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Britain's exit rocks stock market

LONDON (AP) — Britain has jumped. Now it is wildly searching for the parachute.

The U.K.'s unprecedented decision to leave the European Union sent shockwaves through the country and around the world Friday, rocking financial markets, toppling Prime Minister David Cameron and even threatening the ties that bind the United Kingdom.

Britons absorbed the overwhelming realization that their anti-establishment vote has pushed the British economy into treacherous and uncertain territory and sparked a profound crisis for a bloc founded to unify Europe after the devastation of World War II.

"Leave" campaigners hailed the result as a victory for British democracy against the bureaucratic behemoth of the EU.

Conservative former London Mayor Boris Johnson said "the British people have spoken up for democracy in Britain and across Europe," while Nigel Farage, leader of the hard-right U.K. Independence Party, said "the dawn is breaking on an independent United Kingdom."

But for the 48 percent of British voters who wanted to remain — and for the 2 million EU nationals who live and work in Britain, but could not vote — there was sadness, anger and even panic.

At a London train station, commuter Olivia Sangster-Bullers called the result "absolutely disgusting."

"Good luck to all of us, I say, especially those trying to build a future with our children," she said.

The decision launches a yearslong process to renegotiate trade, business and political links between the U.K. and what will become a 27-nation bloc, an unprecedented divorce that could take a decade or more to complete.

Cameron, who had led the campaign to keep Britain in the EU, said he would resign by October and left it to his successor to decide when to invoke Article 50, which triggers a departure from European Union.

"I will do everything I can as prime minister to steady the ship over the coming weeks and months," a somber Cameron said outside 10 Downing St. "But I do not think it would be right for me to try to be the captain that steers the country to its next destination."

He also said he had spoken to Queen Elizabeth II "to advise her of the steps that I am taking."

In a referendum marked by notably high turnout — 72 percent of the more than 46 million registered voters — "leave" won with 52 percent of the votes.

Stock markets plummeted around the world, with key indexes dropping more than 12 percent in Germany and about 8 percent in Japan and Britain. Markets calmed and later recovered some of their losses after Bank of England Governor Mark Carney promised to take "all the necessary steps to prepare for today's events."

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 611 points, or 3.4 percent, its biggest fall since August.

The euro fell against the dollar and the pound dropped to its lowest level since 1985, plunging more than 10 percent from about \$1.50 to \$1.35 before a slight recovery, on concerns that severing ties with the single market will hurt the U.K. economy and undermine London's position as a global financial center.

The referendum result revealed Britain to be a sharply divided nation: Strong pro-EU votes in the economic and cultural powerhouse of London and semi-autonomous Scotland were countered by sweeping anti-establishment sentiment for an exit across the rest of England, from southern seaside towns to rust-belt former industrial powerhouses in the north.

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Independent/Andrew Carpenean

The Kait Berreckman Band performs during Hear Grand Island at the Railside Plaza Friday evening. This was the first of 10 weeks of Friday night concerts in downtown Grand Island.

Music scene arrives railside

Opening night of 10-week concert series a success

By Jeff Bahr
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Nobody can say downtown Grand Island didn't have some life to it Friday night.

An estimated 300 people gathered in Railside Plaza to hear two bands perform on the opening night of Hear Grand Island. The 10-week series brings free outdoor concerts to the intersection of Wheeler Avenue and West Third Street.

The kickoff concert featured two Omaha bands, the Kait Berreckman Band and Field Club, both of which have ties to Grand Island.

The spectators, many of whom brought their own chairs, enjoyed the evening's nice weather along with the music.

Organizers hope the series will give a kick to the city's music scene.

Owners of the Necropolis Group and the Chocolate Bar are partnering with Hear Nebraska for the series. The Necropolis Group,



Independent/Andrew Carpenean

The Kait Berreckman Band performs during Hear Grand Island at the Railside Plaza Friday evening.

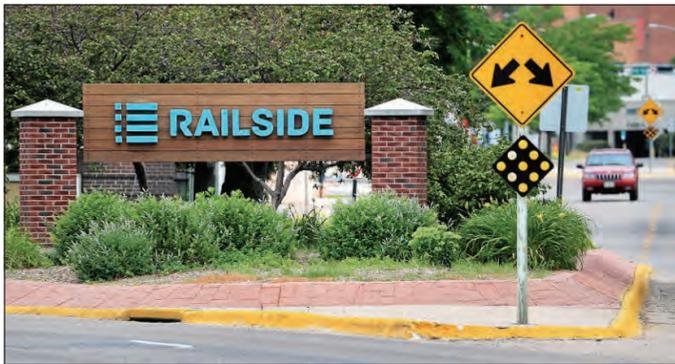
headed by Brent Lindner, consists of Bonzai Beach Club/Wave Pizza Co., Sin City Grill, the Glass Bar and J. Alfred Prufrock's.

"Hear Nebraska came to us about six months ago and they said we're looking to enter into a new city that really needs to build their

music scene. We didn't want them to go to Kearney or Hastings because that's what they were looking for. We knew we had to grab it," said Sharena Anson, who owns the Chocolate Bar with her husband, Amos.

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Railside signs in place, banners on the way



Independent/Barrett Stinson

One of several new Railside signs around downtown Grand Island is seen at the intersection of Walnut and Charles streets. The new sign is part of an effort to rebrand the downtown area with the Railside identity.

By Tracy Overstreet

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Downtown Grand Island's new brand is on display on welcome signs and free-parking signs.

They say "Railside" with four dots and four horizontal blue lines.

The free-parking signs have gone up in the past few weeks in the downtown's eight free parking lots. Welcome signs at Pioneer Park and the small triangle park at Walnut and Charles streets also are in place.

"The meaning of Railside is a historic perspective, in that Grand Island grew out of being next to the rails, as did many other communities," said Downtown Development Director Christie DePoorter. "The rail goes right through the downtown district, right next to and adjacent to Third Street, Front Street and Fourth Street — it's really an element of our daily businesses, it's an integral part of our downtown."

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