued a statement saying the Senate committee should "fully consider" Ford's and Ka-

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vanaugh's testimony before proceeding. His Democratic opponent, Ned Lamont, criticized those responses. "His silence is deafening," Lamont said. "The voters of Connecticut deserve to know where candidates for governor — who are running to appoint Connecticut's cabinet officials and Supreme Court Justices — stand on Brett Kavanaugh."

Associated Press writers Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin; Susan Haigh in Concord, Connecticut; John O'Connor in Springfield, Illinois; Michelle Price in Las Vegas; Holly Ramer in Concord, New Hampshire; Bob Salsberg in Boston; Andrew Selsky in Salem, Oregon; Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio; Anita Snow in Phoenix; and Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland, contributed to this report.

Follow Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>

Dutch police arrest 7 men suspected of plotting major attack

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Seven men were arrested Thursday in the Netherlands on suspicion of plotting a large-scale extremist attack that Dutch prosecutors said they think was foiled following a months-long investigation.

The national prosecutor's office said in a statement that heavily armed police arrested the men in the towns of Arnhem, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of Amsterdam, and Weert in the southern Netherlands close to the borders of Germany and Belgium.

The investigation was launched by intelligence suggesting the alleged ring leader, a 34-year-old man of Iraqi heritage, wanted to carry out an attack at the site of a large event and cause multiple casualties, according to the statement.

The suspects allegedly wanted to use bomb vests and assault rifles to do harm at the event, and planned to detonate a car bomb at another location, prosecutors said. An investigation of potential targets was continuing.

Prosecutors said the suspects ranged in age from 21 to 34. Three of them, including the 34-year-old Iraqi, were previously convicted of attempting to travel overseas to join extremist networks.

The men were attempting to obtain AK47 assault rifles, handguns, bomb vests, grenades and raw materials for bombs and were looking for opportunities to train with such weapons, according to the statement.

Prosecutors said that the investigation sped up this month because of the suspects' "advanced preparations."

Minister for Justice and Security Ferd Grapperhaus told Dutch national broadcaster NOS that police acted in time to prevent an attack.

"In a sense it is serious, but luckily it's also good news - a terrorist cell that was plotting an attack has been taken down," Grapperhaus said. "They weren't so far that it was a danger to society, in the sense that it was nearly too late. But they were quite far in their preparations."

The men were to be brought before an investigating judge on Friday at a behind-closed-doors hearing.

The arrests came weeks after a 19-year-old Afghan citizen living in Germany allegedly stabbed two American tourists at Amsterdam's main railway station in what prosecutors described as an attack with an extremist motive.

The Dutch anti-terror coordinator's office said in a tweet Thursday that the allegedly foiled plot fit the current threat profile for the Netherlands, which is at four on a scale that tops out at five. The office did not raise the level following the arrests.

"Jihad networks are also active in the Netherlands with the intention to plot attacks in Europe," the office said. "Today's arrests must be seen in that light."

Spoiler alert? Johnson Senate bid ups tension in New Mexico

By MORGAN LEE and BILL BARROW, Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Former presidential candidate Gary Johnson is setting his sights on a U.S. Senate seat from New Mexico as a Libertarian candidate, arguing that he can act as an influential swing vote and a voice of reason in bitterly divided Washington. The former governor wants to downsize federal spending to offset President Donald Trump's tax cuts and push let-live policies on cannabis and education. Democrats warn that he would work to torpedo social spending.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Johnson made a late entry as a Libertarian into the Senate race against first-term Democratic Sen. Martin Heinrich and Republican political newcomer Mick Rich.

Johnson says politicians in Washington have their "heads in the sand" over the dangers of ballooning federal debt that could lead to Venezuela-style inflation. He also believes that Trump has betrayed conservative free-market principals by waging trade wars while subsidizing farmers, though he applauds Trump's efforts to rein in federal regulation.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Associated Press reporters are on the ground around the country, covering political issues, people and races from places they live. The Ground Game series highlights that reporting, looking at politics from the ground up. Each week, in stories and a new podcast, AP reporters examine the political trends that will drive the national conversation tomorrow.

Johnson still has a political following in New Mexico from his two terms as governor starting more than 20 years ago, when was elected as a Republican. And he says he has a natural constituency in the growing portion of voters who register without allegiance to major parties.

Pollsters say that may not be enough, and that independents tend to sit out nonpresidential election cycles. The state Republican Party is accusing Johnson of ensuring a Democratic victory by dividing fiscal conservatives.

Still an avid outdoor athlete at age 65, Johnson says he'd happily set aside his 100-day ski seasons and bicycle endurance races to serve in the Senate.

WHY IT MATTERS

Johnson's quirky policies and unpredictable allure among voters is forcing Democrats to defend what had seemed like a secure seat. And Republicans are calling him a spoiler outright, saying he will draw votes from their candidate. With the Republicans holding a super slim majority, every seat is crucial to both sides.

To cement support among progressives, Heinrich has cast himself as a defender of federal Medicare and Social Security benefits and a proponent of the new outdoor-recreation and renewable-energy economies — a tenuous hedge in an oil-based state economy. His newfound support for legalizing marijuana defuses one of Johnson's signature issues.

A Libertarian has never served in Congress and Johnson wants to prove that a third-party politician can make the Senate more productive.

Political opponents say the stakes are high for the nation if Johnson were to succeed in tipping the Senate's partisan balance.

They also say a pledge by Johnson to trim the federal budget doesn't necessarily help a deeply impoverished state that heavily depends on federal military and Medicaid spending.

Johnson says current federal retirement and health care benefits are unsustainable, and that he can make a compelling case to maintain military assets and weapons research in New Mexico.

Johnson wants a say in what comes next if the federal government decriminalizes marijuana, envisioning a system of pardons for prior convictions and changes to workplace drug testing.

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WHAT TO WATCH

Johnson could steal the show in October televised debates, and unscripted campaign moments are a given.

Johnson said he takes pride in his honesty and open thought process — even if after infamous campaign gaffes as he ran for president. And he was known for offbeat behavior as governor, twirling a plastic pig in the air once to signal he would never sign a budget bill.

Johnson says he would be a fair and impartial judge in the event of an impeachment trial against Trump, and sees no impeachable offense so far.

DON'T MISS

If elected, Johnson is promising to keep open office hours for whistleblowers and call out examples of government fraud, waste and abuse with theatrical flair.

Johnson also says he won't quit using marijuana, which he describes as the equivalent to an evening cocktail, though he mostly uses cannabis in private. To do so is legal in parts of the District of Columbia.

Eric Reid signs with Panthers, back in NFL after protests

By STEVE REED, AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Eric Reid's return to the NFL created a buzz around the league on Thursday, six months after he filed a grievance alleging collusion by the NFL to prevent teams from signing him because of his participation in racial injustice protests during the national anthem alongside former San Francisco 49ers teammate Colin Kaepernick.

Some NFL players were excited about the 2013 Pro Bowl safety signing a one-year deal with the Panthers, but were quick to point out they believe Kaepernick should be back in the league as well.

Kaepernick congratulated his Reid on Twitter, saying Reid "should have been signed the 1st day of free agency. ... He was the 1ST person 2 kneel alongside me. Eric is a social justice warrior, continues to support his family and communities in need."

Browns running back Carlos Hyde, who played with Reid and Kaepernick in San Francisco, was stunned to hear his former teammate had been picked up by the Panthers.

"For real?" Hyde said following Cleveland's practice. "I'm so happy for him. It's been too long. I kind of felt like they was doing him the same way they were doing Kap, so it's good to see E-Reid got signed and Kap should definitely be up next. It would be a real good thing then."

Said Eagles defensive end Michael Bennett, "It's about time."

As for Reid, who filed his grievance in May, he was mum during the hoopla on Thursday, declining comment through the Panthers and not weighing in on social media except to re-tweet Kaepernick.

The 26-year-old Reid said in March that he doesn't plan to protest during the national anthem this season. The Panthers have a bye this week and next play at home on Oct. 7 against the New York Giants.

Kaepernick, who filed his grievance in October 2017 and remains a free agent, began protesting racial and social injustice during the 2016 preseason by kneeling during the national anthem. Reid later joined the quarterback. After that other players around the league joined in, much to the displeasure of President Trump, who Tweeted at players to "Find another way to protest. Stand proudly for your National Anthem or be Suspended Without Pay!"

That sparked a polarizing political debate that divided some NFL fans.

Dolphins wide receiver Kenny Stills knelt during this year's season opener against the Titans.

"I'm just happy for (Reid), excited to see him get out there on the field and be the impact player we all know he is," Stills said Thursday. "Obviously I feel like he should have been signed the first day of free agency."

Stills said he spoke to Kaepernick, his close friend, on Thursday.

"He wants to play. He's good enough to play. He deserves to play," Stills said. "I don't see why a team won't sign him, or hasn't signed him."

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The decision by the Panthers to sign Reid comes less than three months after David Tepper bought the team from conservative owner Jerry Richardson.

Panthers general manager Marty Hurney said he wasn't concerned about Reid's past protests, telling The Associated Press it was a "football decision" — and one that was approved by Tepper.

"Every decision we make we communicate with" Tepper, the GM said. "Everybody we sign we ask if he has the skill set, does he fit into our system, and if he can help us win football games — and we feel the answer is yes."

Eric Reid's younger brother, Justin, who plays safety for the Texans, said he is "immensely proud" of what his older brother stands for "in trying to have a voice for the voiceless."

When asked if he believes his brother was not signed earlier by NFL teams because of his decision to protest, Justin Reid said "I'm going to try and defer away from that."

Reid is expected to start right away after the Panthers placed starter Da'Norris Searcy on injured reserve last week with a concussion. The 6-foot-1, 215-pound Reid played the first five seasons of his NFL career with San Francisco after the 49ers selected him in the first round of the 2013 NFL draft. He has started 69 games.

"He's a physical safety with good ball skills and he makes plays and he has experience," Hurney said. "He's a young player with skins on the wall. He has played at a very high level."

Forty Niners defensive coordinator Robert Saleh confirmed Thursday they inquired about signing Reid this week after injuries to Jaquiski Tartt and Adrian Colbert.

"E-Reid is familiar with our system and we know him, are comfortable with him," Saleh said. "Obviously, it didn't work out, but any time you have the opportunity you explore it."

AP Sports Writers Tom Withers in Cleveland, Rob Maaddi in Philadelphia, Steven Wine in Miami, Josh Dubow in San Francisco, Charles Odum in Atlanta and Associated Press writer Jordan Godwin in Houston contributed to this report.

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

Republicans favor new federal regulation on sports gambling

By BEN NUCKOLS, AP Sports Writer

House Republicans strongly favor new federal regulations on sports gambling after the Supreme Court allowed states to open sports books.

At a hearing of a House Judiciary subcommittee, GOP members expressed concerns Thursday about advertisements and online gambling platforms targeting minors, as well as the potential for match-fixing.

"For Congress to do nothing is the worst possible alternative," said Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, a Wisconsin Republican. "We have some work to do, and I'm looking forward to working with you to try to come up with something both short term and something more permanent to deal with this issue. I'm afraid if we don't, there are going to be people who get hurt and get hurt badly."

The hearing was the first Congress has held on the issue since the Supreme Court decision in June to strike down a law that limited sports gambling to four states, and full-service sports books only to Nevada. Since then, Delaware, New Jersey, Mississippi and West Virginia have legalized betting on pro and amateur sports, with more states considering adding sports books to their existing racetracks or casinos.

The prospect of federal action, however, is murky at best. No bill has been introduced that would enact the reforms discussed by Sensenbrenner and other GOP members, and the committee may have different priorities if Democrats take over the House in the midterm elections.

The hearing occurred at the same time the Senate Judiciary Committee was hearing testimony from Christine Blasey Ford, who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault, and Sensenbrenner acknowledged that most of Washington's attention was focused elsewhere.

A gambling-industry representative and a Nevada regulator told the committee that states were fully

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capable of regulating sports gambling on their own and said many of the fears about the ills of expanded sports gambling have not been realized.

The industry's position is that legalization is good for bettors and sports leagues because it will move sports betting from illegal offshore operators to licensed businesses that pay taxes and have consumer protections. Gambling proponents also argue that match-fixing and other nefarious activities are easier to prevent and snuff out in a regulated market.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, a Virginia Republican and the Judiciary Committee chairman, said he thought there was a federal role to play in regulating online gambling because it can't be contained within state borders.

"I do not believe gambling is a victimless activity," Goodlatte said. "I think that online gambling, in particular, can be more destructive to the families and communities of addictive gamblers than if a bricks-and-mortar casino were built next door."

Jon Bruning, a Republican former Nebraska attorney general, told the committee that youngsters in the United Kingdom, where legal sports betting is widespread, were being exploited by licensed online operators, citing studies that showed minors are placing bets and being bombarded by advertisements.

In Nevada, however, online sports gambling has not yet proved popular, said Becky Harris, the chair of the Nevada Gaming Control Board. She said protections are in place, including a requirement that bettors go to a casino in person and undergo a background check before placing bets online.

Jocelyn Moore, an NFL spokeswoman and lobbyist, used the word "integrity" 24 times in her seven-page written testimony. She urged Congress to limit legal gambling to those 21 and older, require operators to use official data from leagues and bar risky bets on in-game action that, she said, are particularly susceptible to match-fixing. The league also wants more aggressive enforcement against illegal bookies.

Sara Slane, who testified on behalf of the American Gaming Association, said casino operators share the NFL's goal of eradicating the illegal market, but she said legal sports books can't compete if they have to pay onerous fees to the leagues.

"All these notions about data fees and integrity fees by the leagues, that doesn't help," Slane said.

Meanwhile, the players' unions for the four major U.S. professional leagues and Major League Soccer asked Congress to include protections for players and their families in any federal regulations.

Follow Ben Nuckols on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/APBenNuckols>

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-sports> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

More US corporate giants warn tariffs will mean price hikes

By TOM KRISHER and JOSH BOAK, AP Business Writers

DETROIT (AP) — From Ford to Walmart to Procter & Gamble, a growing number of iconic American companies are warning that President Donald Trump's tariffs on U.S. imports are raising their costs and prices.

Jim Hackett, CEO of Ford, the second-largest U.S.-based automaker, said Wednesday that Trump's taxes on imported steel and aluminum will cost Ford \$1 billion through 2019.

Likewise, Walmart, America's largest retailer, has told the administration that Trump's latest round of taxes — on \$200 billion of Chinese imports — could increase prices for its shoppers. Walmart specifically mentioned items ranging from car seats, cribs and backpacks to hats, pet products and bicycles.

Procter & Gamble, the consumer products giant, has warned of both potential price increases and job losses as a result of the tariffs.

In the meantime, drinking Coca-Cola is costing more because of Trump's tariffs. Macy's, too, has warned of likely price increases. So has Gap.

On Wednesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell took on the issue at a news conference after the Fed announced its latest interest rate hike. Asked about the Trump tariffs forcing up prices for America's consumers, Powell agreed that Fed officials are hearing from businesses about forthcoming higher costs.

"You don't see it yet," the chairman said, referring to the data the Fed studies.

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But, Powell acknowledged, "the tariffs might provide a basis for companies to raise prices in a world where they've been very reluctant to and unable to raise prices."

At his own news conference Wednesday in New York, Trump rejected any notion that his tariffs posed an economic risk, echoing assertions by his administration that consumers would barely notice the new taxes.

"It's had no impact ... on our economy," the president said after meetings with foreign leaders at the United Nations General Assembly.

Hackett, in a television interview Wednesday, revealed the \$1 billion estimate that he said Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs are costing Ford. He said the figure is a year-over-year increase from March through 2019.

Ford buys most of its metals from U.S. producers, which have raised prices this year as a result of the tariffs on foreign competitors, the company has said.

Hackett's boss, Executive Chairman Bill Ford, said Thursday the company has met with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to give input on trade policies.

Ford wants decisions to be made because it takes years for the capital-intensive auto industry to develop and build vehicles, he said.

"Our business runs a lot better when we have certainty and we don't have big gyrations because our lead times are long," Ford said.

Other automakers that produce vehicles in the U.S. are experiencing the same price increases as Ford, said IHS Markit Senior Analyst Peter Nagle. While they may be absorbing the increased costs at present, eventually they'll have to pass at least some of the costs on to customers, he said.

"They're maintaining pricing discipline now just because the consumer can't support those higher prices," Nagle said. But if the tariffs stay in place for the remainder of Trump's term, "obviously some of those costs would have to start being passed along to the consumer here."

Ford wouldn't comment specifically on price increases but said it will "continue to make the necessary decisions to remain competitive."

The Trump administration imposed a 25 percent tariff on imported steel and 10 percent tariff on aluminum from some countries, including China, in March. It added Canada, Mexico and the European Union in June. The administration justified the tariffs by calling foreign steel and aluminum a threat to U.S. national security.

Ahead of the tariffs, U.S. metals producers raised prices as companies tried to buy before the tariffs went into effect, Nagle said. He said steel prices are up 25 percent since the tariffs began, and he expects that to rise to near 30 percent next year.

Automakers would either raise sticker prices or cut discounts on new cars, trucks and SUVs, Nagle said. The administration also is studying 25 percent tariffs on imported vehicles, also based on national security concerns. Those tariffs would raise prices, slow auto sales and could cut U.S. economic growth in half by 2020, Nagle said. Other countries also are likely to retaliate on imports from the U.S.

"You can't have a trade war without automotive," he said.

Boak contributed from Washington. AP Economics Writer Paul Wiseman also contributed from Washington.

Asian shares rebound on strong US economic data

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets rebounded on Friday as strong U.S. economic data supported the Federal Reserve's decision to raise interest rates.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's Hang Seng index added 0.6 percent to 27,875.17. The Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.8 percent to 2,814.46. Australia's S&P ASX 200 was 0.5 percent higher at 6,213.20. South Korea's Kospi bucked the regional trend, losing 0.4 percent to 2,347.19. Shares fell in Taiwan but rose in Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines.

JAPAN-US-TRADE: Japan's Nikkei 225 jumped 1.7 percent to 24,202.40, after the country agreed to open

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negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement with the United States. The move won Japan relief from the immediate threat of punitive tariffs on its auto exports to the U.S. The yen rose sharply against the dollar overnight.

WALL STREET: Broad gains by Apple and Amazon helped most U.S. indexes bounce back from four days of modest losses. Apple rose 2.1 percent to \$224.95 on Thursday after JPMorgan Chase analyst Samik Chatterjee said the stock could climb another 20 percent by the end of next year. Amazon gained 1.9 percent to \$2,012.98 after another analyst forecast more revenue for its retail, advertising and web services units. The S&P 500 index rose 0.3 percent to 2,914.00. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.2 percent to 26,439.93. The Nasdaq composite was 0.6 percent higher at 8,041.97. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks dipped 0.1 percent to 1,690.53.

U.S. ECONOMY GROWS: The U.S. economy grew at a robust annual rate of 4.2 percent in the second quarter, its best performance in nearly four years, the government reported Thursday. "We're doing much better than anybody thought possible," President Donald Trump said at a news conference. But economists believe growth has slowed in the current quarter partly because of a drag from trade. On Wednesday, the Fed signaled its confidence in the U.S. economy by raising a key interest rate for a third time this year. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said another hike was likely before the year's end.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Macro data over the last 24 hours is affirming a pro-growth stance ... coming on the back of the Fed's upbeat assessment of the outlook and Powell's view that a recession in the next two years is highly unlikely," Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney, said in an interview.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 14 cents to \$72.26 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 0.8 percent on Thursday to close at \$72.12. Brent crude, used to price international oils, was flat at \$81.38 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 113.56 yen from 113.42 yen. The euro weakened to \$1.1647 from \$1.1658.

5 things to know about the SEC's complaint against Elon Musk

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Securities and Exchange Commission's complaint accusing Tesla CEO Elon Musk of committing stock market fraud paints a picture of a man who is either a liar or a reckless leader.

Here are five things to know about the allegations being made by the SEC in a case that could spell the end of Musk's reign at the electric car maker that he co-founded.

BUYOUT TALKS

The SEC conducted interviews confirming that Musk had been holding talks with a sovereign investment fund — identified by Tesla as Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund — dating back to January. By July 31, the discussions had escalated to the point that Musk floated the idea of pursuing a buyout that would end Tesla's eight-year stint as a publicly held company. But they were still informal talks that didn't justify Musk tweeting a week later that funding had been secured for a buyout at \$420 per share.

"The July 31 meeting lacked discussion of even the most fundamental terms of a proposed going-private transaction," the SEC alleges.

A BUYOUT PRICE CHEECH AND CHONG WOULD LIKE

What's more, Musk floated the buyout price because 420 is slang for marijuana — a now legal drug in Tesla's home state of California. Musk recently appeared to be smoking marijuana in a video clip that has been widely circulated.

The SEC determined that Musk came up with that figure because it was 20 percent above Tesla's Aug. 2 closing price of \$349.54 and then rounded it up from \$419 because his girlfriend thought it "would find it funny, which admittedly is not a great reason to pick a price."

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HELPING HAND FROM CFO

Musk's out-of-the-blue move apparently blindsided Tesla's chief financial officer, Deepak Ahuja, forcing him to scramble to minimize the havoc that he immediately recognized had been wrought by his CEO.

"Elon, am sure you have thought about a broader communication on your rationale and structure to employees and potential investors," Ahuja texted Musk 35 minutes after he dropped his bombshell on Twitter. "Would it help if (Tesla's head of communications), (Tesla's general counsel), and I draft a blog post or employee email for you?"

Musk texted back: "Yeah, that would be great."

SPREADING THE MISINFORMATION

After Tesla published Musk's blog post elaborating on his initial tweet, the company's head of investor relations continued to perpetuate the notion that Musk had locked up the financing for a deal that probably would have cost anywhere from \$25 billion to \$50 billion to pull off.

An unnamed Wall Street analyst emailed Tesla's head of investor relations following the blog post noting that it didn't address Musk's assertion in his tweet that funding had already been secured for the buyout. "Can you clarify this?" the analyst asked.

The SEC said Tesla's head of investor relations responded thusly: "I can only say that the first tweet clearly stated that 'financing is secured'. Yes, there is a firm offer."

WHO WILL GET BURNT IN THE END?

The SEC noted that Musk has had a long-held antipathy against "short sellers" — investors who had been placing bets that Tesla's stock would fall as it missed production goals for its cars and burned through billions in cash.

The complaint notes that Musk hinted that the short sellers were about to be seriously hurt in a May 4 tweet that warned: "Oh and uh short burn of the century comin soon. Flamethrowers should arrive just in time." Then in a June 17 tweet, Musk wrote that short sellers "have about three weeks before their short position explodes."

With Tesla's stock now plunging, it turns out Musk may have helped short sellers make a lot of money while putting his job as CEO in serious jeopardy.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 2018. There are 94 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 28, 1787, the Congress of the Confederation voted to send the just-completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.

On this date:

In 1542, Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo arrived at present-day San Diego.

In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a French fleet, began their successful siege of Yorktown, Va.

In 1892, the first nighttime football game took place in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, as teams from Mansfield State Normal and Wyoming Seminary played under electric lights to a scoreless tie.

In 1920, eight members of the Chicago White Sox were indicted for allegedly throwing the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. (All were acquitted at trial, but all eight were banned from the game for life.)

In 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first effective antibiotic.

In 1939, during World War II, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a treaty calling for the partitioning of Poland, which the two countries had invaded.

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In 1964, comedian Harpo Marx, 75, died in Los Angeles.

In 1976, Muhammad Ali kept his world heavyweight boxing championship with a close 15-round decision over Ken Norton at New York's Yankee Stadium.

In 1989, deposed Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii at age 72.

In 1991, jazz great Miles Davis died in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 65.

In 1993, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton went to Capitol Hill to begin selling the administration's health care plan to Congress.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House ending Israel's military occupation of West Bank cities and laying the foundation for a Palestinian state.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush urged Congress to pass a \$700 billion rescue plan for beleaguered financial companies, saying in a written statement, "Without this rescue plan, the costs to the American economy could be disastrous." Chinese astronauts aboard the Shenzhou 7 returned to Earth after completing their country's first spacewalk mission. Austrian 16-year-olds voted for the first time in parliamentary elections under a law adopted in 2007.

Five years ago: Locked in a deepening struggle with President Barack Obama, House Republicans demanded a one-year delay in major parts of the nation's new health care law and permanent repeal of a tax on medical devices as the price for preventing a partial government shutdown threatened for Oct. 1. (Senate Democrats rejected the plan and the White House said that "any member of the Republican Party who votes for this bill is voting for a shutdown.") The Global Citizen Festival, highlighting world poverty, took place in New York's Central Park.

One year ago: The Trump administration said its relief efforts in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria were succeeding, though people on the island said help was scarce and disorganized. House Majority Whip Steve Scalise returned to the House chamber for the first time since he was wounded three months earlier by a gunman who opened fire at a Republican baseball practice.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Brigitte Bardot is 84. Actor Joel Higgins is 75. Singer Helen Shapiro is 72. Movie writer-director-actor John Sayles is 68. Rock musician George Lynch is 64. Zydeco singer-musician C.J. Chenier (sheh-NEER') is 61. Actor Steve Hytner is 59. Actress-comedian Janeane Garofalo (juh-NEEN' guh-RAH'-fuh-loh) is 54. Country singer Matt King is 52. Actress Mira Sorvino is 51. TV personality/singer Moon Zappa is 51. Actress-model Carre Otis is 50. Actress Naomi Watts is 50. Country singer Karen Fairchild (Little Big Town) is 49. Country musician Chuck Crawford is 45. Country singer Mandy Barnett is 43. Rapper Young Jeezy is 41. World Golf Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak is 41. Actor Peter Cambor is 40. Writer-producer-director-actor Bam Margera is 39. Actress Melissa Claire Egan is 37. Actress Jerrika Hinton is 37. Neo-soul musician Luke Mossman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 37. Pop-rock singer St. Vincent is 36. Rock musician Daniel Platzman (Imagine Dragons) is 32. Actress Hilary Duff is 31. Actor Keir Gilchrist is 26.

Thought for Today: "To fight oppression, and to work as best we can for a sane organization of society, we do not have to abandon the state of mind of freedom. If we do that we are letting the same thuggery in by the back door that we are fighting off in front of the house." — John Dos Passos, American author (born 1896, died this date in 1970).