

Kavanaugh clears crucial Senate hurdle

By LISA MASCARO
and ALAN FRAM
Associated Press



AP Photo/Seth Wenig

Demonstrators rally Thursday in Times Square in New York to protest Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

move the nomination ahead.

While the vote was a victory for the GOP, lawmakers can vote differently on the climactic confirmation roll call, and Collins told reporters she would announce later today how she would go. That left unclear whether today's tally signaled that the 53-year-old federal appellate judge was on

his way to the nation's highest court, though it would be unusual for lawmakers to switch their votes on such a high-profile issue.

Confirmation would be a crowning achievement for Trump, his conservative base and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Murkowski sat solemnly

during the roll call and whispered "No" when it was her turn to vote. As the tally neared an end, she spoke with Collins, a Democratic friend. Both were surrounded by colleagues from both parties after the vote.

All four lawmakers who'd been undeclared said little or nothing to reporters as they left the chamber.

Trump weighed in shortly after the roll call was announced, tweeting, "Very proud of the U.S. Senate for voting 'YES' to advance the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh!"

Vice President Mike Pence, who could have broken a 50-50 tie, watched the vote from the White House. He is heading to New York for a congressional fundraiser today but planned to be back in Washington for the final vote.

Today's procedural vote occurred a day after the Senate received a roughly 50-page FBI report on the sexual assault allegations, which Trump ordered only after wavering GOP senators forced him to do so.

Republicans said the secret document — which described interviews agents conducted with 10 witnesses — failed to find anyone who could corroborate allegations by his two chief accusers, Christine Blasey Ford and Deborah Ramirez. Democrats belittled the bureau's findings, saying agents constrained by the White House hadn't reached out to numerous other people with potentially important information.

The vote also occurred against a backdrop of smoldering resentment by partisans on both sides. That fury was reflected openly by thousands of boisterous anti-Kavanaugh demonstrators who bounced around the Capitol complex for days, confronting senators in office buildings and even reportedly near their homes.

On the Senate floor, lawmakers' comments underscored the lingering bitterness.

"What left wing groups and their Democratic allies have done to Judge Kavanaugh is nothing short of monstrous," Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said on the chamber's floor before the vote. He accused Democrats of using destructive, unwarranted personal attacks on the nominee and even encouraging the protesters, saying, "They have encouraged mob rule."

Dianne Feinstein of California, that committee's top Democrat, said Kavanaugh's testimony at last week's dramatic Judiciary panel hearing should "worry us all," citing "a hostility and belligerence that is unbecoming" of a Supreme Court nominee.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Disbarred lawyer, 74, accused of shooting 7 officers

FLORENCE, S.C. — A 74-year-old man accused of shooting seven South Carolina law enforcement officers, killing one, is a Vietnam veteran and disbarred attorney who used his marksmanship to hold officers back as their comrades lay bleeding on the ground, authorities said.

Records and social media posts unearthed Thursday showed that Frederick Hopkins became serious about amateur target-shooting around the time he lost his law license in the 1980s for mishandling money.

"I just love the smell of gunpowder in the mornin'," he once posted on Facebook.

In recent years, Hopkins had faced several minor criminal charges, including disorderly conduct in 2014.

Hopkins is accused of opening fire Wednesday from his home in an affluent South Carolina neighborhood after deputies tried to carry out a search warrant. He also allegedly held children hostage inside, authorities said.

The slain officer, a 30-year veteran, was tearfully described as the "epitome of a community police officer" by his chief.

Mourners held a candlelight vigil Thursday night for 52-year-old Officer Terrence Carraway inside a Florence church.

Two wounded city officers have been released from the hospital. A third officer was listed in serious but stable condition, the police chief said. He said he did not know the conditions of three wounded sheriff's deputies.

Hopkins was hospitalized with a head injury and unable to speak with officers, television station WIS reported.

The warrant involved an accusation that a 27-year-old person at the home sexually assaulted a foster child who lives there, Florence County Chief Deputy Glenn Kirby said.

28-year prison sentence caps long downfall for 'Suge' Knight

LOS ANGELES — Marion "Suge" Knight was sentenced Thursday to 28 years in prison for mowing down and killing a Compton businessman in a case that completed the former rap music mogul's downfall from his heyday as one of the biggest — and most feared — names in the music industry.

Knight, 53, will now likely live out most, if not the rest, of his life in a California prison. He showed no emotion in court Thursday as relatives of Terry Carter, the man he killed, described their loved one as a devoted family man and peacemaker.

Carter was killed after Knight and one of his longtime rivals, Cle "Bone" Sloan, started fighting outside a Compton burger stand in

January 2015. Knight was upset about his portrayal in an N.W.A. biopic, "Straight Outta Compton," which Sloan was serving as a consultant on. Knight clipped Sloan with his pickup truck, seriously injuring him, before speeding through the parking lot and running over Carter and fleeing.

While Carter's relatives said they hoped Knight's lengthy sentence will bring them peace, many had no kind words for the Death Row Records co-founder, whom they criticized for showing a complete lack of remorse.

Before Thursday's hearing, Knight had already agreed to his lengthy prison term by pleading no contest to voluntary manslaughter and avoiding a trial on murder and attempted murder charges that could have resulted in a life sentence if he was convicted. The sentencing ended a nearly four-year court saga that included frequent outbursts by Knight, 53, who also collapsed in court during one appearance and shuffled his defense team 16 times.

US unemployment rate falls to 49-year low of 3.7 percent

WASHINGTON — The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 3.7 percent in September — the lowest level since December 1969 — signaling how the longest streak of hiring on record has put millions of Americans back to work.

Employers added just 134,000 jobs last month, the fewest in a year, the Labor Department said today. But that figure was likely depressed by the impact of Hurricane Florence.

That storm struck North and South Carolina in mid-September and closed thousands of businesses. A category that includes restaurants, hotels and casinos lost jobs for the first time since last September, when Hurricane Harvey exerted a similar effect.

In recent months, though, healthy consumer and business spending has been fueling brisk economic growth and emboldening employers to continue hiring. Americans are confident about the economic outlook, buoyed by the job gains and signs of higher pay. The September gain extended an 8½-year streak of monthly job growth.

What's more, the government today revised sharply up its estimate of hiring for July and August by 87,000 jobs. So far this year, monthly job growth has averaged 208,000, up from a pace of 182,000 for all of 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.

Average hourly pay rose 2.8 percent from a year earlier, a moderate gain and one tick below the year-over-year increase in August. Many economists expect pay growth to accelerate in coming months. With unemployment so low, companies are facing intense pressure to raise pay to land workers. Amazon responded this week by raising its minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Interpol president reported missing during trip to China

PARIS — The president of Interpol, a former senior Chinese security official, has been reported missing after he traveled to his native country at the end of September, a French judicial official said today.


Meng Hongwei's wife reported today that she had not heard from her 64-year-old husband since he left Lyon, France, where Interpol is based, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of an ongoing investigation.

The French official said Meng did arrive in China. There was no further word on Meng's schedule in China or what prompted his wife to wait until now to report his absence.

In a statement, Interpol said it was aware of reports about Meng's disappearance and added "this is a matter for the relevant authorities in both France and China." The statement noted that Interpol's secretary general, and not its president, is responsible for the international police agency's operations.

News of the investigation into Meng's disappearance came during a weeklong public holiday in China. In Beijing, the foreign and public security ministries did not immediately respond to calls and faxed requests for comment Friday.

Meet Dulcye Taylor
Candidate for Astoria Mayor



Tuesday, October 9th
Baked Alaska Annex
1 12th St #1
5:30 - 7:30pm

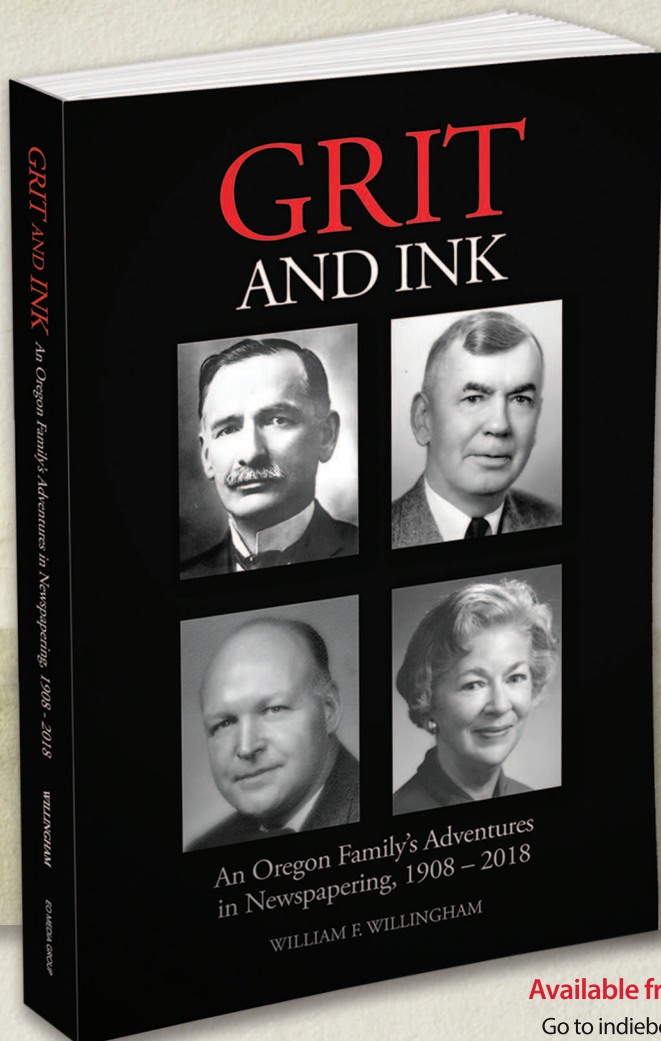
Thursday, October 11th
Astor Place
999 Klaskanine Avenue
11am - Noon

Wednesday, October 17th
Astoria Riverwalk Inn
Dining Room
400 Industry St.
5:30 - 7:30pm

Wednesday, October 24th
KALA
1017 Marine Dr.
6:00 - 8:00pm

Tuesday, October 30th
Astoria Library Flag Room
450 10th St. • 5:30 - 7:30 pm

All meetings are FREE and OPEN to the public



Meet the Author

7 p.m. October 18 at Fort George Brewery

William F. Willingham

A native of Pendleton, Oregon and a consulting historian working in the fields of American history, historic preservation, architectural history, and water resources development. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles, consultant reports, and books

- The history of the company and family that owns The Daily Astorian
- Grit and Ink helps you understand what makes Oregon Oregon
- 220 pages with 60 B/W and Full Color photos

Grit and Ink

An Oregon Family's Adventures in Newspapering, 1908-2018

By William F. Willingham

Foreword by R. Gregory Nokes. Preface by Stephen A. Forrester

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