

Attorney General Barr irked by Trump’s comments

Wants president to stop tweeting

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, COLLEEN LONG and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday ignored his attorney general’s public request to stop tweeting about the Justice Department, saying he had the legal right to ask the agency to intervene in a criminal case but so far has “chosen not to.”

Trump’s Friday morning tweet came just hours after Attorney General William Barr said in a striking interview with ABC News that the president’s tweets were making it “impossible for me to do my job,” especially following the department’s bungled handling of the sentencing recommendation for Trump ally and confidant Roger Stone.

Trump, in his tweet, left open the possibility that he would ask Barr for something in a criminal matter in the future.

Barr has already appointed a U.S. attorney who is conducting a criminal investigation into the origins of the FBI’s probe of the 2016 election that morphed into special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation of possible Trump-Russia cooperation.

The Justice Department is also reviewing the handling of the federal investigation into Trump’s former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, a person familiar with the matter told the Associated Press on Friday. Flynn has pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI during its probe of ties between the Trump campaign and Russia. The U.S. attorney in St. Louis, Jeff Jensen, is working with Brandon Van Grack, a member of Mueller’s team, to review the Flynn case, a Justice Department official said.

As president, Trump technically has the right to compel the Justice Department to investigate as an executive branch agency. But historically, when it comes to decisions on criminal investigations and prosecutions, Justice has functioned as an independent agency, unmoved and unbound by political sway. And that reputation is important to Barr, as he made clear in the interview.

“I’m happy to say that, in fact, the president has never asked me to do anything in a criminal case,” Barr told ABC. “However, to have public statements and tweets made about the department, about our people ... about cases pending in the department, and about judges before whom we have cases, make it impos-



Alex Brandon/AP Photo

Attorney General William Barr took a public swipe at President Donald Trump this week, saying that the president’s tweets about Justice Department prosecutors and cases ‘make it impossible for me to do my job.’

sible for me to do my job and to assure the courts and the prosecutors in the department that we’re doing our work with integrity.”

The attorney general had repeatedly shared the same sentiment in private conversations in recent weeks, telling Trump he was frustrated with the president’s public comments and tweets about Justice Department cases, a person familiar with the matter told the AP. The person was granted anonymity to discuss the private conversations.

Barr was directly asked in the TV interview whether he believed Trump had the authority to direct him to open an investigation.

“Terrorism or fraud by a bank or something like that where he’s concerned about something, he can certainly say I think someone should look into that. That’s perfectly appropriate,” Barr said. “If he were to say, you know, go investigate somebody because — and you sense it’s because they’re a political opponent, then an attorney general shouldn’t carry that out, wouldn’t carry that out.”

Trump has publicly and privately raged about payback in the form of investigations against his perceived enemies, including former FBI Director James Comey and former FBI Director Andrew McCabe — who prosecutors said Friday they would not charge with lying about leaking — and he’s also pressed for investigations into political rival Joe Biden and his son Hunter, especially following Trump’s impeachment acquittal over a phone call where he asked Ukraine’s leaders to investigate the Bidens.

Avenatti convicted of trying to extort Nike

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Avenatti, the combative lawyer who gained fame by representing a porn star in lawsuits involving President Donald Trump, was convicted Friday of trying to extort sportswear giant Nike.

The verdict was returned Friday by a federal jury in Manhattan following a three-week trial in which prosecutors said Avenatti threatened to use his media access to hurt Nike’s reputation and stock price unless the company paid him up to \$25 million.

The convictions for attempted extortion and honest services fraud carry a combined potential penalty of 42 years in prison.

Avenatti glared at the jurors as the verdict was being announced but said nothing.

Afterward, he shook hands with his lawyers and told them “great job,” before he was led back to the cell where he has been held since a judge found he had violated his bail conditions.

His lawyer, Scott Srebnick, declined to comment but said he would appeal the conviction. A judge set sentencing for June.

Avenatti, 48, became a cable news fixture in 2018 and 2019 as journalists courted him for information about porn star Stormy Daniels and her claims of a Trump tryst before he became president, and a payoff to remain silent about it. At his peak of notoriety, Avenatti used Twitter and TV appearances to relentlessly criticize Trump and even consid-

ered running for president himself.

But Avenatti’s fall was swift. He was arrested as he was about to meet Nike lawyers last March to press his demands for millions of dollars to conduct an internal probe of the Beaverton-based apparel maker.

Avenatti maintained he was taking the aggressive position at the urging of his client, Gary Franklin, who ran a youth basketball league in Los Angeles and was angry that Nike ended a decadelong sponsorship that provided \$72,000 annually and free gear. He sought \$1.5 million for Franklin, as well.

Franklin testified that two Nike executives forced him to pay money to the mother of an elite high school basketball player and to pass along payments to the handlers of other players while doctoring paperwork to hide the purpose of the funds.

Avenatti did not testify, but his lawyers said he was following the wishes of Franklin and an entertainment executive who advised him to be aggressive to force Nike to fire corrupt executives and fix its culture.

Besides the extortion trial, Avenatti also faces an April trial in New York on charges that he defrauded Daniels of book proceeds and a May trial in Los Angeles on charges that he defrauded clients and others of millions of dollars.

He remains held without bail. Federal prosecutors in Los Angeles succeeded last month in getting him locked up after saying he violated his \$300,000 bail by moving money around illegally after his arrest.

OBITUARIES

Kenneth Husby

Keizer, Oregon

Nov. 26, 1943 — Feb. 10, 2020

My loving husband Kenneth “Ken” Husby went home to be with the Lord on Feb. 10, 2020. Ken passed away at the age of 76 from complications of Lewy Body Dementia.

He was born to Erling Ander-son and Birget Myrhe Husby in Astoria, Oregon, on Nov. 26, 1943. He graduated from Astoria High School in 1962 where he played football, basketball and his greatest love, baseball, and was a pitcher on the team. He went on to Ore-gon State University and graduated in 1967 with a degree in mechan-ical engineering. Go Beavs! He also participated in ROTC.

Ken served his country with the 101st Air-borne as a first lieutenant in Vietnam from 1968-1969.

He spent the majority of his working career as a road and bridge designer with Ore-gon Department of Transportation as a profes-sional engineer. He was a member of the United Methodist Church.



Kenneth Husby

Ken is survived by his lov-ing wife Monica, sons Kristian (Nadia), Keith (Libby), stepsons Sean (Alexis), and Ryan (Irene), six grandchildren and his brother Harold (Sue).

Ken always had a smile on his face and a joke on his lips. He will be missed but not forgotten.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a veterans organization of your choice. Services will be held on Sun-day, Feb. 23, at 1:30 p.m. at Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service, 605 Commercial St. SE, Salem, Oregon.

Jodie A. (Gelbrich) Myer

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jan. 19, 1955 — Feb. 10, 2020

Jodie A. (Gelbrich) Myer, 65, died Feb. 10, 2020, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She was born Jan. 19, 1955, in Oregon City, Oregon, the daughter of the late Charles and Karen (Bigbee) Gelbrich.

Jodie attended Astoria High School and graduated from Clat-sop Community College with an associate’s degree in nursing.

She became a registered nurse in the early 2000s, and worked at many hospitals across the U.S. as a travel nurse including in Oregon, Hawaii, Washington, Colorado, Arizona, Maryland and Virginia.

She had many friends who spanned the U.S. In her own words, she was a follower of Christ, a grandma and a retired RN.

She is survived by her son, Jeremy Myer, and his wife, Rachel, of Exeter, New Hampshire; two grandchildren, Hel-ena Rose and Jace Christopher; three brothers, Tim and his wife, Marcia, of Portland, Mark and his wife, Kathy, of Virginia Beach, and Neal and his wife, Annette, of Canby; and many nieces and nephews.



Jodie Myer

A celebration of life ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at the Warrenton Commu-nity Center, 170 S.W. Third St., Warrenton.

Those who wish to remember Jodie in a special way may make gifts in her memory to the National Fragile X Associa-tion via fragilex.org/donate

Dale Charles Hess

Tucson, Arizona

May 20, 1947 – May 6, 2019



Dale Charles Hess was born in Astoria, Oregon, where he grew up on the Hess fam-ily farm.

He served in the military, earned bach-elor’s and master’s degrees, and worked as a computer programmer for Raytheon and General Dynamics in San Diego, California, and Tucson, Arizona.

Dale was an avid china and antique col-lector, and an active member of the Freema-sons society.

He passed away in his home in Tucson, Ari-zona. He was 71 years old. He is survived by his brother, Daniel Hess, of Astoria, Oregon, and by several cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial gathering will be held grave-side at Ocean View Cemetery, Lot 31, in War-renton, Oregon, on May 20, 2020, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Clinic of San Diego, California (scottishrite.org).

WE'RE EXPANDING!

Winnifred Byrne

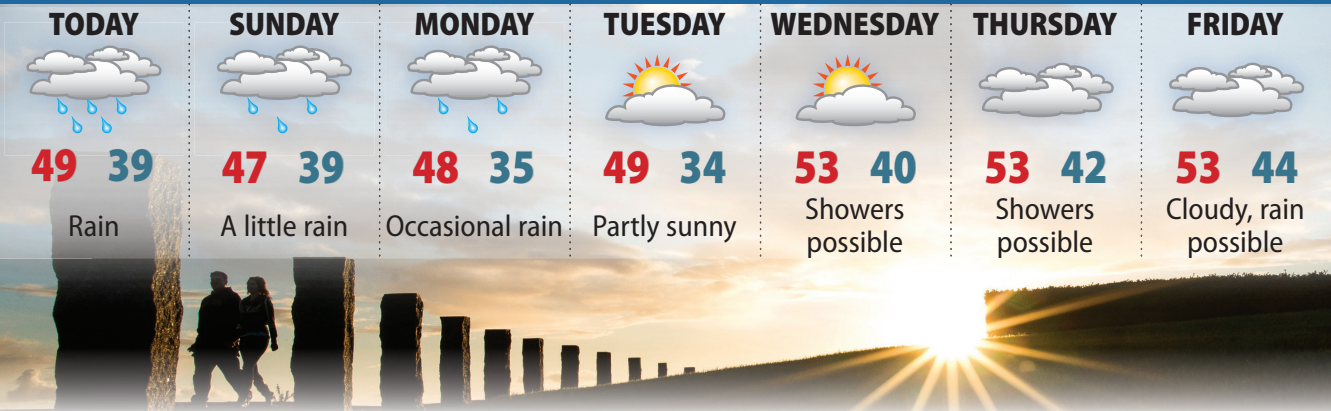
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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low	47/35
Normal high/low	52/37
Record high	64 in 2017
Record low	21 in 1949
Precipitation	
Thursday	0.08"
Month to date	4.88"
Normal month to date	3.48"
Year to date	23.02"
Normal year to date	13.68"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Orion and friends are visible above the southern horizon after sunset.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:20 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:41 p.m.
Moonrise today 12:47 a.m.
Moonset today 11:00 a.m.



TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
5:39 a.m.	8.7	12:36 p.m.	1.0	
6:39 p.m.	6.3	none		
Cape Disappointment				
5:18 a.m.	8.6	11:49 a.m.	1.1	
6:17 p.m.	6.2	11:30 p.m.	2.8	
Hammond				
5:29 a.m.	8.9	12:07 p.m.	1.0	
6:25 p.m.	6.5	11:52 p.m.	2.6	
Warrenton				
5:34 a.m.	9.1	12:20 p.m.	1.1	
6:34 p.m.	6.7	none		
Knappa				
6:16 a.m.	8.9	12:24 a.m.	1.3	
7:16 p.m.	6.6	1:37 p.m.	0.9	
Depoe Bay				
4:32 a.m.	8.9	11:22 a.m.	1.1	
5:32 p.m.	6.3	10:57 p.m.	2.9	

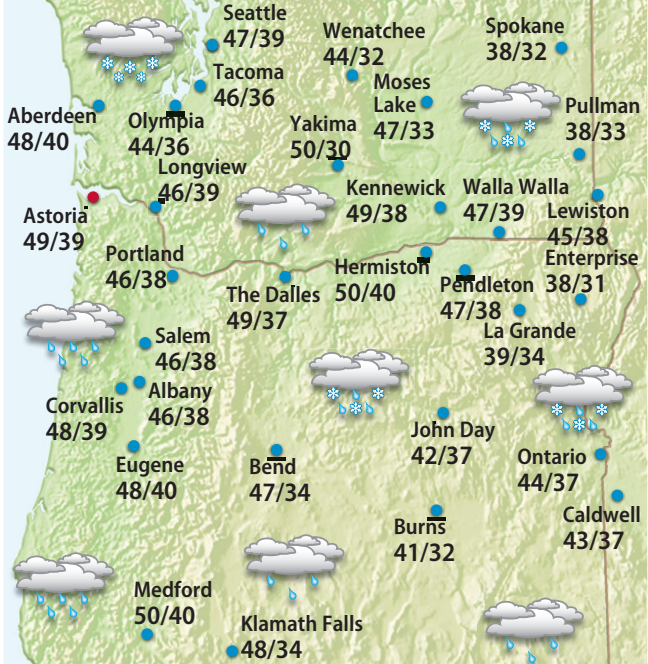
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sun.
	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Atlanta	53/38/pc	56/40/c
Boston	32/26/s	47/32/c
Chicago	33/23/sf	40/31/pc
Dallas	62/47/pc	70/56/s
Denver	41/25/pc	47/25/c
Honolulu	82/69/pc	82/69/sh
Houston	64/52/pc	76/59/c
Los Angeles	71/50/s	70/49/s
Miami	81/70/c	81/69/pc
New York City	32/28/s	48/35/pc
Phoenix	72/47/s	74/49/s
San Francisco	62/48/pc	61/47/pc
Wash., DC	39/33/s	53/35/c
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.		

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REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



City	Today	Sun.	City	Today	Sun.
	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Baker City	41/31/c	43/25/sf	North Bend	51/42/r	51/38/r
Brookings	52/44/r	52/40/r	Roseburg	50/43/r	51/36/r
Ilwaco	49/42/r	47/42/r	Seaside	49/40/r	47/40/r
Newberg	46/36/r	48/35/r	Springfield	48/40/r	50/35/r
Newport	48/40/r	48/39/r	Vancouver	46/38/r	48/37/r