

Groton Daily Independent

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Coming Up on GDILIVE.COM

High School Spring Concert

Thursday, May 2
7 p.m.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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Groton Senior Citizens

April 8th Groton Seniors met with twelve members. President opened the meeting with the flag pledge. A short meeting was held. Cards were played. The winners of the games: Canasta- Pat Larson and Eunice McCalister. Whist- Tony Goldade and Don Darwin. Door Prizes- Pat Larson, Marilyn Thorson and Lee Schinkel. Lunch was served by Darlene Fisher and Lee Schinkel.

April 15th Seniors met with Eleven members. Said the flag pledge. Cards were played. Winners of the games: Canasta- Beulah Hoop and Eunice McCalister. Whist- Elda Stange. Door Prizes- Dick and Ruby Donovan and Sarge Likness. Lunch was served by Ruby Donovan.

April 22nd Groton Seniors met for a pot luck dinner. Fourteen Seniors were present. President opened with the flag pledge. Bingo was played. Lee Schinkel won Black Out. Cards were played after bingo. Door Prizes went to Ruby Donovan, Bev Sombke and Elda Stange. A get well card was signed by all and given to David Kleinsassor.

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Thursday, May 2, 2019

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Lee Park
Golf Course
DI Pork Loin Meal, 5-7 p.m., HS Gym.
7:00pm: High School Spring Concert and
Awards Night

Friday, May 3, 2019

Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls
4:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Sisseton High School
7:00pm: FFA Banquet Groton Area High School

Saturday, May 4, 2019

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Groton City-wide Rummage Sale
Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls

Sunday, May 5, 2019

5:00 p.m. Groton Softball, Baseball and T-Ball parent meeting at the Legion

Upcoming
**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

Silver Skates Annual Meeting

Does your child enjoy ice skating?

Do you like to see community traditions continue?

Do you have creative or organizational talents waiting to be shared with others?

Please join us for the Carnival of Silver Skates annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the warming house.

Marzahn is triple winner at Redfield Junior High Meet

Andrew Marzahn won the 110m hurdles, the 100m dash and the 200m dash at the junior high track meet held recently in Redfield. In addition, the seventh grade boys 800m relay team and the seventh grade boys 800m Medley Relay Team placed first. Logan Ringgenberg took first in the shot put.

7th Grade Boys
200m Dash: 2, Lane Tietz, 28.15.

400m Dash: 3, Colby Dunker, 1:02.70.

800m Relay: 1, Groton (Dunker, Tietz, Althoff, Zak), 1:47.30.

800m Medley Relay: 1, Groton (Dunker, Tietz, Zak, Imrie), 2:04.49.

Discus: 3, Logan Ringgenberg, 72-10.

Shot Put: 1, Logan Ringgenberg, 30-6; 3, Holden Sippel, 24-5.

7th Grade Girls
100m Hurdles: 3, Jayla Jones, 20.71.

400m Relay: 3, Groton, 1:03.73.

800m Relay: 3, Ruthie Croeni, 2:24.04.

8th Grade Boys
110m Hurdles: 1, Andrew Marzahn, 19.14.

100m Dash: 1, Andrew Marzahn, 13.01.

200m Dash: 1, Andrew Marzahn, 27.10.

400m Dash: 2, Jacob Lewandowski, 1:03.30; 3, Ethan Gengerke, 1:05.17.

800m Relay: 2, Groton, 1:58.08.

Discus: 1, Danny Feist, 103-1.

Shot Put: 2, Danny Feist, 33-2.

8th Grade Girls
400m Relay: 2, Groton, 1:02.99.



The seventh grade boys 800m medley relay team of Lane Tietz, Braxton Imrie, Colby Dunker and Jacob Zak placed first at Redfield. (Photo by Krissi Zak)



The seventh grade boys 800m relay team took first place at the Redfield-Doland junior high track meet. Pictured left to right are Lane Tietz, Bradin Althoff, Colby Dunker and Jacob Zak. (Photo by Krissi Zak)

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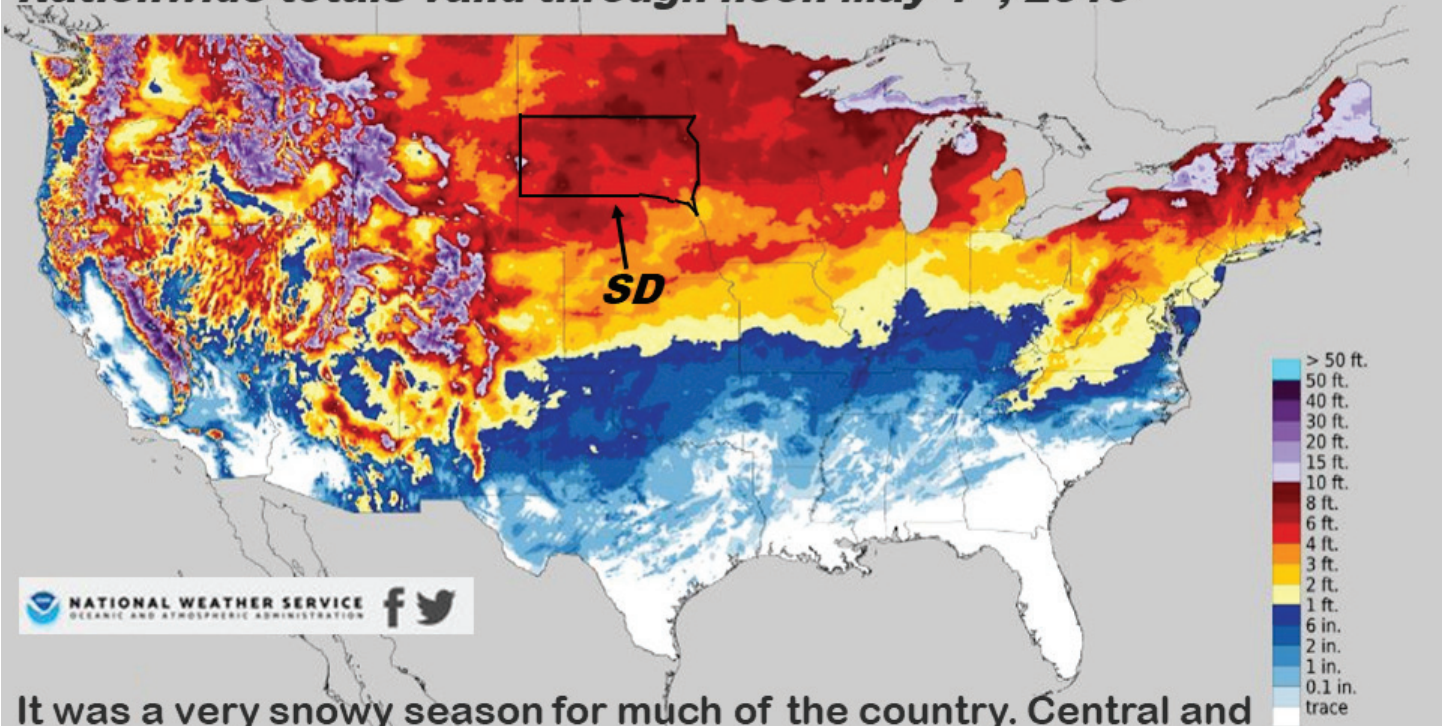
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Winter 2018-2019 Snowfall

Nationwide totals valid through noon May 1st, 2019



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



It was a very snowy season for much of the country. Central and northeastern SD and west central MN picked up generally 4 to 8 feet of snow (60 to 96 inches). **That's how much snow *typically* falls each season in places like Anchorage, AK (74.5"), Binghamton, NY (83.4"), Duluth, MN (86.1") and Boulder, CO (88.3")!**

Published on: 05/01/2019 at 5:33PM

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Today in Weather History

May 2, 1984: High winds picked up a trailer home northwest of the Pierre Airport and hurled it through the air, smashing it to the ground 50 yards away. The upper sections of a home were damaged by the airborne trailer. Several branches and shed roofs were also damaged nearby.

May 2, 2008: A two-day blizzard dropped two to four feet of snow across the northern Black Hills and in Harding and Butte counties. Six to 14 inches of snow fell along the eastern foothills and in western Perkins and Meade counties.

1762: A tornado struck Port Royal Island, South Carolina. It left a path 400 yards wide, tore up trees by the roots, and carried away houses and bridges.

1899 - A storm buried Havre, MT, under 24.8 inches of snow, an all-time record for that location. The water equivalent of 2.48 inches was a record 24 hour total for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1920 - A swarm of tornadoes in Rogers, Mayes and Cherokee Counties in Oklahoma killed 64 persons. (David Ludlum)

1929: Virginia's worst tornado disaster occurred on this day. Six tornadoes, two of which were west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, killed 22 people. One tornado killed twelve children and a teacher at Rye Cove, in Scott County. The storms destroyed four schools.

1983: Severe thunderstorms produced 21 tornadoes across the northeastern states of Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. One tornado even occurred in Ontario, Canada. Of the 21 tornadoes in the United States, nine were rated F3, and six were rated F2. The tornadoes caused five deaths.

1989 - Thunderstorms developing to the north of a warm front produced severe weather in Oklahoma and Texas. There were 93 reports of severe weather. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Beattie, and baseball size hail was reported at Ranger and Breckenridge. Juneau AK reported a record high temperature of 72 degrees while Honolulu equalled their record low for the month of May with a reading of 60 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






1990 - Fourteen cities in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 90s. Tampa FL reported a record high of 97 degrees, and Fort Stewart GA was the hot spot in the nation with a reading of 100 degrees.

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from northeastern Texas to western Arkansas during the evening and early nighttime hours. Thunderstorms spawned a tornado which injured thirteen persons at Paris TX, and produced baseball size hail at Rio Vista TX. Thunderstorm rains of four to seven inches caused flash flooding in west central Arkansas, southern and eastern Oklahoma, and northern Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2010: May began with two days of historical rainfall over much of Middle Tennessee, with massive swath stretching along the I-40 corridor from Benton County to Davidson County. Some areas received nearly 20 inches of rain during this 2-day period, the highest of which was 19.41 inches reported by a CoCoRaHS observer in Camden, TN. Numerous rainfall records were broken at the Nashville International Airport, including the most rain received in a 6 hour period, highest calendar day rainfall, and wettest month, along with several others. Incredibly, the Nashville Airport experienced its wettest and third wettest days in history on back to back days. Many area rivers exceeded their record crest levels, including the Harpeth River near Kingston Springs, which rose to 13.8 feet above the previous record. The Cumberland River at Nashville reached its highest level since flood control was implemented in the late 1960s, flooding parts of downtown Nashville. Waters from the Cumberland reached as far inland as 2nd Avenue, flooding many downtown businesses. Forty-nine Tennessee counties were declared disaster areas with damage estimates of between \$2 and \$3 billion statewide. Many Nashville landmarks received damage from floodwaters, including Gaylord Opryland Hotel and the Grand Ole Opry. Other popular Nashville landmarks affected by the floods include LP Field, Bridgestone Arena, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, which received damage to the basement and its contents, including two Steinway grand pianos and the console of the Martin Foundation Concert Organ. Over \$300 million in Federal Disaster Assistance was approved for the people of Tennessee.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Patchy Fog then Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Partly Sunny
High: 57 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 63 °F

*Rest of the Work Week
(Warmer)*

Tonight: Evening Showers. Lows mostly in the 30s

Thursday: Partly Sunny/Showers Late West. Highs 50s to around 60°F

Friday: Partly Sunny/Showers East. Highs 59-69°F

Updated: 5/1/2019
2:44 PM Central 

Published on: 05/01/2019 at 3:47PM

Showers should end this evening, and then Thursday will turn mostly dry until late in the day, with warmer temperatures. Those warmer temperatures will persist into Friday.

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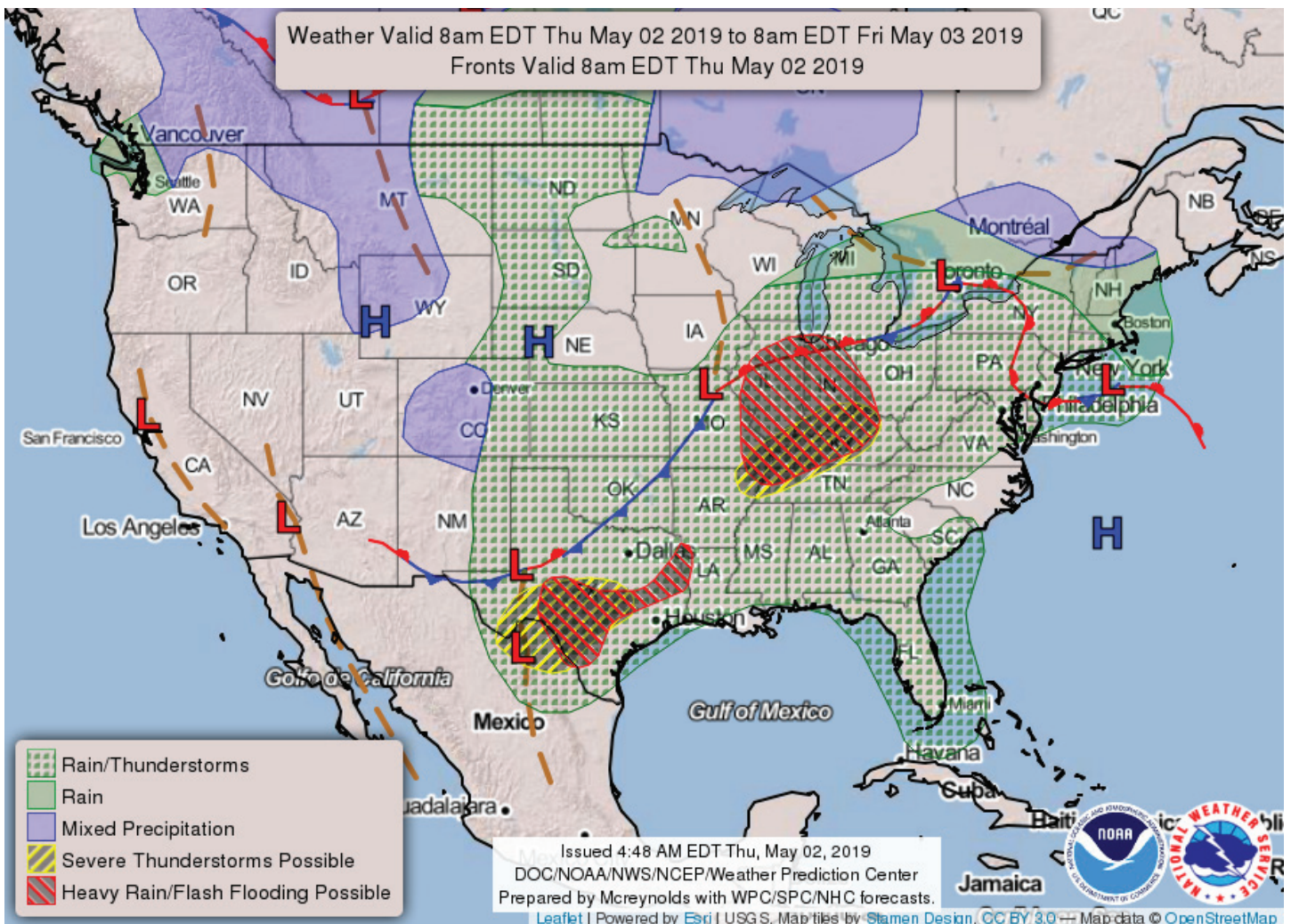
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 44 °F at 4:22 PM
Low Outside Temp: 36 °F at 12:34 AM
High Gust: 11 mph at 12:18 AM
Precip: 0.25

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1955
Record Low: 20° in 1908, 1909
Average High: 65°F
Average Low: 39°F
Average Precip in May.: 0.10
Precip to date in May.: 0.25
Average Precip to date: 4.13
Precip Year to Date: 4.94
Sunset Tonight: 8:41 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:19 a.m.



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WHERE DO YOU STAND?

There's not much middle ground when it comes to attitudes about teachers' pets in the classroom or for those who are the bosses' most trusted friends. If a student has found special favor with a teacher or an employee has gained special recognition by someone in authority at work, the rest of the class or work force often resent the attention they receive or the benefits they get. And, why not?

Often there seems to be secret or hidden paths to such status. How they got there, or what they did to get rewarded is not always obvious. At one time it was an apple or box of candy for the teacher. Perhaps it was a cup of coffee to begin the day or a special gift on a holiday for the boss. But the way to gain this status is not published in a student handbook or organizations policy manual.

With God it's very different. He has no favorites. There are no hidden secrets if anyone wants Him to recognize them at any time or from any place. He is always waiting anxiously for us to call on Him. His ears can hear the faintest whisper from the weakest voice.

Solomon gave us some great advice: A good man obtains favor from the Lord; but the Lord condemns a crafty man. A good man in the eyes of the Lord is one who lives to honor God; one who does what he does because he is motivated by God to serve Him and help others. A man who is crafty is one who devises evil or hides the facts, is not open and honest, nor truthful in his dealings with or service to others.

Want God's favor? Follow Solomon's advice! Honor God, serve others, and be rewarded!

Prayer: Lord, Your instructions for success are always direct, easily understood, though difficult. Give me Your strength to be faithful to Your teachings in all I do. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 12:2 A good man obtains favor from the Lord; but the Lord condemns a crafty man.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:
Dakota Cash
10-15-30-33-34
Estimated jackpot: \$327,000
Lotto America
07-09-33-46-47, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$19.05 million
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$252 million
Powerball
05-23-28-56-66, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 5
Estimated jackpot: \$181 million

Leaders: Report cites need for better tribal consultation

By MARY HUDETZ Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A group of U.S. lawmakers and tribal leaders called attention Wednesday to a government watchdog report that says federal agencies need to improve their consultation process with tribes on major infrastructure projects that could have an impact on Native Americans' land and cultural resources.

The Government Accountability Office began its review of federal agencies at the request of Democratic lawmakers three years ago after criticism over the approval of the heavily protested Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.

The Standing Rock Sioux complained, among other things, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers failed to properly consult with them before initially approving a pipeline route that ran beneath Lake Oahe, a primary source of drinking water for the tribe.

The recently released watchdog report found several dozen tribes told federal officials following the start of the pipeline protests in 2016 that they were consulted only during the late stages of a major project.



FILE - In this Aug. 30, 2017 file photo, Highway 1806 crosses near the former site of the Dakota Access Pipeline protest camps just outside the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. A group of U.S. lawmakers and tribal leaders called attention Wednesday, May 1, 2019 to a government watchdog report that says federal agencies need to improve their consultation process with tribes on major infrastructure projects that could have an impact on Native Americans' land, health and culture. (Evan Frost/Minnesota

Public Radio via AP, File).

"It validates and verifies what we've been hearing from Indian Country for a long, long time," Rep. Raul Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat, said of the report. "Avoiding conversations until after decisions are made is not consultation."

The GAO said federal agencies generally agreed with its recommendations, which did not directly reference disputes over the Dakota Access Pipeline built by Energy Transfer Partners.

One of the key recommendations calls for agencies to update tribes on the bearing their input may have on final infrastructure decisions.

The report's authors also recommended that the government create a central system that officials could reference to determine whether tribes need to be consulted. The system could include data on geographic locations that hold religious or cultural significance for tribes.

Federal agencies are often required by laws, treaties and executive orders to consult with tribal leaders on major projects planned for reservations and other lands where their constituents may have special hunting and fishing rights, though the mandates for how those conversations occur can vary.

"Consultation with tribes should not be an afterthought," said Thora Padilla, director of the Division of Resource Management and Protection for the Mescalero Apache Tribe in southern New Mexico.

Grijalva, Padilla, tribal leaders and others held a news conference Wednesday in Washington to highlight the report. Grijalva also announced he is sponsoring legislation to establish a mandatory tribal consultation process for federal agencies.

The bill would essentially make recommendations in the GAO report into law.

US wildlife officials propose downlisting endangered beetle

By TIM TALLEY Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Federal wildlife officials said Wednesday a large scavenging beetle that has been classified as endangered since 1989 has become more plentiful and should be downlisted to threatened, a decision that environmentalists said is not justified by scientific data.

The American burying beetle was once found in 35 states and three Canadian provinces. It was on the brink of extinction when it was classified as endangered three decades ago, when it was found only in small populations in eastern Oklahoma and Block Island off the coast of Rhode Island.

Conservation efforts over the past 30 years have helped the beetle recover and it is now also found in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, and on Nantucket Island off the coast of Massachusetts, said Amy Leuders, southwest regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

"We have made some positive steps forward and are now proposing to downlist the beetle," Leuders said.

Although the beetle continues to face threats from increasing temperatures due to climate change and land use changes in parts of the range, the species no longer meets the definition of endangered, the agency said.

Noah Greenwald, endangered species director for the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity, said the agency's decision is driven by political pressure from the oil and gas industry, which bears significant costs to protect the beetle and other endangered species.

"The science shows the American burying beetle is even more endangered now, yet the Trump administration is severely reducing its habitat protections," Greenwald said.

Daniel R. Howard, assistant professor of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of New Hampshire, said pressure from lobbyists representing the oil and gas industry, along with small producers, led to the active participation of Oklahoma politicians in the petition to downlist the beetle.

"Oil and gas have not had a free pass on compliance with federal law related to endangered species in Oklahoma," Howard said.

Meanwhile, Chad Warmington, president of the OIPA-OKOGA, an oil and gas industry trade group, said downlisting the endangered beetle "provides significant regulatory relief" to oil and gas producers "and is a step in the right direction for appropriate conservation of our native species."

"The oil and gas industry's implementation of significant conservation and recovery programs is a key

reason the beetle has and will continue to flourish," Warmington said.

The large, black, nocturnal beetle has hardened protective wing covers marked by two scalloped shaped orange patterns. The beetles are scavengers that eat decaying animals. They lay their eggs beside a small carcass that they bury, then feed their larvae from that carcass.

South Dakota names Marlette new National Guard commander

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has a new commander of its Air and Army National Guard.

Gov. Kristi Noem announced Wednesday that Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Marlette will take over as adjutant general on June 8. He will replace Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, who is retiring after heading up the Guard since 2011.

Marlette will have about 4,200 soldiers and airman under his command and 950 full-time federal and state employees that are able to respond in times of state of national emergency.

Marlette enlisted in the South Dakota Army National Guard in 1980. He says it's an honor to serve the state and the governor in his new role.



In this 2015 photo provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the American burying beetle handled in Rock Island, R.I. U.S. wildlife officials say the endangered carnivorous beetle is making a comeback and should be downlisted to threatened. The beetle was listed as endangered in 1989 after its historic range over 35 states and three Canadian provinces shrank to just eastern Oklahoma and Block Island off the coast of Rhode Island. Officials say populations now also can be found in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, and on Nantucket Island off the coast of Massachusetts. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service via AP)

GM seeks dismissal of lawsuit over its electric car range

PARKER, S.D. (AP) — General Motors has asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a South Dakota man who claims the automaker misled consumers about its electric car model.

In a lawsuit filed in state court in Turner County, South Dakota, Jason Haas said he bought a Chevy Bolt in November 2017 from a dealer in Iowa City, Iowa and the car's literature said it had an electric range of 238 miles (383.01 kilometers). But, Haas claims the Bolt's range is 100 miles (160.93 kilometers) less in cold weather.

"At no time during his purchase did GMC make him aware that the (projected) mileage was not accurate, and as a purchaser living in South Dakota where the lower temperature average is below 30 degrees Fahrenheit (-1.11 Celsius) for six out of the 12 calendar months," the lawsuit said.

Haas' lawsuit is seeking class-action status to represent consumers who bought Bolts in the Dakotas, Iowa, Minnesota and Montana. It accuses GM of breaching warranties, fraudulent misrepresentation and selling a vehicle with manufacturing and design defects, the Argus Leader reported.

The automaker, which is seeking to move the case to federal court, said in dismissal motion that Bolt literature "repeatedly discloses that the vehicle's actual range may vary based on several factors including temperature, terrain and driving conditions."

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GM said Haas' allegation is "nonsensical" because the automaker didn't sell the vehicle to Haas. GM's motion calls Haas' claims "vague, conclusory, and inadequately pled."

A ruling on GM's motion is pending.

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

Midwest economy: April state-by-state glance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates growth in that factor over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for April:

Arkansas: The state's overall index dropped to 57.7 from March's 61.6. Index components were new orders at 64.5, production or sales at 61.1, delivery lead time at 55.4, inventories at 55.5 and employment at 51.9. The Arkansas economy has added jobs at a 2.5 annual pace over the past 12 months, while durable-and nondurable-goods manufacturers added jobs at rates of 4.6% and 2.2%, respectively, Goss said.

Iowa: Iowa's overall index plunged below growth neutral, hitting 48.9 last month, compared with March's 57.8. Index components were new orders at 56.4, production or sales at 51.1, delivery lead time at 46.3, employment at 44.4 and inventories at 46.5. Over the past 12 months, the Iowa overall economy has added jobs at a 0.7% annual pace, while durable- and nondurable-goods manufacturers have added jobs at rates of 0.4% and 2.1%, respectively, he said.

Kansas: The state's overall index sank to 48.3 in April, compared with 55.2 in March. Index components were new orders at 55.8, production or sales at 50.5, delivery lead time at 45.7, employment at 43.9 and inventories at 45.8. Goss said the Arkansas economy has added jobs at a 0.9 percent pace over the past 12 months, while durable- and nondurable-goods manufacturers have added jobs at annual rates of 4.3% and 0.4%, respectively.

Minnesota: Minnesota's overall index inched up to 54.5 last month from 53.0 in March. Index components were new orders at 60.9, production or sales at 56.7, delivery lead time at 51.3, inventories at 51.5 and employment at 52.3. Over the past 12 months, the Minnesota economy has lost jobs at a 1.7% annual rate, Goss said. Durable- and nondurable-goods manufacturers have shed jobs at annual rates of 0.4% and 1.2%, respectively.

Missouri: The state's overall index rose to 57.6 in April from 57.3 in March. Index components were new orders at 60.9, production or sales at 56.7, delivery lead time at 59.2, inventories at 56.7 and employment at 54.3. The Missouri economy has added jobs at an annual pace of 0.5% over the past 12 months, while durable- and nondurable-goods manufacturers have added jobs at annual rates of 2% and 1.6%, respectively, he said.

Nebraska: Nebraska's overall index fell in April to 53.8 from March's 57.1. Index components were new orders at 60.5, production or sales at 56.7, delivery lead time at 53.8, inventories at 51.5 and employment at 48.6. The Nebraska economy has added jobs at a 0.3% annual rate over the past 12 months, Goss said, while durable- and nondurable-goods manufacturers have lost jobs at rates of 4.6% and 0.9%, respectively.

North Dakota: The April overall index for North Dakota plunged to 50.6 last month from 55.0 in March. Index components were new orders at 57.9, production or sales at 53.0, delivery lead time at 48.0, employment at 45.8 and inventories at 48.1. Over the past 12 months, the North Dakota economy has added jobs at an annual pace of 2%, Goss said. Durable- and nondurable-goods manufacturers have added jobs at annual rates of 4.2% and 4.9%, respectively.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma's overall index in April dropped below growth neutral for the first time in 21 months.

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It fell to 48.6 from 53.9 in March. Index components were new orders at 56.1, production or sales at 50.4, delivery lead time at 46.0, inventories at 46.1 and employment at 44.1. The Oklahoma economy has added jobs at an annual pace of 1.1% over the past 12 months, he said, while durable- and nondurable-goods manufacturers have added jobs at annual rates of 5.5% and 4.4%, respectively.

South Dakota: The state's overall index remained at a regional high last month despite dropping to 62.2 from 70.8 in March. Index components were new orders at 68.7, production or sales at 66.2, delivery lead time at 60.0, inventories at 60.2 and employment at 55.8. The South Dakota economy has added jobs at an annual rate of 1.7% over the past 12 months, Goss said, while durable- and nondurable-goods manufacturers added jobs at annual rates of 1.8% and 1.1%, respectively.

Survey suggests economic growth ahead for Midwest, Plains

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An April survey of business supply managers suggests there will be solid economic growth over the next three to six months in nine Midwest and Plains states, although some survey category figures declined, a report said Wednesday.

The Mid-America Business Conditions Index dropped to 55.9 last month from 58.2 in March, the report said. The February figure was 57.9.

"The regional economy continues to expand at a positive pace," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey.

"However, as in recent months, finding and hiring qualified workers remained the chief threat to manufacturing economy for the region," Goss said. Nearly 45% of survey respondents identified labor shortages as the greatest threat to company success in the next 12 months, he said.

The April employment index fell to 51.1 from 56.4 in March.

"Until recently, overall manufacturing employment growth in the region has been very healthy and exceeded that of the nation," Goss said. "However, overall employment growth for the region over the past 12 months at 0.5% is well below national job growth of 1.5%."

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

In another economic snapshot, the regional trade numbers rose in April's survey. The new export orders index inched up to 53.9 from March's 53.4, and the import index climbed to 57.0 from 51.7 in March.

Looking ahead six months, the business confidence index jumped to 62.2 in April from 57.2 in March.

"However, I expect business confidence to depend heavily on trade talks with China as well as U.S. economic growth in the weeks and months ahead," Goss said.

Spring planting well behind average pace in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Spring planting remains well behind the average pace in South Dakota after bad weather and flooding last month.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 8% of the spring wheat crop and 7% of the oats crop are seeded. Normally at this time of year, 60% of spring wheat and 62% of oats are in the ground.

Topsoil moisture supplies statewide remain rated 100% adequate to surplus, and subsoil moisture is still 99% in those categories.

The state's winter wheat crop is rated 2% poor, 41% fair, 55% good and 2% excellent.

Bond adjusted for mother accused in 1981 baby death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has given a Sioux Falls woman accused in the 1981 death of her newborn a better chance at leaving jail as she awaits her trial.

Second Circuit Court Judge Susan Sabers changed Theresa Bentaas' \$250,000 cash bond to \$250,000

cash surety Tuesday. It gives Bentaas the chance to work with a bail bondsman to get out of jail.

The 57-year-old Bentaas is accused of leaving her newborn in a ditch after giving birth in her apartment 38 years ago. Police said they used DNA and genealogy sites to determine she was the mother of the infant, called Baby Andrew. The child died of exposure.

Bentaas has been held in the Minnehaha County jail on first- and second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter charges since her March 8 arrest.

Lawmakers to see empty chair, not AG Barr, at House hearing

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr plans to skip a House Judiciary hearing Thursday on special counsel Robert Mueller's report, escalating an already acrimonious battle between Democrats and the Justice Department.

Barr's decision — he cites a disagreement over the questioning — came the day the department missed a committee deadline to provide the panel with a full, unredacted version of Mueller's Russia report and its underlying evidence. Those moves are likely to prompt a vote on holding Barr in contempt and possibly the issuance of subpoenas, bringing House Democrats and the Trump administration closer to a prolonged battle in court.

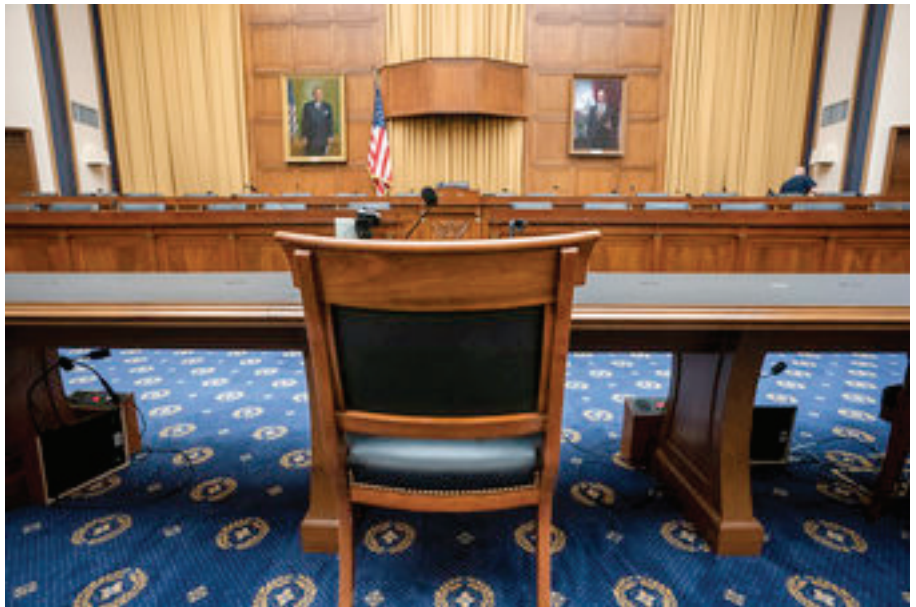
Even though Barr informed the panel he isn't coming, Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said he will still convene the hearing, raising the prospect of an empty witness chair.

"I hope and expect the attorney general will think overnight and will be there as well," Nadler said.

As Barr refused to testify, Democrats sought to speak to Mueller himself. Nadler said the panel hoped the special counsel would appear before the committee on May 15 and the panel was "firming up the date."

The attorney general's cancellation meant he would avoid another round of sharp questioning after testifying Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Democrats on the panel charged that Barr was protecting President Donald Trump after he assessed Mueller's report on his own and declared there wasn't enough evidence that Trump had committed obstruction of justice. Mueller didn't charge Trump with obstruction, but wrote that he couldn't exonerate him, either.

The standoff with Justice Department is one of several fights House Democrats are waging with the Trump administration. Trump has vowed to fight "all of the subpoenas" as multiple committees have sought to speak with administration officials or obtain documents relevant to his policies and finances. Democrats have signaled they won't back down and will take the steps necessary — including in court — to get the White House to comply.



The House Judiciary Committee witness chair will be without its witness this morning, Attorney General William Barr, who informed the Democrat-controlled panel he will skip a scheduled hearing on special counsel Robert Mueller's report, escalating an already acrimonious battle between Democrats and the Justice Department, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, May 2, 2019. (AP Photo/J. Scott

Applewhite)

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House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said she's not interested in impeachment, for the moment. But she told The Associated Press on Wednesday that "the threat of impeachment is always there."

Nadler, D-N.Y., and the Justice Department traded barbs shortly after Barr informed lawmakers of his decision on the hearing, with Nadler saying the attorney general is "trying to blackmail the committee" by setting his own terms. Barr had objected to the format of the hearing after Democrats decided to let staff attorneys conduct a round of questioning after lawmakers were done.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said the staff questioning is "unprecedented and unnecessary."

Also weighing in on the matter of who would ask questions was Trump. "They want to treat him differently than they have anybody else," the president told Fox Business Network's Trish Regan on Wednesday night, adding, "You elect people that are supposed to be able to do their own talking." Trump said he heard that Barr had performed "incredibly well" before the Senate panel.

It's unclear whether Barr will eventually negotiate an appearance with the House panel. Nadler said he would not issue a subpoena for Barr's appearance on Thursday but would first focus on getting the full Mueller report, likely including a vote holding Barr in contempt of Congress.

While a contempt vote would make a strong statement, it is unlikely to force the Justice Department to hand over the report. A vote of the full House on contempt would send a criminal referral to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia — a Justice Department official who is likely to defend the administration's interests. But even if the U.S. attorney declines to prosecute, Democrats could pursue other avenues in court.

In a letter sent to the committee late Wednesday, Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd laid out a list of reasons that the department won't provide the full Mueller report or all the underlying evidence. Boyd said the special counsel's investigative files include "millions of pages of classified and unclassified documents, bearing upon more than two dozen criminal cases and investigations, many of which are ongoing." Boyd also reiterated that the department would not disclose secret grand jury material, another battle that could end up in court if Nadler decides to fight it.

The Justice Department has already made a less-redacted version of the report available for a small number of lawmakers, including Nadler and Pelosi, but Democrats have so far declined to read it, saying they want the entire report released to a wider audience.

Republicans objected to Nadler's demands and say the staff questioning is unnecessary. They argue that Democrats are trying to have impeachment hearings without going through the official process of impeachment.

"Chairman Nadler sabotaged his own hearing," Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., said after Barr canceled. "That's sad. Because now Republicans and Democrats are not going to be able to question Bill Barr."

Associated Press writers Alan Fram, Michael Balsamo, Eric Tucker and Laurie Kellman contributed to this report.

Key takeaways from Barr's testimony and Mueller's letter

By CHAD DAY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was Attorney General William Barr's testimony, but Robert Mueller's words stole the show.

In his appearance Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Barr was on the defensive after a letter from Mueller surfaced criticizing how the attorney general handled the public release of the special counsel's core findings.

The letter laid bare some of the internal tensions between the attorney general and the special counsel as Barr defended his rollout of the Russia report — and President Donald Trump — while taking some subtle shots at his old friend Mueller.

Some key takeaways from Mueller's letter and Barr's testimony.

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MUELLER WANTED MORE INFO RELEASED AT FIRST

Mueller wanted the executive summaries from his report publicly released immediately after he submitted his report in March. But Barr went his own way.

Days after receiving the 448-page report, Barr released his own four-page letter laying out the report's principal conclusions. The letter said that Mueller didn't establish a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia and that the special counsel didn't make a formal decision on whether Trump obstructed justice.

Mueller said Barr did more harm than good by not releasing more information.

In his March 27 letter to Barr, Mueller wrote, "The summary letter the Department sent to Congress and released to the public late in the afternoon of March 24 did not fully capture the context, nature and substance of this Office's work and conclusions."

"There is now public confusion about critical aspects of the results of our investigation," Mueller added. In the letter, first reported by The Washington Post, Mueller urged Barr to release redacted versions of the summaries at that time, which Barr did not do.

They ultimately became public with the release of the redacted report last month. Republicans cited that fact in dismissing the matter as now moot. But Democrats said the delay allowed Trump to use Barr's letter to bake in a public narrative about the report's findings before it was released.

FOLLOWING UP ON THE "SNITTY" LETTER

Barr testified that he called Mueller after receiving his complaints and Mueller told him he hadn't "misrepresented" the report. Instead, Barr said Mueller told him he was upset that the press coverage was reading too much into the letter.

Barr said Mueller pressed him to release the summaries, but he rejected that advice because he didn't want to release the report "piecemeal."

Bristling under questioning from Senate Democrats, Barr said: "It was my decision how and when to make it public. Not Bob Mueller's."

Barr described Mueller's letter as a "bit snitty," and also took a subtle shot at the special counsel, saying he slowed down its public release.

He said he had asked Mueller's team to identify grand jury information that would need to be redacted, but when he received the report, they hadn't done it. He said it then took weeks to comb through the report to black out protected information.

PAST COMMENTS TO CONGRESS DRAW SCRUTINY

A couple weeks after receiving Mueller's complaints, Barr was asked at a House hearing about reports that members of the special counsel's team were "frustrated at some level with the limited information included" in the letter Barr sent to Congress detailing Mueller's principal conclusions. Rep. Charlie Crist, D-Fla., asked Barr, "Do you know what they are referencing with that?"

Barr responded, "No, I don't."

On Wednesday, Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee challenged Barr to explain how he could



Attorney General William Barr testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, May 1, 2019. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

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say that after receiving Mueller's letter. Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii went further, saying Barr had lied.

But Barr defended himself by saying the question was imprecise. Crist's question asked him about unidentified members of Mueller's team, while he spoke with Mueller directly, he said.

"I don't know what that refers to at all," Barr said of the question.

BARR SAYS HE DIDN'T EXONERATE TRUMP

That's not what the Justice Department does, Barr said.

"I didn't exonerate. I said that we didn't believe that there was sufficient evidence to establish an obstruction offense," Barr said.

Under questioning, Barr said he didn't believe that Trump's actions related to the Russia probe broke the law. He said Trump was well within his authority to fire FBI Director James Comey or to direct his White House counsel to have Mueller removed as special counsel.

But he declined to say whether he thought it was OK for a president to direct people around him to lie.

"I'm not in the business of determining when lies are told to the American people. I'm in the business of determining whether a crime has been committed," Barr said.

BARR DEFENDS TRUMP WITH HIS VIEW OF THE PRESIDENCY

The powers of the presidency are so vast that Trump could shut down any investigation into him if he believed he was falsely accused.

That's what Barr told the committee.

In making his decision that Trump didn't obstruct justice by trying to curtail the Russia probe, Barr said he focused on how the president didn't commit an underlying crime with Russia and how "we now know that he was being falsely accused."

"The president doesn't have to sit there constitutionally and allow it to run its course," Barr said.

He also expressed sympathy for Trump.

"Two years of his administration have now been dominated by allegations that have proven false. To listen to some of the rhetoric you would think the Mueller report had found the opposite," Barr said.

Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

'Riley Howell is a hero': Student who attacked gunman lauded

By TOM FOREMAN Jr. and JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — David Belnap stood on his North Carolina college campus aching from the latest U.S. school shooting as he held a candle and wore a homemade T-shirt with "Riley Howell is a hero" written on the back.

Howell died in his classroom Tuesday at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, charging and tackling a gunman who would kill him and another student and wound four others with a legally obtained pistol, authorities said.

Howell's decision to fight for the lives of others fit his character, Belnap said Wednesday at a candlelight vigil on campus the night after the shooting.

"It seems very much like something he would do. I want that to be his legacy, that he lost his life to protect those he cared about," the sophomore said about his friend.

Howell, 21, likely went through the same active shooter drills as countless other students of his generation. They were taught to run away if they can, hide if they can't run and if the horrible situation arises where a gunman prevents those two choices — fight for their lives.

Howell knocked the assailant down, buying enough time for the first officer into the classroom to capture Trystan Andrew Terrell, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said.

The gunman had a lot of ammunition and while detectives aren't sure if he was targeting anyone specifically Tuesday, they know he picked out the Kennedy Building and gave no indication he was going to stop shooting before Howell charged, Putney said.

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"His sacrifice saved lives," the chief said.

Howell was with classmates for end-of-year presentations in an anthropology class when the shooting happened.

In a statement, UNC-Charlotte said all the victims were students, five from North Carolina and one international. Howell, of Waynesville, and Ellis R. Parlier, 19 of Midland, were killed. Those wounded were Sean Dehart, 20, and Drew Pescaro, 19, both of Apex; Emily Houpt, 23, of Charlotte; and Rami Alramadhan, 20, of Saihat, Saudi Arabia.

Terrell, 22, was charged with two counts of murder, four counts of attempted murder and other charges. His first appearance in court was scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

The motive wasn't clear. Terrell had been enrolled at the school but withdrew this semester, UNC-Charlotte spokeswoman Buffy Stephens said. Campus Police Chief Jeff Baker said Terrell had not appeared on their radar as a potential threat.

"I just went into a classroom and shot the guys," Terrell told reporters Tuesday as officers led him handcuffed into a law enforcement building.

Terrell is under observation in police custody, and his father and attorney haven't been allowed to speak to him, his grandfather Paul Rold said.

Terrell was on the autism spectrum but was "clever as can be" and bright enough to learn foreign languages, Rold said from his home in Arlington, Texas. He said his grandson wasn't very social.

On Wednesday night, thousands of students and others thronged the school's basketball arena for a campus vigil. Student body president Chandler Crean wiped away tears as the school chancellor said they couldn't emerge unchanged from Tuesday's shooting, but they could emerge stronger. He later said the university needs to use the shock of what happened to make the world better.

"What happened yesterday cannot happen again," Crean said.

The father of Howell's longtime girlfriend said news that he tackled the shooter wasn't surprising. Kevin Westmoreland, whose daughter Lauren dated Howell for nearly six years, said Howell was athletic and compassionate — and would have been a good firefighter or paramedic.

"If Lauren was with Riley, he would step in front of a train for her if he had to," Westmoreland said. "I didn't realize it might come to that for somebody else."



In this Sept. 1, 2017 photo provided by Matthew Westmoreland, Riley Howell, right, is seen. Authorities say Howell, 21, was killed after he tackled a gunman who opened fire in a classroom at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Police said a few students, including Howell, died and several others were injured. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said Howell's actions likely saved the lives of other students. (Matthew Westmoreland via AP)

Sarah Blake Morgan in Charlotte; Martha Waggoner and Emery Dalesio in Raleigh; and Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia, contributed to this report.

Drake breaks Taylor Swift's record at Billboard Music Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

Mother's Day is in a couple weeks, but Drake gave his mom an early gift with a heartfelt speech at the 2019 Billboard Music Awards, where the rap star also broke Taylor Swift's record for most wins.

Drake turned up the love for his mom when he picked up top artist, besting Cardi B, Ariana Grande, Post Malone and Travis Scott. He won 12 awards Wednesday in Las Vegas, making his career total 27 (Swift has 23 wins).

He looked up to the ceiling as he held the trophy, then said: "I just want to thank my mom for her relentless effort in my life.

"I want to thank my mom for all the times you drove me to piano. All the times you drove me to basketball and hockey — that clearly didn't work out. All the times you drove me to 'Degrassi.' No matter how long it took me to figure out what I wanted to do, you were always there to give me a ride, and now we're on one hell of a ride," Drake said.

Family bonding was a theme at the three-hour show, which aired live on NBC and was hosted by Kelly Clarkson

Ciara's young son and husband, NFL player Russell Wilson, danced along while she worked the stage, and Nick and Joe Jonas gave kisses to Priyanka Chopra and Sophie Turner of "Game of Thrones" fame when they sang in the audience before hitting the stage. Brendon Urie of Panic! at the Disco looked to his parents as he accepted top rock song, quoting the name of his current hit: "Hey look Ma, I made it!"

Mariah Carey's twins cheered her on as she sang a medley of her hits and accepted the Icon award. She was in diva form before taking the award from Jennifer Hudson, throwing her napkin on the floor after dabbing her face with it.

"Without getting into all the drama, all the ups and downs of my career ... I guess I always felt like an outsider, someone who doesn't quite belong anywhere, and I still feel like that lost interracial child who had a lot of nerve to believe I could succeed at anything at all in this world. But, and this is the truth, I did believe because I had to," she said. "The truth is I dedicated my life to my music — my saving grace — and to my fans."

Cardi B, the night's top nominee with 21, locked lips with husband Offset on the red carpet and the couple sat closely inside the venue. She won six awards, including top Hot 100 song for "Girls Like You" with Maroon 5.

"I remember when Maroon 5 hit me up to do this song. I was like, 'Bro I'm five months pregnant. I can't even breathe.' But this record to me was so amazing. I was like, 'Oh this is going to be a hit.' And now I



Drake poses in the press room with his awards at the Billboard Music Awards on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. Drake won for top artist, top male artist, top billboard 200 artist, top hot 100 artist, top streaming songs artist, top song sales artist, top radio songs artist, top rap artist, top rap male artist, top billboard 200 album and top rap album for "Scorpion," and top streaming song video for "In My Feelings." (Photo by Richard Shotwell/Invision/AP)

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sing this song to my daughter because she's the girl that I need," she said.

Drake and Cardi B — who both won multiple awards during the live telecast — used their speeches to promote love and appreciation for their peers in the music industry.

Others, too, brought on the positive energy when onstage. Imagine Dragons' band leader Dan Reynolds used his speech to highlight the dangers of conversion therapy on LGBTQ youth. He earned rousing applause. Florida Georgia Line's Tyler Hubbard followed suit, telling the audience after winning top country song: "In the spirit of so much truth being spoken tonight by so many talented artists, I think we should speak some truth."

"As artists we all get to experience so many unbelievable things, but in our opinion, at the end of the day, it's all for nothing if you're not using your platform for better ... to spread love, to help those in needs, to be a light to your community," he said.

Swift kicked off the show when she brought her new music video to life with a colorful, eye-popping performance of her song "ME!" Dancers wearing bright, pastel colors spun in the air holding umbrellas and a marching band kicked off Swift's performance — like most of the world, maybe she was inspired by Beyonce's new Coachella film?

Madonna, wearing an eye-patch, teamed up with Colombian singer Maluma for a performance, but it was Grammy-winning Christian artist Lauren Daigle who had the night's best performance. She sang "You Say," giving the audience a calm, yet strong and powerful performance. She was backed by three awesome background singers and a pianist.

BTS, who performed alongside Halsey, also had a major night. At the Billboard Awards and American Music Awards, the K-pop band had only previously won "social" awards based off their fanatic fan base, but on Wednesday BTS picked up top duo/group, besting Grammy-winning groups like Maroon 5, Imagine Dragons and Dan + Shay.

"I still can't believe we're here on this stage with so many great artists," RM said as fans screamed loudly. "We're still the same boys from six years ago, we still have the same dreams ... we still have the same thoughts. Let us keep dreaming."

An unlikely winner at the Billboard Awards? "Game of Thrones" actress Maisie Williams, whose plays Arya Stark on the HBO series and shined brightly on last week's episode.

"Shout-out to Arya Stark for putting in that work last week," Drake said onstage after winning his first award of the evening.

Online: <https://www.billboard.com/billboard-music-awards>

Venezuelans take to streets as uprising attempt sputters

By **SCOTT SMITH** and **CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA** Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelans heeded opposition leader Juan Guaidó's call to fill streets around the nation Wednesday but security forces showed no sign of answering his cry for a widespread military uprising, instead dispersing crowds with tear gas as the political crisis threatened to deepen.

Thousands cheered Guaidó in Caracas as he rolled up his sleeves and called on Venezuelans to remain out in force and prepare for a general strike, a day after his bold attempt to spark a mass military defection against President Nicolas Maduro failed to tilt the balance of power.

"It's totally clear now the usurper has lost," Guaidó proclaimed, a declaration belied by events on the ground.

Across town at the Carlota air base near where Guaidó made his plea a day earlier for a revolt, intense clashes raged between protesters and troops loyal to Maduro, making clear the standoff would drag on. There and elsewhere, state security forces launched tear gas and fired rubber bullets while bands of mostly young men armed with makeshift shields threw rocks and set a motorcycle ablaze.

"I don't want to say it was a disaster, but it wasn't a success," said Marilina Carillo, who was standing in a crowd of anti-government protesters blowing horns and whistles.

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Opposition leaders hoped Guaidó's risky move would stir a string of high-ranking defections and shake Maduro's grip on power. But only the chief of Venezuela's feared intelligence agency broke ranks, while most others stood steadfast. Some analysts predicted that would make Maduro more emboldened.

The dramatic events could spell even more uncertainty for Venezuela, which has been rocked by three months of political upheaval since Guaidó re-energized a flagging opposition movement by declaring himself interim president, saying Maduro had usurped power.

Now the struggle has heightened geopolitical dimensions, with the United States and more than 50 other nations backing Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate president and Maduro allies like Russia lending the beleaguered president military and economic support.

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Wednesday that Maduro is surrounded by "scorpions in a bottle" and that key figures among his inner circle had been "outed" as dealing with the opposition.

The United States contends Maduro had been ready to flee Tuesday, an airplane already on the tarmac, but was talked out of it by Russian advisers.

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for Russia's Foreign Ministry, said such assertions were part of a "global information and psychological war against Venezuela and Caracas."

"There is no proof there was a Russian plane there," she said. "The U.S. is big on Venezuela and wants to bring this to an end but that cannot do that."

Protesters like Beatriz Pino, who took to the streets Wednesday waving flags and banging pots and pans, said they weren't entirely surprised by the military's response to Guaidó. She said the late President Hugo Chavez politicized Venezuela's military as he installed a socialist system. Despite the setback, she said she remained committed to the opposition's call for protest.

"We can't leave the streets," she said. "We've been in this for years."

As the standoff drags on, life is becoming even more difficult for Venezuelans, who are struggling with hyperinflation that has rendered salaries worthless as well as severe shortages of food and medicine that have driven about 3 million people to flee the country in recent years.

"We need to get out of this tragedy," said Ana Camarillo, a housewife.

David Smilde, a Venezuela expert, said the opposition's thus far unsuccessful attempt to trigger an uprising should provoke a round of reflection.

"Given the balance of power within Venezuela and the geopolitical struggle around it, they need to engage in real politics and real negotiations to move this conflict to a different place," he said.

At a large pro-Maduro rally Wednesday, ruling party leader Diosdado Cabello said that "as a bloc" Venezuela's military remained intact and united behind Maduro. He likened opposition leaders to "walking zombies."

Luis Scott was among those wearing bright red shirts in solidarity with the socialist government and said



An anti-government protester winds up to throw a rock at security forces during clashes between the two, in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Opposition leader Juan Guaidó called for Venezuelans to fill streets around the country Wednesday to demand President Nicolás Maduro's ouster. Maduro is also calling for his supporters to rally. (AP

Photo/Fernando Llano)

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he traveled seven hours on a bus to participate in the rally. He conceded Venezuela has deep economic troubles, but said the path set by Chavez and Maduro is firm.

"We are fighting for our freedom," the fisherman said.

While Maduro maintains a devout core of fervent supporters first inspired by Chavez, attendance at such shows of support is viewed as a requirement of their jobs.

At the Plaza Francia in Caracas' Altamira neighborhood, protesters jammed the streets in one of the opposition's biggest demonstrations yet. A few blocks away the scene quickly turned ugly. Protesters surrounded a suspected thief, beating him until he bled. A man with a megaphone appealed to the crowd to return to the fight against police.

"The fight is down there!" he said, gesturing to the direction of a military base.

Mayor Gustavo Duque said the Salud Chacao medical center took in 27 patients by late afternoon Wednesday, one of whom was shot in the foot by a firearm. Those injuries are on top of more than 50 reported by the hospital's director during clashes Tuesday.

Maduro appeared at the socialist party rally Wednesday afternoon, saying U.S. leaders had been fooled by the opposition into believing he was about to flee Venezuela. He said the Trump administration was part of a "pot of lies" and likened the ordeal to "fake news."

He promised to put all conspirators behind bars.

"Sooner or later they'll go to jail and pay for their betrayal and their crimes," he said.

Giancarlo Morelli of the British analysis group Economist Intelligence Unit said Maduro faces peril whatever path he takes with Guaidó over the uprising attempt.

"Failing to arrest Mr. Guaidó would be perceived as an important sign for weakness from Mr. Maduro," Morelli said. "But arresting Mr. Guaidó risks a strong counter-reaction from the U.S.," which has been ratcheting up sanctions.

For many Venezuelans, the turmoil has become an almost normal state of affairs.

Johanns Davila walked his dog along a street in the capital littered with shotgun shells, tear gas canisters and a charred motorcycle, the remnants of skirmishes between the opposition and state security.

"We need to get people out and recover the country," Davila said.

Associated Press writers Christine Armario in Cucuta, Colombia, Fabiola Sanchez and Jorge Rueda in Caracas contributed to this report.

This story deletes extraneous 'against' in 4th paragraph.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. HOUSE PANEL TO FACE EMPTY CHAIR INSTEAD OF BARR

The attorney general is skipping a House Judiciary Committee hearing, evading another round of scathing questions by Democratic lawmakers.

2. 'RILEY HOWELL IS A HERO'

Howell died in his classroom at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, charging and tackling a gunman who would kill him and another student.

3. ASSANGE FACING EXTRADITION REQUEST

The WikiLeaks founder confirms that he will fight extradition to the United States, where he is accused of conspiring to hack a government computer.

4. VENEZUELAN UPRISING ATTEMPT SPUTTERS

Venezuelans fill the nation's streets but security forces show no sign of answering Juan Guaidó's cry for a military uprising as the political crisis threatens to deepen.

5. UNDER TRUMP CHANGE, CUBA BUSINESS PARTNERS CAN NOW BE SUED

People who lost properties after the Cuban revolution hope that they will be able to sue European and U.S. companies doing business on their former properties.

6. CASE OF OLYMPIC STAR CASTER SEMENYA PRESENTS DILEMMA

The sports world must now wrestle with how to minimize or eliminate discrimination while simultaneously ensuring that competitions are as fair as possible.

7. UNPRECEDENTED IRAQI RAINS A MIXED BAG

The wettest winter in a generation brings relief to a country facing severe water challenges, but the deluge also highlights the country's infrastructure problems.

8. AS CAR-SHARING PICKS UP IN US, SO DO LEGISLATIVE BATTLES

Rental car companies, airport authorities and others say the upstart

apps should face the same taxes and fees that come with rental cars, AP finds.

9. RARE LEONARDO DRAWING, PORTRAIT UNCOVERED

A royal art adviser says a drawing of a bearded, pensive-looking man owned by Queen Elizabeth II is a 500-year-old portrait of Leonardo da Vinci.

10. WHO WON BIG AT BBMAS

Drake gives his mom an early Mother's Day gift with a heartfelt speech at the Billboard Music Awards, where the rap star also broke Taylor Swift's record for most wins.



Attorney General William Barr is photographed as he sits down to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Semenya's case reflects broader dilemmas facing sports world

By **DAVID CRARY AP National Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Caster Semenya's running career, jarred by an adverse court ruling on Wednesday, is unique in virtually all its details. Yet the dilemmas she has posed for the track-and-field establishment reflect how vast segments of the sports world are now wrestling with issues related to intersex and transgender athletes.

The essence of the dilemma: How to minimize or eliminate discrimination while simultaneously ensuring that competitions are as fair as possible.

The challenges faced by Olympic champion Semenya — a South African woman who reportedly has some intersex traits — differ in key respects from those confronting transgender women. But there are parallels as well, as evidenced in the ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the sports world's highest court,

The CAS ruled that Semenya and other female runners with unusually high testosterone must take medication to reduce their levels of the male sex hormone if they want to compete in certain events, notably the 400 and 800 meters. Comparable requirements apply to transgender women seeking to compete in the Olympics and in NCCA-governed collegiate sports in the U.S.; both organizations say male-to-female athletes should demonstrate that their testosterone level has been below a certain point for at least a year before their first competition.

In Semenya's case, the CAS voted 2-1 to uphold proposed rules issued by international track's governing

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body, the IAAF, saying that they are discriminatory but that “such discrimination is a necessary, reasonable and proportionate means” of “preserving the integrity of female athletics.”

Athlete Ally, a U.S.-based group advocating for greater transgender inclusion in sports, assailed the ruling against Semenya.

“Forcing athletes to undergo medically unnecessary interventions in order to participate in the sport they dedicate their lives to is cruel, and a violation of their human rights,” said the group’s executive director, Hudson Taylor.

Also angered was Kimberly Zieselman, executive director of InterACT, which advocates on behalf of intersex youth.

The CAS ruling against Semenya “is another example of the ignorance faced by women athletes who have differences in their sex traits,” Zieselman said in an email. “There is no one way to be a woman.”

“It is an inherently flawed conclusion that Caster’s natural testosterone level is the only thing giving her physical strength,” Zieselman added. She noted — while citing swimmer Michael Phelps’ long arms — that many athletes have unique physical advantages.

Powerful female stars such as Serena Williams in tennis, Katie Ledecky in swimming and 6-foot-9 (2.06-meter) Brittney Griner in basketball also have been cited as possessing a distinctive physical edge.

Aside from Semenya, there have been relatively few high-profile controversies involving intersex athletes, while there’s been an abundance of news stories about transgender athletes.

Overall, supporters of increased trans inclusion in sports are heartened by the pace of progress. In the United States, a growing number of state high school athletic associations in the U.S. enable them to play on teams based on their gender identity, and the NCAA has trans-inclusive guidelines for all its member schools.

But there have been numerous bitter controversies, even at the high school level. In Connecticut, for example, the dominance of transgender girl sprinters Terry Miller and Andraya Yearwood has stirred resentment among some competitors and their families.

At the adult level, USA Powerlifting incurred recent criticism for sticking by its policy of banning trans women from its competitions. The organization contends that regardless of testosterone levels, male-to-female competitors generally have significant advantages related to bone density and muscle mass.

Earlier this year, tennis great Martina Navratilova became entangled in the debate over trans women’s place in sports.

A lesbian and longtime gay-rights activist, Navratilova was accused of being “transphobic” after asserting that many transgender women — even if they’d undergone hormone treatment — have an unfair



FILE - In this Sept. 9, 2018 file photo, Caster Semenya of South Africa crosses the finish line to win the women’s 800 meters for Africa at the IAAF track and field Continental Cup in Ostrava, Czech Republic. Semenya’s roller-coaster running career, jarred by an adverse court ruling on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, is unique in virtually all its details. Yet the dilemmas she has posed to the track-and-field establishment reflect how vast segments of the sports world are now wrestling with how best to deal with intersex and transgender athletes. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

advantage over other female competitors. Among her critics was Athlete Ally, which ousted her from its advisory board.

Another critic was Rachel McKinnon, a transgender Canadian track cyclist who in October won a world championship sprint event for women of ages 35 to 44. She suggested that Navratilova's argument reflected "an irrational fear of trans women."

McKinnon encountered widespread resentment after she won her championship event.

Initially, she was elated, even though one of her top rivals pulled out of the final at the last minute. But then a photo spread across the internet showing her on the podium with the two smaller, skinnier runners-up, triggering extensive social-media attacks.

Joanna Harper, a medical physicist and transgender runner from Portland, Oregon, says the controversies raise complex questions, and she believes there needs to be a standard based on hormone levels.

"The gender identity doesn't matter, it's the testosterone levels," Harper said. "Trans girls should have the right to compete in sports. But cisgender girls should have the right to compete and succeed, too. How do you balance that? That's the question."

The IAAF argued in Semenya's case that high, naturally occurring levels of testosterone in athletes with intersex characteristics that don't conform to standard definitions of male and female give them an unfair competitive advantage. It decreed a maximum level for females.

Semenya — whose muscular build and super-fast times have led some to question her accomplishments — declared she will not be deterred by the CAS ruling.

"For a decade the IAAF has tried to slow me down, but this has actually made me stronger," she said in a statement. "I will once again rise above and continue to inspire young women and athletes in South Africa and around the world."

A Trump dilemma: Finding a dovish GOP ally to serve on Fed

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The skeptical response to President Donald Trump's choice of Stephen Moore for the Federal Reserve has thrown a spotlight on the tough task Trump has set for himself: Finding a rare conservative ally who both favors cutting interest rates and is respected enough to win Senate confirmation.

Frustrated by the Fed's handling of rates under Jerome Powell — his own choice to be chairman — the president tapped two outspoken political boosters to fill a pair of vacancies on the Fed's board. One, Herman Cain, withdrew from consideration last week amid renewed scrutiny of sexual harassment and infidelity allegations that first surfaced during his 2012 presidential campaign. The other, Moore, faces rising opposition on Capitol Hill both because of a slew of inflammatory commentaries he wrote and concerns that he isn't qualified to



A television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the rate decision of the Federal Reserve, Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The Federal Reserve is leaving its key interest rate unchanged and signaling that no rate hikes are likely in coming months, amid signs of renewed economic health but unusually low inflation. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

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serve on the world's leading central bank.

Together, Cain, a former pizza company executive, and Moore, an economics commentator, represent a brash effort by Trump to reshape the Fed to his liking. Now, with Cain out of the picture and Moore's selection in trouble, Trump might end up having to leave two of the seven seats on the Fed's board unfilled.

The Fed can function normally with less than a full complement of members, although Trump appears to want to install perceived loyalists on the board to press for rate cuts. That effort puts him in conflict with the Fed's hard-won independence from political influence, which is widely regarded as vital to healthy markets and stable prices.

On Wednesday, John Thune, the second-ranking Republican senator, suggested that Moore "has issues up here" and said there are "ongoing discussions" with the White House about it. (Moore has yet to be formally nominated.)

Also Wednesday, the Fed ended its latest policy meeting by signaling that it's unlikely to either raise or cut rates in coming months. Its decision came a day after Trump tweeted that the Fed should cut rates by a full percentage point — a move that almost no mainstream economist would advocate. For months, Trump has been denouncing Powell's leadership of the Fed as insufficiently favorable toward low rates.

Asked at a news conference after the Fed's meeting about Trump's attacks, Powell replied that the central bank is a "nonpolitical institution" that doesn't consider outside criticism in making its policy decisions.

Powell also declined to comment on a question that touched on some of Moore's stated opinions. He was asked whether women who receive richer pay increases than men would threaten family stability, as Moore had written.

"It's really not my role to engage with potential nominees to the Fed," Powell said. "So, I'm really not going to go there."

Many economists, both liberal and conservative, have suggested that Moore was chosen mainly for his allegiance to Trump's priorities. He had long identified as an inflation "hawk" who favored keeping rates high enough to fight inflation, even when the economy was weak. Now, he sounds much more like a "dove," aligned with Trump's demand for low rates even with the economy on solid footing.

Numerous GOP senators have also said they object to Moore's disparaging past writings about women or have sidestepped questions about whether they would back him for the Fed.

It's not unusual for presidents to nominate for the Fed people they think generally share their views on the economy and interest rate policy. But most economists see Moore and Cain as far more politically minded than is typical.

"The difference here is that (previous) loyalists have nearly always had a baseline of credible expertise that both Moore and Cain lack," said Peter Conti-Brown, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and author of the 2016 book, "The Power and Independence of the Federal Reserve." "That is a major problem and responsible for much of the opposition to those nominees."

Moore, who works at the conservative Heritage Foundation, has written ideological commentaries for more than two decades. He also founded the Club for Growth, a political group dedicated to pushing for tax cuts. That's a vastly different profile from most previous Fed officials, who typically come from the ranks of academia or business.

"If their top qualification is that they're loyalists, then they shouldn't be on the Fed," said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, an economist at the right-leaning American Action Forum and a former director of President George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers.

Yet Trump has only a shallow pool to pick from. He is pushing for the Fed to lower short-term rates, and he attacked Powell, in particular, for having overseen a rate hike in December, the fourth of 2018.

Many hawks, including Moore, spent much of the eight years after the Great Recession under President Barack Obama calling for the Fed to raise rates, a step that typically slows the economy by reducing borrowing and spending.

"You're drawing from the Republican ranks, and a lot of those individuals are going to have a history of being hawkish, particularly during the past decade," said Tim Duy, an economics professor at the University of Oregon.

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One of Trump's more traditional picks, Marvin Goodfriend, ran aground last year in the Senate, in part because his past support for rate hikes led Democrats to oppose him.

Moore's support for rate cuts puts him in a problematic position, said Scott Sumner, an economist at George Mason University's Mercatus Center.

"If his changing views on policy were motivated by politics, then it doesn't reflect well on him" as a potential nominee, Sumner said. If, on the other hand, his current views are sincerely motivated, Sumner added, then it raises questions about why he supported higher rates when the economy was in recession.

"It's kind of awkward either way," Sumner said.

A few potential Fed nominees who might satisfy Trump's hunt for a political conservative inclined to cut rates have emerged. One, David Beckworth, a research fellow at George Mason University, was a Treasury official in the George W. Bush administration and has seemed favorable toward rate cuts for years, Conti-Brown said.

Beckworth declined to comment.

But many economists who are sometimes mentioned as potential Republican picks for the Fed, including John Taylor, a leading Stanford University economist, have a history of skepticism toward rate cuts.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Trump accused Janet Yellen, who had been chosen as Fed chair by President Barack Obama, of having kept rates too low to benefit Obama.

The history of the past several decades has caused many economists to embrace the notion of an independent central bank. President Lyndon Johnson famously dressed down Chairman William McChesney Martin for presiding over Fed rate hikes and asked his aides about firing him, just as Trump has done with Powell. Richard Nixon also pressured his hand-picked Fed chairman, Arthur Burns, to keep rates low.

Most economists say such threats to the Fed's independence contributed to the runaway inflation of the 1970s. Some argue that Burns succumbed to pressure from Nixon and held off on raising rates before the 1972 election, which Nixon won.

Inflation remained dangerously high for a decade. It was tamed only when Chairman Paul Volcker boldly raised rates to nearly 20 percent, causing a recession in the process. Volcker's success in defeating high inflation provided further support for the notion that the Fed operates best when independent of political pressure.

"We've done a good job of de-politicizing the Fed," Sumner said. "We're in a different era now."

Volcker, Alan Greenspan, and Ben Bernanke were all appointed and then re-appointed by presidents of different parties, Sumner noted. Trump broke that pattern when he declined to re-appoint Yellen and chose Powell instead.

AP Writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Asian stocks mixed as Fed steers clear of signaling rate cut

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian stocks were mixed on Thursday after the U.S. Federal Reserve kept its benchmark interest rate intact and steered clear of suggesting that a cut was possible this year. Trading was light with markets in Japan and mainland China closed.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.4% to 29,829.76 while Australia's S&P ASX 200 lost 0.6% to 6,340.20. The Kospi in South Korea was 0.3% higher at 2,209.33. Stocks rose in Taiwan but fell in Singapore and Indonesia.

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve left its benchmark interest rate — which determines the cost of borrowing for individuals and businesses — in a range of 2.25% to 2.5% as expected.

Still, some traders had hoped the Fed would signal a rate cut to lift persistently low inflation to its 2% target rate. The Fed's preferred 12-month inflation barometer is running at about 1.5%.

Chairman Jerome Powell steered clear of this at a news conference. "The committee is comfortable with our current policy stance," he said.

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Powell added that current inflation readings may be transitory and not fully indicative of real-world price increases.

"Equity markets were looking for so much more from the Fed and were shocked when Chair Powell said the Fed did not see a convincing case to move rates in either direction," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

Over on Wall Street, stocks closed lower after climbing earlier in the day on strong earnings reports.

The broad S&P 500 index retreated 0.8% to 2,923.73 on Wednesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.6% to 26,430.14 and the Nasdaq composite fell 0.6% to 8,049.64. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks shed 0.9% to 1,576.38.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 14 cents to \$63.46 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 31 cents to settle at \$63.60 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, the international standard, gave up 19 cents to \$71.99 per barrel. It added 12 cents to close at \$72.18 per barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.54 Japanese yen from 111.38 yen late Wednesday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1207 from \$1.1198.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, May 2, the 122nd day of 2019. There are 243 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed by elite American forces at his Pakistan compound, then quickly buried at sea after a decade on the run.

On this date:

In 1519, artist Leonardo da Vinci died at Cloux, France, at age 67.

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII, was arrested and charged with adultery; she was beheaded 17 days later.

In 1863, during the Civil War, Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was accidentally wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, Virginia; he died eight days later.

In 1908, the original version of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," with music by Albert Von Tilzer and lyrics by Jack Norworth, was published by Von Tilzer's York Music Co.

In 1927, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Buck v. Bell*, upheld 8-1 a Virginia law allowing the forced sterilization of people to promote the "health of the patient and the welfare of society."

In 1941, General Mills began shipping its new cereal, "Cheerioats," to six test markets. (The cereal was later renamed "Cheerios.")

In 1957, crime boss Frank Costello narrowly survived an attempt on his life in New York; the alleged gunman, Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, was acquitted at trial after Costello refused to identify him as the shooter. Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., died at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

In 1968, "The Odd Couple," the movie version of the Neil Simon comedy starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, opened in New York.

In 1972, a fire at the Sunshine silver mine in Kellogg, Idaho, claimed the lives of 91 workers who succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning. Longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover died in Washington at age 77.

In 1982, the Weather Channel made its debut.

In 1994, Nelson Mandela claimed victory in the wake of South Africa's first democratic elections; President F.W. de Klerk acknowledged defeat.

In 2008, Tropical Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar, leading to an eventual official death toll of 84,537, with 53,836 listed as missing. Mildred Loving, a black woman whose challenge to Virginia's ban on interracial marriage led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling striking down such laws across the United States, died

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in Milford, Virginia, at age 68.

Ten years ago: The Dallas Cowboys' tent-like practice structure collapsed during a severe storm in Irving, Texas; a dozen people were hurt, including scouting assistant Rich Behm, who was left paralyzed from the waist down, and special teams coach Joe DeCamillis, whose neck was broken. Mine That Bird, a 50-1 shot, stunned the field by capturing the Kentucky Derby. Jack Kemp, former quarterback, congressman and vice presidential nominee, died in Bethesda, Md., at 73.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN'-geh-lah MEHR'-kuhl) met at the White House, where they threatened tough sanctions on broad swaths of Russia's economy if Moscow disrupted Ukraine's May 25 presidential elections. Actor Efrem Zimbalist Jr., 95, died in Solvang, California.

One year ago: Attorney Rudy Giuliani said President Donald Trump had reimbursed his personal lawyer for \$130,000 in hush money paid to a porn actress days before the 2016 presidential election, comments that appeared to contradict Trump's past claims that he didn't know the source of the money. The Boy Scouts of America announced that the group's flagship program would undergo a name change; after being known simply as the Boy Scouts for 108 years, the program would now be called Scouts BSA. (The change came as girls were about to enter the ranks.) Two black men who'd been arrested for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything settled with the company for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free college education; they settled separately with the city for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise to set up a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Engelbert Humperdinck is 83. Former International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge is 77. Actress-activist Bianca Jagger is 74. Country singer R.C. Bannon is 74. Actor David Suchet (SOO'-shay) is 73. Singer-songwriter Larry Gatlin is 71. Rock singer Lou Gramm (Foreigner) is 69. Actress Christine Baranski is 67. Singer Angela Bofill is 65. Fashion designer Donatella Versace is 64. Actor Brian Tochi is 60. Movie director Stephen Daldry is 59. Actress Elizabeth Berridge is 57. Country singer Ty Herndon is 57. Actress Mitzi Kapture is 57. Commentator Mika Brzezinski is 52. Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb is 51. Rock musician Todd Sucherman (Styx) is 50. Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson (AKA The Rock) is 47. Soccer player David Beckham is 44. Rock singer Jeff Gutt (goot) (Stone Temple Pilots) is 43. Actress Jenna Von Oy is 42. Actress Ellie Kemper is 39. Actor Robert Buckley is 38. Actor Gaius (GY'-ehs) Charles is 36. Pop singer Lily Rose Cooper is 34. Olympic gold medal figure skater Sarah Hughes is 34. Rock musician Jim Almgren (Carolina Liar) is 33. Actor Thomas McDonell is 33. Actress Kay Panabaker is 29. NBA All-Star Paul George is 29. Princess Charlotte of Cambridge is four.

Thought for Today: "Have you ever observed that we pay much more attention to a wise passage when it is quoted than when we read it in the original author?" — Philip G. Hamerton, English artist and essayist (1834-1894).