

Ford accuses Kavanaugh of assaulting her

By LISA MASCARO, ALAN FRAM and LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press



Michael Reynolds

Christine Blasey Ford is sworn in before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

WASHINGTON — Christine Blasey Ford declared today that Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her as he and a friend shared “uproarious laughter” in a locked room at a 1980s high school gathering, recounting her allegations to the Senate Judiciary Committee and a riveted nation in a drama that threatens to derail Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination.

Her account, delivered in a soft and sometimes-halting voice, came as the Judiciary panel began an extraordinary session that Republicans hope will let them salvage Kavanaugh’s chances of joining the high court. She showed no hesitancy in affirming the crucial question about the alleged incident, telling senators her certainty that Kavanaugh was her attacker was “100 percent.”

The conservative jurist’s Senate confirmation had seemed assured until Ford came forward and then other women emerged with additional allegations of sexual misconduct. Kavanaugh, now 53, has denied them all and awaited his own chance to testify later today. It has become less clear that Republican leaders will be able to hold GOP senators behind President Donald Trump’s nominee.

In an election-season battle that’s being waged along a polarized nation’s political and cultural fault lines, Trump and most Republicans have rallied behind Kavanaugh. They’ve accused Ford and the other women of making unproven allegations and have ques-

tioned why they’d not publicly revealed them for decades.

But with televisions across the nation tuned to the hearing — senators among those riveted to their screens — it was unclear how lawmakers who will ultimately decide Kavanaugh’s fate will assess Ford’s credibility.

Ford has said Kavanaugh trapped her on a bed and tried undressing her, grinding his body against her and muffling her cries with her hand. “I believed he was going to rape me,” she said in her opening statement.

Democrats have rallied strongly behind Ford.

Asked by Patrick Leahy of Vermont for her strongest memory of the alleged incident, Ford mentioned the two boys’ “laughter — the uproarious laughter between the two and they’re having fun at my

expense.”

The 51-year-old California psychology professor spoke carefully and deliberately during the hearing, using scientific terminology at one point to describe how a brain might remember details of events decades later. The boys’ laughter was “indelible in the hippocampus,” she said.

Ford has said Kavanaugh friend Mark Judge was also in the room. Judge has said he doesn’t remember the incident and has declined to appear before the panel.

Ford told the top committee Democrat, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, that she’d “agonized daily” over coming forward about the alleged decades-old attack. She said she feared the personal consequences would be akin to “jumping in front of a train.”

In fact, both she and Kava-

naugh have received death threats.

When Feinstein asked her how she could be sure that Kavanaugh was the attacker, Ford said, “The same way I’m sure I’m talking to you right now.” Later, she told Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., that her certainty was “100 percent.”

The Judiciary panel’s 11 Republicans — all men — let Rachel Mitchell, a veteran sex crimes prosecutor from Arizona, asked their questions. She began by expressing sympathy for Ford, who’d said she was “terrified” to testify, saying, “I just wanted to let you know, I’m very sorry. That’s not right.”

Mitchell led Ford through a detailed recollection of the events she says occurred on the day of the alleged incident. But under the committee’s procedures, the career prosecutor

was limited to five minutes at a time, interspersed between Democrats’ questions, creating a choppy effect as she tried piecing together the story.

Before she began, committee chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa defended the Republicans’ handling of the confirmation proceedings so far. Feinstein criticized Republicans who have rejected Democratic demands to slow Kavanaugh’s confirmation process and let the FBI investigate all the allegations, saying, “What I don’t understand is the rush to judgment.”

Kavanaugh and Ford were the only witnesses invited to testify before the panel. But the conservative jurist is facing allegations of sexual misconduct from other women as well, forcing Republican leaders to struggle to keep support for him from eroding.

Grassley complained that lawyers for other accusers have not provided information to his panel and said, “The committee can’t do an investigation if attorneys are stonewalling.”

Republicans acknowledged that much was riding on Kavanaugh’s performance. Even Trump, who fiercely defends his nominee, said he would be watching and was “open to changing my mind.”

Kavanaugh’s teetering grasp on winning confirmation was evident when Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, expressed concern, in a private meeting with senators Wednesday, about a new, third accuser, according to a person with knowledge of the gathering. Republicans control the Senate 51-49 and can lose only one vote. Collins is among the few senators who’ve not made clear

how they’ll vote.

Collins walked into that meeting carrying a copy of Julie Swetnick’s signed declaration, which included fresh accusations of sexual misconduct against Kavanaugh and his high school friend Mark Judge.

Collins said senators should hear from Judge. After being told Judge has said he doesn’t want to appear before the committee, she reminded her colleagues that the Senate has subpoena power.

Republicans are pushing to seat Kavanaugh before the November midterms, when Senate control could fall to the Democrats and a replacement Trump nominee could have even greater difficulty. Kavanaugh’s ascendance to the high court could help lock in a conservative majority for a generation, shaping dozens of rulings on abortion, regulation, the environment and more.

Republicans also risk rejection by female voters in November if they are seen as not fully respecting women and their allegations.

In a sworn statement, Swetnick said she witnessed Kavanaugh “consistently engage in excessive drinking and inappropriate contact of a sexual nature with women in the early 1980s.” Her attorney, Michael Avenatti, who also represents a porn actress who is suing Trump, provided her sworn declaration to the Judiciary panel.

Meanwhile, the lawyer for Deborah Ramirez, who says Kavanaugh exposed himself to her at a party when they attended Yale University, raised her profile in a round of television interviews.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

UN court asked to probe Venezuela; leader defiant in speech

UNITED NATIONS — Six nations made the unprecedented move Wednesday of asking the U.N.’s International Criminal Court to investigate Venezuela for possible crimes against humanity, even as President Nicolas Maduro made an unexpected trip to the world body’s headquarters to deliver a nearly hourlong speech declaring his nation “will never give in.”

Maduro’s speech at the General Assembly gathering of world leaders came hours after Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Paraguay and Canada formally asked the ICC to investigate Venezuela on a range of possible charges, from murder to torture and crimes against humanity.

The six countries hope the move puts new pressure on Maduro to end the violence and conflict that have sent more than 2 million people fleeing and made Venezuela’s inflation and homicide rates among the highest in the world.

Venezuelan officials have widely rejected international criticism, saying they’re driven by imperialist forces led by the U.S. to justify launching an invasion. And Maduro sounded a

defiant tone Wednesday night, complaining that Washington was attacking his country through sanctions and other means and strong-arming other countries into going along in a “fierce diplomatic offensive.”

“(The U.S.) wants to continue just giving orders to the world as though the world were its own property,” Maduro said. “Venezuela will never give in.”

Wednesday marked the first time that member countries have referred another country to the Netherlands-based U.N. court.

Texas police questioned man days before California killings

LOS ANGELES — A man with a history of violence who’d been deported from the United States six times wasn’t flagged for arrest by Houston police and fled to California, where he’s now charged in a series of killings, authorities said.

Ramon Escobar, 47, came to the attention of Houston police when his aunt and uncle disappeared in August but he was released since no foul play was suspected.

Escobar arrived in California earlier this month, where authorities say he began a string of attacks that killed three men and seriously injured

four, most of them homeless.

Investigators believe that Escobar bludgeoned the men with a wooden baseball bat or bolt cutters as they slept on the beach or on the streets of Los Angeles and Santa Monica in order to rob them.

Escobar was charged Wednesday in Los Angeles County with three counts of murder, five counts of attempted murder and four counts of second-degree robbery in attacks involving homeless men. He was ordered held without bail pending a Nov. 8 arraignment.

The El Salvador native has a long criminal history, including six felony convictions for burglary and illegal re-entry, but U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement released him from custody after Escobar won an appeal in immigration court in 2016.

Immigration records are generally not public, so it remained a mystery how he won.

More US corporate giants warn tariffs will mean price hikes

DETROIT — From Ford to Walmart to Procter & Gamble, a growing number of iconic American companies are warning that President Donald Trump’s tariffs on U.S. imports are rais-

ing their costs and prices.

Jim Hackett, CEO of Ford, the second-largest U.S.-based automaker, said Wednesday that Trump’s taxes on imported steel and aluminum are costing Ford \$1 billion and threatening to ignite price increases across the auto industry.

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

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

In the meantime, drinking Coca-Cola is costing more because of Trump’s tariffs. Macy’s, too, has warned of likely price increases. So has Gap. On Wednesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell took on the issue at a news conference after the Fed announced its latest interest rate hike. Asked about the Trump tariffs forcing up prices for America’s consumers, Powell agreed that Fed officials are hearing from businesses about forthcoming higher costs.

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

TV SCHEDULE

Evening listings THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING												SEPTEMBER 27	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	Grey's Anatomy (N)		Grey's Anatomy "Broken Together" (N)	With Murder "Your Funeral" (SP) (N)	KATU News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel		
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Grey's Anatomy (N)		Grey's Anatomy "Broken Together" (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Man Up" (SP) (N)	KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel		
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	GoodPla "Everything Is Bonzer!" (SP) (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Man Up" (SP) (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Man Down" (N)	KING 5 News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show		
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight (N)	The Big Bang (N)	Young Sheldon (N)	Mom (SP) (N)	Murphy B. (SP) (N)	(0:5) S.W.A.T. "Shaky Town" (SP) (N)	News (N)	(3:5) Colbert	
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	The Big Bang (N)	Young Sheldon (N)	Mom (SP) (N)	Murphy B. (SP) (N)	(0:5) S.W.A.T. "Shaky Town" (SP) (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	(3:5) Colbert	
8	KGW	(3) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	GoodPla "Everything Is Bonzer!" (SP) (N)		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Man Up" (SP) (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Man Down" (N)	News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show		
9	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Supernatural "Exodus"		The Originals "The Tale of Two Wolves" (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half		
10	KOPB	(10) Outside	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Oregon Art Beat	Outdoor Idaho	Midsomer M. (50) Midsomer M.	Days of Misrule" (3:5) Masterpiece M	Mystery! "Inspector Lewis: One for Sorrow"			
12	KPTV	(12) (5:00) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Los Angeles Rams Site: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (N)		Prime News (N)		Prime News (N)		Prime News (N)		10 O'Clock News (N)	News (N)	Page Six TV	
13	KPDV	(13) (5:00) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Los Angeles Rams Site: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (N)		Prime News (N)		Prime News (N)		Prime News (N)		10 O'Clock News (N)	News (N)	Page Six TV	
14	KCPQ	(14) (5:00) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Los Angeles Rams Site: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (N)		Prime News (N)		Prime News (N)		Prime News (N)		10 O'Clock News (N)	News (N)	Page Six TV	
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)	News (N)	The Simpsons	
21	KBZP	(21) Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		The Last O.G.	The Joker's Wild	Conan (N)	
29	ESPN	(29) (5:00) NCAA Football North Carolina (Chapel Hill) at Miami (L)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
30	ESPN2	(30) Basketball: A Love Story (N)		Basketball: A Love Story (N)		Basketball: A Love Story (N)		Basketball: A Love Story (N)		Basketball: A Love Story (N)		Basketball: A Love Story (N)	
31	NICK	(31) SpongeBob SquarePants	TMNT!(4:5) TMNT	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	I Am Frankie (N)	SpongeBob	★★ Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005, Adventure) Freddie Highmore, David Kelly, Johnny Depp. (3:5) Friends 1/2		News (N)	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	
32	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	★★★ Prisoners (2013, Thriller) Jake Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman.		News (N)	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	
34	FAM	(34) (5:00) ★★★ Forrest Gump '94, Comedy/Drama) Sally Field, Gary Sinise, Tom Hanks.		Saving Mr. Banks (2013, Comedy/Drama) Tom Hanks, Colin Farrell, Emma Thompson.		Saving Mr. Banks (2013, Comedy/Drama) Tom Hanks, Colin Farrell, Emma Thompson.		★★★ Prisoners (2013, Thriller) Jake Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman.		News (N)	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) The Boss (16) Melissa McCarthy. (5:5) The Boss (2016, Comedy) Kristen Bell, Melissa McCarthy. (5:50) FXM Presents		★★★ Prisoners (2013, Thriller) Jake Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman.		★★★ Prisoners (2013, Thriller) Jake Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman.		★★★ Prisoners (2013, Thriller) Jake Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman.		News (N)	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	
36	LIFE	(36) Grey's A. "Where Do We Go From Here"		★★★ Prisoners (2013, Thriller) Jake Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman.		★★★ Prisoners (2013, Thriller) Jake Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman.		★★★ Prisoners (2013, Thriller) Jake Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman.		News (N)	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	
38	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	MarinersPre-game	MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field - Seattle, Wash. (L)		MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field - Seattle, Wash. (L)		MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field - Seattle, Wash. (L)		News (N)	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	
39	F51	(39) (4:00) NHRA Drag R. Midwest Nationals		Legends Never Die "The Sandlot Story"		MLB Whiparound (L)		CFB: Inside Slant	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.	Speak for Yourself			
43	SPIKE	(43) Mom	(3:5) Friends	(0:5) Friends	(2:5) Friends 1/2	(2:0) Friends		★★★ Bad Teacher (2011, Comedy) Jason Segel, Justin Timberlake, Cameron Diaz.		Forgetting Sarah Marshall Jason Segel.			
44	COM	(44) (1:15) The Office	(5:0) The Office "Viewing Party"	(2:5) The Office		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
45	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Mountain "While the Going Is Good"		Mountain Men: Fully Loaded Episodes of the show with additional content.		The First 48 "Officer Down"		The First 48 "A Fighting Chance"	(0:5) The First 48 "In a Lonely Place"		
46	A&E	(46) The First 48 "The Other Wife"		First 48 "Devil in Me/ Trail of Blood"		The First 48 "Cruel Summer"		The First 48 "Officer Down"		The First 48 "A Fighting Chance"	(0:5) The First 48 "In a Lonely Place"		
47	TLC	(47) (5:00) 90 Day Fiancé		Undaunted "Busby Birthday Bash"		To Be Announced		Sextuplets "We're Having SIX-tuplets"		Sweet Home Sextuplets	Sextuplets "We're Having SIX-tuplets"		
48	DISC	(48) Naked and Afraid "Blindsided"		Naked and Afraid "Fire and Fury"		Naked and Afraid "Military Veterans"		Sextuplets "We're Having SIX-tuplets"		Sweet Home Sextuplets	Sextuplets "We're Having SIX-tuplets"		
49	NGEO	(49) Shandong: Land of Confucius (N)		Wild Russia "The Hidden Kingdom" (N)		Life Below 0 "Changing of the Guard"		Life Below Zero "The Ice Below"		Life Below Zero "Tricks of the Trade"	Life Below 0 "Changing of the Guard"		
50	TNT	(50) NCIS: New Orleans "Escape Plan"		NCIS: New Orleans "Course Correction"		★★★ Safe House (2012, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Robert Patrick, Denzel Washington.		★★★ Safe House (2012, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Robert Patrick, Denzel Washington.		★★★ Contraband (12, Action) Giovanni Ribisi, Mark Wahlberg.			
51	AMC	(51) (5:30) ★★★ Con Air (1997, Action) John Cusack, John Malkovich, Nicolas Cage.		NCIS "Nonstop"		★★★ Tombstone (1993, Western) Val Kilmer, Michael Biehn, Kurt Russell.		NCIS "Keep Your Enemies Closer"		NCIS "One Man's Trash"	(0:5) The Lone Ranger Johnny Depp.		
52	USA	(52) NCIS "The Tie That Binds"		NCIS "Nonstop"		NCIS "Keep Your Enemies Closer"		NCIS "Handle With Care"		NCIS "One Man's Trash"	(0:5) The Lone Ranger Johnny Depp.		
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Room For 'Shrooms"		Chopped "Think Small!"		Chopped "Wellington Woes"		NCIS "Handle With Care"		NCIS "One Man's Trash"	(0:5) The Lone Ranger Johnny Depp.		
54	HGTV	(54) Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	Rustic Rehab (N)	House Hunters
55	FX	(55) (4:30) Transformers: Age of Extinction		(14) Nicola Peltz, Mark Wahlberg.		★★★ Fast & Furious 6 (2013, Action) Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel.		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	Rustic Rehab (N)	House Hunters
57	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
61	CNBC	(61) Jay Leno "Limited Funds Unlimited Fun"		Jay Leno's Garage "Second Chances"		Jay Leno's Garage "Origins"		Jay Leno Garage "Hard Work Pays Off"		Jay Leno's Garage "Rolling Sculpture"		Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRAV	(63) Shahs of Sunset "Bridal Bath Wrath"		Shahs "Emeralds Aren't Forever"		Shahs of Sunset		Shahs of Sunset (N)		Shahs of Sunset		Watch What (N)	Shahs of Sunset
64	TCM	(64) (1:15) ★★★ Cry, the Beloved Country (51) Charles Carson, Canada Lee.		★★★ Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (13) Alexandra Daddario, Logan Lerman.		★★★ Black Orpheus (59) Marpessa Dawn, Breno Mello.		★★★ Twister (1996, Action) Bill Paxton, Jami Gertz, Helen Hunt.		(1:15) Walkabout (1971, Adventure) Luc Roeg, David Gulpipli, Jenny Agutter.		Movie	
65	SYFY	(65) (4:30) G.I. Joe: Retaliation		★★★ Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (13) Alexandra Daddario, Logan Lerman.		★★★ Black Orpheus (59) Marpessa Dawn, Breno Mello.		★★★ Twister (1996, Action) Bill Paxton, Jami Gertz, Helen Hunt.		(1:15) Walkabout (1971, Adventure) Luc Roeg, David Gulpipli, Jenny Agutter.		Movie	
102	RFD	(102) SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America "Live" "Alltech"		Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Grown	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library	