Trump praises new CIA director

LANGLEY, Va. (AP) — **President Donald Trump** praised new CIA Director Gina Haspel at her swearingin ceremony Monday, saying there was "no one in this country better qualified" for the job.

Striking a different tone than in his previous visit to the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Northern Virginia, Trump hailed the agency staffers, calling them the "most elite intelligence professionals on the planet" and promised them the "the tools, the resources and the support they

The Senate confirmed Haspel last week after overcoming concerns about her role in the agency's use of harsh interrogation techniques after 9/11. Trump said she showed courage during the process in the face of "very negative politics.'

When Trump last visited the CIA headquarters in 2017, he spent much of his remarks at the time focused on settling scores with the media. Last year Trump spoke in front of a wall in the headquarters marked with stars that represented fallen CIA officers. This year, he paid tribute to the lost lives, saying "their stories of service and sacrifice and daring will live for all time.'

Hours before Trump visited CIA headquarters, he struck a different tone, promoting criticism of former CIA Director John Brennan and suggesting Brennan is to blame for the Russia probe.

On Twitter Monday, Trump referenced comments from conservative commentator Dan Bongino on "Fox and Friends," which argued that Brennan "started this entire debacle." Bongino, a former Secret Service agent, also said Brennan had "disgraced the intelligence community."

Brennan became the agency's director in 2013 under President Barack Obama, and served until January 2017. He has been a vocal critic of Trump.

Man faces murder charges in restaurant crash that killed kin

BESSEMER CITY, N.C. (AP) — A man intentionally rammed a vehicle into a steak and seafood outlet in North Carolina on Sunday, killing his daughter and daughterin-law who had been seated inside the restaurant with other family members, police said.

The vehicle's driver, Roger Self, was immediately arrested and the preliminary evidence indicates he purposely drove all the way into the Surf and Turf Lodge about noon, authorities said. Jail records show he's been charged with two counts of firstdegree murder in the deaths of his daughter, Katelyn Self, a deputy with the Gaston County Sheriff's Office, and his daughter-in-law, Amanda Self, a nurse. The Gaston Gazette reports Amanda Self was the wife of Roger Self's son, Gaston County Police Officer Josh Self, who also was seriously injured, along with Roger Self's wife, Diane, and the 13-year-old daughter of Josh and Amanda Self. They are all expected to survive

their injuries. Police said they were open-

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THE VERNON DAILY

ing a homicide investigation but they gave no initial indication what circumstances led up to the crash that sent stunned patrons scrambling at the eatery about 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Char-

Caleb Martin, a 14-yearold who identified himself as a busboy at the restaurant. said he saw the crash and was stunned by the suddenness of

"I walked over to my station and I heard a loud boom." Caleb told WSOC-TV. He says he did not know what to do at first, but quickly joined arriving first responders in helping those injured by clearing debris and tables away. "The one guy I could help in back, he was pretty hurt.'

Footage from the restaurant scene showed emergency responders treating people on the ground outside as shocked patrons milled about Sunday afternoon.

"He drove his car into the building, killing people, so that's why we took him into custody immediately," Bessemer City Police Chief Thomas Ellis Jr. said.

Katelyn Self, 26, was a fouryear veteran of the Gaston County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Alan Cloninger told The Charlotte Observer. She had worked as a corporal in the jail and was off duty when she was fatally injured.

Cloninger choked up as he spoke about the crash.

'Tragic, tragic loss of life ... we're suffering right now," he told reporters.

The sheriff's office tweeted a photograph of the deputy via social media, adding "Our hearts are broken" and saying the agency requested thoughts and prayers not only for the deputy's family and friends but for her "brothers

and sisters in uniform." Authorities said the family was requesting privacy and referred any questions to the family's pastor. Messages left at the telephone of the pastor by The Associated Press were not immediately returned.

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

The Vernon Police Department reported 124 calls for service from 6 a.m. Friday through 6 a.m. Monday. Calls include:

-- 2:55 p.m. Friday, criminal mischief was reported in the 2600 block of Cumberland. Graffiti was on a building.

-- 6:25 p.m., a 21-year-old old Vernon man was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana, under 2 oz in the 1600 block of Peter

-- 11:57 p.m., a 38-year-old Vernon man was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana, under 2 oz in the 2800 block of Fannin. The arrest came after a bicyclist was stopped for defective equipment and allegedly admitted to having the marijuana.

-- 1:51 a.m. Saturday, a bike was reported stolen in the 1500 block of St. James, the bike was orange and was inscribed with General Lee.

-- 3:49 a.m., a 36-year-old Vernon man was arrested on a Wichita County misdemeanor warrant for failure to ID. Police had responded to Wilbarger General Hospital ER for a subject causing a disturbance. The man was found to have an active warrant.

-- 11:20 a.m., a vehicle reportedly hit a deer on U.S. 287 past FM 925.

-- 7:26 p.m., a vehicle reportedly hydroplaned into the median on 287. No

-- 10:37 a.m. Sunday, a parking lot accident was reported at the Harrold Truck Stop.

- 2:23 p.m., possible credit card abuse reported in the 4100 block of Augusta.

- 4:20 p.m., an accident was reported on Wilbarger in front of the laundromat. The report is incomplete.

- 4:27 p.m., a two-vehicle accident with injuries was reported at the uncontrolled intersection of Mesquite and Bismarck. A 1996 Nissan Maxima, driven by Roman Chavarria, reported failed to vield the right-of-way and struck a 2011 Hyundai Sonata, driven by Elena Delacruz, in the intersection. One subject transported by Vernon EMS to WGH.

-- 8:10 p.m., a burglary of a habitation was reported in the 2500 block of Cumberland. A hot water heater was stolen.

-- 10:03 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 4100 block of Augusta. The disturbance was over a subject's dog attacking another subject's cat. Fire calls include:

-- 5:10 p.m. Friday, a fire was reported at FM 433 and U.S. 183. Personnel on scene 15 minutes.

-- 2:53 p.m., a grass fire that engulfed vehicles was reported in the 17000 block of CR 105. Personnel were on scene for more than three hours.

-- 11:13 p.m., three oil batteries were reported on fire six miles south of Vernon on 183.

Police response to Texas school shooting remains unclear

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Santa Fe High School had conducted active shooter drills, armed police officers patrolled the hallways and students went through a scare in February after a false report of a campus gunman.

But in the aftermath of the deadliest public school shooting in Texas history, early witness accounts and recordings from emergency dispatch describe a 30-minute nightmare as the real thing unfolded last week, even as authorities continued to keep details close Sunday.

Among the biggest unknowns is when the confrontation began at the high school outside Houston between police and 17-yearold Dimitrios Pagourtzis, who authorities say opened fire on an art lab with a shotgun and .38 caliber handgun shortly after the first bell Friday morning. Pagourtzis wasn't hit in the attack even though officials have described him engaging in a drawn-out firefight with police.

Ten people were killed. most of them students. **Galveston County District** Attorney Jack Roady declined to answer questions about the shootout and investigation Sunday, including whether police may have hit any students in a gunfight with the shooter.

He also said autopsy reports won't be released while the case is pending.

The length of the attack appeared to go on longer than most mass shootings that last around eight minutes, said Ben Tisa, a former FBI agent. He said that could make the Santa Fe shooting unusual.

"It would be unless they couldn't find the guy and they had to hunt him," said Tisa, who now does tactical training in California.

Although officials have praised a swift response, it remains unclear just how quickly police got to the art lab on the 1,400-student campus. Galveston County

Judge Mark Henry, the county's top administrator, has said police exchanged rounds with Pagourtzis "for quite a while" before he surrendered a half-hour after the first reports of a shooter on campus.

"They said there was a lot of firepower and a lot of rounds exchanged," Henry said.

Officials have not yet released 911 tapes but on emergency dispatch recordings from Galveston County, captured by Broadcastify.com, a female voice is heard saying "more shots fired" about 10 minutes after authorities first received reports of gunfire. Five minutes later, a male voice says the suspect is "possibly going to be barricaded" with additional reports of shooting a few minutes after that.

"He's actively shooting. He's in the art room. We've got, we've got shots fired right now. We need you all up here," a male voice says at what appears to be about 15

minutes after the shooting began.

Henry said investigators were still working on the timeline and Tisa cautioned that emergency dispatch traffic doesn't always reflect real time. One Santa Fe school police officer who responded to the attack was shot and remained in critical condition Sunday, according to the University of Texas Medical Branch.

Zach Wofford, an 18-yearold senior, was across the hallway when the shooting began and said he heard gunfire that lasted 10 to 15 minutes from the art classroom. That's where Breanna Quintanilla, a 17-year-old junior, was when the attack began. She said Pagourtzis had aimed at her and missed but that it ricocheted into her right leg.

She recalled the voice she heard after the first sound of gunfire in the class: "If you all move, I'm going to shoot you all."

Trump tells DOJ to investigate whether FBI infiltrated campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — **President Donald Trump said** he will "demand" that the Justice Department investigate whether the FBI infiltrated his presidential campaign, an extraordinary order that came hours before his legal team said the special counsel indicated the investigation into the president could be

concluded by September.

Trump tweeted Sunday: "I hereby demand, and will do so officially tomorrow, that the Department of Justice look into whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump Campaign for Political Purposes - and if any such demands or requests were made by people within the Obama Administration!"

Trump's demand puts further pressure on the Justice Department, which later Sunday asked its inspector general to expand an existing investigation into the Russia probe by examining whether there was any improper politically motivated surveillance. It comes as the White House tries to combat the threat posed by special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

The president's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, said Mueller recently shared a timetable that suggested his probe could end by Sept. 1 if Trump were to sit for an interview in

July, which is the legal team's new working plan.

"We said to them, 'If we're going to be interviewed in July, how much time until the report gets issued?" Giuliani told The Associated Press on Sunday, referring to the report Mueller is expected to issue to Congress at the conclusion of his investigation. "They said September, which is good for everyone, because no one wants this to drag into the midterms."

Giuliani said he did not want a repeat of what happened in 2016, when FBI **Director James Comey an**nounced in the campaign's final days that he was reopening the investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, a decision Democrats believe cost Clinton the race. Giuliani, the former mayor of New York, also said Mueller's team indicated that the entire probe could end by September, not just its investigation into potential obstruction of justice.

"This would be the culmination of the investigation into the president," Giuliani said.

The special counsel's office did not respond to a request for comment.

It is not certain that Trump will sit for an interview with Mueller, though the president has publicly said he would. Giuliani said a decision would not be made until after Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore, which is slated for June 12. Giuliani said Sunday the two sides "were getting closer" to agreeing on the parameters on a potential interview but would not put the odds of it happening at

Giuliani's apparent at-

tempt to publicly pressure Mueller on the timeline amid interview negotiations came just hours after Trump's demand for a new inquiry, which moved beyond his usual blustery accusations of institutional wrongdoing and into the realm of applying presidential pressure on the Justice Department, a move few of his predecessors have

Trump made the order amid days of public venting about the special counsel investigation, which he has deemed a "witch hunt" that he says has yielded no evidence of collusion between his campaign and Russia. In response, the Justice Department moved Sunday to defuse a growing confrontation with the White House by asking its watchdog to investigate whether there was inappropriate surveillance.

It was not immediately clear if that move would satisfy Trump, or if any further demands could lead to a confrontation with FBI Director Christopher Wray or Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who is overseeing the Mueller investigation. Rosenstein released a statement Sunday saying, "If anyone did infiltrate or surveil participants in a presidential campaign for inappropriate purposes, we need to know about it and take appropriate action."

The Justice Department probe had begun in March at the request of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and congressional Republicans. Sessions and the lawmakers had urged Inspector General Michael Horowitz to review whether FBI and Justice Department officials abused

their surveillance powers by using information compiled by Christopher Steele, a former British spy, and paid for by Democrats to justify monitoring Carter Page, a former campaign adviser to Trump.

Horowitz said his office will look at those claims as well as communications between Steele and DOJ and FBI of-

Trump did not elaborate on the promised "demand," which he included in one of a series of tweets he sent throughout the day Sunday. On Saturday, Trump tweeted, "If the FBI or DOJ was infiltrating a campaign for the benefit of another campaign, that is a really big deal." He said only the release or review of documents the House **Intelligence Committee is** seeking from the Justice Department "can give conclusive answers.'

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, called Trump's claim of an embedded spy "nonsense."

"His 'demand' DOJ investigate something they know to be untrue is an abuse of power, and an effort to distract from his growing legal problems," Schiff tweeted. "Never mind that DOJ has warned that lives and alliances are at risk. He doesn't care."

Trump's extraordinary demand of the Justice Department alarmed many observers, who felt it not only violated presidential protocol but also could have a chilling effect on federal law enforcement or its use of informants. Giuliani defended the president's actions.

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