

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton Area

Schedule of Events Thursday, October 4, 2018

- Juniors' Post-High Planning Day at Northern State University
- 2:00pm: Cross Country: Varsity Northeast Conference @ Webster Golf Course
- 4:00pm: Football: Boys 7th Grade only Game (Rescheduled from 09-20-18) vs. Aberdeen Central @ Aberdeen
- 4:30pm: Volleyball hosts Redfield-Doland. 7th and 8th grade matches at 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m.: Volleyball hosts Tiospa Zina. JV match at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

Friday, October 5, 2018

Faculty In-service. NO SCHOOL.

Monday, October 8, 2018

- No School: Native American Day
- 4:00pm: Volleyball: Girls 7th/8th Match at Milbank C Team Volleyball Jamboree at Warner (All matches will be in the New Gym. No admission will be charged.)
- 5:00: Warner C vs Groton Black and Redfield vs Groton Gold
- 6:00: Warner C vs Redfield and Groton vs Warner 8th
- 7:00: Groton Black vs Redfield and Warner C vs Groton Gold

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

Put our experienced team to work for you!

GROTON
Ford

GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

Death Notice: Carole Roettele

Carole Roettele, 84, of Groton passed away October 3, 2018 at Sun Dial Manor, Bristol. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Tiospa
Zina
Wambdi VS



Groton Area Tigers

7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018
at the Groton Area Arena

Gov. Daugaard Appoints Sandra Hoglund Hanson As Second Circuit Judge



PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced today that he will appoint Sandra Hoglund Hanson, of Sioux Falls, as a circuit court judge in the Second Judicial Circuit.

“Sandra Hanson is a conscientious, respected attorney,” said Governor Daugaard. “She will make an excellent judge, and I thank her for serving the public in this way.”

Hanson is a native of Langford. She is a partner with Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, where she has practiced since 1993. From 1992 to 1993, Hanson clerked for Hon. Donald J. Porter, a judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota. Hanson earned her undergraduate degree from Northern State University and her law degree from the University of South Dakota, where she was an editor of the South Dakota Law Review.

“I am humbled and grateful to accept this appointment,” said Hanson. “I will do my best to honor that trust in serving the people of South Dakota in the Second Circuit.”

Hanson is a member of the American Board of Trial Attorneys, the South Dakota Defense Lawyers Association and the Society for Human Resources Management. She is the chair of the Civil Service Board for the City of Sioux Falls, a member of the state leadership board for the American Cancer Society, and a past director of Volunteers of America of the Dakotas.

Hanson will succeed Mark Salter, who the Governor appointed to the South Dakota Supreme Court earlier this year. The Second Circuit includes Lincoln and Minnehaha counties.

Iowa Reduced Tuition Program Shows Results

RAPID CITY, S.D. – In the second year of a program offering new and transfer students from Iowa the equivalent of resident tuition at four South Dakota universities, the program is showing a positive return.

A report this week to the South Dakota Board of Regents showed a \$494,910 gain in tuition and fee revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30. The four participating universities – Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota State University, and the University of South Dakota – gained 174 full-time equivalent students from Iowa since the reduced rates were effective in the 2016 academic year.

“Given a full year to market the program and recruit students, the number of students is now ahead of the breakeven point for all schools,” the report said. “All schools are showing positive revenue flows due to the change.” The report noted the data do not include room and board revenues or other miscellaneous revenue that would also be generated from the new students now attending college in South Dakota.



GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER



Has a new
wage scale

LPN and RN

RN \$25-31

LPN \$20-26

For more details or to apply please call or
stop in and speak to Brynn Pickrel at

605-397-2365.

Groton Area netters beats Leola/Frederick



Kaylin Kucker sets the ball for Jennie Doeden. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Area defeated Leola/Frederick in volleyball action Tuesday night in Frederick, 25-14, 25-18 and 25-16.

In the first game, Groton Area scored with last five points to win the game, 25-14. Jennie Doeden had three kills and two ace serves in that game for Groton Area while Miranda Lai had four kills to lead Leola/Frederick.

Groton Area scored five straight points early in the game and went on to win, 25-18. Nicole Marzahn had five kills in that game while Jennie Doeden had four kills and Indigo Rogers had two blocks. Leola/Frederick was led by Maddie Nordine with one kill and two ace serves.

Groton Area scored five straight points late in the game to post a 25-16 win. Nicole Marzahn had eight kills in that game and Jennie Doeden had four while Payton Maine and Miranda Hanson each had two ace serves and Indigo Rogers had a block. Leola/Frederick was led by Avery Wolff with a kill and an ace serve, Maddie Nordine with a block and a kill and Miranda Lai with two blocks.

Attacks: Nicole Marzahn 39 of 41 with 12 kills, Jennie Doeden 21 of 23 with 11 kills, Eliza Wanner 14 of 22 with 5 kills, Kaylin Kucker 4 of 4 with 4 kills, Payton Maine 5 of 5 with 3 kills, Indigo Rogers 15 of 16 with 2 kills. Team: 104 of 117 with 37 kills. Leola/Frederick: 50 of 59 with 15 kills. Miranda Lai 11 of 12 with 6 kills and Maddie Nordine 14 of 16 with 3 kills.

Serving: Miranda Hanson 7 of 9 with 4 ace serves, Payton Maine 12 of 14 with 2 ace serves, Jennie Doeden 17 of 19 with 2 ace serves, Eliza Wanner 15 of 16 with 1 ace serve, Tady Glover 9 of 9, Kaylin Kucker 6 of 6. Team Total: 66 of 73 with 9 ace serves. Leola/Frederick: 42 of 47 with 4 ace serves. Maddie Nordine 11 of 12 with 1 ace serve, Avery Wolff 6 of 7 with 1 ace serve.

Blocks: Indigo Rogers had 4 blocks. Leola/Frederick: Miranda Lai had 1 solo block.

Digs: Payton Maine 17, Eliza Wanner 13, Jennie Doeden 7, Kaylin Kucker 5, Miranda Hanson 5, Tady Glover 4, Nicole Marzahn 3, Portia Kettering 1. Leola/Frederick: 107. Audree Berreth 31, Brooke Podoll 18.

Sets: Kaylin Kucker had 29 assists. Leola/Frederick: 46 of 48 with 6 assists. Avery Wolff 26 of 26 with 4 assists. Brooke Podoll 13 of 15 with 2 assists.

Junior Varsity Match: Groton Area won, 25-11 and 25-12.

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Nicole Marzahn goes high in the air to get the kill. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Lauren Geranen sets the ball for Leola/Frederick. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Indigo Rogers goes for the hit. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Eliza Wanner is serving the ball. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Miranda Hanson receives the ball and pops it back up in the air. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Leola/Frederick's Brooke Podoll returns the ball. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Maddie Nordine of Leola/Frederick goes for one of her kills. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Portia Kettering returns the ball. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Payton Maine sets the ball for the Tigers. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Amendment W offers tougher ethics enforcement

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

BROOKINGS — This November, South Dakota voters will once again decide on an ethics measure. As with Initiated Measure 22 in 2016, backers of Amendment W say it is a needed safeguard to ensure ethical behavior in Pierre. Opponents say it is a dangerous overreach, giving unchecked power to a new ethics board.

If approved by voters on Nov. 6, the amendment would go into effect on July 1, 2019.

"It's a bad solution for the problem, even as they define it," said David Owen, president of the S.D. Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "This is like chemotherapy for the cold."

The wide-ranging amendment would:

- lower campaign contribution amounts.
- prohibit campaign contributions from being spent on personal use.
- place restrictions on lobbyists.
- replace the government accountability board with a new board with broad powers.
- limit the votes necessary for the passage of an initiated measure.
- require voter approval for any changes to the initiated measure or referral process.

According to Attorney General Marty Jackley's ballot explanation, if it is approved by voters, Amendment W will likely be challenged in court on constitutional grounds.

Voters were angry after the Legislature repealed Initiated Measure 22, according to Mitch Richter, co-chairman of Represent South Dakota.

"They repealed what the citizens had voted in," Richter said.

The ethics panel in Amendment W has been "supplemented with things the Legislature didn't go far enough on," Richter said, referring to ethics bills lawmakers endorsed in the wake of the repeal of IM 22. "We're one of only seven states that doesn't have an ethics commission."

The powerful ethics panel and the amendment's claim to overrule other parts of the state constitution worries Owen.

"This new article has control over the rest of the constitution," Owen said. "We don't have any way for other branches to issue opinions or make changes."

According to Richter, anyone who disagrees with a decision made by the ethics panel can take their concerns to court.

"That's a red herring they're throwing out there," Richter said of the criticism.

Owen agrees with Jackley, that if it passes, Amendment W is likely to be challenged in court. Owen said a judge must decide if Amendment W has sway over the rest of the constitution or if the document's 125 years of precedence will rule.

According to Richter, Amendment W's language was written to conform to the rest of the state's constitution.

"It doesn't conflict with other parts of the constitution," Richter said.

Owen admits that South Dakota's one-party rule may cause some frustration, but as a lobbyist in the state since 1999, he hasn't seen the widespread corruption that the amendment tries to address.

"In this day and age, I think we have a tendency to confuse disagreement with corruption," Owen said. "They must show evidence of corruption, and up to this point haven't."

Richter points to the list of organizations opposing Amendment W and says that many of them have members who hold contracts with state government.

"I think they're really afraid of transparency and open government," Richter said. "They don't want the rules of the game to change."

Hard Freeze Marks End Of Growing Season

***Widespread Sub-Freezing
Temperatures This Morning***

***No Additional Frost Advisories
Or Freeze Warnings This Year***



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, South Dakota

Created: 10/4/2018 5:31 AM

www.weather.gov/abr



NWSAberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 10/04/2018 at 6:10AM

A widespread freeze occurred Thursday morning. No additional frost or freeze products will be issued this year now that the growing season has come to an end.

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Today in Weather History

October 4, 2005: A strong low-pressure system developed over the Central Rockies and moved through the Northern Plains, bringing heavy snow to much of the northern Black Hills and far northwest South Dakota. Precipitation started as rain during the day and changed over to snow during the late afternoon and early evening, mixed with freezing rain and sleet. Heavy snow fell during the night and ended in the morning. Snowfall amounts were generally in the 6 to 12-inch range, with locally heavier amounts across northern and western Harding County. The heavy, wet snow resulted in many downed trees, large branches, and power lines. The heavy snow caused numerous power outages and some minor property damage. A few locations had some of the highest daily snowfall amounts ever recorded in October. Camp Crook received 12 inches of snow, which tied the daily record for snow in October. Redig also tied its record for most snowfall in one day in October with 9 inches. Lemmon had its second highest daily total snowfall for October (6.5 inches). Bison received 6 inches, which was tied for the 3rd highest daily total in October. Spearfish tied for the 8th highest daily snow total for October with 7 inches.

1777: The Battle of Germantown was fought in a morning fog that grew denser with the smoke of battle, causing great confusion. Americans firing at each other contributed to the loss of the battle.

1869 - A great storm struck New England. The storm reportedly was predicted twelve months in advance by a British officer named Saxby. Heavy rains and high floods plagued all of New England, with strong winds and high tides over New Hampshire and Maine. Canton CT was deluged with 12.35 inches of rain. (David Ludlum)

1969 - Denver, CO, received 9.6 inches of snow. October of that year proved to be the coldest and snowiest of record for Denver, with a total snowfall for the month of 31.2 inches. (Weather Channel)

1986 - Excessive flooding was reported along the Mississippi River and all over the Midwest, from Ohio to the Milk River in Montana. In some places it was the worst flooding of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - A storm brought record snows to the northeastern U.S. Snowfall totals ranged up to 21 inches at North Springfield VT. It was the earliest snow of record for some locations. The storm claimed 17 lives in central New York State, injured 332 persons, and in Vermont caused seventeen million dollars damage. The six inch snow at Albany NY was their earliest measurable snow in 117 years of records. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Southern California continued to "shake and bake". An earthquake was reported during the morning, the second in a matter of days, and during the afternoon temperatures soared well above 100 degrees. Highs of 100 degrees at San Francisco, and 108 degrees at Los Angeles and Santa Maria, were October records. San Luis Obispo was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 111 degrees. (The National Weather Summary).






1988 - Temperatures dipped below freezing in the north central U.S. Five cities in North Dakota and Nebraska reported record low temperatures for the date, including Bismarck ND with a reading of 17 degrees above zero. Low pressure brought snow and sleet to parts of Upper Michigan. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold weather continued in the north central U.S., with freezing temperatures reported across much of the area from eastern North Dakota to Michigan and northwest Ohio. Thirteen cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Cloud MN, which was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 19 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

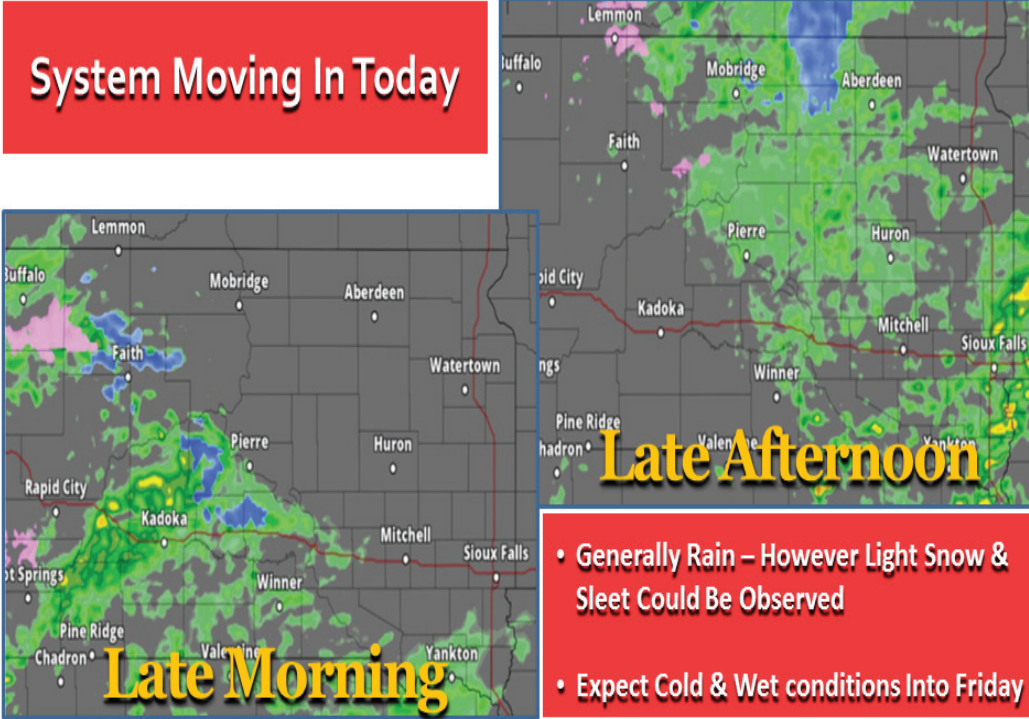
2005: Hurricane Stan, a minimal Category 1 Hurricane with 75 mph maximum sustained surface winds, made landfall near Punta Roca Partida, Mexico at 4 AM EDT on this day. While not a particularly strong hurricane the torrential rains caused flooding and landslides, which resulted in 1,513 deaths in Guatemala.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Frost then Rain Likely	Rain/Snow then Rain	Chance Drizzle	Decreasing Clouds	Partly Sunny
High: 44 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 48 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 44 °F

System Moving In Today



- Generally Rain – However Light Snow & Sleet Could Be Observed
- Expect Cold & Wet conditions Into Friday

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 10/4/2018 5:19 AM Central

Published on: 10/04/2018 at 5:24AM

After the cold start to the day, a system moving up from the southwest will bring another round of moisture to the Dakotas and western Minnesota. Here is one models depiction, with moisture expected to move into the Pierre area in the late morning and up towards Aberdeen by the late afternoon. We generally expect rain, however we can't rule out some light snow or sleet mixing in - though little if any will accumulate.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 61 °F at 12:38 PM

Low Outside Temp: 32 °F at 10:00 PM

High Gust: 39 mph at 4:28 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 1975

Record Low: 13° in 1894

Average High: 64°F

Average Low: 38°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.25

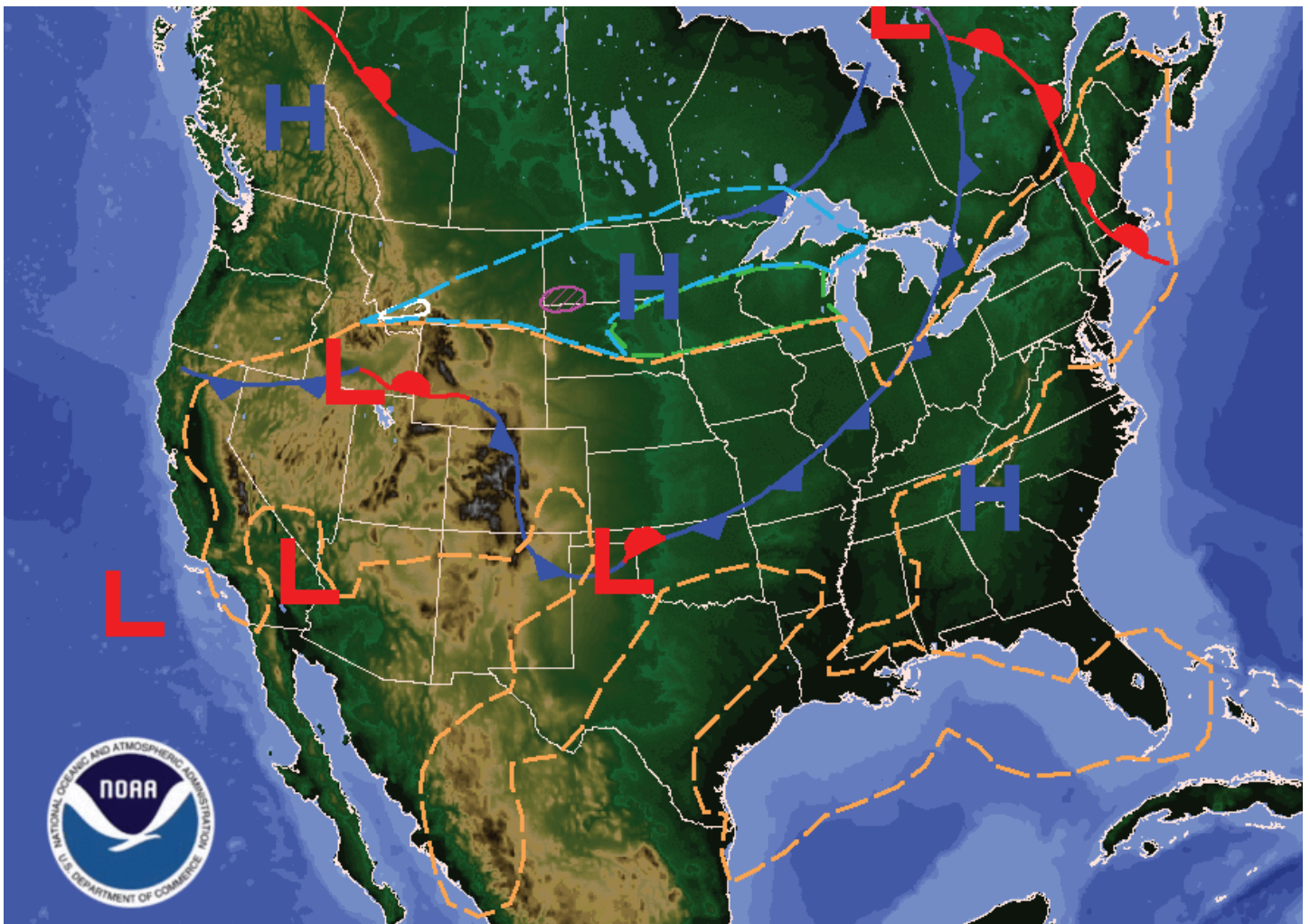
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.73

Precip Year to Date: 13.57

Sunset Tonight: 7:08 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Oct 04, 2018, issued 4:47 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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WHICH WAY IS THE RIGHT WAY?

Walter had been out for a night of drinking with a group of men whom he thought were his friends. When he left them, he got turned around and was going the wrong way on a one-way street. A police officer stopped him and asked, Where do you think you are going?

In slurred speech, he said, Im not sure officer. But I must be too late. Everybodys coming back, and Im just getting started.

Disregarding traffic signs will usually get us in trouble here on earth. But disregarding Gods signs that point to everlasting life will certainly get us in trouble in the life to come. In the end, there are only two ways to live: righteously or unrighteously. And the choice is ours to make. Either we choose to live by Gods words and His ways or our ways that we design for ourselves.

Jesus told an interesting story. On one occasion He was talking about lifes choices. He said: Listen, you have a choice. If you want to get into heaven, be aware of this - the gate is very narrow. Then He continued, On one hand, the highway to hell is wide enough so all who want to travel it together can do so. Its wide, and its easy going, but the choice is yours. On the other hand, the Gateway to Life Eternal is rather small, and the road is quite narrow. Now, only a few will make it, but Ill be with them to help them when things get tough. But the choice, He concluded, is yours.

The Lord loves the righteous, said the Psalmist. And, it is His love that will protect us from danger and destruction on our journey.

Prayer: We truly need You, Lord, to lead us on the right path to make the right decisions to live a righteous life. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 146:8c The Lord loves the righteous.

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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 Wednesday:

Lotto America

01-14-31-36-40, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 2

(one, fourteen, thirty-one, thirty-six, forty; Star Ball: six; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$8.75 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$405 million

Powerball

41-53-59-63-66, Powerball: 3, Power Play: 3

(forty-one, fifty-three, fifty-nine, sixty-three, sixty-six; Powerball: three; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$229 million

House candidates talk trade, health care at public forum

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Democrat Tim Bjorkman and Republican Dusty Johnson largely avoided taking political swipes at each other during a South Dakota congressional candidate forum, instead laying out their ideas on policy issues including trade, health care and criminal justice.

Bjorkman, a former judge, and Johnson, a past public utilities commissioner, faced off Wednesday at the event in Sioux Falls hosted by Americans for Prosperity-South Dakota. Libertarian George Hendrickson and independent Ron Wiczorek also participated.

Here's a look at key issues discussed at the forum:

TRADE

Johnson called himself a "free-trade guy," saying he doesn't think the current trade disputes with other nations should have been started. He said he urged President Donald Trump during a recent visit to get trade deals negotiated quickly because South Dakota shouldn't feel "any more pain than it has to," but did praise the revamped North American trade agreement with Canada and Mexico that gives U.S. farmers greater access to the Canadian dairy market.

Bjorkman said South Dakota and its agriculture community have been put at the front lines of a trade war that's going to cause repercussions across the state and region.

HEALTH CARE

Bjorkman called health care the most pressing problem facing the nation, saying it costs too much in part because of big pharmaceutical and insurance companies that donate heavily to political candidates. He said former President Barack Obama's health care law was a "very imperfect first step" that needs to be stabilized and said he supports allowing people who don't qualify for Affordable Care Act subsidies to buy into Medicare.

Johnson said that giving more flexibility to the states, which he referred to as the "50 laboratories of democracy," would improve health care outcomes.

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Johnson said drug treatment is a “woefully underutilized” component of the criminal justice system that needs to be a much more significant part of it. He said the scourge of methamphetamine and opioids isn’t going to be improved by locking up all drug offenders.

Bjorkman said that “crime’s biggest enemy is a stable home, an education and a job skill.” He said criminal justice needs “real reform,” starting with treatment. Hendrickson, a former police officer, said the number of nonviolent offenders in state and federal prisons needs to be reduced and that lawmakers should stop legislating mandatory minimum sentences.

PROMOTING SOUTH DAKOTA

Bjorkman said it’s crucial the state has a strong advocate for family farmers and ranchers, adding that he would push to serve on the House Committee on Agriculture. Johnson said rural development has always been a major part of his career. He said it’s important for South Dakota’s representative to look at complex pieces of legislation and educate colleagues on how the measures will affect rural areas.

STATE OF THE RACE

Johnson had roughly \$151,000 in the bank at the end of June after winning his Republican primary race, while Bjorkman — who didn’t have a primary challenger — had about \$217,000 in his campaign account. The candidates are set to report new fundraising numbers later in October.

Bjorkman and Johnson are set to debate again Oct. 18 on South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

South Dakota School of Mines inaugurating 19th president

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology is inaugurating its 19th president.

Jim Rankin has been on the job since January. The South Dakota Board of Regents named him to succeed Heather Wilson, who left the school last year to become U.S. Air Force secretary.

An inauguration ceremony is scheduled from 3-5 p.m. Thursday at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. It’s open to the public.

Rankin grew up in Fort Pierre and graduated from the School of Mines in 1978 with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. He earned a master’s and doctorate in the field from Iowa State University in the 1980s.

He previously worked at Ohio University and the University of Arkansas.

Man dies in mobile home fire in southwest South Dakota

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 58-year-old man has died in a mobile home fire in southwestern South Dakota.

The Custer County Sheriff’s Office says Richard Roberts was found dead in his home west of Custer after the fire was called in late Monday night.

Sheriff’s officials were on the scene within five minutes, but the mobile home was engulfed in flames when they arrived.

Fire departments from Custer, Pringle and Argyle responded and were able to extinguish the fire before it spread to nearby homes.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

South Dakota ethics measure supporters release first TV ads

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The campaign for a South Dakota government ethics constitutional amendment is urging voters to “fight corruption” and vote for the November ballot question in its first television ads of the race.

Represent South Dakota said in a statement that the two 30-second ads started airing this week, but

didn't disclose the total size of the buy. Both spots target allegations of scandal in South Dakota, saying the ballot question would rein in lobbyists and improve accountability.

Constitutional Amendment W would tighten campaign finance and lobbying restrictions, create an independent ethics commission and prevent the Legislature from altering or rejecting laws approved by voters without returning to the ballot, among other provisions.

Critics have raised concerns about the amount of power that would be given to the ethics panel.

Man appeals sentence in mutilation attack on ex-girlfriend

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man who pleaded guilty to aggravated assault for choking his ex-girlfriend and mutilating her breasts is appealing his sentence to the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Tony Ledbetter's attorney, David Stuart, told the justices Wednesday that the circuit court erred when it failed to sentence Ledbetter to 30 years or less as laid out in a plea agreement. Ledbetter was sentenced to 45 years in prison in Lincoln County last November.

The Argus Leader says state attorney Patricia Archer told the high court the plea agreement sentence was only a recommendation.

Ledbetter was convicted of punching his ex-girlfriend, knocking her unconscious and cutting off her nipple with a pair of scissors. When the victim regained consciousness, Ledbetter attacked her again and cut her left breast.

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

Pennington County Commission wants member to resign

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Pennington County Commissioners are calling for a fellow member's resignation following months of spotty attendance and speculation that he violated a state law when he changed his address on a voter registration card.

The Rapid City Journal reports that commissioners on Tuesday voted 3-1 to send a letter to Commissioner George Ferebee asking him to step down. He didn't immediately respond.

The council also has asked Pennington County State's Attorney Mark Vargo to pursue civil action in state court regarding whether Ferebee violated the law and therefore rendered his commission seat vacant.

Ferebee was elected to the commission in 2014. His term expires at the end of the year.

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

Death row inmate wants new trial in homicide case

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota death row inmate who pleaded guilty in a homicide case wants the Supreme Court to grant him a new trial.

Lawyers for Briley Piper argued before the high court this week that Piper had poor legal advice after he was charged in the death of Chester Poage. The 19-year-old was kicked, beaten and stabbed to death in Higgins Gulch near Spearfish in March 2000.

KOTA-TV reports the defense argues Piper didn't understand the ramifications of waiving his right to a jury trial. But, Assistant Attorney General Paul Swedlund told the court there's no evidence Piper didn't understand his rights.

Elijah Page and Darrell Hoadley were also convicted in the death. Page was executed in 2007. Hoadley is service a life sentence.

The Supreme Court did not immediately rule on Piper's case.

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

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Beresford voters reject \$11M bond issue for construction

BERESFORD, S.D. (AP) — Voters in the Beresford school district have rejected an \$11 million bond issue for a \$15 million project that would have included a performing arts center.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that the measure failed by a 2-to-1 margin in Tuesday's election. About 1,000 people voted.

The proposal included the performing arts center, a student commons lobby, an auxiliary gym and a community-access fitness center.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Trials set for 19 accused of drug crimes in state prison

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — A March 18 trial date has been set for 19 people accused of drug crimes while they were inmates at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that all 19 defendants have pleaded not guilty. Bon Homme County Clerk of Court Heather Humphrey says they will stand trial as individuals, not as a group.

A grand jury indicted the suspects last month. The attorney general's office says each faces two marijuana-related charges that together carry a maximum punishment of three years in prison.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Arizona man convicted of meth conspiracy in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Arizona man has been convicted of conspiring to traffic methamphetamine in South Dakota.

The U.S. attorney's office says 27-year-old Christopher Bradshaw of Tucson faces up to 40 years in federal prison when he's sentenced Dec. 10.

A jury late last month found Bradshaw guilty of conspiring with at least one other person to distribute a large amount of meth last year, including on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation.

Senate gets confidential FBI files on Kavanaugh allegations

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House has sent the Senate a new FBI background file on Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, giving senators a day to digest the confidential material and make a decision on the tottering nomination before a first vote on Friday.

Even before the FBI delivered interview summaries on claims that Kavanaugh sexually abused women, Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell set the first vote for his polarized chamber in an election-season battle over power and who to believe that has consumed the nation. A showdown roll call on confirmation seemed likely over the weekend.

With Republicans clinging to a razor-thin 51-49 majority and five senators — including three Republicans — still vacillating, the conservative jurist's prospects of Senate confirmation remained murky and dependent, in part, on the file's contents, which are supposed to be kept secret. Kavanaugh staunchly denies the allegations.

"There will be plenty of time for members to review and be briefed on the supplemental material" before Friday's procedural vote, McConnell said to the nearly empty chamber.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley said early Thursday that he had the Kavanaugh FBI report: "Supplemental FBI background file for Judge Kavanaugh has been received," he tweeted.

The White House said senators had "ample time" to review the report and vote on Kavanaugh.

"With this additional information, the White House is fully confident the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court," spokesman Raj Shah said.

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Lawmakers were to begin reading the FBI report Thursday morning, with senators and a small number of top aides permitted to view it in a secure room in the Capitol complex. Senators are not supposed to divulge the contents of the agency's background reports.

The report arrived at a Capitol palpably tense over the political stakes of the nomination fight and from aggressive anti-Kavanaugh protesters who have rattled and reportedly harassed senators. Feeding the anxiety was an unusually beefy presence of the U.S. Capitol Police, who were keeping demonstrators and frequently reporters at arm's length by forming wedges around lawmakers walking through corridors.

Amid complaints that some lawmakers were being confronted outside their homes, McConnell claimed on the Senate floor that the protesters were "part of the organized effort" to derail Kavanaugh's nomination.

"There is no chance in the world that they're going to scare us out of doing our duty," he said.

Adding to the uncertainty, the three undecided GOP senators who could decide Kavanaugh's fate rebuked President Donald Trump for mocking one accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, by mimicking her responses to questions at last week's dramatic Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

"I would tell him, knock it off. You're not helping," Trump ally Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said of Trump's Tuesday night tirade.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Trump's insults marked a "new low."

Barring leaks, it was unclear how much of the FBI report, if any, would be made public. While senators from both sides have expressed support for revealing at least parts of the findings, FBI background checks on nominees are supposed to remain confidential.

Underscoring rising tensions, Democrats suggested that previous FBI background checks of Kavanaugh may have unearthed misconduct by the nominee.

Democrats wrote to Grassley, R-Iowa, challenging a Tuesday tweet by GOP aides saying prior investigations never found "a whiff of ANY issue — at all — related in any way to inappropriate sexual behavior or alcohol abuse." Democrats wrote that the GOP tweet contained information that is "not accurate."

Committee Republicans tweeted in response that their prior tweet was "completely truthful" and accused Democrats of "false smears."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, told reporters that Trump's lampooning of Ford at a Tuesday night Mississippi campaign rally was "just plain wrong." Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, called it "wholly inappropriate and in my view unacceptable," and Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said on NBC's "Today" show that the remarks were "kind of appalling."

Those senators, along with Democrats Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia, have yet to declare how they will vote.

"All of us need to keep in mind there's a few people that are on the fence right now. And right now, that's sort of where our focus needs to be," said Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, who has traded barbs with Trump and will retire at year's end.

Trump drew laughs Tuesday with his rendition of how Ford answered questions at last week's hearing. "I had one beer — that's the only thing I remember," he stated inaccurately.

As he flew aboard Air Force One to the Mississippi rally, Trump was enraged by New York Times articles about Kavanaugh's high school and college years and alleging tax avoidance efforts by the president and his family, according to a person familiar with the situation who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway on Wednesday echoed the president's newly aggressive approach. She said Ford has "been treated like a Fabergé egg by all of us, beginning with me and the president," and said Trump was merely "pointing out factual inconsistencies."

Trump himself didn't respond publicly to the criticism. On Twitter, he hailed Kavanaugh as "a fine man and great intellect" and insisted, "The country is with him all the way!"

The California psychology professor has testified that a drunken Kavanaugh sexually abused her in a locked room at a high school party in the 1980s and has said she believed he was trying to rape her. Kavanaugh has denied her assertions and those of two other women, who have accused him of other instances of sexual misconduct in the 1980s.

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Democrats argued that the investigation has been insufficient, lacking interviews with her, with Kavanaugh and others who his accusers have said could know about the alleged incidents.

In a statement Wednesday night after McConnell set the vote in motion, Ford's counsel wrote: "An FBI supplemental background investigation that did not include an interview of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford — nor the witnesses who corroborate her testimony — cannot be called an investigation. We are profoundly disappointed that after the tremendous sacrifice she made in coming forward, those directing the FBI investigation were not interested in seeking the truth."

Corker and Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., said senators were expecting the document to contain reports that FBI agents compile on their interviews with subjects, perhaps accompanied by a cover letter. Background checks do not traditionally contain investigators' conclusions about who they believe is credible.

Washington has been awaiting completion of the investigation since last week, when Flake, Collins and Murkowski pressured a reluctant Trump and GOP leaders to order the FBI to renew its background check of the 53-year-old Kavanaugh.

The FBI interviewed several people, including three who Ford has said attended a 1982 high school gathering in suburban Maryland where she says Kavanaugh's attack occurred, plus another Kavanaugh friend. The agency has also spoken to a second woman, Deborah Ramirez, who has claimed Kavanaugh exposed himself to her at a Yale party when both were freshmen.

Democrats also demanded that the FBI privately brief the Senate about the investigation before the chamber votes. McConnell rejected that request in a letter Wednesday to Schumer, saying Democrats would use it to delay Kavanaugh's confirmation.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Michael Balsamo, Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller, Padmananda Rama, Matthew Daly, Mary Clare Jalonick and Kevin Freking contributed.

Key battle in Yemen's war risks tipping country into famine

By AHMED AL-HAJ and MAGGIE MICHAEL, Associated Press

BAJIL, Yemen (AP) — With American backing, the United Arab Emirates has resumed an all-out offensive aimed at capturing Yemen's most vital port, Hodeida, where Shiite rebels are digging in to fight to the last man. Thousands of civilians are caught in the middle, trapped by minefields and barrages of mortars and airstrikes.

If the array of Yemeni militias backed by the UAE takes the city, it would be their biggest victory against the rebels, known as Houthis, after a long stalemate in the three-year-old civil war.

But the battle on the Red Sea coast also threatens to throw Yemen into outright famine.

Hodeida's port literally keeps millions of starving Yemenis alive, as the entry point for 70 percent of food imports and international aid. More than 8 million of Yemen's nearly 29 million people have no food other than what is provided by world relief agencies, a figure that continues to rapidly rise.

A protracted siege could cut off that lifeline. The battle has already killed hundreds of civilians and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes, adding to the more than 2 million Yemenis displaced by the war. Amid the fighting, cholera cases in the area leaped from 497 in June to 1,347 in August, Save the Children reported Tuesday.

The assault first began in June, then paused in August as the U.N. envoy for Yemen tried to cobble together peace talks, the first in two years. That attempt fell apart, and the offensive resumed in mid-September.

The United States effectively gave a green light to push ahead when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sept. 12 certified continued American support for the Saudi-led coalition's air campaign against the Houthis. The coalition has come under heavy criticism for its relentless airstrikes since 2015, which U.N. experts say have caused the majority of the estimated 10,000 civilian deaths in the conflict and could constitute a war crime. Several strikes in August killed dozens of children.

Pompeo declared that Saudi Arabia and the UAE were taking adequate measures to minimize civilian deaths. The U.S. supports the coalition with intelligence and air-to-air refueling for its warplanes, as well

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as with billions of dollars in arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE — as well as the United States — say their campaign aims to restore the recognized government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and thwart what they contend is an attempt by Iran to seize control in Yemen through the rebels. Iran denies that the Houthis are its proxy.

But the resulting war has pushed Yemen into the world's worst humanitarian disaster, fragmentation and chaos.

THE STAKES

A coalition victory at Hodeida would be the first breakthrough after more than two years of deadlock.

After the Houthis took over the capital, Sanaa, and surged south in early 2015, the coalition launched its campaign, pushing them back. Since then, front lines have hardly moved, with the Houthis firmly in control of the north.

The notable exception has been on the Red Sea coast, where since December, UAE-backed forces have battled their way toward Hodeida.

The UAE says taking the port will force the Houthis to the negotiating table.

Hodeida's fall would cost the rebels a major source of income, since they heavily tax commodities and aid coming from the port. That cash has helped them finance their fight and the iron fist they wield in their territory.

But if the Houthis won't negotiate, the coalition faces an even tougher fight into the rebel-held north.

It took two years for the coalition to reach Hodeida, so "how many months or years will it take for this same collection of — often competing and opposed — militias to make their way through Yemen's mountains toward the capital of Sanaa?" said Michael Horton, a fellow at the Jamestown Foundation.

THE BATTLEFIELD

The two sides have pounded each other for months, as some 22,000 UAE-backed Yemeni fighters inch across the flat coastal plain to the city's edges. The force is mainly made up of militiamen from the south or the Hodeida area, backed by tanks and coalition warplanes. They face an estimated 5,000 Houthi fighters.

The coalition fighters are currently trying to encircle the city. But they have hit ferocious resistance at Kilo 16, a point on the main highway heading east from Hodeida to Sanaa. Despite two weeks of fighting, the forces have failed to fully capture it.

The fighting has partially shut the highway, which is not only a key Houthi supply line but also vital for importers and humanitarian agencies moving goods.

Every piece of ground has been gained only with heavy bloodshed. One military official estimated 1,300 fighters killed from the two sides in just the past few weeks. The defending Houthis, working in small units to avoid airstrikes, attack from hiding in foliage. Haydari al-Subaihi, a coalition-backed fighter, recounted how 30 of his comrades were killed at once when a mortar shell hit their position.

Coalition airstrikes also reap a heavy toll.

"We find vast lands littered with the bodies of the Houthis, many charred from airstrikes," said Mansour al-Lahji, another Emirati-backed militiaman.

"THE WORLD TOPPLED ON OUR HEADS"

Thousands of civilians have been caught in the middle, unable to escape their homes because of heavy bombardment by both sides and the Houthis' minefields.

In Durayhimi, just south of Hodeida city, around 20,000 people remain trapped. Food, fuel and water have run short, and aid agencies cannot reach them, a health official who fled the district said.

Houthis in the district have buried dead fighters and civilians in mass graves, the official said. "When one grave is full, they dig another," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Saadia Ibrahim, a grandmother in her 60s, said that as her family fled their village, a Houthi mortar hit near their home, killing three of her relatives. As they drove off, another explosion — she doesn't know what it was — blasted the car, killing four more and throwing her through the air. Wounded by shrapnel, she was rescued by one of her sons on a motorcycle and taken to Bajil, a nearby town crowded with families fleeing the fighting.

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"We fled right and left, and then the world toppled on our heads," she said.

The fighting has displaced half a million of the 2.6 million people living in the province where Hodeida is located. Documented civilian deaths in Hodeida spiked to an average 116 a month in June, July and August, up from 44 a month in the first five months of the year, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, a monitoring group cited by U.N. agencies.

The actual toll is likely far higher.

Hodeida port has so far kept operating. The UAE has said it will work to ensure the port stays open, preparing airdrops of food if necessary.

Coalition spokesman Col. Turki al-Malki told the AP that once the city is captured, the coalition will ease restrictions on ships entering the port, which now face long delays as a U.N. team inspects them to prevent weapon transfers to the Houthis. Port revenues will go to the government, allowing it to pay salaries of its employees, he said.

More and more Yemenis are starving simply because they can't afford to buy food in an economy that has been demolished by fighting, airstrikes and a coalition blockade. With the currency in freefall, the U.N. has warned that soon another 3.5 million people will need international aid.

Hodeida's fighting has endangered the lifeline. The battle at Kilo 16 forced aid supplies to take longer routes out, slowing deliveries. Also, aid agencies can't reach the nearby Red Sea Mills, one of Yemen's largest granaries, where enough grain to feed 3.5 million people for a month is stored.

WINNERS AND LOSERS

The battle brings in to sharp relief a question hanging over the war: What will be the shape of Yemen after all the destruction it has wreaked?

Notably absent from the fight to take Hodeida are the forces of Hadi's government — the government that the coalition says it aims to restore. Several pro-Hadi officials told the AP that the UAE squeezed him out.

"The government knows nothing about what is going on in Hodeida," one senior official said. "It's all in the hands of the Emiratis." He and the other officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivities of relations with the Emirates.

Mistrust runs deep between Hadi's government and the UAE, which has set up military bases across southern Yemen and controls much of the south through the militias it funds. Some Hadi allies accuse the UAE of seeking to impose its own dominion over Yemen — and see the assault on Hodeida as adding another piece to its hold over the country's coastline.

Houthi-free southern Yemen has turned into a patchwork of splintered regions under rival militias. Aden, the southern capital, has seen assassinations and street battles between pro-UAE and pro-Hadi militias, as well as increasing crime, robbery and rape.

The fragmentation has sent a message to Yemenis living under the Houthis' repressive rule that the alternative may not be much better.

"Many Yemenis resent what they see as a neo-colonial land and resource grab," said Horton. "Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE have carved out spheres of influence."

Michael reported from Cairo.

Closing arguments set in Chicago officer's murder trial

By DON BABWIN and MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — From the moment Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke was charged with first-degree murder in the 2014 shooting of Laquan McDonald, the case has centered around the video.

As attorneys prepare to make their final arguments on Thursday, the question is what jurors will think after watching the video repeatedly over the course of the three-week trial. What about the testimony from Van Dyke and his partner that night that the squad car video and nearby surveillance cameras didn't capture their experience?

Video of the white police officer shooting the black teenager 16 times was key in charges being brought

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against Van Dyke in November 2015, more than a year after McDonald's death. Official police accounts of the Oct. 20, 2014, shooting described McDonald lunging toward officers with the knife. The video shows Van Dyke stepping forward and opening fire as McDonald walks at an angle away from him, a small knife in his right hand, which hangs at his side. McDonald spins and crumples to the ground. The barrage of gunfire continues, smoke coming off of his prone body.

Testimony in the trial concluded Wednesday, with defense attorneys rolling out and entering into evidence a squad car tire that McDonald punctured with his knife moments before Van Dyke arrived. Prosecutors read into the record what Van Dyke told Chicago police Detective David March shortly after the shooting, including a statement that Van Dyke made that McDonald had raised a knife at him and kept pointing at him even after he was on the ground — both things not shown on the video.

That video will almost certainly be played again Thursday. Prosecutors also will likely stress that none of the nearly dozen other officers who encountered McDonald after police responded to a report of someone breaking into vehicles opened fire.

If defense attorneys show the video, it will be to remind the jurors that as an erratic McDonald walked down the middle of a street, the knife flashing in his right hand, one sudden movement and he could have been upon the officer with a deadly weapon. They may talk about what Van Dyke said he saw but that the camera could not have captured — that McDonald was "without expression," his eyes "bugging out of his head" and looking "right through me." They are likely to point out that the hallucinogenic drug PCP was found in McDonald's system and point to other people who testified about previous violent encounters with McDonald.

Defense attorneys also may point to Van Dyke's own words on the stand: "The video doesn't show my perspective."

It isn't the first time jurors at a high-profile trial in Judge Vincent Gaughan's courtroom are being told by defense attorneys to not entirely believe their eyes. Prosecutors made video the centerpiece of R&B star R. Kelly's 2008 child pornography trial, telling jurors it showed the singer engaging in sex acts with an underage girl. The defense told jurors the man in the 27-minute video wasn't R. Kelly and jurors ultimately acquitted him.

In Van Dyke's case, the video already has made an impact in the city since its release in November 2015. Chicago's police superintendent and Cook County's top prosecutor both lost their jobs — one fired by the mayor and the other ousted by voters. It also led to a U.S. Justice Department investigation that found a "pervasive cover-up culture" and prompted plans for far-reaching police reforms.

One witness who could figure prominently in closing arguments is Dr. Laurence Miller, a psychologist who interviewed Van Dyke for his legal team. After Miller testified, as expected, that Van Dyke firing his weapon was a "reasonable response" to what he perceived as a deadly threat posed by McDonald, he said two things that prosecutors might seize on to show Van Dyke's state of mind before he even climbed out of his squad SUV. First, said Miller, after hearing about what was happening on his radio, Van Dyke told him that he told his partner: "Oh my God, we're going to have to shoot the guy."

Then, testified Miller, Van Dyke recounted to him how he wondered aloud why other officers at the scene had not already shot McDonald after he punctured the tire of a police cruiser.

Prosecutors could be expected to use both statements to help show the jurors Van Dyke's state of mind, and perhaps suggest he had already made a decision on what he was going to do.

For the AP's complete coverage of the case: <https://apnews.com/tag/LaquanMcDonald>

Who sees it? Senators, staff to have access to FBI report

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — All 100 senators, and a handful of Senate staff, will be able to read the FBI's new report on sexual misconduct allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. But it's

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unclear if the public will see it.

Background checks are a routine part of any nominee's vetting process and are generally delivered to the Senate without much fanfare. This background check, requested by a trio of senators who are undecided on Kavanaugh's confirmation, will be different.

It's expected that many senators will want to read or be briefed on the supplemental background check.

The report will review allegations from California professor Christine Blasey Ford, who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when both were teenagers, and from Kavanaugh's Yale classmate Deborah Ramirez, who says he exposed himself to her at a party when both were freshmen. Kavanaugh has denied their accusations.

To accommodate the senators, and to guard the sensitive information, the FBI's report is expected to be held in a secure room normally reserved only for classified matters. There are several of these rooms in the Capitol complex, but senators usually use one in the basement of the Capitol Visitor Center just off the Senate side. The rooms are called SCIFs, or Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, who tweeted early Thursday that he had received the report, is expected to read it first, followed by his colleagues either individually or possibly in groups.

According to a preliminary schedule, Republicans will read the first hour, starting Thursday morning, and Democrats will read the hour after that, according to a person who was briefed on the plan. The person was not authorized to release the information and requested anonymity.

There are nine staff members — both Republicans and Democrats — who have access to the report and can brief members who don't want to read it in detail.

No copies will be made of the report, as is standard, so senators will have to go to the room to learn what is in it. And because the report is confidential, they will be expected not to repeat what they learn.

"None of that stuff's public," Grassley, R-Iowa, told reporters on Wednesday. "If you want people to be candid when they talk to the FBI, you ain't going to make that public."

The rules for keeping investigations confidential and closely held were laid out in an agreement with the governing background checks dating from the Obama administration. It's unclear whether there will be a public summary of the information, or whether the White House would be allowed to release portions of the report.

7 officers shot, 1 fatally, serving warrant in S. Carolina

By JEFFREY COLLINS and MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

FLORENCE, S.C. (AP) — A police officer was killed and six of his comrades wounded when a man opened fire from inside his home on deputies who came to serve a search warrant, authorities said. The shooting continued for hours as the man barricaded himself inside with children, firing from a distance at officers who came to help.

Authorities had to use a bullet-proof vehicle Wednesday to recover the wounded, and the shooter finally released the children as he was taken into custody, authorities said.

"Officers went there unknowing the firepower the suspect had," Florence County Sheriff Kenney Boone said at a news conference. "Fire was being shot all over. The way this suspect was positioned, his view of fire was several hundred yards. So he had an advantage. The officers couldn't get to the ones who were down."

The violence stunned people already dealing with record flooding from Hurricane Florence. Both the sheriff and police chief both cried as they spoke to reporters after the standoff.

The slain officer, Terrence Carraway, 52, of Darlington, had just been honored for his 30 years of service with the Florence Police Department.

"I want you to pray for the family who lost the bravest police officer I have ever known," said his chief, Allen Heidler.

The suspect opened fire on three Florence County deputies who had come to serve a search warrant around 4 p.m. Wednesday, Boone said.

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Then, he shot four Florence city police officers, one fatally, as officers from all over swarmed in to help, Heidler said.

Boone credited his department's military equipment for enabling them to pull the wounded from the field of fire.

"Thanks to our MRAP, armored personnel carrier, we made sure all the officers that were shot were protected and brought for medical attention," he said.

Officials refused to say why they were serving a warrant. They did not name the suspect. They also did not identify the wounded officers or describe their conditions.

Condolences and outpourings of support rolled in.

President Donald Trump tweeted his "thoughts and prayers," saying "We are forever grateful for what our Law Enforcement Officers do 24/7/365."

"This is simply devastating news from Florence," Gov. Henry McMaster tweeted. "The selfless acts of bravery from the men and women in law enforcement is real, just like the power of prayer is real."

Thom Berry, spokesman for the State Law Enforcement Division, said the agency had sent crime scene technicians to assist officials in Florence but at this time had not been requested to help with any investigation.

Boone said investigators from Richland County would help. He did not say why he wasn't using state police like most law enforcement agencies do in officer shootings in South Carolina.

Authorities said the shootings happened in Vintage Place, an upscale neighborhood in the western part of the city.

Bobby Goin stood outside waiting for police to let him back to his home, where his wife and granddaughter could hear the gunshots.

"Surprised is probably an understatement," said Goin, who has lived in the neighborhood for 20 years. "The worst thing that goes on around here is that someone runs a stop sign and it gets posted on Facebook."

This is the second shooting of multiple police officers in South Carolina this year. In January, a 47-year-old former banker shot four officers in York County, killing one, after his wife called 911 to report he beat her. Christian McCall pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life without parole.

Florence, a city in South Carolina's northeastern corner home to roughly 37,000, sits at the convergence of Interstates 95 and 20. It's the largest city in the region known as the Pee Dee, where flooding from Hurricane Florence devastated areas to the east and south.

This story has been corrected. Trump's tweet says "24/7/365" not 27/7/365.

Monica Mathur in New York contributed to this report. Kinnard reported from Columbia, South Carolina.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. FBI DELIVERS KAVANAUGH REPORT TO SENATE

The Senate braces for an initial vote on the Supreme Court hopeful's nomination, setting the stage for a showdown roll call over confirmation as early as this weekend.

2. UNCERTAINTY IN SHELTERS AFTER INDONESIA QUAKE

More than 70,000 have been displaced from homes that were destroyed or damaged and lack power and water after the powerful earthquake and tsunami.

3. US-BACKED FORCES RESTART ASSAULT IN KEY YEMENI PORT CITY

Victory in Hodeida for United Arab Emirates and its allies against Shiite rebels could be a turning point in the 3-year-old civil war, but it could also push the country into outright famine.

4. PROBE OF TRUMP TAXES COULD PROVE COSTLY

Experts say the president could be on the hook for tens of millions of dollars in civil fines if authorities

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found that he and his family cheated the IRS for decades.

5. 7 OFFICERS SHOT, 1 FATALLY, IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Authorities had to use a bullet-proof vehicle to rescue seven police officers in Florence who were shot by a man as they tried to serve a warrant.

6. FINANCIALLY TROUBLED WOMEN GET HELP IN METOO CASES

Thanks to a \$22 million legal fund, many low-income women across the U.S. have been able to team with lawyers in pursuing #MeToo-inspired sex-harassment cases.

7. HOW CANADIANS FEEL AFTER TRADE DEAL

They are relieved after reaching a free trade deal with the Trump administration, but Trump's treatment of America's closest ally leaves a bitter taste.

8. ANOTHER RARE FISH PULLED BACK FROM EXTINCTION

The Colorado River razorback would be the second comeback this year for a species unique to the Southwestern U.S., AP learns.

9. AIRLINE STANDS BY PURPORTED INTERVIEW WITH DREW BARRYMORE

EgyptAir is backing a writer for its in-flight magazine who penned a bizarre article purportedly based on an interview with the "Charlie's Angels" actress.

10. RED SOX, YANKS READY TO RUMBLE AGAIN IN POSTSEASON

For the first time in 14 years, baseball's most-bitter rivals are set to tangle again — this time as 100-win heavyweights in the playoffs.

Uncertainty in shelters after Indonesia quake as deaths rise

By **STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — People living in tents and shelters have little but uncertainty since the powerful earthquake and tsunami hit an Indonesian island, where deaths exceed 1,400 and efforts to retrieve scores more victims buried deep in mud and rubble were still hampered Thursday by the lack of heavy equipment.

Thousands more people were injured in the disasters in central Sulawesi last Friday and more than 70,000 were displaced from homes that were destroyed or damaged and lack power and water. They are unsure when they'll be able to rebuild and have been spending hours each day, often futilely, trying to secure necessities such as fuel for generators.

Most of the 1,424 confirmed dead have been buried, and national disaster agency spokesman Supoto Purwo Nugroho said at a news conference in Jakarta that the search effort is being intensified, including at a collapsed hotel in the city of Palu where a South Korean is believed trapped.

The number of dead is expected to rise further as rescue crew comb through affected areas after being slowed initially by broken, impassable roads and other damage.

Nugroho said the search efforts were tough in areas where swathes of land collapsed when the quake caused a phenomenon called liquefaction, where loose, wet soil loses its strength and sinks in a quicksand-like effect. Survivors have described homes and relatives being lost in the mud where liquefaction occurred.

In one area, 202 hectares (499 acres) of land were swallowed whole by the ground while another 180 hectares (445 acres) of land in another village sank, burying 168 houses in mud 3-meter (10 feet) deep, he said. Two dozen diggers and heavy machineries are working to dig victims out and more help are on the way, he said.

Palu resident Bambang said many victims could have survived if help arrived faster. He told local television that he found a friend injured and trapped under debris while searching for his pregnant wife but was unable to help him. The friend died after leaving a message to have him buried in front of the church, he said.

"He was still alive then, but he died because the evacuation was so slow," said Bambang, who uses on name.

National police spokesman Brig. Gen. Dedi Prasetyo said security will be ramped up in the disaster

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areas to ensure law and order after 92 people were arrested for looting goods such as motor oil, tires and farming equipment. Authorities earlier allowed desperate villagers to grab food supplies from shops but have warned them not to take other things. He noted that security would be necessary for economic activity to resume.

At one of the relief camps, Andi Rusding huddled with numerous family members under a tarpaulin, saying they'd gotten some aid but felt shortchanged.

"Please tell the government and the NGOs if they're really willing to help us with some foods please do not give it away through the command posts," he said. "It is better to go directly to each and every tent. Because sometime (the relief goods) didn't distribute evenly."

Masrita Arifin said she couldn't even describe her living conditions in the camp, just a few hundred meters from her family's heavily damaged home. "It's really difficult to find water and we don't have a place to shower, but thank God we got some aid from the government, including a medical checkup."

Nugroho said thousands of people have been evacuated by ships and that the agency's focus is on intensifying rescue efforts, medical treatment and aid distribution as well as restoring infrastructure and coordinating international help.

Countries including Singapore, South Korea, Britain, Japan, India and Malaysia have pledged to send 11 military transport aircraft, he said. Australia sent a planeload of supply kits Thursday as part of its aid package announced earlier.

Palu's damaged airport is expected to re-open for civilian traffic later Thursday, military official Lt. Col. Agus Hariyanto said. He said 100 Indonesian marines have landed at Palu airport and 200 more were on their way to help in rescue work.

The national disaster agency has called for improvements to cope with future events. With Indonesia sitting on the seismically active Pacific "Ring of Fire," it said 176 tsunamis have been recorded since 1629.

Officials estimated some 148.4 million Indonesians are at risk in earthquake-prone areas while 3.8 million people could be in danger due to tsunamis, it said, adding that there is only a 30-40 minute window to warn villagers to flee a tsunami.

Associated Press writer Eileen Ng in Jakarta, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

Bring on Boston: Yanks rout A's 7-2 in wild-card game

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Aaron Judge got the party started with a two-run homer nine pitches in . By the time Giancarlo Stanton capped the mauling with monstrous drive in his postseason debut , New York Yankees fans already were looking ahead.

"We want Boston!" they chanted.

Coming up next.

"It's going to be intense," CC Sabathia predicted after the Yankees pounded the Oakland Athletics 7-2 on Wednesday night to win their second straight AL wild-card game.

New York will take a train to Boston for a best-of-five Division Series starting Friday night, a matchup of 100-win heavyweights.

"I think they're ready and relish the opportunity to go up against the game's best this year," Yankees rookie manager Aaron Boone said of his players.

Boone remains a dirty word among the Fenway Park faithful. His 11th-inning homer in Game 7 of the 2003 AL Championship Series beat the Red Sox. A year later Boston overcame the Yankees and became the first major league team to bounce back from a 3-0 postseason deficit. The Red Sox went on to win their first World Series since 1918, but Boone's drive off Tim Wakefield has not been forgotten or forgiven.

Boston went 10-9 against the Yankees this year and set a club record with 108 wins. New York became the first team since the 2001 A's to reach triple digits in wins and fail to finish first.

"We've just got to do our homework and come out swinging," said Luke Voit, who broke open the game

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with a two-run triple in a four-run sixth .

Luis Severino atoned for last year's flop in the wild-card game against Minnesota, pitching no-hit shutout ball into the fifth . Dellin Betances entered with two on and got six straight outs as part of a five-hitter and the Yankees extending their home postseason winning streak to seven.

Severino let out a primal scream after escaping a bases-loaded jam in the fourth with a 99.6 fastball — his fastest pitch of the night — to strike out Marcus Semien .

Yankees fans fretted about an all-or-nothing knockout match, thinking back to last year when Severino fell behind Minnesota 3-0 just 10 pitches in. New York rallied for an 8-4 win against the Twins, but the memory remained raw.

Severino retired his first three batters in order on 10 pitches

"I think the first inning was huge for me, after all the stuff that people say on social media, all of that stuff," he explained.

Andrew McCutchen walked leading off the bottom half against reliever-turned starter Liam Hendriks, and Judge hit a drive over the left-field scoreboard, joining Reggie Jackson as the only Yankees with four home runs in their first seven postseason home games.

"I was already excited from the national anthem on," said Judge, who hit his second homer since returning in mid-September after missing seven weeks with a broken right wrist.

Short on options, A's manager Bob Melvin opted for baseball's latest fad: starting a reliever. Hendriks (the loser) had not allowed a home run since June 24, the night before he was cut from the major league roster.

"Got into some bad counts and they made me pay," Hendriks said.

Voit's two-run triple missed a home run by inches. Stanton added a 443-foot drive off closer Blake Treinen in the eighth that landed in left field's second deck, completing a power show by the team that set a major league record for most home runs in a season. Stanton's drive left the bat at 117.4 mph and Judge's 116.1 mph, the hardest-hit postseason home runs since measuring began in 2015.

A sellout crowd enjoyed one of those boisterous Bronx celebrations that used to be an October staple.

"Early in the game they're going to be loud. It's our job to try to take them out of it," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "This is a tough ballpark to play in."

Oakland has lost eight straight winner-take-all postseason games since beating Willie Mays and the New York Mets in Game 7 of the 1973 World Series, and dropped all four of their postseason matchups against the Yankees.

"It's pretty hard but I'm not disappointed at all," said big league home run champion Khris Davis, who hit a two-run homer off Zach Britton in the eighth . "I think we showed some people we can do some things and I think next year, we're a little bit more of a threat."

Severino was 14-2 at the All-Star break this year but slumped badly in the second half, and Boone's decision to start the 24-year-old right-hander against the A's instead of J.A. Happ or Masahiro Tanaka was intensely debated — the type of argument Boone used to enjoy as a television analyst who broadcast last year's wild-card game.

Severino made the move look like genius. He threw nine fastballs in the first inning, then switched to more offspeed. He threw 36 fastballs, 37 sliders and 14 changeups in all.

"Because they're patient and they're dangerous, you've got to be able to mix those pitches and you've got to be able to throw strikes with all those pitches," Boone said.

He struck out seven his first time through the batting order, but wound up walking four as he pitched carefully. Jonathan Lucroy and Nick Martini singled leading off the fifth, and Boone signaled for Betances to relieve.

This time, Severino had a no-decision to savor.

Betances retired Matt Chapman on a liner to right and Jed Lowrie on a fly to center, then struck out Davis with a slider and gleefully backpedaled off the mound .

"I've been waiting for this moment a long time. Last year I was a cheerleader," Betances said, reflecting on his reduced role last October after late-season control problems.

New York opened a 6-0 lead in the bottom half. Judge started it with a double — his grounder hit about

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a foot foul just beyond the batter's box, then twisted fair down the line . Aaron Hicks followed with another double off Fernando Rodney.

After Treinen walked Stanton, and Voit hit an opposite-field drive to right, thinking it was a home run and raising his right arm at the plate. He chugged into third with his first big league triple and let loose with a holler.

The burly Voit tumbled across the plate, actually making a nifty slide , to just make it home on Didi Gregorius' sacrifice fly.

Betances (the winner) pitched a perfect sixth and David Robertson a 1-2-3 seventh. Aroldis Chapman followed Britton and finished with the final two of 13 strikeouts by New York pitchers .

Oakland was a little engine that could, coming off three straight last-place finishes and last in opening-day payroll before creeping up to 28th following midseason acquisitions to bolster its injury devastated pitching staff. The A's managed to win 97 games despite a half-dozen starting pitchers getting hurt.

"We feel like with the group that we have here together that we're going to get better each and every year," Melvin said.

While he spoke, the Yankees were spraying Chandon in a soggy clubhouse filled with the sweet smell of California brut.

"This place was crazy tonight," Stanton said. "Everything I would have expected and more."

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Probes of Trump taxes carry potential for millions in fines

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **STEPHEN BRAUN**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Though President Donald Trump insists he did nothing wrong on his taxes, experts say he could be on the hook for tens of millions of dollars in civil fines if state and federal authorities substantiate a New York Times report that found he and his family cheated the IRS for decades.

The statute of limitations for bringing criminal charges has long run out, but civil cases have no such limits, and the financial penalties could be staggering. Civil fraud charges for intentionally underpaying taxes, as the Times alleged the Trump family did, could include a penalty of up to 75 percent of the unpaid federal taxes and double the unpaid state amount, experts said.

The penalties "could be substantial, and if the allegations are proven in court, they should be levied," said Norman Eisen, chairman of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and former chief ethics counsel in the Obama administration.

The New York tax department said it is studying the Times' 15,000-word report and "vigorously pursuing all appropriate avenues of investigation." New York City also said it would investigate. A spokesman for the Internal Revenue Service declined to comment.

Trump tweeted that the newspaper did "a very old, boring and often told hit piece on me."

The White House dismissed the report as a "misleading attack against the Trump family by the failing New York Times," but spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the newspaper got one thing right: Trump's father not only did deals with his son but heaped praise on him by saying "everything he touched turned to gold."

A lawyer for Trump, Charles J. Harder, told the Times that there was no "fraud or tax evasion" and that parts of the report were "extremely inaccurate."

The Times said Trump received at least \$413 million from his father over the decades, much of that through dubious tax maneuvers, including outright fraud. The report contradicts Trump's portrayal of himself as a self-made billionaire who started with just a \$1 million loan from his father.

Tax law experts expressed skepticism that the IRS would mount any civil investigation. The main reason, they said, is that the Times account says IRS officials have already conducted extensive audits of the estate left by Trump's parents.

"That ship has sailed," said Mark W. Everson, who was IRS commissioner during President George W.

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Bush's second term and is now vice chairman of AlliantGroup, a Houston-based corporate tax advisory firm. He added: "I would be concerned were the service to reach back that far in time, given that it could only be doing so because of the person's current position."

In addition to maneuvers aimed at avoiding estate taxes, the Times reported that the president's father, Fred Trump, paid no federal gift taxes on seven buildings that were transferred to Donald Trump and his siblings.

That opens another possible avenue of investigation, said Beth Shapiro Kaufman, a Caplin & Drysdale tax lawyer and a former Treasury official.

There is typically a three-year statute of limitations on federal gift inquiries, but that doesn't apply when a gift is made without being reported to the government. And if the donor is dead, the IRS would have the ability to go after the beneficiary of the gift for unpaid taxes, Kaufman said.

In New York, tax officials had already been looking into whether Trump or his charitable foundation misrepresented their tax liability. State law would allow them to seek civil penalties if they can show someone intentionally sought to evade taxes, even decades ago. Those who lose such cases are often required to pay their back taxes along with penalties.

In August, the state subpoenaed former Trump attorney and "fixer" Michael Cohen as part of the probe.

The state investigation follows Democratic state Attorney General Barbara Underwood's lawsuit alleging Trump illegally tapped his Trump Foundation to settle legal disputes, help his campaign for president and cover personal and business expenses, including the purchase of a 6-foot portrait of himself for \$10,000.

Eisen said that if Democrats win the House in November, they will have the investigative muscle and subpoena power to scour Trump's latter-day tax records and see whether the tax schemes alleged by the Times have continued.

Former IRS Deputy Commissioner Mark E. Matthews cautioned that the IRS would not be obligated to conduct an investigation if Congress turned up new evidence of continuing tax maneuvers, but added: "The agency knows where its bread is buttered. If it gets to the point of a full committee report with new evidence, somebody at the IRS will take a hard look. But there's no guarantee they'd go beyond a look."

The federal tax code's statute of limitations for criminal cases is typically no more than six years, legal experts said. To bring criminal charges, investigators would have to find a continuing tax fraud conspiracy that stretched into recent years, they said.

Building such a case — similar to the charges that former Trump presidential campaign chairman Paul Manafort pleaded guilty to last month — would require overwhelming recent evidence, buttressed by new documents and strong testimony from Trump insiders, the experts said.

AP writers David Klepper in Albany, N.Y., Michael Sisak in New York and Marcy Gordon in Washington contributed to this report.

Cemetery case puts property rights issue before high court

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

SCOTT TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP) — Rose Mary Knick makes no bones about it. She doesn't buy that there are bodies buried on her eastern Pennsylvania farmland, and she doesn't want people strolling onto her property to visit what her town says is a small cemetery.

Six years ago, however, Knick's town passed an ordinance that requires anyone with a cemetery on their land to open it to the public during the day. The town ordered Knick to comply, threatening a daily fine of \$300 to \$600 if she didn't. Knick's response has been to fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which heard arguments in her case Wednesday.

"Would you want somebody roaming around in your backyard?" Knick asked during a recent interview on her Lackawanna County property, which is posted with signs warning against trespassing.

Her neighbors in Scott Township, the Vail family, say they just want to visit their ancestors' graves.

The Supreme Court isn't going to weigh in on whether there's a cemetery on Knick's land. Instead, it's

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considering whether people with property rights cases like Knick's can bring their cases to federal court or must go to state court, an issue groups nationwide are interested in.

Knick, 69, says her town's ordinance wouldn't protect her if people injure themselves on her land and sue. And she says if the town is going to take her private property and open it up to the public, they should pay her. She says she believes that the town was trying to make an example out of her for questioning lawmakers' decisions.

Knick, who has lived on her 90-acre property since 1970 and who did clerical work for a food chain before retiring, says nothing on her property title indicates there is a cemetery on her land. She says she's never seen any gravestones or other evidence of a cemetery there. Her land, now partly being used to grow pumpkins and gourds, does have some rock fences and several areas where there are rectangular, flat rocks on the ground. She takes a visitor to one such area and says the others are basically like it.

"Are they a marker? I have no clue," she said of the flat stones.

But Knick's neighbor Robert Vail Sr., 85, says Knick knows exactly where there's a cemetery on her land. Vail's family has lived in the area since the early 1800s and he says it's his relatives, at least half a dozen of them, who are buried there. He has a list of them, prepared decades ago by a local historian, and pictures of some gravestones.

Vail asked town officials years ago for help getting on to Knick's land, and they drew up the ordinance that passed in 2012. There's now also a narrower state law on families' access to cemeteries that may apply to her, too.

Vail says he uncovered his relatives' gravestones on Knick's property by getting down on his hands and knees and probing the earth with a screwdriver to find the buried markers. He initially found three and a part of another, most for relatives who died as children, he said. But he says on a later visit the stones were gone.

Sitting in his living room, about a five-minute drive from Knick's home, Vail pointed to books that trace his family tree back hundreds of years. All he wants, he says, is to visit Knick's land a few times a year to clean up the area where he found the stones, to plant a flag and to pay his respects to relatives that include a Revolutionary War soldier.

"There's nobody else that would have any interest whatsoever," Vail said, acknowledging there might be curiosity seekers temporarily.

Whatever the Supreme Court decides, Knick's case won't be over. The question for the high court is limited to whether she can continue her fight in federal court or whether she has to go back to Pennsylvania's court system, where her case began. A Pennsylvania court initially told her that she'd have to wait to have her claims heard until the township tried to impose the ordinance's fines.

After she turned to the federal court system, an appeals court called the town's ordinance "extraordinary and constitutionally suspect" but said that Knick couldn't pursue her case in federal court. A 1985 Supreme Court decision effectively barred people with property rights claims like Knick's from going to federal court, her lawyers say. Knick wants the Supreme Court to overturn that decision.

Christina Martin, one of Knick's lawyers with the Pacific Legal Foundation, says people generally have a choice about whether to go to federal or state court when they're arguing that their constitutional rights are violated, but not in cases like Knick's, which she says is unfair.

At the Supreme Court arguments Wednesday, at least four of the eight justices seemed concerned about the inability of people in Knick's situation to ever get into federal court, but it also didn't seem there were the votes to overturn the 1985 decision.

After arguments, Knick marveled at how far her case had gone.

"I never dreamed in a million years that I'd be at the Supreme Court defending my property rights," she said.

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

McConnell sets Friday test vote on Kavanaugh nomination

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate braced for a crucial initial vote Friday on Brett Kavanaugh's tottering Supreme Court nomination after Majority Leader Mitch McConnell set his polarized chamber on a schedule to decide an election-season battle that has consumed the nation. A showdown roll call over confirmation seemed likely over the weekend.

McConnell, R-Ky., cemented the process late Wednesday and announced that sometime during the evening, the FBI would deliver to an anxious Senate the potentially fateful report on claims that Kavanaugh sexually abused women. With Republicans clinging to a razor-thin 51-49 majority and five senators — including three Republicans — still vacillating, the conservative jurist's prospects of Senate confirmation remained murky and dependent, in part, on the file's contents, which are supposed to be kept secret.

"There will be plenty of time for members to review and be briefed on the supplemental material" before Friday's vote, McConnell said to the nearly empty chamber. In a rare moment of randomness in what's been a deadly serious process, the normally meticulous lawmaker's cell phone emitted a ringtone during part of his remarks.

Lawmakers were planning to begin reading the FBI report early Thursday, with senators and a small number of top aides permitted to view it in a secure room in the Capitol complex. Senators are not supposed to divulge the contents of the agency's background reports.

The report was arriving at a Capitol palpably tense over the political stakes of the nomination fight and from aggressive anti-Kavanaugh protesters who have rattled and reportedly harassed senators. Feeding the anxiety was an unusually beefy presence of the U.S. Capitol Police, who were keeping demonstrators and frequently reporters at arm's length by forming wedges around lawmakers walking through corridors.

Amid complaints that some lawmakers were being confronted outside their homes, McConnell claimed on the Senate floor that the protesters were "part of the organized effort" to derail Kavanaugh's nomination.

"There is no chance in the world that they're going to scare us out of doing our duty," he said.

Adding to the uncertainty, the three undecided GOP senators who could decide Kavanaugh's fate rebuked President Donald Trump for mocking one accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, by mimicking her responses to questions at last week's dramatic Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

"I would tell him, knock it off. You're not helping," Trump ally Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said of Trump's Tuesday night tirade.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Trump's insults marked a "new low."

Barring leaks, it was unclear how much of the FBI report, if any, would be made public. While senators from both sides have expressed support for revealing at least parts of the findings, FBI background checks on nominees are supposed to remain confidential.

Underscoring rising tensions, Democrats suggested that previous FBI background checks of Kavanaugh may have unearthed misconduct by the nominee.

Democrats wrote to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, challenging a Tuesday tweet by GOP aides saying prior investigations never found "a whiff of ANY issue — at all — related in any way to inappropriate sexual behavior or alcohol abuse." Democrats wrote that the GOP tweet contained information that is "not accurate."

Committee Republicans tweeted in response that their prior tweet was "completely truthful" and accused Democrats of "false smears."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, told reporters that Trump's lampooning of Ford at a Tuesday night Mississippi campaign rally was "just plain wrong." Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, called it "wholly inappropriate and in my view unacceptable," and Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said on NBC's "Today" show that the remarks were "kind of appalling."

Those senators, along with Democrats Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia, have yet to declare how they will vote.

"All of us need to keep in mind there's a few people that are on the fence right now. And right now,

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that's sort of where our focus needs to be," said Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, who has traded barbs with Trump and will retire at year's end.

Trump drew laughs Tuesday with his rendition of how Ford answered questions at last week's hearing. "I had one beer — that's the only thing I remember," he stated inaccurately.

As he flew aboard Air Force One to the Mississippi rally, Trump was enraged by New York Times articles about Kavanaugh's high school and college years and alleging tax avoidance efforts by the president and his family, according to a person familiar with the situation who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway on Wednesday echoed the president's newly aggressive approach. She said Ford has "been treated like a Fabergé egg by all of us, beginning with me and the president," and said Trump was merely "pointing out factual inconsistencies."

Trump himself didn't respond publicly to the criticism. On Twitter, he hailed Kavanaugh as "a fine man and great intellect" and insisted, "The country is with him all the way!"

The California psychology professor has testified that a drunken Kavanaugh sexually abused her in a locked room at a high school party in the 1980s and has said she believed he was trying to rape her. Kavanaugh has denied her assertions and those of two other women, who have accused him of other instances of sexual misconduct in the 1980s.

Democrats argued that the investigation has been insufficient, lacking interviews with her, with Kavanaugh and others who his accusers have said could know about the alleged incidents.

In a statement Wednesday night after McConnell set the vote in motion, Ford's counsel wrote: "An FBI supplemental background investigation that did not include an interview of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford — nor the witnesses who corroborate her testimony — cannot be called an investigation. We are profoundly disappointed that after the tremendous sacrifice she made in coming forward, those directing the FBI investigation were not interested in seeking the truth."

Corker and Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., said senators were expecting the document to contain reports that FBI agents compile on their interviews with subjects, perhaps accompanied by a cover letter. Background checks do not traditionally contain investigators' conclusions about who they believe is credible.

Washington has been awaiting completion of the investigation since last week, when Flake, Collins and Murkowski pressured a reluctant Trump and GOP leaders to order the FBI to renew its background check of the 53-year-old Kavanaugh.

The FBI interviewed several people, including three who Ford has said attended a 1982 high school gathering in suburban Maryland where she says Kavanaugh's attack occurred, plus another Kavanaugh friend. The agency has also spoken to a second woman, Deborah Ramirez, who has claimed Kavanaugh exposed himself to her at a Yale party when both were freshmen.

In an interview, No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Dick Durbin of Illinois said McConnell was "hell-bent on getting this done" this week.

Democrats also demanded that the FBI privately brief the Senate about the investigation before the chamber votes. McConnell rejected that request in a letter Wednesday to Schumer, saying Democrats would use it to delay Kavanaugh's confirmation.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Michael Balsamo, Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller, Padmananda Rama, Matthew Daly, Mary Clare Jalonick and Kevin Freking contributed.

US Navy veteran arrested in Utah in suspicious mailings

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A U.S. Navy veteran in Utah was arrested Wednesday in connection with suspicious envelopes that were sent to President Donald Trump and top military chiefs.

William Clyde Allen III, 39, was taken into custody in the small northern Utah city of Logan, said Melodie Rydalch, a spokeswoman for the state's U.S. attorney's office.

The arrest comes after authorities confirmed an investigation into two envelopes once thought to contain

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ricin and later found to be castor seeds, the substance from which the poison is derived. They can cause injury if swallowed.

The FBI said there were potentially hazardous chemicals involved with their operation in Utah on Wednesday, but they declined to give additional details. No attorney was immediately listed for Allen.

The envelopes addressed to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the Navy's top officer, Adm. John Richardson, were isolated at a mail screening facility and sent to the FBI. No one was injured, and neither envelope entered the Pentagon. Mattis is traveling in Europe this week.

An envelope also was sent to the president Monday with unknown contents. The Secret Service says it didn't reach the White House.

Allen served in the Navy from 1998 to 2002, according to Navy records. He worked as a damage control fireman apprentice.

Two years after his Navy tenure ended, he was charged in a child sex-abuse case involving two girls he had an unspecified "relationship of trust" with, court documents state. He later pleaded guilty to lesser neglect and abuse charges and did not have to register as a sex offender.

That same year, a woman filed a protective order against him in a separate case. He disputed her allegations, the details of which are not public, but agreed to the protective order.

In 2008, he pleaded guilty to attempted aggravated assault and served about 2 1/2 years in prison, authorities said. He was released in 2011.

New charges are expected to be filed later this week.

Associated Press writer Brady McCombs contributed to this story.

Chinese armed drones now flying across Mideast battlefields

By JON GAMBRELL and GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — High above Yemen's rebel-held city of Hodeida, a drone controlled by Emirati forces hovered as an SUV carrying a top Shiite Houthi rebel official turned onto a small street and stopped, waiting for another vehicle in its convoy to catch up.

Seconds later, the SUV exploded in flames, killing Saleh al-Samad, a top political figure.

The drone that fired that missile in April was not one of the many American aircraft that have been buzzing across the skies of Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. It was Chinese.

Across the Middle East, countries locked out of purchasing U.S.-made drones due to rules over excessive civilian casualties are being wooed by Chinese arms dealers, who are world's main distributor of armed drones.

"The Chinese product now doesn't lack technology, it only lacks market share," said Song Zhongping, a Chinese military analyst and former lecturer at the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force University of Engineering. "And the United States restricting its arms exports is precisely what gives China a great opportunity."

The sales are helping expand Chinese influence across a region vital to American security interests.

"It's a hedging strategy and the Chinese will look to benefit from that," said Douglas Barrie, an airpower specialist at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "I think the Chinese are far less liable to be swayed by concerns over civilian casualties," he said.

At the start of the year, a satellite passing over southern Saudi Arabia photographed U.S.-made surveillance drones at an airfield, alongside Chinese-manufactured armed ones.

According to the Center for the Study of the Drone at New York's Bard College, that was the first documented example of the two drone systems being used in the war in Yemen. The country has emerged as a "sort of a testing ground for these strike-capable drones," said Dan Gettinger, the co-director of the Center for the Study of the Drone. "There's a rapid turnaround from delivery to deployment."

U.S. drones were first used in Yemen to kill suspected al-Qaida militants in 2002.

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One of the biggest Chinese exports is the Cai-Hong, or Rainbow, series made by the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp., or CASC, the largest contractor for the Chinese space program.

CASC's CH-4 and CH-5 models are on a par with San Diego-based General Atomics' Predator and Reaper drones, and much cheaper. Independent analysts say the Chinese models lag behind their American counterparts but the technology is good enough to justify the price tag, which might be half or less.

A CASC executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists, said cutting-edge U.S. models like Boeing Co.'s Stingray, introduced this year for the U.S. Navy, still hold a technological advantage.

And while price is an advantage, so too is a more relaxed attitude toward how drones are used, said Ulrike Franke, an expert on drones and policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations

Since 2014, China has sold more than 30 CH-4's to countries including Saudi Arabia and Iraq in deals worth over \$700 million, according to CASC. Ten countries are currently in negotiations to purchase the CH-4, according to the firm.

Last year, China sold to the UAE the Wing Loong II, an armed unmanned aerial vehicle roughly equivalent to the American MQ-9 Reaper.

"In recent years, all types of drones have proven their value and importance through a high degree of use in warfare, and the military has noticed," said the top CASC executive. "Many countries are now speeding up the development for these weapons systems, including China."

During President Xi Jinping's five years in power, China has stepped up spending on stealth fighters and aircraft carriers for its own military, while boosting sales of advanced equipment such as attack submarines to close allies like Pakistan.

China still lags behind the U.S., Russia, France, and Germany in total arms sales but it's catching up. Chinese arms exports rose by 38 percent between 2008-12 and 2013-17, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which tracks the global arms trade.

Mounting criticism over the rising civilian death toll in Yemen prompted the U.S. to impose restrictions on drone sales, forcing foreign countries to go through the U.S. government to buy armed drones, including those with laser-guidance systems.

The Washington-based New America Foundation estimates more than 240 drone strikes in Yemen have killed more than 1,300 people, including at least 111 civilians.

But with China's drone sales booming, there's growing pressure from U.S. arms makers to remove restrictions to let them catch up.

After some U.S. lawmakers urged President Donald Trump to loosen controls and let General Atomics sell its armed Reapers to Jordan and the UAE, the administration on April 19 permitted U.S. manufacturers to directly market and sell drones, including armed versions.

The government must still approve and license the sales, which are also contingent on human rights and proliferation reviews and congressional authorization.

General Atomics did not respond to a request for comment.

China doesn't routinely announce arms sales like the U.S. and others, but a review of drone spottings gives some indication of who its customers are.

— In Iraq in October 2015, the country's then-defense minister inspected a CH-4 drone at an air base in the city of Kut.

— Chinese armed drones have been operating at Jordan's Zarqa Airport, at an air base in Pakistan and from bases in Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula and near its border with Libya, according to satellite photos analyzed by the Center for the Study of the Drone.

— Satellite photographs taken of a mysterious air base in the United Arab Emirates' deep south — a desert area known as the Empty Quarter — appear to show three Wing Loong IIs, IHS Jane's Defense Weekly reported in January.

— Two CH-4s were spotted by satellite alongside surveillance-only Predators purchased by the UAE at Jizan Regional Airport in southern Saudi Arabia, near the kingdom's border with Yemen, according to the Center for the Study of the Drone.

— Outside of the Mideast, Nigeria has used Chinese armed drones against the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram.

Shih reported from Beijing.

APNewsBreak: DEA's Colombia post jarred by misconduct probes

By JIM MUSTIAN and JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — New turmoil has roiled the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's high-profile office in Colombia, where at least three agents have left in recent months amid investigations into alleged misconduct, including accusations that one passed secrets to drug cartels and another used government resources to hire prostitutes.

The DEA's top-ranking official in South America, who was brought in three years ago in the wake of a scandal involving agents participating in sex parties with prostitutes, is under investigation after the agency received an anonymous complaint saying he directed Colombian drivers working for the U.S. Embassy in Bogota "to procure sex workers," according to a copy of the complaint obtained by The Associated Press and one current and one former law enforcement official. The officials spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Richard Dobrich, a regional director who is retiring from the DEA next month to take a private sector job, said in a statement and interview with the AP that the complaint is without merit and he would have to be a "complete idiot" to have anything to do with prostitution given the office's history. He also denied his departure has anything to do with the accusation.

"There is nothing to this — zero," Dobrich said of the anonymous complaint, adding he wants another probe into how it got out. Dobrich said he believes this "attempted assassination on my reputation" is a setup, perhaps by a disgruntled former DEA employee.

Dobrich said investigators from the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General interviewed him at his office in Colombia last month and seized his phone as a matter of routine. Dobrich said he was later told by an investigator that no misconduct was found, but neither the OIG nor the investigator named by Dobrich would comment on the status of the investigation.

DEA spokeswoman Mary Brandenberger did not respond to emailed questions about Dobrich's departure but wrote that the agency "takes very seriously any allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct by our employees."

Prostitution is legal in Colombia, but Justice Department policy forbids DEA agents from engaging in such activity because it could lead them to be compromised by the very drug cartels they are pursuing.

Armando Ruiz, a retired Colombian police officer who has served as Dobrich's driver for three years, said he never saw his boss interact with prostitutes or do anything unbecoming.

"Unfortunately, when you're in a position like his, there's a lot of people who act out of hatred," Ruiz said.

The scrutiny comes at an already fraught time for the DEA's Bogota office, which is critical to the U.S. efforts to control drug trafficking. Cocaine production — and seizures — in Colombia surged to a record high last year, a subject likely to come up when President Donald Trump visits the country in November as part of his first trip to Latin America.

Federal authorities are also investigating Jose Irizarry, a former DEA agent assigned to Colombia who has been accused of passing intelligence to cartels, according to several law enforcement officials familiar with the matter. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation. BuzzFeed News originally reported the allegations against Irizarry in April.

Irizarry was hired by the DEA in the U.S. despite indications that he didn't answer truthfully a polygraph exam he took upon admission, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the case. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation into his alleged criminal activity is ongoing.

Irizarry abruptly quit the DEA this year after his tour in Cartagena, Colombia, was curtailed and he was sent to the United States. Attempts by the AP to reach Irizarry by phone were not successful and it was

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not clear whether he has a lawyer.

The DEA also received an anonymous complaint in recent months that accused Dobrich's deputy, Jesse Garcia, of having a sexual relationship with a subordinate. That complaint, a copy of which was also obtained by the AP, said Dobrich had been made aware of the relationship — a claim Dobrich denies — and that "favoritism has created a low morale within the admin staff" in Bogota.

Garcia, who retired shortly after the complaint was filed, could not be reached for comment. Possible phone numbers for him in Bogota rang unanswered.

Dobrich's tenure as the top executive in Colombia began in 2015, when he was brought in to restore order after a blistering Inspector General's report found several DEA agents had participated in "sex parties" with prostitutes hired by Colombian cartels. That scandal prompted the suspension of several agents and the retirement of Michele Leonhart, the DEA's administrator at the time.

Prior to Bogota, Dobrich oversaw the DEA's military-style FAST teams that battled drug traffickers in Afghanistan and Latin America, and were criticized for a series of fatal shootings in Honduras in 2012, including one in the town of Ahuas that left four civilians dead.

The DEA disbanded the Foreign-Deployed Advisory and Support Team last year following a joint State and Justice Department inspectors general probe that found the DEA — and Dobrich — misrepresented significant aspects of the shooting to Congress and government investigators.

The DEA and Dobrich have maintained for years that the FAST squad in question had been fired upon by drug traffickers in a passenger boat who had been trying to recover narcotics seized during the operation.

But video of the shooting strongly suggested to outside experts that the antidrug unit opened fire first, according to the IGs' report. The inspectors general found Dobrich's accounting of the shooting to be "unsupportable" based on their own review of the footage.

Dobrich, in his statement to the AP, likened the anonymous prostitution complaint to the insurgents he encountered serving with the FAST team in Afghanistan, where he was shot in the line of duty in 2010, earning a Purple Heart.

"I am used to being able to detect where enemy fire is coming from in order to protect myself and teammates," Dobrich said. "I am not accustomed to confronting the cowardice of anonymous and fictitious allegations."

Mustian reported from New York. AP News Editor James Martinez in New York contributed to this report.

GOP women in hot seat over Trump mocking Ford, vote looming

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump era has, at times, been uncomfortable for Republican women, especially the six senators who will be asked to vote for Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court confirmation by week's end.

On Tuesday night, President Donald Trump ridiculed Christine Blasey Ford, who accuses Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her in high school — a claim Kavanaugh denies.

Recent polls show a majority of women think the Senate should not confirm Kavanaugh. But Republican women, like GOP men, are overwhelmingly sticking with the nominee.

A look at how it's playing out for female Republican senators:

THE CRITICAL TWO

In the Senate, the savage national debate over power and who to believe has above all been about the math. Two GOP votes against Kavanaugh's confirmation sinks it if every Democrat votes no.

That's put a pair of female Republican senators, Maine's Susan Collins and Alaska's Lisa Murkowski, under excruciating pressure.

Neither has said how she will vote. Each wants to see the results of the FBI investigation.

Collins on Wednesday called Trump's scoffing at Ford "just plain wrong."

Added Murkowski a few hours later: "I thought the president's comments yesterday mocking Dr. Ford

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were wholly inappropriate and in my view unacceptable.”

Neither senator is up for re-election this year.

TWO ON THE BALLOT

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith was rushing to a vote Wednesday when a woman shouted at her, “Do you believe survivors?”

Hyde-Smith didn’t answer. The Mississippi Republican, sworn in last April for a seat the GOP needs to keep, hopped on a Senate subway that sped her toward the Capitol. But she’s left no doubt where she stands on Kavanaugh. In her first speech on the Senate floor, she announced that it was her “duty” to support Kavanaugh. She made time to appear at Trump’s rally Tuesday night in Southaven, Mississippi.

Also on the ballot is Sen. Deb Fischer of Nebraska, who is campaigning for a second Senate term. Protesters shouted at her on the way in and out of a hearing Wednesday.

Fischer has said she intends to support Kavanaugh, but added, “We’re going to see what the investigation brings, and let’s get the vote.”

THE OTHER TWO

The two other Republican female senators say victims should be heard, but they want Kavanaugh confirmed.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, said Ford’s story hasn’t been corroborated and people should be presumed innocent until proved guilty.

West Virginia Sen. Shelley Moore Capito — like Ford, a graduate of the Holton-Arms School — has said she supports Kavanaugh.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

The Kavanaugh question followed some female Republicans on the campaign trail Wednesday.

Outside Phoenix, Rep. Martha McSally, a sexual assault survivor herself, said the issues raised by Ford are “pretty personal.” She’s running for a Senate seat in Arizona against Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema.

McSally said that, if no additional information emerges from the FBI review, she supports confirming Kavanaugh. “Based on the information we have, we’re unable to corroborate with any other account what the allegations are,” she said Wednesday.

She added that she has sympathy for Ford and that people need to understand why sexual assault survivors stay quiet for years. Asked about Trump’s mockery in Mississippi, McSally said, “I’d prefer that we all have some grace here.”

POLLING

The bad news for Republicans: Recent polls show that a majority of women do not think Kavanaugh should be confirmed. The good news: Republicans, women and men, are overwhelmingly sticking by the nominee.

A Quinnipiac University poll conducted in the days after Ford and Kavanaugh testified showed that public opinion had started to tilt against Kavanaugh, with 48 percent of voters opposed to his confirmation and 42 percent in favor. A September Quinnipiac poll found a nearly even split in opinions on the confirmation.

Women were far more likely than men in the poll to oppose Kavanaugh, 55 percent to 40 percent. But 84 percent of Republicans said Kavanaugh should be confirmed.

Nearly 8 in 10 Republicans said they approve of how Trump has handled the allegations in the new poll, which was conducted before Trump mocked Ford at Tuesday night’s rally. About 6 in 10 said they approve of how Senate Republicans are handling the situation. Among Republicans, men and women were about equally likely to approve of both Trump and Republicans in the Senate.

Associated Press writers Emily Swanson, Hannah Fingerhut, Lisa Mascaro and Padmananda Rama in Washington and Nicholas Riccardi in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

China orders actress Fan Bingbing to pay massive tax fine

By GILLIAN WONG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese tax authorities have ordered “X-Men” star Fan Bingbing and companies she represents to pay taxes and penalties totaling \$130 million, ending speculation over the fate of one of the country’s highest-profile entertainers three months after she disappeared from public view.

Of the total amount, Fan is being personally fined around \$70 million for tax evasion, according to an announcement carried Wednesday by China’s official Xinhua News Agency, citing tax authorities.

Fan would not be investigated for criminal responsibility for tax evasion as long as the taxes, fines and late fees amounting to nearly 900 million yuan (\$130 million) are paid on time, the report said.

The announcement gave no indication of Fan’s whereabouts but indicated her agent is being held by police for allegedly obstructing the investigation.

Fan has starred in dozens of movies and TV series in China and is best known internationally for her role as Blink in 2014’s “X-Men: Days of Future Past,” a cameo in the Chinese version of “Iron Man 3,” and star turns on the red carpet at Cannes as recently as May. Before her disappearance, she had been booked to star with Penelope Cruz in the Hollywood film “355.” She has a role in the upcoming Bruce Willis-Adrien Brody feature “Air Strike.”

Fan posted an apology on her official account on the social media site Weibo.com saying that she accepts the tax authorities’ decision and would “try my best to overcome all difficulties and raise funds to pay back taxes and fines.”

“I am unworthy of the trust of the society and let down the fans who love me,” she wrote in her first update of her Weibo.com microblog since June 2.

A man surnamed Liang, who identified himself as a staff member of Fan’s studio when reached by phone, refused to comment on the announcement or on Fan’s location.

Her disappearance coincided with a crackdown by the authorities on high salaries for actors that can eat up much of the cost of a production. In June, regulators capped star pay at 40 percent of a TV show’s entire production budget and 70 percent of the total paid to all the actors in a film.

Chinese state media said the investigation served as a warning to anyone working in the country’s arts and entertainment. A separate Xinhua report said the penalties issued to Fan would promote the “sustainable and healthy development of the film and television industry and raise social awareness on paying taxes according to the law.”

Hu Xijin, editor of the Global Times tabloid known for its nationalist pro-Communist Party opinions, said, “Fan’s case must be shaking the performing arts world.”

People who try to evade taxes now will have to cough them up sooner or later, Hu wrote on his social media page. “The bigger the brand, the more likely you are to attract scrutiny. Just suffer this financial loss to be spared greater disaster, moreover these are ill-gotten gains.”

The Xinhua report said Fan evaded 7.3 million yuan in taxes by using a secret contract worth 20 million yuan that she signed for starring in “Air Strike,” the Chinese film also known as “Unbreakable Spirit.” She instead paid taxes on a contract for only 10 million yuan, it said. The example refers to a reportedly common entertainment industry practice in which actors have a public contract stating an official salary and a private contract detailing actual, much higher pay.

A talk show host, Cui Yongyuan, said in May that Fan had such an arrangement, which allegedly facilitates tax evasion, and revealed details that sparked a public outcry. Cui later apologized.

Chemistry Nobel for using evolution to create new proteins

By MALCOLM RITTER, JIM HEINTZ and CHRISTOPHER CHESTER, Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Three scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for using a sped-up version of evolution to create new proteins that have led to a best-selling drug and other products.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Science said their work has led to the development of medications, biofuels and a reduced environmental impact from some industrial processes.

Frances Arnold of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena was awarded half of the 9-million-kronor (\$1.01 million) prize, while the other half was shared by George Smith of the University of Missouri and Gregory Winter of the MRC molecular biology lab in Cambridge, England.

Arnold is only the fifth woman to win a chemistry Nobel since the prizes began in 1901.

The winners "have taken control of evolution and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humankind," the Nobel committee said.

In nature, evolution proceeds slowly as random genetic mutations generate variety in organisms and proteins, and those versions that work best in their environment persist for future generations. The research honored Wednesday mimicked that process by inducing mutations in proteins and selecting those that best met the goals of the research.

Smith, 77, and Winter, 67, worked with viruses called phages that infect bacteria. Smith showed in 1985 that inserting DNA into these viruses would make them display proteins linked to that DNA on their surfaces. It was a way to find an unknown gene for a known protein.

Winter adapted the approach to create useful antibodies, proteins that target and grab onto disease-related targets. Winter introduced mutations to make antibodies progressively better at binding to their targets. In 1994, for example, he developed antibodies that grab onto cancer cells.

The first pharmaceutical based on Winter's work, AbbVie's adalimumab, was approved for sale in 2002. It's used to treat immune-system disorders, including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel diseases, the academy said.

Sold as Humira in the U.S. and under other brand names elsewhere, it brought AbbVie \$18.4 billion in revenue last year, in part because of its price: about \$5,000 a month without insurance coverage in the U.S.

Other antibodies produced by this approach fight cancer, neutralize the anthrax toxin and slow down lupus, the Swedish academy said.

Dr. Wayne Marasco of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston said the lab technique developed by Smith and Winter was "revolutionary ... and it's used today, every day."

Arnold, 62, was seeking ways to make improved enzymes, which are proteins that encourage chemical reactions to occur. In 1993, she showed the power of "directed evolution" for doing that.

First she created random mutations in DNA that lets cells produce an enzyme. Then she slipped these mutated genes into bacteria, which pumped out thousands of different variants of the enzyme.

One variant did a particularly good job at a certain task, so she made a new round of mutations in this variant. That produced another variant that worked better. When she made mutant versions of that variant, she got an even better version. It contained a combination of 10 mutations that nobody could have predicted would work so well, the Swedish academy said.

Techniques for directed evolution have improved since then and Arnold has been at the leading edge, the academy said. Her tailored enzymes have become important for making medications and other valuable substances like renewable fuels.

"Her work is incredible," Matt Hartings, an associate chemistry professor at American University, told The Associated Press.

Arnold, reached by telephone at an airport in Dallas, told the AP: "I predict that we will see many more Nobel chemistry prizes for women."

She learned she had won when she was "unceremoniously woken up" at 4 a.m. in her Texas hotel room.

"The phone rang, and I was certain it was one of my kids or some emergency, but it wasn't. First I was stunned, like somebody hit me over the head with something and then I started to wake up," she said.

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Arnold flew back to California for a news conference at Caltech, which she called a “jewel of an institution” where she was always “pushed to do her best and do things other people couldn’t do.”

In a short speech, she gave credit to her “inspiring” research team.

“The Nobel Prize goes to me but it’s really a team of brilliant people who love what they do,” she said.

Smith also credited others for the work that led to his breakthrough, telling a news conference at the University of Missouri that he was simply a part of a “huge web” of science.

“Very few research breakthroughs are novel. Virtually all of them build on what went on before. It’s happenstance. That was certainly the case with my work,” he told the AP.

Of the pre-dawn phone call from Stockholm informing him of his win, Smith said: “It’s a standard joke that someone with a Swedish accent calls and says ‘You won!’ But there was so much static on the line, I knew it wasn’t any of my friends.”

Winter said an encounter with a cancer patient early in his career made him realize the importance of his work.

The woman was receiving his then-experimental antibody treatment. Even though Winter didn’t know whether it would work, the patient was grateful for whatever extra time the treatment would give her to spend with her husband.

Winter says he realized afterward there was a “moral imperative” to ensure “what was produced could be used for public benefit.”

In other Nobel prizes this year, the medicine prize went Monday to James Allison of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and Tasuku Honjo of Kyoto University, who developed an approach for unleashing the immune system on cancers, helping doctors fight many advanced-stage cancer tumors.

Scientists from the United States, Canada and France shared the physics prize Tuesday for revolutionizing the use of lasers in research.

Arthur Ashkin became the oldest Nobel Prize laureate at 96, while Donna Strickland of the University of Waterloo in Canada became only the third woman to win a physics Nobel. Strickland had worked with the third winner, Frenchman Gerard Mourou of the Ecole Polytechnique and the University of Michigan.

The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize is to be announced Friday and the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences will be revealed on Monday.

No Nobel literature prize will be awarded this year due to a sex abuse scandal at the Swedish Academy, which chooses the winner. The academy plans to announce both the 2018 and the 2019 winner next year — although the head of the Nobel Foundation has said the body must fix its tarnished reputation first.

The man at the center of the Swedish Academy scandal, Jean-Claude Arnault, was sentenced Monday to two years in prison for rape.

Heintz reported from Moscow, and Ritter and Chester from New York. Associated Press writers David Keyton in Stockholm, Danica Kirka in London, Linda Johnson in Trenton, N.J. and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles, contributed to this report.

Follow the AP’s coverage as the 2018 Nobel Prizes are awarded at <https://apnews.com/tag/NobelPrizes>.

A year after Weinstein, Hollywood is still soul-searching

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After Rashida Jones exited Pixar’s “Toy Story 4” in 2017 she noted that the studio, after 25 years in business, had not made a single feature film directed by a woman, calling it “a culture where women and people of color do not have an equal creative voice.”

So when Pixar co-founder and CEO John Lasseter stepped down earlier this year after acknowledging “missteps” in his behavior with employees, he was more than another casualty in the long list of film industry power players toppled by the #MeToo movement. He was a symbol of a Hollywood culture that is dying — or at least under siege.

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"These giant, multi-billion-dollar companies, they all need a makeover," Jones now says. "And I think people are starting to recognize that. To me, that is a victory. Brave people have come forward and made this whole machine start to question itself."

In the year since sexual assault allegations surfaced against Harvey Weinstein, Hollywood has been soul-searching. The Weinstein case — along with those of Kevin Spacey, CBS' Les Moonves, Amazon Studios' Roy Price and many others — laid bare the painful reality for countless women in a movie industry where gender inequality was systematic and pervasive.

The #MeToo movement has gone far beyond the movies, but Hollywood remains ground zero in a cultural eruption that began 12 months ago with the Weinstein revelations, published by The New York Times and The New Yorker. Through interviews with actresses, filmmakers, producers and others, The Associated Press sought to assess whether it is a palpably different place today than a year ago.

"Definitely there's been a seismic shift," says Carey Mulligan, the British actress. "I feel like if I was walking down the street and someone said something or did something outside the bounds of appropriate, I would feel so much more empowered to tell them to f--- off while before I probably wouldn't. Those sort of gray area things are now no longer gray areas."

Mulligan, who played an early 20th century women's rights activist in 2015's "Suffragette" and has herself been vocal about Hollywood's pay gap, says that in every job she's had for the last year, there's been a well-known code of conduct on set. She's optimistic that more change is coming.

Researchers at the University of Southern California's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative have not yet found any marked difference in female representation on screen, behind the camera or in the boardroom. More data after the end of the year will give a clearer picture of 2018, but the previous 20 years have shown almost zero change. At least anecdotally, studios and production companies are more aggressively hunting for female filmmakers. Salma Hayek has said her production company has been struggling to find female writers and directors. They're all already booked.

"Everybody's looking for their female content," says Jones, whose documentary "Quincy" was recently released by Netflix. "They're starting to understand that content that's created by and shepherded by women and people of color is super underrepresented in the business. And everybody's scrambling to try to fix that."

Measuring cultural change in a far-flung, \$50 billion industry is difficult. Many of the epicenters of the movie business — red carpets, film festivals, award shows — have struck a different tone in the wake of Weinstein. While "who are you wearing" has steadily crept back into the red-carpet lexicon a year after women wore black to the Golden Globes, protest has engulfed many of the frothiest events on the movie calendar, from the Oscars to the Cannes Film Festival.

But some see a limit to what such demonstrations can accomplish.

"It's a great thing when you're on the red carpet and people are talking about sexual assault. At least it's out in the open," says actress Viola Davis. "My fear is that people feel like the focus of sexual assault is just on actresses in Hollywood and studio execs like Weinstein."

She worries about the movement becoming limited to "outing the men, putting them in the court of public opinion and just destroying their careers. It's way bigger than that. One out of every 4 women — and there's some statistics that say it's 1 out of 3 — will be sexually assaulted by the time they're 18."

Like many revolutions before it, #MeToo has sought to codify permanent changes. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences instituted a code of conduct and booted not only Weinstein but Bill Cosby and Roman Polanski.

In addition, "inclusion riders" — contractual agreements to try to hire diverse casts and crews — have proliferated. Last month, Warner Bros. became the first major studio to make a similar pledge. Many prominent film festival directors have also signed agreements to push their executive boards to gender parity.

In an attempt to abolish the "casting couch" culture that Weinstein allegedly exploited, The Screen Actors Guild created guidelines — supported by the producers' guild — instructing producers and executives to refrain from holding professional meetings in hotel rooms and homes. It urged members not to agree to meetings in "high-risk locations."

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"People have been talking for decades about how terrible the casting coach is. Even with that knowledge, it was still going on. There was nothing concrete, written down saying: unacceptable," says Gabrielle Carteris, president of SAG-AFTRA. "Us putting that in a guideline was so empowering for members because we've all been put in that situation. And I really want to salute the studios because we did it really in partnership with them."

The guidelines will soon be expanded to establish rules around nudity on set.

"The kind of work we do is so intimate. It's different than being a lawyer or a doctor or a dentist," Carteris says. "But there are rules for workers in this country, and it was really important to define what those rules are."

The movie business still lacks a single, industry-wide reporting system for sexual harassment and assault, though a committee led by Anita Hill is working to create one. Time's Up, which is spearheading much of the pressure put on Hollywood, has also amassed a \$21 million legal-defense fund for women who suffer from harassment and assault at work in any industry.

Yet with everything that has happened in the last year, most observers say not nearly enough has been done to address long-term inequalities in Hollywood.

"It feels like we're moving in the right direction, but women and minorities are such a tiny percentage of this industry," says filmmaker Nicole Holofcener, whose latest is "The Land of Steady Habits." "I open up my Director's Guild magazine, and it has films that the DGA is screening and sometimes there's not one woman, not one black person. They are all white male directors and my jaw is on the floor. I think: How can this still be?"

Holofcener has mixed feelings about all the attention on gender.

"It's a good thing to highlight our work, but I wish we didn't have to," she says.

Julia Roberts, who was once among the highest paid movie stars, agrees.

"Every year that it's 'the year of the woman,' let's just have it always be the year of the artists," Roberts says. "If we have to keep spotlighting the gender of this and the gender of that, we're kind of blowing it."

There are plenty of others in Hollywood who have misgivings about #MeToo. Sean Penn derided what he called the movement's "salacious" quality, saying its spirit is "to divide men and women."

But as the recent re-editing of "The Predator" showed, some behavior remains a work-in-progress. Shane Black called his casting of an old friend, Steven Wilder Striegel, a previously convicted sex offender, an "irresponsible" decision. Striegel was cut from the film only after actress Olivia Munn alerted 20th Century Fox to Striegel's past.

Kirsten Schaffer, executive director of the advocacy group Women in Film, believes that the path to ending harassment is through parity. Evidence backs her up.

"The more women we have in leadership positions, the less likely the incidents of harassment. So we have a lot of work to do on that front," Schaffer says.

"We've been living in a sexist, racist society for hundreds of thousands of years," she adds. "We're not going to undo it in a year."

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>.

US terminates 1955 treaty with Iran after UN court ruling

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In response to a U.N. court order that the U.S. lift sanctions on Iran, the Trump administration said Wednesday it was terminating a decades-old treaty affirming friendly relations between the two countries. The largely symbolic gesture highlights deteriorating relations between Washington and Tehran.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said withdrawing from the 1955 Treaty of Amity was long overdue and followed Iran "groundlessly" bringing a complaint with the International Court of Justice challenging U.S. sanctions on the basis that they were a violation of the pact.

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Meanwhile, national security adviser John Bolton said the administration also was pulling out of an amendment to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations that Iran or others, notably the Palestinians, could use to sue the U.S. at The Hague-based tribunal. Bolton told reporters at the White House that the provision violates U.S. sovereignty.

"The United States will not sit idly by as baseless politicized claims are brought against us," Bolton said. He cited a case brought to the court by the "so-called state of Palestine" challenging the move of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as the main reason for withdrawing.

Bolton, who last month unleashed a torrent of criticism against the International Criminal Court, noted that previous Republican administrations had pulled out of various international agreements and bodies over "politicized cases." He said the administration would review all accords that might subject the U.S. to prosecution by international courts or panels.

Earlier, Pompeo denounced the Iranian case before the U.N. court as "meritless" and said the Treaty of Amity was meaningless and absurd.

"The Iranians have been ignoring it for an awfully long time, we ought to have pulled out of it decades ago," he told reporters at the State Department.

The little-known treaty with Iran was among numerous such ones signed in the wake of World War II as the Truman and Eisenhower administrations tried to assemble a coalition of nations to counter the Soviet Union. Like many of the treaties, this one was aimed at encouraging closer economic relations and regulating diplomatic and consular ties.

Its first article reads: "There shall be firm and enduring peace and sincere friendship between the United States of America and Iran."

The treaty survived the 1979 overthrow of the Shah in Iran's Islamic revolution and the subsequent hostage crisis that crippled American-Iranian relations for decades.

But amid a broader push to assert U.S. sovereignty in the international arena and after pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal this year, the administration determined that the court case made the treaty irrelevant.

Pompeo said the ruling was a "useful point for us to demonstrate the absolute absurdity" of the treaty.

The court case is legally binding, but Pompeo said the administration would proceed with sanctions enforcement with existing exceptions for humanitarian and flight safety transactions.

"The United States has been actively engaged on these issues without regard to any proceeding before the ICJ," he said.

At the same time, he criticized the ruling.

"We're disappointed that the court failed to recognize that it has no jurisdiction to issue any order relating to these sanctions measures with the United States."

The ruling said Washington must "remove, by means of its choosing, any impediments arising from" the re-imposition of sanctions to the export to Iran of medicine and medical devices, food and agricultural commodities and spare parts and equipment necessary to ensure the safety of civil aviation.

It said the exceptions mentioned by Pompeo "are not adequate to address fully the humanitarian and safety concerns" raised by Iran.

The first set of sanctions that had been eased under the terms of the nuclear deal negotiated by the Obama administration was reimposed in August. A second, more sweeping set of sanctions, is set to be reimposed in early November.

Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, praised the court ruling, saying on Twitter that it was "another failure for sanctions-addicted" U.S. and a "victory for rule of law." He said it was imperative for other countries "to collectively counter malign US unilateralism" and he accused the U.S. of being an "outlaw regime."

The court said the case will continue and the U.S. can still challenge its jurisdiction but no date has been set for further hearings.

Associated Press writers Susannah George in Washington and Mike Corder in The Hague, Netherlands,

contributed to this report.

Have astronomers found 1st moon outside our solar system?

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Astronomers may have found the first moon outside our solar system, a gas behemoth the size of Neptune.

Plenty of planets exist beyond our solar system, but a moon around one of those worlds has yet to be confirmed. Two Columbia University researchers presented their tantalizing evidence for a moon Wednesday.

The potential moon would be considerably larger than Earth — about the size of Neptune or Uranus. The planet it orbits is as big as mammoth Jupiter. This apparent super-size pairing of a gaseous moon and planet is 8,000 light-years away.

Researchers Alex Teachey and David Kipping evaluated 284 planets outside our solar system that had already been discovered by NASA's Kepler Space Telescope. Only one planet held promise for hosting a moon, one around the star known as Kepler-1625, which is about the size of our sun but older.

So last October, the pair directed the Hubble Space Telescope at the star in an attempt to verify — or rule out — the possibility of a moon orbiting the planet Kepler-1625b. They were on the lookout for a second temporary dimming of starlight. The main dip in stellar brightness would be the planet itself crossing in front of its star. Another dip could well be a moon — known as an exomoon outside our solar system.

The more powerful and precise Hubble telescope detected a second and smaller decrease in starlight 3 ½ hours after the planet passed in front of the star — “like a dog following its owner on a leash,” as Kipping put it. The observation period, however, ended before the moon could complete its transit. That's why the astronomers need another look with Hubble, hopefully next spring.

Despite the evidence, Teachey stressed “we are urging caution here.”

“The first exomoon is obviously an extraordinary claim and it requires extraordinary evidence,” Teachey said. “Furthermore, the size we've calculated for this moon, about the size of Neptune, has hardly been anticipated and so that, too, is reason to be careful here.”

He added: “We're not cracking open Champagne bottles just yet on this one.”

If indeed a moon, it would be about 2 million miles (3 million kilometers) from its planet and appear twice as big in its sky, as the moon does in ours. The astronomers are uncertain how this potential moon might have formed, given its size.

“If confirmed, this finding could completely shake up our understanding of how moons are formed and what they can be made of,” NASA's science mission chief Thomas Zurbuchen said in a statement.

According to the researchers, another compelling piece of evidence in favor of a moon is that the planet passed in front of its star more than an hour earlier than predicted. A moon could cause that kind of an uncertain, wobbly path, they noted.

Kipping said that's how the Earth and moon would appear from far away. This particular planet — or exoplanet — is about the same distance from its star as Earth is to the sun.

Another planet could cause the same gravitational nudge, the researchers noted, although Kepler observations have come up empty in that regard. Kepler-1625b is the only planet found so far around this star.

For Teachey and Kipping, the best and simplest explanation is that Kepler-1625b has a moon.

“We've tried our best to rule out other possibilities,” Kipping told reporters. “But we were unable to find any other single hypothesis which can explain all of the data we have.”

Their findings were published in the journal *Science Advances*. The journal's deputy editor, Kip Hodges, praised the researchers for their cautious tone, given the difficult and complicated process of identifying an exomoon.

“If this finding stands up to further observational scrutiny, it represents a major milestone in the field of astronomy,” Hodges said.

The Columbia astronomers said they may be able to clinch this as early as next year, with more Hubble viewing. In the meantime, they're encouraging other scientists to join in and embracing the scrutiny that's

sure to come.

Whether confirmed or not, the subject offers insight into how rare — or how common — our own solar system might be.

Moons are abundant in our own solar system, with close to 200. Of the eight planets in our solar system, only Mercury and Venus have none.

Given that both the planet and its potential moon are gas giants, no one is suggesting conditions that might support life.

"But going forward, I think we're opening the doors to finding worlds like that," Teachey said.

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Houston City Council short circuits proposed robot brothel

By JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A Canadian company's plan to open a so-called robot brothel in Houston has been short circuited by city leaders.

Houston's City Council on Wednesday updated one local ordinance to specifically ban individuals from having sex with an "anthropomorphic device," a device that resembles a human being, at a sexually-oriented business. But the change wouldn't ban the company from selling the dolls for use elsewhere.

The company, KinkySdolls, had previously said it wants to open a "love dolls brothel" in Houston in which people would be able to use its human-like dolls at a business that has drawn comparisons to the robotic hosts on the science fiction series "Westworld."

It would have been the company's second location. The first location opened in 2017 in Toronto. On its web site, the company says it provides an "adult love dolls rent before you buy service."

On its web site, KinkySdolls says its human-like dolls, which can speak and feel warm to the touch, are available for sale or rent. The dolls can cost more than \$3,000 each.

KinkySdolls, didn't immediately return emails seeking comment Wednesday.

Before the City Council unanimously approved the change to the ordinance, council member Greg Travis called the proposed robot brothel "weird" and "gross."

Travis said he believed that most residents don't want the business to open in Houston.

"We are not sin city," Travis said.

Officials said they are not trying to legislate morality with the updated ordinance.

Mayor Sylvester Turner said a business could sell such robotic devices but individuals couldn't use them at the premises before buying them.

"We want businesses to come. But then they're some that we say, 'You know it's fine if you go someplace else,'" said Turner, who has been part of a chorus of local leaders and community groups that have pushed back against the robot brothel, which would have been the first such business in the U.S.

Elijah Rising, a Houston-based nonprofit focused on ending sex trafficking, has started a Change.org petition asking that the business be kept out of the city. The petition has received more than 13,500 signatures.

The city ordinance that was updated deals with the regulation of adult arcades and adult mini-theatres in Houston and classifies a robot as an arcade device.

Turner said the change in the ordinance was not targeted at any one particular business but targeted "at this type of behavior than any business of this kind would engage in."

Houston has long had a culture that's resistant to regulation and remains the only major U.S. city without zoning. Turner has said that this lack of zoning might have been one of the reasons why the owners of the robot brothel thought to try to open it in Houston.

Construction of the site for the proposed robot brothel had already begun but was stopped after city inspectors visited the location and determined the business owners didn't have the proper permits, Houston's public works department said last week.

The business has made no attempts to purchase permits for the construction work that occurred previously, but all work has stopped, Houston public works department spokeswoman Erin Jones said in an email Wednesday.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter at www.twitter.com/juanlozano70

Emergency alert test sounds off on mobile phones nationwide

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Electronic devices across the United States sounded off Wednesday as the Federal Emergency Management Agency conducted its first-ever national wireless emergency alert test.

The tone went off at 2:18 p.m. EDT. The subject of the alert read: "Presidential Alert" and text said: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."

FEMA officials estimated that about 225 million devices would receive the alert at about the same time, but the message was broadcast by cell towers for 30 minutes so some people got it later than others. Some got as many as four alerts on their phones; others didn't get any.

In a real emergency, devices would get the alert at the same time or as close to the same time as possible.

A second alert on television broadcast and radio went off at 2:20 p.m. EDT. The TV and radio alert has been tested for several years.

The system test is for a high-level "presidential" alert that would be used only in a nationwide emergency. It was completed in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission.

It's not clear how successful the test was. FEMA officials said they would share test result data on how the testing went with mobile carriers to help ensure the system works well in a true emergency.

Phones with mobile carriers that participate in the wireless emergency alert system, which sends out information on hazardous weather, or missing children, got it. FEMA officials estimated it would reach about 75 percent of all mobile phones in the country, including phones on all of the major carriers.

The wireless alert system was launched in 2012. While users can opt out of messages on missing children and natural disasters, they can't opt out of the presidential alerts, which are issued at the direction of the White House and activated by FEMA.

FEMA officials said the administration can only send such an alert for national emergencies or if the public were in peril, according to rules outlined in a 2006 law, and say it can't be used for any sort of personal message from a president.

In New York, U.S. District Judge Katherine Polk Failla rejected a last-minute effort to block the test. Three people sued, claiming it violates their constitutional rights. The plaintiffs said the alert system fails to give people the chance to opt out.

Failla called the constitutional questions raised by the lawsuit significant and urged the litigants to find lawyers to help them proceed. She said she believes the plaintiffs want to ensure that President Donald Trump doesn't turn the alert system into a second Twitter feed.

The judge asked a government lawyer if there were standards in place to prevent someone from using the system for political purposes.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Sun said telephones were being added to a century-old alert system that is controlled by law. A FEMA lawyer said via a phone connection to the courtroom that decisions about alerts are at the discretion of the president, just as are many other decisions involving national security.

Some Trump critics seized on the alert's transmission to poke fun at the president.

"Oh my. A 'Presidential Alert' emergency. I thought that was the entire Trump presidency," actor and activist George Takei tweeted.

Associated Press writers Larry Neumeister and Jeff McMillan in New York contributed to this report.

Missouri down to 1 abortion clinic amid legal battle

By SUMMER BALLENTINE, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri is down to one clinic providing abortions Wednesday, after the only other clinic in the state that performs the procedure failed to adhere to new state requirements and its license expired.

The Columbia clinic's abortion license expired Tuesday, Planned Parenthood Great Plains spokeswoman Emily Miller said.

Federal appeals court judges also ruled last month that Missouri can enforce a requirement that doctors must have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals before they can perform abortions. The judges issued a mandate Monday for that rule to officially take effect.

The Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic has been unable to secure physician privileges or find a doctor with those privileges after a panel of medical staff at University of Missouri Health Care voted to stop offering those privileges altogether in 2015 amid a Republican-led legislative investigation on abortion in the state.

Miller said the clinic cancelled abortions scheduled for Wednesday in Columbia, which would have been the first since the mandate was issued. The clinic continues to provide other health care services.

"We are unable to provide abortion services now, so we've been working with patients who were on the schedule for today for abortion appointments to let them know what their alternatives are," Miller said.

Women seeking abortions can go to Planned Parenthood's St. Louis clinic — which is now the only facility in Missouri where abortions can be performed — or travel to neighboring states, she said. Planned Parenthood has argued in court filings that the additional distance women will need to travel to the clinic on the far eastern border of the state to receive abortions will be burdensome and could make the procedure inaccessible to some.

Miller said they're hoping the state will issue another abortion license soon.

Planned Parenthood attorneys also had asked U.S. Western District Court Judge Brian Wimes to temporarily exempt the Columbia clinic from the hospital privileges requirement before Wednesday. Wimes hasn't yet ruled on that request.

If Wimes does decide to grant a temporary restraining order on the law, abortions could resume at the clinic if it also receives another license.

Planned Parenthood affiliates with Missouri health centers filed the underlying lawsuit to block state requirements on admitting privileges and mandates that clinics meet hospital-like standards for outpatient surgery. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2016 struck down similar rules in Texas.

The Missouri Attorney General's Office, which is defending the regulations, in court documents argued that the admitting privileges requirement "provides substantial benefits, such as ensuring that women have access to a treating physician, ensuring continuity of care, reducing the likelihood of unnecessary treatment, and providing women and the State with greater, more accurate information."

Attorneys with the attorney general also wrote that the requirement "is strongly justified by Missouri-specific circumstances, such as the deeply troubling health-and-safety record of Missouri abortion facilities and their long, flagrant violation of statutory reporting requirements."

The office cited a Sept. 26 health inspection that found the clinic was using equipment with tubing that contained "black mold and bodily fluid."

Miller said Planned Parenthood takes issue with that description, and said the tubing has been replaced and other concerns raised in the Sept. 26 inspection have been addressed.

U.S. District Judge Howard Sachs in May 2017 issued a temporary restraining order to block the admitting privileges rule. But his action was undone in September by judges on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, who argued Sachs didn't do enough to weigh the cost benefits of Missouri's rules and sent the case back to the lower court.

The underlying challenge to the Missouri abortion regulations is still pending.

Follow Summer Ballentine on Twitter at: twitter.com/esballentine

UN court orders US to lift some Iran sanctions

By **MIKE CORDER**, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The United Nations' highest court on Wednesday ordered the United States to lift sanctions on Iran that affect imports of humanitarian goods and products and services linked to civil aviation safety.

The ruling by the International Court of Justice is legally binding, but the Trump administration said the U.S. was terminating a decades-old treaty that Iran used as the basis for its case.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said withdrawing from the 1955 Treaty of Amity was long overdue and followed Iran "groundlessly" bringing the complaint to the U.N. court.

Pompeo said the administration would proceed with sanctions enforcement with existing exceptions for humanitarian and flight safety transactions.

"The United States has been actively engaged on these issues without regard to any proceeding before the ICJ," he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. national security adviser John Bolton said the administration also was pulling out of an amendment to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations that Iran or others, notably the Palestinians, could use to sue the U.S. at The Hague-based tribunal.

President Donald Trump moved to restore tough U.S. sanctions against Iran in May after withdrawing from Tehran's nuclear accord with world powers. Iran challenged the sanctions in a case filed in July at the International Court of Justice.

In a preliminary ruling, the court said that Washington must "remove, by means of its choosing, any impediments arising from" the re-imposition of sanctions to the export to Iran of medicine and medical devices, food and agricultural commodities and spare parts and equipment necessary to ensure the safety of civil aviation.

By limiting the order to sanctions covering humanitarian goods and the civil aviation industry, the ruling did not go as far as Iran had requested.

The U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands, Peter Hoekstra, pointed that out in a tweet.

"This is a meritless case over which the court has no jurisdiction," the ambassador tweeted. "Even so, it is worth noting that the Court declined today to grant the sweeping measures requested by Iran. Instead, the Court issued a narrow decision on a very limited range of sectors."

While imposing the so-called provisional measures, the court's president, Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, stressed that the case will continue and the United States could still challenge the court's jurisdiction.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif praised the court ruling on Twitter, calling it "another failure for sanctions-addicted" U.S. and a "victory for rule of law." He added that it is imperative for the international community "to collectively counter malign US unilateralism."

Iranian state television trumpeted the court's decision in a scrolling graphic at the bottom of TV screens: "The victory of Tehran over Washington by the Hague Court."

No date has been set for further hearings in the case.

At hearings in August, Tehran sought the suspension of sanctions while the case challenging their legality is being heard — a process that can take years. U.S. lawyers responded that the sanctions are a legal and justified national security measure that cannot be challenged by Tehran at the world court.

In its decision, the court said that the U.S. sanctions "have the potential to endanger civil aviation safety" in Iran and that sanctions limiting sales of goods required for humanitarian needs such as food, medicines and medical devices "may have a serious detrimental impact on the health and lives of individuals on the territory of Iran."

The court said that the Trump administration must "ensure that licenses and necessary authorizations are granted" and payments not restricted if they are linked to the humanitarian and aviation goods.

The court also told both the United States and Iran to "refrain from any action which might aggravate

or extend the dispute.”

U.S. lawyers had told the court that the administration would “use its best endeavors” to look at concerns about humanitarian and aviation related issues caused by the sanctions.

But in its written ruling the court said that the American assurances “are not adequate to address fully the humanitarian and safety concerns” raised by Iran.

Iran alleges that the sanctions breach the 1955 Treaty of Amity, which regulates and promotes economic and consular ties between the two countries.

The treaty was signed when the U.S. and Iran were still allies following the 1953 revolution — fomented by Britain and the U.S. — that ultimately cemented the rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Diplomatic relations were severed following the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and takeover of the U.S. Embassy and ensuing hostage crisis. However, the treaty had remained in force.

Associated Press writer Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, and AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee in Washington, contributed to this report.

Melania Trump walks through Ghana’s ‘Door of No Return’

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

CAPE COAST, Ghana (AP) — Melania Trump walked out the infamous “Door of No Return” at a onetime slave-trade outpost Wednesday and gazed over the crashing ocean waves that carried millions of Africans to lives of servitude. She later called her visit “a solemn reminder of a time in our history that should never be forgotten.”

“It’s very emotional,” she said.

“The dungeons that I saw, it’s really something that people should see and experience,” she told reporters.

The setting was Cape Coast Castle, a 17th century structure overlooking the Atlantic on the coast of the West African nation of Ghana.

Swedes built the castle for use in the trade of timber and gold. But along the way it became a warehouse for Africans as they were rounded up and shipped to the New World and into lives of servitude.

The castle is a familiar stop for U.S. dignitaries visiting Ghana. Then-President Barack Obama brought his family in July 2009. U.S. lawmakers have come, too.

Adding her name to the list Wednesday was the wife of President Donald Trump, who isn’t unanimously seen as a friend of Africa.

Mrs. Trump arrived at the castle after a two-and-a-half hour drive over bumpy roads from the capital, Accra. The first lady spent a few minutes meeting privately with her guide, Kwesi Essel-Blankson, and getting an introductory history of the castle before they emerged into an open area in 80-degree heat and humidity.

The two stood on an upper level before descending a staircase to walk along a stone path as waves crashed below. Essel-Blankson showed the first lady an old cannonball and then escorted her to the “male slave dungeon.” They spent about 10 minutes inside the mostly dark, cramped holding area before the first lady walked down a pathway that led to the Door of No Return.

It was through this door — and others like it all along the coast of West Africa — that Africans were loaded onto vessels that then took them across the Atlantic with little hope of ever returning to their homeland.

Afterward, the first lady tweeted: “Day two in #Ghana was so impactful. My visit to Cape Coast castle was a solemn reminder of a time in our history that should never be forgotten.”

Before leaving the compound, the first lady laid a wreath, observed a moment of silence and signed a guest book, writing: “Thank you for your warm welcome.” She called the castle “a special place.”

The first lady’s visit was a lower-key affair than Obama’s visit as the first black U.S. president, and reminders of his visit with wife Michelle were prominent.

A marble plaque unveiled by Obama and his wife during their visit hung near the entrance to one of the dungeons.

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Before the visit, Mrs. Trump visited nearby Emintsimadze Palace to participate in a traditional ceremony where a regional tribe leader granted her permission to tour the palace. Obama had also been to the palace and his presence was documented there, too.

The ceremony was held inside Obama Hall, a building on the palace grounds that was renamed after the former president's 2009 visit. A large photo of Obama greeting the chiefs hangs in the lobby.

Mrs. Trump entered the hall following a procession of girls blowing horns. She was escorted to a high-backed chair alongside Osabarimba Kwesi Atta II, chieftain of the Fante tribe, before an audience of fellow tribe members, U.S. Embassy staff and journalists.

He called her "Your Excellency," and said: "We welcome you to Cape Coast and hope your short stay will be a memorable one."

Mrs. Trump replied that she was "very honored" to be there, accepting a gift of Kente cloth and slippers as a remembrance of the trip.

Mrs. Trump, who was born in Slovenia, is on her first visit to Africa, with a goal of highlighting child welfare on the continent. Her five-day, four-nation tour will also include stops in Malawi, Kenya and Egypt.

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

Immigrants refuse aid for fear it will doom green card hopes

By DEEPTI HAJELA and COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When she was struggling financially this past year, Laura Peniche traveled all over Denver to get free food from churches to feed her three young children. She was too scared to apply for government food assistance.

When she was offered a chance a few weeks ago to get a reduced-rent apartment through a city program, she turned it down. Instead, she stretches her budget to pay several hundred dollars a month more to rent somewhere else.

It was all because of rumors she heard that immigrants seeking green cards would be rejected if they had ever used government aid programs.

Now the Trump administration has proposed a rule change that would codify some of those rumors, and immigrants and their advocates are scrambling to figure out what it means if it takes effect. They worry that the measure is a back-door attempt to restrict immigration by low-income people and that it could make immigrants fearful of using social services that they or their families need.

Peniche wonders if she needs to do even more, like avoid using a local government-funded preschool program for the youngest of her children, all American-born.

"Since it's government help, I feel like I can't use it," said Peniche, 34, who came from Mexico as a teen and has protection from deportation under DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. She still has hopes of someday getting a chance to apply for permanent legal residency, so she doesn't feel like she can risk using any kind of government aid, even for her kids.

"I feel like any little thing ... would be used to keep me from being a resident," she said.

The administration's proposal is centered on whether an immigrant seeking a green card is considered a "public charge" dependent on the government.

Until now, the guidelines in use since 1999 referred to someone primarily dependent on cash assistance, income maintenance or government support for long-term institutionalization. The Department of Homeland Security wants to redefine a "public charge" as someone who is likely to receive public benefits at any time. And the definition has been broadened to include SNAP or food assistance, Medicaid, housing assistance or subsidies for Medicare Part D.

Refugees or asylum seekers would be exempt, and the rule would not be applied retroactively, the government said.

An average 544,000 people apply annually for a green card, with about 382,000 falling into categories that would be subject to this review, according to the government.

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The revised rule "seeks to better ensure that applicants for admission to the United States ... are self-sufficient, i.e., do not depend on public resources to meet their needs, but rather rely on their own capabilities and the resources of their family, sponsor and private organizations," the proposal said.

According to an Associated Press analysis of census data, low-income immigrants who are not yet citizens use Medicaid, food aid, cash assistance and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at a lower rate than comparable low-income native-born adults. In fact, many immigrants are ineligible for public benefits because of their immigration status.

In general, immigrants are a small portion of those receiving public benefits. For example, non-citizen immigrants make up only 6.5 percent of all those participating in Medicaid. More than 87 percent of participants are native-born. The same goes for food assistance, where immigrants make up only 8.8 percent of recipients, and over 85 percent of participants are native-born.

The rule change and other immigration restrictions are part of a push to move the U.S. to a system that focuses on immigrants' skills instead of emphasizing the reunification of families, as it does now. A draft leaked in March proposed even bigger changes that would have affected entire immigrant families, not just the individual applying, as this proposal does.

Once the rule is published in the federal register, it will be followed by a 60-day public-comment period. If the rule is enacted, it would take effect 60 days after that.

"There are a lot of questions of how this will play out in practice," said Jackie Vimo, policy analyst at the National Immigration Law Center. For the last two decades, she has told immigrants that there would be no immigration consequences for receiving housing subsidies, health care or food stamps. She can't say that anymore.

"Ultimately, for many people, they're just going to say, 'This is too complicated — I am just going to get off all the benefits,'" Vimo said.

Vimo said the plan also hurts immigrant communities by discouraging people from using resources aimed at helping them. At the end of the day, she said, taxpayers will wind up covering the cost of individuals who seek hospital care without insurance they were eligible for.

"People are making life-and-death decisions based on this," she said.

They're people like Gloria, a Houston woman who spoke on the condition that she would be identified only by her first name to avoid endangering her pending immigration case. Married to a U.S. citizen, she has DACA protection and an application in process for a green card.

She also has a 2-year-old American-born son with an enlarged kidney that requires extra care. She doesn't have health insurance, but her son does under Medicaid, the government program for children from low-income families.

Even though the proposed rule focuses on the individual applying, she worries that signing up her son for public assistance is a risk.

"I don't know (whether) to cut my kid's Medicaid," Gloria said in a phone interview. For "just a regular checkup, it wouldn't be as expensive. He has two other specialists that he sees, and so we decided to get a little help."

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Houston, Amy Taxin in Santa Ana, California, and data journalist Angeliki Kastanis in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Deepti Hajela covers issues of race, ethnicity and immigration for The Associated Press. Follow her on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/dhajela> . For more of her work, search for her name at <https://apnews.com> .

Meet the farmers of the future: Robots

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN CARLOS, Calif. (AP) — Brandon Alexander would like to introduce you to Angus, the farmer of the future. He's heavysset, weighing in at nearly 1,000 pounds, not to mention a bit slow. But he's strong enough to hoist 800-pound pallets of maturing vegetables and can move them from place to place on his own.

Sure, Angus is a robot. But don't hold that against him, even if he looks more like a large tanning bed than C-3PO.

To Alexander, Angus and other robots are key to a new wave of local agriculture that aims to raise lettuce, basil and other produce in metropolitan areas while conserving water and sidestepping the high costs of human labor. It's a big challenge, and some earlier efforts have flopped. Even Google's "moonshot" laboratory, known as X, couldn't figure out how to make the economics work.

After raising \$6 million and tinkering with autonomous robots for two years, Alexander's startup Iron Ox says it's ready to start delivering crops of its robotically grown vegetables to people's salad bowls. "And they are going to be the best salads you ever tasted," says the 33-year-old Alexander, a one-time Oklahoma farmboy turned Google engineer turned startup CEO.

Iron Ox planted its first robot farm in an 8,000-square-foot warehouse in San Carlos, California, a suburb located 25 miles south of San Francisco. Although no deals have been struck yet, Alexander says Iron Ox has been talking to San Francisco Bay area restaurants interested in buying its leafy vegetables and expects to begin selling to supermarkets next year.

The San Carlos warehouse is only a proving ground for Iron Ox's long-term goals. It plans to set up robot farms in greenhouses that will rely mostly on natural sunlight instead of high-powered indoor lighting that sucks up expensive electricity. Initially, though, the company will sell its produce at a loss in order to remain competitive.

During the next few years, Iron Ox wants to open robot farms near metropolitan areas across the U.S. to serve up fresher produce to restaurants and supermarkets. Most of the vegetables and fruit consumed in the U.S. is grown in California, Arizona, Mexico and other nations. That means many people in U.S. cities are eating lettuce that's nearly a week old by the time it's delivered.

There are bigger stakes as well. The world's population is expected to swell to 10 billion by 2050 from about 7.5 billion now, making it important to find ways to feed more people without further environmental impact, according to a report from the World Resources Institute .

Iron Ox, Alexander reasons, can be part of the solution if its system can make the leap from its small, laboratory-like setting to much larger greenhouses.

The startup relies on a hydroponic system that conserves water and automation in place of humans who seem increasingly less interested in U.S. farming jobs that pay an average of \$13.32 per hour, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nearly half of U.S. farmworkers planting and picking crops aren't in the U.S. legally, based on a survey by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The heavy lifting on Iron Ox's indoor farm is done by Angus, which rolls about the indoor farm on omnidirectional wheels. Its main job is to shuttle maturing produce to another, as-yet unnamed robot, which transfers plants from smaller growing pods to larger ones, using a mechanical arm whose joints are lubricated with "food-safe" grease.

It's a tedious process to gently pick up each of the roughly 250 plants on each pallet and transfer them to their bigger pods, but the robot doesn't seem to mind the work. Iron Ox still relies on people to clip its vegetables when they are ready for harvest, but Alexander says it is working on another robot that will eventually handle that job too.

Alexander formerly worked on robotics at Google X, but worked on drones, not indoor farms. While there, he met Jon Binney, Iron Ox's co-founder and chief technology offer. The two men became friends and began to brainstorm about ways they might be able to use their engineering skills for the greater good.

"If we can feed people using robots, what could be more impactful than that?" Alexander says.

NKorea said to have stolen a fortune in online bank heists

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea's nuclear and missile tests have stopped, but its hacking operations to gather intelligence and raise funds for the sanction-strapped government in Pyongyang may be gathering steam.

U.S. security firm FireEye raised the alarm Wednesday over a North Korean group that it says has stolen hundreds of millions of dollars by infiltrating the computer systems of banks around the world since 2014 through highly sophisticated and destructive attacks that have spanned at least 11 countries. It says the group is still operating and poses "an active global threat."

It is part of a wider pattern of malicious state-backed cyber activity that has led the Trump administration to identify North Korea — along with Russia, Iran and China — as one of the main online threats facing the United States. Last month, the Justice Department charged a North Korean hacker said to have conspired in devastating cyberattacks, including an \$81 million heist of Bangladesh's central bank and the WannaCry virus that crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned of the use of malware by Hidden Cobra, the U.S. government's byword for North Korea hackers, in fraudulent ATM cash withdrawals from banks in Asia and Africa. It said that Hidden Cobra was behind the theft of tens of millions of dollars from teller machines in the past two years. In one incident this year, cash had been simultaneously withdrawn from ATMs in 23 different countries, it said.

North Korea, which prohibits access to the world wide web for virtually all its people, has previously denied involvement in cyberattacks, and attribution for such attacks is rarely made with absolute certainty. It is typically based on technical indicators such as the Internet Protocol, or IP, addresses that identify computers and characteristics of the coding used in malware, which is the software a hacker may use to damage or disable computers.

But other cybersecurity experts tell The Associated Press that they also see continued signs that North Korea's authoritarian government, which has a long track record of criminality to raise cash, is conducting malign activity online. That activity includes targeting of financial institutions and crypto-currency-related organizations, as well as spying on its adversaries, despite the easing of tensions between Pyongyang and Washington.

"The reality is they are starved for cash and are continuing to try and generate revenue, at least until sanctions are diminished," said Adam Meyers, vice president of intelligence at CrowdStrike. "At the same time, they won't abate in intelligence collection operations, as they continue to negotiate and test the international community's resolve and test what the boundaries are."

CrowdStrike says it has detected continuing North Korean cyber intrusions in the past two months, including the use of a known malware against a potentially broad set of targets in South Korea, and a new variant of malware against users of mobile devices that use a Linux-based operating system.

This activity has been taking place against the backdrop of a dramatic diplomatic shift as Kim Jong Un has opened up to the world. He has held summits with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and with President Donald Trump, who hopes to persuade Kim to relinquish the nuclear weapons that pose a potential threat to the U.S. homeland. Tensions on the divided Korean Peninsula have dropped and fears of war with the U.S. have ebbed. Trump this weekend will dispatch his top diplomat, Mike Pompeo, to Pyongyang for the fourth time this year to make progress on denuclearization.

But North Korea has yet to take concrete steps to give up its nuclear arsenal, so there's been no let-up in sanctions that have been imposed to deprive it of fuel and revenue for its weapons programs, and to block it from bulk cash transfers and accessing to the international banking system.

FireEye says APT38, the name it gives to the hacking group dedicated to bank theft, has emerged and stepped up its operations since February 2014 as the economic vise on North Korea has tightened in response to its nuclear and missile tests. Initial operations targeted financial institutions in Southeast Asia, where North Korea had experience in money laundering, but then expanded into other regions such as

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Latin America and Africa, and then extended to Europe and North America.

In all, FireEye says APT38 has attempted to steal \$1.1 billion, and based on the data it can confirm, has gotten away with hundreds of millions in dollars. It has used malware to insert fraudulent transactions in the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication or SWIFT system that is used to transfer money between banks. Its biggest heist to date was \$81 million stolen from the central bank of Bangladesh in February 2016. The funds were wired to bank accounts established with fake identities in the Philippines. After the funds were withdrawn they were suspected to have been laundered in casinos.

The Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington think tank, said in a report Wednesday that North Korea's cyber capabilities provide an alternative means for challenging its adversaries. While Kim's hereditary regime appears to prioritize currency generation, attacks using the SWIFT system raise concerns that North Korean hackers "may become more proficient at manipulating the data and systems that undergird the global financial system," it says.

Sandra Joyce, FireEye's head of global intelligence, said that while APT38 is a criminal operation, it leverages the skills and technology of a state-backed espionage campaign, allowing it to infiltrate multiple banks at once and figure how to extract funds. On average, it dwells in a bank's computer network for 155 days to learn about its systems before it tries to steal anything. And when it finally pounces, it uses aggressive malware to wreak havoc and cover its tracks.

"We see this as a consistent effort, before, during and after any diplomatic efforts by the United States and the international community," said Joyce, describing North Korea as being "undeterred" and urging the U.S. government to provide more specific threat information to financial institutions about APT38's modus operandi. APT stands for Advanced Persistent Threat.

The Silicon Valley-based company says it is aware of continuing, suspected APT38 operations against other banks. The most recent attack it is publicly attributing to APT38 was against of Chile's biggest commercial banks, Banco de Chile, in May this year. The bank has said a hacking operation robbed it of \$10 million.

FireEye, which is staffed with a roster of former military and law-enforcement cyberexperts, conducted malware analysis for a criminal indictment by the Justice Department last month against Park Jin Hyok, the first time a hacker said to be from North Korea has faced U.S. criminal charges. He's accused of conspiring in a number of devastating cyberattacks: the Bangladesh heist and other attempts to steal more than \$1 billion from financial institutions around the world; the 2014 breach of Sony Pictures Entertainment; and the WannaCry ransomware virus that in 2017 infected computers in 150 countries.

French police nab convict in helicopter prison break

By **ELAINE GANLEY** and **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Three months after his spectacular helicopter escape from a French prison, police caught one of France's most wanted men in a pre-dawn raid Wednesday, finding the gangster holed up in his hometown north of Paris.

Authorities said Redoine Faid — who is infamous in France for twice escaping from behind bars — had tried to elude surveillance by disguising himself as a woman in a burqa. He was arrested in Creil early Wednesday without resistance, French Justice Minister Nicole Belloubet said, adding that "numerous tips" led to his arrest.

She said the criminal would be jailed in a high-security prison with "extremely tight surveillance" and will be prosecuted for his latest prison break.

Faid, a self-confessed fan of gangster movies, broke out of prison on July 1 with the help of armed, masked men who took a helicopter pilot hostage, forced him to land in the prison's yard, used power tools to break through the prison doors and hustled Faid to freedom.

The 46-year-old, who had a long career as a serial robber, became well-known in France after writing an autobiography. Before his latest prison escape, he was serving 25 years for his role in the 2010 death of a police officer, 26-year-old Aurelie Fouquet, killed in a botched robbery.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe visited the Judicial Police headquarters in Nanterre, where Faid and oth-

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ers arrested with him were initially taken, to congratulate investigators for tracking Faid down.

Recounting details about Faid's capture during a press conference, Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said the gangster was spotted by police on July 24 in the Paris region alongside his brother Rachid — but the pair managed to escape a high-speed car chase. They abandoned their vehicle in a shopping center parking lot in Sarcelles and fled.

Fake explosives inside the vehicle and fake license plates added to a growing stack of clues leading to his capture.

Molins said a major turning point came over the weekend, when police realized that a female accomplice in Creil had "picked up in her car a person dressed in a burqa whose attitude let them think it was actually a man."

Some 120 police officers including members of the elite Brigade for Research and Intervention unit were involved in Wednesday's operation.

BFMTV showed scenes of the disheveled interior inside the fifth-floor apartment where Faid was caught around 4.30 a.m. Wednesday. Molins said Faid had a loaded revolver "close at hand" when he was arrested. An automatic weapon was also seized at the scene, alongside two burqas, wigs and mobile phones.

Six other — including Faid's brother Rachid, two of his nephews and the woman accomplice — were arrested in the bust, Molins added.

Faid told the weekly Le Point in 2010 that he learned how to attack armored vans by dissecting scenes from Michael Mann's 1995 movie "Heat," about professional bank robbers, which he said he saw 100 times. Faid claimed he met Mann in Paris for the premier of another film and told him "you were my best prof (professor) ... but you messed up my life."

In 2013 Faid escaped from prison using explosives hidden in tissues.

Trump's evolving statements on Christine Blasey Ford

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's public statements on Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault, have swung dramatically since Ford and Kavanaugh delivered testimony last week before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

A look at his evolution from calling Ford a "very credible witness" to openly mocking gaps in her memory: 'VERY CREDIBLE WITNESS'

"I thought her testimony was very compelling and she looks like a very fine woman to me. A very fine woman. And I thought that Brett's testimony, likewise, was really something that I haven't seen before. It was incredible. It was an incredible moment, I think, in the history of our country. But certainly she was a very credible witness. She was very good in many respects. And I think that — I don't know if this is going to continue onward or are we going to get a vote. ... But I think it will work out very well for the country. I just want it to work out well for the country. If that happens, I'm happy." — Sept. 28, Oval Office comments to reporters.

'UNANSWERED QUESTIONS'

"Well, certainly we gave the doctor (Ford) tremendous time, which is great. She spoke well. But, you know, there are some questions that haven't been answered like: What year was it? What day was it? Where was it? Do you know the location? Do you know the house? A lot of different things. People are saying, 'Well, you know, what's going on?' With all of that, you cannot say that we've done anything but be respectful. And I do. And I respect her position very much. I respect her position very much. I believe — and again, this is Republican senators and this is the Senate — I believe they've been very respectful to the doctor, Dr. Ford." — Oct. 1, Rose Garden press conference.

'ONE BEER'

Trump openly mocked Ford at a campaign rally, pointing to what he presented as holes in her testimony.

"How did you get home?' 'I don't remember.' 'How did you get there?' 'I don't remember.' 'Where is the place?' 'I don't remember.' 'How many years ago was it?' 'I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.' 'What neighborhood was it in?' 'I don't know.' 'Where's the house?' 'I don't know.' 'Upstairs, downstairs,

where was it? 'I don't know.'"

Imitating Ford, he added, "But I had one beer — that's the only thing I remember.' And a man's life is in tatters. A man's life is shattered. His wife is shattered. His daughters, who are beautiful, incredible young kids — they destroy people. They want to destroy people. These are really evil people." —Oct. 2, campaign rally in Southaven, Mississippi.

Slow arrival of aid frustrates Indonesia quake survivors

By **STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — Climbing over reeking piles of sodden food and debris, a crowd on Wednesday searched a warehouse wrecked in Indonesia's earthquake and tsunami for anything they could salvage: cans of condensed milk, soft drinks, rice, candy and painkillers.

A trickle of emergency aid is only now reaching parts of Sulawesi island, five days after the destructive quake that killed more than 1,400 people, and some increasingly desperate survivors are taking matters into their own hands.

"We came here because we heard there was food," said Rehanna, a 23-year-old student, wearing a red motorcycle helmet. "We need clean water, rice."

Elsewhere in the hard-hit city of Palu, residents clapped and cheered as they swarmed a truck that was finally delivering aid.

"I'm so happy," said Heruwanto, clutching a box of instant noodles. The 63-year-old man, who like many Indonesians goes by only one name, added: "I really haven't eaten for three days."

Indonesian authorities have been struggling to get relief to survivors who have been left without food, water, fuel and medicine after Friday's magnitude 7.5 quake and tsunami that smashed homes and businesses, downed communications and made roads impassable on Sulawesi.

The official death toll rose to 1,407 on Wednesday, with thousands injured and more than 70,000 displaced, said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. He said the number of dead would increase, but that rescue crews had reached all affected areas.

The horror was still fresh in the minds of those like furniture maker Khairul Hassan, who was working at a shop near the beach in front of a row of warehouses when the ground shook violently. He ran to a hill and watched as the ocean heaved and hurled forward.

"I saw the waves come and sweep out everything — buildings, factories, warehouses and some people who were lost, racing from the waves, some of them women and children," he said. "Also, warehouse workers who were trapped under goods, all swept by the sea. It's so tragic. It's so scary to remember."

The Sulawesi coastline spreading out from Palu was a surreal landscape of debris, beached boats, overturned cars and the foundations of obliterated houses. Wrecked houses still standing were spray painted with appeals for aid. The wall of one dwelling was scrawled with the message: "Help us Mr. President."

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo visited the disaster zone Wednesday for a second time, saying there's still work to be done, but that conditions were improving.

"We are going in phases. There are lots of things happening related to evacuation, as aid and fuel are also coming in," he said, noting that 30 people remain buried under rubble at the Roa Roa Hotel in Palu.

The U.N. estimated that some 200,000 people need assistance, announcing a \$15 million allocation to bolster relief efforts.

Australia said it will send 50 medical professionals as part of a \$3.6 million aid package. The U.N. said the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs has asked UNICEF to send social workers to support vulnerable children who are alone or became separated from their families.

Some homeless residents weren't waiting for help. Besides those searching for food, dozens of others combed a flattened complex of warehouses along Palu's ravaged coast for anything they could sell or use to rebuild homes. They carted away corrugated metal, wood, piping and other items.

They included all ages, middle class and poor, university students and sullen young men.

"We have to do this because there's no assistance from the government," said Zaitun Rajamangili, 41,

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adding that his home was swept away but his family survived.

Rehanna, the student searching the warehouse for food, had come from Balaroa, a neighborhood of several hundred houses in Palu that was turned upside down by the quake and where many remain buried beneath the rubble.

"I'm very angry," she said of the lack of aid. "I know the assistance is coming, but the distribution is very bad."

Picking through the pile nearby was a 50-year-old woman named Rosminah, who had a plastic shopping bag bulging with muddy packets of food.

"There's no support. Our house was destroyed," she said. "We came here to search for food. There's no assistance. We have to find it by ourselves."

Following widespread looting and aid vehicles being stopped and surrounded by people on roads, Indonesian military chief Hadi Tjahyanto said one soldier and one police officer would be placed on every aid truck, and that soldiers would be sent to secure markets, the airport and fuel depots to maintain order.

He added that a Singaporean military transport plane will help evacuate victims from Palu. In addition, aircraft from South Korea, the United Kingdom and Japan were expected to ferry aid.

Separately, a volcano erupted on another part of seismically active Sulawesi island, about 940 kilometers (585 miles) northeast of the disaster zone.

It sent up a plume of ash more than 6,000 meters (20,680 feet) high. Planes were warned about the ash cloud billowing from Mount Soputan that can be hazardous for aircraft engines. No evacuations were ordered in the area.

Experts said it's possible the quake accelerated the eruption, but there is no concrete evidence to prove that. Activity at the volcano had been increasing since August and began surging Monday, according to the head of Indonesia's Volcanology and Geology Disaster Mitigation Agency.

The vast archipelago of 260 million people is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. A powerful quake on the island of Lombok killed 505 people in August.

Associated Press writers Niniek Karmini in Palu, Indonesia; Margie Mason and Eileen Ng in Jakarta, Indonesia; Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia; and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed.

Kavanaugh's 'revenge' theory spotlights past with Clintons

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — To some, Brett Kavanaugh is clearing his name. To others, he's veering into conspiracy theory.

But in blaming "revenge on behalf of the Clintons" for the sexual misconduct allegations against him, the Supreme Court nominee is drawing new attention to his time on the Kenneth Starr team investigating Bill Clinton. And in doing so, Kavanaugh has shown he can deliver a Donald Trump-like broadside against detractors even if it casts him in a potentially partisan light.

As a young lawyer, Kavanaugh played an important role on Starr's team investigating sexual misconduct by the then-president and helped shape one of the most salacious chapters in modern political history.

Kavanaugh spent a good part of the mid-1990s jetting back and forth to Little Rock, Arkansas, digging into Bill and Hillary Clintons' background, according to documents made public as part of his nomination to the Supreme Court.

It was Kavanaugh who pushed Starr to ask Bill Clinton, in graphic detail, about the nature of his sexual relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. In a memo from 1998, Kavanaugh wrote that Starr should ask Clinton whether he engaged in phone sex and specific sexual acts with her.

Starr took Kavanaugh's advice. His resulting report ultimately presented evidence that Clinton, in denying the affair, lied under oath. The report became the grounds for Clinton's impeachment.

Now it's Kavanaugh who is facing sexual misconduct allegations, including from Christine Blasey Ford,

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who said he groped her at a party when they were teenagers and tried to remove her clothes. And it's Kavanaugh who was pushed to speak publicly in personal, painful detail.

In testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Kavanaugh forcefully denied ever sexually assaulting Ford or anyone else. In an emotional statement, he put the blame for the accusations against him partly on the Clintons.

"This whole two-week effort has been a calculated and orchestrated political hit," Kavanaugh testified. The 53-year-old said it was being fueled by "pent-up anger" over Trump's 2016 election victory and outside groups stoking fear about his judicial record. He also said it was revenge on behalf of the Clintons.

The "revenge" line has reverberated this week as senators await the results of an FBI background check investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against Kavanaugh. Democrats have called the comment a breathtaking breach of judicial impartiality that should be disqualifying on its own. Republicans have defended the tenor of Kavanaugh's remarks, saying he had every right to be upset. GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah calls it "righteous anger."

Among those stunned by Kavanaugh's comment was Chelsea Clinton, who told The Associated Press she thought what he said should be "disqualifying."

"He channeled a conspiracy theory about my family and I thought, Oh goodness, like, Judge Kavanaugh, I don't even think I knew who you were until you were nominated," she said. Clearly her family was "looming larger" in his mind than he was in hers, she said.

"But even if he'd gone after a former Republican president or a current Republican senator or politician, I would feel the same way that that kind of blatant partisanship should be disqualifying."

At an event Tuesday, Hillary Clinton scoffed, "Boy, I'll tell you, they give us a lot of credit."

Clinton tried to run the logic of Kavanaugh's claim during an event hosted by The Atlantic. "It would've had to have happened 36 years ago," she said, "and that seems a stretch, even for the vast right-wing conspiracy stories about me."

At last week's hearing, Democratic senators were startled, too.

"Is it your testimony — that the motivation of the courageous woman who sat where you did just a short time ago was revenge on behalf of a left-wing conspiracy or the Clintons?" asked Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Others welcomed Kavanaugh taking a page from the playbook of the man who nominated him.

It wasn't quite a "Lock her up!" Trump rally cry, but Kavanaugh's allies appreciated a hard-hitting defense of his own name and character that name-checked the Clintons. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. backed him up.

"Would you say you've been through hell?" Graham asked Kavanaugh.

"I've been through hell and then some," Kavanaugh testified.

While Kavanaugh's role in the Starr investigation is a part of his resume that may have received short shrift during days of confirmation hearings, plenty of players from that era remain central to today's confirmation fight.

Graham was a chief House prosecutor during Clinton's impeachment trial. Other senators on the committee straddle both eras. Clinton has been making media rounds. Starr has recently published a new book about his experience.

A former top aide to Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, Brian Fallon, leads the outside group Demand Justice that Kavanaugh was likely referring to in his outburst.

Democrats had tried to portray Kavanaugh as a partisan warrior from the moment he was nominated, but failed to gain much traction with it. But the Clintons' revenge theory revealed a different side of Kavanaugh that won't be forgotten if he makes it to the high court.

Julian Zelizer, a professor of history at Princeton University, said Kavanaugh "has been fighting the Republican war since the 1990s."

"He revealed a great deal about who he is and what drives him," he said.

Associated Press writer Brooke Leferts in New York contributed to this report.

7-year-old toy reviewer on YouTube becomes a toy himself

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven-year-old Ryan drew millions of views reviewing toys on YouTube. Now, he's become a toy himself.

Walmart is selling action figures in his likeness, putty with his face on the packaging and other toys under the Ryan's World brand. It's a bet that kids, who are spending more time tapping tablets, will recognize Ryan from YouTube and want the toys he's hawking.

The new line may also help Walmart lure former Toys R Us shoppers, as many chains make a play for those customers ahead of the holiday shopping season.

The first-grader, who's been making YouTube videos for three years, has become a major influencer in the toy industry. The clips typically show him unboxing a toy, playing with it and then waving goodbye to viewers. His most watched video, in which Ryan hunts for large plastic eggs, has more than 1.5 billion views.

Toys featured in the videos can see a spike in sales, says Jim Silver, editor of toy review site TTPM.com. "Ryan is a celebrity," he says. "Kids watch his videos. He's entertaining."

So much so that toy makers have paid Ryan and his parents to feature their products. Forbes magazine estimated that the Ryan ToysReview YouTube channel brought in \$11 million last year, but his parents, Shion and Loann, declined to confirm that number or give any financial details about Ryan's deals. They also do not give their last name or say where they live for privacy and safety reasons.

Ryan's path from reviewer to tiny toy mogul started last year when his parents signed with Pocket.watch, a two-year-old company that works with several YouTube personalities to get their names on clothing, books and other products. Ryan is the first with a product line because of his large audience, Pocket.watch says.

Last month, Walmart started selling Ryan's World bright-colored slime for \$4, 5-inch Ryan action figures for \$9 and french fry-shaped squishy toys for \$18. The retailer is the exclusive seller of some of the line, including T-shirts and stuffed animals.

Whether kids will want them "all comes down to the toy," says Silver, adding that hits are made in the playground, where youngsters show off their toys and tell others about it.

What Ryan does have is a built-in audience. A video of him searching the aisles of Walmart for Ryan's World toys has nearly 10 million views in a month, and his YouTube page has more than 16 million subscribers. Anne Marie Kehoe, who oversees Walmart's toy department, says a couple of thousand people showed up to a recent appearance at an Arkansas store just to see a kid "jumping around and acting crazy."

Ryan, in a phone interview, says a lot of those people wanted his picture. He then left the phone call to play.

His parents, who stayed on the line, say Ryan spends about 90 minutes a week recording YouTube videos. They say he helped with the creation of some of the toys, like when he asked for an evil twin version of himself for a figurine.

"I'm always amazed at the point of view Ryan has," his dad Shion says.

Chris Williams, Pocket.watch's founder and CEO, sees Ryan as a franchise, like how "Nickelodeon looks at SpongeBob."

But unlike a cartoon sponge, Ryan will grow up. Williams says he expects the products to evolve with Ryan's taste. And Ryan's parents agree, saying they're prepared to follow his interests as he gets older, like to video games.

"We can change," Shion says.

Contact Joseph Pisani at <http://twitter.com/josephpisani>

US to offer cyberwar capabilities to NATO allies

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Acting to counter Russia's aggressive use of cyberattacks across Europe and around the world, the U.S. is expected to announce that, if asked, it will use its formidable cyberwarfare capabilities on NATO's behalf, according to a senior U.S. official.

The announcement is expected in the coming days as U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis attends a meeting of NATO defense ministers on Wednesday and Thursday.

Katie Wheelbarger, the principal deputy assistant defense secretary for international security affairs, said the U.S. is committing to use offensive and defensive cyber operations for NATO allies, but America will maintain control over its own personnel and capabilities.

The decision comes on the heels of the NATO summit in July, when members agreed to allow the alliance to use cyber capabilities that are provided voluntarily by allies to protect networks and respond to cyberattacks. It reflects growing concerns by the U.S. and its allies over Moscow's use of cyber operations to influence elections in America and elsewhere.

"Russia is constantly pushing its cyber and information operations," said Wheelbarger, adding that this is a way for the U.S. to show its continued commitment to NATO.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters on Wednesday that the inclusion of offensive cyber operations in alliance missions "is just one of many elements in our strengthened NATO cyber defenses." And he said that it's important to have cyber capabilities that can be used against the Islamic State group to destroy the networks they use for recruiting, financing and communicating.

He said that the British and Denmark have also agreed to make cyber contributions to NATO and he expects other allies will follow.

"We have seen an increasing number of cyber-attacks. They are more frequent, they are more sophisticated," Stoltenberg said. "We see cyber being used to meddle in domestic political processes, attacks against critical infrastructure. Cyber will be an integral part of any future military conflict."

Wheelbarger told reporters traveling to NATO with Mattis that the move is a signal to other nations that NATO is prepared to counter cyberattacks waged against the alliance or its members.

Much like America's nuclear capabilities, the formal declaration of cyber support can help serve as a military deterrent to other nations and adversaries.

The U.S. has, for some time, considered cyber as a warfighting domain, much like air, sea, space and ground operations. In recent weeks the Pentagon released a new cybersecurity strategy that maps out a more aggressive use of military cyber capabilities. And it specifically calls out Russia and China for their use of cyberattacks.

China, it said, has been "persistently" stealing data from the public and private sector to gain an economic advantage. And it said Russia has use cyber information operations to "influence our population and challenge our diplomatic processes." U.S. officials have repeatedly accused Moscow of interfering in the 2016 elections, including through online social media.

"We will conduct cyberspace operations to collect intelligence and prepare military cyber capabilities to be used in the event of a crisis or conflict," the new strategy states, adding that the U.S. is prepared to use cyberwarfare along with other military weapons against its enemies when needed, including to counter malicious cyber activities targeting the country.

The document adds that the Pentagon will "work to strengthen the capacity" of allies and partners.

NATO has moved cautiously on offensive cyber capabilities. At the Warsaw Summit in 2016, allies recognized cyberspace as a warfighting domain. It has said that a computer-based attack on an ally would trigger NATO's commitment to defend its members. And last year the alliance agreed to create a new cyber operations center. But the focus has always been on defending NATO networks and those of its members, not offensive cyberwar.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Tuesday that the defense ministers will have a working session this week to address cyber and other risks, and how allies can cooperate to counter such threats. He did not provide details.

Associated Press writer Lorne Cook contributed to this report.

Missed deadlines cost millions in potential disaster aid

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — As the floodwaters recede and the recovery begins, communities swamped by Hurricane Florence soon will be facing deadlines to document the billions of dollars in damage it caused if they want to be reimbursed by the federal government.

A missed deadline could be costly, even if it's not directly the fault of the affected community, according to an Associated Press analysis of recent appeals decided by top officials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The AP found that tardiness is one of the most common reasons FEMA headquarters has denied appeals from cities, school districts and other public entities, accounting for well over \$100 million in lost appeals over the past 12 months alone. FEMA's strict enforcement of deadlines means it hasn't even considered the merits of some appeals.

As it has focused on punctuality, FEMA denied about 4-of-every-5 funding appeals that rose to its headquarters over the past couple years, up from a two-thirds denial rate over the prior decade, according to the AP's analysis.

"We have been increasingly looking to apply the timeframes for the appeals," said FEMA's deputy director for public assistance, Tod Wells. "The objective is to establish a sound and reliable process," so communities hit by disasters such as Hurricane Florence can know what to expect.

Some on the losing end say another factor is in play — saving money.

"We recognize that in the last year FEMA has made many improvements to its management of appeals and created transparency in the process, and that a large reason for strict adherence to timeframes is to drive down the costs of disasters," said Patrick Sheehan, director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

FEMA rejected \$11 million for a Nashville drinking water treatment plant flooded in 2010. The agency said it received the appeal years too late, though Sheehan contends it was submitted on time.

The recent appeal denials for missed deadlines include a total of \$67 million sought by the tornado-ravaged schools of Joplin, Missouri, and \$3.3 million that FEMA ordered be repaid by the Miami suburb of Pembroke Pines for the cleanup of Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

"We followed to the 'T' all the FEMA requirements, and I can tell you they're very particular about documentation and recording," said Pembroke Pines City Manager Charles Dodge. "To the best of my knowledge, that wasn't even looked at. It was just the question of 'Hey, we didn't get the form on time. Sorry folks, you're out. Pay us back.'"

FEMA relies on states to act as a go-between on such claims.

When FEMA reduced the city's previously approved aid in 2012, Pembroke Pines submitted an appeal within the required 60 days to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. But the state agency, which had another 60 days to forward it to FEMA, apparently failed to do so. FEMA says it didn't receive the appeals package until 2014. It denied the city's final appeal in August.

Pembroke Pines wasn't the only local Florida entity out of luck.

Since June 2017, FEMA's regional and national administrators have denied 64 Florida appeals because of missed deadlines years earlier, the state said. The Florida agency said FEMA has revoked nearly one-fourth of the \$6.6 billion of public assistance it originally allotted for disasters that struck the state between 2004 and 2014.

Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Wes Maul acknowledges the agency had poor case management, a problem he is trying to change.

"What has occurred over the past few decades is inexcusable," said Maul, who has overseen a staff shake-up since joining the agency as chief of staff in 2016.

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The AP found that the apparent failure of state agencies to forward appeals in time to meet FEMA deadlines also contributed to denials of contested funding in Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee and Texas during the past year.

Since the AP first reported last year about FEMA's backlog of disaster aid appeals, the agency has improved the pace of its decision-making.

In 2016, just 12 percent of the decisions issued by FEMA headquarters were made within the 90 days allotted by law to decide appeals or request additional information. That rose to 25 percent last year and around 50 percent so far this year.

The quicker decisions helped FEMA shrink the pile of pending appeals at its headquarters from 64 at this time last year to 38 as of late September.

One of the biggest losers from FEMA's strict timelines has been the school district in Joplin, Missouri, which was denied about \$67 million in a series of appeals to FEMA headquarters for damage caused by a powerful tornado in 2011. A main reason cited by FEMA in a Sept. 14 decision was that Joplin missed a 60-day window to appeal its reimbursement amounts in 2012.

School district officials claimed they didn't know FEMA's estimates were too low until an architectural firm later completed a review. The school system supplemented the federal disaster aid with insurance proceeds and voter-approved bond revenue but still had to take out a loan to cover the gap.

"The staff that was here at the time was under a tremendous amount of pressure, dealing with a lot of things in addition to trying to deal with FEMA," said Ron Lankford, Joplin schools' assistant superintendent for business services. He added: "Some flexibility to (extend deadlines) might be beneficial as much to FEMA as it would be to the injured community."

Follow David A. Lieb on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/DavidALieb>

Irish regulator opens Facebook data breach investigation

By **KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

LONDON (AP) — Ireland's data regulator has launched an investigation of Facebook over a recent data breach that allowed hackers access to 50 million accounts. The probe could potentially cost Facebook more than \$1.6 billion in fines.

The Irish Data Protection Commission said Wednesday that it will look into whether the U.S. social media company complied with European regulations that went into effect earlier this year covering data protection.

It's the latest headache for Facebook in Europe, where authorities are turning up the heat on dominant tech firms over data protection. Last month, European Union consumer protection chief Vera Jourova said that she was growing impatient with Facebook for being too slow in clarifying the fine print in its terms of service covering what happens to user data and warned that the company could face sanctions.

The commission said in a statement that it would examine whether Facebook put in place "appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure the security and safeguarding of the personal data it processes."

The commission said earlier this week the number of EU accounts potentially affected numbered less than 5 million.

Ireland, which is Facebook's lead privacy regulator for Europe, has moved swiftly to investigate the U.S. tech company since the breach became public on Friday.

Facebook said Friday attackers gained the ability to "seize control" of user accounts by stealing digital keys the company uses to keep users logged in. They could do so by exploiting three distinct bugs in Facebook's code.

Facebook also said the hackers could also have used those stolen digital keys to access outside services or apps that let people to log in with their Facebook usernames and passwords. The company said it hasn't found any evidence of this happening.

The company said it has fixed the bugs and logged out the 50 million breached users — plus another 40 million who were vulnerable to the attack — in order to reset those digital keys. Facebook said it doesn't

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know who was behind the attacks or where they're based. Neither passwords nor credit card data was stolen. At the time, the company said it alerted the FBI and regulators in the U.S. and Europe.

Facebook said in a statement Wednesday that it has been in close contact with the Irish agency since it became aware of the breach and will continue to cooperate with the investigation.

Facebook has faced a tumultuous year of security problems and privacy issues. News broke early this year that a data analytics firm once employed by the Trump campaign, Cambridge Analytica, had improperly gained access to personal data from millions of user profiles. Then a congressional investigation found that agents from Russia and other countries have been posting fake political ads since at least 2016. In April, Zuckerberg appeared at a congressional hearing focused on Facebook's privacy practices.

The European Union implemented stronger data and privacy rules, known as the General Data Protection Regulation, in May.

The case could prove to be the first major test of GDPR. Under the new rules, companies could be hit with fines equal to 4 percent of annual global turnover for the most serious violations. In Facebook's case, that could amount to more than \$1.6 billion based on its 2017 revenues.

The new rules also require companies to disclose any breaches within 72 hours. The commission said Facebook informed it that its internal investigation is continuing and that it is taking actions to "mitigate the potential risk to users."

AP Technology Reporter Mae Anderson in New York contributed to this report.

Asian shares turn lower after strong day on Wall Street

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares fell Thursday in Asia despite a strong day on Wall Street that was spurred by encouraging signs on U.S. hiring and growth in the service sector.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's Hang Seng index sank 1.8 percent to 26,612.23 and Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.7 percent to 23,941.51. The Kospi in South Korea sank 1.4 percent to 2,277.24. In Australia, the S&P ASX 200 jumped 0.6 percent to 6,184.20. Shares fell in Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand. Markets in mainland China are closed for a weeklong holiday.

ANALYST'S VIEWPOINT: "Asian stocks are not faring so well which is not so untypical when the U.S. dollar strengthened markedly versus Asian currencies, notably vs the (Chinese) yuan, which is a crucial bellwether of local sentiment," Stephen Innes of OANDA said in a commentary.

WALL STREET: Encouraging reports on hiring and growth in the service sector sent small companies and banks higher Wednesday and knocked bond prices into a tailspin. Both reports were stronger than analysts expected and suggest the economy is in good shape in spite of rising interest rates and oil prices, and the ongoing trade dispute between the U.S. and China. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note spiked to its highest level in more than seven years. The S&P 500 index added 0.1 percent to 2,925.51. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.2 percent to 26,828.39, another all-time high. The Nasdaq composite picked up 0.3 percent, to 8,025.09. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks climbed 0.9 percent to 1,671.29. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.18 percent, its highest since July 2011 and up from 3.05 percent a day earlier.

U.S. DATA: The survey on private company hiring by ADP raised expectations for the government's broader jobs report due out on Friday, which tends to have an even bigger effect on markets. The Institute for Supply Management, the trade group, said its index measuring the service sector reached the highest level in a decade. The solid reports helped companies that do better when businesses and consumers spend more money, like technology and industrial stocks. Apple rose 1.2 percent to \$232.07 and Caterpillar rose 2.2 percent to \$158.22.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 17 cents to \$76.24 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It jumped 1.6 percent to settle at \$76.41 a barrel in New York. U.S. crude has hit four-year highs this week. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 16 cents to \$86.13 per barrel.

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It rose 1.8 percent at \$86.29 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 114.25 from 114.48 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1473 from \$1.1475.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay contributed. He can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 4, the 277th day of 2018. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Oct. 4, 1957, the Space Age began as the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit.

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's troops launched an assault on the British at Germantown, Pennsylvania, resulting in heavy American casualties.

In 1861, during the Civil War, the United States Navy authorized construction of the first ironclad ship, the USS Monitor.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

In 1957, Jimmy Hoffa was elected president of the Teamsters Union.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched Luna 3, a space probe which transmitted images of the far side of the moon.

In 1960, an Eastern Air Lines Lockheed L-188A Electra crashed on takeoff from Boston's Logan International Airport, killing all but 10 of the 72 people on board.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin, 27, was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room.

In 1989, Triple Crown-winning racehorse Secretariat, suffering a hoof ailment, was humanely destroyed at age 19.

In 1990, for the first time in nearly six decades, German lawmakers met in the Reichstag for the first meeting of reunified Germany's parliament.

In 1991, 26 nations, including the United States, signed the Madrid Protocol, which imposed a 50-year ban on oil exploration and mining in Antarctica.

In 2002, "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh received a 20-year sentence after a sobbing plea for forgiveness before a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia. In a federal court in Boston, a laughing Richard Reid pleaded guilty to trying to blow up a trans-Atlantic flight with explosives in his shoes (the British citizen was later sentenced to life in prison).

In 2004, the SpaceShipOne rocket plane broke through Earth's atmosphere to the edge of space for the second time in five days, capturing the \$10 million Ansari X prize aimed at opening the final frontier to tourists. Pioneering astronaut Gordon Cooper died in Ventura, California, at age 77.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with her Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, in New Delhi, where they lauded but did not sign a new agreement opening up U.S. nuclear trade with India. The U.S. military said it had killed an al-Qaida in Iraq leader (Mahir Ahmad Mahmud al-Zubaydi) suspected of masterminding one of the deadliest attacks in Baghdad, several other recent bombings and the 2006 videotaped killing of a Russian official. A North Korean news agency reported on leader Kim Jong Il's first public appearance in nearly two months.

Five years ago: Vo Nguyen Giap, the military commander who'd led Vietnamese Communist forces against the French and then the Americans, died in Hanoi at age 102.

One year ago: Four U.S. soldiers were killed in the African country of Niger when a joint patrol of U.S. and Niger forces was ambushed by militants who were believed linked to the Islamic State group. President Donald Trump visited hospital bedsides and a police base in Las Vegas in the aftermath of the shooting

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rampage three nights earlier that left 58 people dead.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Leroy Van Dyke is 89. Actress Felicia Farr is 86. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Sam Huff is 84. Author Roy Blount Jr. is 77. Author Anne Rice is 77. Actress Lori Saunders (TV: "Petticoat Junction") is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Tony La Russa is 74. Actor Clifton Davis is 73. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, is 72. Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is 72. Actress Susan Sarandon is 72. Blues musician Duke Robillard is 70. Playwright Lee Blessing is 69. Actor Armand Assante is 69. Actor Alan Rosenberg is 68. Actor Christoph Waltz is 62. Actor Bill Fagerbakke (FAY'-guhr-bah-kee) is 61. Music producer Russell Simmons is 61. Actress Kyra Schon (Film: "Night of the Living Dead") is 61. Actress-singer Wendy Makkena is 60. Musician Chris Lowe (The Pet Shop Boys) is 59. Country musician Gregg "Hobie" Hubbard (Sawyer Brown) is 58. Actor David W. Harper is 57. Singer Jon Secada is 57. TV personality John Melendez is 53. Actor-comedian Jerry Minor is 51. Actor Liev Schreiber is 51. Actor Abraham Benrubi is 49. Country singer-musician Heidi Newfield is 48. Singer-guitarist M. Ward (She & Him) is 45. Actress Alicia (ah-LEE'-see-ah) Silverstone is 42. Actress Dana Davis is 40. Rock musician Robbie Bennett (The War on Drugs) is 40. Actor Phillip Glasser is 40. Rock singer-musician Marc Roberge (O.A.R.) is 40. Actor Brandon Barash is 39. Actress Rachael Leigh Cook is 39. Actor Tim Peper is 38. Actor Jimmy Workman is 38. Bassist Cubbie Fink is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jessica Benson (3lw) is 31. Actor Michael Charles Roman is 31. Actress Melissa Benoist is 30. NBA All-Star Derrick Rose is 30. Actress Dakota Johnson is 29. Figure skater Kimmie Meisner is 29. Actress Leigh-Anne Pinnock (Little Mix) is 27. Actor Ryan Scott Lee is 22.

Thought for Today: "Sometimes even to live is an act of courage." — Seneca the Younger, Roman statesman and philosopher (3 B.C.-A.D 65).