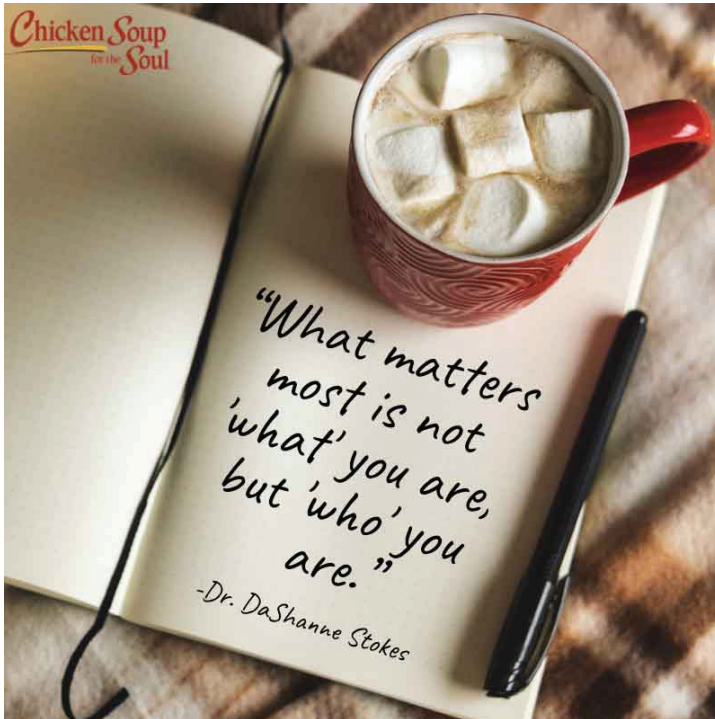


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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

Writing as Therapy

During the South Dakota Festival of Books, I listened to a group of five successful novelists discussing the art of writing and what they gained from creating their works. They all seemed to agree with journalist Malcolm Gladwell who said that it takes some talent, but more importantly, about 10,000 hours of practice to become good at anything. They each also said that writing has given them joy, humor, an understanding about life, and a sense of meaning.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Hearing all this, I reflected on how much room I have for improvement in my own writing. On the other hand, I realized my compositions are not for a novel but for self-help, and the goal of my latest book, *Life's Final Season*, is to help people during their aging and dying process. As opposed to a novel, my writing has a different purpose. I also thought of how therapeutic my own writing practice has been for me since my cancer diagnosis.

There is a lot out there about writing as therapy. Orthopedic surgeon Dr. David Hanscom, in his book *Back in Control*, provides for us a writing method to help people in chronic pain. He advises those in pain to write down any random thoughts for ten to thirty minutes once or twice a day for at least several months. Hanscom reports the theory that when pain becomes chronic, the signals change from damage pain activity in one part of the brain to an emotional (fear and anxiety) response in a different part of the brain. Hanscom asserts that the daily writing exercise truly helps people break the pain cycle when nothing else helps.

Professor Dr. Gillie Bolton also recommends a daily writing program for chronic pain. She says not to worry about grammar, style, or spelling. Dr. Bolton advises starting by unloading and dumping negative thoughts, followed with expressive and explorative writing about any topic. She suggests that we focus on the writing without distraction, finding time to do it once or twice daily, and doing it for yourself (not others). Her contention: writing helps us illuminate our own suppressed feelings, thereby helping us deal with chronic pain, depression, and other miseries of life.

I truly hope my book helps caregivers and people who are aging and dying, but my writing has had the added benefit of helping me cope with a deadly diagnosis. A daily writing exercise may just help you too.

Watch *On Call with the Prairie Doc*® most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central on SDPTV and follow the *Prairie Doc*® on Facebook and YouTube for free and easy access to the entire *Prairie Doc*® library.

Medicare Open Enrollment Period Begins Oct. 15

PIERRE, S.D. – Open enrollment for the 2019 Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D plan year begins on Oct. 15 and ends on Dec. 7.

During the open enrollment period, trained volunteers from the South Dakota Senior Health Information and Insurance Education Program (SHIINE) will offer free assistance to seniors seeking additional Medicare information.

If you are in need of assistance, please contact one of the following regional offices to schedule an appointment:

Eastern Region: 1-800-536-8197

Central Region: 1-877-331-4834

Western Region: 1-877-286-9072

Individuals taking advantage of the free one-on-one counseling should bring their Medicare card and a current list of medications.

SHIINE is a federal program designed to help individuals with questions about Medicare and protecting their benefits.

SHIINE is funded through the Administration for Community Living and administered by the South Dakota Department of Human Services Division of Long Term Services and Supports.

Commit To Know More About Foster Parenting

A column by First Lady Linda Daugaard:

In any given month over the last year there were around 1,600 children across South Dakota in state custody. These are children who have been removed from their homes by a court order for safety reasons. They are victims of abuse and neglect who, by no fault of their own, have no other place to go.

These children are in need of a loving home. Like any child, they need unconditional love, guidance and support. That's where foster families come in.

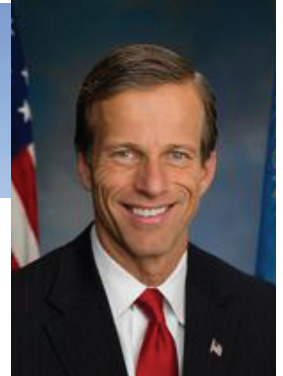
Foster parents make a difference in the lives of children and their birth families. In many instances, they provide healing by offering a safe and stable environment until a child can return home. In some situations, they become the permanent guardians themselves through the adoption process. Whether it's a short- or long-term placement, foster families provide selfless care to children in need of affection and direction.

As a former teacher and librarian, and as a mother and grandmother, I know how important it is for children to have unconditional love as well as limits. That is why in 2013 I worked with the Department of Social Services to launch the FosterOne program by which we encourage South Dakotans to commit to know more about becoming a foster parent. Since the initiation of that program, we have had 2,128 families sign up to learn more and we've seen an increase in foster homes, including American Indian foster families.

This is encouraging, but the need for more volunteers still exists. There is a particular need for foster parents who can take sibling groups, American Indian foster parents and families who are willing to care for teenagers. Foster parents must be 21 years old, trained and licensed, and can be related or unrelated to the child.

We need more South Dakotans who are willing to provide this selfless, life-changing care. Please consider opening your heart and your home to help a child in need. You can commit to know more at fosteronesd.org.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakota Can Be the Leader in 5G

I've had the privilege of serving as chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee for nearly four years now. Over the years, my committee, which has broad jurisdiction over things like our nation's transportation system, consumer protection, and technology, has held hearings on a variety of topics. We've covered everything from planes, trains, and automobiles to Twitter and Facebook to the ecosystem's dependence on sharks. We've heard and seen it all.

Earlier this year, I convened a hearing in Washington to explore America's leadership in the race toward 5G mobile broadband technology.

To put 5G technology into perspective, think about your first data-enabled mobile phone and, while we considered it fast at the time, how long it took to load mobile apps or webpages.

Flash forward to today, and there's no doubt mobile broadband technology has improved. With a few quick clicks, you can get a ride in an Uber, order movie tickets, or pay for your parking meter without even having to leave a restaurant.

Believe it or not, as fast as our devices are today, 5G mobile broadband technology will help deliver speeds that are 100 times faster than what today's technology can deliver.

While there are obvious and important benefits to faster speeds, there are equally as important, but perhaps less obvious, benefits to the United States getting to 5G before our global competitors. It means more opportunities, more jobs, and more economic development. According to some estimates, 5G could contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

American innovators and entrepreneurs have for generations been pioneers. Americans invented and flew the first airplane. We put the first man on the moon. There's no reason why we can't be first in the 5G revolution, too. As chairman of the Commerce Committee, I want to help the United States win this race, and I want South Dakota to be at the forefront.

It's with that in mind that I'll be taking the Commerce Committee on the road. On October 5, I'll be picking up where we left off in Washington and will convene a field hearing in Sioux Falls to examine the hurdles that are making it more difficult for states and communities to continue moving the ball down the field on this important issue.

Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken, who shares my goal of bringing the world's fastest internet to South Dakota, will join me, as will Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr, Dakota State University President José-Marie Griffiths, and representatives from Verizon and Midcontinent Communications.

The technology already exists to make 5G a reality. It's up to local, state, and federal leaders to work together on getting the necessary infrastructure in place, while also freeing up additional spectrum, the airwaves on which the frequencies that support mobile broadband travel.

Together we can make it work, and I'm confident we will.

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Celebrating Native American History in South Dakota

While the Senate has been focused on the Supreme Court nomination hearing in Washington, we have continued to work on issues that affect South Dakotans. We'll discuss the Supreme Court hearing in one of our next weekly columns.

Every October, South Dakota celebrates the rich culture and the many contributions made by Native Americans who called this land home long before Europeans settled in the West. Native Americans' Day is a state holiday started in 1990, and it replaces what used to be called Columbus Day. The late Governor George S. Mickelson joined representatives from the nine tribal governments in South Dakota to proclaim 1990 as the Year of Reconciliation. Native Americans' Day is our state's way of observing and honoring tribal members in South Dakota.

It's a privilege for me to represent all South Dakotans in the Senate. I work with tribal members on a number of different federal issues that impact them. One area we've been focusing on since I took office is improving health care at the Indian Health Service (IHS).

The IHS has failed to fulfill its trust and treaty obligation to provide quality health care to tribal members. For decades, South Dakota's tribal members and other tribal members across the nation have been in the midst of a government-induced health care crisis due to serious management and leadership problems at the IHS. This is especially true of the Great Plains Area IHS, which includes South Dakota. This area has the worst health care disparities of all IHS regions including lowest life expectancy, highest diabetes death rate, highest TB death rate and highest overall age-adjusted death rate. This is unacceptable.

In order to address the issues plaguing the IHS, I recently introduced legislation that would require the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to contract an assessment of IHS's health care delivery systems and financial management processes. It is past time to address the ongoing crisis at the IHS. We were pleased the Senate Indian Affairs Committee recently voted to pass our legislation. It now heads to the Senate floor for full consideration. Our bill would only impact direct-care facilities, not those with 638 contracts. This means facilities that tribes have contracted to manage independently would not be impacted by our legislation. In the Great Plains Area, 67 percent of IHS facilities are direct-care facilities.

We are glad that progress is being made with our legislation, but rather than threatening deadlines, requesting extensions, changing administrators and pointing fingers, the IHS, HHS and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) need to work together – in close, real consultation with the tribes – to immediately resolve IHS' many problems and improve care for our Native American communities.

When state, federal and tribal governments work together, we have the opportunity to make real changes that will improve the lives of tribal members in our state.

This Native Americans' Day, I encourage South Dakotans to celebrate the history and culture of the tribes in our state by attending events in our communities. Sioux Falls is holding its first ever Native Americans' Day parade this year on Oct. 8, and Rapid City will host their annual weekend festivities in conjunction with the 32nd Annual Black Hills Powwow on Oct. 5-7. South Dakota is home to more than 70,000 Native Americans, and these events help to strengthen our communities by bringing together many people of different backgrounds. I hope everyone has an enjoyable Native Americans' Day this year.



Making an Impact for Students

I've always believed decisions are best made at the local level, particularly when it involves the education our kids are receiving. That was a big driver behind the work we did in the Student Success Act, which was designed to reduce the federal footprint and empower both parents and local school districts.

That work is ongoing, however, as federal policies continue to impede on local decision-making. One issue where we continue to work is the Impact Aid Program, which reimburses local schools for revenue losses that occur when nontaxable federal land is in their districts.

More specifically, schools rely on local property taxes to pay the bills. Tax is not collected, however, on federal lands, such as military installations, Indian Trust land, and national grasslands. As a result, a school bordering Ellsworth Air Force Base must overcome tremendous budgetary challenges as no taxes are paid on the property in much of their district.

That's where the Impact Aid Program comes in. As Hilary Goldmann, who heads an association dedicated to maintaining Impact Aid, explains: The program "pays for teacher salaries, school counselors, technology, student transportation and other education programming..."

In South Dakota, about 30 school districts are eligible for the program. These school districts are often located in rural areas with few taxpayers and where administrators double as bus drivers, teachers, and coaches.

Simply put, Impact Aid helps ensure we maintain a level playing field for all South Dakota school districts. Going to school near the Air Force Base or one of South Dakota's nine Indian Reservations shouldn't limit classroom resources.

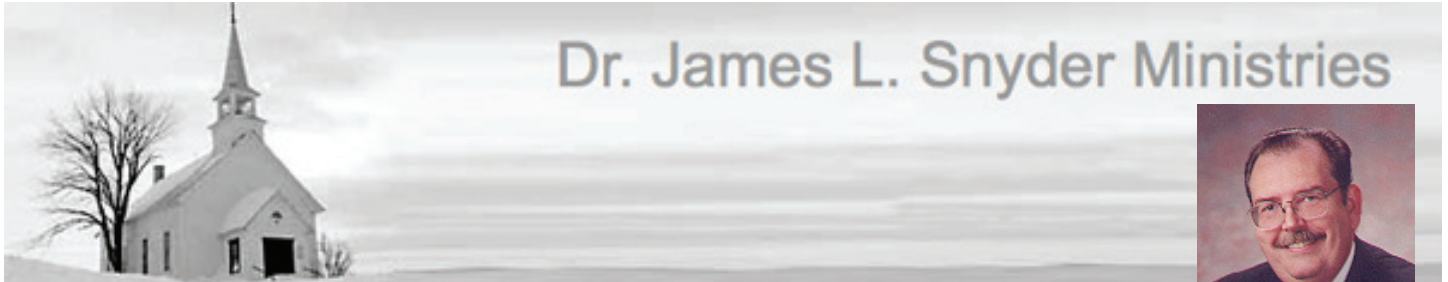
Earlier this fall, I was honored to be recognized by more than 50 South Dakota teachers who are part of the country's leading Impact Aid group for my work to strengthen this critical support system. More specifically, they discussed my work on bipartisan legislation to increase the program's efficiency and provide greater flexibility to the school districts that receive it. They also discussed the provisions I introduced to improve Impact Aid in the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Jamie Hermann, who is president of Impact Schools of South Dakota, noted: "Every time Impact Aid school districts needed assistance, Rep. Noem was there to help successfully lead the charge. From the first meeting with her, she recognized the federal government's financial obligation to school districts that have a decreased tax base due to the federal government ownership of the land."

Those are humbling words to hear, but I'm grateful for the award and will continue to fight so classrooms have the resources our kids need to succeed.

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If This Is Autumn, What Was Summer?

I must confess that in the Parsonage there are times of confusion. It has nothing to do with age; it has everything to do with the human brain that is undernourished.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can say one thing and I can say something completely different. There are those rare occasions when we are on the same page, the same sentence and almost the same words. Those occasions do not come as often as I would like.

The good news is, we are all on the same book, which makes the difference.

The other day, for example, I was in a panic mode. I was trying to get stuff done and was not making progress. Finally, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "What are you in such a fuss about?"

"Well," I said rather exhaustively, "it's Friday and I'm trying to get my work done."

My wife just stood there looking at me with one of those "looks" she is most famous for. Then, placing both hands on her hips, she said, "Silly boy, don't you know it's Thursday?"

It is quite disconcerting when you get something wrong. You think you are doing the right thing, but it turns out you are not. I think it is one day and it turns out to be another day instead. Sometimes one day looks exactly like the other.

As we were eating breakfast the other day, my wife stopped and said, "Do you know this is the first day of autumn?"

I had to stop and think about that for a while. That means summer is over and fall is in the air.

"If it's autumn," I said quite seriously, "why is it still so hot outside?" The last three weeks the temperature has been in the 90s and the heat index was over 100. That is really hot.

Looking at her, I said, "It sure doesn't feel like autumn does it?" She agreed with me, which was quite an accomplishment on my side of the table.

A song says, "And the beat goes on." I would like to change that a little bit and sing a song, "And the heat goes on." Simply put, I found no difference between the first week of autumn in the last week of summer. After all, if it is autumn then the weather ought to act like it is autumn.

I did not realize how serious the heat was. I was going Wednesday morning to a local elementary school to participate in the "Pray around the Pole." It was the first thing in the morning so I decided not to have breakfast before I went, but rather go to my favorite restaurant for breakfast after the event.

As I was walking to the pole, I noticed it was rather hot outside. Oh well, I thought to myself, I am not going to be here long so I can just endure it.

About eight of the teachers had gathered around the pole along with a resource officer. We gathered in a circle, held hands and began to pray. Many of them prayed and my job was to close the session in prayer.

As they began praying, I felt a little odd. Now my wife will tell you that it is not just a feeling; I am odd. But my blonde roots were beginning to manifest itself and I was feeling a little dizzy. I felt the sweat roll off my face and my legs were wobbling, more than usual. I really did not feel good at the time.

Then, it came time to close the session in prayer. I cannot remember what I prayed because every word that came out of my mouth felt weird and odd. I was getting dizzy and I was thinking to myself, "Just don't fall down." I knew if I fell down, somebody would call the ambulance and rush me off to the hospital. The last place I wanted to be.

When we were done praying one of the teachers looked at me and said, "Are you all right? Your face

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looks flushed.”

The more I stood there the wobblier my legs got. Finally one of the teachers said, “Let’s take him inside and get him some water.” In the meantime, one called my wife to come and get me.

I do not remember going into the school at the time. Everything was quite dizzy for me. Then the nurse came, checked me out and made sure I was okay.

As it was, I was having a heat stroke. I never had such a thing before in my life. I think I heard of them, but I did not know what they were.

As I was collecting myself a little bit, my wife and granddaughter arrived to take me home. They would not let me drive my own vehicle. Don’t tell anybody, but I sure was glad. I am not sure I could have driven that vehicle out of the parking lot.

It took several days to recover, but during recovery, I could not help but think of an incident with Jesus in the midst of the storm. “And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm” (Mark 4:39).

You cannot always select the “storm” in your life, but you can always trust Jesus to get you through it.



Groton Marching Band earns Gold Award at Gypsy Day Parade

The Groton Area Marching Band, under the direction of Austin Fordham and Desiree Yeigh, earned the Gold Award at the Gypsy Day Parade held Saturday in Aberdeen. The weather was not the best as it was chilly and rainy through the whole parade. Pictured from left to right are the senior members of the band: Micah Poor, Spencer Jacobs, Tylan Glover, AnneMarie Smith and Drum Major Ashley Garduno. Not pictured is senior Korbin Blackmun. (Photo from Dez

Yeigh’s Facebook page)

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Warriors outlast Wolves on Gypsy Days

Aberdeen, S.D. – The 103rd Gypsy Days game proved to be an evenly matched contest between Northern State University and Winona State University, however the Wolves fell 22-15. Northern drops to 1-4 overall and the year, while Winona improves to 3-2.

The Wolves kicked off to begin the game, and a forced fumble by Chase Teiken and recovery by Alex Gray instantly shifted the momentum their way. The recovery led to the Wolves first points of the game, a 31-yard field goal off the foot of Mitch Tschakert. Winona State answered with a touchdown, grabbing the lead late in the first quarter, and then two teams went scoreless through the remainder of the half.

The Warriors then extended their lead in the third with their second touchdown of afternoon at the 9-minute mark. Northern began to chip away on their first drive of the fourth quarter, marching down the field on eight plays. Hunter Trautman connected with Jacob Streit for the pair's fourth touchdown of the season, a 7-yard reception. NSU then grabbed their second lead of the game, midway through the fourth with Trautman's second passing touchdown. The sophomore hit Colten Drageset for a 2-yard score, following a huge 49-yard reception by Dakota Larson.

Winona State however answered in the final 2-minutes of play with their first rushing touchdown of the afternoon. The Wolves gained possession of the ball with 1:43 to play in regulation, however were unable to make things happen.

In total, the Wolves recorded 152 yards rushing and 286 yards passing, for 438 yards of total offense. Not only did they record more offensive yardage than the Warriors, but NSU forced two interceptions and ten tackles for a total loss of 25 yards on defense. Northern converted on 7-of-21 third downs and 2-of-5 fourth downs.

Trautman tallied 286 yards passing, completing 22-of-44, with two touchdowns and a 53-yard long. He also added 90 yards rushing to lead the team, averaging 5.3 yards per carry. Chaka Kelly followed with 38 yards on the ground. Dakota Larson led the receiving front for the Wolves with 164 total yards, averaging 20.5 yards per reception, and added 15 yards rushing.

Alex Gray led the Wolves defense with nine tackles, including seven solo stops. The senior had a career day adding both a fumble recovery and interception, as well as a pass breakup. Etienne Ezeff and Preston Droessler were second on the team with seven tackles apiece. Droessler led the linebackers with 2.5 tackles for a total loss of nine yards, including the team's only sack. Chance Olson and TJ Roberts tallied six and five tackles respectively, with Roberts grabbing the team's second and final interception on a potential WSU scoring play.

Jacob Wiedrich punted for 256 total yards, averaging 42.7 yards per punt with a 52-yard long and three inside the 20. He also added 172 yards on kickoffs, averaging 57.0 yards per kick. Boston Bauer and Larson led the returns with 25 and 23 yards respectively on kickoffs.

The Wolves return to action next Saturday on the road at Concordia-St. Paul. Kickoff is schedule for 12 p.m. from Seafoam Stadium.

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Today in Weather History

September 30, 2006: Severe to exceptional drought conditions improved dramatically by the end of the month across central and north central South Dakota as above normal rainfall was recorded for the month of September.

1896: A hurricane formed on September 22 and lasted until September 30. It formed directly over the Lesser Antilles and hit Cuba, Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Its maximum sustained winds were at 130 mph. The heaviest rainfall deposited in association with the storm was 19.96 inches at Glennville, Georgia. This hurricane was responsible for an estimated 130 deaths and \$1.5 million in damage (1896 dollars).

1959 - Three tornadoes spawned by the remnants of Hurricane Gracie killed 12 persons at Ivy VA. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A nineteen month drought in southern California came to a climax. The drought, which made brush and buildings tinder dry, set up the worst fire conditions in California history as hot Santa Anna winds sent the temperature soaring to 105 degrees at Los Angeles, and to 97 degrees at San Diego. During that last week of September whole communities of interior San Diego County were consumed by fire. Half a million acres were burned, and the fires caused fifty million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1977 - The temperature at Wichita Falls, TX, soared to 108 degrees to establish a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorms, which had inundated northern sections of Oklahoma with heavy rain, temporarily shifted southward producing 4 to 8 inches rains from Shawnee to Stilwell. Baseball size hail and 80 mph winds ripped through parts of southeast Oklahoma City, and thunderstorm winds caused more than half a million dollars damage at Shawnee. (Storm Data)

1987 - Afternoon thunderstorms in Michigan produced hail an inch in diameter at Pinckney, and wind gusts to 68 mph at Wyandotte. A thunderstorm in northern Indiana produced wet snow at South Bend. Seven cities in the northwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including readings of 98 degrees at Medford OR and 101 degrees at downtown Sacramento CA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed over Florida, and in the western U.S. The afternoon high of 94 degrees at Fort Myers FL was their tenth record high for the month. Highs of 98 degrees at Medford OR and 99 degrees at Fresno CA were records for the date, and the temperature at Borrego Springs CA soared to 108 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, as readings soared into the upper 80s and 90s from the Northern and Central High Plains Region to Minnesota. Bismarck ND reported a record high of 95 degrees, and the temperature reached 97 degrees at Broadus MT. Afternoon thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced wind gusts to 60 mph at Wendover UT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: The past month was the coldest September ever recorded in interior Alaska. Fairbanks averaged a frigid 31.7° which was 13.2° below normal and the first below freezing September ever. Beginning on the 9th and on every day for the rest of the month, a new record low was set for either low minimums or low maximums, or both. On this date, the city plunged to 3° to set a new all-time record low for September. Snowfall for the month totaled 24.4 inches which was more than three times the previous record for September.

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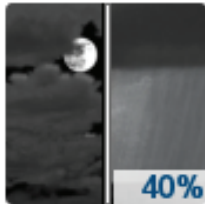
Today



Slight Chance Showers and Patchy Fog

High: 50 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers

Low: 38 °F

Monday



Chance Showers

High: 51 °F

Monday Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 42 °F

Tuesday



Partly Sunny

High: 64 °F

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
9/30/2018 4:38 AM

Today

45-52°

3 Day Forecast Highs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
50-60°	61-73°	63-72°

- ❖ Well Below Average Temperatures Today and Monday.
- ❖ Slightly Below Average Temperatures Tuesday and Wednesday
- ❖ Scattered Light Showers Today
- ❖ Widespread Light to Moderate Rain Overnight and into Monday, as well as Wednesday.

Published on: 09/30/2018 at 4:52AM

An active period of weather continues throughout the first half of the week. Well below average temperatures and showers are possible today and especially during the overnight hours and into Monday morning. Moderate rainfall is also possible Wednesday morning, especially in the northeastern corner of South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Temperatures rebound to slightly below average to near average in some spots for Tuesday and Wednesday before returning to well below average past Wednesday.

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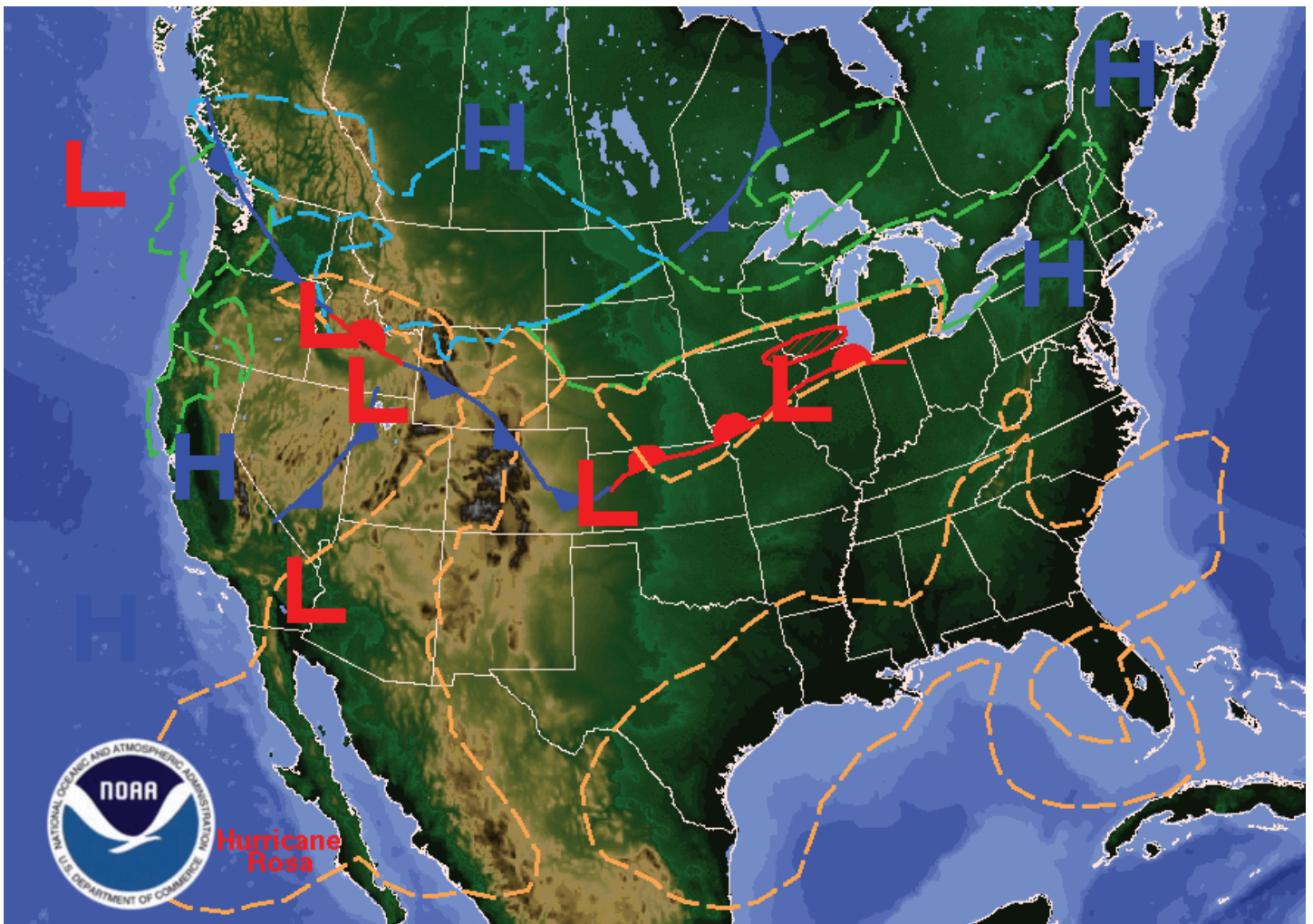
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 46 °F at 5:59 PM
Low Outside Temp: 34 °F at 12:40 AM
High Gust: 16 mph at 8:36 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1989, 1905
Record Low: 15° in 1939
Average High: 66°F
Average Low: 39°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 2.12
Precip to date in Sept.: 2.36
Average Precip to date: 18.41
Precip Year to Date: 13.57
Sunset Tonight: 7:16 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:32 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Sep 30, 2018, issued 4:56 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong 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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ONE POWERFUL PROMISE KEEPER

Promises are like pie crusts, begins an old proverb. They are made to be broken. Not so Gods promises.

Read this amazing statement: The Maker of heaven and earth, the seas and everything in them, the Lord...remains faithful forever.

Behind Gods promises are His past performances. He is a God of truth and will not forget or forfeit His Word. Whatever He said He would do, He did. Whatever promise He made, He has kept. If He said it, He meant it, and He will do it!

Behind His promises is His passionate love. He is the very definition of the word, love. Whenever we doubt the fact that God loves us, look at Christ on His cross. Unfortunately, we tend to only look at an empty cross. But, never forget that Jesus, our Savior, at one time hung on that cross for three painful, lonely, humiliating hours. How can we ever doubt Gods love?

Behind every promise is His power. As the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, all of the laws that govern it are under His control. No one or no thing can stand in the way of the fulfillment of the laws that govern His universe - His creation. And if that is not enough, look once again into the empty tomb. He has the power to do whatever He said He will do.

On a very special occasion, Alexander the Great gave one of his loyal supporters a generous gift. Said the recipient, This is too much for me to receive. Said the giver, But it is not too much for me to give.

Prayer: Forgive us, Father, for those times when we have doubted Your promises, passionate love or power. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: The Maker of heaven and earth, the seas and everything in them, the Lord...remains faithful forever. Psalm 146:6

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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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
04-08-22-28-30
(four, eight, twenty-two, twenty-eight, thirty)
Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America
01-06-09-28-33, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 3
(one, six, nine, twenty-eight, thirty-three; Star Ball: two; ASB: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$8.62 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$336 million

Powerball
09-17-34-59-64, Powerball: 22, Power Play: 2
(nine, seventeen, thirty-four, fifty-nine, sixty-four; Powerball: twenty-two; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$213 million

AG hopefuls spar over experience as Dems try to end drought

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's candidates for attorney general are sparring over their legal experience as former U.S. Attorney Randy Seiler seeks to become the first Democrat in decades to win the office in heavily conservative South Dakota.

Seiler is campaigning against Republican lawyer and Army Reserve officer Jason Ravensborg to succeed outgoing GOP Attorney General Marty Jackley as the state's chief lawyer and law enforcement officer. A Democrat hasn't held the office since the 1970s, but the 72-year-old Seiler is touting his background as a longtime prosecutor to sway voters.

"I think we break the streak because experience matters," said Seiler, who spent more than two decades at the U.S. attorney's office. Seiler said Ravensborg has never tried a jury case as a volunteer prosecutor in Union County, adding: "You can't learn to practice law while you're serving as attorney general."

But Ravensborg, a partner at a Yankton law firm and a deputy state's attorney for Union County, said he has 17 years of experience as an attorney including civil and criminal jury trials and hundreds of hearings. Ravensborg declined to provide specific examples of his cases, questioning whether it would be appropriate out of fairness to his clients and because he's sent people to prison.

A broadly endorsed Ravensborg in June triumphed over two Republicans — including a state's attorney who campaigned on his own prosecutorial background — for the party's nomination. Ravensborg recently told a group of Republicans gathered for lunch in Pierre that he's driven more than 100,000 miles since last year.

Looking to November, Ravensborg said that for all Seiler's experience, he has few ideas.

"I talk about specifics, and I talk about ideas," said Ravensborg, a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. "I think that people will respond more positively to what are you actually going to do for them to make

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their lives safer, more efficient and safer for law enforcement.”

Ravnsborg has proposed expanding programs that allow lower-level prisoners to work while serving their sentences and establishing a meth-specific prison and mental health facility in the central or western part of the state. Ravensborg would also pursue changes to criminal and juvenile justice overhauls approved by lawmakers, including removing presumptive probation policies that currently apply to lower-level offenders. Seiler said he wouldn't propose eliminating presumptive probation.

Republican Sen. Arthur Rusch, a retired judge, said at the GOP's state party convention that Ravensborg has demonstrated leadership the state needs in an attorney general, citing his military service. During his years as a judge, Rusch said, he saw Ravensborg become an "experienced attorney in a wide variety of legal cases."

"It's important to have an attorney general who isn't just focused on criminal cases, but has that wide variety of experiences," Rusch said.

The high-profile office has served as a frequent springboard for gubernatorial hopefuls and takes on the state's top legal cases, such as South Dakota's recent successful push to get the U.S. Supreme Court to allow states to make online shoppers pay sales tax.

Seiler served as South Dakota's U.S. attorney from 2015 through 2017, leaving after more than two decades at the office. As attorney general, Seiler said, his priorities would be consumer protection, keeping children safe, reviewing state government integrity laws and addressing meth and opioid addiction through opportunities for treatment and mental health counseling.

Former U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson, who served before Seiler under President Barack Obama, said Seiler is the "most experienced candidate we've ever seen run for attorney general" in South Dakota. He said Seiler pursued some of the toughest cases in the U.S. Attorney's office involving drugs, civil rights, public corruption and violent crimes.

"Randy's not running for this job because he wants to go on to become governor or congressman or anything like that," Johnson said. "To have someone that is just running because they want this job, and it's not a stepping stone, I think is important for South Dakota and is valuable."

Democrats nationwide have increasingly looked to attorneys general in their states as a counter to President Donald Trump's administration and its policies, but Seiler said he's running for South Dakota — not against Trump or his agenda. Trump triumphed in South Dakota by a large margin in 2016.

Ravnsborg called the race a "classic contest" of conservative versus liberal — "I'm the conservative, and he's the liberal."

Ravnsborg and Seiler both reported having more than \$60,000 on hand in May. The candidates won't report new fundraising numbers until Oct. 22. A debate is scheduled on South Dakota Public Broadcasting on Oct. 11.

Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Huron, 25-23, 25-20, 22-25, 25-20

Beresford def. Sioux Valley, 25-14, 25-21, 25-20

Kimball/White Lake def. Mitchell Christian, 25-15, 25-14, 25-13

Milbank Area def. Lac qui Parle Valley, Minn., 25-20, 25-21, 26-24

Miller def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-18, 23-25, 13-25, 28-26, 15-10

Mobridge-Pollock def. Timber Lake, 16-25, 25-21, 26-24, 18-25, 15-13

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Pierre, 25-14, 25-23, 25-20

Wagner def. Tri-Valley, 25-19, 25-14, 25-17

Watertown def. Brookings, 21-25, 25-13, 25-21, 26-24

281 Conference Tournament

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Consolation Semifinal

Highmore-Harrold def. Iroquois, 25-7, 25-13, 25-16

Semifinal

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Wolsey-Wessington, 24-26, 25-18, 25-18, 25-19

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Wessington Springs, 21-25, 25-17, 25-20, 25-21

Fifth Place

James Valley Christian def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-17, 25-20, 20-25, 25-23

Third Place

Wessington Springs def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-21, 25-21, 25-12

Championship

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-17, 18-25, 25-14, 25-23

Great Plains Conference Tournament

Pool Play

Pool A

Burke def. Colome, 25-8, 25-14

Pool B

Corsica/Stickney def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-10, 25-18

Pool C

Avon def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-17, 23-25, 25-19

Avon def. Scotland, 25-21, 25-12

Scotland def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-23, 23-25, 25-17

Pool D

Alcester-Hudson def. Centerville, 25-9, 25-11

Gayville-Volin def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-20, 21-25, 25-19

Lakota Nation Invitational

Pool Play

Pool A

Custer def. Oelrichs, 26-24, 25-16

Custer def. Marty Indian, 25-21, 25-17

Little Wound def. Oelrichs, 25-18, 23-25, 25-20

McLaughlin def. Crow Creek, 25-22, 25-17

McLaughlin def. Marty Indian, 25-21, 20-25, 25-21

Oelrichs def. McLaughlin, 20-25, 25-18, 25-14

Pine Ridge def. Little Wound, 25-10, 25-18

Pine Ridge def. Red Cloud, 12-25, 25-20, 27-25

Red Cloud def. Crow Creek, 25-14, 25-23

Red Cloud def. Marty Indian, 25-6, 25-18

Pool B

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Lower Brule, 20-25, 25-14, 25-12

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-17, 25-21

Hill City def. Todd County, 25-9, 25-17

Hill City def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-5, 25-21

Hill City def. St. Francis Indian, 25-10, 25-13

Lower Brule def. Crazy Horse, 25-19, 25-14

Todd County def. Crazy Horse, 25-14, 25-19

White River def. Lower Brule, 25-22, 25-23

White River def. St. Francis Indian, 25-23, 25-16

White River def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-22, 25-23

Semifinal

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Hill City def. Red Cloud, 27-25, 25-12
Pine Ridge def. White River, 25-23, 25-23
Third Place
Red Cloud def. White River, 25-17, 27-25
Championship
Hill City def. Pine Ridge, 25-19, 25-19
Lead-Deadwood Mile High Invitational
Pool Play
Pool C
Kadoka Area def. Rapid City Christian, 25-18, 25-13
Kadoka Area def. New Underwood, 25-19, 25-23
Pool D
Lead-Deadwood def. Newell, 25-17, 25-17
Lemmon def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-22, 14-25, 26-24
Twin Cities Tournament
Gold Division
Semifinal
Rapid City Stevens def. Ogallala, Neb., 25-17, 20-25, 25-17
First Round
Rapid City Stevens def. McCook, Neb., 25-23, 25-21
Championship
Rapid City Stevens def. Alliance, Neb., 25-23, 25-17

Simmons' 3TDs send South Dakota past S. Illinois 31-24

CARBONDALE, Ill. (AP) — Austin Simmons threw for 333 yards and three touchdowns to lead South Dakota to a 31-24 win over Southern Illinois in a Missouri Valley Conference opener on Saturday.

The win marked coach Bob Nielson's 200th career victory.

After Kai Henry's 1-yard touchdown run put South Dakota (2-2, 1-0) out front 7-0, Sam Straub completed a 10-yard touchdown pass to Nigel Kilby, and later, a 20-yard score to Kilby for a 14-7 lead for the Salukis (1-3, 0-1).

Trailing 17-10 at the break, Simmons got hot and threw touchdowns of 9 and 45 yards to Randy Baker and unloaded an 89-yard TD strike to Dakarai Allen to put the Coyotes up 31-17 in the third. Javon Williams scored on 1-yard run with a minute left to play to reduce the deficit, but South Dakota recovered the on-side kick and ran out the clock.

Straub was 32-for-59 passing with 320 yards but was intercepted twice.

Top-ranked NDSU holds off No. 3 SDSU 21-17

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Easton Stick threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score and North Dakota State, the top-ranked team in the FCS coaches' poll, rallied for a 21-17 victory over third-ranked South Dakota State in the Missouri Valley Football Conference opener for both teams on Saturday.

Stick connected with Ben Ellefson for a 17-yard score and hooked up with Darrius Shepherd for a 41-yard TD in the second quarter to give the Bison (4-0) a 14-7 halftime lead.

The Jackrabbits (2-1) grabbed a 17-14 lead by the end of the third quarter on Chase Vinatieri's 39-yard field goal and a 61-yard TD run by Isaac Wallace. The lead lasted until NDSU's next possession.

Stick engineered an eight-play, 80-yard drive capped by his 5-yard TD run with 13 minutes remaining in the game to give the Bison the lead for good. Stick completed 9 of 20 passes for 182 yards and ran for 63 yards on 15 carries.

Wallace rushed for 110 yards on just nine carries for the Jacks. Christion totaled 202 yards on 19-of-29 passing.

Kavanaugh case unfolds as DeVos readies sexual assault rule

By MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Choking back tears, she testified that he sexually assaulted her. Defensive and angry, he swore that he did not.

The dramatic Senate testimony last week by Christine Blasey Ford and Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh came as Education Secretary Betsy DeVos considers new guidelines that could drastically change the way allegations of sexual violence are investigated on college campuses.

Brett Sokolow, a lawyer who heads an association of sexual harassment investigators on campuses, said his colleagues closely watched the hearing and may use it for future trainings.

"If this was a student, would I believe them, would I not?" Sokolow said. "Who comes out being credible?"

DeVos has argued that the policy put in place under President Barack Obama is skewed against the accused. She is expected to issue new rules in the near future.

At stake is whether schools should require higher standards of evidence when handling complaints and whether both parties should have access to that evidence. Also under review is the use of mediators and the possibility of the accuser and the accused cross-examining each other.

DeVos' new guidelines are expected to address whether schools should have to investigate as soon as they are aware of alleged misconduct or only after a student files a formal complaint.

Many victims of sexual violence never take that step. Ford didn't, and only acted decades later when she learned that Kavanaugh was on a short list for the Supreme Court.

Advocates point to the Larry Nassar sexual assault scandal at Michigan State University and say that victims are shocked and unwilling to relive their traumatic experience. They say it should be the school's responsibility to investigate.

"It is the debate that we are having about how to handle these allegations on high school and college campuses," said Mike Petrilli, president of the conservative Thomas B. Fordham Institute.

A Senate vote on Kavanaugh's nomination was delayed for a week so the FBI could investigate after GOP Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, a pivotal vote, called for further investigation. A few hours earlier on Friday, Flake had said he would support Kavanaugh, a federal appeals court judge.

Ford, a California psychology professor, has accused Kavanaugh of pinning her to a bed while he was intoxicated, trying to remove her clothes and placing a hand over her mouth as she tried to yell for help. Ford says the incident took place more than 35 years ago when they both were in high school.

Kavanaugh adamantly denies the accusations and says he has never sexually attacked any one. He ac-



FILE - In this June 5, 2018 file photo, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos testifies during a Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations hearing in Washington. The dramatic Senate testimony by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford comes as DeVos considers new guidelines that could drastically change the way allegations of sexual violence are investigated on college campuses. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

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cuses Democratic senators of seeking to derail his nomination at all costs.

The Department of Education declined to comment Friday about DeVos' plans for revising the sexual assault rules. But when issuing temporary guidance last year, DeVos said she was looking for a more balanced approach.

"Every survivor of sexual misconduct must be taken seriously. Every student accused of sexual misconduct must know that guilt is not predetermined," she said in September 2017. "These are non-negotiable principles."

Sejal Singh with the advocacy group Know Your IX, which refers to a federal anti-discrimination law, said the Senate testimony should compel DeVos to boost protections for the victims of sexual harassment, not the perpetrators.

"Betsy DeVos should consider how to interrupt sexual violence when the people who commit it are in school and before they are nominated to the Supreme court," Singh said.

But Petrilli predicted that DeVos will now see more reason to roll back the Obama guidance and bolster the rights of the accused.

In conservative circles, "the sympathy right now is very strong with the concern that some men are wrongly accused," Petrilli said. "This is an administration that cares about its base."

A student may choose whether to report an assault to police or to have it investigated by a university under Title IX. Some students choose not to report attacks in part because police and the courts require higher standards of evidence. Students also may feel more comfortable dealing with university investigators than with police following a trauma.

Petrilli said the Senate hearing demonstrated that universities, like Congress, are ill equipped to handle such cases.

"If people were faulted, that should be handled by the justice system rather than asking universities to create some shadow system themselves," he said.

Cynthia Garrett, who heads Families Advocating for Campus Equality, said one false accusation can ruin a student's life. She said many of the accused students she represents experienced traumatic flashbacks when they watched Kavanaugh testify. Garrett said she supports DeVos' plan to give a greater voice to the accused.

"It is no longer going to be easy to find someone guilty," Garrett said. "But justice has never been easy and it shouldn't be easy to ruin someone's life."

But Noreen Farrell, director of Equal Rights Advocates, said the Kavanaugh hearing demonstrated what happens when the rights of sexual assault victims are ignored.

"It is a particularly dangerous moment to be a young woman trying to be educated and heard," she said.

More reporting on the Supreme Court and Kavanaugh can be found at: <http://apne.ws/IHcZXad>

APNewsBreak: Pentagon's immigrant recruit program stymied

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stricter Trump administration immigration policies have stymied Pentagon plans to restart a program that allowed thousands of people with critical medical or Asian and African language skills to join the military and become American citizens, according to several U.S. officials.

The decade-old program has been on hold since 2016 amid concerns that immigrant recruits were not being screened well enough, and security threats were slipping through the system. Defense officials shored up the vetting process, and planned to relaunch the program earlier this month.

But there was an unexpected barrier when Homeland Security officials said they would not be able to protect new immigrant recruits from being deported when their temporary visas expired after they signed a contract to join the military, the U.S. officials said. They were not authorized to publicly describe internal discussions and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The program is called Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, or MAVNI. The plan

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to restart it was backed by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who believes that noncitizens can bring key skills, language abilities, and cultural knowledge to the military.

Mattis, a combat veteran of multiple war tours, has fought with and commanded foreign nationals, and he believes their service adds to the lethality of America's fighting force, according to the officials.

The Pentagon chief told reporters late last month that the program is designed to enlist immigrants with needed skills. "We need and want every qualified patriot willing to serve and able to serve," Mattis said. At the time, he said the department was working diligently to address the security screening problems.

When asked about the latest developments, Air Force Maj. Carla Gleason, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said, "the unique skill sets these individuals bring is one of the reasons the U.S. military is the world's premier fighting force." She had no comment on the internal discussions to relaunch the program.

The officials familiar with the discussions said Homeland Security told the Pentagon that it would not be able sign any agreement blocking the deportation of the immigrant recruits brought in under the program.

In previous years, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service used an informal process to give MAVNI recruits protection when their temporary or student visas expired because they were entering military service. In addition, Congress included new restrictions in the 2019 defense bill that limit each military service to 1,000 such recruits per year.

President Donald Trump has made tighter controls on immigration, both legal and illegal, an important element of his administration.

Asked about the issue, a Homeland Security official said recruits without legal immigration status would be subject to deportation, but each case is reviewed individually. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Over the past 10 years, the military services have recruited more than 10,000 immigrants through the program.

In recent years, however, the program has been mired in controversy amid growing concerns about security threats and struggles to develop a proper screening process.

According to court documents, more than 20 people in the program have been the subject of FBI or Pentagon counterintelligence or criminal investigations since 2013.

Gleason said the Defense Department suspended the program in 2016 after several classified assessments concluded that it "was vulnerable to an unacceptable level of risk from insider threats such as espionage, terrorism, and other criminal activity."

Army Secretary Mark Esper, another advocate of the program, said recently that about of 80 percent



FILE - In this Oct. 30, 2017, file photo, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, testifies during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. US officials say stricter Trump administration immigration policies have stymied Pentagon plans to restart a program that allowed thousands of people with critical medical or Asian and African language skills to join the military and become American citizens. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

of MAVNI recruits who have gone through screening were approved and enlisted into the service. But he added that the Army must “exercise due diligence, to make sure we understand who is coming into our ranks and just do that. The process is never quick enough, certainly for them, and for me as well.”

Since the program’s suspension in 2016, hundreds of immigrants have been stalled in the intake process, waiting a year or more to get through the updated screening.

Dozens of the immigrant recruits were discharged or had their contracts canceled as the background checks dragged on, leading to complaints and lawsuits. Defense officials said the delays were likely because the remaining applicants required more complicated security checks that take longer to complete.

In response to the suits, the Army stopped processing discharges last month and reinstated at least three dozen recruits who had been thrown out of the service.

Officials said the Pentagon is exploring other ways to adjust or replace the program in order to bring immigrants with those skills into the military. But the officials said it will be difficult and that it probably will take a good deal of time.

The struggle with the program comes as the administration has imposed more stringent rules for immigration, aimed largely at the country’s border with Mexico.

Those moves reflect Trump’s calculation that his promise to end illegal immigration and build a wall along that border fueled his election, and that stressing the same issues will drive voters to the polls and help the GOP retain its majorities in the Senate and House.

The MAVNI program, however, is not targeted at Spanish speakers, because the military has a large number of those. Instead, according to the Pentagon, the top languages spoken by recruits brought in through the program are Korean, Chinese Mandarin, Nepalese, Hindi, Swahili, Tagalog, French, Yoruba, Russian and Portuguese Brazilian.

Associated Press writer Colleen Long contributed to this report.

3rd Kavanaugh accuser has history of legal disputes

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, MICHAEL BIESECKER and MARTHA MENDOZA, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Julie Swetnick, one of the women who has publicly accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct, has an extensive history of involvement in legal disputes, including a lawsuit in which an ex-employer accused her of falsifying her college and work history on her job application.

Legal documents from Maryland, Oregon and Florida provide a partial picture of a woman who stepped into the media glare amid the battle over Kavanaugh’s nomination for the nation’s highest court.

Court records reviewed by The Associated Press show Swetnick has been involved in at least six legal cases over the past 25 years. Along with the lawsuit filed by a former employer in November 2000, the cases include a personal injury suit she filed in 1994 against the Washington, D.C., regional transit authority.

Her lawyer, Michael Avenatti, told the AP that court cases involving her have no bearing on the credibility of her claims about Kavanaugh. Avenatti said the suit from her ex-employer — it was dismissed a month after it was filed — was “completely bogus, which is why it was dismissed almost immediately.”

He told AP that he “fully vetted” Swetnick before helping her take her claims against Kavanaugh public.

Avenatti released a sworn statement by Swetnick this past week in which she says she witnessed Kavanaugh “consistently engage in excessive drinking and inappropriate contact of a sexual nature with women in the early 1980s.” In the statement, which was provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Swetnick said she had been sexually assaulted at a party attended by members of Kavanaugh’s social circle, but did not accuse him of assaulting her. Two other women have publicly accused Kavanaugh of sexually abusing them.

One of those women, Christine Blasey Ford, appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday to offer emotional testimony that even Kavanaugh’s most ardent backers, including Trump, said they found credible. Another woman, Deborah Ramirez, has accused Kavanaugh of exposing himself to her

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during a drunken party when both were students at Yale University. Friends and colleagues of Ramirez describe her as a quiet person who has dedicated herself to being an advocate for needy families and survivors of domestic violence.

Swetnick was the third named Kavanaugh accuser to emerge, when Avenatti released details of her accusations on Twitter on the eve of Ford's testimony.

Kavanaugh has denied the claims regarding him made by Swetnick and other women, characterizing some of the allegations as a "joke" and a "farce."

Ann Simonton, a nationally recognized advocate for rape survivors and director of Media Watch, a media literacy organization, cautioned that many sexual abuse survivors encounter chaos and trouble later in life — things can tarnish a survivor's image but don't necessarily speak to the legitimacy of the underlying abuse allegations. "This type of trauma will impact your daily life forever," she said.

Swetnick, who is from the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., has said she is willing to be interviewed by either Congress or the FBI. On Twitter, Avenatti wrote that he and Swetnick would "thoroughly enjoy" embarrassing Republicans on the Judiciary Committee this weekend "when her story is told and is deemed credible." Swetnick has taped an interview with "The Circus," a political program that is part of Showtime's Sunday lineup.

Some details of the legal disputes she's been involved in aren't known, because documents in the cases are incomplete or no longer available. Records in the lawsuit filed in late 2000 by her ex-employer, Oregon-based software company Webtrends, don't indicate why it was dismissed. Avenatti said there was a settlement in the case but no money changed hands.

In its civil complaint in a state court in Oregon, the company said Swetnick, a software engineer, was an employee for a few weeks before its human resources department received a report that she had engaged in "unwelcome sexual innuendo and inappropriate conduct" toward two male co-workers at a business lunch.

The lawsuit said that Swetnick in turn accused Webtrends of subjecting her to "physically and emotionally threatening and hostile conditions" and that she claimed that she'd been sexually harassed by four co-workers. The co-workers denied the allegations, the suit said.

Company officials later determined, the suit said, that Swetnick had provided false information on her employment application. The suit alleged that she had misrepresented the length of time she worked at a previous employer and falsely claimed that she'd earned an undergraduate degree in biology and chemistry from Johns Hopkins University.

Her lawyer, Avenatti, said that "whether she has a college degree or not does not matter as to whether she is a sexual assault victim."

Helene Moglen, Swetnick's aunt, told AP this week that her niece went off to college but quickly moved back home. In an interview with The Washington Post, Swetnick's father was quoted as saying that "she



This undated photo of Julie Swetnick was released by her attorney Michael Avenatti via Twitter, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018. Swetnick is one of the women who has publicly accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct. (Michael Avenatti via AP)

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bootstrapped herself and became a computer expert. She's a sharp woman."

None of the executives named in the lawsuit still works at Webtrends. Calls and emails to the company's Portland headquarters seeking comment received no response. The lawyer who represented the company in the lawsuit also did not return messages seeking comment on Thursday and Friday.

Swetnick was on the other side of a civil case in 1994, as a plaintiff, when she filed a personal injury lawsuit in Maryland against the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. She claimed she lost more than \$420,000 in earnings after she hurt her nose in a fall on a train in 1992.

Swetnick, who described herself in court records as a model and actor, claimed she had "numerous modeling commitments" with several companies at the time of the accident but missed out on them because of her injuries.

To support her claim for lost wages, Swetnick named "Konam Studios" as one of the companies promising to employ her. A court filing identified Nam Ko, a representative of "Kunam Studios," as a possible plaintiff's witness for her case.

Ko, however, told AP on Friday that he was just a friend of Swetnick's and that he had never owned a company with a name spelled either way and had never agreed to pay her money for any work before she injured her nose. He said he first met Swetnick at a bar more than a year after her alleged accident.

"I didn't have any money back then. I (was) broke as can be," Ko said.

Ko said he has a hazy memory of Swetnick asking to use him as a "character reference" but doesn't recall hearing about her lawsuit.

"I thought it was for a job application," he said.

In answer to questions about the suit, Avenatti said: "This is all hearsay. ... None of this is relevant, not one bit."

The paperwork filed in the suit includes a letter addressed to Swetnick's attorney from Richard Zamora, who is identified as a marketing executive from a San Jose, California-based company called Fiber Sign Inc. In the letter, dated March 1994, Zamora said the company had been prepared to hire Swetnick as a model and spokeswoman and pay her a \$60,000 base salary but offered the job to someone else after learning of her accident.

Zamora later asked a court in Florida for a restraining order against Swetnick. The remaining court records don't show the reasons he gave for asking for the restraining order, but indicate that the case was dropped less than two weeks later when neither party appeared in court.

Zamora, who now goes by Richard Vinneccy, declined to comment to AP this week about the letter or the nature of the relationship he'd had with Swetnick.

Avenatti said the request for a restraining order was "nonsense."

Court records show Swetnick's lawsuit against the transit agency was dismissed in 1997 after a settlement was reached. Vincent Jankoski, one of the lawyers who defended the agency, said the case was resolved without paying Swetnick any money after she failed to provide documentation supporting her lost-wage claims.

Kunzelman reported from Rockville, Maryland, and Mendoza from Santa Cruz, California. Associated Press writers Jeff Horwitz in Washington and Brian Witte in Annapolis and News Researcher Monica Mathur in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Kunzelman at <https://twitter.com/kunzelman75> , Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck> and <https://twitter.com/mendozamartha> .

For more coverage of Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/Kavanaughnomination>

Trump says FBI has 'free rein' in Kavanaugh investigation

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct when they were students at Yale has agreed to cooperate with an FBI investigation, her lawyer says, and President Donald Trump says the bureau has "free rein" to conduct the inquiry.

Deborah Ramirez's lawyer, John Clune, said Saturday that agents want to interview Ramirez, who has alleged that Kavanaugh exposed himself to her at a party in the early 1980s. Two other women have accused the appeals court judge of sexual misconduct.

Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court, once seen as assured, became uncertain after the allegations and then dramatic Senate testimony

Thursday by Christine Blasey Ford, who alleges that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her at a party when they were teenagers. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted in favor of Kavanaugh along party lines Friday.

While the precise scope of the reopened background investigation of Kavanaugh remained unclear, Trump told reporters Saturday that "the FBI, as you know, is all over talking to everybody" and said "this could be a blessing in disguise."

"They have free rein. They're going to do whatever they have to do, whatever it is they do. They'll be doing things that we have never even thought of," Trump said at the White House. "And hopefully at the conclusion everything will be fine."

The president revisited the question of the scope of the FBI's probe in a late-night tweet Saturday, writing in part, "I want them to interview whoever they deem appropriate, at their discretion."

In a separate action involving the FBI, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, asked the Justice Department and the FBI to open a criminal investigation into "apparent false statements" that were made to committee investigators alleging sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh in 1985.

A constituent contacted the office of Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., alleging that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted an acquaintance on a boat in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1985, but Grassley said the person later "recanted" and apologized for the allegation via social media.

Trump ordered the FBI on Friday to reopen Kavanaugh's background investigation after several women accused Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct. Kavanaugh has denied the allegations.

Senate leaders agreed to delay a final vote on Kavanaugh's nomination to allow for a one-week FBI investigation. The Judiciary Committee has said the probe should be limited to "current credible allegations" against Kavanaugh and be finished by next Friday.

Leaving the hearing this past Friday, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said it was his understanding there would be an FBI investigation of "the outstanding allegations, the three of them," but Republicans have not said whether that was their understanding as well.

The FBI conducts background checks for federal nominees, but the agency does not make judgments on the credibility or significance of allegations. The investigators will compile information about Kavanaugh's



President Donald Trump speaks at a rally in Wheeling, W.Va., Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

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past and provide their findings to the White House and include the information in Kavanaugh's background file, which is available to senators.

Kavanaugh and Ford, who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when both were teenagers, testified publicly before the Judiciary Committee on Thursday.

Kavanaugh's high school friend Mark Judge, who Ford says was in the room when a drunken Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her, said that he will cooperate with any law enforcement agency that will "confidentially investigate" sexual misconduct allegations against him and Kavanaugh. Judge has also denied misconduct allegations.

Lawyers for P.J. Smyth and Leland Ingham Keyser, two others who Ford said were in the house when she was attacked, have said their clients are willing to cooperate "fully" with the FBI's investigation. An attorney for Keyser reaffirmed her previous statement that she doesn't know Kavanaugh and has no recollection of ever being at a gathering or party where he was present, the Judiciary Committee said in a statement Saturday night.

A third woman, Julie Swetnick, accused Kavanaugh and Judge of excessive drinking and inappropriate treatment of women in the early 1980s, among other accusations. Kavanaugh has called her accusations a "joke" and Judge has said he "categorically" denies the allegations.

Swetnick's attorney, Michael Avenatti, said Saturday that his client had not been contacted by the FBI but is willing to fully cooperate with investigators.

Speaking to supporters at a rally Saturday night in Wheeling, West Virginia, Trump accused Democrats of using "ruthless and outrageous tactics" against Kavanaugh and urged voters to support Republicans in November's midterm elections.

"We see this horrible, horrible, radical group of Democrats. You see what's happening right now," Trump said.

"And they're determined to take back power by any means necessary. You see the meanness, the nastiness. They don't care who they hurt, who they have to run over to get power," he said.

"We're not going to give it to them," Trump said.

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington, Jonathan Lemire in New York and Darlene Superville in Wheeling, West Virginia, contributed to this report.

Warning system delays add to deaths in Indonesian tsunami

By STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press

MAKASSAR, Indonesia (AP) — An early warning system that could have prevented some deaths in the tsunami that hit an Indonesian island on Friday has been stalled in the testing phase for years.

The high-tech system of seafloor sensors, data-laden sound waves and fiber-optic cable was meant to replace a system set up after an earthquake and tsunami killed nearly 250,000 people in the region in 2004. But inter-agency wrangling and delays in getting just 1 billion rupiah (\$69,000) to complete the project means the system hasn't moved beyond a prototype developed with \$3 million from the U.S. National Science Foundation.

It is too late for central Sulawesi, where walls of water up to 6 meters (20 feet) high and a magnitude 7.5 earthquake killed at least 832 people in the cities of Palu and Donggala, tragically highlighting the weaknesses of the existing warning system and low public awareness about how to respond to warnings.

"To me this is a tragedy for science, even more so a tragedy for the Indonesian people as the residents of Sulawesi are discovering right now," said Louise Comfort, a University of Pittsburgh expert in disaster management who has led the U.S. side of the project, which also involves engineers from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Indonesian scientists and disaster experts.

"It's a heartbreak to watch when there is a well-designed sensor network that could provide critical information," she said.

After a 2004 tsunami killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries, more than half of them in the Indo-

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nesian province of Aceh, a concerted international effort was launched to improve tsunami warning capabilities, particularly in the Indian Ocean and for Indonesia, one of world's most earthquake and tsunami-prone countries.

Part of that drive, using funding from Germany and elsewhere, included deploying a network of 22 buoys connected to seafloor sensors to transmit advance warnings.

A sizeable earthquake off Sumatra in 2016 that caused panic in the coastal city of Padang revealed that none of the buoys costing hundreds of thousands of dollars each were working. They'd been disabled by vandalism or theft or just stopped working due to a lack of funds for maintenance.

The backbone of Indonesia's tsunami warning system today is a network of 134 tidal gauge stations augmented by land-based seismographs, sirens in about 55 locations and a system to disseminate warnings by text message.

When the 7.5 quake hit just after 6 p.m., the meteorology and geophysics agency issued a tsunami alert, warning of potential for waves of 0.5 to 3 meters. It ended the warning at 6.36 p.m. That drew harsh online criticism but the agency's head said the warning was lifted after the tsunami hit. It's unclear exactly what time tsunami waves rushed into the narrow bay that Palu is built around.

"The tide gauges are operating, but they are limited in providing any advance warning. None of the 22 buoys are functioning," Comfort said. "In the Sulawesi incident, BMKG (the meteorology and geophysics agency) canceled the tsunami warning too soon, because it did not have data from Palu. This is the data the tsunami detection system could provide," she said.

Adam Switzer, a tsunami expert at the Earth Observatory of Singapore, said it's a "little unfair" to say the agency got it wrong.

"What it shows is that the tsunami models we have now are too simplistic," he said. "They don't take into account multiple events, multiple quakes within a short period of time. They don't take into account submarine landslides."

Whatever system is in use, he said, the priority after an earthquake in a coastal area should be to get to higher ground and stay there for a couple of hours.

Power outages after the earthquake struck Friday meant that sirens meant to warn residents to evacuate did not work, said Harkunti P. Rahayu, an expert at the Institute of Technology in Bandung.

"Most people were shocked by the earthquake and did not pay any thought that a tsunami will come," she said.

Experts say the prototype system deployed offshore from Padang — a city extremely vulnerable to tsunamis because it faces a major undersea fault overdue for a massive quake — can provide authoritative information about a tsunami threat within 1-3 minutes. That compares with 5-45 minutes from the now defunct buoys and the limited information provided by tidal gauges.



People survey the damage of a shopping mall following earthquakes and tsunami in Palu, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018. Rescuers are scrambling to try to find trapped victims in collapsed buildings where voices could be heard screaming for help after a massive earthquake that spawned a deadly tsunami in Indonesia two days ago. (AP Photo/Tatan Syuflana)

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The system's undersea seismometers and pressure sensors send data-laden sound waves to warm surface waters. From there they refract back into the depths, traveling 20-30 kilometers to the next node in the network and so on.

The Padang network's final undersea point needs just a few more kilometers of fiber optic cable to connect it to a station on an offshore island where the cascades of data would be transmitted by satellite to the geophysics agency, which issues tsunami warnings, and to disaster officials.

The Associated Press first reported on the system in January 2017, when the project was awaiting Indonesian funding to lay the cables. Since then, agencies involved have suffered budget cuts and the project bounced back and forth between them.

A December 2017 quake off the coast of Java close to Jakarta re-ignited interest and the geophysics agency made getting funding a priority. In July, the Ministry of Finance in July approved funding to purchase and lay the cable.

But at an inter-agency meeting in September, the three major agencies involved failed to agree on their responsibilities and the project was "simply put on hold," Comfort said.

Indonesian officials who've been supportive of the new early warning system did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Since the 2004 tsunami, the mantra among disaster officials in Indonesia has been that the earthquake is the tsunami warning and signal for immediate evacuation. Not everyone is convinced a tsunami detection system is essential.

"What Indonesian colleagues have commented upon is that people were confused about what to do with the alert information," said Gavin Sullivan, a Coventry University psychologist who works with the Indonesian Resilience Initiative on a disaster preparation project for the Indonesian city of Bandung.

The fact that people were still milling around Palu's shoreline when waves were visibly approaching shows the lessons of earlier disasters haven't been absorbed.

"This points to the failing to do appropriate training and to develop trust so that people know exactly what to do when an alert is issued," he said. "In our project in Bandung we're finding a similar unwillingness to prepare for something that seems unlikely."

Associated Press writer Margie Mason in Jakarta contributed.

Trump urges supporters to vote in wake of Kavanaugh hearing

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WHEELING, W.Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday turned his embattled Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh into a rallying cry for Republicans to vote in November, saying they can reject the "ruthless and outrageous tactics" he says Democrats used against the judge.

"We see this horrible, horrible, radical group of Democrats. You see what's happening right now," Trump said at a rally with thousands of supporters in West Virginia. Trump won the state in 2016 by 42 percentage points and remains popular there.

"And they're determined to take back power by any means necessary. You see the meanness, the nastiness. They don't care who they hurt, who they have to run over to get power," he said.

"We're not going to give it to them," Trump said.

Kavanaugh, the federal appeals judge Trump nominated to the nation's highest court, appeared headed for confirmation until California professor Christine Blasey Ford accused him of sexually assaulting her when they were teenagers in Maryland in the 1980s. Kavanaugh denied her accusations and those of two other women who since have accused him of sexual misconduct.

Ford initially made her claims in a confidential letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the Senate Judiciary Committee's top Democrat. But the letter was leaked after Kavanaugh's initial confirmation hearing and Ford then told her explosive story to The Washington Post.

Feinstein denied being the source, but Trump has blamed her for the leak and he mocked her at the rally.

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"The entire nation has witnessed the shameful conduct of the Democrat Party," Trump said.

Feinstein responded to Trump on Twitter, saying she acted "consistent" with Ford's wishes for privacy from the moment she received the professor's letter.

"We kept her letter confidential and did not leak the contents or its existence to anyone," she said.

Trump took a humorous jab at another Judiciary Committee Democrat, Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, the former Newark mayor considered a possible challenger in 2020. The president told the crowd that Booker ran Newark "into the ground" and asked: "Now he wants to be president?"

During Kavanaugh's initial confirmation hearing, Booker declared he was having a "Spartacus" moment in breaking committee rules and releasing documents about Kavanaugh, though the papers had already been cleared for release. He was referencing the 1960 movie starring Kirk Douglas about the leader of a slave revolt in antiquity.

"What was the moment he said he had?" Trump asked the crowd, which yelled back, "Spartacus!" Trump said: "I don't think so. I think we take Kirk Douglas in his prime."

Trump issued a fresh defense of Kavanaugh, praising him as "one of the most accomplished legal minds of our time" and saying he had suffered "the meanness, the anger" of Democrats.

The president urged his supporters to go to the polls on Nov. 6, when control of Congress is at stake, to vote Republican and "reject the ruthless and outrageous tactics of the Democrat Party."

Trump appeared in Wheeling a day after he reversed course and ordered a new FBI investigation of Kavanaugh. Democrats and some Republicans had been asking for the new investigation, which will delay by at least a week a Senate vote on his confirmation.

In a dramatic appearance Thursday before the Judiciary Committee, Ford publicly accused Kavanaugh of groping her and trying to remove her clothing after he pinned her to a bed at a house party when she was 15 and he was 17. Following her to the witness table, Kavanaugh denied the allegations and angrily defended himself.

The panel followed up Friday by voting 11-10, along strict party lines, to recommend that the full Senate confirm Kavanaugh for the Supreme Court. But one committee member, Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., balked at voting for confirmation without the investigation. Republican leaders want Kavanaugh seated on the court before the election and could do little but agree to Flake's demand.

Flake asked for the investigation to be limited in scope and last no more than a week.

Trump agreed to an investigation after he had vigorously resisted asking the FBI — an agency he has repeatedly criticized — to look into the sexual assault and misconduct allegations. In defending Kavanaugh, Trump and other supporters noted that the allegations had never surfaced in six previous background checks during Kavanaugh's long career in the executive and judicial branches of the U.S. government.

Trump sounded familiar themes during the hour-plus rally, including talking about the economy's performance, his 2016 opponent Hillary Clinton, the escalating trade war with China and his relationship with



President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at WesBanco Arena, Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018, in Wheeling, W.Va. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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North Korean leader Kim Jon Un.

Besides the Democrats, Trump leveled some of his harshest criticism at the news media, criticizing its coverage of his June summit with Kim and pointing to reporters in the WesBanco Arena. The audience broke into chants of "CNN sucks" when he again referred to journalists as the "enemy of the people."

"They report incorrect news. They report phony news," said Trump, who spent more than 80 minutes last Wednesday answering questions from journalists at a news conference the White House scheduled during the U.N. General Assembly session in New York.

"When I say and come out with very, very strong statements about the media, I'm talking about the fake news media. They are truly an enemy of the people ... This November you have a chance to reject these disgraceful political hacks."

Trump's visit to West Virginia was intended to help rally support for GOP candidates in the November elections, including Senate nominee Patrick Morrisey. The Democratic incumbent, Joe Manchin, faces a tough road to re-election in a state where Trump is popular.

Manchin supports the new FBI probe of Kavanaugh but has yet to announce his position on the nominee. He voted for Neil Gorsuch, Trump's first nominee to the Supreme Court.

Trump again criticized Manchin for supporting Clinton and joining all Senate Democrats in voting against tax cuts Trump signed into law last year.

Saturday's rally was one of many Trump planned to headline as part of a commitment to campaign aggressively — he has said seven days a week, if necessary — to help the Republican Party overcome significant Democratic opposition and anger to keep control of both houses of Congress.

Campaign rallies were scheduled next week in Tennessee, Mississippi and Kansas.

Associated Press writer Steve Peoples in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Legendary Chicago blues guitarist Otis Rush dies at 84

CHICAGO (AP) — Legendary Chicago blues guitarist Otis Rush, whose passionate, jazz-tinged music influenced artists from Carlos Santana and Eric Clapton to the rock band Led Zeppelin, died Saturday at the age of 84, his longtime manager said.

Rush succumbed to complications from a stroke he suffered in 2003, manager Rick Bates said.

Born in Philadelphia, Mississippi, Rush settled in Chicago as an adult and began playing the local clubs, wearing a cowboy hat and sometimes strumming his guitar upside down for effect.

He catapulted to international fame in 1956 with his first recording on Cobra Records of "I Can't Quit You Baby," which reached No. 6 on the Billboard R&B charts.

He was a key architect of the Chicago "West Side Sound" in the 1950s and 1960s, which modernized traditional blues to introduce more of a jazzy, amplified sound.

"He was one of the last great blues guitar heroes. He was an electric God," said Gregg Parker, CEO and a founder of the Chicago Blues Museum.

Rush loved to play to live audiences, from small clubs on the West Side of Chicago to sold out venues in Europe and Japan.

"He was king of the hill in Chicago from the late 1950s into the 1970s and even the 80s as a live artist," said Bates.

But he got less national and international attention than some other blues musicians because he wasn't a big promoter.

"He preferred to go out and play and go back and sleep in his own bed," said Bates. "He was not a show business guy."

Rush won a Grammy for Best Traditional Blues Recording in 1999 for "Any Place I'm Going," and he was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1984.

In one of his final appearances on stage at the Chicago Blues Festival in 2016, Rush watched beneath a black Stetson hat from a wheelchair as he was honored by the city of Chicago, according to the Chicago Tribune.

He is survived by his wife Masaki Rush, eight children and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren, according to a family statement.

FBI contacts Kavanaugh Yale classmate in its investigation

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press



Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh testifies during the Senate Judiciary Committee, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018 on Capitol Hill in Washington. (Tom Williams/Pool Image via AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI has contacted Deborah Ramirez, who's accused Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct when he was a Yale student, as part of the bureau's investigation of the Supreme Court nominee, her attorney said Saturday.

Ramirez's lawyer, John Clune, said agents want to interview her and she has agreed to cooperate. Ramirez has said Kavanaugh exposed himself to her at a party in the early 1980s when they were Yale students.

President Donald Trump ordered the FBI on Friday to reopen Kavanaugh's background investigation after several women accused Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct. Kavanaugh has denied the allegations.

Senate leaders agreed to delay a final vote on Kavanaugh's nomination

to allow for a one-week FBI investigation. The Senate Judiciary Committee has said the probe should be limited to "current credible allegations" against Kavanaugh and be finished by next Friday.

Leaving the hearing Friday, Sen. Dick Durbin, a Democrat from Illinois, said it was his understanding there would be an FBI investigation of "the outstanding allegations, the three of them," but Republicans have not said whether that was their understanding as well.

While the precise scope of the investigation remained unclear, Trump told reporters Saturday that "the FBI, as you know, is all over talking to everybody" and said "this could be a blessing in disguise."

"They have free rein. They're going to do whatever they have to do, whatever it is they do. They'll be doing things that we have never even thought of," he said. "And hopefully at the conclusion everything will be fine."

White House spokesman Raj Shah said the Senate set the scope and duration of the investigation and that the White House is "letting the FBI agents do what they are trained to do."

The FBI conducts background checks for federal nominees, but the agency does not make judgments on the credibility or significance of allegations. The investigators will compile information about Kavanaugh's past and provide their findings to the White House and include the information in Kavanaugh's background file, which is available to senators.

Kavanaugh and another of his accusers, Christine Blasey Ford, who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when both were teenagers, testified publicly before the Judiciary Committee on Thursday.

Kavanaugh's high school friend Mark Judge, who Ford says was in the room when a drunken Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her, said that he will cooperate with any law enforcement agency that will "confidentially

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investigate" sexual misconduct allegations against him and Kavanaugh. Judge has also denied misconduct allegations.

Lawyers for P.J. Smyth and Leland Ingham Keyser, two others who Ford said were in the house when she was attacked, have said their clients are willing to cooperate "fully" with the FBI's investigation.

A third woman, Julie Swetnick, accused Kavanaugh and Judge of excessive drinking and inappropriate treatment of women in the early 1980s, among other accusations. Kavanaugh has called her accusations a "joke" and Judge has said he "categorically" denies the allegations.

Swetnick's attorney, Michael Avenatti, said Saturday afternoon that his client had not been contacted by the FBI but is willing to fully cooperate with investigators.

On Saturday, Sen. Chuck Grassley, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, asked the Justice Department and the FBI to open a criminal investigation into "apparent false statements" that were made to committee investigators alleging sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh in 1985.

A constituent contacted the office of Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse alleging that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted an acquaintance on a boat in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1985, but Grassley said the person later "recanted" and apologized for the allegation via social media.

Separately on Saturday, Whitehouse, a Democrat, said he expects the FBI would provide adequate staffing for Kavanaugh's background investigation, with teams working in parallel to investigate separate allegations. Agents should get support from the Judiciary Committee for rapid immunity and subpoena decisions, he said.

Last week, Trump tweeted that "if the attack on Dr. Ford was as bad as she says, charges would have been immediately filed" with local police. On Thursday night, he attacked Democrats, saying they have a "search and destroy strategy" and said "this process has been a total sham and effort to delay, obstruct and resist."

After Ford appeared before the Judiciary Committee, Trump said her testimony was "very compelling" and that she appeared to be "certainly a very credible witness."

In the last week, Trump has spoken repeatedly with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has scolded Trump about comments that appeared to cast doubt on Ford's claim, according to two Republicans familiar with the discussions but not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

McConnell urged Trump to support Kavanaugh but to avoid attacking his accusers, warning that he was in charge of counting votes and those kinds of disparaging remarks could cause him to lose Republican senators whose votes could be key to confirming Kavanaugh, including Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, they said.

McConnell also strongly warned Trump against firing Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein following reports that Rosenstein had discussed possibly secretly recording the president and using the Constitution's 25th Amendment to remove him from office, telling him it could lead to "a bloodbath," according to the Republicans familiar with the conversations. The Kentucky senator feared it could not only heighten the tension around the delicate Kavanaugh proceedings but could endanger Republican control of the Senate.

McConnell has repeatedly stressed to Trump that he should not act on Rosenstein or his boss, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, until after the midterm elections.

McConnell's office declined to discuss the leader's calls with the president, but spokeswoman Antonia Ferrier said the two "speak regularly and have had good conversations."

Longtime McConnell adviser Scott Jennings said it wouldn't surprise him that the Senate leader would be giving the president his best advice on how to be most helpful, even in direct terms.

"I've never known McConnell to be anything other than candid and honest," said Jennings, who did not have direct knowledge of the conversations with the White House.

Taking stock of the week, Jennings noted that the president, by week's end, "has been pretty helpful." Rosenstein wasn't fired. Trump didn't lash out at Sen. Jeff Flake, the Arizona Republican who forced the delay of Kavanaugh's confirmation with the FBI probe. And Trump signed a bill to fund the government and avoid a federal shutdown without "making a stink" about extra money for his border wall with Mexico.

"Look at what happened," Jennings said. "The president was striking the tone."

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

Syria FM: Victory over 'terrorism' is near, US must leave

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press



Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Walid al-Moallem addresses the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018 at U.N. headquarters. (AP Photo/Mary

Altaffer)

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Declaring that victory over “terrorism” is almost at hand after more than seven years of civil war, Syria’s foreign minister took to the world stage Saturday and demanded that “occupation” forces from the U.S., France and Turkey leave the country immediately.

Walid al-Moallem told the General Assembly’s high-level meeting that the situation on the ground “is more stable and secure thanks to combating terrorism” and “all conditions are now present for the voluntary return of refugees.”

Syrian government forces, backed by Russia and Iran, have retaken most of the territory rebels seized during the war that has killed over 400,000 people and driven millions from their homes. President Bashar Assad’s government refers to all armed opposition and rebel groups fighting Syrian

forces as “terrorists,” not just Islamic State or al-Qaida militants.

Last week, Russia and Turkey agreed to a deal which stopped an imminent Syrian government offensive to retake the last major rebel stronghold in the northern province of Idlib. It calls for setting up a demilitarized zone around Idlib to separate government forces from rebels, including those from the al-Qaida-linked group formerly known as the Nusra Front.

“We hope that when the agreement is implemented, the Nusra Front and other terrorists will be eradicated, thus eliminating the last remnants of terrorism in Syria,” al-Moallem said.

He offered no hard evidence to back up his assertions that victory was near. There was no response to emails seeking comment from the U.S., France and Turkey.

Al-Moallem’s upbeat speech praised the army and the Syrian people for remaining “defiant” during the war, “fully convinced that this was a battle for their existence.” He bashed Western and other countries supporting the opposition, alluding to their failed effort to install a transition government and get rid of Assad.

“To the disappointment of some, here we are today more than seven years into this dirty war against my country, announcing to the world that the situation on the ground has become more secure and stable, and that our battle against terrorism is almost over,” al-Moallem said.

“It is high time for all those detached from reality to wake up, let go of their fantasies, and come to their senses, see matters realistically,” he said. “They must realize they will not achieve politically what they failed to achieve by force.”

While Turkey confronts the difficult task of trying to separate the forces in Idlib, the U.N. envoy for Syria,

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Staffan de Mistura, is trying to bring the warring parties together to move forward on long-stalled political talks aimed at ending the war.

De Mistura is hoping to convene the first meeting of a committee to reform the country's constitution, a key step in a 2012 roadmap adopted by world powers that is to culminate with elections and the formation of a new government. He told The Associated Press this week that October will be crucial.

Al-Moallem signaled difficulties ahead in negotiations, indicating in his speech that Syria doesn't want a new constitution. "We stress that the mandate of the committee is limited to reviewing the articles of the current constitution," the Syrian minister said.

He added that Syria "will not accept any proposal that constitutes an interference in internal affairs of Syria, or leads to such interference."

The United States, aided by Syrian Kurdish-led fighters, helped rout the Islamic State extremist group from all urban areas in Syria but remains in the country because pockets of IS militants remain. Turkey says it is fighting IS but is also seeking to curb the spread of the Syrian Kurdish militia that it considers "terrorists."

Al-Moallem said "any foreign presence on Syrian territory without the consent of the Syrian government is illegal, and constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the U.N. Charter."

"We therefore consider any forces operating on Syrian territory without an explicit request from the Syrian government, including U.S., French and Turkish forces, occupying forces and will be dealt with accordingly," he said. "They must withdraw immediately and without any conditions."

Assad's forces have battled all armed opposition, both Syrian rebels and militant groups such as IS and al-Qaida.

Al-Moallem said the Damascus government also remains committed regaining control over the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed, a move never recognized internationally.

Associated Press writer Katarina Kratovac contributed to this report from Cairo.

N. Korea FM: Peace possible, but only if US ends hostility

By FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Calling for more trust, North Korea's foreign minister urged the United States on Saturday to keep moving past what he called seven decades of entrenched hostility if Washington wants to restart stalled negotiations meant to rid Pyongyang of its nuclear bombs.

Boiling the rivals' diplomatic standoff down to the North's deepening feeling of mistrust, Ri Yong Ho sought to lay out a vision of peace on the troubled Korean Peninsula — provided the North gets what it wants from the United States.

Ri, standing at a podium at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, said North Korea is ready to implement the points that his leader, Kim Jong Un, and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to in June during a summit in Singapore.

But his comments were infused with what came across as impatience at the slow pace of progress in a process the world hopes will cause Pyongyang to abandon an arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles that aims to accurately target the entire U.S. mainland.

In recent weeks, Kim Jong Un has said he would permanently dismantle North Korea's main nuclear complex, but only if the United States takes unspecified corresponding measures. Kim has also promised to accept international inspectors to monitor the closing of a key missile test site and launch pad.

The North, however, doesn't "see any corresponding response" from Washington. On the contrary, Ri said, the United States is increasing pressure and sanctions.

"The perception that sanctions can bring us on our knees is a pipe dream of the people who are ignorant of us," Ri said, adding that the continued sanctions are "deepening our mistrust" and deadlocking

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the current diplomacy.

"Without any trust in the U.S., there will be no confidence in our national security," he said, "and under such circumstances there is no way we will unilaterally disarm ourselves first."

There was no immediate response from Washington. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last week he would return to Pyongyang to set up a sequel to the Singapore meeting between Kim and Trump.

Despite the muscular tone, Ri's high-profile speech was downright mild and balanced compared to the florid vows of nuclear strikes and claims of U.S. perfidiousness that have been typical fare from the country's propaganda services.

This was decidedly so during an exchange of threats between Washington and Pyongyang that accompanied a run of increasingly powerful weapons tests last year that put the North on the brink of its claim to be a full-fledged nuclear power, and had some fearing war.

The tenor of Ri's comments was clearly meant to push a wary United States to agree to a declaration formally ending the Korean War, which ended with a ceasefire, not a peace treaty.

Washington is wary of endorsing such a declaration, which could lead to a formal peace treaty. Pyongyang demands the removal of the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in the South to deter North Korean military adventurism. The United States wants the North first to provide a full account of the components of its nuclear program.

Although not legally binding, the North might also see an end-of-war declaration as a way to create political momentum that would steer discussions toward diplomatic recognition, economic benefits and security concessions.

Once the Singapore agreements are implemented, the "current trend toward detente will turn into durable peace and the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will also be achieved," Ri said. "The Korean Peninsula, the hottest spot in the globe, will become the cradle of peace and prosperity."

After their summit in Singapore, Trump and Kim issued a vague statement about a nuclear-free peninsula without describing when and how it would occur. Post-summit nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang were rocky and quickly settled into a stalemate. There is widespread skepticism that Pyongyang is serious about renouncing an arsenal that it likely sees as the only way to guarantee its safety.

Part of that skepticism is based on a bitter history of nuclear negotiations breaking down in mutual recrimination. But there's also stronger evidence for this wariness: Recent satellite photos have indicated Kim's weapons factories were still operating to produce fissile materials to make nuclear weapons.

The doubt is always present on a peninsula so used to threat and bloodshed. What's different now is that it seems to be suffused with a tentative but unmistakable hope.

"Over the past year something miraculous has taken place on the Korean Peninsula," South Korean President Moon Jae-in, seen as the force behind the recent summitry, said earlier at the U.N. "We have crossed the barriers of division and are tearing down the walls in our heart."

___ Follow Foster Klug, Associated Press bureau chief for South Korea, at @apklug.



North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho addresses the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018 at U.N. headquarters.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

Europe builds 10-6 lead in Ryder Cup behind 'Moliwood'

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France (AP) — Francesco Molinari and Tommy Fleetwood walked down the fairway after delivering another big point in the Ryder Cup, side by side with their arms around each other's shoulder.

Here came "Moliwood" at Le Golf National, the latest Ryder Cup sensation and the first European tandem to win all four matches since the current format began in 1979. Even more satisfying was that three of those points came at the expense of Tiger Woods.

But this was no time to celebrate.

"We came here to do a job, and it wasn't to go in the record books or anything like that," Molinari said.

And now they have to do it by themselves.

Everything points to Europe taking back the precious gold trophy on Sunday, starting from a 10-6 lead that requires Europe to win only 4 1/2 points from the 12 singles matches on the final day.

Woods hasn't won any of his three matches.

Phil Mickelson didn't even play Saturday.

Europe filled the board with its blue scores right from the start, winning three of the four matches in fourballs for an 8-4 lead, its largest after three sessions in 14 years. It held on in foursomes, with Henrik Stenson delivering clutch putts in the only match that was close.

But the score should sound familiar, and it was enough to make them cautious.

That's the same deficit Europe faced in 2012 at Medinah when it produced the largest comeback on foreign soil. The Americans have never made up that much ground away from home, though they were the first to win after trailing 10-6, at Brookline in 1999 when they front-loaded the Sunday lineup with their biggest stars.

And that was on the mind of Europe captain Thomas Bjorn, even as he was drowned out by thousands of fans using what was left of their voices to sing, "Ole, ole, ole, ole," the European anthem for these matches that Americans have heard far too often.

"We go ahead tomorrow and focus on what's ahead and not what's done," Bjorn said. "We are so well aware of what's standing across on the other side — the greatest players in the world. ... I would never get ahead of myself in this.

"History will show me and everybody on this team that it's not over."

Even so, he couldn't contain a smile.

Europe brought five rookies to Le Golf National who sure didn't seem like rookies — Alex Noren and Fleetwood were the last two French Open champions on the Albatross Course — and certainly didn't play like that.

His four captain's picks have delivered six points, while the American picks have contributed one, by



Europe's Tommy Fleetwood, left, and Francesco Molinari greet Tiger Woods of the US after a fourball match on the second day of the 42nd Ryder Cup at Le Golf National in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, outside Paris, France, Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018. Fleetwood and Molinari beat Woods and Patrick Reed of the US 4 and 3. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

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Tony Finau.

"We're really, really, really happy with how it's gone these past two days," Bjorn said.

If not for Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas, the Americans might really be in trouble. They pulled ahead in a tight fourballs match to beat Ian Poulter and Jon Rahm for the lone American point in the morning that prevented Europe from a second straight sweep of a team session. They rallied from an early deficit against Poulter and Rory McIlroy in foursomes, with both delivering key shots and big putts. With four birdies over their last five holes, they won 4 and 3.

Europe was up 10-4 until Bubba Watson and Webb Simpson won their match on the 16th, and Spieth and Thomas closed out their match right behind them.

"They had a six-point lead, and now it's four," Spieth said. "So we are carrying that as a little bit of momentum, I guess. Early wins tomorrow go a long way."

Thomas leads off the singles against McIlroy.

Woods is in the No. 4 spot against Jon Rahm, who has played two emotional matches without winning. Mickelson faces Molinari.

"I don't know if there is any one match more important than the other," U.S. captain Jim Furyk said. "You've got 12 of them out there, and we have to win eight points tomorrow to take the cup back home. ... We're trying to make some magic tomorrow."

Mickelson will have to shake off some rust. He hasn't played since Friday in a foursomes loss that lasted only 14 holes. Furyk said he would shake up the order for Saturday afternoon foursomes, and that meant keeping Lefty on the bench.

It was the second time in as many Ryder Cups in Europe that Mickelson, who holds the Ryder Cup record with 12 appearances, did not play on Saturday.

Woods played twice, and at times it looked as though he was playing by himself alongside Patrick Reed and Bryson DeChambeau.

Reed went from "Captain America" to looking more like "Private Patrick," taking himself out of holes in the fourballs session with too many shots into the gnarly rough, in the water and one out-of-bounds.

That wasn't enough to contend against "Moliwood." The fourballs match was all square until Molinari ran off three straight birdies. The foursomes match was never close, as Fleetwood delivered big putts to win holes, each time turning to the crowd in a crouch, dropping both arms and pumping them wildly.

They were 5 up at the turn over Woods and DeChambeau, and a brief rally only delayed the inevitable.

Woods has failed to win seven consecutive matches, dating to his singles victory against Molinari in Wales in 2010. Woods, coming off an inspiring victory at the Tour Championship for his first title since his litany of back surgeries, has looked flat in the Paris suburbs.

He hasn't had much help, but he also missed key putts around the turn that allowed Europe to build a big lead.

"Everything feels pretty good," Woods said. "Just pretty (ticked) off, the fact that I lost three matches and didn't feel like I played poorly. That's the frustrating thing about match play. We ran against two guys that were both playing well."

The rest of the European team wasn't too shabby either.

For more AP golf coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-Golf> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Musk out as Tesla chair, remains CEO in \$40M SEC settlement

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Tesla and its CEO Elon Musk have agreed to pay a total of \$40 million and make a series of concessions to settle a government lawsuit alleging Musk duped investors with misleading statements about a proposed buyout of the company.

The settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission allows Musk to remain CEO of the electric car company but requires him to relinquish his role as chairman for at least three years.

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Tesla must hire an independent chairman to oversee the company, something that should please a number of shareholders who have criticized Tesla's board for being too beholden to Musk.

The deal was announced Saturday, just two days after SEC filed its case seeking to oust Musk as CEO.

Musk, who has an estimated \$20 billion fortune, and Tesla, a company that ended June with \$2.2 billion in cash, each are paying \$20 million to resolve the case, which stemmed from a tweet Musk sent on Aug. 7 indicating he had the financing in place to take Tesla private at a price of \$420 per share.

"A reckless tweet cost a lot of money — the \$20-million tweet," said Michelle Krebs, executive analyst at Autotrader.

The deal could remove one cloud that hangs over Tesla. Investors fretted about the company's ability to cope without Musk, a charismatic entrepreneur whose penchant for coming up with revolutionary ideas has drawn comparisons to one of Silicon Valley's most revered visionaries, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs.

Tesla's stock plummeted 14 percent Friday after the SEC filed its lawsuit, erasing more than \$7 billion in shareholder wealth. Many analysts predicted the shares were bound to fall even further if Musk had been forced to step down. Tesla's stock has dropped 30 percent since Aug. 7, closing Friday at \$264.77.

The steep downturn in Tesla's market value may have influenced Musk to have an apparent change of heart and negotiate a settlement. Musk had rejected a similar settlement offer before the SEC sued Thursday, maintaining he had done nothing wrong when he posted a tweet declaring that he had secured the financing to lead a buyout of Tesla.

The SEC alleged Musk wasn't close to locking up the estimated \$25 billion to \$50 billion needed to pull off the buyout.

Musk and Tesla reached their settlement without admitting to or denying the SEC's allegations.

The resolution "is in the best interests of our markets and our investors, including the shareholders of Tesla," SEC Chairman Jay Clayton said in a statement.

A Tesla spokeswoman said the company and Musk had no comment Saturday.

Besides paying a fine and stripping Musk of his chairman's title, Tesla also must appoint two more directors who have no ties to the company or its management. Musk will be allowed to remain on the board.

The company also must clamp down on Musk's communications with investors, a requirement that might make its colorful CEO's Twitter posts slightly less interesting.

"Considering the drastic punishment the SEC had announced, Musk and Tesla got lucky," said Krebs, the Autotrader analyst. "Musk at least remains at the helm of the company, and adding a couple of board members is a good thing."



FILE - In this Sept. 17, 2018, file photo SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk speaks after announcing Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa as the first private passenger on a trip around the moon in Hawthorne, Calif. Tesla and its CEO Musk have agreed to pay a total of \$40 million and make a series of concessions to settle a government lawsuit alleging Musk duped investors with misleading statements about a proposed buyout of the company. The Securities and Exchange Commission announced the settlement Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018, just two days after filing a case seeking to oust Musk as CEO. (AP Photo/Chris Carlson, File)

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The SEC also got what it wanted by bringing the combative Musk down a notch and taking steps to tone down his off-the-cuff remarks while forcing Tesla to expand its board to counterbalance its CEO's power, said Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond. Besides being CEO, Musk owns a roughly 20 percent stake in Tesla.

"Maybe this will make Musk stop acting so crazy and fly right," Tobias said.

Besides tweeting about a deal that the SEC alleged he didn't have money to pay for, Musk had been engaging in other erratic behavior that had been raising questions about whether he should remain CEO.

Musk had raised hackles by ridiculing stock market analysts for posing fairly standard questions about Tesla's shaky finances, and calling a diver who helped rescue 12 boys on a Thai soccer team from a flooded cave a pedophile, triggering a defamation lawsuit. He was also recently caught on a widely circulated video apparently smoking marijuana, a legal drug in Tesla's home state of California.

The erratic behavior has convinced more analysts that Tesla needs to find a replacement for Musk, but the SEC settlement will allow the company to do so on its own timetable, if it decides to hire a new leader.

Tesla is also under mounting pressure to overcome its past manufacturing problems and produce enough vehicles to become consistently profitable after years of huge losses.

A gauge of the company's progress should come within the next few days when Tesla is expected to release its vehicle production numbers for the July-September period.

Musk has pledged Tesla would manufacture an average of 7,000 vehicles per week, enough to turn a profit.

Tesla needs to turn the financial corner because it has \$1.3 billion in debt coming due during the next six months. If it keeps burning through its cash, Tesla will likely have to raise more money to pay its bills — something that analysts say will be easier to do without any lingering doubt who will be running the company.

Many women line up in support of Kavanaugh

By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — As the Senate is divided on President Donald Trump's Supreme Court pick, so too are women across the country.

Female voices have echoed throughout the U.S. Senate this week demanding male senators justify their support for Brett Kavanaugh's U.S. Supreme Court nomination despite an allegation of high school sexual assault.

But other women have spent hours calling Senate offices in support of Kavanaugh, condemning what they saw as an anti-Republican ploy that's damaged not only Kavanaugh's reputation and livelihood but also his accuser's.

To Hannah King, a college senior from Bristol, Tennessee, Christine Blasey Ford's allegations of a drunken attack by Kavanaugh at a 1982 party when both were in high school were jarring and scary. But while King expressed empathy for Ford, she also said she's concerned about the timing of Ford's allegations, which surfaced publicly only after Kavanaugh — already a federal judge — was nominated to the Supreme Court.

"It was too timely and strategic," said King, 21. "Anything like that makes you question how true it is."

King spoke Friday after the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to advance Kavanaugh's nomination to the full Senate. Hours later, Trump ordered an FBI investigation of Kavanaugh upon Republican Sen. Jeff Flake's insistence. Flake's demand came after two women who said they had experienced sexual assault confronted him on an elevator at the Senate and demanded he take action against Kavanaugh. Two other women besides Ford have also lodged public sexual misconduct allegations against Kavanaugh.

"A lot of times, you cope by suppressing and forgetting," said King, who leads the King University College Republicans. "But someone's promotion isn't something that should prompt someone to come forward."

That sentiment was shared by Sarah Round, 69, a retired elementary school teacher of Newport Center, Vermont, who felt empathy for Ford but not at the expense of Kavanaugh's reputation and future.

"Possibly something happened to her," Round said. "But I think she embellished what happened, or she

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would have gone to some authority or said something about it years ago.”

Nancy Mace, the first woman to graduate from The Citadel and a Republican state representative from Daniel Island, South Carolina, said she had been sexually assaulted as a teen herself. She expressed sympathy for Ford, but said Kavanaugh deserved protection, too.

“I’m very empathetic to women who’ve been through this type of situation,” said Mace, 40. “But on the other side, we have laws in this country that protect individuals from being wrongfully accused.”

Emma Scott, an 18-year-old University of South Carolina freshman from Charleston, South Carolina, said that, while she doesn’t doubt Ford endured a trauma of some kind, she wasn’t convinced it could be tied to Kavanaugh.

“If you’re going to use sexual assault to slow somebody down, it had better be the truth,” Scott said. “Even if Brett Kavanaugh is innocent, he is still going to live with this the rest of his life.”

Mace said that she viewed the testimony as an “at all costs” effort by Democrats to win back control in Congress and possibly hold the seat open until a future Democratic president can fill it.

“Ford is political collateral, and they do not care,” Mace said.

Susan Conger, 64, a former math teacher from Augusta, Georgia, who also worked in the Reagan administration, said she turned off her television during Thursday’s hearing but has followed the news coverage of the testimony.

“Instead of watching, I decided I would be better served by praying for the people who were talking and listening,” Conger said.

Conger has spent time volunteering with her local women’s Republican club, calling the offices of senators asking them to support Kavanaugh’s nomination.

“I’m sorry that this terrible thing happened to her at the hands of someone,” Conger said. “It’s not that I think that his accuser is a bad person. It’s not my job to judge her because I don’t know her.”

Kevin Bishop, a spokesman for U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham — who gave a fiery defense of Kavanaugh after the judge’s testimony Thursday — said Graham’s office has received as many women calling in support of Kavanaugh as in opposition.

Round, of Vermont, said she feels the whole episode could end up hurting Democrats more than helping them in this fall’s elections, just more than a month away.

“I am digging my heels in, and I’m hoping that a lot of conservatives are determined to vote Republican,” Round said. “I think it’s galvanized the women on the right more than it’s galvanized the women on the left.”

___ Kinnard can be reached on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP>. Read her work at <https://apnews.com/search/meg%20kinnard>.

___ For more coverage of Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/KavanaughNomination>



Supporters of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh gather inside the Hart Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018. The Senate Judiciary Committee is hearing from Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

Republicans fear political fallout from Kavanaugh turmoil

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Whether or not Republicans ultimately confirm President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, some on the front lines of the GOP's midterm battlefield fear the party may have already lost.

In the days after a divided nation watched Brett Kavanaugh and his accuser Christine Blasey Ford deliver conflicting stories about what happened when they were teenagers, Republican campaign operatives acknowledged this is not the fight they wanted six weeks before Election Day.

Should they give Kavanaugh a lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court after Ford's powerful testimony about sexual assault, Republicans risk enraging the women they need to preserve their House majority. Vote him down, they risk enraging the party's defiant political base.

In swing state New Hampshire, former Republican Party chair Jennifer Horn said Republicans are "grossly underestimating the damage that would be done" at the ballot box in the short and long term should they confirm Kavanaugh.

Horn, a lifelong Republican and frequent Trump critic, described Ford as "the most credible person I have ever seen publicly talk about this." One young friend of Horn's family was so inspired by the testimony that she revealed her own painful experience with sexual assault on social media for the first time Thursday.

"Republicans have to ask themselves if they're willing not only to sell the soul of the party, but sell their own souls to get this particular conservative on the Supreme Court," Horn said in an interview.

Another wing of the party was just as convinced that Republicans would trigger Election Day doom should they fail to confirm Trump's Supreme Court pick.

"If Republicans do not get this vote taken and Kavanaugh confirmed, you can kiss the midterms goodbye," conservative icon Rush Limbaugh boomed from his radio studio this week, a message that Trump echoed on Twitter and Republican strategists repeated privately on Friday.

In what has become the year of the woman in national politics, there are no easy answers for a party aligned with a president who has dismissed more than a dozen allegations of sexual misconduct of his own.

The GOP-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee voted along party lines Friday to send Kavanaugh's nomination to the full Senate, with the informal understanding that the FBI would investigate the allegations against Kavanaugh. A final vote would be delayed by a week.

Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona crystalized the challenge before the GOP. After announcing his support for Kavanaugh early Friday, he was confronted by tearful victims of sexual assault as he tried to board an elevator in the U.S. Capitol.

"Look at me when I'm talking to you," one woman cried as Flake stood uncomfortably in the elevator. "You're telling me that my assault doesn't matter, that what happened to me doesn't matter, that you're going to let people who do these things into power."



In this Sept. 21, 2018, photo, the Supreme Court is seen in Washington. Brett Kavanaugh's fate remains uncertain, but some on the front-lines of the Republican Party's midterm battlefield fear the GOP may have already lost.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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Flake later insisted on the FBI investigation to secure his vote allowing Kavanaugh's nomination to move out of the Judiciary Committee. He is retiring at the end of the year and the Republican congresswoman seeking to replace him, Martha McSally, said nothing for much of this week before releasing a statement Friday afternoon noting Kavanaugh and Ford were "heard."

"The Senate's role is to provide advice and consent on this nomination, and to seek the truth," McSally said. "I encourage them to use the next week to gather any additional relevant facts, and then act on this nomination."

The balancing act reflects the impossible politics ahead for some Republican candidates, particularly those in swing states and suburban House districts.

McSally has come out as a survivor of sexual abuse at the hands of her high school track coach. At the same time, she has strongly embraced Trump and his combative ethos, which Kavanaugh exemplified during his Thursday testimony.

She indirectly criticized Trump last week after he questioned why Ford didn't report her assault decades ago.

"A lot of people who have not been through this — thank God they have not been through this — don't understand that a lot of us don't immediately go to law enforcement," McSally said.

Two key Republicans — Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Maine Sen. Susan Collins — have also avoided taking a firm position so far. Neither is up for re-election this year, yet both are facing intense political pressure from the right and left back home, with the potential that aftershocks from their votes could be felt for years to come.

Cindy Noyes, a registered Republican in Maine, attended public schools with Collins and usually agrees with her. But not if she backs Kavanaugh.

"It'd be hard for me not to support her, but I really, really, really encourage her to vote against him," Noyes said of Collins, who doesn't face re-election until 2020.

In Alaska, Juneau voter Sally Saddler, an independent, said she voted for Murkowski in the past, but likely wouldn't back her again if the Republican senator decides to confirm Kavanaugh.

Murkowski also faces the prospect of a primary challenge from the right should she break with her party.

That potential has already convinced Anchorage Republican Women's Club president Judy Eledge to consider supporting a Murkowski primary challenger in 2022.

"I would support the other person, and I think there's a lot of other people that would," she said.

Republican candidates in states Trump won overwhelmingly in 2016 have been far more eager to follow Trump's lead on Kavanaugh. Meanwhile, some vulnerable Democratic incumbents like Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly and Montana Sen. Jon Tester announced Friday they would stick with the Democratic minority in opposing the nomination. Others, including Democratic Sens. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia, remain undecided.

Evangelical leaders in contact with the White House have quietly launched an influence campaign designed to rally 1.5 million evangelical voters behind Kavanaugh across five key states: Missouri, Indiana, West Virginia, Florida and North Dakota. The campaign features a video on social media and a series of direct text messages.

Republicans are on their heels in the nation's suburbs, the region that features the most competitive House races.

GOP Rep. Leonard Lance, running for re-election in a suburban New Jersey district Trump lost in 2016, was forced to backtrack this week after being caught on tape questioning Kavanaugh's accusers. After Ford's testimony, he endorsed calls for an expanded FBI inquiry.

Democratic challenger Tom Malinowski says the issue goes beyond whether Kavanaugh should be on the court.

"It's precisely that tendency to dismiss accusers of powerful men that makes it hard for survivors to make what is already a wrenchingly difficult decision to come forward," Malinowski said in an interview, adding that it's particularly important for male politicians to speak up instead of leaving all the difficult votes to women.

Republicans are betting that Democrats are already so motivated by their opposition to Trump that the Supreme Court fight won't make much difference, said Republican pollster Ed Goetas.

Most off-year elections are decided by which side is more energized. Most polls suggest that Democrats have a distinct advantage on that front.

"All Republicans can do is close that gap at this point," Goetas said.

Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta, David Sharp in Portland, Maine, Nick Riccardi in Denver, Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska, Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska, and Thomas Beaumont in Washington contributed to this report.

More reporting on the Supreme Court and Kavanaugh can be found at: <http://apne.ws/IHcZXad>

'United' or 'Nations'? Balance is UN's existential question

By TED ANTHONY, AP National Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After the world's leaders spent thousands upon thousands of words on the subject this past week, the foreign minister of Papua New Guinea boiled it down to just six of them on Saturday.

"Unity, of course, is the answer," Rimbink Pato said.

Maybe. Also: Maybe not. Depends on who's talking.

The fusillade of oratory this year at the U.N. General Assembly has made clear that one of the most vexing challenges facing the planet's nations as they muddle through the 21st century is which principle to put first: working together or going it alone.

Behind that, though, sits the larger question: What should cooperation look like in a 21st-century world?

Is it really any wonder that an organization called the United Nations — the "ultimate bastion of multilateralism," as Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan put it — might occasionally have some tension between "United" and "Nations"?

"I admit that multilateralism is not always an easy way. But it is the only sustainable one," Slovakian President Andrej Kiska told fellow leaders.

Part of the thorniness around multilateralism lies in the misplaced notion that it and pure unilateralism are the only choices. "Basically, there are two different views of the world," said Marcelo Rebelo de Souza, the president of Portugal.

In reality, they sit on a continuum, and nations can stake out many points along it — particularly if they're behemoths who can take big actions on their own or small ones who need alliances to act with any level of muscle.

Another stumbling block: Many at the United Nations this week framed U.S. President Donald Trump's



North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho addresses the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018 at U.N. headquarters. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

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"America First" policy, outlined Tuesday, as a wholesale rejection of multilateralism.

"America is governed by Americans," Trump said. "We reject the ideology of globalism, and we embrace the doctrine of patriotism."

He added, pointedly: "We will never surrender America's sovereignty to an unelected, unaccountable global bureaucracy."

It's true that Trump has upended chunks of the existing multilateral order. His administration has spurned collaborative entities on various levels, from renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement to walking away from various U.N. agencies. He has even raised questions about his commitment to NATO allies.

But compare the Trump era's approach to that of the United States during, say, the final decade of the 19th century. He might actually come out looking like an assertive multilateralist.

Multilateralism came so far in a century of industrial and technological progress — and security needs after the second of two world wars — that even an enthusiastic isolationist today might have been a multilateralist then.

The United States has occasionally contradicted itself in this respect. Isolationist for much of its first century, it has sometimes pinballed between two founding fathers' divergent philosophies: Thomas Jefferson, who warned of "entangling alliances," and Benjamin Franklin, who famously said that "we must indeed all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

After the League of Nations, a first attempt to unite the planet's countries after World War I, faltered and faded, the United Nations arrived on the scene to foster cooperation in World War II's chaotic aftermath.

It was also a time when nations aligned with the United States and the Soviet Union, respectively — in western and eastern Europe — needed to circle some wagons to stay safe. Hence the security alliances that became known as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Three generations later, criticisms of the U.N. as bloated, disoriented and inefficient are often paired rhetorically with dark whispers of a "one world government" that will eradicate national sovereignty. It's an American-fueled recipe for unilateralism that other nations wary of interference in their affairs have started to echo.

"The international community must respect sovereignty of the countries," said Peter Szijjarto, foreign minister of Hungary, which has grappled with a huge influx of refugees in recent years and is erecting obstacles to stop them.

With more vigorous unilateral actions by Washington toward the larger world since Trump took office, the chorus on the other side — hang together or hang separately — has been approaching crescendo.

That was evident this week as leaders and their posses streamed into the U.N. compound on the banks of New York City's East River. Best guess, at least two-thirds of the countries whose leaders spoke ended up throwing in a plug for multilateralism in one way or another.

China, which has long advocated rules-based multilateralism in theory while only sometimes deploying it in practice, appeared to step in on Friday to occupy the space the U.S. was leaving behind. Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated China's longtime commitment but also insisted that "multilateralism is not about making empty rhetoric. It must be pursued to solve problems."

"There is no doubt that multilateralism needs to be defended," Singapore's Balakrishnan said. "That's the only way we're going to deal with the complex global challenges of the future."

But how? Shouting the virtues of multilateralism from the mountaintops only echoes so far.

Look, perhaps, to British Prime Minister Theresa May for the beginnings of a nuanced path forward. As she put it, "Delivering for your citizens at home does not have to be at the expense of global cooperation."

Figuring this stuff out, and charting a path forward, is front and center for the United Nations. These three things in particular seem to stand out:

— figuring out exactly where plain old cooperation melts into full-on multilateralism, and managing that transition smartly;

— placating those nations wary of sovereignty violations without making the U.N. an entirely toothless

organization;

— establishing structures that prevent stakeholders from simply taking their toys and going home.

For the time being, at least, there are always going to be nations. United? That's another story.

But in a world whose connections and collaborations increasingly bypass national and governmental realms entirely, it's a conundrum the United Nations needs to solve, lest it finds itself bypassed by the very progress it tries to encourage.

"We depend on each other," said Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid, "whether we like it or not."

Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, has reported from more than 25 countries and has written about international affairs since 1995. Follow him on Twitter at @anthonyted.

Cher admits wanting to get Kennedy honor during Obama years

By MICHAEL CIDONI LENNOX, AP Entertainment Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — The phone call telling Cher she was a Kennedy Center honoree was certainly welcome — but she admits she wanted to get it earlier.

The Grammy, Emmy and Oscar winner, whose ABBA-tribute album "Dancing Queen" was just released, acknowledged she'd long hoped for that call. She said she "wanted to get it so badly" during the Obama administration.

Now she will, at age 72, during the Donald Trump administration, which might make for an awkward gathering. A regular at anti-Trump rallies and marches, Cher ranks among the most outspoken celebrities against the U.S. president. The White House said no decisions had been made on whether Trump would participate in this year's Kennedy Center Honors program.

The Kennedy Center prize is given to those in the performing arts for lifetime contributions to American culture. This year's other recipients are composer and pianist Philip Glass, country music entertainer Reba McEntire, and jazz saxophonist and composer Wayne Shorter. The co-creators of the Tony-winning musical "Hamilton" will receive a special award as trailblazing creators of a transformative work that defies category.

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Cher missed out on the first wave of ABBA-mania, which began to sweep most of the rest of the planet with the Swedish quartet's 1974 Eurovision Song Contest win with "Waterloo" and was confirmed by the successes of "SOS" and "Mamma Mia" a year later.

"I was most Americans," Cher commented. "I knew 'Waterloo,' 'Dancing Queen' and 'Mamma Mia.' And that's pretty much it. And then I became a fan with 'Muriel's Wedding,'" she continued, referring to the 1994 Australian dark comedy that played a key role in reviving interest in ABBA recordings.



FILE - In this Jan. 21, 2018 file photo, Cher speaks during a women's march rally in Las Vegas. Authorities say a man living at Cher's home in Malibu, Calif., has been arrested on suspicion of providing fentanyl to someone who died of an overdose. NBC Los Angeles reports that 23-year-old Donovan Ruiz was arrested by Ventura County sheriff's investigators. Authorities say he is the child of someone who works at the home. (AP Photo/John Locher)

After the 1999 West End debut of the jukebox musical "Mamma Mia!" as well as subsequent productions around the world and the 2008 first film "Mamma Mia!," ABBA-mania was back — and now included the U.S. The band's 1992 greatest hits album climbed to No. 25 on the Billboard Top 200 album chart this year.

Cher appeared in the movie sequel "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," and she met lyricist Bjorn Ulvaeus and composer Benny Andersson from ABBA.

Recording the album of covers gave Cher greater ABBA insight. "I was a little cranky with Bjorn because of the way he writes, and then I realized he writes this way because he doesn't write in English. So, he tells the story in a more interesting way. He has to get to the story.

"And I didn't realize how intricate the music was," she continued. "I thought, 'Whoa! Benny has really got some stuff going on there: all these lines, and riff over riff over riff. And so I had more respect for them.'"

It's a busy period for Cher, whose latest world tour began Sept. 21 and runs through May, ending in Minneapolis. She's co-producer of a jukebox musical about her life, "The Cher Show," with previews set to begin Nov. 1 on Broadway. And the Kennedy Center Honors will be taped Dec. 2 in Washington, D.C.

Through it all, Cher no doubt will be paying attention to other happenings in D.C., keeping her eye on the Trump administration. "We've got to watch out," she noted. "There were signs at other times in world history and some people didn't watch them."

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

2 Mississippi officers die in shooting; suspect in custody

By THOMAS GRANING, Associated Press



Law enforcement agents secure the scene of a shooting in Brookhaven, Miss., where two police officers were killed Saturday morning, Sept. 29, 2018. A suspect was wounded and was taken into custody. (Donna Campbell/The Daily Leader, via AP)

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. (AP) — Two police officers were shot and killed following an early Saturday morning confrontation in Mississippi, authorities said.

Warren Strain of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety said at a news conference that the officers were called to a house in the city of Brookhaven at about 5 a.m. for a report of shots fired.

Amid an exchange of gunfire, both officers were "mortally wounded" and then pronounced dead at a local hospital, Strain said. He identified the weapon used as a handgun but would not elaborate.

Authorities identified the deceased officers as Patrolman James White, 35; and Cpl. Zach Moak, 31. Both were wearing bulletproof vests at the

time and were equipped with body and dashboard cameras. White arrived on the scene first, and Moak arrived next.

A suspect was wounded in the exchange and taken for treatment to a hospital in Jackson. Police identified him as Marquis Flowers, 25, of Brookhaven. Strain said charges have not been filed yet but that Flowers is "in custody."

Brookhaven Police Chief Kenneth Collins said the city is a "safe community ... but like any place, we have crime." He called White and Moak, both residents of Lincoln County, "heroes."

"These are two awesome people who lost their lives this morning in the line of duty. Two heroes lost their lives this morning," Collins said.

Strain said the investigation is in its initial stages. A number of people have been questioned in the case.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation is working the case, in addition to other agencies.

Gov. Phil Bryant issued a statement via Twitter asking for prayers "for the family and loved ones of these fallen heroes."

This is the second time in as many years that a law enforcement official has been killed in the line of duty in the Brookhaven area.

Last year Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy William Durr, who also spent four years with Brookhaven police, was responding to a call when he was shot to death. Authorities say the gunman shot and killed seven other people in the killing spree in and around the Brookhaven area.

Willie Cory Godbolt was arrested May 28, 2017, and is awaiting trial. He's pleading not guilty and faces the death penalty if convicted.

This story has been corrected to fix the spelling of Zach Moak, one of the deceased officers.

Canada FM postpones UN speech as free trade talks intensify

By ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland postponed her U.N. speech as free trade talks between the U.S. and Canada intensified.

Freeland had been scheduled to deliver Canada's address to the General Assembly on Saturday in New York, but Canada exchanged the slot with another country. Freeland may or may not give the speech on Monday.

A senior Canadian government official said they are making progress in the talks but said it's not certain that they will reach a deal soon. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said Canada will only sign a good deal.

Canada, the United States' No. 2 trading partner, was left out when the U.S. and Mexico reached an agreement last month to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement. The U.S. and Canada are under pressure to reach a deal by the end of the day Sunday, when the U.S. must make public the full text of the agreement with Mexico.

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he wants to go ahead with a revamped NAFTA — with or without Canada. It is unclear, however, whether Trump has authority from



In this Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018 photo, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland participates in a discussion at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Freeland postponed her U.N. speech as free trade talks between the U.S. and Canada intensified. Freeland had been scheduled to deliver Canada's address to the General Assembly on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018, in New York, but Canada exchanged the slot with another country. Freeland may or may not give the speech on Monday. (Adrian Wyld/The

Canadian Press via AP)

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Congress to pursue a revamped NAFTA with only Mexico, and some lawmakers say they won't go along with a deal that leaves out Canada.

Among other things, the negotiators are battling over Canada's high dairy tariffs. Canada also wants to keep a NAFTA dispute-resolution process that the U.S. wants to jettison.

U.S.-Canada talks bogged down earlier this month, and most trade analysts expected the Sept. 30 deadline to come and go without Canada being reinstated. They suspected that Canada, which had said it wasn't bound by U.S. deadlines, was delaying the talks until after provincial elections Monday in Quebec, where support for Canadian dairy tariffs runs high.

But trade attorney Daniel Ujczko of the Dickinson Wright law firm, who follows the NAFTA talks closely, said the United States put pressure on Canada, saying there would "consequences" if it didn't reach an agreement by the end of the day Sunday. Trump has repeatedly threatened to start taxing Canadian auto imports. Ujczko put the odds of a deal this weekend at 75 percent.

Relations between the two neighbors have been strained since Trump assailed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the G-7 meeting in June, calling him "weak" and "dishonest." Canadian leaders have objected to Trump's decision to impose tariffs on Canadian steel, citing national security.

AP Economics Writer Paul Wiseman in Washington contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 30, the 273rd day of 2018. There are 92 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 30, 1962, James Meredith, a black student, was escorted by federal marshals to the campus of the University of Mississippi, where he enrolled for classes the next day; Meredith's presence sparked rioting that claimed two lives.

On this date:

In 1777, the Continental Congress — forced to flee in the face of advancing British forces — moved to York, Pennsylvania.

In 1791, Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute" premiered in Vienna, Austria.

In 1846, Boston dentist William Morton used ether as an anesthetic for the first time as he extracted an ulcerated tooth from merchant Eben Frost.

In 1938, after co-signing the Munich Agreement allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, "I believe it is peace for our time."

In 1947, the World Series was broadcast on television for the first time; the New York Yankees defeated the Brooklyn Dodgers 5-3 in Game 1 (the Yankees went on to win the Series four games to three).

In 1949, the Berlin Airlift came to an end.

In 1955, actor James Dean, 24, was killed in a two-car collision near Cholame, California.

In 1972, Roberto Clemente hit a double against Jon Matlack of the New York Mets during Pittsburgh's 5-0 victory at Three Rivers Stadium; the hit was the 3,000th and last for the Pirates star.

In 1986, the U-S released accused Soviet spy Gennadiy Zakharov, one day after the Soviets released Nicholas Daniloff.

In 1988, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev retired President Andrei A. Gromyko from the Politburo and fired other old-guard leaders in a Kremlin shake-up.

In 2001, under threat of U.S. military strikes, Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban rulers said explicitly for the first time that Osama bin Laden was still in the country and that they knew where his hideout was located.

In 2003, the FBI began a full-scale criminal investigation into whether White House officials had illegally leaked the identity of undercover CIA officer Valerie Plame.

Ten years ago: Congressional leaders and President George W. Bush rummaged through ideas new

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and old, desperately seeking to change a dozen House members' votes and pass a multibillion-dollar economic rescue plan. Wall Street regained hope as the Dow industrials rose 485 points. More than 200 people were killed in a stampede of pilgrims at a Hindu temple in Jodhpur, India. J.L. Chestnut Jr., the first black lawyer in Selma, Ala. and a prominent attorney in civil rights cases across a half century, died in Birmingham at age 77.

Five years ago: Pope Francis announced during a meeting with cardinals that he would canonize two of his most influential predecessors, John Paul II and John XXIII, the following spring. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu implored President Barack Obama during a White House meeting to keep punishing sanctions in place against Iran over its nuclear programs.

One year ago: President Donald Trump lashed out at the mayor of San Juan and other officials in storm-ravaged Puerto Rico, saying they "want everything to be done for them." Monty Hall, the long-running host of TV's "Let's Make a Deal," died of heart failure at his home in Beverly Hills at the age of 96.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Angie Dickinson is 87. Singer Cissy Houston is 85. Singer Johnny Mathis is 83. Actor Len Cariou is 79. Singer Marilyn McCoo is 75. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is 73. Pop singer Sylvia Peterson (The Chiffons) is 72. Actor Vondie Curtis-Hall is 68. Actress Victoria Tennant is 68. Actor John Finn is 66. Rock musician John Lombardo is 66. Singer Deborah Allen is 65. Actor Calvin Levels is 64. Actor Barry Williams is 64. Singer Patrice Rushen is 64. Actress Fran Drescher is 61. Country singer Marty Stuart is 60. Actress Debrah Farentino is 59. Rock musician Bill Rieflin (R.E.M.) is 58. Former Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., is 58. Actress Crystal Bernard is 57. Actor Eric Stoltz is 57. Rapper-producer Marley Marl is 56. Country singer Eddie Montgomery (Montgomery-Gentry) is 55. Rock singer Trey Anastasio is 54. Actress Monica Bellucci is 54. Rock musician Robby Takac (TAY'-kak) (Goo Goo Dolls) is 54. Actress Lisa Thornhill is 52. Actress Andrea Roth is 51. Actress Amy Landecker is 49. Actor Silas Weir Mitchell is 49. Actor Tony Hale is 48. Actress Jenna Elfman is 47. Actor Ashley Hamilton is 44. Actress Marion Cotillard (koh-tee-YAHR') is 43. Actor Christopher Jackson is 43. Actor Stark Sands is 40. Actor Mike Damus is 39. Actress Toni Trucks is 38. Tennis player Martina Hingis is 38. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Moceanu (moh-chee-AH'-noo) is 37. Actress Lacey Chabert (shuh-BEHR') is 36. Actor Kieran Culkin is 36. Singer-rapper T-Pain is 34.

Thought for Today: "If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning." — Attributed to Catherine the Great, Russian empress (1729-1796).