

Groton Daily Independent

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

Groton Area

Schedule of Events 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

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

- Northwestern Middle School Music Festival at Mellette
- Oral Interp at Milbank High School
- 7:00pm: School Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

- PSAT Testing for Sophomores and Juniors at GHS.

Thursday, October 11, 2018

- All-State Chorus Day at South Dakota State University
- 1:30pm- 8:30pm: Parent/Teacher Conferences
GHS Gymnasium, Groton Area Elementary School

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When the temperature hit 22 degrees Wednesday morning, the trees have been giving up their leaves very quickly. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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A career high for Jaiden Langlie gives No. 2 Wolves steam in win over UIU

Fayette, Iowa – Despite a bumpy first set, the No. 2 Northern State University volleyball defeated Upper Iowa 3-1 on the road. Northern took the match, winning the final three sets with scores of 25-17, 25-19, and 25-23. With the win, the Wolves improve to 17-1 overall and 9-1 in the NSIC.

It was a defensive heavy match with both teams recording over 100 digs, while also hitting shy of .200 offensively. The Wolves combined for 113 total digs, averaging a single season match high 28.25 per set. Northern added 58 digs, a match high ten blocks, and one service ace, while hitting .182 as a team.

Jaiden Langlie had a career night for NSU with 34 total digs, averaging 8.5 digs per set. The junior surpassed her previous career high of 29 digs, which was set against Southwest Minnesota State a season ago.

Langlie was one of five Wolves to record double figure defensive numbers, followed by Bry Goar with a career high 27 of her own. The freshman averaged 6.75 digs per set, while adding three assists. Lexi Boesl and Hailey Busch each recorded 17 digs, followed by Ashley Rozell with 13. Rozell and Busch each tallied double-doubles as well.

Rozell dished out 52 assists, averaging 13.00 per set, while adding four kills and two blocks. Busch led the Wolves offense with 21 kills, averaging 5.25 per set. The senior added two blocks and the team's lone ace of the match, while hitting .203. Sally Gaul was the only other Wolf in double figures offensively with ten kills. The freshman also recorded three blocks and one dig.

Jenna Reiff hit at the highest efficiency in the match with a .300 attack percentage, recording nine total kills. The junior added a team leading four blocks, as well as one dig. Laura Snyder notched nine kills as well, and recorded two digs, one block, and one assist. Morgan Baufield recorded the final five kills for the Wolves. She also tallied three blocks and one dig.

Northern returns to action this evening, for a 5 p.m. match against Winona State University.



GROTON

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The pumpkin patch is loaded with pumpkins as Groton has its third annual Pumpkin Fest today. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton's 3rd Pumpkin Fest

Saturday, October 6, 2018

10am - 3pm

Groton City Park



Hayrides to and from the Pumpkin Patch, Train Rides,
Face Painting, Pumpkin Painting, Inflatables,
Fall Mini Photo Sessions, Lunch Served 11am-1pm

Thanks to our many sponsors!!

Alternate Date: October 7, 2018

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Lee Schinkel introduced Dale Ringgenberg, as guest speaker for the Groton Kiwanis Club, on October 3. Dale has been on the Groton fire department since 1974. Dale gave details about the Groton fire department and rescue squad, and the many charities they give to. Pic L-R is speaker Dale, and Tom Mahan, Kiwanis Club president. (Courtesy Photo)

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In SD, It's Native Americans' Day

If you look at your calendar, I'll bet on Monday, Oct. 8, it says "Columbus Day." Though the designation may serve as a good reminder for those who don't have school that day or whose offices are closed, it's not quite accurate for those of us in South Dakota. Here, it's Native Americans' Day.

The change came at the urging of Gov. George S. Mickelson in 1990 as part of his "Year of Reconciliation" efforts, making us the first state in the nation to establish Native Americans' Day as an official state holiday. Given that nine tribes share our borders and about 9 percent of our population is Native American, I'd say it was a fitting alteration.

This Native Americans' Day, I'm reflecting on our state's progress toward improving relations with tribal members. It's something I've tried to prioritize during my time in office. In 2011, I established the Department of Tribal Relations as a cabinet-level agency within state government and named J.R. LaPlante as the first-ever Secretary of Tribal Relations. J.R. and I initiated annual tribal visits in order to meet with tribal presidents and council members to better understand the specific issues affecting each tribe. This was something we continued under Secretary Steve Emery's leadership as well.

The Department of Tribal Relations has worked diligently to facilitate partnerships among state agencies and the nine tribes. For instance, we have tax collection agreements with eight tribes and also gaming compacts with eight tribes. In 2016 and 2017, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks signed cooperative Memorandums of Understanding with the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, and Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe to improve communication and management of wildlife and lands. And the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has dedicated millions of dollars for the operation and maintenance of tribal drinking water systems.

The Department of Tribal Relations has also held annual trainings to encourage tribal participation in the legislative process. I signed a bill exempting elected tribal leaders from registering as lobbyists before testifying for or against legislation. We have been successful at passing other tribal legislation as well. This year I signed a measure that allows tribes to work directly with counties on extradition, rather than going through the state, as well as a bill authorizing tribal law enforcement officers to utilize the state Law Enforcement Training Center.

On the corrections front, we have implemented a very successful tribal parole program with the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. Part of the Criminal Justice Initiative of 2013, the program returns parolees to their tribal communities where family and community supports encourage compliance. This joint supervision program has resulted in higher parole completion rates, fewer instances of absconding and culturally relevant support systems for parolees returning home.

Relations between the tribes and the State of South Dakota have improved over the last several years. It's normal to have diverse viewpoints and some disagreements, but we continue to move in a positive direction. That's cause for celebration this Native Americans' Day in South Dakota.

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Today in Weather History

October 6, 1994: During the late afternoon hours, a small tornado traveled for 3 miles along an intermittent path east of Browns Valley, damaging several buildings on a local farmstead. Another tornado touched down east of Wilmot, South Dakota in Roberts County. The tornado was on the ground for eight miles and destroyed several small farm buildings, a garage, damaged farm machinery, blew down a grain bin, and uprooted several trees. Several hogs were killed when their shed was destroyed, and minor damage was done to some homes. The tornado drove a 6-foot long 1x6 piece of lumber through the center of a large tree limb.

2010: A significant severe weather event struck northern Arizona with at least eight confirmed tornadoes. This event will go down in history as the most tornadoes to hit Arizona in a single day. An EF2 tornado was on the ground for 34 miles, ranking as the longest-tracked tornado in Arizona history.

1836 - A second early season snowstorm produced eleven inches at Wilkes Barre PA and 26 inches at Auburn NY. All the mountains in the northeastern U.S. were whitened with snow. (David Ludlum)

1967: A Canadian weather record one-day rainfall of 19.3 inches falls at Brynnor Mines at Ucluelet.

1981: The Netherlands fourth worst aircraft accident (at the time) occurred on this day. At 5:09 PM, the crew noted heavy rainfall in thunderstorms on the weather avoidance radar and received clearance to avoid this area. At 5:12 pm, the aircraft entered a tornado, which caused the right wing to separate from the plane. All 17 occupants of the aircraft perished in the accident.

1984 - The temperature at Honolulu, Hawaii, reached 94 degrees to establish an all-time record at that location. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A tropical wave, later to become Tropical Storm Isabel, struck Puerto Rico. As much as 24 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, and the severe flooding and numerous landslides resulting from the rain claimed about 180 lives. (Storm Data)

1987 - The western U.S. continued to sizzle. Afternoon highs of 85 degrees at Astoria OR, 101 degrees at Tucson AZ, and 102 degrees at Sacramento CA, equalled October records. It marked the fourth time in the month that Sacramento tied their record for October. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cool Canadian air prevailed across the central and eastern U.S. Toledo OH reported a record low of 27 degrees. Limestone ME received an inch of snow. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. Boise ID reported a record high of 87 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Temperatures soared into the 90s across southern Texas. Afternoon highs of 93 degrees at Houston, and 96 degrees at Austin and Corpus Christi, were records for the date. Beeville was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 101 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today



Gradual
Clearing

High: 44 °F

Tonight



Increasing
Clouds

Low: 30 °F

Sunday



Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
Rain

High: 46 °F

Sunday
Night



Rain

Low: 39 °F

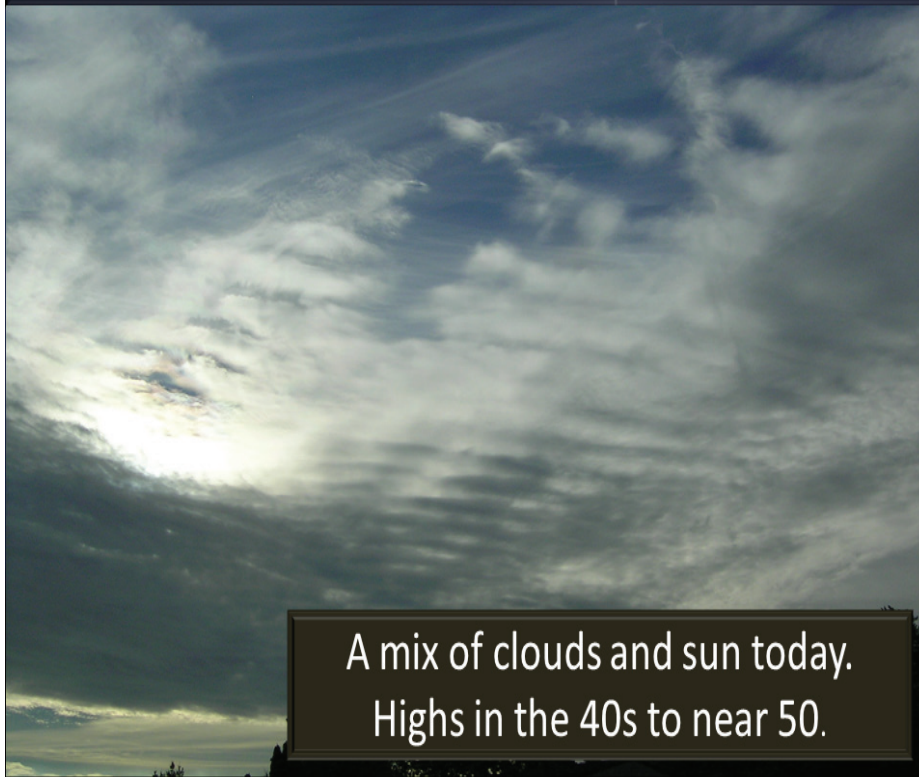
Columbus
Day



Rain Likely

High: 46 °F

Cold and Dry Weather Today



A mix of clouds and sun today.
Highs in the 40s to near 50.

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 10/6/2018 5:45 AM Central

Published on: 10/06/2018 at 5:49AM

High pressure will keep the region dry today. However, much of the region will be cloudy until afternoon, especially across eastern SD and west central MN. Colder than normal temperatures will continue to be the theme with highs mainly in the 40s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 44 °F at 1:32 PM

Low Outside Temp: 38 °F at 1:18 AM

High Gust: 23 mph at 12:36 AM

Precip: 0.01

Today's Info

Record High: 91° in 1961, 1993

Record Low: 19° in 2012

Average High: 63°F

Average Low: 37°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.40

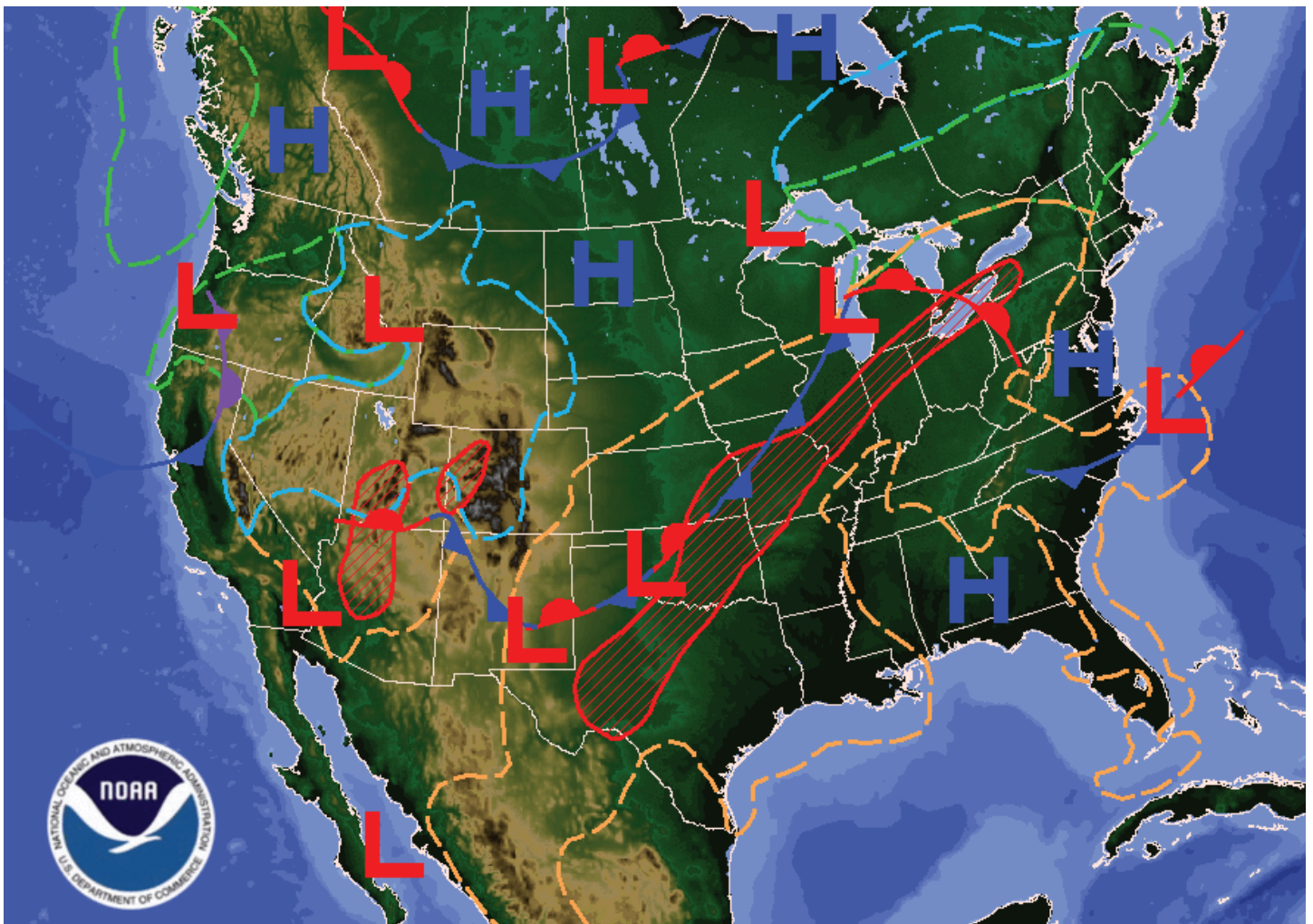
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.21

Average Precip to date: 18.88

Precip Year to Date: 13.78

Sunset Tonight: 7:04 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:40 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Oct 06, 2018, issued 4:53 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate 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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JUST TRY!

Mrs. Burrell, my fourth-grade science teacher, often visited the students in her class at night to teach them how to identify the various constellations. Now and then she would ask, Well, how many stars can you count tonight? No one was ever able to give an accurate accounting. But, we would giggle and make up some unreasonable number just to humor her.

However, on a clear night, it is possible to see about two thousand stars. With some of the large telescopes now used to research the universe, astronomers can take a photograph and count about thirty billion. Even so, there are still many more billions that are beyond the power of the eye of the telescope.

Sir James Jeans once suggested that there are as many stars as there are grains of sand on all the beaches of the planet. So, there's a good reason why no one has been able to number them.

Except One. He determines the number of stars and calls each by name. Now, that may be difficult to believe. But, when we realize His power and might and majesty, it fits right into His character.

Numbers, however, are not as important as His love. However, our great God, Who created and named the stars and hung them in orbit, is more interested in us than He is in His stars. In fact, He loved us so much that He gave His only Son for our salvation. This God of measureless might is also a God of limitless love. And this very God extends an invitation to us to become one of His children.

Prayer: How blest we are, Lord, that we are of such value to You that You willingly gave Your Son to save us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 147:4 He determines the number of stars and calls each by name.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 13, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 0
Alcester-Hudson 66, Centerville 12
Arlington/Lake Preston 52, Estelline/Hendricks 8
Baltic 24, Parker 8
Belle Fourche 68, Pine Ridge 14
Beresford 55, Flandreau 8
Brandon Valley 34, Watertown 7
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 48, McCook Central/Montrose 6
Britton-Hecla 48, Waverly-South Shore 0
Canistota 48, Hanson 8
Canton 35, Lennox 18
Castlewood 29, Colman-Egan 16
Colome 60, Corsica/Stickney 8
Dakota Valley 29, West Central 27
Dell Rapids 41, Milbank Area 12
Elkton-Lake Benton 28, Dell Rapids St. Mary 20
Faith 68, Dupree 18
Garretson 35, Viborg-Hurley 8
Hamlin 42, Deuel 18
Harding County 52, Newell 0
Harrisburg 14, Brookings 7
Hitchcock-Tulare 36, Northwestern 8
Howard 45, Chester 7
Ipswich/Edmunds Central 14, Eureka/Bowdle 12
Irene-Wakonda 64, Menno/Marion 22
Jones County/White River 42, Kadoka Area 20
Kimball/White Lake 43, Platte-Geddes 8
Lemmon/McIntosh 60, Bison 24
Little Wound 51, Crow Creek 0
Madison 10, Tea Area 7
Miller/Highmore-Harrold 56, Parkston 30
Mobridge-Pollock 43, Sisseton 6
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 40, Chamberlain 12
New Underwood 50, Edgemont 0
Pierre 42, Mitchell 14
Potter County 48, Herreid/Selby Area 14
Rapid City Central 19, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 18
Rapid City Christian 44, Lyman 8
Red Cloud 46, Custer 35
Scotland 46, Avon 20
Sioux Falls Christian 38, Tri-Valley 0
Sioux Falls Lincoln 31, Rapid City Stevens 20
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 41, Huron 9

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Sioux Falls Washington 35, Aberdeen Central 13
Sioux Valley 22, Elk Point-Jefferson 17
Spearfish 42, Douglas 25
St. Thomas More 21, Hot Springs 14
Sully Buttes 44, Langford 8
Tiospa Zina Tribal 42, Iroquois 6
Todd County 60, McLaughlin 6
Tri-State 50, Great Plains Lutheran 13
Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 52, Gayville-Volin 8
Vermillion 47, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 16
Wall 42, Philip 12
Webster 58, Florence/Henry 8
Winner 38, Wagner 0
Wolsey-Wessington 34, Gregory 13
Yankton 77, Sturgis 42

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

BC-SD-VOL--Volleyball Scores, SD

Volleyball

Harding County def. Newell, 25-14, 25-22, 25-15
James Valley Christian def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-14, 25-11, 19-25, 25-20
Crazy Horse Triangular
Takini def. Crazy Horse, 26-24, 25-14, 25-11
Tiospaye Topa def. Crazy Horse, 25-19, 25-22, 25-11
Fargo "Scheels" Invitational
Pool Play
Pool B
Bismarck Century, N.D. def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-22, 25-16
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Kindred, N.D., 25-17, 25-9
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Valley City, N.D., 25-11, 26-24
Pool C
Fargo Shanley, N.D. def. Sioux Falls Washington, 19-25, 25-22
Sioux Falls Washington def. Fargo Oak Grove Lutheran, N.D., 25-17, 25-16
Sioux Falls Washington def. Fargo South, N.D., 25-11, 25-13

72-year-old swimmer takes on 23 lakes in the Black Hills

By TANYA MANUS, Rapid City Journal

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Jim Phillips thrives on physical challenges. He celebrated his 70th birthday in 2016 by swimming laps for 12 hours at the Deadwood Recreational Center where he is a lifeguard and swimming instructor. This summer, he topped that by swimming 26.61 miles in 23 lakes in the Black Hills.

"I always need a goal to work out for. I think it's very important to stay physically fit and show my children and grandchildren you can (stay active). I work out, but I'm not driven as much if I didn't have a goal," Phillips said. "One morning, I thought, 'What am I going to do this summer to motivate myself to do a bit more swimming?'"

Phillips, 72, chose swimming in lakes "because they were there," he chuckled. Initially, he planned to swim in 10. Then he joined forces with Mike Runge, 45, and the duo swam in 23 lakes between May 21 and Sept. 8, the Rapid City Journal reported.

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"Mike is probably the best adult swimmer who comes to the Deadwood Recreation Center. He swam competitively in high school and college," Phillips said. "He jumped on the (lake challenge) train, and we got her done."

"It was definitely a challenge. This was something kind of special for Jim. He came up with the idea, and I thought that would be really fun trying to fit that into a summer," Runge said. "Jim is very energetic. He inspires a lot of people."

Scheduling the swim times and getting to each location was one of the toughest obstacles, Phillips said. The men swam at Bear Butte Lake, Fort Meade Reservoir, Upper Mirror Lake, Lower Mirror Lake, Cox Lake, Iron Creek Lake, Reausaw Lake, Roubaix Lake, Newell Lake, Dalton Lake, Orman Dam, Cold Brook, Horse Thief Lake, Lakota Lake, Stockade Lake, Bismark Lake, Legion Lake, Center Lake, Sylvan Lake, Pactola Lake, Sheridan Lake, Deerfield Lake and Angostura Reservoir. They also competed in the Pure Pactola Open Water Race in July.

"Some of them were harder than I thought," Phillips said. "The biggest challenge was we'd gotten a lot of rain. The lakes were really muddy and murky and nasty water. We were running into a lot of dead fish and dead snakes. . Bear Butte is brutal as far as having a lot of undergrowth. Sheridan is just brutal for seaweed.

"I struggled a little bit in Deerfield. I had picked up a little bronchitis. Deerfield was cold and we did it early in the morning," Phillips said. "The lakes were a challenge, but I didn't get out of them and think, 'Man, that really kicked my butt.'"

While swimming in the region's larger lakes, a boat accompanied Phillips and Runge. Deadwood Recreation Center director John Tridle followed the men on his pontoon boat when they tackled their longest swim — a two-hour, 2.6-mile swim in Pactola Lake.

Phillips, Runge and their Black Hills Lake Challenge gained a following online thanks to Debbie Siemonsma, a real estate agent with Century 21 Spearfish Realty. She got to know Phillips at the Deadwood Recreation Center. When she learned of his lake challenge, she asked him if she could share photos and updates on her Facebook page.

"Jim writes down goals constantly. Daily, he writes down what he's going to accomplish. He writes long-term, short-term, midterm goals . and how he will reach those goals," Siemonsma said.

"For many of us who use the Deadwood Recreation Center, Jim Phillips is an inspiration to work out, to be a better person, and to get out of our comfort zone," Siemonsma added. "I don't know anybody who challenges his body like he does. . He's the coolest person."

Siemonsma's Facebook page documents each lake swim, complete with photos, dates, miles swam, water temperature and quirks they encountered — curious fishermen, uncooperative weather, injuries and wildlife.

Siemonsma also posted motivational "Jimisms" such as "Whatever you are willing to put up with is exactly what you will have," and "Push your limits — don't let them push you!"

The Black Hills Lakes Challenge helped Phillips train to achieve another of his goals — winning first place in 11 swimming events in the South Dakota Senior Games and second place in another event. He competed on Sept. 6 in Sioux Falls, then returned to the Black Hills to complete his lake challenge with a 2.47-mile swim in Angostura Reservoir.

Phillips, a retired coach, physical-education teacher and counselor from the Lead-Deadwood School District, always encouraged his students to push themselves physically and mentally. With the lake swimming behind him, Phillips already has a new goal in mind.

"I'm going to get more serious about my triathlons," said Phillips, who has competed in 97 so far. "I want to be a role model for my children and my grandchildren, that's the big thing, and for my former students. . You've got to be goal-oriented. If you don't have goals, you run around chasing your tail, and that's why I do this crazy stuff. I always thought that it's important to be a true role model."

Sioux Falls man donates kidney to stranger for his friend

By TREVOR MITCHELL, The Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — It all started when Lance Allen's co-workers insisted he had a twin.

The 45-year-old Sioux Falls resident had taken a job at Aprima Medical Software, where he sold electronic health records software. He kept hearing about another sales executive in Florida and how much the two were alike, but he never reached out.

Until a national sales meeting two years ago in Dallas, where Allen finally met Mike Alfieri and realized what all the fuss was about.

"It was like I'd known him my whole life," Allen said. The two quickly became friends during the course of the convention.

They remained friends even as Allen returned to Sioux Falls and Alfieri headed back to Florida. Allen regarded Alfieri as a loyal colleague and loving father — and someone who never complained.

That made it all the more poignant for Allen when he learned that Alfieri was sick, and had been for some time.

Alfieri, now 44, had been struggling with kidney failure since being diagnosed in 2014. It just wasn't something he made a point to talk about.

"Mike is one of the most caring people I know," Allen said. "He gets up, makes breakfast for the kids, gets them to school, goes to work — he does everything a father should do without complaining or asking for sympathy."

All that, Allen said, while going through symptoms that were "like you have the worst flu of your life, every day." It had gotten to the point that doctors were unclear on how Alfieri was still able to move around.

It took very little time for Allen to decide his next move. He would donate a kidney to Alfieri, the Argus Leader reported.

"He didn't sit there and think about it at all," said his wife, Melissa. "He didn't even know his blood type."

"It's something I just felt compelled to do," said Allen, an Alcester native who moved to Sioux Falls more than 20 years ago. He had lost both his mother and a sister to disease and recalled "the helpless feeling I had not being able to do anything for them."

He didn't want to be helpless anymore.

"I can either stand idly by and watch my friend die," he said, "or I can go get this done."

Allen spoke with his family in October of 2017 about the possibility of donating a kidney to Alfieri. They were supportive, he said.

He went to the Mayo Clinic, determined to find out if he was a match.

He wasn't.

But that wasn't the end of the story.

Doctors raised the possibility of another option — a paired kidney exchange, which occurs when a living donor is incompatible with the recipient.

These exchanges can be complex, but here's a simple example: Donor 1 wants to give a kidney to Recipient 1, but is not a match. Same for Donor 2, hoping to give a kidney to Recipient 2 — they don't match either. However, Donor 1 is a match for Recipient 2, and Donor 2 is a match for Recipient 1.

Allen and Alfieri's donation was a bit more complicated — the exchange involved 13 people in total.

Instead of being discouraged by the fact that he wouldn't be donating a kidney directly to his friend, Allen felt better about the arrangement.

Not only would Alfieri get the kidney he needed, but someone else "will get that call they've been praying for," he said.

Still, the challenges weren't over. Allen had been cleared on most aspects of the health screening, but his blood pressure was too high.

There were two options to solve that problem. He could take blood pressure medication, or he could lower it naturally through a healthier lifestyle.

Frustrated with the denial, Allen chose both.

In addition to the medication, he began watching what he ate and increasing his activity levels — all

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while calling the hospital, repeatedly pushing back against the normal waiting period between testing.

"Lance just wanted to do this for Mike," Melissa said. "And he was going to do anything to make it happen."

In the end, Allen lost 20 pounds — and now likes to say the two men saved each other's lives, in a way.

"Being more conscious of my health probably saved years of my life," Allen said, referencing his wife and six children. "You don't just live your life for yourself."

Allen was in the middle of an airport for work when he got the call that his transplant match had been found. Alfieri was going to get a new kidney.

He called his friend in Florida and told him about the approval.

A silence hung in the air until Alfieri broke it.

"I don't know what to say to you," he told Allen. "You're saving my life. When people say they would take a bullet for someone, you never know what they will do when faced with taking the bullet. Lance, you did. You're taking a bullet for me."

As both of them began to realize they were about to start crying — Lance in the middle of the airport — they agreed to talk later and share the good news as soon as possible.

In a combined interview with Allen and Alfieri before their surgeries, the bond and rapport between the two was immediately apparent. They joked with each other, but the conversation often turned emotional.

"I'm humbled and speechless," Alfieri said of Allen's actions. "It's restored my faith in humanity."

Several people had started the process of donating a kidney to Alfieri. They'd all dropped out before the procedure. But not Allen.

"His dedication to the process was different than the others," Alfieri said. "He wouldn't waver. To go to these lengths to save my life ... it's an incredible thing."

Alfieri's surgery took place on Sept. 6, with Allen's five days later. Both men are doing well, although Alfieri's doctors are still working to determine what medications work best.

With the biggest step out of the way, Alfieri said he's looking forward to "the idea of getting back to living how I want and not how I have to."

Allen hopes to one day learn who he donated his kidney to — the donations are initially anonymous. He also had effusive thanks for a family friend who set up a GoFundMe to recoup his expenses from the donation process.

And, of course, both men are thankful for what they called "a unique friendship."

"It's amazing," Alfieri said, "how people come into your life and what kind of an impact they make."

From across the hospital room, his wife and mother yell a somewhat more succinct echo of his feelings. "Lance is the man!"

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

27-28-32-41-69, Mega Ball: 12, Megaplier: 2

(twenty-seven, twenty-eight, thirty-two, forty-one, sixty-nine; Mega Ball: twelve; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$420 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$253 million

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Democrat Sutton seeks GOP voters in new governor's race ad

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Democratic governor candidate Billie Sutton is wooing GOP voters in a new television ad featuring a Republican saying Rep. Kristi Noem has taken millions of dollars from special interests and "doesn't work for us."

The ad features Peggy Glover, a Republican who tells viewers that with all the corruption in Pierre, the "last thing we need is Kristi Noem for governor."

Noem campaign manager Justin Brasell called the ad "fraudulent," and the campaign noted Glover has donated to Sutton previously.

State records show Glover is a registered Republican, and she says she has been for at least 40 years. She says she contributed to Sutton because she's not hung up on party labels and supports him.

Noem in September launched an ad reminding voters that Sutton is a Democrat who supported Hillary Clinton.

Neglected dogs, horse skeletons found in rural Union County

ALCESTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say charges are pending against a rural Union County couple after authorities found neglected dogs, horses and other animals at their home.

Officials also found the skeletal remains of two or three horses and the body of one horse that recently died. Officials were called to the home in Alcester on Thursday after someone saw horses that raised concern.

The Argus Leader reports the horses that survived had no water or food and were standing in manure so deep it nearly touched their stomachs.

Union County Sheriff Dan Limoges called the scene "very bad."

Inside, authorities found 21 dogs, two or three rabbits, three cats, a rooster and a raccoon, mostly caged in a room.

Animal shelter Noah's Hope and the Gentle Spirit Horse Ranch helped remove and house the surviving animals.

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

Prosecutors play part of 2015 interview at Phelps trial

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former nonprofit official accused of trying to avoid a potential state audit in South Dakota told authorities in 2015 that he didn't notice changes to contracts he signed and backdated that year, according to part of an interview that prosecutors played Friday at his trial.

Prosecutors allege Stacy Phelps, the former CEO of the nonprofit American Indian Institute for Innovation, backdated contracts with an educational cooperative to conceal his own alleged inappropriate spending and avoid an audit. Phelps told authorities in the December 2015 interview that he didn't catch alterations in the contracts that his colleague Scott Westerhuis asked him to backdate, the Argus Leader reported.

Westerhuis was embezzling money before he shot his wife, his four children and then himself in September 2015. The deaths spurred a financial investigation that led to charges in 2016 against Phelps and two others who worked with Westerhuis at the Institute or Mid-Central Educational Cooperative.

Phelps and Westerhuis worked for both organizations. The Institute helped Mid-Central administer a college-readiness grant program called Gear Up.

The contract changes would have shifted the nonprofit Institute into a role that likely wouldn't have required an audit, according to the interview.

During opening statements in Phelps' trial Thursday, Attorney General Marty Jackley said the case was about a "cover up" of the financial dealings of the nonprofit and Phelps' conduct.

But defense attorney Dana Hanna said Phelps didn't intend to deceive anyone when he backdated the contracts. Hanna said Phelps got played by Westerhuis, whom he called a "criminal" and a "con man."

"Stacy Phelps did not know that man was stealing money until that man slaughtered his family," Hanna

said Thursday, noting that Phelps isn't accused of theft or helping Westerhuis embezzle.

Authorities have said they believe Westerhuis and his wife stole more than \$1 million before their deaths.

Phelps, 45, has pleaded not guilty to two counts of falsifying evidence and two counts of conspiring to offer forged or fraudulent evidence. He faces a maximum sentence of two years in prison and a \$4,000 fine per count.

Phelps is the second and final defendant to head to trial in what prosecutors have dubbed the Gear Up case. Mid-Central's former director, Dan Guericke, was to stand trial with Phelps, but instead took a plea deal last week.

Jurors on Friday also heard from John Herrington, an Institute board member, who said Phelps wasn't forthcoming with information about the nonprofit's spending. Herrington said the board fired Phelps after realizing he had made unapproved purchases with the Institute's money.

Herrington said he assumed Phelps should be open about how he spent the Institute's money even though the nonprofit lacked rules requiring board approval for the organization's spending.

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

Company receives water permit for Black Hills gold drilling

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has approved a temporary water permit for an exploratory gold drilling project in the Black Hills despite opposition from Native American tribal officials and environmental groups.

The state Water Management Board's approval clears the way for Mineral Mountain Resources to withdraw water from Rapid Creek through Dec. 31 to lubricate its drilling near Rochford, roughly 35 miles west of Rapid City. The Canadian company had been buying water from the city of Lead since its former water permit expired in May.

Mineral Mountain has already drilled nine holes in the Black Hills to collect core samples and determine whether there's enough recoverable gold for a mining operation. The company has permission to drill more than 100 others, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Mineral Mountain's most recent permit application was met with opposition from residents, Native American tribal officials and the Izaak Walton League, an outdoor conservation group.

"How might you justify destroying this beauty, economic viability, and spiritual value for a mine that despoils everything in its path?" asked Nemo resident Carol Hayse.

Matthew Naasz, the company's lawyer, countered that the permit doesn't sanction mining.

"This is a temporary use for drilling purposes of a small amount of water that is clearly and obviously available," he said.

A mining operation would need separate approval from state regulators, including a public review.

The Water Management Board partially based its decision on information provided by Mark Rath, an engineer with the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Rath said water releases have exceeded winter target levels for a reservoir on Rapid Creek downstream from the drilling site. He predicted larger-than-usual releases from the reservoir in the coming months.

"So there is sufficient water there to get us through the end of the year," Rath said.

Mineral Mountain also has submitted plans to the U.S. Forest Service for additional exploratory drilling on public land sites in the Black Hills National Forest. The plans are under review.

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

Hermosa man sent to prison for identity theft, fraud

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Hermosa man has been sentenced to nearly 4 years in prison for fraud and identity theft.

Forty-year-old Tobin Nettifee was convicted of access device fraud and aggravated identity theft. KOTA-TV reports Nettifee used another person's identity to get three credit cards he used to make \$19,000 in purchases. He also stole a gift card from a mailbox to make additional purchases.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Jeffrey Vikenrporf sentenced Nettifee Tuesday to 3 years and 9 months in federal prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

He was also ordered to make restitution.

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

Corsica man pleads guilty to financial exploitation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota attorney general says a Corsica man is facing up to 10 years in prison for exploiting money from an elderly family member.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Friday 48-year-old David Anthony Stetson has pleaded guilty to felony theft by exploitation. Authorities say Stetson must pay restitution of more than \$27,000.

The felony is also punishable by a fine of up to \$20,000.

Presho fire chief who died in the line of duty being honored

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota firefighter who died in the line of duty a year ago is being honored Sunday at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Fifty-four-year-old Presho Fire Chief Donald Manger died after suffering a medical condition while fighting a fire in rural Lyman County on Oct. 14, 2017. He had served as chief for 23 years, and had 36 years of experience as a firefighter.

KCCR radio reports that Manger will be one of 80 firefighters from across the country honored at this weekend's service. Their names will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, which sits on the grounds of the National Fire Academy at Emmitsburg.

Information from: KCCR-AM, <http://www.todaykccr.com/>

Rapid City woman convicted of fraudulently obtaining opioids

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City woman has been convicted of fraudulently obtaining about 1,700 opioid pills.

The U.S. attorney's office says 37-year-old Daphne Janis obtained 3,500 Tramadol pain pills between March 2016 and April 2017, about half of them fraudulently by not telling health care providers of previous prescriptions she had obtained.

A federal jury recently convicted her of three felonies that each carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison. She's to be sentenced. Dec. 21.

Work to begin on \$46M precision agriculture center at SDSU

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Work will soon begin on the \$46 million Raven Precision Agriculture Center on the South Dakota State University campus.

A ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled Saturday afternoon in Brookings. Ground work at the site is to begin this fall, with construction starting next spring.

SDSU offers both a bachelor's degree and a minor in precision agriculture. Dean John Killefer says the 129,000-square-foot facility will foster innovation in agriculture, engineering, and food and environmental sciences.

State lawmakers approved the center earlier this year. Sioux Falls-based Raven Industries donated \$5 million for the project.

Man pleads guilty to sexually abusing child a decade ago

WINNER, S.D. (AP) — A Winner man accused of having repeated sexual contact with a child a decade ago has pleaded guilty to two felonies.

The Daily Republic reports that 36-year-old Christopher Schmidt reached a plea deal with prosecutors under which five other counts of sexual contact with a child were dismissed.

He faces up to 30 years in prison when he's sentenced Dec. 11.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Pompeo seeks allied unity on North Korea denuke effort

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pledged Saturday that the Trump administration's effort to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons would be fully coordinated with allies Japan and South Korea, as he prepared to travel to Pyongyang under pressure to produce tangible progress toward that goal.

Pompeo met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on the eve of his fourth visit to North Korea, during which he'll be looking to arrange a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and plot a path forward on denuclearization. Japan, notably, has been wary of Trump's initiative, fearing it could affect its long-standing security relationship with the U.S.

Pompeo told Abe that it is important for him to hear from the Japanese leader "so we have a fully coordinated and unified view" and vowed to raise the cases of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea when he sees Kim and officials in Pyongyang on Sunday. Pompeo will then travel to South Korea and China to review the negotiations.

"It is important for us to hear from you as I travel to Pyongyang to make sure that we are fully in sync with respect to missile programs, (chemical and biological weapons) programs," Pompeo told Abe. "We will bring up the issue of the abductees as well and then we will share with you how we hope to proceed when we are in Pyongyang tomorrow."

Pompeo's diplomatic offensive comes as Trump presses to meet with Kim for a second time after their June summit in Singapore produced a vague agreement on denuclearization with few, if any, specifics. Despite the historic meeting, the two sides are deadlocked over how to achieve that goal and Trump canceled Pompeo's initial planned return to North Korea last month.

In contrast with South Korea, whose President Moon Jae-in has been at the forefront of encouraging Trump's rapprochement with the North, Japan has been decidedly cautious, insisting that its interests and concerns be addressed.

Abe did not speak of differences but highlighted the importance of demonstrating to the world that the U.S.-Japan alliance is "more robust than ever" and stressing the importance of "thorough coordination" with Washington on all aspects of North Korea policy.

Pompeo has repeatedly refused to discuss details of negotiations, including a U.S. position on North Korea's demand for a declared end to the Korean War and a proposal from Seoul for such a declaration to be accompanied by a shutdown of its main known nuclear facility.

Speaking aboard his plane on Friday, Pompeo said his mission was to "make sure that we understand what each side is truly trying to achieve ... and how we can deliver against the commitments that were made" in Singapore. He said they would develop options, if not finalize, the location and timing of a second Trump-Kim summit.

He has also distanced himself from an earlier stated goal of achieving North Korea's nuclear weapons

abandonment by the end of Trump's term in January 2021.

Since the effort got underway with a secret visit to the North by then-CIA chief Pompeo in April, there has been only limited progress.

North Korea so far has suspended nuclear and missile tests, freed three American prisoners and dismantled parts of a missile engine facility and tunnel entrances at a nuclear test site. It has not taken any steps to halt nuclear weapons or missile development.

The North also has accused Washington of making "unilateral and gangster-like" demands on denuclearization and insisted that sanctions should be lifted before any progress in nuclear talks. U.S. officials have thus far said sanctions will remain in place until the North's denuclearization is fully verified.

Absent sanctions relief, North Korea has rejected turning over what Washington really wants in return: a complete inventory of its nuclear and ballistic missile facilities that could be used by international inspectors to verify they have been dismantled.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump on Kavanaugh accuser, drug prices, vets

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump misrepresented the testimony of his Supreme Court nominee's chief accuser in a mocking turn on a rally stage over the past week as campaign politics and the pitched struggle over Brett Kavanaugh's fate provided fertile ground for distortion.

A look at some of his rhetoric and how it compares with the facts:

KAVANAUGH

TRUMP, as if recounting the questioning of Christine Blasey Ford at her Senate hearing: '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. 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. 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. ... They want to destroy people. These are really evil people."

THE FACTS: He's wrong to say Kavanaugh's accuser could not recall whether the alleged sexual assault happened upstairs or downstairs or any level of detail regarding the likely location. She described in vivid detail being in a locked upstairs bedroom with Kavanaugh and his friend Mark Judge while others were downstairs at a small house party. Trump also falsely stated that she did not remember how many years ago this happened. She identified the summer of 1982, when she was 15.

It's true she could not identify the house, or remember how she got there or home, but said it was within a "20 minute drive" between her house and a country club in the Bethesda, Maryland, area.

Researchers say it is common for people who have experienced a trauma to retain a searing memory of the event but not circumstances surrounding it.

DRUG PRICES

TRUMP: "You might have seen last month where I called up some of the drug companies. I said, 'Folks, you just raised up the drug prices. You can't do that.' And they all reduced them. Do you believe it? That's when I said, 'I've a lot of power.' Pfizer, right? You saw that. Pfizer, Novartis, they raised their drug prices and I'm bringing them down. I said, 'What are you doing with raising them?' 'I'm sorry, Mr. President, we'll reduce them immediately.' I said, 'Man, this is a powerful position.'" — Minnesota rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: His account is overstated.

His call with Pfizer was at the beginning of July, not last month. It came right after he criticized Pfizer on Twitter for raising prices of about 40 drugs on July 1. Pfizer reversed those increases, meaning prices returned to their June 30 levels, though only until Jan. 1, 2019, at the latest. Novartis was one of several drugmakers that said they wouldn't raise any prices for the rest of 2018, but they'd already done so on

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nearly all of their drugs earlier in the year.

Few, if any, drugmakers actually lowered prices as a result of Trump's pressure. A few drugs had price cuts for business reasons.

More broadly, an Associated Press investigation of brand-name prescription drugs found 96 price increases for every price reduction in the first seven months of this year. There were fewer price increases this year from January through July than in comparable prior year periods, but companies still raised prices far more often than they cut them.

AP analyzed 26,176 U.S. list price changes for brand-name prescription drugs from Jan. 1 through July 31 in the years 2015 through 2018, using data supplied by health information analytics firm Elsevier.

VETERANS

TRUMP: "We just passed Choice. That was 44 years they've been trying to pass Choice, so that if you have to wait in line for 9 days, 30 days, 21 days, months, you don't do that anymore. If the line's big, and if you're unhappy with it, you go to a private doctor, they take care of you, and we paid the bill. It's better. They've been trying to pass that one for many, many decades. They couldn't do it. We got it passed." — Tennessee rally Monday.

TRUMP: "We also passed Veterans' Choice. Forty-four years they tried to do it." — Mississippi rally Tuesday.

THE FACTS: He's exaggerating improvements to the Department of Veterans Affairs by incorrectly stating a private-sector health care program was never passed by Congress before him. He also falsely suggests the newly expanded program will have immediate effect.

Congress first approved the Veterans Choice program in 2014 in the wake of a scandal at the Phoenix VA medical center in which some veterans died while waiting months for appointments. The program allows veterans to see doctors outside the VA system if they must wait more than 30 days for an appointment or drive more than 40 miles to a VA facility.

Trump signed legislation in June to expand the Choice program by giving veterans even wider access to private-sector doctors at government expense, subject to yet-to-be-finalized rules that will determine eligibility as well as available funding.

Contrary to what Trump suggests, the effects of the newly expanded program are not immediate. Key to its success is an overhaul of the VA's electronic medical records to allow seamless sharing of medical records not only with the Pentagon but also private physicians, a process expected to take up to 10 years. The VA also has yet to resolve long-term financing for the program due to congressional budget caps that could put funding for VA or other domestic programs at risk of shortfalls next year.

At a Senate hearing last month, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie made clear that full implementation of the expanded Choice program was "years" away.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

TRUMP: "The new platform of the Democrat Party is to abolish ICE — the brave, brave people of ICE. In other words, they want to abolish immigration enforcement entirely." — Mississippi rally Tuesday.

THE FACTS: While some Democrats in the House and Senate have raised the prospect of eliminating Immigration and Customs Enforcement, no top Democrats in the House or Senate have called for such a move. Those Democrats who have expressed openness to eliminating ICE have said they would not abandon border enforcement, which is largely carried out by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

U.S.-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE

TRUMP: "The agreement will govern nearly \$1.2 trillion in trade, which makes it the biggest trade deal in the United States' history." — remarks Monday.

THE FACTS: That's wrong, simply by virtue of the number of trade partners involved.

The proposed new agreement, replacing the North American Free Trade agreement, covers the same three countries. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, negotiated by the Obama administration, included the three

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NAFTA partners — United States, Canada and Mexico — plus Japan and eight other Pacific Rim countries. Trump withdrew the United States from the pact on his third day in office.

Even the Pacific deal pales in comparison with one that did go into effect with the U.S. on board, the Uruguay Round. Concluded in 1994, the round of negotiations created the World Trade Organization and was signed by 123 countries. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston found the following year that the WTO's initial membership accounted for more than 90 percent of global economic output.

TRUMP: "This deal will also impose new standards requiring at least 75 percent of every automobile to be made in North America in order to qualify for the privilege of free access to our markets." — remarks Monday.

THE FACTS: That's true. But as with any such requirement, it could make autos more expensive by discouraging the use of cheaper components from overseas. The same could be true of another provision, requiring at least 40 percent of a car's content to be built where workers earn \$16 an hour. The new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement indeed contains greater worker protections, a trade-off that could mean higher costs.

The pact, if approved by Congress, will raise the percentage of a car's content that must be built within the trade bloc to 75 percent from 62.5 percent if it is to qualify for duty-free status.

Similarly, the deal would give pharmaceutical companies that make biologics —ultra-expensive drugs produced in living cells — 10 years of protection from generic competition, two more years than the Obama administration had negotiated under the Pacific deal. That also comes with the possible trade-off of higher costs for users of the drugs.

TRUMP, on overcoming the major hitch with Canada: "Dairy was a deal-breaker. And now for our farmers it's, as you know, substantially opened up much more. And I know they can't open it completely. They have farmers also. You know, they can't be overrun. And I fully — and I tell them that. I say, 'Look, I understand you have limits.' But they could do much better." — remarks Monday.

THE FACTS: That's a fair reading of one of the agreement's most significant changes — though dairy only accounts for about 0.1 percent of U.S.-Canada trade. Canada's tariffs on dairy imports can approach 300 percent. U.S. dairy farmers have also complained about Canadian policies that priced the U.S. out of the market for some dairy powders and allowed Canada to flood world markets with its own versions.

The new agreement would end the discriminatory pricing and restrict Canadian exports of dairy powders. Still, it's in some respects an incremental advance from the Pacific deal that Trump walked away from. It would expand U.S. access to up to 3.75 percent of the Canadian dairy market, versus 3.25 percent in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Above that level, U.S. dairy farmers will still face Canada's punishing tariffs.

TRUMP: "As one primary aspect, it will transform North America back into a manufacturing powerhouse." — remarks Monday.

THE FACTS: North America already is a manufacturing powerhouse. The United States ranks No. 2 in the world behind China in manufacturing output. Mexico ranks 11th and Canada 13th, according to U.N. numbers pulled together by the Brookings Institution.

TRUMP: "I think my biggest concession was making the deal, because we could have done it a different way. But it would have been nasty, and it wouldn't have been nice, and I don't want to have that." — remarks Monday.

THE FACTS: Other concessions were made, as is typically the case in trade agreements.

For one, the "supply management" system Canada uses to protect its farmers would remain largely intact. For another, 2.6 million passenger vehicles from Canada and Mexico each would be exempt from tariffs of up to 25 percent that he has been threatening to impose on imported cars, trucks and auto parts. And Canada prevailed in insisting that a NAFTA dispute-resolution process be retained. The U.S. wanted to get rid of it.

Associated Press writers Linda Johnson in Trenton, New Jersey, and Paul Wiseman in Washington contributed to this report.

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GOP poised to elevate Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Brett Kavanaugh seems assured of surviving a Supreme Court nomination fight for the ages after two wavering senators said they'd back him despite weeks of shocking accusations, hardball politics and rowdy Capitol protests.

Announcements by Republican Susan Collins of Maine and Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia that they'll support the conservative jurist made Saturday's confirmation vote a formality, an anticlimactic finale to a battle that riveted the nation for nearly a month.

While Democrats' defeat was all but certain, the Senate remained in session overnight, though the chamber was mostly empty. The roll call seemed destined to be nearly party-line, with just a single defector from each side capping a contest fought against the backdrop of the #MeToo movement and President Donald Trump's unyielding support of his nominee.

Kavanaugh's opponents raised concerns that he'd push the court further right, including possible sympathetic rulings for Trump. But for the past few weeks, the battle was dominated by allegations that he sexually abused women decades ago — accusations he emphatically denied.

"Millions of Americans, millions of women are watching us today," said New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, one of the Democrats who take to the Senate floor early Saturday to rail against Kavanaugh. "They're waiting to see whether or not, when a woman comes forward and says that she is a survivor of sexual assault, does this chamber, do the individuals here take her seriously?"

A day earlier, Collins had told fellow senators that Christine Blasey Ford's dramatic testimony last month describing Kavanaugh's alleged 1982 assault was "sincere, painful and compelling." But Collins said the FBI had found no corroborating evidence from witnesses whose names Ford had provided.

"We will be ill-served in the long run if we abandon the presumption of innocence and fairness, tempting though it may be," she said. "We must always remember that it is when passions are most inflamed that fairness is most in jeopardy."

Those passions were on full display in a fight that could energize both parties' voters in elections for control of Congress just five weeks away.

The showdown drew raucous demonstrators, largely anti-Kavanaugh, to the Capitol, where they raised tensions by confronting lawmakers despite an intensified police presence. Another 101 protesters were arrested Friday, the U.S. Capitol Police said.

Collins, perhaps the chamber's most moderate Republican, proclaimed her support for Kavanaugh at the end of a floor speech that lasted nearly 45 minutes. While she was among a handful of Republicans who helped sink Trump's quest to obliterate President Barack Obama's health care law last year, this time she proved instrumental in delivering a triumph to Trump.

Manchin, the only remaining undeclared lawmaker, used an emailed statement to announce his support for Kavanaugh moments after Collins finished talking. Manchin, the only Democrat supporting the nominee, faces a competitive re-election race next month in a state Trump carried in 2016 by 42 percentage points.

"My heart goes out to anyone who has experienced any type of sexual assault in their life," Manchin said. But he added that based on the FBI report, "I have found Judge Kavanaugh to be a qualified jurist who will follow the Constitution and determine cases based on the legal findings before him."

Protesters chanted "Shame" at Manchin later when he talked to reporters outside his office.

Republicans control the Senate by a meager 51-49 margin. Support from Collins and Manchin would give

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Kavanaugh at least 51 votes, assuming no one else changes their stance.

Three female GOP senators — Iowa's Jodi Ernst, West Virginia's Shelley Moore Capito and Mississippi's Cindy Hyde-Smith — sat directly behind Collins as she spoke. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., sat directly in front of Collins and pivoted his seat around to face her. A few Democrats sat stone-faced nearby.

When she finished, Collins received applause from the roughly two dozen GOP senators present.

Republican Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a fellow moderate and a friend of Collins, became the only Republican to say she opposed Kavanaugh. She said on the Senate floor Friday evening that Kavanaugh is "a good man" but his "appearance of impropriety has become unavoidable."

She added that with Supreme Court appointments lasting a lifetime, "Those who seek these seats must meet the highest standards in all respects, at all times. And that is hard."

In a twist, Murkowski said she will state her opposition but vote "present" as a courtesy to Kavanaugh supporter Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., who is attending his daughter's wedding in Montana. Murkowski said she'd use an obscure procedure that lets one senator offset the absence of another without affecting the outcome. That would let Kavanaugh win by the same two-vote margin he'd have received had both senators voted.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who has repeatedly battled Trump and will retire in January, said he'd vote for Kavanaugh's confirmation "unless something big changes."

Vice President Mike Pence planned to be available Saturday in case his tie-breaking vote was needed, which now seems unlikely.

In a procedural vote Friday that handed Republicans an initial victory, senators voted 51-49 to limit debate, defeating Democratic efforts to scuttle the nomination with endless delays.

That vote occurred amid smoldering resentment by partisans on both sides, on and off the Senate floor. "What left wing groups and their Democratic allies have done to Judge Kavanaugh is nothing short of monstrous," the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Iowa's Chuck Grassley, said before the vote.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York called the fight "a sorry epilogue to the brazen theft of Justice Scalia's seat." That reflected Democrats' lasting umbrage over Republicans' 2016 refusal to even consider Merrick Garland, Obama's nominee to replace the late Antonin Scalia.

When Trump nominated Kavanaugh in July, Democrats leapt to oppose him, saying that past statements and opinions showed he'd be a threat to the Roe v. Wade case that assured the right to abortion. They said he also seemed ready to rule for Trump if federal authorities probing his 2016 campaign's connections to Russia try to pursue him in court.

Yet Kavanaugh's pathway to confirmation seemed unfettered until Ford accused him of drunkenly sexually assaulting her in a locked bedroom at a 1982 high school gathering. Two other women later emerged with sexual misconduct allegations from the 1980s.

Democrats also challenged Kavanaugh's honesty, temperament and ability to be nonpartisan after he fumed at last week's Judiciary hearing that Democrats had launched a "search and destroy mission" against him fueled by their hatred of Trump.

Kavanaugh would replace the retired Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was a swing vote on issues including abortion, campaign finance and same-sex marriage.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Matthew Daly, Padmananda Rama, Ken Thomas and Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.

Indonesia considers making devastated areas mass graves

By **STEPHEN WRIGHT** and **TASSANEE VEJPONGSA**, Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — Search teams pulled bodies from obliterated neighborhoods in the disaster-stricken Indonesian city of Palu on Saturday as more aid rolled in and the government said it was considering making devastated areas into mass graves.

Indonesia's disaster agency said the death toll from the powerful earthquake and tsunami climbed to

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1,649, with at least 265 people still missing, though it said that number could be higher. More nations sent aid and humanitarian workers fanned out in the countryside.

The dead were still being recovered more than a week after the double disaster. Eight victims in black body bags of the national search and rescue agency were arranged in a row in the crumpled Palu neighborhood of Balaroa, destined for a mass grave.

Relatives cried as people placed long pieces of white cloth, to represent a Muslim burial rite, inside the bags.

Among them was 39-year-old Rudy Rahman, who said the bodies of his 18- and 16-year-old sons had been found. His youngest son remained missing. He watched as rescue workers unloaded the bags from a truck. His wife wept inconsolably.

"They were found in front of my brother's house opposite the mosque," Rahman said. "They found them holding each other. These two brothers were hugging each other."

Balaroa was one of the areas hardest hit by the Sept. 28 magnitude 7.5 quake, which threw homes in the neighborhood tens of meters and left cars upright or perched on eruptions of concrete and asphalt. Many children were in the area's mosque at the time of the quake for Quran recitation. An assistant to the Imam had said none survived.

Indonesia's top security minister, Wiranto, who uses a single name, said the government is mulling the possibility of turning Balaroa and Petobo, another neighborhood in Palu, into mass graves. Petobo disappeared into the earth as the force of the quake liquified its soft soil. Liquefaction also struck a large section of Balaroa.

Wiranto said efforts to retrieve bodies are problematic in those neighborhoods, where homes were sucked into the earth, burying possibly hundreds of victims.

He said it's not safe for heavy equipment to operate there.

Wiranto also said on local television that the government is discussing with local and religious authorities and victims' families the possibility of halting the search and turning the areas into mass graves. The victims can be considered "martyrs," he said.

A Japanese Self Defense Force plane landed at Palu's airport Saturday morning. Soldiers unloaded tons of supplies, including medicine and small portable generators, in boxes emblazoned with the Japanese flag and the words "From the People of Japan." Several other nations have also sent planeloads of aid. Video showed the military dropping supplies from helicopters in places and a large Red Cross ship docked at a port in the region.

In the dusty one-road village of Pewunu, excited children shouted "Red Cross! Red Cross!" as one of the aid group's medical teams arrived and set up a makeshift clinic in a field where evacuees were sleeping under tarps. One villager said they survived by ransacking shops.

Volunteers laid out a big white tarp on a stage in front of the village office, plonked a green desk on it and interviewed people about their needs as dozens milled around.

Doctors performed medical checks on elderly residents who emerged from tents and climbed the stage's stairs with canes or others supporting them.

People living in the camp said two residents died in collapsing houses in the village. They said they had clean water and noodles but not much else.

"There were supplies, but these were looted. All along the roads toward here, they were looted by outsiders," said Bahamid Fawzi.

"All this while in this crisis, we don't have water, we don't have food," he said. "After that, we started ransacking the stores and the shops. Not because we're thieves, but because we really needed it. There's no water, no food — like it or not, we had to do it."

The earthquake and tsunami swept away buildings along miles (kilometers) of coastline and knocked out power and communications for several days.

In a rare move, Indonesia's government has appealed for international help to cope with the tragedy unfolding on Sulawesi island.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says \$50.5 million is required to deliver "immediate, life-saving" aid.

Associated Press journalists Eileen Ng in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Andi Jatmiko in Palu contributed to this report.

Chicago verdict comes 4 years after Laquan McDonald's death

By **DON BABWIN** and **MICHAEL TARM**, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Four years after he fired 16 bullets into a black teenager, three years after dashcam video of the shooting was released and three weeks after his murder trial began, Jason Van Dyke's transformation from Chicago patrol officer to convicted felon came suddenly.

A clerk announced the jury's decision. The judge revoked his bond. And Van Dyke, the first city officer in about a half century to be convicted of murder in an on-duty shooting, put his hands behind his back as if handcuffed and strode across a courtroom into custody.

The scene was a quiet coda to the tension that erupted after the video was made public in November 2015. The shocking footage showed Laquan McDonald crumpling to the ground as the officer fired repeatedly at the teen, who was walking away from police. The video drew nationwide outrage and put the nation's third-largest city at the center of the debate about police misconduct and the use of force.

The magnitude of the conviction for second-degree murder was inescapable as Van Dyke walked out of sight of his family and McDonald's relatives.

"This verdict provides validation and a sense of justice for many residents of Chicago and Cook County and beyond this area ... the African-American communities across our country," special prosecutor Joseph McMahon said after the verdict was read.

The choice of second-degree murder reflected the jury's finding that Van Dyke believed his life was in danger but that the belief was unreasonable. The jury also had the option of first degree-murder, which required finding that the shooting was unnecessary and unreasonable. A first-degree conviction, with enhancements for the use of a gun, would have carried a mandatory minimum of 45 years.

Second-degree murder usually carries a sentence of less than 20 years, especially for someone with no criminal history. Probation is also an option. Van Dyke was also convicted of 16 counts of aggravated battery — one for each bullet.

One legal expert predicted that Van Dyke will be sentenced to no more than six years total. But because he's an officer, it will be "hard time," possibly spent in isolation, said Steve Greenberg, who has defended clients at more than 100 murder trials.

McDonald, 17, was carrying a knife when Van Dyke fired at him on a dimly lit street where he was surrounded by other officers.

Defense attorney Dan Herbert called Van Dyke "a sacrificial lamb" offered by political and community leaders "to save themselves." He said it was a "sad day for law enforcement" because the verdict tells officers they cannot do their jobs.

A McDonald family spokesman thanked prosecutors for pursuing a case that, he said, many black attorneys did not believe could be won.

"I can't rejoice because this man is going to jail," said McDonald's uncle, the Rev. Marvin Hunter. "I saw his wife and father. His wife and daughter didn't pull the trigger. I could see the pain in these people. It bothered me that they couldn't see the pain in us."

The 12-person jury included just one African-American member, although blacks make up one-third of Chicago's population. The jury also had seven whites, three Hispanics and one Asian-American.

Jurors said they spent much of their deliberations discussing whether to convict on first-degree or second-degree murder, not an acquittal. They said Van Dyke's testimony did not help him. One woman said he "messed up" and should not have testified. Another said Van Dyke needed to "contain the situation, not escalate it."

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The jurors' names were not made public during the trial and were not disclosed Friday during interviews with reporters at the courthouse.

On the night of the shooting, officers were waiting for someone with a stun gun to use on the teenager when Van Dyke arrived, according to testimony and video. The video, played repeatedly at trial, showed him firing even after the teen lay motionless on the pavement.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys clashed over what the footage actually proved.

During closing arguments, prosecutor Jody Gleason noted that Van Dyke told detectives that McDonald raised the knife and that McDonald tried to get up off the ground after being shot.

"None of that happened," she said. "You've seen it on video. He made it up."

But Van Dyke and his attorneys maintained that the video did not tell the whole story.

His attorneys portrayed the officer as being scared by the young man who he knew had already punctured a tire of a squad car with the knife. Van Dyke testified that the teen was advancing on him and ignoring his shouted orders to drop the knife.

Van Dyke conceded that he stepped toward McDonald and not away from the teen, as he had initially claimed. But the officer maintained the rest of his account.

"The video doesn't show my perspective," he said.

In his 13 years on the force, Van Dyke was the subject of at least 20 citizen complaints — eight of which alleged excessive force, according to a database that includes reports from 2002 to 2008 and 2011 until 2015.

Though he was never disciplined, a jury did award \$350,000 to a man who filed an excessive-force lawsuit against him. Van Dyke testified that McDonald was the first person he ever shot.

To boost their contention that McDonald was dangerous, defense attorneys built a case against the teenager, who had been a ward of the state for most of his life and wound up in juvenile detention after an arrest for marijuana possession. They also pointed to an autopsy that showed he had the hallucinogen PCP in his system.

Prosecutors stressed that Van Dyke was the only officer ever to fire a shot at McDonald.

They called multiple officers who were there that night as they sought to chip away at the "blue wall of silence" long associated with the city's police force and other law enforcement agencies. Three officers, including Van Dyke's partner that night, have been charged with conspiring to cover up and lie about what happened to protect Van Dyke. They have all pleaded not guilty.

Even before the trial, the case affected law enforcement in Chicago. The city's police superintendent and the county's top prosecutor both lost their jobs — one fired by the mayor and the other ousted by voters. It also led to a Justice Department investigation that found a "pervasive cover-up culture" and prompted plans for far-reaching police reforms.

A week before jury selection, Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced he would not seek a third term, although his office insisted the case had nothing to do with his decision. He faced criticism that he fought the release of the video until after his re-election in April 2015.

Ahead of the verdict, the city prepared for the possibility of the kind of massive protests that followed the release of the video, with an extra 4,000 officers being put on the streets.

Schools and businesses braced for potential unrest, and people across the city paused in the middle of the day to listen for the jury's decision. In the end, the response was muted, with a few hundred protesters marching peacefully through the downtown Loop.

The issue of race permeated the case, though it was rarely raised at trial. One of the only instances was during opening statements, when McMahan told the jurors that Van Dyke didn't know anything about McDonald's past when he encountered him that night.

What Van Dyke saw "was a black boy walking down the street ... having the audacity to ignore the police," McMahan said.

Herbert countered, "Race had absolutely nothing to do with this."

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

Two Republican senators, two divergent paths on Kavanaugh

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **KEN THOMAS**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski turned against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh quietly, uttering a single word: “No.”

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, her longtime friend and fellow moderate Republican, spoke on the Senate floor for 45 minutes, explaining her support for Kavanaugh in detail.

Though they reached opposite conclusions, both women had faced similar political pressure heading into Friday’s key vote on Kavanaugh’s high court nomination. As moderates who support abortion rights, their joint opposition could have been enough to sink Kavanaugh, whose nomination was thrust into uncertainty following sexual assault allegations.

Ultimately, it was Collins who put Kavanaugh on the brink of a lifetime appointment. Minutes after she finished speaking, West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin said he, too, would back Kavanaugh, ensuring at least 51 “yes” votes in the Senate.

All three senators — along with Arizona Republican Jeff Flake — had been publicly undecided for weeks as they faced unrelenting pressure from both sides.

In the end, Collins and Murkowski diverged.

In a Senate speech that was disrupted by protesters before it began and met with applause from GOP senators when it ended, Collins declared, “I will vote to confirm Judge Kavanaugh.”

The final Senate vote is expected Saturday afternoon.

Collins told a rapt Senate that she does not believe that sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh rise to a level to “fairly prevent” him from serving on the high court. Kavanaugh deserves a presumption of innocence, Collins said, and allegations by Christine Blasey Ford and other women did not reach a threshold of certainty.

Murkowski chose the opposite path.

“I believe that Brett Kavanaugh is a good man. It just may be that in my view he’s not the right man for the court at this time,” Murkowski told reporters after voting to oppose Kavanaugh in a procedural vote Friday morning.

While she respects her colleagues’ support for Kavanaugh, Murkowski said, “I also that think we’re at a place where we need to think about the credibility and integrity of our institutions.”

Within minutes of their announcements, potential political challengers to both Collins and Murkowski emerged.

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin insinuated she could run against Murkowski in a Republican primary, tweeting, “Hey @lisamurkowski — I can see 2022 from my house.” The tweet was a reference to an infamous “Saturday Night Live” skit in which Tina Fey, portraying Palin, said she could see Russia from her house.

Susan Rice, the former national security adviser to President Barack Obama, volunteered herself on Twitter as a Democratic opponent to Collins in Maine. In a second tweet, she cautioned that she was “not making any announcements” but was “deeply disappointed” in Collins’ vote.

In the Capitol, however, both senators won praise from their colleagues.

“I think what Susan did today was rise to the occasion when the stakes were so high,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., one of Kavanaugh’s most ardent supporters.

Flake said he thinks “the world” of Murkowski and said she made her own decision despite intense pressure to vote yes. “I admire her a lot,” he said.

Murkowski said later that although she opposes Kavanaugh she will ask to be recorded as “present” during Saturday’s confirmation vote to accommodate Republican Sen. Steve Daines, who will be at his daughter’s wedding in Montana. Senators often partner like that to allow an absence without affecting the outcome.

Murkowski said her decision was “agonizing” and she was “truly leaning” toward confirming Kavanaugh. But after watching his testimony, she said, she could not in her conscience conclude “that he is the right person” for the court at this time.

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Murkowski's vote was the latest example of the independent streak she forged since overcoming a Republican primary challenge in 2010 to win re-election as a rare write-in candidate. She was re-elected in 2016.

Murkowski has expressed unease with the sexual assault allegations lodged against Kavanaugh, which he denies. She has faced pressure from home state Alaskans, including Native Alaskan women, who have described the scourge of sexual assault.

Collins took pains to say she believes Ford suffered a sexual assault that "has upended her life," but said she was not convinced Kavanaugh was the culprit. None of the people at the high school gathering where Ford said the assault took place have corroborated her account, Collins said.

"Believe me I struggled with it for a long time," Collins said after her speech. "I found Christine Ford's testimony to be very heart-wrenching, painful and compelling. But there was a lack of corroborating evidence."

Even so, Collins said she hopes the ugly fight over Kavanaugh's confirmation will raise awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual assault. She supports the #MeToo movement, Collins said, calling it badly needed and long overdue.

Collins has never opposed a Supreme Court nominee, voting to confirm the past five justices from Republican and Democratic presidents.

Besides interviewing and talking to people who know Kavanaugh, Collins said she assembled a team of 19 attorneys to assist her in examining his judicial record. She called the appeals court judge eminently qualified, adding that his judicial philosophy is well within the mainstream.

In keeping with her deliberative style, Collins had kept mum for weeks about how she would vote.

Still, she sent signals that Kavanaugh had cleared a hurdle by reassuring her that he believed the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision on abortion rights is settled law. Democrats argue that Trump picked Kavanaugh, in part, because he is likely to vote to overturn that ruling.

Collins and Murkowski are the only GOP senators who support abortion rights, a crucial issue in the Kavanaugh debate. If confirmed, Kavanaugh could tip the court's balance toward conservatives for a generation.

Murkowski also rendered her decision Friday in dramatic fashion. As the clerk read names in alphabetical order on a procedural vote to move the nomination forward, all eyes were on Murkowski.

When it was her turn, Murkowski stood up, paused, and whispered "no," her voice barely audible. Then she took her seat, looking down with a stone-faced expression.

Collins, who sits next to Murkowski, leaned over and put her hand on the arm of Murkowski's chair. The two huddled in deep conversation.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Juliet Linderman contributed to this story.

Sale strong, 'pen shaky as Red Sox beat Yankees 5-4 in ALDS

By JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Chris Sale left the mound to a standing ovation and then waited along with anxious Red Sox fans while the Boston bullpen frittered away most of a five-run lead.

Bases loaded in the sixth inning. Two runs.

Bases loaded, nobody out in the seventh. The Yankees scored another.

A leadoff home run by Aaron Judge in the ninth made it a one-run game.

It was only after Craig Kimbrel struck out the last three New York batters that Sale could savor the first postseason win of his career, a 5-4 victory over Boston's longtime rivals Friday night in Game 1 of the AL Division Series.

"There's no holding back now. It's everything on the table, everything you've got," Sale said after striking out eight and taking a four-hit shutout into the sixth. "I threw every pitch tonight like he was going to take the ball out of my hand after. You have to go up there and do what you have to do to get a win."

Game 2 in the best-of-five series is Saturday night, with Boston starting another pitcher trying to overcome a history of postseason struggles: left-hander David Price is 0-8 as a starter in the playoffs. He'll

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face Yankees righty Masahiro Tanaka.

"It's a five-game series, and getting them to use the bullpen is a good thing," Judge said. "We were able to scratch a couple of runs off them. We've got to build off that coming into tomorrow."

In the first playoff matchup between the teams since 2004, J.D. Martinez hit a three-run homer off J.A. Happ in the first. The 108-win Red Sox made it 5-0 in the third and then white-knuckled it as New York slowly chipped away after Sale left with two on and one out in the sixth.

New York, which won 100 regular-season games plus the AL wild-card game against Oakland, got three singles and two walks in the sixth, scoring two before Brandon Workman — the only player on the Red Sox roster with a World Series ring — struck out Gleyber Torres to end the threat.

The Yankees loaded the bases with nobody out in the seventh but scored just one run. Boston manager Alex Cora used scheduled Game 3 starter Rick Porcello to get two outs in the eighth before turning to Kimbrel for a four-out save.

"We almost caught them," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "I thought we did a really good job of pecking away, a good job of giving ourselves opportunities, and just ran out of time there."

It was the first ALDS matchup between the clubs and the first in the postseason since the Red Sox staged an unprecedented rally from a 3-0 deficit in the 2004 AL Championship Series to advance and then won the World Series to end their 86-year dynasty of disappointment. (They also met in the ALCS the year before, and it ended with Boone's 11th-inning homer in Game 7, better known in Boston as the game when manager Grady Little inexplicably left a tiring Pedro Martinez on the mound.)

Boston fans were ready, with derisive chants for the Yankees during introductions and again after J.D. Martinez smacked a 2-0 fastball into the glove of a stem cell researcher in the front row of the seats above the Green Monster.

"Everything you did before in the season doesn't matter anymore. This is the playoffs," said Martinez, who signed with Boston as a free agent in the offseason. "You know what the situation is. You're playing the Yankees. This is the playoffs. You have to go. And now is the time to get it going."

Sale left with a 5-0 lead after giving up singles to Judge and Stanton in the sixth; both came around to score. In all, Sale was charged with two runs on five hits and two walks in 5 1/3 innings — the longest playoff outing for a Red Sox starter since 2013.

Martinez and Benintendi each had two hits for Boston. Judge had three hits, including the only extra-base hit, and Luke Voit had two singles for New York, which went 1 for 7 with runners in scoring position.

Happ lasted just two innings for his shortest postseason start, allowing five runs on four hits and a walk while striking out two.

POWER OUTAGE

The Yankees had 10 hits, but the first nine were singles. Stanton, who hit 38 homers in the regular season, had four of the Yankees' 13 strikeouts.

"Sometimes you know that goes with Giancarlo sometimes," Boone said. "If you make pitches against him, his outs are a lot of times strikeouts. ... You have to live with that sometimes."

NO RELIEF

Ryan Brasier faced three batters and two of them reached. Workman got a big out but also allowed two hits and a walk. Matt Barnes walked one but allowed an inherited runner to score. Even the usually reliable Kimbrel coughed up a run.

Just like that, the 5-0 lead was down to one run.

It was exactly the kind of performance that had Boston fans in a panic entering the series. But Workman insisted the team is still confident in its bullpen.

"I believe we're the guys that are going to get the job done," he said.

HAMMY TIME

Aaron Hicks singled off Sale to start the fourth — ending an 11-pitch at-bat — but once he got to first base he began flexing his right leg. After a visit from the trainer, Hicks was replaced by pinch-runner Brett Gardner.

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Hicks, who battled hamstring problems down the stretch, was also late going out to center field in the bottom of the first. The team said he had tightness in his right hamstring and was being evaluated.

"He'll get examined further tomorrow, and have an MRI and everything," Boone said. "He felt like it might have been cramping, so we'll just have to see."

UP NEXT

Price pitches for the Red Sox in search of his first playoff win as a starter, though he has two postseason wins in relief. Tanaka pitched seven shutout innings in Game 5 of the ALCS against Houston last year.

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

Kavanaugh confirmation all but sure after long, bitter fight

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After weeks of shocking accusations, hardball politics and rowdy Capitol protests, a pair of wavering senators declared Friday they will back Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court confirmation, all but guaranteeing the deeply riven Senate will elevate the conservative jurist to the nation's highest court on Saturday.

The announcements by Republican Susan Collins of Maine and Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia ended most of the suspense over a political battle that has transfixed the nation — though die-hard Democrats insisted on arguing through the night to a mostly empty Senate chamber.

Some of them continued raising concerns that Kavanaugh would push the court further to the right, including with possible sympathetic rulings for President Donald Trump, the man who nominated him. But the case against Kavanaugh had long since been taken over by allegations that he sexually abused women decades ago — accusations he emphatically denied.

In the pivotal moment Friday, Collins, perhaps the chamber's most moderate Republican, proclaimed her support for Kavanaugh at the end of a Senate floor speech that lasted nearly 45 minutes. While she was among a handful of Republicans who helped sink Trump's quest to obliterate President Barack Obama's health care law last year, this time she proved instrumental in delivering a triumph to Trump.

Collins told fellow senators that Christine Blasey Ford's dramatic testimony last week describing Kavanaugh's alleged 1982 assault was "sincere, painful and compelling." But she said the FBI had found no corroborating evidence from witnesses whose names Ford had provided.

"We will be ill-served in the long run if we abandon the presumption of innocence and fairness, tempting though it may be," she said. "We must always remember that it is when passions are most inflamed that fairness is most in jeopardy."

Those passions were on full display this week in a fight that could energize both parties' voters in elections for control of Congress just five weeks away. The showdown drew raucous demonstrators — largely anti-Kavanaugh — to the Capitol, where they raised tensions by repeatedly confronting lawmakers despite an intensified police presence. Another 101 protesters were arrested Friday, the U.S. Capitol Police said.

It's all expected to conclude Saturday afternoon with a final roll call almost solidly along party lines. That would mark an anti-climactic finale to a clash fought against the backdrop of the #MeToo movement and Trump's unyielding support of the nominee, opposing forces that left Kavanaugh's fate in doubt for weeks.

Manchin, the only remaining undeclared lawmaker, used an emailed statement to announce his support for Kavanaugh moments after Collins finished talking, making him the only Democrat supporting the nominee. Manchin faces a competitive re-election race next month in a state Trump carried in 2016 by 42 percentage points.

"My heart goes out to anyone who has experienced any type of sexual assault in their life," Manchin said. But he added that based on the FBI report, "I have found Judge Kavanaugh to be a qualified jurist who will follow the Constitution and determine cases based on the legal findings before him."

Protesters chanted "Shame" at Manchin later when he talked to reporters outside his office.

Republicans control the Senate by a meager 51-49 margin. Support from Collins and Manchin would give

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Kavanaugh at least 51 votes.

Three female GOP senators — Jodi Ernst of Iowa, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia and Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, sat directly behind Collins as she spoke. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky sat directly in front of Collins and pivoted his seat around to face her. A few Democrats sat stone-faced nearby.

When she finished, Collins received applause from the roughly two dozen GOP senators present.

Republican Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a fellow moderate and friend of Collins, became the only Republican to say she opposed Kavanaugh. She said on the Senate floor Friday evening that Kavanaugh is “a good man” but his “appearance of impropriety has become unavoidable.”

She added that with Supreme Court appointments lasting a lifetime, “Those who seek these seats must meet the highest standards in all respects, at all times. And that is hard.”

In a twist, Murkowski said she will state her opposition but vote “present” as a courtesy to Kavanaugh supporter Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., who is attending his daughter’s wedding in Montana. Murkowski said she’d use an obscure procedure that lets one senator offset the absence of another without affecting the outcome. That would let Kavanaugh win by the same two-vote margin he’d have received had both senators voted.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who has repeatedly battled Trump and will retire in January, said he’d vote for Kavanaugh’s confirmation “unless something big changes.”

Vice President Mike Pence planned to be available Saturday in case his tie-breaking vote was needed, which now seems unlikely.

In a procedural vote that handed Republicans an initial victory, senators voted 51-49 Friday to limit debate and keep the nomination alive, defeating Democratic efforts to scuttle it with endless delays.

The debate sparked smoldering resentment by partisans on both sides, on and off the Senate floor.

“What left wing groups and their Democratic allies have done to Judge Kavanaugh is nothing short of monstrous,” Republican Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa declared before the vote. He accused Democrats of emboldening protesters: “They have encouraged mob rule.”

On the other side, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York called the fight “a sorry epilogue to the brazen theft of Justice Scalia’s seat.” That reflected Democrats’ lasting umbrage over Republicans’ 2016 refusal to even consider Merrick Garland, President Obama’s nominee to replace the late Antonin Scalia.

When Trump nominated Kavanaugh in July, Democrats leapt to oppose him, saying that past statements and opinions showed he’d be a threat to the Roe v. Wade case that assured the right to abortion. They said he also seemed ready to rule for Trump if federal authorities probing his 2016 campaign’s alleged connections to Russia try to pursue him in court.

Yet Kavanaugh’s pathway to confirmation seemed unfettered until Ford accused him of drunkenly sexually assaulting her in a locked bedroom at a 1982 high school gathering. Two other women later emerged with sexual misconduct allegations from the 1980s.

Kavanaugh foes cast him as a product of a hard-drinking, male-dominated, private school culture in Washington’s upscale Maryland suburb of Bethesda. He and his defenders asserted that his high school and college focus was on academics, sports and church.

Democrats also challenged Kavanaugh’s honesty, temperament and ability to be nonpartisan after he fumed at last week’s Judiciary hearing that Democrats had launched a “search and destroy mission” against him fueled by their hatred of Trump.

Kavanaugh would replace the retired Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was a swing vote on issues including abortion, campaign finance and same-sex marriage.

AP reporters Mary Clare Jalonick, Matthew Daly, Padmananda Rama, Ken Thomas and Catherine Lucey contributed.

US unemployment falls to 3.7 percent _ lowest since 1969

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. unemployment rate fell in September to 3.7 percent, the lowest since 1969, when young men were being drafted to fight in Vietnam and the American auto industry and the space program were going full blast.

The Labor Department reported Friday that the rate edged down from 3.9 percent the month before as employers added 134,000 jobs — a figure that was probably depressed by the effects of Hurricane Florence in the South. Still, it extended an extraordinary 8½-year streak of monthly job growth, the longest on record.

That run has added nearly 20 million people to the nation's payrolls since the Great Recession, which cost nearly 9 million their jobs.

The ultra-low jobless rate — the best in nearly 49 years — reflects a healthy economy driven by strong consumer and business spending. In fact, hiring is so strong that employers are having trouble filling openings and some are being forced to offer higher pay.

Despite the similar unemployment rates, today's economy is vastly different from that of 1969. Back then, one-third of Americans worked in manufacturing; now it is barely 9 percent. Strong economic growth back then was propelled by huge government spending on the Vietnam War and newly created Great Society social programs. And women were much less likely to work.

In reporting September's employment figures, the government revised sharply upward its estimate of hiring for July and August. So far this year, monthly job growth has averaged 208,000, compared with 182,000 last year.

"The acceleration in job gains this year is extraordinary in an environment where firms are having great difficulty finding qualified candidates," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities.

Most analysts blamed the slower pace of hiring last month on Florence, which struck North and South Carolina and closed thousands of businesses.

The category that includes restaurants, hotels and casinos lost jobs for the first time since September 2017, when Hurricane Harvey hit the Houston area, and retailers last month shed 20,000 jobs. Many of those jobs are likely to bounce back in the coming months.

Pay gains remain modest but are showing signs of accelerating. Average hourly pay in September rose 2.8 percent from a year earlier.

With unemployment so low, companies are facing intense pressure to raise pay to land workers. Amazon this week raised its minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Paul Millman, chief executive of Chroma Technology, has struggled to find enough machine operators and engineers for his 135-person company, based in Bellows Falls, Vermont. It makes filters for handheld medical equipment, food safety test systems, and virtual reality headsets.

The company is doubling the size of one of its plants and increasingly automating its assembly process because it is so hard-pressed to find employees. It has also started calling back people who previously applied for jobs but weren't hired. That has resulted in two new hires.

Financial markets were down sharply in afternoon trading, with the Dow Jones average falling 202 points in afternoon trading. Investors have grown concerned about higher interest rates and the effect they might have on the economy and the stock market.

Friday's jobs report will probably keep the Federal Reserve on track to raise short-term interest rates, economists said, with another increase expected in December.

The economy does show some weak spots. Sales of existing homes have fallen over the past year, held back in part by higher mortgage rates. Auto sales have also slumped.

Manufacturers, which are more dependent on foreign markets than other industries, added 18,000 jobs last month, a sign that President Donald Trump's trade fight with China and other countries is having little effect on hiring.

Still, should the tariffs remain fully in effect a year from now, roughly 300,000 jobs could be lost by then,

according to Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

At mass grave above Indonesian city, many questions linger

By **STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — From the mountain range, the bay was a sparkling blue and the small city huddled around it a mosaic of bright buildings and mosque minarets.

Suddenly a blaring siren and clouds of dust shattered the tranquility. An ambulance bumped along a dirt road, racing to the top.

An idle excavator whirred into life. People, some wearing surgical masks, others with scarfs across their faces, walked toward a wide mass grave dug into the flat top of the range.

"How many?" shouted a man, running to the ambulance as it drove by. "Two," a voice replied.

The ambulance backed toward the shallow end of the trench. Two men jumped out. With tight, serious expressions on their faces they opened the back and struggled with the two body bags inside.

They pulled out a black body bag emblazoned in red with the acronym of the search and rescue agency and stumbled across the uneven floor of the grave, carrying it to its resting place.

Then they brought the second. The excavator scooped up a load of dirt, swung toward the trench, and its articulated arm and bucket, moving almost elegantly, dropped the earth over the bags.

The bodies were found at Talise, a popular beach in the Indonesian city of Palu that was struck by a magnitude 7.5 earthquake and powerful tsunami on Sept. 28. Officials say more than 1,500 people were killed. Miles (kilometers) of coastline were obliterated by tsunami waves that swept away people, smashed houses off their foundations, beached ships and overturned trucks.

Volunteers said the two bodies were brought directly from the beach. Due to advanced decomposition, authorities are no longer trying to identify who they find in the rubble.

Minutes before the ambulance arrived, Septi Eka Saputra had left.

Before that he'd spent a long time staring at the ground littered with medical gloves and face masks, wondering if his younger sister would end up there.

She was at the Roa Roa hotel in Palu, meeting friends when the earthquake hit, shattering the concrete structure beyond recognition. He said friends had told him her body, if found, could be brought to the mountain. He'd got information that four from the hotel were being delivered.

"This scene is beautiful," Saputra said. "But for me and my family what is most important is that she is buried properly in our home town," he said. "The best resting place is our home town."

Forty-five minutes after the first ambulance arrived, another made it up the dusty road, delivering a body in a bright yellow bag. Within minutes another came, this time the body bag was orange and emblazoned with an Indonesian Red Cross logo.

Foreign reporters and their local assistants crowded around one of the volunteers. A sweaty European journalist wanted to know how many bodies were expected Friday. "Yes but how many today?" he barked at his translator.

One of the volunteers, Muhamad Ardi, didn't want to talk.

Everyone was standing on top of the recently buried, he said. On an embankment next to where reporters, soldiers and the grieving were milling, a dark meter-wide splotch had formed.

But 48-year-old Asep Junaedi patiently answered everyone's questions, his voice often quavering with emotion.

Including six bodies brought on Friday morning, there were 643 people buried in the mountaintop grave, he said, filling up most of what had been a 30-meter (100-foot) -long space.

He and Ardi had been handling bodies for four days, he said.

"I feel called to do humanitarian work," Junaedi said. "It is also a kind of worship for me because they are our brothers. Even though they've become corpses, we must treat them properly."

Later, Ardi spoke. "I cried every time I saw the dead victims," he said. "I'm ready to do anything to help wherever needed."

Another vehicle arrived. "Zero," shouted a soldier, laughing.

Meters away, two women, each with a child missing, discussed whether it would be right to open the bags. One said she'd look everywhere. The second said she couldn't bear that to be the last memory.

Some of the people left. The bay glistened. And the call to prayer rang out from Palu.

Man charged after toxic letters sent to Trump, other leaders

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Navy veteran was charged Friday with threatening to use a biological toxin as a weapon by sending letters to President Donald Trump and other leaders containing ground castor beans, the substance from which the poison ricin is derived.

William Clyde Allen III, 39, told investigators he wanted the letters to "send a message," though he did not elaborate, FBI investigators said in documents filed in U.S. District Court of Utah. Authorities zeroed in on Allen after finding his return address on the envelopes, according to the complaint.

The envelopes that tested positive for ricin also had a note that said "Jack and the Missile Bean Stock Powder," the documents said.

U.S. Attorney for Utah John Huber declined to comment on Allen's mental state, but said the case is "no laughing matter."

"When you're dealing with suspected ricin, this is nothing to trifle with," Huber said.

During a court hearing Friday, Allen cried as he told a judge that his wife suffers from a spinal condition and he helps her put on her shoes in the morning. He smiled at family members and said he had been looking forward to an upcoming general conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He did not enter a plea, and his attorney, Lynn Donaldson, did not comment.

Allen could face up to life in prison if convicted on the biological toxin charge, one of five counts in the complaint. He's also charged with four counts of making threats through the mail, which carry 10-year sentences.

The envelopes were mailed to the president, FBI Director Christopher Wray, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the Navy's top officer, Adm. John Richardson, authorities said.

They were intercepted and no one was hurt. The FBI said all of the letters tested positive for ricin.

Allen told investigators he also sent similar letters to Queen Elizabeth II, Russian President Vladimir Putin and the secretary of the Air Force, though it's not clear whether those envelopes had been found. The case is expected to go before a grand jury and Allen could face additional charges at a hearing Oct. 18.

Allen was arrested Wednesday at his house in the small city of Logan, north of Salt Lake City. He told investigators he had purchased castor beans on eBay "in case Word Ware III broke out," so he could "defend our nation."

He is being held on a \$25,000 cash-only bond, though U.S. Magistrate Judge Dustin Pead is expected to review that on Oct. 15.

Allen served in the Navy from 1998 to 2002, according to Navy records. He has a criminal record in Utah including child abuse and attempted aggravated assault.

He's also had a history of sending threatening emails over the last few years to then-President Barack Obama, the Air Force and the state of Utah, investigators said.

Mormon no more: Tabernacle Choir renamed in big church shift

By BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir will be singing the same tune but under a new name.

The choir was renamed Friday to strip out the word Mormon in a move aimed at ending shorthand names for the religion that have been used for generations by church members and others.

The singers will now be called the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said in a statement. It's a nod to the home of the choir for the last 150 years, the Tab-

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ernacle, located on church grounds known as Temple Square in downtown Salt Lake City.

The group had been known as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir since 1929, when it began broadcasting a weekly radio program to a wide audience.

Church President Russell M. Nelson announced guidelines in August requesting that people stop using "Mormon" or "LDS" as substitutes for the church's full name. He said "Latter-day Saints" was acceptable shorthand.

The faith holds that the full church name was given by revelation from God to founder Joseph Smith in 1838.

The term Mormon comes from the church's signature scripture, the Book of Mormon, which followers believe is based on the record keeping of an ancient prophet named Mormon.

A church webpage that was up before Nelson's announcement described the term Mormon as an "unofficial but inoffensive nickname for members."

But Nelson in his August statement urged people not to use Mormon or LDS. The "Lord has impressed upon my mind the importance of the name he has revealed for his church," he said.

Speaking later in Canada, Nelson acknowledged that it would be a "challenge to undo tradition of more than 100 years" but said the name of the faith is "not negotiable," according to a video posted on a church website. He said church members need to use the proper name if they want outsiders to use it.

"We're not changing names. We're correcting a name," Nelson said. "Some marketers change names hoping to be more successful — that's not our point. We're correcting an error that's crept in over the ages."

In a different video from the trip, Nelson said, "It's not Mormon's church, it's not Moses' church, it's the church of Jesus Christ."

The name change will be a big effort for the Utah-based faith that counts 16 million members worldwide. The renaming of the choir is the first step with many changes still to come. The church still uses Mormon in its Twitter handle.

The faith's presidents are considered prophets who lead through revelations from God. Nelson, 94, ascended to the post in January after the previous president died.

The choir renaming comes a day before Nelson and other Mormon leaders are set to provide spiritual guidance and deliver church news at a twice-yearly weekend conference in Salt Lake City attended by nearly 100,000 people and watched by hundreds of thousands of others on TV and online.

The choir of about 360 men and women sings at the conferences and has performed worldwide and at inaugurations of U.S. presidents, including President Donald Trump.

Choir President Ron Jarrett called the name change an exciting opportunity for the choir to start a new chapter that aligns the group with Nelson's request. He said the choir's website and social media pages will be updated to reflect the new name.

"It is a huge brand for the church. It's been there for a long time and people recognize it," Jarrett said.

He added, "I don't think we'll lose people. In fact, we may even gain listeners. ... It will look and feel and sound just like always, but maybe even better."

The faith previously embraced and promoted the term Mormon, including with a 2014 documentary about its members called "Meet the Mormons." The church ran a series of "I'm a Mormon" ads on TV and billboards starting in 2010, aiming to dispel stereotypes by telling the stories of individual members.

The church tried once before to insist on the use of its full name — in 2001 ahead of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. The new effort says Mormon, Mormonism and LDS are not acceptable.

Paula Froke, lead editor for The Associated Press Stylebook, which many news outlets follow, said the news organization is aware of the church's guidelines. She said AP is monitoring how the names evolve in the church itself — including among members — and with the public.

For now, the AP Stylebook entry about the faith remains unchanged.

"Clearly, the term 'Mormon' is deeply engrained both in the church and in the minds of the general public," Froke said.

Nelson did not speak Friday, and the church did not provide comments from him about the choir name

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change.

Rechristening the high-profile choir puts teeth into the effort to shed the longtime nickname and signals more changes to come, said Patrick Mason, a religion professor who studies the faith at Claremont Graduate University in California.

That doesn't mean it will be easy.

"If they want to learn more about the religion, they are going to google Mormon," he said.

Many members of the church have fond childhood memories of listening to the choir, sometimes affectionately dubbed as MoTab.

"There really won't be much a difference. Same music, same beautiful sound. It'll just look different on the brochures," said Deborah McMullin of Stoughton, Wisconsin who visited Temple Square on Friday.

Weeding out use of Mormon and LDS completely, though, is going to be difficult, said 32-year-old Chad Guertin of Magna, Utah.

"You want to, you know you should, but it's so habitual in how we've referred to ourselves for so long," Guertin said. "Putting it into practice is harder because we have an awfully long name."

Associated Press writers Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City and Regina Garcia Cano in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

Interpol president reported missing during trip to China

By **ELAINE GANLEY** and **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN**, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — He left his home in Lyon, France, for a visit to his homeland, and then vanished — putting the International Criminal Police Organization, best known as Interpol, at the center of its own missing persons case.

Meng Hongwei, Interpol's president, boarded a plane and arrived in China, according to a French judicial official. But then, nothing. His wife, who put out a call on Friday, said she hasn't heard from her 64-year-old husband since the end of September, the official said.

To make matters murkier, Meng is not just the head of Interpol: He's also a vice minister for public safety in China.

Interpol, based in Lyon, would say only that reports that its president is missing is "a matter for the relevant authorities in both France and China."

France launched its own investigation on Friday morning, according to the judicial official who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and asked for anonymity.

Whether China was taking action was unknown. But the South China Morning Post, a Hong Kong newspaper, hinted that Meng may have been the latest target of an ongoing campaign against corruption in China.

The newspaper said that upon landing last week Meng was "taken away" for questioning by what it said were "discipline authorities." The term usually describes investigators in the ruling Communist Party who probe graft and political disloyalty. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the party's secretive internal investigation agency, had no announcements on its website about Meng and could not be reached for comment.

Meng is the first from his country to serve as Interpol's president, a post that is largely symbolic but powerful in status and not without political weight. But because Interpol's secretary general is responsible for the day-to-day running of the police agency's operations, Meng's absence may have little operational effect.

Far from being a Hollywood-style agency with agents toting weapons across the globe, Interpol is low-profile and discrete about its cases, unless it wants to talk.

The organization links up police officials of its 192 member states, who can use Interpol to disseminate their search for a fugitive, or a missing person. Only at the behest of a country does the information go public via a "red notice," the closest thing to an international arrest warrant. "Yellow notices" are issued for missing persons.

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But Interpol walks a fine line between its noble mission — facilitating international police cooperation — and the politics and policies of some of its member countries.

Meng's appointment as president in 2016 — amid Chinese leader Xi Jinping's sweeping anti-corruption drive — alarmed some human rights organizations, fearful it would embolden China to strike out at dissidents and refugees abroad.

Such actions would be contrary to Interpol's mission statement: "Action is taken within the limits of existing laws in different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." It adds that "intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character" are prohibited.

Meng has a shiny curriculum vita, having held down various positions within China's security establishment, including as a vice minister of public security — the national police force — since 2004. In the meantime, he served as head and deputy head of branches of the coast guard, all while holding positions at Interpol. His term in Lyon runs until 2020.

His duties in China would have put him in close proximity to former leaders, some who had fallen afoul of Xi's campaign. He likely dealt extensively with former security chief Zhou Yongkang, now serving a life sentence for corruption.

Xi has placed a premium on getting officials and businesspeople accused of fraud and corruption to return from abroad, making Meng's position even more sensitive.

The anti-corruption drive recently drew headlines after the disappearance three months ago of "X-Men" star Fan Bingbing, one of the country's best-known actresses.

Her whereabouts remain unknown. But on Thursday, Chinese tax authorities spoke publicly about her disappearance public, ordering her and companies she represents to pay taxes and penalties totaling \$130 million. Fan is being fined around \$70 million personally for tax evasion. Still out of the public eye, she issued a statement apologizing for her actions.

China, in the midst of a weeklong holiday, offered no comment on the disappearance of Meng.

In France, there were only questions.

The French are "obviously aware of the disappearance but know nothing more at this stage," said one diplomatic official, unauthorized to comment publicly on the matter and speaking only on condition of anonymity.

Bodeen reported from Beijing. Gillian Wong in Beijing, Lori Hinnant, Samuel Petrequin and Sylvie Corbet in Paris contributed to this report.

Nobel Peace laureates demand end to sexual violence in war

By JIM HEINTZ, CARLEY PETESCH and MARK LEWIS, Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Raped after being forced into sexual slavery by the Islamic State group, Nadia Murad did not succumb to shame or despair — the young Iraqi woman spoke out. Surgeon Denis Mukwege treated countless victims of sexual violence in war-torn Congo and told the world of their suffering. Together, they were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for their campaigns to end rape and sexual abuse as weapons of war.

The award "is partly to highlight the awareness of sexual violence. But the further purpose of this is that nations take responsibility, that communities take responsibility and that the international community take responsibility," said Berit Reiss-Andersen, chairwoman of the committee, which bestowed the \$1.01-million prize.

"Dear survivors from all over the world, I would like to tell you that, through this Nobel Prize, the world is listening to you and refusing indifference," Mukwege, 63, told a news conference outside the hospital he founded in Bukavu in eastern Congo, where he has treated tens of thousands of victims — among them "women, teenage girls, small girls, babies," he said Friday.

"The world refuses to remain idle with arms crossed facing your suffering. We hope that the world will not put off acting with force and determination in your favor because the survival of humanity depends

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on you," Mukwege said.

Murad, 25, was one of an estimated 3,000 girls and women from Iraq's Yazidi minority group who were kidnapped in 2014 by IS militants and sold into sexual slavery. She was raped, beaten and tortured before managing to escape three months later. After getting treatment in Germany, she chose to speak to the world about the horrors faced by Yazidi women, regardless of the stigma in her culture surrounding rape.

In 2016 she was named the United Nations' first Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking, and her advocacy helped spur a U.N. investigation that is collecting evidence of war crimes by Islamic State extremists.

In a statement, Murad said she was "incredibly honored" by the prize.

"As a survivor, I am grateful for this opportunity to draw international attention to the plight of the Yazidi people who have suffered unimaginable crimes since the genocide" by IS, she said. "Many Yazidis will look upon this prize and think of family members that were lost, are still unaccounted for, and of the 1,300 women and children, which remain in captivity."

This year's peace prize comes amid heightened global attention to the sexual abuse of women — in war, in the workplace and in society — that has been highlighted by the #MeToo movement.

"#MeToo and war crimes are not quite the same thing, but they do, however, have in common that it is important to see the suffering of women," said Reiss-Andersen of the Nobel committee.

In the United States, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg also noted that the award comes amid a global reckoning over sexual violence. She tweeted a link to the Nobel announcement, saying "the timing of this topic is extraordinary as we fight for the end of #ViolenceAgainstWomen."

Many of the women treated by Mukwege were victims of mass rape in the central African nation that has been wracked by conflict for decades. He faced great personal risk in doing so: Armed men tried to kill him in 2012, forcing him to temporarily leave the country.

Solange Furaha Lwashiga, a Congolese women's activist, noted the surgeon's work repairing not only the physical damage but also the mental scars suffered by the victims, empowering them. "Dr. Mukwege brings smiles and helps repair women from the barbaric acts of men in Congo," she said.

Mukwege was in surgery — his second operation of the day — when the peace prize announcement came, and he learned about it from patients and colleagues who were crying with joy.

Mobile phone footage showed a smiling Mukwege jostled by dancing, ululating medical colleagues in scrubs in the hospital's courtyard.

Eastern Congo has seen more than two decades of conflict among armed groups that either sought to unseat presidents or simply grab control of some of the central African nation's vast mineral wealth.

"The importance of Dr. Mukwege's enduring, dedicated and selfless efforts in this field cannot be overstated. He has repeatedly condemned impunity for mass rape and criticized the Congolese government and other countries for not doing enough to stop the use of sexual violence against women as a strategy and weapon of war," the Nobel committee said.

Murad's book, "The Last Girl," tells of her captivity, the loss of her family and her eventual escape.

The Yazidis are an ancient religious minority, falsely branded as devil-worshippers by Sunni Muslim extremists. IS, adopting a radical interpretation of ancient Islamic texts, declared that Yazidi women and even young girls could be taken as sex slaves.

Iraqi President Bahram Saleh praised the award for Murad, saying on Twitter that it was an "honor for all Iraqis who fought terrorism and bigotry."

Congo's government congratulated Mukwege, while acknowledging that relations with him have been strained because of his criticism of the government.

In a statement, President Joseph Kabila's special representative said: "We are proud that the fight and initiatives led by (Democratic Republic of Congo) through Dr. Mukwege, for the re-establishment of the dignity and the respect of women is finally recognized internationally."

In other Nobel prizes this year, the medicine prize went Monday to James Allison of the University of Texas and Tasuku Honjo of Kyoto University, whose discoveries helped cancer doctors fight many advanced-stage

tumors and save an “untold” numbers of lives.

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

On Wednesday, three researchers who “harnessed the power of evolution” to produce enzymes and antibodies that have led to a new best-selling drug won the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

The winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, honoring Alfred Nobel, the founder of the five Nobel Prizes, will be revealed on Monday.

No Nobel literature prize was 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 winners 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, a major cultural figure in Sweden, was sentenced Monday to two years in prison for rape.

Heintz reported from Moscow and Petesch from Dakar, Senegal. Associated Press writers Cara Anna in Johannesburg, Dave Bryan in Cairo, Bassem Mroue in Beirut, David Keyton in Stockholm, Jennifer Peltz at the United Nations and Saleh Mwanamilongo in Kinshasa, Congo, contributed to this report.

Bucking party, Murkowski charts her own path on Kavanaugh

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the lone Republican who voted against advancing Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination, has carved out a path as a fiercely independent senator known for bucking her party.

But she didn’t look especially happy about it Friday.

Murkowski suggested she will oppose President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee this weekend after she became the only GOP senator to oppose advancing Kavanaugh’s nomination during a tense, high-stakes Senate floor vote.

“I believe that Brett Kavanaugh is a good man. It just may be that in my view he’s not the right man for the court at this time,” Murkowski told reporters. She said she respected her colleagues’ support for Kavanaugh, but added, “I also that think we’re at a place where we need to think about the credibility and integrity of our institutions.”

The Alaskan senator’s vote was the latest example of the independent streak she forged since overcoming a Republican primary challenge in 2010 to win re-election as a rare write-in candidate. She was re-elected in 2016.

Murkowski has expressed unease with the sexual assault allegations lodged against Kavanaugh, which he denies. She has faced pressure from home-state Alaskans, including Native Alaskan women, who have described the scourge of sexual assault.

After remaining undecided on whether Kavanaugh’s nomination should move forward, Murkowski rendered her decision Friday in dramatic fashion. As the clerk read the names in alphabetical order, all eyes were on Murkowski. Senators stood up in their chairs and voted, some of them loudly.

But when it came to Murkowski, she stood up, paused, and whispered “no,” her voice barely audible.

Then she took her seat, looking down with a stone-faced expression.

As the end of the vote neared, Maine Sen. Susan Collins, who sits next to Murkowski, leaned over and put her hand on the arm of Murkowski’s chair. The two huddled in deep conversation.

Collins and Murkowski are the only GOP senators who support abortion rights, a crucial issue in the debate over Kavanaugh’s nomination. If confirmed, Kavanaugh could tip the court’s balance toward conservatives for a generation. Collins said Kavanaugh assured her during a private meeting that Roe v. Wade, the ruling that established abortion rights, is settled law.

When Friday’s procedural vote was over, Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio came over to Murkowski and took her hand, shaking it. Texas Sen. John Cornyn, the Senate’s No. 2 Republican, who has been

aggressively lobbying undecided senators to vote for Kavanaugh, also came over and touched Murkowski on the shoulder as they spoke.

Several Democrats conferred with Murkowski as well, including Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar. As senators of both parties left the chamber, many lined up to talk to the two women.

Murkowski's decision brought a swift response from former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who insinuated that she might mount a primary challenge against the senator if she opposes Kavanaugh.

Palin, who was GOP presidential candidate John McCain's running mate in 2008, tweeted, "Hey @lisamurkowski — I can see 2022 from my house." The tweet referenced an infamous "Saturday Night Live" skit in which Tina Fey, portraying Palin, said she could see Russia from her house. Murkowski is next up for re-election in 2022.

A spokeswoman for Murkowski could not immediately confirm that the senator will oppose Kavanaugh on the final vote expected Saturday, but indicated it appeared that way. Kavanaugh could still win confirmation if Murkowski is the only Republican to oppose him.

Murkowski acknowledged she agonized over her vote, telling reporters she didn't make up her mind until she walked into the Senate chamber.

"This has truly been the most difficult evaluation of a decision that I've ever had to make, and I've made some interesting ones in my political career," Murkowski said.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Matthew Daly contributed.

In Syria's Sweida, young men take up arms to defend villages

By ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press Writer

SWEIDA, Syria (AP) — Maysoun Saab's eyes filled with tears as she recalled finding her parents bleeding to death on the ground outside their home, minutes after they were shot by Islamic State militants on a killing spree across once tranquil villages they infiltrated in a southeastern corner of Syria.

Within an hour, she had lost her mother, father, brother and 34 other members of her extended family. Overall, more than 200 people were killed and 30 hostages abducted in the coordinated July 25 attacks across Sweida province.

It was one of the biggest single massacres of the Syrian civil war and the worst bloodshed to hit the province since the conflict began in 2011, underscoring the persistent threat posed by the Islamic State group, which has been largely vanquished but retains pockets of territory in southern and eastern Syria.

More than two months after the attack, tensions over the missing hostages — all women and children — are boiling over in Sweida, a mountainous area which is a center for the Druze religious minority. Anger is building up, and young men are taking up arms. This week, the militants shot dead one of the women, 25-year-old Tharwat Abu Ammar, triggering protests and a sit-in outside the Sweida governorate building by relatives enraged at the lack of progress in negotiations to free them.

It's a stark change for a usually peaceful province that has managed to stay largely on the sidelines of the seven-year Syrian war, and where most villagers work grazing livestock over the surrounding hills.

"We still haven't really absorbed what happened to us. It's like a dream or a nightmare that you don't wake up from," said Saab, a slender woman with a long braid showing underneath a loose white scarf covering her hair.

During a rare visit to the Sweida countryside by an Associated Press team, armed young men and teens, some as young as 14, patrolled the streets. Some wore military uniforms, others the traditional black baggy pants and white caps worn by Druze villagers. They said the Syrian army had provided them with weapons to form civilian patrols to defend their towns and villages.

Residents recalled a summer day of pure terror that began with gunfire and cries of "Allahu Akbar!" that rang out at 4 a.m. Militants who had slipped into the villages under the cover of darkness knocked on doors, sometimes calling out residents' names to trick them into opening. Those who did were gunned down. Others were shot in their beds. Women and children were dragged screaming from their homes.

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Word of the attack spread in the villages of Shbiki, Shreihi and Rami as neighbors called one another to warn of the militant rampage. A series of suicide bombings unfolded simultaneously in the nearby provincial capital of Sweida.

In Shreihi, a small agricultural village of cement houses, Saab and her husband were asleep in one room, their children, 16-year-old Bayar and 13-year-old Habib, in another when she heard the first burst of gunfire. From her window, she saw the silhouette of her neighbor, Lotfi Saab, and his wife in their house. Then she saw armed men push open the door, point a rifle at them and shoot. Saab screamed, her voice reverberating through the open window. The militants threw a grenade in her direction.

Her husband climbed onto the roof of their home and aimed a hunting rifle at the men, while she huddled downstairs with the children. At least two of the men blew themselves up nearby.

At the crack of dawn, Saab heard another neighbor screaming, "Abu Khaled has been shot!" — referring to Saab's father. Ignoring her husband's orders to stay indoors, Saab ran over the rocky path to her parent's house, and spotted her father's bloodied body on the ground near the front porch. She screamed for her mother and found her lying nearby, shot in her leg, blood everywhere.

"There is no greater tragedy than to see your parents like this, strewn on the ground before your eyes. We were together just the night before, staying up late together and talking. ... They took them away from us," she said, choking back tears.

Saab's brother, Khaled, meanwhile, was trapped with his wife and daughter in their home, fearfully watching the IS fighters from their shuttered window. Another brother, who rushed to their aid, was killed outside Khaled's home.

Less than an hour later, Saab called to tell Khaled that both their parents were dead.

When he was able to leave his house, Khaled said he and other neighbors fought and killed as many IS militants as they could. He suffered two gunshot wounds in his thigh. But there was no time to grieve.

"We didn't have the chance to cry or feel anything, even if our father, mother, neighbors, friends, all of these people had died. But at the time there wasn't a moment to cry for anyone," said the 42-year-old truck driver.

Residents said the village men fought with whatever weapons they could lay their hands on — hunting rifles, pistols, even sticks — against the far superior IS guns.

The Islamic State group, which once held large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq, has been mostly vanquished. Its de facto capital of Raqqa, in eastern Syria, fell a year ago this month. But the group fights on in eastern pockets like Deir el-Zour and Sweida province.

Some here fear that as the militants flee the advancing Syrian government forces, they will try to regroup in remote pockets of territory like this once quiet corner of Syria. They fear another raid or more trouble because of the brewing tensions over the hostages IS still holds.

On Tuesday, a video posted on the internet purported to show IS militants shoot Abu Ammar in the back of her head as they threatened to kill more hostages if the Syrian government and its Russian allies do not meet their demands, which include freeing IS fighters and their family members elsewhere in Syria.

In the village of Rami, where 20 civilians from the Maqlad family were killed in the July assault, Nathem Maqlad points to bullet holes and blood stains on the ground from the battle with IS.

"I stand ready and alert to defend our land and dignity all over again if I have to," he said, walking with a group of young men with rifles slung over their shoulders.

Follow Zeina Karam on Twitter at www.twitter.com/zkaram

Police: DNA links 3 deaths to killer who died in 1999

By JIM SALTER, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — An Arkansas man who killed himself during a 1999 police standoff at a Missouri motel was a killer and rapist who strangled a South Carolina woman in 1990 and gunned down a Missouri mother and daughter eight years later, authorities said Friday.

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Advancements in DNA testing enabled investigators to link the three killings and the 1997 rape of a 14-year-old girl in Memphis, Tennessee, to Robert Brashers, the Missouri State Highway Patrol said. Brashers, a Paragould, Arkansas, man who had a long criminal record, killed himself during a four-hour standoff at a motel in Kennett, a city about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Paragould in an area of southeastern Missouri that's wedged between Arkansas and Tennessee.

"Make no mistake about this gentleman: He is a serial rapist and a serial killer, but no more," New Madrid County, Missouri, Sheriff Terry Stevens said at a news conference.

Brashers killed Genevieve Zitricki of Greenville, South Carolina, in 1990. She was beaten and strangled in her bathtub, authorities said. The year after he raped the Tennessee girl, Brashers killed Sherri Scherer and her 12-year-old daughter, Megan, in their home near Portageville, about 155 miles (250 kilometers) southeast of St. Louis. He also sexually assaulted Megan, police said.

The standoff in which Brashers killed himself began when Kennett police sought to question him in a stolen license plate investigation. He was not a suspect in the killings or the rape case at the time.

Police gathered DNA evidence over the years that linked the crimes, but it wasn't until earlier this year that a private company helped make the connection to Brashers. Investigators hired Parabon NanoLabs, whose technology combines DNA testing and genetic genealogy analysis. The company's testing indicated that the DNA was from Brashers.

Because he was dead, investigators obtained DNA samples from Brashers' relatives. That DNA evidence led authorities to exhume Brashers' body last week to take DNA from his corpse that was matched to DNA found at the crime scenes.

Stevens said that even 20 years later, he never considered the Scherer killings a cold case — his officers were constantly investigating and re-investigating leads "because it was too important to this family and the community of Portageville."

Anthony Scherer returned from farm work on March 28, 1998, and found the bodies of his 38-year-old wife and his daughter on the living room floor. They had been shot.

Less than three hours after the killings, a man stopped at a home in Dyersburg, Tennessee, asked the woman who lived there for directions and then tried to force his way inside. He shot her in the arm during a struggle, but she survived.

Ballistics testing showed that the same gun was used in both crimes. But DNA at both crime scenes lacked the markers necessary to place the information in a national database known as CODIS, the Missouri State Highway Patrol said.

DNA technology improved and in 2006, the crime scene DNA was entered into the CODIS system, producing a match to the April 6, 1990, killing of Zitricki, who was 28 when she was strangled. Her body was found April 6, 1990, in her South Carolina apartment after failing to report to work.

In May 2017, another DNA match was discovered, linking the same suspect to the rape of a 14-year-old girl in Memphis on March 11, 1997. Police said the attacker knocked on the door of a home, pulled out a gun and pushed his way inside.

The patrol said Brashers had a long criminal history that included a 1986 conviction for attempted second-degree murder, along with burglary, impersonating an officer and unlawful possession of a weapon. He also was arrested in Paragould in 1998 for trying to break into a woman's home.

Melania Trump loses footing with elephant, but not with kids

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Melania Trump briefly lost her footing when a baby elephant startled her with a sudden move, but the first lady was anything but out of step when children at an orphanage welcomed her to their home with African song and dance.

It didn't take long for the typically reserved U.S. first lady to dive fully into the moment.

Mrs. Trump arrived at The Nest orphanage on Friday after helping feed baby elephants, still clad in the riding pants and tall brown boots she had worn on a safari. A group of children who live at the orphanage

and had been waiting for their American visitor broke into song and dance.

With a child's hand clasped in each of hers, Mrs. Trump led the group up a walkway toward the home for orphaned infants, sashaying to the music as she approached a bank of waiting news cameras.

The first lady was similarly immersed in the moment earlier at Nairobi National Park, where she had gone early Friday to highlight elephant conservation.

Mrs. Trump seemed reticent at first but she eventually stepped down from the platform she was standing on to take a large milk bottle with a big red nipple and feed some of the orphaned elephants being raised at the park a few miles outside of downtown Nairobi.

Soon she was petting and stroking the elephants, smiling and laughing and having a good time.

Her focus on saving elephants seemed at odds with policies put forth by her husband, President Donald Trump.

The Trump administration recently decided to again allow Americans to import the body parts of African elephants shot for sport. The administration said removing a ban on elephants imported from Zimbabwe and Zambia and encouraging wealthy big-game hunters to kill the threatened mammals would help raise money for conservation programs.

Trump at first decried lifting the ban, but he did not intervene in a federal agency decision to begin judging the importation of elephant trophies on a "case-by-case basis." Trump's adult sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, are trophy hunters.

It was the second time in as many days that the first lady promoted policies out of step with her husband's.

A day earlier at a primary school in Malawi, Mrs. Trump highlighted work done by the U.S. Agency for International Development to help improve child literacy in the country. Trump has twice tried unsuccessfully to slash USAID's budget by a third.

After donning a white pith helmet, Mrs. Trump later climbed into an open-air vehicle for the 90-minute safari, taking photos on an iPhone and peering through binoculars for a closer look at zebras, giraffes, impalas, sleeping rhinos and hippos bobbing in water.

She also visited a site where 105 tons of ivory was burned as part of an effort to discourage the trade. Ivory can only be extracted from elephants after they have been killed.

Back at the orphanage, Mrs. Trump left the same way she arrived.

After an outdoor book reading session, she was encircled by the same children she led up the driveway as they sang and danced some more. The first lady was quickly encircled by the gleeful children and she smiled and danced some more.

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Therapy dogs can spread superbugs to kids, hospital finds

By MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Therapy dogs can bring more than joy and comfort to hospitalized kids. They can also bring stubborn germs.

Doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore were suspicious that the dogs might pose an infection risk to patients with weakened immune systems. So they conducted some tests when Pippi, Poppy, Badger and Winnie visited 45 children getting cancer treatment.

They discovered that kids who spent more time with the dogs had a 6 times greater chance of coming away with superbug bacteria than kids who spent less time with the animals. But the study also found that washing the dogs before visits and using special wipes while they're in the hospital took away the risk of spreading that bacteria.

The results of the unpublished study were released Friday at a scientific meeting in San Francisco.

One U.S. health official said the findings add to the growing understanding that while interactions with pets and therapy animals can be beneficial, they can also carry risk.

"Whether covered in fur, feathers or scales, animals have the potential to carry germs that make people

sick," said Casey Barton Behravesh of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pet therapy can help people recover from a range of health problems. Past studies have shown dogs or other animals can ease anxiety and sadness, lower blood pressure and even reduce the amount of medications some patients need.

But there have been episodes of the superbug MRSA riding around on healthy-looking therapy dogs.

MRSA, or methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria, often live on the skin without causing symptoms. But they can become more dangerous if they enter the bloodstream, destroying heart valves or causing other damage. Health officials have tied MRSA to as many as 11,000 U.S. deaths a year.

The bacteria can spread in daycares, locker rooms and military barracks, but public health efforts have focused on hospitals and nursing homes.

The Baltimore study looked at 45 children who interacted with the four dogs — petting, hugging, feeding or playing with them — over 13 visits in 2016 and 2017.

Among kids who had no MRSA, the researchers found the superbug on about 10 percent of the samples taken from those kids after the dog visits. They also found MRSA on nearly 40 percent of the samples from the dogs. The researchers also determined that the more time someone spent with the animals, the greater the chance of ending up with the bacteria.

The researchers think the dogs were generally clean of MRSA when they first came to the hospital, but picked it up from patients or others while they were there, said one of the authors, Meghan Davis.

"Our hypothesis is it's really person-to-person transmission, but it happened through contact with the fur," said Davis, a Johns Hopkins public health researcher and veterinarian.

Under hospital protocols, therapy dogs must be bathed within a day of a visit and are checked for wounds or other health problems. Children who see them are supposed to use hand sanitizer "but that wasn't strictly enforced," said Kathryn Dalton, another one of the researchers.

Later in the study, the researchers asked the dogs' owners to bathe the animals with a special shampoo before the visits. They also had the dogs patted down every five to 10 minutes with disinfecting wipes at the hospital.

Those steps dramatically decreased the bacteria level on the dogs, Dalton said.

She hopes further study will show that such cleanings can reduce any risk of superbug infection.

"I really had the opportunity to see how important these dogs were to the patients," Dalton said. After the sessions with the dogs, the kids "would say how much this made their day."

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Trump lashes out at Capitol Hill protesters

By CATHERINE LUCEY and COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump lashed out Friday at female protesters who have confronted senators over Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, labeling them "rude elevator screamers" and "paid professionals only looking to make Senators look bad."

Trump's tweet Friday came before a crucial Senate vote on Kavanaugh, who stands accused of a high school-era sexual assault. Amid a national reckoning around gender roles and sexual consent, protesters have flooded the capitol in recent days, with many women angrily addressing senators, some identifying themselves as sexual assault victims.

The president struck a more upbeat note after the Senate pushed Kavanaugh past a key procedural hurdle, saying on Twitter that he was "very proud."

As the Kavanaugh nomination has dragged out, protests — and direct lobbying — have grown.

An emotional exchange last week between Republican Sen. Jeff Flake and two women quickly went viral and appeared to contribute to Flake's demand that a vote be delayed by a week for an FBI background investigation. On Thursday several women approached Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah near capitol

elevators to ask why he was backing Kavanaugh. Hatch told them to "grow up." West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin was also confronted. "How do you know how I'm going to vote?" the senator responded to criticism from a protester.

All three voted Thursday to push the nomination through.

Taking on the protesters directly, Trump said in Friday's tweet: "Don't fall for it!"

After initially saying that Kavanaugh's accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, should be heard and speaking cautiously, Trump has grown increasingly frustrated. Placing himself firmly against the #MeToo moment, he has warned that this process could lead to false accusations against men and mocked Ford's emotional testimony.

Trump has vigorously defended Kavanaugh, who denies the allegations against him. At a rally Thursday night, Trump mocked former Sen. Al Franken, a Minnesota Democrat, for quickly vacating his seat in January in response to a string of sexual misconduct allegations and amid tremendous pressure from Democrats. Trump marveled at the speed, saying "boy, did he fold up like a wet rag."

Other Republicans have echoed Trump's frustration. On "Fox and Friends" Friday, Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley said the protests were "a reflection of the incivility of American society generally." He added: "I think it's also evidence that people will go to any lengths when they are encouraged by people on Capitol Hill"

Some of the women protesting are members of or paid staffers for activist groups. Ana Maria Archila, one of the two women who confronted Flake, is co-executive director of the nonprofit Center for Popular Democracy Action. She said Friday that if Trump "wants to say I have a job where I advocate for justice, he is right."

To Trump's criticism, Archila said: "This is what he does, he's a bully. But you know what? I am standing next to thousands and thousands and thousands of women who are feeling incredibly powerful in this moment and I am not afraid."

2 female Arizona Senate candidates on a Kavanaugh tightrope

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press**

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — In a small office full of Democratic women steamed over Brett Kavanaugh, Senate candidate Kyrsten Sinema carefully avoided telling reporters whether she thought sexual assault allegations against President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee were true.

"The Senate can wait for the thorough investigation and then make a decision based on the conclusion of that investigation," Sinema said.

A few days later, Sinema's Republican opponent, Rep. Martha McSally, who has talked about being sexually abused in high school, chided Trump for mocking psychologist Christine Blasey Ford, Kavanaugh's initial accuser, during a campaign rally. Minutes later, McSally added that she hoped the president can come to Arizona to campaign for her.

"We are in a consequential race for the balance of the Senate," McSally said. "We do need Republican voters who are less engaged to wake up."

Arizona's Senate race pits Sinema, a congresswoman and careful politician running as a centrist in a Republican-leaning state, against McSally, a onetime Trump critic turned fan. Both are walking a tightrope as the Senate moves toward a confirmation vote.

When allegations against Kavanaugh first emerged last month, McSally was uncharacteristically quiet, only calling for investigations and respect for all sides. It took McSally until Tuesday -- 17 days after Christine Blasey Ford first publicly made her allegations -- to say she backed Kavanaugh, provided the FBI finds no new evidence against him. Sinema, an attorney, has also been typically controlled, notably declining to jump on the bandwagon of other Democrats calling for his rejection. That changed Thursday night, when she issued a statement criticizing Kavanaugh's temperament and contending he was "not truthful" in part of his testimony last week.

"There hasn't been a lot of leadership," said Chuck Coughlin, a Republican political consultant. But, he

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added, that's because Arizona embodies the national divide over the nomination.

"The state's reflective of the demographics of the country -- relatively independent, and people are trying to navigate between the two poles of two dysfunctional political parties," Coughlin said.

Kavanaugh's nomination has put moderates in the Senate from both parties in a difficult position, as whatever decision they make will upset a vocal faction of their electorate. On Thursday, embattled North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat, said she'd vote against the nominee. Attention turned to her fellow Democrat, Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

In Arizona, the state's conservative lean is evident in how the state got entangled in the Kavanaugh case in the first place. The nominee's so-called "sherpa" who guided him around Capitol Hill initially was Jon Kyl, a former senator tightly tied into the state's legal community and a former mentor to McSally. Kyl was then appointed to fill John McCain's seat after McCain died in late August. When Ford's allegations surfaced, Senate Republicans tapped the head of sex crimes prosecutions in the Maricopa County prosecutor's office, Rachel Mitchell, to question her at last week's hearing.

Throughout it all, Sinema and McSally stayed quiet, issuing similar-sounding written statements saying they were waiting for the investigation. The cross-cutting pressures on them are clear: Sinema is counting on peeling off enough conservative-leaning independents to win in November while McSally's own history and need to get Trump voters enthused about her candidacy also were in conflict.

On Tuesday, McSally made her first statement of support for Kavanaugh's confirmation on a local morning television show. That night, Trump mocked Ford at a rally in Mississippi to riotous laughter from his supporters.

The next day, reporters asked McSally about the president's words. "It's pretty personal," McSally said, noting that many don't understand why survivors like Ford and herself sometimes don't go public for decades. "I'd prefer that we all have some grace here."

McSally said she has sympathy for Ford, but then blamed Democrats, who say they believe her story, for the psychologist's stress. "If you want to look at how survivors are being treated in this process, I would also look squarely at the Democrats and how they have basically paraded her out and put her in this situation," she said.

On Wednesday evening McSally said in a radio interview that there isn't enough evidence to show Kavanaugh actually attacked Ford.

"I would hope, as someone who has dealt with this personally and dealt with it also in the military, that maybe we can have this conversation about, 'Hey, let's prevent the next assault and abuse from happening, but let's make sure that people are not susceptible to false allegations that -- just because someone said something doesn't make it true,'" she said.

McSally was echoing numerous conservative Arizona women, who in interviews last week said they were enthusiastic for the confirmation.

"The Democrats have done a hatchet job," said Joyce Smith, 67, of Gilbert, as she left a Trader Joe's store. "You're innocent until you're proven guilty."

Still, the anger among other Arizona women shows the risk McSally runs.

"McSally's out of her mind. It makes no sense to me," said Kate Miller, 65, a former independent-turned-Democrat, at an anti-Kavanaugh protest. "I don't understand how she can have an experience like that and be where she's at."

On Thursday night, Sinema said in a statement she was "really frustrated" at the process and that she'd vote against Kavanaugh's confirmation were she in the Senate. She'd previously called the allegations "credible" and called for the FBI review but gone no further. On Monday night, as reporters pressed her repeatedly about the judge and his response to the allegations, the possible objection Sinema stressed was how Kavanaugh would rule on internet privacy cases.

The restraint surprised some of the Democrats in the room. "If he gets confirmed, it's going to be a new, fresh devastation -- we already have all our hair on fire," said Miesje Curbo, a 46-year-old business consultant.

Brittany MacPherson, an organizer with a pro-reproductive rights group, was at a crowded campaign

office waiting for Sinema to speak the following night. She said she expects Democratic senators to unanimously oppose Kavanaugh. "I would hope people who claim to stand up for us would do it when it counts," she said.

Told Sinema hadn't said she'd oppose Kavanaugh, MacPherson sighed. "It's Arizona," she said.

Kavanaugh bump? GOP fights for new energy as vote nears

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — On the brink of a political gender war, President Donald Trump's Republican Party is threatening to erode Democrats' enthusiasm advantage as the fiery debate over his Supreme Court nominee enters its final phase.

Political strategists in both parties suggest the GOP's enthusiastic embrace of Brett Kavanaugh despite multiple allegations of sexual misconduct may have shifted the political landscape — at least temporarily — by injecting new energy into the most passionate Republican voters a month before the election. Trump's aggressive defense of Kavanaugh — and more recent attacks against his female accuser — have resonated particularly with white working-class men, who are a shrinking voting bloc nationally but remain a critical segment of Trump's political base.

For now, many men apparently agree with Trump's warning that the surge in women speaking out against sexual violence in the #MeToo era has created "a very scary time" for men in America.

"Democrats have been trying to destroy Judge Brett Kavanaugh since the very first second he was announced," Trump declared as he rallied voters in Minnesota on Thursday night. He added: "What they're putting him through and his family is incredible."

Energy is everything in midterm elections, which typically draw fewer eligible voters to the polls. And through the first 21 months of the Trump era, Democrats have claimed an undisputed enthusiasm advantage — as evidenced by a slate of special election victories and fundraising successes.

Yet even a small erosion in the so-called enthusiasm gap could make a big difference in the Democratic Party's high-stakes push to wrest control of Congress from the GOP.

The effect is most visible in Republican-leaning states where vulnerable Democratic senators are running for re-election. Public and private polling in recent days has shifted in the GOP candidate's favor in West Virginia, Missouri, Indiana and North Dakota.

The Kavanaugh debate "is making the two groups of people who are already mad at each other in America even madder. To me, the question is, who is maddest?" said Gary Pearce, a veteran North Carolina Democratic strategist.

Just as Trump benefited from opposition to Hillary Clinton in his 2016 election, the GOP could benefit from opposition to the Democratic Party's handling of Kavanaugh this midterm season.

"This may be energizing the right — especially people who don't like Trump and may not have been motivated to vote," Pearce said. "This is the substitute for Hillary."

The Supreme Court clash has already attracted a surge of new campaign cash for both parties.

The Republican National Committee and its associated groups raised more than \$3 million in digital donations this past weekend, the most it's ever raised online, according to GOP spokeswoman Cassie Smedile. And last Sunday was the GOP's highest single-day online fundraising haul.

The GOP says the fundraising surge is fueled by anger over how allegations of sexual misconduct against Kavanaugh have played out.

On the other side, the online Democratic fundraising portal ActBlue pulled in \$25 million in just two days, while Emily's List, a group that aims to elect more Democratic women, also set a record for online fundraising.

Trump and his lieutenants on Capitol Hill tried to stoke that same anger on Thursday as they outlined an aggressive timeline for the Kavanaugh confirmation. A round of Senate voting is expected Friday, with the final vote likely Saturday.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that an FBI supplemental background investigation didn't

corroborate any of the allegations against the Supreme Court nominee. The Kentucky Republican said senators wouldn't be "hoodwinked" by those who have tried to "smear" Kavanaugh's reputation.

"This is a search and destroy mission," the second-ranking Senate Republican, Sen. John Cornyn, added.

The GOP's support of Kavanaugh puts the party at odds with the rising #MeToo movement that has empowered women across America to share their stories of sexual violence. The movement has triggered the downfall of powerful men in media, sports and politics — Republicans and Democrats alike.

"It's a very scary time for young men," Trump said this week. A day later, he mocked Kavanaugh's accuser's memory of the alleged sexual assault.

Many women, backed by liberal men, have been outraged by Trump's comments.

"The idea that it's a terrible time to be a young, white guy is completely absurd," said Florida-based Democratic strategist Steve Schale.

He noted, however, there is "some evidence that the Kavanaugh stuff is galvanizing Republicans, particularly Republican men."

"It's coming at a price," Schale added. "We're seeing Republican women throw their hands up."

Indeed, while Trump often states, falsely, that he won the women's vote in 2016, Democrats have enjoyed an advantage with women for most of the last three decades.

Political strategist Matthew Dowd, a former Republican who has criticized Trump, said it's unclear so far whether GOP energy behind Kavanaugh represents "some men on social media" or a "movement."

"I've always been a believer that the most motivating factor in these elections is who is the angriest," Dowd said. "Whoever loses is going to be the angriest."

While Kavanaugh may be helping Republican candidates in deep-red states, a Quinnipiac University poll released this week shows that opposition to Kavanaugh nationally is actually growing, as is the gender gap.

Women overall oppose the confirmation, 55 percent to 37 percent, while men support it 49 percent to 40 percent, Quinnipiac found.

The Trump White House is expected to intensify its support for Kavanaugh as the final vote approaches.

"You can feel the energy both for the president and for his nominee in Brett Kavanaugh," Trump spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told Fox News. "People are outraged at the way that the Democrats have totally made this process into a partisan battle and they've created something that should never have happened."

She continued: "And I think the message is very clear: Dems, you made a mistake here and it's going to show up in November."

AP writer Brian Slodysko in Indianapolis and Zeke Miller and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

As Gaza worsens, Palestinian leader controls fate of US plan

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has been sidelined, isolated and humiliated by the Trump administration. But the embattled Palestinian leader may have the final say in determining the fate of the White House's long-awaited vision for Mideast peace.

In recent weeks, Abbas has thwarted a series of internationally backed initiatives aimed at rehabilitating the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. With Gaza expected to be the centerpiece of the U.S. peace plan, Abbas has given himself a virtual veto over the expected American initiative. The deadlock over Gaza appears to be a key reason behind the repeated delays in unveiling the plan.

"The U.S. is trying to use the humanitarian situation in Gaza as a tool to implement its plan," said Mohammed Ishtayeh, a top Palestinian official. "We say that Gaza is an integral part of the Palestinian lands, and solving the problems of Gaza should be in the context of a broad political framework."

For all of its talk about bringing a new approach to Middle East diplomacy, the Trump White House is running into a familiar obstacle that has confounded its predecessors and the international community for over a decade: the Hamas militant group's continued control over Gaza.

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The American refusal to work with Hamas, which it brands a terrorist group, and its inability to oust it, has made it virtually impossible to move forward on the diplomatic front — a weakness that Abbas now appears to be exploiting.

Abbas has two main concerns. First, he fears that any interim cease-fire deal in Gaza will deepen Hamas' control over the territory.

Second, after Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and his attacks on the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, Abbas fears the U.S. is trying to remove sensitive issues from the negotiating agenda. For him, Gaza is the last obstacle preventing the U.S. from forcing what he sees as an unacceptable plan on him.

"What is left for this administration to give to the Palestinian people? Humanitarian solutions?" Abbas said in an address to the U.N. General Assembly last week.

Hamas, a militant group that opposes Israel's existence, seized control of Gaza from Abbas' forces in 2007. Despite three wars with Israel, an Israeli-Egyptian blockade that has devastated the economy and international isolation, Hamas remains firmly in control.

Abbas says there can be no progress on the diplomatic front until he regains control of Gaza. Attempts to reconcile with Hamas have repeatedly failed, leaving the Palestinians divided between rival governments in the West Bank and Gaza.

Abbas seeks an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war. The two-state solution has widespread international support.

But since taking office, President Donald Trump's Mideast team, led by his son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, has backed away from the two-state solution. Although the Trump team has refused to reveal details of its plan, the Palestinians fear the U.S. is plotting to impose a "mini state" that would consist of Gaza and only small pieces of the West Bank.

Two senior Palestinian officials confirmed that Abbas has been working behind the scenes to scuttle U.N. and Egyptian attempts to forge a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas or to carry out large infrastructure projects that would bring relief to Gaza's beleaguered population.

As the officially recognized Palestinian representative, Abbas' government continues to coordinate the movement of goods through Israeli-controlled crossings into Gaza. This has given him the ability to block large-scale projects, even when approved by Israel.

Israel, which has come under fierce international criticism over Gaza's dire state, has in recent days seized on Abbas' moves, perhaps to deflect attention from its own policies.

On Thursday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Abbas of "choking" Gaza, warning it could "lead to very difficult consequences."

The Palestinian officials also said Abbas has relayed messages to the U.S. through his Arab allies, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt, that there can be no peace plan that excludes him from Gaza.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were discussing internal Palestinian deliberations, said Abbas fears various plans under consideration will end up entrenching Hamas and freezing him out of Gaza.

Abbas believes there can be no significant progress in Gaza without a reconciliation deal that brings him back to power in the territory. The talks have repeatedly broken down over Hamas' refusal to disarm.

This week, another set of Egyptian-brokered talks ended inconclusively, according to people close to the talks.

"Until yesterday, we did not reach any result worth mentioning," said Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Hamas official in Gaza. He accused Abbas of taking "retaliatory" action against the people of Gaza.

Abbas has taken a series of measures against the territory, slashing the salaries of thousands of former government workers in Gaza and cutting fuel subsidies to pay for electricity, all in an effort to step up pressure on Hamas.

These measures, combined with the decade-long blockade, have sent Gaza's economy into freefall. The increasingly desperate Hamas has stepped up mass protests along the Israeli border in hopes of pressur-

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ing Israel to ease the blockade. Nearly 150 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, yet Israel shows no signs of lifting the closure.

In his address to the U.N. General Assembly last week, Abbas threatened to tighten the screws even harder, warning he could not "bear any responsibility" for Gaza if the deadlock with Hamas continues.

At the same time, Israel and international donor nations were meeting on the sidelines of the assembly to discuss ways to improve conditions in Gaza. Those talks, like similar meetings in recent months, ended inconclusively.

Jason Greenblatt, the White House's Mideast envoy, blamed Hamas for the dire conditions in Gaza and said the U.S. "will not fund a situation that empowers Hamas."

Yet he also voiced frustration with Abbas, urging other countries to be "direct and frank" in pushing the Palestinian Authority to forge a "new, sustainable path."

The Gaza conundrum is just the latest obstacle for the U.S. peace plan. The Palestinians cut off ties with the White House after Trump declared Jerusalem to be Israel's capital and moved the U.S. Embassy there.

The Trump administration has also cut hundreds of millions of dollars of aid to the Palestinians, including \$300 million for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, and shuttered the Palestinians' diplomatic mission in Washington.

Accusing the U.S. of being unfairly biased toward Israel, Abbas has already said he will not consider the American peace plan.

Greenblatt acknowledged the challenge ahead at the donor meeting. Refusing to say when his plan would be released, he pleaded for all sides to consider the proposal.

"Palestinians and Israelis deserve to read it, think about it, engage on it, and see if we can make it happen," he said.

Mohammed Daraghmeh in Ramallah, West Bank, and Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, contributed to this report.

India signs \$5 billion deal for Russian air defense systems

By ASHOK SHARMA and EMILY SCHMALL, Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India signed a \$5 billion deal to buy five Russian S-400 air defense systems on Friday despite a looming threat of U.S. sanctions on countries that trade with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors.

The deal was signed in New Delhi during a visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss nuclear energy, space exploration and trade.

India has requested that the U.S. grant it a waiver for the deal from sanctions prescribed by the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, a U.S. law passed in August 2017 that is intended to punish Russia for its annexation of Crimea and alleged interference in the 2016 U.S. elections.

The U.S. did not spare China from sanctions last month for purchasing its own Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile systems and fighter jets.

If the U.S. does impose sanctions on India, it is unclear how India could pay Russia for the military equipment, since the law bars dollar-denominated financial transactions.

Vladimir Sotnikov, a foreign affairs expert at an independent research institute in Moscow, believes India could make the payment in a mixture of rupees and dollars to try to circumvent the sanctions.

"I do not think that India would succumb to U.S. pressure over the purchasing of the armaments from Russia," he said. "India has a very sophisticated policy of separating the relationship between India and the U.S. and India and the Russian Federation. And India is in a good negotiating position right now."

The National Security Council at the White House said in a statement that the Trump administration urges all "of our allies and partners to forgo transactions with Russia that would trigger sanctions" under the act, known as CAATSA.

"The administration has indicated that a focus area for the implementation of CAATSA Section 231 is

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new or qualitative upgrades in capability - including the S-400 air and missile defense system. Our recent action to sanction a Chinese government entity for an S-400 delivery underscores the seriousness of our resolve on this issue."

Officials with India's external affairs and defense ministries confirmed the deal was signed after Putin and Modi made no reference to it during a news conference following their talks.

An 11-page joint statement made only passing mention, saying that "the two sides welcomed the conclusion of the contract."

The deal will likely bolster the close relationship between India and Russia that dates back to the Cold War, when the U.S. tilted toward Pakistan, India's neighbor and archrival. But it is also likely to strain ties with Washington.

India is the world's largest importer of military hardware, according to Mumbai-based think tank Gateway House, and has depended on Russia for political support as well as billions of dollars in military hardware. Nearly 70 percent of India's present-day defense equipment was procured from Russia, according to India's Defense Ministry.

India's acquisition of the S-400 long-range missile systems has been considered critical to countering a perceived threat from China, which is increasingly making economic inroads throughout South Asia, India's traditional sphere of influence, according to military experts.

"It gives the capability to destroy targets inside another country. It's a very important capability," said retired Indian air force Air Marshal Nirdosh Tyagi.

India has also developed closer defense ties to the U.S. in recent years with joint military drills and defense sales.

India has signed more than \$15 billion in U.S. defense contracts since 2008, including for C-130J and C-17 transport aircraft, P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, Harpoon missiles and Apache and Chinook helicopters.

Associated Press writer Deb Riechmann in Washington, DC, contributed to this report.

How major US stock indexes fared Friday

The Associated Press

U.S. stock and bond prices fell again Friday after the Labor Department said the economy continues to add jobs at a strong pace, as investors continued to worry about a three-day surge in yields.

On Friday:

The S&P 500 index fell 16.04 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,885.57.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 180.43 points, or 0.7 percent, to 26,447.05.

The Nasdaq composite retreated 91.06 points, or 1.2 percent, to 7,788.45.

The Russell 2000 index slid 14.80 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,632.11.

For the week:

The S&P 500 fell 28.41 points, or 1 percent.

The Dow lost 11.26 points, or less than 0.1 percent.

The Nasdaq shed 257.91 points, or 3.2 percent.

The Russell 2000 gave up 64.46 points, or 3.8 percent.

For the year:

The S&P 500 is up 211.96 points, or 7.9 percent.

The Dow is up 1,727.83 points, or 7 percent.

The Nasdaq is up 885.06 points, or 12.8 percent.

The Russell 2000 is up 96.60 points, or 6.3 percent.

Stocks sink again as job gains send bond yields higher

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stock and bond prices fell again Friday after the Labor Department said the economy continues to add jobs at a strong pace, and investors worried about a three-day surge in yields.

The Department of Labor said employers added significantly more jobs in July and August than it previously thought, which made up for a slightly disappointing gain in September. That was another sign economic growth is likely to continue.

While that's usually good news for stocks, the market stumbled this week as investors sold government bonds at a rapid pace. That pushed yields to their highest levels in more than seven years, a sign that investors are unsure how high and fast interest rates will rise.

Kate Nixon, the chief investment strategist for Northern Trust Wealth Management, said the decline in stock and bond prices started with comments by Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell on Wednesday.

In a moderated discussion, Powell expressed confidence in the economy and said rising interest rates are a "long way" from holding back growth. Nixon said that means the Fed is intent on raising rates further, and investors aren't sure when it intends to stop.

"The Fed is clearly no longer in the business of being accommodative and now the burden of proof is on the data to prove them wrong," she said. Until last month, the Fed had described its policies as "accommodative," or encouraging faster growth, since the Great Recession.

The S&P 500 index lost 16.04 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,885.57. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dipped 180.43 points, or 0.7 percent, to 26,447.05.

Technology and internet companies and smaller, more U.S.-focused companies continued to suffer steep losses. The Nasdaq composite skidded 91.06 points, or 1.2 percent, to 7,788.45. The Russell 2000 index lost 14.80 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,632.11.

The Nasdaq dropped 3.2 percent this week and the Russell tumbled 3.8 percent. That was both indexes worst weekly loss in more than six months. The Russell index finished at its lowest level since late May.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note jumped to 3.23 percent, its highest since May 2011, from 3.19 percent.

"It's so unusual to see these kinds of dramatic moves in the U.S. Treasury market without there being some kind of Big Bang event," said Nixon, of Northern Trust. "We haven't seen anything like it since the (2016 presidential) election."

While technology companies and retailers have been the biggest gainers on the S&P this year, they took steep losses this week. Banks and industrial and energy companies, which have struggled for most of 2018, changed place and finished with strong gains.

Among technology companies, chipmaker Nvidia lost 3.4 percent to \$269.86 and Apple slipped 1.6 percent to \$224.29. Among internet and communications companies, Netflix slumped 3.4 percent to \$351.35. Retailers also declined and Amazon gave up 1 percent to \$1,889.65.

Several major banks will report their third-quarter results late next week as the next round of company earnings begins.

Tesla stock fell 7.1 percent to \$261.95 to end a particularly wild week for the electric car maker. Thursday evening, CEO Elon Musk taunted the Securities and Exchange Commission on Twitter just days after he agreed to settle an SEC lawsuit triggered by a tweet he sent in August.

As part of that settlement, Musk agreed to step down as chairman and submit to oversight when he's communicating company news. His criticisms of the SEC don't appear to be company news, but they may have worried investors who hoped his feed would be a little more boring from now on.

According to media reports, financier David Einhorn also criticized Tesla, comparing it to Lehman Brothers, which went bankrupt during the financial crisis. Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Musk and Tesla are also paying \$20 million each to end the lawsuit over his false tweet that he had secured funding to take Tesla private.

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Wholesale club operator Costco gave up 5.6 percent to \$218.82 after it said it discovered technology problems related to its financial reporting processes. Costco said it hasn't found any mistakes in its earnings reports so far.

European stocks fell for the second day in a row. Germany's DAX lost 1.1 percent and the CAC 40 in France dropped 1 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1.3 percent. Bond prices in all three countries fell again sending yields higher.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell 0.8 percent and the Kospi in South Korea dropped 0.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.2 percent.

Benchmark U.S. crude was little changed at \$74.34 a barrel in New York and Brent crude, the standard for international oil futures, fell 0.5 percent to \$84.16 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline slipped 0.7 percent to \$2.09 a gallon. Heating oil dipped 0.3 percent to \$2.39 a gallon. Natural gas fell 0.7 percent to \$3.14 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold rose 0.3 percent to \$1,205.60 an ounce. Silver added 0.4 percent to \$14.65 an ounce. Copper fell 0.5 percent to \$2.76 a pound.

The dollar slipped to 113.73 yen from 113.86 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1525 from \$1.1515.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay 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 Saturday, Oct. 6, the 279th day of 2018. There are 86 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 6, 1979, Pope John Paul II, on a week-long U.S. tour, became the first pontiff to visit the White House, where he was received by President Jimmy Carter.

On this date:

In 1683, thirteen families from Krefeld, Germany, arrived in Philadelphia to begin Germantown, one of America's oldest settlements.

In 1892, British poet laureate Alfred, Lord Tennyson died in Surrey, England, at age 83.

In 1927, the era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson, a feature containing both silent and sound-synchronized sequences.

In 1928, Chiang Kai-shek became president of China.

In 1939, in a speech to the Reichstag, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler spoke of his plans to reorder the ethnic layout of Europe — a plan which would entail settling the "Jewish problem."

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed the Mutual Defense Assistance Act, providing \$1.3 billion in military aid to NATO countries.

In 1958, the nuclear submarine USS Seawolf surfaced after spending 60 days submerged.

In 1973, war erupted in the Middle East as Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel during the Yom Kippur holiday. (Israel, initially caught off guard, managed to push back the Arab forces before a cease-fire finally took hold in the nearly three-week conflict.)

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, in his second presidential debate with Democrat Jimmy Carter, asserted that there was "no Soviet domination of eastern Europe." (Ford later conceded such was not the case.)

In 1981, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was shot to death by extremists while reviewing a military parade.

In 1983, Cardinal Terence Cooke, the spiritual head of the Archdiocese of New York, died at age 62.

In 1989, actress Bette Davis died in Neuilly-sur-Seine (nu-yee-sur-sehn), France, at age 81.

Ten years ago: As Wall Street reeled and global markets plunged, President George W. Bush said the U.S. economy was going to be "just fine" in the long run, but cautioned that the massive rescue plan

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would take time to work. The Dow industrial average dropped to 9,955, its first close below 10,000 since 2004. Germany's Harald zur Hausen and French researchers Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier shared the 2008 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Five years ago: International disarmament experts began dismantling and destroying Syria's chemical weapons arsenal and the equipment used to produce it. At least 51 people were killed in Egypt when security forces and Islamist protesters clashed during a national holiday. Tiger Woods beat Richard Sterne, 1 up, to give the Americans the 18 points they needed to win the Presidents Cup for the fifth straight time.

One year ago: The board of directors of The Weinstein Co. said movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was on indefinite leave from the company he founded amid an internal investigation into sexual harassment allegations against him. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, a grassroots effort aimed at pressuring the world's nuclear powers to give up those weapons, won the Nobel Peace Prize. The NHL's Vegas Golden Knights, the first major pro sports franchise in Las Vegas, played their first regular-season game in Dallas five days after the shooting that left 58 people dead in Las Vegas; the team would go on to reach the Stanley Cup finals in its first season.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcaster and writer Melvyn Bragg is 79. Actress Britt Ekland is 76. Singer Millie Small is 72. The president of Sinn Féin (shin fayn), Gerry Adams, is 70. Singer-musician Thomas McClary is 69. Musician Sid McGinnis is 69. Former CBS chief executive officer Les Moonves is 69. Rock singer Kevin Cronin (REO Speedwagon) is 67. Rock singer-musician David Hidalgo (Los Lobos) is 64. Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dungy is 63. Actress Elisabeth Shue is 55. Singer Matthew Sweet is 54. Actress Jacqueline Obradors is 52. Country singer Tim Rushlow is 52. Rock musician Tommy Stinson is 52. Actress Amy Jo Johnson is 48. Actress Emily Mortimer is 47. Actor Lamman (la-MAHN') Rucker is 47. Actor Ioan Gruffudd (YOH'-ihn GRIH'-fihth) is 45. Actor Jeremy Sisto is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Melinda Doolittle is 41. Actor Wes Ramsey is 41. Singer-musician Will Butler is 36. Actress Stefanie Martini is 28.

Thought for Today: "Talking comes by nature, silence by wisdom." — Author unknown.