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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Friday, May 24, 2019

Faculty Inservice
STATE TRACK MEET @ TEA AREA

Saturday, May 25, 2019

STATE TRACK MEET @ SIOUX FALLS



A library is not
a luxury but
one of the
necessities of life.

-Henry Ward Beecher



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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Golf Awards

The Groton Area Golf awards have been presented to Carly Guthmiller, most improved girls; Payton Colestock, medalist girls; Cade Guthmiller, medalist boys; and Lucas Simon, most improved boys.

Colestock, Flihs advance to state

The regional golf meet was held Thursday in Sisseton. Payton Colestock placed ninth with a 106 and Ashley Flihs placed 16th with a 110. Both have qualified for the state golf meet.



Groton Post #39 2019 Memorial Day Services



The Groton Post #39 Legion will perform Military Rites on Memorial Day, May 27th 2019 as follows:

Huffton	7:30 am	The speaker at the Groton ceremony
James	8:15 am	will be Retired Air Force LTC Arden
Verdon	8:45 am	Dohman.
Bates/Scotland	9:15 am	A meal will be provided at the Groton
Ferney	10:00 am	Legion Post #39 immediately following
Groton	11:00 am	the cemetery ceremony.

In the case of inclement weather the rites will be performed by the honor Guard at the cemetery and the speaker will be at the Post building.

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Jodi Sternhagen was recognized for her 30 years of service to the Groton Area School District. She received a standing ovation (below) photo upon her recognition. Board President Steve Smith presented the award. Also recognized but not present was Bonnie Schimmel. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)



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Tylan Glover and Jennie Doeden were the senior speakers.

(Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)



The High School Choir sang, "Here's Where I Stand," with the seniors have solo parts. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)

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Board President Dr. Steve Smith presented the staff and school board recognition awards and also presented the diplomas. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)



Superintendent Joe Schwan gave the welcome. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)



Josie LaMee led the student-led prayer. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)



Kiersten Sombke, MS/HS Principal, announced the special senior awards. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)



Joann Donley will be doing her final year book as year-book advisor after four years. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Josie LaMee led the student-led prayer. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)



Clint Fjelstad was recognized for his three years of service on the Groton Area School District Board of Education. Board President Steve Smith presented the plaque. Also recognized but not present was Merle Harder for his six years of service. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)

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The hats went flying at the end of the commencement program. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)



The Groton Area High School Band played the pre-commencement music, the processional and the recessional, under the direction of Austin Fordham. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Today in Weather History

May 24, 1960: A tornado touched down about 7 miles northwest of Roscoe and destroyed a small shed near a country schoolhouse. Funnel clouds were also observed in Hosmer area, near Eureka, and 30 miles west of Aberdeen. An unofficial report of 4 inches of rain fell at Hosmer.

May 24, 2008: A supercell thunderstorm produced seven tornadoes in Dewey County. Since these tornadoes remained in the open country, all were rated EF0.

1896: An estimated F4 tornado passed ten miles north of Des Moines, Iowa during the late evening. As many as seven members of one family, the at the north edge of Valeria, Iowa, died as they ran to the storm cellar. Five others died in a nearby home. A steel railroad rail was reportedly driven 15 feet into the ground. The death toll was at least 21.

1973: An F4 tornado tore through the small town of Union City, Oklahoma, killing two and injuring four others. This tornado was the first storm to be studied in detail by the National Severe Storms Laboratory Doppler Radar Unit at Norman, OK and an armada of researchers in the field. Research of the radar data from the storm would lead to the discovery of a "TVS," or Tornado Vortex Signature. The presence of a TVS on Doppler radar data is a very strong indication of tornadic potential in a severe thunderstorm.

2002: The last measurable snow of the season fell in Marquette, Michigan. This snowfall brought the city's seasonal snowfall to 319.8 inches, by far the city's snowiest winter ever.

1894 - Six inches of snow blanketed Kentucky. Just four days earlier as much as ten inches of snow had fallen across Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. Six days earlier a violent storm had wrecked nine ships on Lake Michigan. (David Ludlum)

1930 - A tornado touched down near the town of Pratt, KS, and traveled at the incredibly slow speed of just 5 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1940 - Hail fell near Ada OK to a depth of six to eight inches, and rainfall runoff left drifts of hail up to five feet high. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in southwest Texas spawned a couple of tornadoes near Silverton, and produced golf ball size hail east of the town of Happy. Thunderstorms also produced large hail and damaging winds in Louisiana and Texas. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)






1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 88 mph at Columbia, NC. Baseball size hail was reported near Tifton GA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

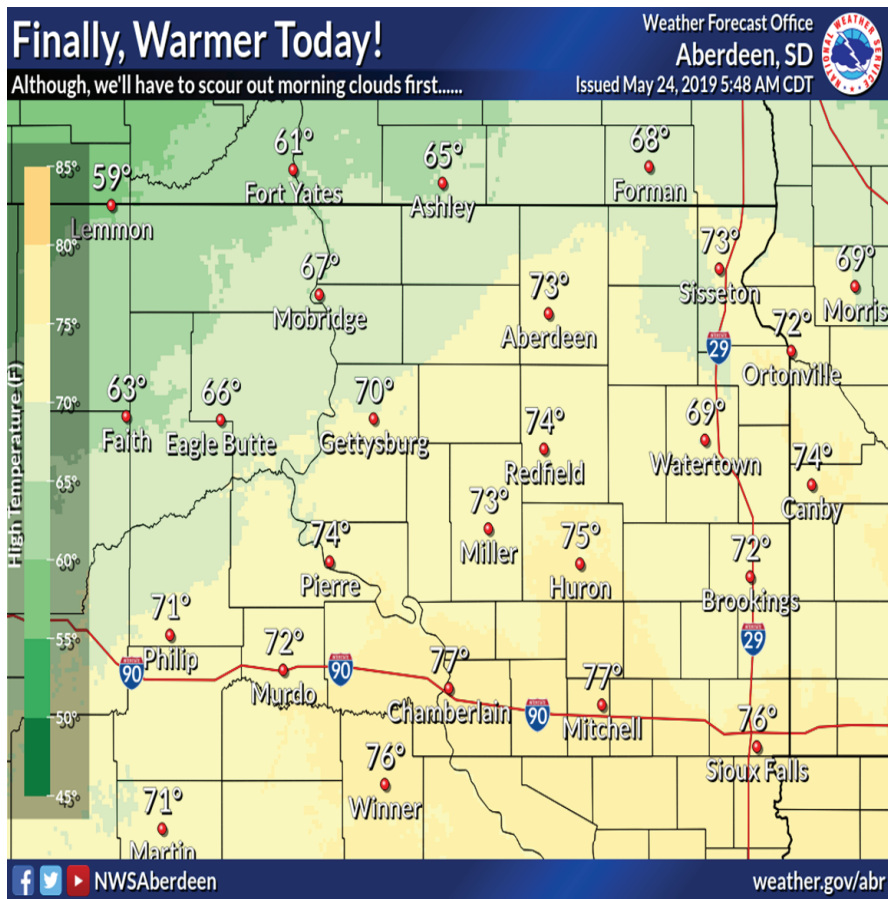
1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather across the Upper Midwest through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned 30 tornadoes, and there were 158 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-3) tornado caused five million dollars damage at Corning, IA, and a powerful (F-4) tornado caused five million dollars damage at Traer, IA. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 88 mph killed one person and injured five others at Stephenville, WI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Severe thunderstorms spawned two dozen tornadoes from Montana to Oklahoma. Four tornadoes carved a 109-mile path across central Kansas. The third of the four tornadoes blew 88 cars off an 125-car train off the track, stacking them three to four cars high in some cases, and the fourth tornado caused 3.9 million dollars damage. The third tornado injured six persons who were trying to escape in vehicles. A woman was "sucked out" of a truck and said that at one time she was "airborne, trying to run but my feet wouldn't touch the ground". She also saw a live deer "flying through the air". (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
				
Showers then Partly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 73 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 75 °F



Published on: 05/24/2019 at 7:00AM

First, we'll have to deal with morning clouds and rain showers before the warmer temperatures move in. Expect clouds to erode from south to north across the region, so northern South Dakota will see clouds the longest today, most likely. By this afternoon, gusty southwest winds will have developed, along with warmer and drier air moving into the region. Highs will rise into the 60s and 70s. Although, if clouds manage to hang on a bit longer than forecast, high temperatures will be cooler than what's reflected here. Northern South Dakota has the best chance to see clouds longer into the afternoon.

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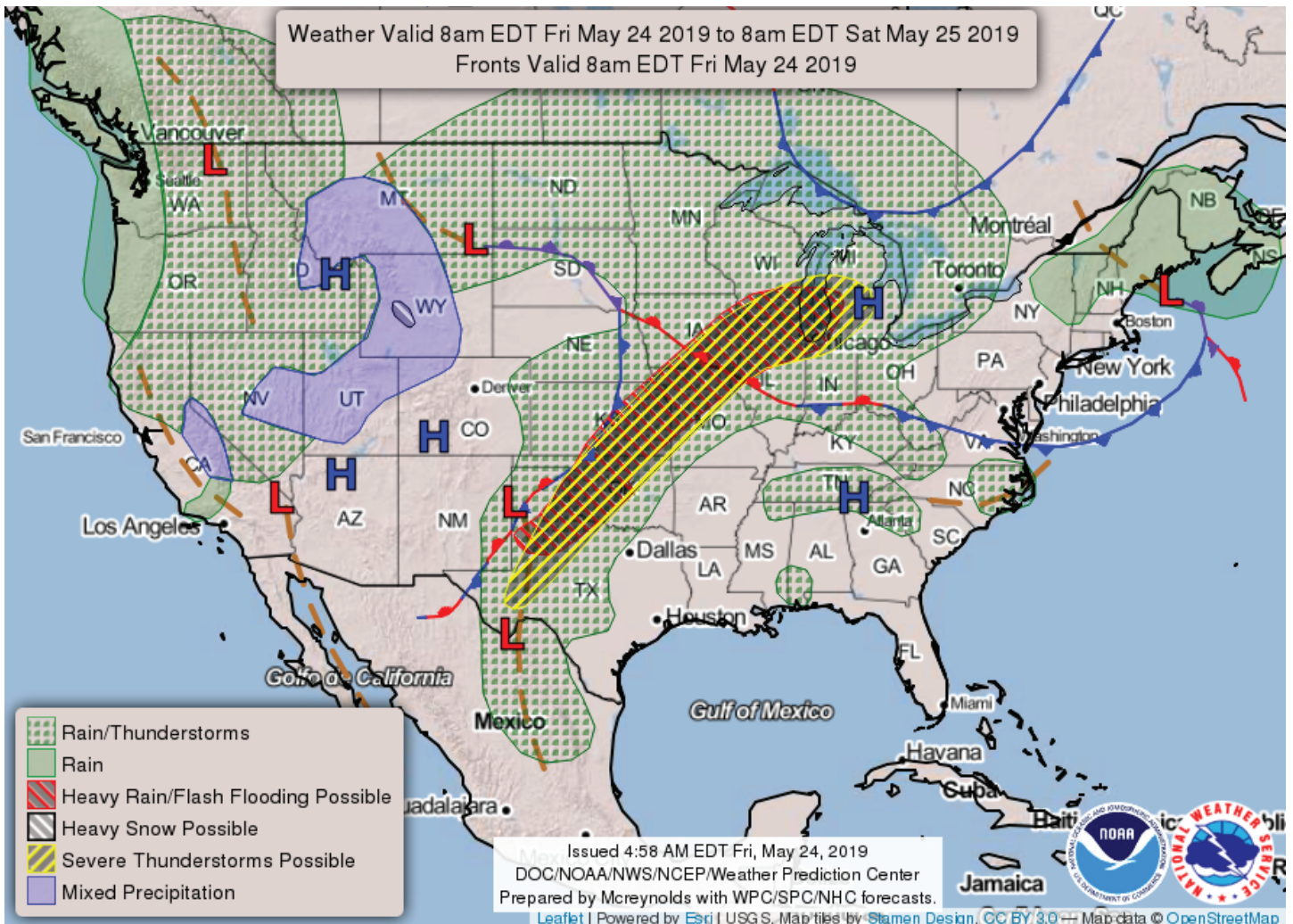
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 55 °F at 7:48 PM

Low Temp: 45 °F at 5:02 AM

Wind: 16 mph at 11:39 AM

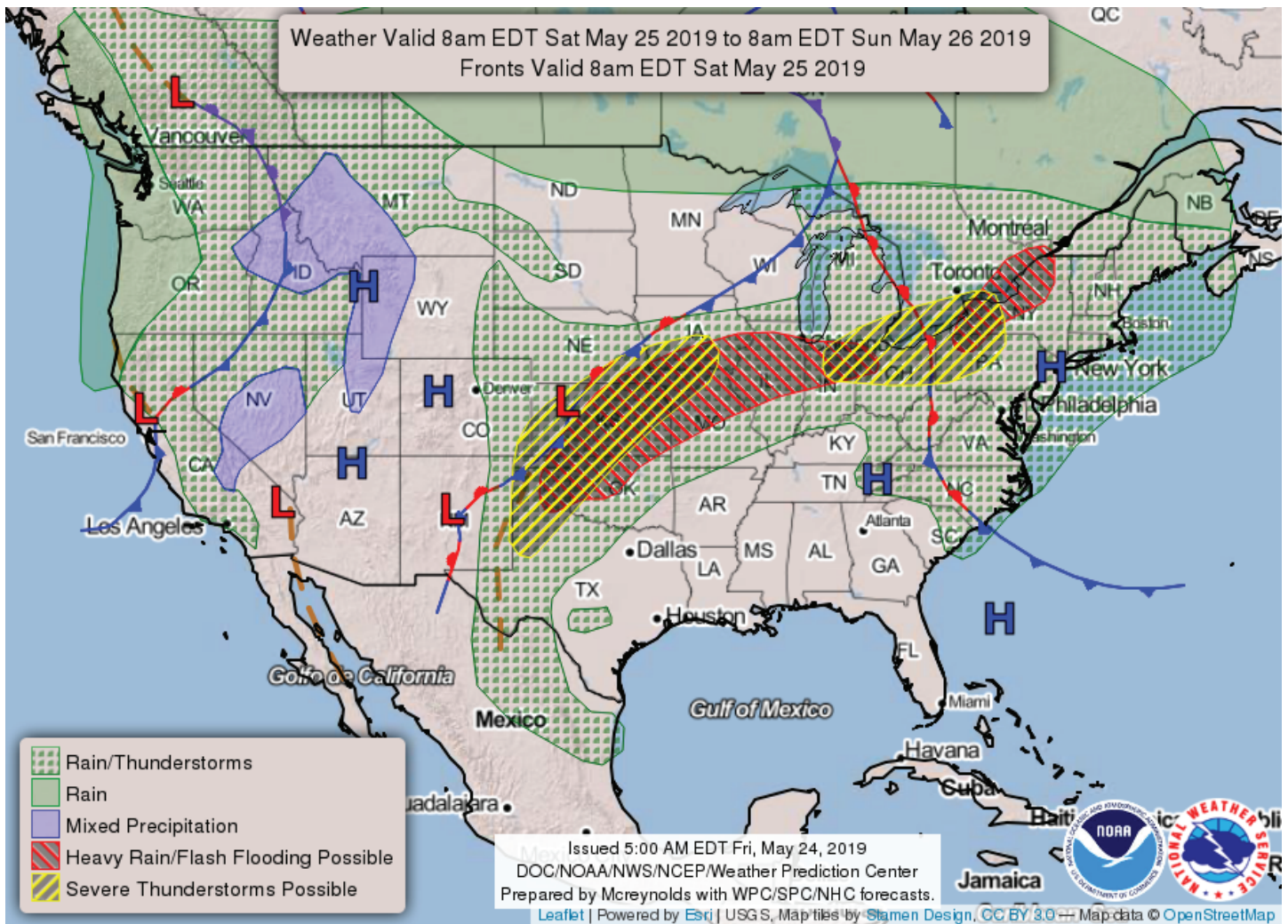
Day Rain: 0.00 in



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Tomorrow's Weather Map



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FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it, said George Santayana in 1863. However, it does not matter who said it or when, history has proven this fact time and time again.

Generations come and go, governments rise and fall, generals win one battle and then lose the next, good times are enjoyed and then disaster sets in while no one was paying attention. People and leaders become so involved in their particular thing that they lose sight of the big picture and how nations become estranged from God. They do not hear His voice nor heed His Word and forget what righteousness is about, where it comes from, and how it stabilizes a nation.

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people, is an oft quoted and well-known verse. It is mentioned frequently by the clergy and often by government leaders. But the words fall silently to the ground, and nothing changes.

Solomon used the word exalts by design. He was aware of the power of that word and understood what it meant to individuals and nations. If the people of a nation come together and honor God and lift Him up in worship, and are obedient to His laws, they will be blest and have His favor and protection and respect.

However, the alternative to a righteous nation is one whose sin is destructive, despicable and ultimately dishonors God. When this happens, it brings indescribable shame and disgrace to its people. In the end, it destroys what God designed.

Prayer: Father, may we take Your warnings seriously, recognize the ravages and result of sin and repent. Bring revival to our nation. We need you! Awaken us! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.

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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 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 Associated Press

South Dakota bishop to lead Saginaw diocese in Michigan

SAGINAW, Mich. (AP) — A Catholic diocese in Michigan says Pope Francis has selected the bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City in South Dakota as the Michigan diocese's next bishop.

The Diocese of Saginaw announced Friday that 63-year-old Bishop Robert D. Gruss will serve as its seventh bishop. His installation in Saginaw is scheduled for July 26.

Gruss has served as bishop of Rapid City since 2011. He was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1994.

Saginaw's Bishop Joseph Cistone died last year and Bishop Walter Hurley was appointed apostolic administrator, serving as caretaker for the diocese until a new bishop was selected. The Saginaw diocese includes Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Sanilac, Saginaw and Tuscola counties.

Man wounded after jail disturbance arrested at hospital

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have arrested a Sioux Falls man who was shot by a deputy after a disturbance at the Minnehaha County Jail this week.

State's Attorney Aaron McGowan was present as the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation arrested 44-year-old George Lee Rinzy Jr. at the hospital where Rinzy is being treated.

McGowan says prosecutors will proceed with charges against Rinzy. He faces felony charges of assaulting a law enforcement officer as well as misdemeanor counts of intentionally damaging public property and disorderly conduct.

Authorities allege Rinzy charged at officers with a knife when he was shot Tuesday. That happened after Rinzy allegedly broke a window in the door of the jail, injuring an officer with broken glass.

A sheriff's deputy is guarding Rinzy's room until he's discharged from the hospital.

Heavy snow in Black Hills causing flooding concerns

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Flooding is a top concern in the Black Hills this Memorial Day weekend after two days of heavy snow and rain.

The Pactola Reservoir and Rapid Creek are already at high levels and rising after the lake received 25 inches (63.5 centimeters) of snow as of Wednesday, National Weather Service meteorologist Katie Pojorlie said.

"That is definitely a concern of ours," Pojorlie said Wednesday.

The Deadwood area recorded 20 inches (50.8 centimeters) of snow, Hill City received 17 inches (43.2 centimeters) and Custer had 15 inches (38.1 centimeters). More than a foot of snow didn't dissuade tourists from visiting Mount Rushmore.

Rainy weather is expected to continue through the Memorial Day weekend in western South Dakota, said meteorologist and hydrologist Melissa Smith of the National Weather Service in Rapid City. Two storm systems are expected to move through, with the first lasting through Friday and dropping up to a half-inch of rain and the second, stronger system expected to drop another inch or two of rain Sunday through Tuesday, Smith said.

Flood warnings are out for the area.

The snow closed the Custer School District and Custer State Park's visitor center, downed trees and caused power outages throughout the area.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks spokesman Chris Hull told the Rapid City Journal all state parks are expected to be open for Memorial Day weekend, but some campsites and trails may be closed.

Campgrounds within the Black Hills National Forest are expected to be open, spokesman Scott Jacobson said. Motorized trails will be closed due to mud, but trails for horses, cyclists and hikers remain open.

A strong low pressure system caused the rain, and cold air from the north turned the rain into snow, Pojorlie said of the May snowstorm.

"I think we're all ready for it to be done," she said.

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

Supreme Court upholds verdict in negligencel lawsuit

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has upheld a verdict that found a Sioux Falls restaurant was not negligent when a customer was injured after falling in a slippery parking lot.

The court ruled the jury was properly instructed in the 2014 case, despite an argument to the contrary by Shirley Tammen. She appealed a verdict alleging the circuit court didn't give complete instructions to the jury and didn't consider her proposed instructions.

The Argus Leader reports Tammen argued the restaurant was negligent in not clearing its parking lot of ice and snow. Fryn' Pan provided evidence that its snow crew cleared the lot the day before Tammen fell and that it was difficult to sand between parked cars. The jury found owners of the Fryn' Pan were not negligent.

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

UK's May says she'll quit as Conservative leader June 7

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Theresa May announced Friday that she will step down as U.K. Conservative Party leader on June 7, admitting defeat in her attempt to take Britain out of the European Union and sparking a contest to become the country's next prime minister.

She will stay as caretaker prime minister until the new leader is chosen, a process likely to take several weeks. The new Conservative leader will become prime minister without the need for a general election, and will take up the task of trying to secure Britain's exit from the EU.

Her voice breaking, May said in a televised statement outside 10 Downing St. that she would soon be leaving a job that it has been "the honor of my life to hold."

May became prime minister the month after Britons voted in June 2016 to leave the European Union, and her premiership has been consumed by the attempt to deliver on that verdict.

Now she has bowed to relentless pressure from her party to quit over her failure to take Britain out of the EU on the scheduled date of March 29. Britain is currently due to leave the EU on Oct. 31, but Parliament has yet to approve divorce terms.

"I feel as certain today as I did three years ago that in a democracy, if you give people a choice you have a duty to implement what they decide," May said.

"I have done my best to do that. ... But it is now clear to me that it is in the best interests of the country for a new prime minister to lead that effort."

Multiple contenders are already jockeying to replace her and take up the challenge of securing Britain's EU exit. The early front-runner is Boris Johnson, a former foreign secretary and strong champion of Brexit.

Conservative lawmakers increasingly see May as an obstacle to Britain's EU exit, although her replacement will face the same issue: a Parliament deeply divided over whether to leave the EU, and how close a relationship to seek with the bloc after it does.

May spent more than a year and a half negotiating an exit agreement with the EU, only to see it rejected three times by Britain's Parliament.

Pressure on May reached breaking point this week as House of Commons Leader Andrea Leadsom quit and several Cabinet colleagues expressed doubts about the bill she planned to put before Parliament in a fourth attempt to secure Parliament's backing for her Brexit blueprint.

Leadsom, another likely contender to replace May, joined colleagues in paying tribute to the departing

leader. She tweeted that May's "dignified speech" had been "an illustration of her total commitment to country and duty. She did her utmost, and I wish her all the very best."

Johnson, whose relentless criticism helped push May out of the door, tweeted: "Thank you for your stoical service to our country and the Conservative Party. It is now time to follow her urgings: to come together and deliver Brexit."

But Johnson, or any other successor, will face a tough challenge to unite a country and a Parliament still deeply divided over the country's relationship with Europe.

The next British leader is likely to be a staunch Brexiteer, who will try to renegotiate the divorce deal, and if that fails to leave the bloc without an agreement on departure terms.

Most businesses and economists think that would cause economic turmoil and plunge Britain into recession. Parliament has voted to rule out a no-deal Brexit, though it remains the legal default option.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker praised May as "a woman of courage" for whom he has great respect.

EU spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said Juncker will "equally respect and establish working relations" with any new British leader.

But the bloc insists it will not renegotiate the Brexit deal.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte tweeted that the "agreement reached between the EU and the United Kingdom for an ordered Brexit remains on the table."

Angela Merkel's spokeswoman, Martina Fietz, said the German chancellor noted May's decision "with respect" and would continue to work closely with her successor for "an orderly exit."

In an emotional departure speech, with close aides and her husband Philip looking on, May said she was Britain's "second female prime minister but certainly not the last."

She said she was leaving "with no ill-will, but with enormous and enduring gratitude to have had the opportunity to serve the country I love."

Gregory Katz in London, Raf Casert in Brussels and David Rising in Berlin contributed to this story.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Trump moves to escalate the investigation of intel agencies

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has directed the U.S. intelligence community to "quickly and fully cooperate" with Attorney General William Barr's investigation of the origins of the multiyear probe of whether his 2016 campaign colluded with Russia.

The move Thursday marked an escalation in Trump's efforts to "investigate the investigators," as he continues to try to undermine the findings of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe amid mounting Democratic calls to bring impeachment proceedings against Trump.

Press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement that Trump is delegating to Barr the "full and complete authority" to declassify documents relating to the probe, which would ease his efforts to review the sensitive intelligence underpinnings of the investigation. Such a move could create fresh tensions within the FBI and other intelligence agencies, which have historically resisted such demands.

Barr has already asked John Durham, the U.S. attorney in Connecticut, to examine the origins of the Russia investigation to determine whether intelligence and surveillance methods used during the probe were lawful and appropriate. Still, Barr has been directly involved, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss it publicly, and is working with CIA Director Gina Haspel, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and FBI Director Christopher Wray.

Trump has frequently claimed his campaign was the victim of "spying," though the intelligence community has insisted it acted lawfully in following leads in the Russia investigation and conducted surveillance under court order.

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Wray vocally opposed the release by Congress last year of details from a secret surveillance warrant obtained by the bureau on a former campaign adviser, Carter Page. The White House had eagerly encouraged Republicans on the House intelligence committee to disclose that classified information, believing it could help undermine the Russia investigation.

Wray, though cooperating with Barr in a review of the origins of the Russia probe, would presumably balk at declassifying classified information that could reveal sensitive sources or methods of investigators.

David Kris, former head of the Justice Department's national security division, said it's "very unusual — unprecedented in my experience — for a non-intelligence officer to be given absolute declassification authority over the intelligence."

Despite Mueller finding no evidence to support criminal charges against Americans related to Russia's actions, his report documented extensive Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 campaign and willingness on the part of some in Trump's orbit to accept their aid.

Thursday's move further solidifies Barr's position in Trump's eyes as a legal warrior on fighting on his behalf.

After Mueller submitted his report to Barr in March, the attorney general released a four-page summary to Congress. Barr's letter framed the debate about the probe over the next few weeks and, White House officials believe, allowed Trump to declare victory before the release of the full report, the contents of which are far more ambiguous.

Trump also appreciated Barr's combative stance with lawmakers and reporters as he defended the Justice Department's handling of the report, and again when he declined to appear before Congress and defied a subpoena, drawing a possible contempt charge. Trump has told close confidants that he "finally" had "my attorney general," according to two Republicans close to the White House who were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

"Today's action will help ensure that all Americans learn the truth about the events that occurred, and the actions that were taken, during the last Presidential election and will restore confidence in our public institutions," Sanders said.

Two of Trump's congressional allies, Reps. Mark Meadows and Jim Jordan, were seen by reporters earlier Thursday at the Justice Department.

Associated Press writers Mike Balsamo, Eric Tucker, Jonathan Lemire and Deb Riechmann contributed to this report.

The race is on: Contenders vie to become next British PM

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Theresa May's announcement that she will leave 10 Downing Street has set off a fierce competition to succeed her as Conservative Party leader — and as the next prime minister. These are some of the most prominent names on a list of contenders that is expected to grow in the coming days.

BORIS JOHNSON

The former foreign secretary has made no secret of his desire to take the top job when May departs.

The outspoken Johnson, with his unkempt hair and flamboyant ways, has long been one of Britain's best known politicians, and he is believed to enjoy strong support from rank-and-file Conservative Party members.

He was a key leader of the campaign that in 2016 convinced a majority of British voters to cast ballots in favor of leaving the European Union.

Johnson, 54, planned a leadership run after that vote but eventually decided not to compete. He has already said he will seek the job this time around.

He resigned as foreign secretary in July because of unhappiness with May's Brexit plans.

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DOMINIC RAAB

The former Brexit secretary is banking on his tireless advocacy for leaving the EU to help propel him to 10 Downing Street.

He served at the helm of the Brexit department for a relatively short time, taking the position in July and resigning in November over a policy rift with May.

Raab said he left the Cabinet because he could not "in good conscience" support the deal May had reached with EU leaders about the terms of Britain's withdrawal.

The 45-year-old has been highly critical of May's approach. He is a longtime admirer of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who enjoyed a successful career as Conservative Party leader.

The buttoned-down, serious Raab is seen by many as a youthful rising star in the conservative movement.

JEREMY HUNT

Hunt stepped into the role of foreign secretary when Johnson resigned. He has tried to raise his profile by making provocative statements to establish his credentials as a staunch Brexiteer, despite having backed the "Remain" side during the 2016 referendum.

He made headlines at a recent party conference by comparing the EU to the Soviet Union, earning rebukes from some European leaders but perhaps winning supporters among anti-EU members of his party.

Hunt, 52, has held a variety of government posts, including a tenure as health secretary, and played an important role in the widely praised production of the 2012 Olympics in London.

SAJID JAVID

Unlike many of his competitors, the home secretary does not come from an elite background. He is the son of Pakistani immigrants and his father worked as a bus driver and shopkeeper.

He enjoyed a successful career in banking with Chase Manhattan and Deutsche Bank before entering politics and winning election to Parliament in 2010.

During the Brexit referendum of 2016, Javid was on the "Remain" side but was noticeably lukewarm in his support for keeping Britain in the EU. He has since embraced Brexit.

He has raised his profile in recent months by taking aggressive action to curtail the arrival of small boats carrying migrants across the English Channel.

ANDREA LEADSOM

Leadsom resigned her key post as leader of the House of Commons this week to put space between herself and May — and to clear the way for what would be a second run for the party leadership.

The 56-year-old was in what became a two-woman race with May in 2016 when the party leader spot was last open.

Leadsom dropped out before the matter came to a vote, in part because of a backlash against comments in which she suggested she had more of a stake in the future than May because she had raised children. She apologized, but the controversy dampened her chances and helped bring May to Downing Street.

Leadsom is an outspoken supporter of Brexit who is seen by many to have been an effective House of Commons leader during an extremely contentious time.

MICHAEL GOVE

Environment Secretary Michael Gove tried and failed to become party leader after he played an important role in the campaign to take Britain out of the European Union.

He had been expected to back Boris Johnson's leadership bid but decided instead to compete for the top job himself.

He eventually joined May's government, adding the Environment role to a resume that already included the top positions in Education and Justice.

The 51-year-old Gove has been loyal to the prime minister, backing her Brexit policies even as former colleagues denounced May's withdrawal deal.

As education secretary, Gove was heavily criticized by teachers for his overhaul of the school curriculum, and raised eyebrows by calling for the removal of some classic American novels from the curriculum in favor of an increased focus on British writers.

Arguments over rape and incest divide abortion opponents

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

Even as the anti-abortion movement celebrates the sweeping bans passed in several states, it's divided by a widening rift over whether those prohibitions should apply to victims of rape and incest.

The debate pits those who believe any abortion is immoral against those who worry that a no-exception stance could be harmful to some Republican candidates in upcoming elections. A Gallup poll last year found that 77% of Americans support exceptions in cases of rape and incest.

"There is a media spotlight shining on this issue," said Clarke Forsythe, senior counsel with Americans United for Life. "State leaders need to be prudent and reflect not only on state elections but also national elections, and the pace of change the public might accept."

There's potential for even more division.

The Federalist, an online magazine influential in conservative and anti-abortion circles, ran an article this week by two abortion opponents suggesting that women who induce their own abortions should be prosecuted for murder. The position is at odds with the pro-women rhetoric of leading anti-abortion groups.

"We're 100% percent against prosecuting women," said Kristi Hamrick, spokeswoman for Students for Life of America.

Divisions over rape-and-incest exceptions have existed within the anti-abortion movement for years, but have become more apparent as several states in the South and Midwest enacted tough bans on abortion.

Only the ban in Georgia includes an exception for victims of rape or incest — and then only if the woman files a police report first. Measures enacted in Alabama, Ohio, Kentucky, Mississippi and Missouri do not contain those exceptions, nor does a measure nearing final approval in Louisiana.

Alabama's ban is the toughest: Performing an abortion at any stage of pregnancy would be a felony punishable by up to 99 years or life in prison. The only exception would be when the woman's health is at serious risk.

Some Republicans in Alabama's GOP-controlled Senate, as well as minority Democrats, were enraged when an exemption for rape and incest was removed without a roll call vote. The flare-up prompted a five-day postponement before final approval came on May 14.

Emboldened by the bans, 17 anti-abortion leaders sent a letter Wednesday to Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel requesting a meeting and urging the GOP to explicitly oppose exceptions for rape and incest.

The signatories included Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life, the Rev. Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life, and activist Ryan Bomberger, the son of a woman who was impregnated by a rapist but opted against having an abortion.

"We understand that issues like rape and incest are difficult topics to tackle," the letter said. "Nevertheless, it is our view that the value of human life is not determined by the circumstances of one's conception or birth."

McDaniel, in reply, described the GOP as "the party of life" and added, "I welcome any discussion about how to protect it."

Discussing the bans in an interview with CNN on May 17, McDaniel said, "Personally, I would have the exceptions. ... But we are a party that is a broad tent."

President Donald Trump, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky also have distanced themselves from the no-exceptions bans.

"I am strongly Pro-Life, with the three exceptions - Rape, Incest and protecting the Life of the mother,"

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Trump tweeted on May 18. "We must stick together and Win....for Life in 2020. If we are foolish and do not stay UNITED as one, all of our hard fought gains for Life can, and will, rapidly disappear!"

In several state legislatures, debate over the exceptions produced dramatic moments.

Samantha Blakely, 25, a travel industry employee from Birmingham, testified at a hearing on the Alabama ban about her decision to have an abortion after a rape in 2017 resulted in pregnancy. She says ban supporters ignore the difficult situations faced by women like her.

"They have absolutely lost sight of victims," Blakely told The Associated Press. "There are blinders on, to block out victims of rape and incest."

If the new law had been in effect when she was raped, Blakely said, she would have done anything to end the pregnancy — possibly including suicide.

"I knew I would not be emotionally or mentally or financially stable enough to give that child what they needed," Blakely said. "And I didn't know exactly how dangerous my rapist was at the time. ... I knew he would try to somehow stay in my life and use that child to control me. And the thought of those things, I'd rather be dead."

In South Carolina, where the legislative session ended before a proposed abortion ban could be passed, there was bitter debate over whether to include an exception for rape and incest.

GOP state Rep. Nancy Mace objected angrily after a fellow Republican lawmaker passed out a flier suggesting that a rapist who impregnates his victim should be referred to as a "sperm donor."

After Mace proposed adding the exceptions to the bill, another GOP colleague protested, while referring to rape in a way that appeared to diminish its seriousness as a violent crime.

"The question is whether another life should be taken because of a bad act," said Rep. John McCravy told fellow lawmakers.

In arguing for the exemption, Mace had shared her own story of being raped, one of several female lawmakers to do so amid the heated state abortion debates.

The abortion bill eventually passed the House with the rape-and-incest provision included, but did not get traction in the South Carolina Senate.

Stephen Schneck, a retired political science professor at the Catholic University of America, personally opposes abortion but believes most Americans have a nuanced view — favoring neither Alabama-style bans nor unrestricted abortion access at any phase of pregnancy.

"Politically, promoting the all-or-nothing positions makes sense for fundraising and mobilizing activists on both sides," he said via email. "But it also makes it impossible for the country as a whole to come together on the issue."

None of the abortion bans enacted this year has taken effect. All are expected to be blocked by federal courts, with ban supporters hoping appeals might lead to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The recent Federalist article, by Georgi Boorman and James Silberman, took aim at the growing interest in do-it-yourself abortions, in which a woman could receive the abortion drug misoprostol by mail and terminate a pregnancy without involvement of a medical professional.

The authors called for total abolition of abortion, so that "the murder of an unborn boy or girl will be treated exactly the same as the murder of a toddler or older child."

Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington, D.C., and Christina A. Cassidy in Atlanta contributed to this report.

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. PM MAY TO LEAVE DOWNING STREET

Theresa May announces she will step down as U.K. Conservative Party leader on June 7, sparking a contest to become Britain's next prime minister.

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2. WHO IS ESCALATING PROBE OF INTEL AGENCIES

Trump has directed the U.S. intelligence community to “quickly and fully cooperate” with Barr’s investigation of the origins of whether his 2016 campaign colluded with Russia.

3. TRUMP, PELOSI FEUD HEATS UP

The president Trump calls the House speaker ‘crazy’ as Pelosi questions his fitness for office the day after White House blowup.

4. NORTH KOREA: NUKE TALKS WON’T RESUME UNLESS US CHANGES POSITION

North Korea says nuclear negotiations with the United States will never resume unless the Trump administration moves away from unilateral demands for disarmament.

5. U.S. FILES NEW CHARGES AGAINST ASSANGE

The U.S. filed new charges against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, accusing him of violating the Espionage Act

6. HOW POLICE LEARN TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM AUTISM

Police officers are now using virtual reality to learn the best ways to interact with people who suffer from autism and de-escalate situations that could quickly turn awry.

7. WHAT IS HOT TOPIC IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Concerns about climate change has prompted mass protests across Europe for the past year, turning the issue into a key topic ahead of the European Parliament elections.

8. WHO HAS STRONG MANDATE AND TOUGH ROAD AHEAD

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s pledge to ‘take the country to new heights’ in his second term as leader will be challenged by an apparent slowdown in the economy and the effects of Hindu nationalism on religious minorities.

9. TRUMP TO VISIT JAPAN

Trump’s visit to Japan is to focus on personal ties with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe rather than substantive results on trade, security or North Korea.

10. RAPTORS BEAT BUCKS, TAKE 3-2 IN PLAYOFF SERIES

Kawhi Leonard scored 35 points, and the Toronto Raptors beat the Milwaukee Bucks 105-99 to grab a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Going Back: Faces of the men who fought at Normandy

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS undefined

The men who fought on D-Day, June 6, 1944, are now in their 90s or 100s, wrinkled and often moving with the help of a cane or wheelchair. Their hands often tremble and their voices shake as they labor to speak. But 75 years ago they were young men, many in their teens, preparing to go to war. All muscle after months of rigorous training, they clambered down precarious rope ladders into landing craft or climbed into planes, parachutes strapped to their backs.

They faced a determined German opposition dug into pillboxes and holding the high ground.

Scared? Of course. Many had never seen combat. But they were also determined to do their jobs and perhaps more importantly not let down the man, the buddy, the friend fighting beside them.

The Associated Press captured images of D-Day veterans from the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Germany who are returning to Normandy for the 75th anniversary. For some, it will be their first time since they fought there. Others have made repeated pilgrimages to the sandy beaches. They will remember the choppy waters lapping at the ships, the flash of the tracer bullets, the roar of the artillery, and they’ll say a prayer for those who did not make it back.

Seeking affirmation: Trump has aides vouch he's 'very calm'

By ZEKE MILLER and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sometimes even the president of the United States needs somebody to vouch for him.

No, Trump insisted Thursday, he did not have a temper tantrum a day earlier when he cut off a White House meeting with congressional Democrats after just three minutes.

To prove it — in the middle of a meeting with farmers — he called on five members of his staff to bear witness to his demeanor.

One by one, his advisers dutifully stepped forward to testify, saying Trump had been "very calm," albeit "direct," in his meeting with the Democrats. Then the president questioned the mental capacity of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had irked him Wednesday with her suggestion that he was engaged in a "cover-up" as he directed aides to refuse to cooperate with congressional inquiries.

The testimonials were a wild detour amid Trump's announcement of new federal assistance for farmers caught up in his escalating trade war with China.

First up was White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, his unwavering defender on cable news.

"Kellyanne, what was my temperament yesterday?" Trump asked. "Very calm," she said, adding that the president did not throw a temper tantrum.

Next up: White House spokeswoman Mercedes Schlapp.

"You were very calm. You were very direct," she said. "You yourself have tried time and time again to negotiate and work with them on issues like border security, which they call a manufactured crisis. It's time for them to wake up and to stop waging this political war."

Trump's desire for public affirmation from those serving under him has been a defining trait of his administration. It was clear at his first Cabinet meeting nearly two years ago, when almost all his advisers offered saccharine praise for the president. World leaders have learned to shower Trump with accolades before television cameras if they want to get on his good side.

Now it was his staff's turn.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders had stepped out of the room, so Trump turned to Larry Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council, to weigh in.

"You were very calm. You laid out your case," Kudlow said.

Trump was on a roll.

"The narrative was I was screaming and ranting and raving and it was terrible," Trump said. "And I watched Nancy and she was all crazy yesterday — she was with the hands — she reminded me of Beto. She actually reminded me of Beto, maybe a little bit worse." Trump has repeatedly accused Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke of excessive gesticulation.

By then, Sanders had been summoned and returned to do her part.

"Very calm. I've seen both," she said of Trump's personality, getting a laugh from those in the room. "Very calm and straightforward and clear that we have to actually get to work and do good things for the American people."

Bringing up the rear was Hogan Gidley, the deputy press secretary, who said Trump was calm but had "every right" not to be.

There was one other order of business for Trump: He gave Pelosi a nickname — "Crazy Nancy." But then he took it back, not wanting it to appear derivative of his moniker for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

He added of Pelosi: "I've been watching her a long time. She's lost it."

For her part, Pelosi suggested a staff or family "intervention" for Trump for the good of the nation.

Trump concluded with his concise verdict on his own mental state, declaring, "I'm an extremely stable genius."

This story has been updated to delete a reference to Gidley not being at the Pelosi meeting; he says he was.

Timeline of Brexit and events leading to May's departure

LONDON (AP) — A timeline of key events in how Brexit unfolded and how the political crisis led up to Theresa May's ouster as British prime minister:

May 7, 2015: British voters elect a majority Conservative government. Then-Prime Minister David Cameron confirms in his victory speech that there will be an "in/out" referendum on Britain's EU membership.

Feb. 20, 2016: Cameron confirms that he will campaign for Britain to remain in the 28-nation bloc. The referendum date is set for June.

June 23, 2016: Britain votes 52 percent to 48 percent to leave the EU.

June 24, 2016: Cameron says he will resign in light of the results.

July 13, 2016: Following a Conservative Party leadership contest, May, then Home Secretary, becomes prime minister.

Oct. 2, 2016: May says that Britain will begin the formal process of leaving the EU by the end of March 2017. In order to do this, the British government would have to invoke Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty.

March 29, 2017: The British government formally triggers Article 50, setting in motion a plan for Britain to leave the EU on March 29, 2019.

June 8, 2017: A general election called by May to bolster her party's numbers in Parliament to help with the Brexit negotiations backfires as her Conservative Party loses its majority and continues in a weakened state as a minority government.

July 7, 2018: May and her Cabinet endorse the so-called Chequers Plan worked out at a fractious session at the prime minister's country retreat. It leads to the resignations of Brexit Secretary David Davis, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and others who favor a more complete break with the EU.

November 25, 2018: EU leaders approve a withdrawal deal reached with Britain after months of difficult negotiations. May urges British Parliament to do the same.

December 10, 2018: May delays the planned Brexit vote in Parliament one day before it is to be held because it faces certain defeat. She seeks further concessions from the EU.

December 12, 2018: Conservative lawmakers who back a clean break from the EU trigger a no-confidence vote in May over her handling of Brexit. She wins by 200 votes to 117, making her safe from another such challenge for a year.

January 15, 2019: The Brexit deal comes back to Parliament, where it is overwhelmingly defeated in a 432-202 vote.

March 12, 2019: Lawmakers reject deal again.

March 23, 2019: Anti-Brexit protesters flood a central London by the hundreds of thousands demanding a new referendum on whether to leave the EU.

March 28, 2019: May offers up her job in exchange for her Brexit deal, telling colleagues she would quit within weeks if the agreement was passed.

March 30, 2019: British lawmakers reject the government's Brexit deal for a third time.

April 11, 2019: Britain and the EU agree to extend the Brexit deadline to Halloween. The Oct. 31 cutoff date averts a precipitous Brexit on April 12.

May 7, 2019: The UK government acknowledges for the first time that the country will definitely take part in the European Parliament elections because there's no chance that a Brexit deal can be approved in time to avoid them.

May 17, 2019: Talks between Britain's Conservative government and the opposition Labour Party seeking a compromise over Brexit break down without agreement plunging the country back into a morass of Brexit uncertainty.

May 21, 2019: May offers a concession to lawmakers, giving them the chance to vote on whether to hold a new referendum on the country's membership in the EU — but only if they back her thrice-rejected Brexit agreement.

May 24, 2019: May says she will step down as Conservative Party leader on June 7 and will serve as

caretaker prime minister until her successor is chosen.

US charges WikiLeaks founder with publishing classified info

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a case with significant First Amendment implications, the U.S. filed new charges Thursday against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, accusing him of violating the Espionage Act by publishing secret documents containing the names of confidential military and diplomatic sources.

The Justice Department's 18-count superseding indictment alleges that Assange directed former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning in one of the largest compromises of classified information in U.S. history. It says the WikiLeaks founder, currently in custody in London, damaged national security by publishing documents that harmed the U.S. and its allies and aided its adversaries.

The case comes amid a Justice Department crackdown on national security leaks and raised immediate fear among news media advocates that Assange's actions — including soliciting and publishing classified information — are indistinguishable from what traditional journalists do on a daily basis. Those concerns led the Obama administration Justice Department to balk at bringing charges for similar conduct.

Assange's lawyer, Barry Pollack, said Thursday that the "unprecedented charges" against his client imperil "all journalists in their endeavor to inform the public about actions that have been taken by the U.S. government." The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press called the case a "dire threat" to media freedom, and the American Civil Liberties Union said it was the first time in history a publisher was charged for disclosing truthful information.

But Justice Department officials sought to make clear that they believed Assange's actions weren't protected under the law, though they declined to discuss the policy discussions that led to the indictment. The new Espionage Act charges go far beyond an initial indictment against Assange made public last month that accused him simply of conspiring with Manning to crack a Defense Department computer password.

"Julian Assange is no journalist," said Assistant Attorney General John Demers, the Justice Department's top national security official. "No responsible actor, journalist or otherwise, would purposely publish the names of individuals he or she knew to be confidential human sources in war zones, exposing them to the gravest of dangers."

Zachary Terwilliger, the U.S. Attorney in Alexandria, Virginia, where the case was brought, said Assange was charged with illegally soliciting classified information and not simply publishing it. He said that while the indictment alleges that he published hundreds of thousands of documents, it charges him with disclosing only a "narrow set of documents" related to the identities of confidential sources.

Prosecutors sought throughout the document to make a distinction between what Assange did as the founder and "public face" of WikiLeaks and the work of journalists.

They noted, for example, that he promoted his site to a convention of European hackers and published a list of the classified information he sought as "The Most Wanted Leaks of 2009." They described how Assange worked with Manning to improperly access Defense Department computers to gain access to thousands of pages of material and encouraged her as she delved through databases for information.

Prosecutors also say the danger wasn't just to the U.S. government, but to people who worked with it.

Reports from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq published by Assange included the names of Afghans and Iraqis who provided information to American and coalition forces, while the diplomatic cables he released exposed journalists, religious leaders, human rights advocates and dissidents in repressive countries.

Assange said in an August 2010 interview that it was "regrettable" that sources disclosed by WikiLeaks could be harmed, the indictment says. Later, after a State Department legal adviser informed him of the risk to "countless innocent individuals" compromised by the leaks, Assange said he would work with mainstream news organizations to redact the names of individuals. WikiLeaks did hide some names but then published 250,000 cables a year later without hiding the identities of people named in the papers.

Justice Department officials mulled charges for Assange following the documents' 2010 publication, but were unsure a case would hold up in court and were concerned it could be hard to justify prosecuting

him for acts similar to those of a conventional journalist.

The posture changed in the Trump administration, with former Attorney General Jeff Sessions in 2017 calling Assange's arrest a priority. Attorney General William Barr paused for several seconds at his confirmation hearing when asked if his Justice Department would ever jail journalists, finally saying there were scenarios when he could envision it as a last resort.

A senior Justice Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday to discuss the case, said it had been "looked at by a number of prosecutors" and that prosecutors reached the point "where we believed we had assembled the best case that we could and we presented it to the grand jury."

First Amendment aside, the indictment poses a secondary ethical question for journalists. News organizations around the world widely used the Manning material, which provided previously unavailable information about the Guantanamo Bay detention center, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and international diplomacy. Many reporters found the documents that he released inherently newsworthy.

"These unprecedented charges demonstrate the gravity of the threat the criminal prosecution of Julian Assange poses to all journalists in their endeavor to inform the public about actions that have taken by the U.S. government," said Pollack, Assange's lawyer.

WikiLeaks played a central role in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia, having published before the 2016 presidential election Democratic emails that were hacked by Russian intelligence officers. The allegations in Thursday's indictment are entirely separate from that episode.

Assange, 47, is in custody in London after being evicted from the Ecuadorian Embassy in April. He has said he would fight any effort to extradite him to the U.S.

Manning, who was convicted in military court for providing classified documents to WikiLeaks, is currently in a northern Virginia jail on a civil contempt charge. Manning spent two months in the Alexandria Detention Center beginning in March after she refused to testify to a grand jury investigating WikiLeaks.

Manning has said she believes prosecutors want to question her about the same conduct for which she was convicted at her court-martial. She served seven years of a 35-year military sentence before receiving a commutation from then-President Barack Obama.

Associated Press writers Ben Fox in Washington and Matthew Barakat in Alexandria, Virginia, contributed to this report.

Theresa May: A prime minister defined and defeated by Brexit

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Theresa May became prime minister in 2016 with one overriding goal: to lead Britain out of the European Union.

Three years on, the U.K. is still in the EU, and May's time in 10 Downing St. is ending. She announced Friday that she will step down as Conservative leader on June 7, remaining as caretaker prime minister during a party leadership contest to choose her successor.

She will be remembered as the latest in a long line of Conservative leaders destroyed by the party's divisions over Europe, and as a prime minister who failed in her primary mission. But history may also see her as a leader who faced a devilishly difficult situation with stubborn determination.

The daughter of a rural Anglican vicar, May attended Oxford University and worked in financial services before being elected to Parliament in 1997.

She was quiet and diligent, but also ambitious. One university friend later recalled that May hoped to be Britain's first female prime minister, and "was quite irritated when Margaret Thatcher got there first."

She was not a natural political campaigner; her stiff public appearances as prime minister landed her the nickname "The Maybot." Her only touches of flamboyance are a fondness for bold outfits and accessories like brightly patterned kitten-heel shoes.

But she soon established a reputation for solid competence and a knack for vanquishing flashier rivals.

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May served for six years in the notoriously thankless job of home secretary, responsible for borders, immigration and law and order. In 2016, she beat flashier and better-known politicians, including Brexit-backer Boris Johnson — now the favorite to succeed her — to become Britain's second female prime minister, after Margaret Thatcher.

May was the surprise winner of a Conservative leadership contest triggered when Prime Minister David Cameron stepped down after voters rejected his advice to remain in the EU, instead voting 52%-48% to leave.

In her first speech as prime minister in July 2016, May sketched out plans for an ambitious policy agenda. She spoke of giving the poor a helping hand and lifting barriers to social mobility.

But Brexit soon crowded out almost all other policies.

Like Cameron, May had campaigned to remain, but in office she became a champion of Brexit. "Brexit means Brexit" became her mantra — a meaningless one, said her detractors, as it emerged that undoing 45 years of ties with the bloc would be a fraught and complex process.

Attempting to win the support of Conservative Brexiteers suspicious of her past pro-EU leanings, May set out firm red lines in negotiations with the EU: Britain would leave the bloc's single market and customs union and end the right of EU citizens to live and work in the U.K.

For a time, May's resolve helped her unite the warring factions of her party, which for decades has been divided over policy toward Europe.

But she then gambled on a snap election in June 2017, in an attempt to bolster her slim majority in Parliament and strengthen her hand in Brexit negotiations with the EU.

The move backfired. May ran a lackluster campaign on a platform that included plans to cut benefits to pensioners and change the way they pay for long-term care — quickly dubbed a "dementia tax." The Conservatives lost their majority, and May had to strike a deal with 10 lawmakers from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party to stay in power.

The DUP's support became a complication when the border between Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland emerged as a major issue in Brexit negotiations. The unionist party strongly opposed special measures to ensure the border remained free of customs posts and other barriers, worrying they might weaken the bonds between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K.

May pressed on and in November 2018 struck a divorce agreement with the EU, setting out the terms of Britain's departure and establishing a transition period of almost two years for the two sides to work out their future relations.

All that remained was for the British and European Parliaments to ratify it. And that is where May's best-laid plans came undone.

Her careful compromise of an agreement was rejected by both sides of the Brexit debate. Brexiteers felt it gave too much away and left Britain bound to EU rules. Pro-EU lawmakers wanted a softer Brexit that kept close economic ties to the bloc. In January, May's deal was rejected by 230 votes, the biggest government defeat in British parliamentary history.

Whatever her flaws, May was no quitter. Late last year she likened herself to Geoffrey Boycott, a cricketer who was famous for his dull but effective batting style.

"Geoffrey Boycott stuck to it and he got the runs in the end," she said.

She tried again to get her Brexit deal approved, losing by 149 votes. A third attempt narrowed the margin of defeat to 48.

She tried talks with the Labour Party about securing a compromise, but managed only to further alienate her own lawmakers with her concessions to the opposition. A promise to let Parliament vote on whether to hold a new EU membership referendum was the final straw.

By this time, a growing number of Conservatives had concluded that May was the problem and would have to leave before Brexit could be sorted out.

But she resisted the pressure, planning instead to try for a fourth time by bringing a withdrawal agreement bill to Parliament for a vote.

In the end, the pressure became irresistible.

Analysis: Economy, Hindu-first impact are Modi's challenges

By AMRIT DHILLON Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi described his first term as "filling in potholes" — shorthand for addressing the country's basic needs.

In a campaign speech in April, he pledged his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in the next five years would "try to address people's aspirations and take the country to new heights."

Modi claimed a decisive victory in India's elections, the vote count showing his BJP winning a commanding majority in the lower house of Parliament allowing it to form a government on its own.

The victory signals that millions of Indians believe that Modi's leadership is what the country needs to become a modern, developed and prosperous nation, while raising questions over how he and his party use such hefty political capital to advance their Hindu-first ideology and development agenda.

Modi's vision of India is threefold, political analysts say: getting India into the exclusive \$5 trillion economy club that includes the European Union, United States, China and Japan; asserting itself as a nuclear power and a force in the world; and placing its Hindu heritage at the center of politics.

By 2030, the BJP has pledged to expand the Indian economy from the world's sixth-largest, a rank the World Bank said it achieved in 2017, to the third-largest.

Modi believes he can do this by building on some preexisting social programs, including rural electrification, microloans and digitization.

Other ideas, such as doubling the incomes of India's legions of distressed farmers and building millions of homes to replace mud huts, are promises from his 2014 campaign that are still unfulfilled.

Santosh Ahlawat, a former BJP member of Parliament from the desert state of Rajasthan, said the new administration will be a "people's government which will go full throttle on all fronts" to build on the achievements of Modi's first term.

But before Modi can work on ramping up the economy, he will need to address its apparent slowdown, economists said.

Amitabh Kant, chief executive of government-supported think tank Niti Aayog, said the focus of the new government will be to push annual economic growth from 6.6% to 9%.

"We have to carry through more structural reforms and accelerate growth and for that, we have to open up more sectors of the economy. We will continue with our earlier policies of extending electricity, housing and other benefits to reach Indians in rural areas and we will enhance the flows of private investment coming in. The big challenge is to accelerate our growth rate," he said.

At the heart of the election campaign was an existential conflict between the opposition Congress Party's idea of a pluralistic, diverse multicultural republic and the BJP's ideology of Hindu nationalism, in which the country's fundamental character would not be as a secular state but one with a distinct Hindu ethos where the majority culture dominates.

Anti-Muslim sentiments were expressed repeatedly during the BJP campaign. Party president Amit Shah in April likened Bangladeshi migrants — mainly Muslims — to "termites" and promised to revive a national register of citizens he said would allow the government to "remove every infiltrator, except Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs."

The BJP also stoked fears by fielding Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, a Hindu hardliner facing trial on charges connected to a 2008 bombing that targeted Muslims, and who recently called independence leader Mahatma Gandhi's assassin a "patriot." Thakur won a seat in Bhopal with more than 60% of the vote.

On the BJP goal of building a Hindu temple at Ayodhya, the site where the Babri Masjid mosque was demolished by a Hindu mob in 1992, the BJP election manifesto stated: "All alternative options will be explored for its construction in a most conducive manner."

With such aims stirring sectarian passions, Modi's critics say that India's Muslim minority, 14% of India's 1.3 billion people, will continue to feel persecuted and insecure.

In a February report, Human Rights Watch said that between May 2015 and December 2018, at least 36 Muslims were killed by gangs of cow vigilantes who suspected them of consuming beef or illegally moving cattle. For the Hindu majority, the cow is regarded as sacred and its slaughter is banned in most states.

For political analyst Yogendra Yadav, Modi's second term promises "a move towards a non-theocratic Hindu majoritarianism. Two is a move towards two kinds of citizenship in India with the minorities relegated to second-class status. In short, we will see a move towards Putin's Russia."

Vijay Chauthaiwale, a senior BJP official in charge of the party's foreign affairs, rejected the accusation that Modi has created a culture of intolerance of minorities.

"Our development agenda is for all citizens. When we gave cooking gas cylinders to women, we didn't ask what religion they were. When we gave electricity and health care cover to people, we didn't ask what religion, gender or caste they were. So the BJP's agenda is totally neutral on gender, caste and religion," he said.

Yadav said he based his somber prediction on Modi's first term.

"We have seen a serious truncation of every democratic space, a downplaying of constitutional freedoms, and shrinking space for minority rights. Now, we will move towards what I call electoral authoritarianism under which we will have regular elections certainly, but every other aspect of democracy will gradually be extinguished," he said.

As much as Modi's victory is a testament to his political prowess, though, it also signals the lack of a credible alternative, voters and analysts said.

Congress Party president Rahul Gandhi failed to convince voters that he would be a better prime minister and Modi's left-leaning critics failed to persuade voters that longer Hindu nationalist leadership could imperil basic freedoms.

Fashion designer Sandeep Verma, 39, said he wasn't a BJP supporter but voted for the party in the elections.

"A country like India needs a decisive leader and the people did not find that in Rahul Gandhi. There was no alternative to Modi," Verma said.

Amrit Dhillon covers Indian affairs for The Associated Press in New Delhi.

Indian Prime Minister meets party leaders after election win

By EMILY SCHMALL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was meeting with leaders of his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday fresh off his thunderous victory in the general elections.

Modi will meet with his Cabinet as part of a series of post-election formalities before he can be sworn in as India's new prime minister.

The Election Commission showed that the BJP won 301 out of the 525 constituencies in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament, as of late morning Friday. The party's top rival, the Indian National Congress led by Rahul Gandhi, won 52 seats, and the All India Trinamool Congress led by West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee won 22 seats. The final results are not in for the remaining 7 seats.

Gandhi, the scion of modern India's most powerful political dynasty, personally conceded his seat, long a Congress party bastion, to his BJP rival, India's textiles minister, signaling the end of an era.

Vote counting of the estimated 600 million ballots cast over six weeks of staggered polling — the world's largest democratic exercise — began early Thursday.

The victory in India was widely seen as a referendum on Modi's Hindu-first politics that some observers say have bred intolerance toward Muslims and other religious minorities, as well as his muscular stance on neighboring Pakistan, with whom India nearly went to war earlier this year.

Analysts said that voters will expect the new Modi government to quickly return to the business of economic reform, which the BJP effectively sidelined as a campaign issue after responding to a February terrorist attack in Indian-controlled Kashmir with an airstrike in Pakistan that stoked nationalist sentiments.

"Building up your national security credentials, as the only person who can stand up to India's 'enemies' can only take you so far. The real question is can Modi deliver on his economic commitments for example creating the high number of jobs needed? This is essential to address India's growing wealth inequalities," said Dr. Champa Patel, Head of the Asia Pacific program at London-based Chatham House.

3 dead, state capital battered as storms rake Missouri

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — An outbreak of nasty storms spawned tornadoes that razed homes, flattened trees and tossed cars across a dealership lot, injuring about two dozen people in Missouri's capital city and killing at least three others elsewhere in the state.

The National Weather Service confirmed that a large and destructive twister moved over Jefferson City shortly before midnight Wednesday.

The tornado cut a path about 3 miles long and a mile wide from the south end of Jefferson City north toward the Missouri River, said police Lt. David Williams. Emergency workers reported about two dozen injuries, Williams said, and around 100 of people went to shelters. Hospitals reported treating injuries such as cuts and bruises.

There were no immediate reports of any deaths or missing people in the capital city of about 40,000, and it appeared everyone was accounted for after door-to-door checks that were nearly complete Thursday evening, police Lt. David Williams said.

Many in Jefferson City considered themselves fortunate to survive.

David Surprenant watched the storm approach then rushed to join his family in the basement. By then, the windows had started shattering and the pressure dropped.

"It was just the eeriest sound ever, and it felt like it was taking your breath right out of you," Surprenant, 34, said. He and his family were unharmed.

Kevin Riley operates a car dealership next to Surprenant's home, where he sells Chevys and Toyotas. He figured that 98 percent of the approximately 750 vehicles on the lot were damaged.

Lincoln University President Jerald Woolfolk rode out the tornado in the basement of her official residence, and it may have saved her life. University spokeswoman Misty Young told the Jefferson City News-Tribune that the home, built 103 years ago, was so badly damaged it appeared to be uninhabitable.

Weather forecasters had been tracking the storm before it arrived, and sirens first sounded in Jefferson City at 11:10 p.m. — about 30 minutes before the first property damage. Gov. Mike Parson credited the warning system for saving lives.

The three deaths happened more than 150 miles (240 kilometers) away near Golden City in Missouri's southwestern corner.

Kenneth Harris, 86, and his 83-year-old wife, Opal, were found dead about 200 yards (180 meters) from their home, and Betty Berg, 56, was killed and her husband, Mark, seriously injured when their mobile home was destroyed, authorities said.

The National Weather Service said preliminary information indicates the tornado at Jefferson City was an EF-3, which typically carry winds up to 160 mph (260kph).

The severe weather moved in from Oklahoma, where rescuers struggled to pull people from high water. This week has seen several days of twisters and torrential rains in the Southern Plains and Midwest.

Kerry Ann Demetrius locked herself in the bathroom of her Jefferson City apartment as the storm approached.

"It sounded like stuff was being thrown around, everything was just banging together, and then it just went dead silent," she said. She emerged to find the roof had been blown off her apartment building.

Another natural disaster could be imminent in Jefferson City. Most of the city, including the tornado-ravaged section, sits on a bluff overlooking the south side of the Missouri River. But the swollen river is projected to top a levee on the north side of the river by Friday, potentially flooding the city's airport, which already has been evacuated.

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The Missouri Office of Administration said several state office buildings sustained damage, mostly roof damage.

A tornado also skipped through the town of Eldon, population 4,900, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) outside Jefferson City, where it damaged the business district and "tore up several neighborhoods," Miller County Emergency Management Director Mike Rayhart said.

But Mayor Larry Henderson said people in Eldon were counting their blessings: Despite all the damage, just one man was hurt, when the wind flipped his truck. Henderson did not have any details about the man's injuries.

A twister also caused damage and several injuries in the town of Carl Junction, not far from Joplin, on the eighth anniversary of the catastrophic tornado that killed 161 people in that city. Police Chief Delmar Haase said nearly three dozen homes had significant damage and several people sustained minor injuries. He estimated total damage in Carl Junction was "in the millions."

The National Weather Service says the EF-3 tornado that hit Carl Junction was among four tornadoes that hit that area of the state Wednesday night over a path of roughly 50 miles. Meteorologist Mark Burchfield in Springfield, Missouri, said Thursday that the tornado that hit Carl Junction was on the ground for about nine miles. He said the deadly EF-3 tornado outside Golden City was on the ground for 12 miles.

The severe weather was expected to push eastward Thursday, with forecasters saying parts of the Ohio Valley and the mid-Atlantic — including Baltimore and Pittsburgh — could see tornadoes, large hail and strong winds.

Storms and torrential rains have ravaged the Midwest, from Texas through Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Illinois, in the past few days.

Two barges carrying a total of about 3,800 pounds (1,700 kilograms) of fertilizer broke loose Thursday and floated down the swollen Arkansas River in Oklahoma, spreading alarm downstream as they hit a dam and sank. On Facebook, Webbers Falls, Oklahoma, warned the town's 600 residents: "If the dam breaks, it will be catastrophic!! Leave now!!"

The barges had been floating out of control, on and off again, since Wednesday night near the town of 600, which was under a mandatory evacuation order due to flooding concerns. Aerial footage from the Oklahoma City television station KFOR showed the moment of impact shortly before noon Thursday. The Army Corps of Engineers was checking the dam for damage.

The Army Corps of Engineers immediately inspected the dam and said only "minimal" damage was found. However, the wrecked barges sank and are blocking three of the dam's 12 flood gates.

Near Tulsa, about a dozen homes were evacuated as the Arkansas River continued to swell. The potential for further flooding also prompted the HolleyFrontier Tulsa Refinery to temporarily shut down.

Officials in Tulsa said additional residents may be asked to evacuate as the Army Corps of Engineers increases the flow rate at a dam northwest of the city to help drain a watershed flooded by severe storms.

Missouri's three tornado fatalities bring to seven the number of deaths from storms this week.

This version of the story corrects the gender of Lincoln University president.

Associated Press writers Summer Ballentine in Jefferson City; Jill Bleed in Little Rock, Arkansas; John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas; Jim Salter in St. Louis; and Ken Miller and Tim Talley in Oklahoma City contributed to this report.

Trump, Pelosi trade insults as their feud heats up

By LAURIE KELLMAN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — She's calling for an "intervention" to save the nation from him. He says she's "crazy."

The enmity between President Donald Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi deteriorated Thursday into rude-and-then-some questioning of his fitness for office and her sanity, with personal attacks flowing from both the nation's top elected officials after a dramatic blow-up at the White House.

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However intended, the exchanges left uncertain ahead of the 2020 election whether Trump and the Democrats will be able to work together on serious, must-pass tasks, such as funding the government and raising the federal borrowing limit, let alone thornier issues such as immigration, national security and more.

Pelosi went first, with demure shrugs and practiced sass. Then, as a tornado warning blared across Washington, Trump followed with a derisive nickname — something he had declined to give her, up to now.

"She's a mess," Trump told reporters at an afternoon news conference in which he lined up White House staff to testify to his calmness the day before when he walked out after three minutes at a meeting with Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Charles Schumer.

"Crazy Nancy. ... I watched Nancy and she was all crazy yesterday."

As for himself, he declared, "I'm an extremely stable genius."

Pelosi scolded back:

"When the 'extremely stable genius' starts acting more presidential, I'll be happy to work with him on infrastructure, trade and other issues," she tweeted.

There was more, before and after that exchange, for political enthusiasts with the time and interest to follow along.

For those who don't: The theater came a day after Trump stalked out of the Cabinet Room demanding an end to all congressional investigations before he would work with Congress on repairing U.S. infrastructure or other matters. He apparently was wound up generally over the ongoing congressional Trump-Russia probes into whether he obstructed justice, and specifically by Pelosi's jab a few minutes earlier at the Capitol that he "is engaged in a cover-up."

"I don't do cover-ups," fumed Trump, who is fighting subpoenas for testimony by current and former White House officials.

Hanging over the increasingly personal exchanges is a drumbeat among about two dozen Democrats and one Republican to launch impeachment hearings against Trump based on special counsel Robert Mueller's report, which described Trump's efforts to block his federal investigation. Pelosi has resisted that impeachment pressure, preferring a methodical process by which Congress investigates and lays out the facts on the question of obstruction of justice. She says the House is "not on a path to impeachment," but she's been clear this week that an impeachment inquiry is not off the table.

Short of that, she's been happy to give Trump a hard time all year, including questioning his manhood and forcing him to re-open the government without the border wall money he demanded. On Thursday, she said the White House is "crying out" for impeachment — the idea being that a vindication by the Republican-controlled Senate would help assure his re-election.

On Thursday, subtlety went by the wayside. Pelosi said Trump has established a pattern of unpredictability, and at one point she even joked about the 25th Amendment, the Constitution's provision laying out the procedure for replacing a president.

"I wish that his family or his administration or his staff would have an intervention for the good of the country," Pelosi said at her weekly news conference, adding that she prays for him and the nation.

"Maybe he wants to take a leave of absence," she said. Asked whether she's concerned about Trump's well-being, she replied, "I am."

Trump denied he wanted the House to formally charge him.

"I don't think anybody wants to be impeached," he said.

Pelosi, the second in line to the presidency, said she thinks Trump's actions Wednesday were part of his skill at distraction. But she also suggested what he does isn't all strategic.

"Sometimes when we're talking to him he agrees," she said, only to change his mind. "He says he's in charge and he may be."

During questions, Pelosi said she thought a reporter had asked about "statutory" intervention, the 25th Amendment.

"That's a good idea," she said with a smile. "I am going to take it up with my caucus. Not that they haven't been thinking about it."

She has been insulting Trump since the meeting Wednesday that was supposed to be about bridges and

other crumbling infrastructure.

"For some reason, maybe it was lack of confidence on his part ... he took a pass, and it just makes me wonder why he did that," she told reporters back on Capitol Hill. "In any event I pray for the president of the United States."

Trump tweeted back: "Nancy, thank you so much for your prayers, I know you truly mean it!"

Associated Press Writers Lisa Mascaro, Mary Clare Jalonick, Zeke Miller and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

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

NASA's first-of-kind tests look to manage drones in cities

By SCOTT SONNER Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — NASA has launched the final stage of a four-year effort to develop a national traffic management system for drones, testing them in cities for the first time beyond the operator's line of sight as businesses look in the future to unleash the unmanned devices in droves above busy streets and buildings.

Multiple drones took to the air at the same time above downtown Reno this week in a series of simulations testing emerging technology that someday will be used to manage hundreds of thousands of small unmanned commercial aircraft delivering packages, pizzas and medical supplies.

"This activity is the latest and most technical challenge we have done with unmanned aerial systems," said David Korsmeyer, associate director of research and technology at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California.

An autonomous drone took off Tuesday from the rooftop of a five-story casino parking garage and landed on the roof of another out of view across the street. It hovered as onboard sensors adjusted for gusty winds before returning close to the center of the launchpad.

Equipped with GPS, others flew at each other no higher than city streetlights but were able to avoid colliding through onboard tracking systems connected to NASA's computers on the ground.

Similar tests have been conducted in remote and rural areas. The Federal Aviation Administration has authorized individual test flights in cities before but never for multiple drones or outside the sight of the operator.

The new round of tests continuing this summer in Reno and Corpus Christi, Texas, marks the first time simulations have combined all those scenarios, said Chris Walach, executive director of the Nevada Institute of Autonomous Systems, which is running the Reno tests of unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs.

"When we began this project four years ago, many of us wouldn't have thought we'd be standing here today flying UAVs with advanced drone systems off high-rise buildings," he said.

The team adopted a "crawl, walk, run" philosophy when it initiated tests in 2015, culminating with this fourth round of simulations, said Ron Johnson, project manager for unmanned aircraft systems traffic management at NASA's Ames Research Center.

"We are definitely in the 'run' phase of this development here in Reno," he said.

The results will be shared with the FAA. The agency outlined proposed rules in January that would ease restrictions on flying drones over crowds but said it won't take final action until it finishes another regulation on identifying drones as they're flying — something industry analysts say could be years away.

Critics assert that the FAA has stymied the commercial use of drones by applying the same rigid safety standard it uses for airlines.

"There can be a lot of Silicon Valley mentality where people don't want to wait. So, we're trying to strike a balance between unleashing entrepreneurship and ensuring we're doing it safely while trying to accelerate acceptance of drones in public," Johnson said.

Amazon and FedEx are among the companies that hope to send consumer products by drone by 2020. Drone delivery company Flirtey began testing delivery of defibrillators for cardiac arrest patients last year in Reno under FAA oversight.

Johnson said cities present the biggest challenges because of limited, small landing areas among tall buildings that create navigation and communication problems.

He said it became apparent early on that the travel management plans for drones would have to be completely automated because FAA air traffic controllers can't handle the enormous workload.

The system is being tested with the help of 36 private partners, including drone manufacturers, operators, software developers and other third-party service providers, Johnson said.

The system uses software on the ground that communicates flight plans and positions to other software systems. The drones are equipped with programs for landing, avoiding crashes, surveillance, detection and identification, optical cameras and systems similar to radar that work with lasers.

Huy Tran, director of aeronautics at NASA's Ames Research Center, said her supervisors at NASA headquarters were surprised to hear they had been testing drones in Reno.

"They said, 'Are you crazy?'" she said. "We hope (the test in) Reno shows drones can be flown and land safely."

Trump moves to escalate investigation of intel agencies

By ZEKE MILLER and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday granted Attorney General William Barr new powers to review and potentially release classified information related to the origins of the Russia investigation, a move aimed at accelerating Barr's inquiry into whether U.S. officials improperly surveilled Trump's 2016 campaign.

Trump directed the intelligence community to "quickly and fully cooperate" with Barr's probe. The directive marked an escalation in Trump's efforts to "investigate the investigators," as he continues to try to undermine the findings of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe amid mounting Democratic calls for impeachment proceedings.

Press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement that Trump is delegating to Barr the "full and complete authority" to declassify documents relating to the probe, which would ease his efforts to review the sensitive intelligence underpinnings of the investigation. Such an action could create fresh tensions within the FBI and other intelligence agencies, which have historically resisted such demands.

Barr has already asked John Durham, the U.S. attorney in Connecticut, to examine the origins of the Russia investigation to determine whether intelligence and surveillance methods used during the probe were lawful and appropriate. Still, Barr has been directly involved, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss it publicly, and is also working with CIA Director Gina Haspel, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and FBI Director Christopher Wray.

Trump is giving Barr a new tool in his investigation, empowering his attorney general to unilaterally unseal documents that the Justice Department has historically regarded as among its most highly secret. Warrants obtained from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, for instance, are not made public — not even to the person on whom the surveillance was authorized.

Trump explicitly delegated Barr with declassification power — noting it would not automatically extend to another attorney general — and only for use in the review of the Russia investigation. Before using the new authority, Barr should consult with intelligence officials "to the extent he deems it practicable," Trump wrote in a memo formalizing the matter.

Trump has frequently claimed his campaign was the victim of "spying," though the intelligence community has insisted it acted lawfully in following leads in the Russia investigation and conducted surveillance under court order.

Wray vocally opposed the release by Congress last year of details from a secret surveillance warrant

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obtained by the bureau on a former campaign adviser, Carter Page. The White House had eagerly encouraged Republicans on the House intelligence committee to disclose that classified information, believing it could help undermine the Russia investigation.

Wray, though cooperating with Barr in a review of the origins of the Russia probe, would presumably balk at declassifying classified information that could reveal sensitive sources or methods of investigators.

Despite Mueller finding no evidence to support criminal charges against Americans related to Russia's actions, his report documented extensive Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 campaign and willingness on the part of some in Trump's orbit to accept their aid.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff accused Trump and Barr of trying to "conspire to weaponize law enforcement and classified information against their political enemies."

"The coverup has entered a new and dangerous phase," Schiff said in a statement released late Thursday. "This is un-American."

Typically, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence coordinates declassification work by contacting various agencies where classified material originated to get their input on what should be released or not disclosed based on legal exemptions. The president, however, has the authority to declassify anything he wants.

A former senior intelligence official who served in the Obama administration said their principle concern is that the attorney general, hand-picked by Trump, could declassify and release selective bits to make the previous administration and former senior officials look bad. The former official spoke on the condition that the official would not be named in order to describe the concerns of intelligence professionals.

Thursday's move further solidifies Barr's position in Trump's eyes as a legal warrior on fighting on his behalf.

After Mueller submitted his report to Barr in March, the attorney general released a four-page summary to Congress. Barr's letter framed the debate about the probe over the next few weeks and, White House officials believe, allowed Trump to declare victory before the release of the full report, the contents of which are far more ambiguous.

Trump also appreciated Barr's combative stance with lawmakers and reporters as he defended the Justice Department's handling of the report, and again when he declined to appear before Congress and defied a subpoena, drawing a possible contempt charge. Trump has told close confidants that he "finally" had "my attorney general," according to two Republicans close to the White House who were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

"Today's action will help ensure that all Americans learn the truth about the events that occurred, and the actions that were taken, during the last Presidential election and will restore confidence in our public institutions," Sanders said.

Two of Trump's congressional allies, Reps. Mark Meadows and Jim Jordan, were seen by reporters earlier Thursday at the Justice Department.

Associated Press writers Mike Balsamo, Deb Riechmann and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

Modi surges to victory in India on Hindu-first platform

By EMILY SCHMALL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Charismatic but polarizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi surged to a landslide victory in Indian elections, propelling his Hindu nationalist party to back-to-back majorities in parliament for the first time in decades.

With most of the estimated 600 million votes counted by early Friday, Modi's reelection mirrored a trend of right-wing populists sweeping to victory, from the United States to Brazil to Italy, often by promoting a tough security stance and protectionist trade policies. India's elections were seen as a referendum on Modi's Hindu-first politics, which critics say have bred intolerance, as well as his muscular stance on archrival Pakistan, with whom India nearly went to war earlier this year.

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"India wins yet again," Modi exulted in a tweet.

Election Commission data by Friday morning showed Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party winning 287 out of the 525 seats in the Lok Sabha, India's lower house of Parliament, well beyond the simple majority to form a government. Top rival Indian National Congress won 50 seats but lost one held by party president Rahul Gandhi, the scion of modern India's most powerful political dynasty.

The All India Trinamool Congress led by West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee won 19 seats. Results were not in for 42 seats, and the final tally was not expected until later Friday.

Addressing thousands of party workers celebrating the outcome, Modi urged the world to "recognize India's democratic power." He attributed the party's showing to his policies aimed at improving the lot of the nation's poor, including free medical insurance, relief for distressed farmers and a highly popular program to build 100 million toilets in a nation where basic sanitation is limited.

The election victory was a resounding endorsement of the 68-year-old Modi, whose economic reforms have had mixed results but whose background as a social underdog from a lower-caste Hindu family clearly inspired some in India's highly stratified society, appealing to tens of millions of Indians seeking upward mobility. Critics have said his Hindu-first platform risks exacerbating social tensions in the country of 1.3 billion people.

Since Modi led the Bharatiya Janata Party to power in 2014, Hindu mobs have lynched dozens of Muslims and lower-caste Dalits for consuming or slaughtering cows, which Hindus consider sacred.

Modi has largely shown complacency toward violence and discrimination against minorities, and to rhetoric like that of his party's president, who called mainly Muslim Bangladeshi migrants to India "termites," or one of BJP's candidates for parliament, who described peace activist Mahatma Gandhi's assassin as a "patriot." Activists, lawyers, journalists and academics have been harassed and even prosecuted under anti-terrorism and anti-sedition laws that Human Rights Watch calls draconian.

But on the campaign trail, Modi seized on his personal narrative, presenting himself as a self-made man with the confidence to cut red tape and unleash India's economic potential, and labeling Congress party president Rahul Gandhi as an out-of-touch elite. This resonated in India, where an anti-corruption movement helped lead to the ouster of Congress party for the perceived excesses of the Gandhi family, and for the bloated and inefficient bureaucracies Congress ran as the ruling party for nearly a half-century after independence.

Gandhi conceded defeat for his own parliamentary seat to his BJP rival in Amethi, a constituency in Uttar Pradesh state that had been a Congress bastion. But candidates are allowed to run in more than one constituency, and Gandhi was leading the race for a constituency in the southern state of Kerala.

Before the results were complete, President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and others were rushing to congratulate Modi.

The elections, so daunting an exercise they are phased over six weeks, were a testimony to the vibrancy of the world's largest democracy just 72 years since India won independence from British colonial rule.

Voters expressed confidence that Modi could jumpstart India's stalling economy, despite his poor first-term record and failure to deliver on his pledge to create jobs.

The BJP harnessed social media, including Twitter, where Modi has 47.4 million followers, and WhatsApp to reach out to millions of supporters.

Modi also capitalized on a suicide bombing in Kashmir in February that killed 40 Indian soldiers. India retaliated with airstrikes at alleged terrorist training camps in Pakistan, fanning the flames of nationalism and helping hold voters' attention.

As votes were being counted, Pakistan's military said it successfully test-fired a long-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Tensions with Pakistan "gave him the narrative he needed to counter all these allegations of non-performance, unemployment and rural distress. It reenergized him and enabled him to reclaim his image as a strong leader India needs at this juncture," political commentator Arti Jerath said.

The BJP's performance "is absolutely stunning. Modi is the predominant leader in India today. He has pushed everybody else aside. Nobody in the opposition is a match for him," Jerath added.

Trends in the election data suggest that BJP's strategy of aggressively campaigning in eastern India worked, with the party breaking into the citadels of Trinamool Congress Party in West Bengal state and the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha state.

The biggest losers appear to be the Communists who ruled West Bengal state for 34 years until they were ousted by Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress Party in 2011. Coalition partners of the Congress-led government in New Delhi between 2004 and 2008, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) was leading in only three constituencies and the Communist Party of India in two constituencies.

Outside BJP headquarters in New Delhi, hundreds of people cheered and shouted party slogans, lifting cardboard cutouts of Modi and BJP President Amit Shah into the air as other people played drums and set off fireworks.

Mohit Sharma, a 29-year-old who runs a bathroom fittings business, said India had never had a prime minister like Modi.

"In the past, when leaders after they won elections, they sat in air-conditioned rooms and they never reached out to people, but Modi was never like that. He was always connected to the people through social media," Sharma said.

Associated Press writers Rishabh R. Jain, Bharatha Mallawarachi and Ashok Sharma contributed to this report.

"American Taliban" John Walker Lindh is released from prison

By MATTHEW BARAKAT Associated Press

John Walker Lindh, the Californian who took up arms for the Taliban and was captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan in 2001, got out of prison Thursday after more than 17 years, released under tight restrictions that reflected government fears he still harbors radical views.

President Donald Trump reacted by saying, "I don't like it at all."

"Here's a man who has not given up his proclamation of terror," he said.

Lindh, 38, left a federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, after getting time off for good behavior from the 20-year sentence he received when he pleaded guilty to providing support to the Taliban.

It was not immediately clear where the man known as the "American Taliban" will live or what he will do. He turned down an interview request last week, and his attorney declined to comment Thursday.

In a Fox News interview, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo decried Lindh's early release as "unexplainable and unconscionable" and called for a review of prison system policies.

The president said he asked lawyers whether there was anything that could be done to block Lindh from getting out but was told no. Trump said the U.S. will closely monitor him.

Under restrictions imposed by a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia, Lindh's internet devices must have monitoring software; his online communications must be conducted in English; he must undergo mental health counseling; he is forbidden to possess or view extremist material; and he cannot hold a passport or leave the U.S.

FBI counterterrorism officials work with federal prison authorities to determine what risk a soon-to-be-released inmate might pose.

Probation officers never explained why they sought the restrictions against Lindh. But in 2017, Foreign Policy magazine cited a National Counterterrorism Center report that said Lindh "continued to advocate for global jihad and to write and translate violent extremist texts."

On Wednesday, NBC reported that Lindh, in a letter to a producer from Los Angeles-based affiliate KNBC, wrote in 2015 that the Islamic State group was "doing a spectacular job."

Lindh converted to Islam as a teenager after seeing the movie "Malcolm X" and eventually made his way to Pakistan and Afghanistan and joined the Taliban. He met Osama bin Laden and was with the Taliban on Sept. 11, 2001, when al-Qaida terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Lindh was captured on the battlefield after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan following 9/11 and was ini-

tially charged with conspiring to kill Mike Spann, a CIA operative who died during an uprising of Taliban prisoners shortly after interrogating Lindh.

Lindh denied any role in Spann's death. But he admitted carrying an assault rifle and two grenades during his time with the Taliban.

Spann's daughter Alison Spann, now a journalist in Mississippi, posted a letter on Twitter that she said she had sent to Trump. In it, she called Lindh's early release "a slap in the face" to everyone killed on 9/11 and in the war on terror since then, along with "the millions of Muslims worldwide who don't support radical extremists."

Republican Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby and Democratic New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan also expressed concern about Lindh's release in a letter last week to the federal Bureau of Prisons.

"We must consider the security and safety implications for our citizens and communities who will receive individuals like John Walker Lindh who continue to openly call for extremist violence," they wrote.

The bureau defended itself Thursday in a statement that said Lindh's release followed federal laws and guidelines. It said it works closely with outside agencies "to reduce the risk terrorist offenders pose inside and outside of prisons," and added that no radicalized inmate has returned to federal prison on terrorism-related charges.

Moazzam Begg, a former detainee at Guantanamo, now serves as director of outreach for London-based CAGE, which supports the rights of those accused of terror-related crimes. He said the criticism over Lindh's early release is misguided. If anything, Begg said, Lindh was imprisoned too long.

He noted that many of the other Taliban fighters who were sent to Guantanamo as enemy combatants were released much earlier.

As for Lindh's letter in support of the Islamic State, Begg noted that it was written four years ago and that Lindh might not have had full knowledge of the group's atrocities from behind bars.

"Nobody really knows what his views are right now in 2019," he said.

In a statement, Begg said: "It is now time for him to be allowed to restart his life in peace and freedom."

This story has been corrected to show that Alison Spann is a journalist in Mississippi, not Alabama.

Barakat reported from Falls Church, Va. Contributors include Associated Press writers Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia, Kimberly Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama and Eric Tucker in Washington.

Bank CEO pleads not guilty in bid to get Trump post

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A banker who prosecutors say tried to buy himself a senior post in President Donald Trump's administration by making risky loans to former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort pleaded not guilty Thursday to a financial institution bribery charge as his lawyer said he's done nothing wrong.

Stephen M. Calk, 54, was released on \$5 million bail after making a brief appearance in Manhattan federal court.

Calk, who lives in Chicago where The Federal Savings Bank is headquartered, was told by Magistrate Judge Debra Freeman to have no contact with bank employees except for his brother until prosecutors next week submit a list of individuals he cannot communicate with.

The small bank where Calk was CEO when he allegedly carried out the scheme said in a statement that Calk already had no involvement with the bank and is on a leave of absence.

In a statement, Calk attorney Jeremy Margolis said Calk will be exonerated on the "baseless isolated charge." He called the arrest a "travesty."

He said the bank his client founded and Calk were "victims of Mr. Manafort's ongoing fraud. Mr. Calk did not commit any offense with him."

Another defense lawyer, Daniel Stein, said outside court: "These loans were simply not a bribe for anything."

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"The Special Counsel and a federal judge have determined that The Federal Savings Bank was a victim of Mr. Manafort's crimes," the bank said in a statement, adding it isn't accused of "any wrongdoing."

Federal prosecutors described the charge in a release, saying Calk abused his bank position by approving \$16 million in high risk loans that were ultimately downgraded by the bank's primary regulator.

William F. Sweeney Jr., head of New York's FBI office, said Calk "went to great lengths to avoid banking violations in an attempt to secure a senior position in a presidential administration."

"His attempt at petitioning for political favors was unsuccessful in more ways than one — he didn't get the job he wanted, and he compromised the one he had," Sweeney added.

If convicted, he could face up to 30 years in prison.

Manafort lobbied Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, to consider Calk for Secretary of the Army, according to emails from the weeks leading up to the 2016 election shown to jurors at Manafort's tax evasion and bank fraud trial last year.

Prosecutors said while Manafort's loans were pending approval, Calk gave Manafort a ranked list of government positions he wanted, starting with Secretary of the Treasury, followed by Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Defense, as well as 19 ambassadorships similarly ranked and starting with the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy.

According to trial evidence, Manafort passed along Calk's resume to Kushner in a Nov. 30, 2016, email, along with two other names of people he said "should be a part of the Trump administration."

Manafort wrote that the individuals would be "totally reliable and responsive to the Trump White House."

He also said Calk was "strong in defense issues, management and finance."

Kushner responded, "On it!"

Calk was formally interviewed for the position of under secretary of the Army in early January 2017 at the Presidential Transition Team's Trump Tower offices, prosecutors noted.

But Calk never got an administration post, though he did approve Manafort's loans.

Manafort received a \$9.5 million cash-out refinance from Calk's bank on November 2016 and an additional \$6.5 million construction loan on a Manafort property in New York in January 2017.

Prosecutors said Calk began in July 2016 to exploit his position as head of the bank and its holding company, knowing Manafort urgently needed loans to avoid foreclosure proceedings on multiple properties he and his family owned.

Calk himself was not summoned by federal prosecutors to testify in Manafort's case.

Instead, executives who worked under Calk at The Federal Savings Bank testified he began green-lighting more than \$16 million in loans after he expressed interest in joining the Cabinet if Trump won the 2016 election.

Testifying under an immunity agreement, James Brennan, who was a vice president of the bank at the time, said Calk overruled bank executives who rejected Manafort's loan for "inconsistencies."

The loan "closed because Mr. Calk wanted it to close," Brennan said.

The federal jury was unable to reach a verdict on the bank fraud charge related to Calk, but Manafort was convicted on eight other counts in the case. Manafort later acknowledged guilt in all the bank-related charges as part of a deal with the special counsel's office.

Manafort is serving a 7½ year sentence after his convictions on 10 charges alleging multiple crimes, including bank and tax fraud, misleading the government over his foreign lobbying work and encouraged witnesses to lie on his behalf. He also faces an indictment in New York charging him with state crimes, including a residential mortgage fraud scheme.

Associated Press Writer Stephen Braun in Washington contributed to this report.

Serial killer who took 10 women's lives executed in Florida

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON ASSOCIATED PRESS**

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — A serial killer who terrorized Florida with a murderous spree that claimed 10 women

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in 1984 was put to death Thursday, his execution witnessed by a woman who survived one of his attacks and aided in his capture.

Bobby Joe Long, 65, was pronounced dead at 6:55 p.m. Thursday following a lethal injection at Florida State Prison. Long had no last words, simply closing his eyes as the procedure began, witnesses said.

The killer terrified the Tampa Bay area for eight months in 1984 as women began showing up dead, their bodies often left in gruesome poses. Most were strangled, some had their throats slit, and others were bludgeoned.

Law enforcement had few clues until the case of Lisa Noland, who survived one of Long's attacks. She witnessed Thursday's execution from the front row.

Just 17 in 1984, Noland was abducted by Long outside a church that year. He raped her but ultimately let her go free. She left evidence of his crimes on the scene and gave police details leading to his capture. Long confessed to the crimes, receiving 28 life sentences and one death sentence for the murder of 22-year-old Michelle Simms.

Noland positioned herself in the witness room where she hoped Long would see her.

"I wanted to look him in the eye. I wanted to be the first person he saw. Unfortunately, he didn't open his eyes," she said. "It was comforting to know this was actually happening."

She said she began to cry after she left the room once it was over.

"The peace that came over me is a remarkable feeling," she said.

Another witness wore a polo shirt with a photo of one victim on the front and the words "Gone But Not Forgotten." On the back were photos of all 10 slaying victims and the words, "The Ones That Matter."

Noland was the victim Long let go. The day before her abduction, she said, she had written a suicide note, planning to end her life after years of sexual abuse by her grandmother's boyfriend.

But she ended up making heroic use of that history.

"At the time he put the gun to my head, it was nothing new to me," she told The Associated Press earlier this week.

She said she knew from her past abuse that if she fought Long, it would enrage him.

"I had to learn who he was, what made him tick. If I did the wrong move, could it end my life? So literally, the night before I wrote a suicide note out, and now I was in a position where I had to save my life," she said on Wednesday.

Investigators were baffled by the trail of bodies Long left around Tampa Bay. Artiss Ann Wick was the first killed, in March 1984. Nine others followed.

Law enforcement had few clues until Noland told her story.

Noland said beforehand that she knew what she would have said if she could have addressed Long. Said Noland: "I would say 'Thank you for choosing me and not another 17-year-old girl.'"

"Another 17-year-old girl probably wouldn't have been able to handle it the way that I have," she said.

Long moved from West Virginia to the Miami area as a child and was raised by his mother, a cocktail waitress. After high school, he married his childhood sweetheart, but later became violent. The ex-wife, Cindy Brown, told AP she recalls fearing for her life as the attacks grew worse, including a day he choked her and knocked her unconscious.

In the AP interview Wednesday, Noland described her attack in excruciating detail: the church where Long abducted her, the gun he pressed to her head, the bright light she could see on the car's dashboard beneath the edge of her blindfold. It said Magnum, as in Dodge Magnum.

She was menstruating and made sure she left blood evidence on the car's backseat. She could tell when they were on an interstate north of Tampa. When she was brought to the killer's apartment, she counted the steps up to the second floor. When he let her use the bathroom, she made sure she left fingerprints everywhere.

She knew she couldn't make him angry. She appealed to a glimmer of kindness he showed while he washed her hair after raping her repeatedly. She asked what made him do what he did. He said he had suffered a bad breakup and hated women. She told him he seemed nice and that maybe she could be

his girlfriend. She wouldn't tell anyone.

Long later got Noland dressed. He let her loose and told her not to take the blindfold off for five minutes. She got out of the car and tripped on the curb. Long caught her before she fell. She waited for what seemed like an eternity and pulled off the blindfold. She was in front of a tree in another churchyard.

Today, she claims that tree as hers, and included it in the design of a T-shirt she made to mark Long's execution.

And she's joined the ranks of the law enforcement officers who captured Long. She's a deputy with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, the same department she helped lead to Long's arrest.

Associated Press writer Curt Anderson in Miami contributed to this story.

Watch out: Protocol pitfalls abound as Trump heads abroad

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump was walking across the sun-splashed airport tarmac in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2017 when the Israeli leader playfully warned his political ally about the confusing protocol he was about to encounter on his first visit to Israel as president.

"What is the protocol?" Trump asked his host, referring to the rules that govern how dignitaries interact. "You have any idea what it is?"

A smiling Netanyahu replied: "Who knows?"

Trump's next few weeks will serve as a master class in the finer points — and potential pitfalls — of protocol as he makes state visits to Japan and the United Kingdom, meeting with both Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Japan's newly installed Emperor Naruhito. Plenty of world leaders are tripped up by the intricacies, and Trump himself has a spotty record in his diplomatic dealings on the world stage.

He pushed his way to the front of a pack of world leaders as they got into position for a photo at a NATO meeting in Brussels in 2017. He belittled Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over Twitter after leaving a fractious meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized nations last year in Canada. And he walked steps ahead of the queen at Windsor Castle when the pair met for the first time last year.

For all of that, though, the president can't seem to get enough pomp and pageantry. He raved about the reception he received in Asia in 2017, when China and other governments welcomed Trump by rolling out red carpets, staging military parades and putting on fancy dinners as he toured the region.

Trump's penchant for flattery is not lost on the Japanese, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe going all-out to become perhaps Trump's closest friend among global leaders. The frills of a state visit, including meeting Naruhito and an imperial banquet, should bring out the best in Trump, said Michael Green, senior vice president for Asia and Japan chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"I think he'll be on really good behavior," Green said. "I think the Japanese knew very much what they were doing."

With nothing left to chance, diagrams have been drawn up to help Trump rehearse his movements at the Imperial Palace, where he and first lady Melania Trump will meet Naruhito on Monday.

Officials there say they aren't worried about any diplomatic blunders, noting that Trump's meeting two years ago with then-Emperor Akihito went smoothly.

Governments across the globe, including the United States, employ officials who ground themselves in the ins and outs of protocol, the rules that govern how leaders and dignitaries interact and comport themselves. But leaders don't always follow the instructions — for reasons as varied as a case of the nerves or sheer disregard of conventions.

Etiquette experts say protocol exists to provide structure and help put people at ease, and that those who disregard it send a signal that their own desires are more important than the feelings and expectations of others.

During a 2017 visit with Saudi Arabia's royal family, Trump and King Salman drank traditional Arabic coffee in small cups. Seeing that Trump held the cup with his left hand, taboo in the Muslim world, Salman

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instructed Trump that religious tradition dictates using the right hand. Trump then replied: "Always the right hand, right. Always the right hand."

Protocol has stumped other presidents and dignitaries, too.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush slumped over and vomited in the lap of Japan's prime minister during a state banquet in Tokyo. Bush was in the midst of a lengthy tour of Asia and had become nauseous between courses of raw salmon and grilled beef.

In 2011, President Barack Obama was zinged for talking as "God Save the Queen" began to play during his toast to the queen during a Buckingham Palace banquet. The orchestra started playing the British national anthem before Obama had finished the toast, which caused a bit of a stir at the dinner. She did not appear to be offended.

During an earlier Obama visit to London in 2009, first lady Michelle Obama was criticized for putting an arm around the queen and wearing a sweater to their first encounter.

Mrs. Obama, a well-known hugger, wrote in her memoir that she and the queen had bonded at the Buckingham Palace reception over their uncomfortable shoes and achy feet when the queen laughed. "I then did what's instinctive to me anytime I feel connected to a new person ... I laid a hand affectionately across her shoulder," she said.

Royal protocol dictates that an individual wait for a sign from the queen or other family member that physical contact such as a handshake or an embrace is welcome. The former first lady said she tried not to let the ensuing media firestorm rattle her.

"If I hadn't done the proper thing at Buckingham Palace, I had at least done the human thing," Mrs. Obama wrote.

Associated Press writers Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo, Jill Lawless in London, Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Josef Federman in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

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

Trade impasse: Trump pledges \$16B to farmers; markets slump

By **PAUL WISEMAN** and **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER** AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump rolled out another \$16 billion in aid for farmers hurt by his trade policies, and financial markets shook Thursday on the growing realization that the U.S. and China are far from settling a bitter, year-long trade dispute.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said that the first of three payments is likely to be made in July or August and suggested that the U.S. and China were unlikely to have settled their differences by then.

"The package we're announcing today ensures that farmers do not bear the brunt of unfair retaliatory tariffs imposed by China and other trading partners," Perdue said.

The latest bailout comes atop \$11 billion in aid Trump provided farmers last year.

"We will ensure our farmers get the relief they need and very, very quickly," Trump said.

Seeking to reduce America's trade deficit with the rest of the world and with China in particular, Trump has imposed import taxes on foreign steel, aluminum, solar panels and dishwashers and on thousands of Chinese products.

U.S. trading partners have lashed back with retaliatory tariffs of their own, focusing on U.S. agricultural products in a direct shot at the American heartland, where support for Trump runs high.

William Reinsch, a trade analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former U.S. trade official, called the administration's aid package for farmers "a fairly overt political ploy."

"It's not economics," Reinsch said. Trump wants win the farm states again in the 2020 election, "and he's got members of Congress beating up on him" to resolve the trade conflicts.

Financial markets slumped Thursday on heightened tensions between the U.S. and China. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 286 points, or 1%, to 25,490. It had been down 448 points earlier in the day.

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U.S. crude plunged 6% on fears that the trade standoff could knock the global economy out of kilter and kill demand for energy.

Economists at the New York Federal Reserve, meanwhile, estimated the latest round of tariff hikes will cost the typical U.S. household \$831 a year. "In sum, according to our estimates, these higher tariffs are likely to create large economic distortions and reduce U.S. tariff revenues," the New York Fed economists wrote.

Talks between the world's two biggest economies broke off earlier this month with no resolution to a dispute over Beijing's aggressive efforts to challenge American technological dominance. The U.S. charges that China is stealing technology, unfairly subsidizing its own companies and forcing U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets if they want access to the Chinese market.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to discuss the standoff at a meeting of the Group of 20 major economies in Osaka, Japan, next month. There are no current plans for talks to occur before then.

Speaking to reporters Thursday, Trump suggested that he might be willing to make the embattled Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei part of the trade talks with China. His administration last week put Huawei, which it has called a threat to national security, on a blacklist that effectively barred U.S. firms from selling the Chinese company computer chips and other components without government approval. The move could cripple Huawei, the world's largest manufacturer of networking gear and second-biggest smartphone maker.

"I can imagine Huawei being included in some form of a trade deal," Trump said. He offered no details but said any arrangement "would look very good for us, I can tell you that."

Briefing reporters on the farm aid package, Perdue said he doubted that "a trade deal could be consummated before" the first payments to farmers in July or August.

The second payment will be made around November and the third likely in early 2020, USDA officials said, unless a trade deal has been reached by then.

The direct payments will make up \$14.5 billion of the \$16 billion package and will be handed out on a county-by-county basis. The amounts will be determined by how much each county has suffered from the retaliatory duties imposed by China, as well as previous tariffs put in place by the European Union and Turkey.

The rest of the package includes \$1.4 billion to purchase surplus food commodities from farmers and distribute them to U.S. schools and food banks, and \$100 million to help develop new export markets overseas.

The payments will go to farmers producing roughly two dozen crops, including soybeans, corn, canola, peanuts, cotton and wheat. Dairy and hog farmers are also eligible.

"Farmers want trade, not aid, but this will be helpful," said Republican Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

U.S. soybean exports to China have been hit particularly hard, falling from \$12.3 billion in 2017 to just \$3.2 billion last year.

The aid offsets some of the losses. But farmers are worried about the future and whether they can win back lost sales in China, a market they've spent years breaking into. "I don't think any kind of bailout package, even if it was permanent, would substitute for the loss markets," said Rufus Yerxa, president of the National Foreign Trade Council and a former U.S. trade official.

Trump has said that China is footing the bill for the farm bailout by paying the tariffs. But tariffs are taxes paid by U.S. importers, and studies have shown that American consumers and businesses usually end up absorbing the higher costs.

Perdue acknowledged that the tariffs, regardless of who pays them, are sent to the Treasury Department and not earmarked for the relief program. But he said that China is "indirectly" paying for the aid.

"The president feels that China is paying for this program through the tariffs," Perdue said.

Trump has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports and is planning to hit another \$300

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billion worth, a move that would extend import taxes to just about everything China ships to the United States.

Among those bracing for higher costs if the new tariffs kick in is Jay Foreman, CEO of Basic Fun!, a Boca Raton, Florida, toy company that imports from China.

"The thought of the government taking my money and giving it to farmers as subsidies to support their loses doesn't sit well," Foreman said by email. "It's not fair to take money from a Florida company to support an Iowa farmer! Farmers don't want welfare. I'm sure they, like us, just want open free markets to trade in!"

Marcy Gordon, Darlene Superville and Lisa Mascaro in Washington contributed to this story.

Asia shares retreat on fears China-US trade row might spread

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower on Friday as worries that the standoff between the U.S. and China over trade might expand put investors in a selling mood.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell 0.5% to 21,053.95. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.7% at 6,445.40. South Korea's Kospi dropped 0.9% to 2,040.81. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged 0.2% higher to 27,315.96, while the Shanghai Composite was virtually unchanged at 2,853.63.

"Finally, markets appear to be starting to price in the effect of an extended U.S.-China trade war on global growth," Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at Oanda, said in a commentary.

Stocks ended sharply lower on Wall Street in a broad sell-off that left the benchmark S&P 500 index on track for its third straight weekly loss and had the Dow Jones Industrial Average down more than 400 points until late afternoon.

Traders sought safety in the bond market, driving bond prices higher, which pulled the yield on the 10-year Treasury to 2.31%, the lowest level in more than a year. It was at 2.33% by midday Friday in Asia.

The stock market has been gyrating since Washington and Beijing escalated their dispute over trade earlier this month. Now, the two sides have broken off negotiations and appear set for a long standoff. Investors are concerned that a prolonged trade war could stunt economic growth and hurt corporate profits.

Overnight, President Donald Trump reiterated his complaints that China has "taken advantage" of the United States, with no hint of any progress in resolving the conflict over technology and Beijing's industrial policies.

The S&P 500 index fell 1.2% to 2,822.24. The index was down 2.5% before the selling eased. The Dow lost 1.1% to 25,490.47. At its lowest, the Dow slid 448 points.

The Nasdaq composite dropped 1.6% to 7,628.28. The Russell 200 index of small company stocks gave up 2% to 1,501.38.

The U.S. and China concluded their 11th round of trade talks earlier this month with no agreement. Instead, the U.S. moved to increase tariffs on Chinese goods, prompting China to reciprocate. The trade dispute escalated further after the U.S. proposed restrictions on technology sales to China, though it has temporarily backed off.

China is looking for ways to retaliate and has reached out for support from Russia and its neighbors in Asia. Both the U.S. and China have made overtures about continuing trade talks, but none are scheduled. That uncertainty has many traders nervous about how and when the trade dispute will be resolved.

ENERGY:

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 64 cents to \$58.55 a barrel. It plunged 5.7% to settle at \$57.91 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, added 80 cents to \$68.56 per barrel.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar fell to 109.54 yen from 110.08 yen Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1183 from \$1.1135.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, May 24, the 144th day of 2019. There are 221 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 24, 1994, four Islamic fundamentalists convicted of bombing New York's World Trade Center in 1993 were each sentenced to 240 years in prison.

On this date:

In 1775, John Hancock was unanimously elected President of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, succeeding Peyton Randolph.

In 1844, Samuel F.B. Morse transmitted the message "What hath God wrought" from Washington to Baltimore as he formally opened America's first telegraph line.

In 1937, in a set of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Social Security Act of 1935.

In 1941, the German battleship Bismarck sank the British battle cruiser HMS Hood in the North Atlantic, killing all but three of the 1,418 men on board.

In 1962, astronaut Scott Carpenter became the second American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Aurora 7.

In 1968, the Rolling Stones single "Jumpin' Jack Flash" was released in the United Kingdom by Decca Records.

In 1974, American jazz composer and bandleader Duke Ellington, 75, died in New York.

In 1976, Britain and France opened trans-Atlantic Concorde supersonic transport service to Washington.

In 1991, the feminist film drama "Thelma & Louise," starring Susan Sarandon (as Louise) and Geena Davis (as Thelma), was released by MGM.

In 2000, the state of Maryland dismissed its wiretapping case against Linda Tripp after a judge disallowed most of Monica Lewinsky's testimony.

In 2001, 23 people were killed when the floor of a Jerusalem wedding hall collapsed beneath dancing guests, sending them plunging several stories into the basement.

In 2017, Ariana Grande suspended her Dangerous Woman world tour and canceled several European shows due to the deadly bombing at her concert in Manchester, England, two days earlier.

Ten years ago: Space shuttle Atlantis and its seven astronauts returned to Earth, ending a 13-day mission to repair and enhance the Hubble Space Telescope. Brazil's Helio Castroneves became the ninth driver to win the Indianapolis 500 three times.

Five years ago: A lone gunman opened fire at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, killing four people. Pope Francis, in Jordan, denounced arms dealers and appealed for an urgent end to the Syrian civil war at the start of a three-day trip to the Middle East. Reality star Kim Kardashian and rapper Kanye West wed in a Renaissance fortress in Florence, Italy.

One year ago: After a Justice Department briefing, Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said there was no evidence to support claims that there was a government spy in President Donald Trump's campaign. The president abruptly canceled a planned summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, blaming "open hostility" from North Korea. (A week later, Trump announced that the summit would take place in mid-June.) Trump granted a rare posthumous pardon to boxing's first black heavyweight champion, Jack Johnson, more than 100 years after what many see as a racially-charged conviction for violating the Mann Act by traveling with his white girlfriend. The president signed into law a measure loosening restraints for banks imposed after the 2008 financial crisis. A gunman was shot and killed by two bystanders after opening fire at an Oklahoma City restaurant and wounding three patrons. Jerry Maren, the last surviving Munchkin from the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz," died at a San Diego nursing home; he was 99.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian-impressionist Stanley Baxter is 93. Jazz musician Archie Shepp is 82.

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Comedian Tommy Chong is 81. Singer Bob Dylan is 78. Actor Gary Burghoff is 76. Singer Patti LaBelle is 75. Actress Priscilla Presley is 74. Country singer Mike Reid is 72. Actor Jim Broadbent is 70. Actor Alfred Molina is 66. Singer Rosanne Cash is 64. Actor Cliff Parisi is 59. Actress Kristin Scott Thomas is 59. Rock musician Jimmy Ashhurst (Buckcherry) is 56. Rock musician Vivian Trimble is 56. Actor John C. Reilly is 54. Actor Dana Ashbrook is 52. Actor Eric Close is 52. Actor Carl Payne is 50. Rock musician Rich Robinson is 50. Actor Dash Mihok is 45. Actor Bryan Greenburg is 41. Actor Owen Benjamin is 39. Actor Billy L. Sullivan is 39. Actor-rapper Jerod Mixon (aka Big Tyme) is 38. Rock musician Cody Hanson (Hinder) is 37. Dancer-choreographer-singer Mark Ballas is 33. Country singer Billy Gilman is 31. Rapper/producer G-Eazy is 30. Actress Brianne Howey is 30. Actor Cayden Boyd is 25.

Thought for Today: "If we wait for the moment when everything, absolutely everything is ready, we shall never begin." — Ivan Turgenev, Russian author (1818-1883).