

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

All set for Syria rebels, civilians to start leaving Aleppo

BEIRUT — The warring sides in Syria confirmed today that the evacuation of rebel fighters and thousands of civilians from the last sliver of the besieged eastern city of Aleppo is imminent, with a Syrian army official saying all is ready for them to leave “at any moment.”

Lebanon’s militant Hezbollah group said overnight negotiations had reinforced a cease-fire deal to allow the rebels and civilians to leave the besieged last rebel holdout in Aleppo.

The evacuations were back on track after a cease-fire deal, mediated by Ankara and Moscow, unraveled amid fighting on Wednesday. Shiite Hezbollah militiamen are fighting in the Syrian civil war on the side of President Bashar Assad’s forces.

The handover of Aleppo’s remaining opposition-run neighborhoods to government control would be a turning point in Syria’s civil war, allowing Assad control of most of the country’s urban centers.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the fighting that scuttled Wednesday’s truce stopped in the city around 4 a.m. today.



Stephanie Yao Long/The Oregonian  
Abandoned cars litter the side of Northwest Barnes Road near St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland today.

Abandoned vehicles abound after rare snow storm in Portland

PORTLAND — Abandoned vehicles littered streets in the Portland area today, a day after a rare snow storm brought Oregon’s largest city to a halt.

The National Weather Service said commuters should be prepared for snow-covered streets this morning and possibly some more snow, but no real accumulation.

“We might get to barely above freezing but it would only be for an hour or two,” meteorologist Colby Neuman said. “The snow that we have in Portland is going to stick around for the next couple of days.”

Only 1-to-3 inches of snow fell around Portland on Wednesday, but ice and the rush-hour timing created havoc.

Many commuters found themselves on streets clogged with traffic that was inching along on snow-slick streets. Cars fishtailed, spun out and collided. Semi-trucks littered Interstate 5, some of them unable to move to the side before getting stuck.

After more than three hours of waiting to travel just a few miles, some motorists abandoned their vehicles and started walking. Others hoped they wouldn’t run out of gas.

Kimberly Wrolstad had been stuck on I-5 heading to Tigard for about 90 minutes Wednesday afternoon. She had a quarter tank of gas left.

“It’s frustrating,” she said. “I don’t know what’s going on.”

Drugmakers push profitable, but unproven, opioid solution

Pilloried for their role in the epidemic of prescription painkiller abuse, drugmakers are aggressively pushing their remedy to the problem: a new generation of harder-to-manipulate opioids that have racked up billions in sales, even though there’s little proof they reduce rates of overdoses or deaths.

More than prescriptions are at stake. Critics worry the drugmakers’ nationwide lobbying campaign is distracting from more productive solutions and delaying crucial efforts to steer physicians away from prescription opioids — addictive pain medications involved in the deaths of more than 165,000 Americans since 2000.

“If we’ve learned one lesson from the last 20 years on opioids it’s that these products have very, very high inherent risks,” said Dr. Caleb Alexander, co-director of Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Drug Safety and Effectiveness. “My concern is that they’ll contribute to a perception that there is a safe opioid, and there’s no such thing as a fully safe opioid.”

The latest drugs — known as abuse-deterrent formulations, or ADFs — are generally harder to crush or dissolve, which the drugmakers tout as making them difficult to snort or inject. But they still are vulnerable to manipulation and potentially addictive

when simply swallowed. National data from an industry-sponsored tracking system also show drug abusers quickly drop the reformulated drugs in favor of older painkillers or heroin.

In the last two years, pharmaceutical companies have made a concerted under-the-radar push for bills benefiting the anti-abuse opioids in statehouses and in Congress, where proposed legislation would require the Food and Drug Administration to replace older opioids with the new drugs.

Yahoo’s big breach helps usher in an age of hacker anxiety

SAN FRANCISCO — Yahoo has become the worst-case example of an unnerving but increasingly common phenomenon — massive hacks that steal secrets and other potentially revealing information from our personal digital accounts, or from big organizations that hold sensitive data on our behalf.

On Wednesday, Yahoo disclosed a gargantuan breach affecting more than a billion user accounts, the largest such attack in history. The company said that attack happened in August 2013, although Yahoo only discovered it recently. Worse, the company’s announcement followed a similar announcement last September of a 2014 hack — one Yahoo ascribed to an unnamed foreign government — that affected 500 million accounts.

Neither Yahoo breach has yet been linked to online fraud or any specific repercussions for Yahoo users. But their disclosure closely follows U.S. intelligence concerns about Russian hacking of Democratic emails during the presidential campaign — not to mention other recent attacks on a major health insurer, a medical lab-test company and the government office that manages millions of federal employees.

“The lesson is clear: no organization is immune to compromise,” said Jeff Hill, director of product management for cybersecurity consultant Prevalent. And since most of us are dependent on big organizations that hold our digital lives in their hands, in a broad sense that effectively means no one is safe.

Border cities worry that ending NAFTA would hurt economies

LAREDO, Texas — Donald Trump’s only visit to the U.S.-Mexico border while running for president was a stop in Laredo that lasted less than three hours. On some days, that’s not long enough for 18-wheelers hauling foreign-made dishwashers and car batteries to lurch through the gridlocked crossing.

Trump’s campaign promise to tear apart the North American Free Trade Agreement helped win over Rust Belt voters who felt left behind by globalization. But the idea is unnerving to many people in border cities such as Laredo and El Paso or Nogales in Arizona, which have boomed under the 1994 treaty.

About 14,000 tractor-trailers cross the border daily in Laredo, the nation’s busiest inland port. Local officials say roughly 1 in every 3 jobs benefits from international trade.

“We are NAFTA on wheels,” Mayor Pete Saenz said.

Free trade across the border, he explained, is the “backbone” of this city of 255,000 people. The Democrat endured a backlash from his party for welcoming Trump in July 2015 after the then-candidate called immigrants from Mexico criminals and rapists.

The electoral voters speak and they’re not out for a revolt

WASHINGTON — Although pestered to a fare-thee-well to abandon Donald Trump, Republican electors appear to be in no mood for an insurrection in the presidential campaign’s last voting ritual. This most untraditional of elections is on course to produce a traditional outcome Monday — an Electoral College ticket to the White House for the president-elect.

Whether they like Trump or not, and some surely don’t, scores of the Republicans chosen to cast votes in the state-capital meetings told AP they feel bound by history, duty, party loyalty or the law to rubber-stamp their state’s results and make him president. Appeals numbering in the tens of thousands — drowning inboxes, ringing cell phones, stuffing home and office mailboxes with actual handwritten letters — have not swayed them.

The Associated Press tried to reach all 538 electors and interviewed more than 330 of them, finding widespread Democratic aggravation with the electoral process but little expectation that the hustle of anti-Trump maneuvering can derail him. For that to happen, Republican-appointed electors would have to stage an unprecedented defection and Democrats would need to buck tradition, too, by peeling away from Hillary Clinton and swinging behind a consensus candidate in sufficient numbers.

Still, people going to the typically ho-hum electoral gatherings have been drawn into the rough and tumble of campaign-season politics. Republicans are being beseeched to revolt in a torrent of lobbying, centered on the argument that Clinton won the popular vote and Trump is unsuited to the presidency. Most of it is falling on deaf ears, but it has also led to some acquaintances being made across the great political divide.

“Let me give you the total as of right now: 48,324 emails about my role as an elector,” said Brian Westrate, a small-business owner and GOP district chairman in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. “I have a Twitter debate with a former porn star from California asking me to change my vote. It’s been fascinating.”

Revolutionary Guard faces new foe in Iran’s opening economy

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran’s Revolutionary Guard faces a new enemy: the gradual opening of the country’s economy after the nuclear deal with world powers.

Though better known for its hard-line fervor as an elite force created to defend Iran’s cleric-led system, the Guard holds vast business interests both public and hidden across the Islamic Republic. In times of international sanctions, the organization won massive no-bid government contracts and expanded its influence.

But comments made by one Guard general about a new ship deal worth \$650 million betray the worry felt in the organization over potential competition, analysts say. It also offers a possible secondary motive for its detention of dual nationals on purported espionage charges and its confrontations with the West: keeping its share of Iran’s market of 80 million people.

“They are worried about competition internally,” said Alireza Nader, an analyst at the RAND Corporation who long has studied the Guard. “They want to make sure for any given deal, they get a part of it.”

Last Friday, the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines Co. signed a deal with South Korea’s Hyundai Heavy Industries for 10 container ships. It marked the first deal with a foreign shipbuilder since the nuclear accord that limited Iran’s enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of some international sanctions.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN TV LISTINGS Evening listings THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING													DECEMBER 15	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Prep & Landing	Prep/ Landing 2	Baking Show "Pies and Tarts Week" (N)	You Do? "Holiday Edition" (N)	KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel			
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Prep & Landing	Prep/ Landing 2	Baking Show "Pies and Tarts Week" (N)	You Do? "Holiday Edition" (N)	KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel			
5	KING	(5) (5:20) NFL Football Los Angeles Rams at Seattle Seahawks Site: CenturyLink Field -- Seattle, Wash. (L)		Extra	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Great Indoors (N)	Mom (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	Dateline NBC	KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show		
6	KOIN	(7) KOIN Local 6 at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Great Indoors (N)	Mom (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	Pure Genius	KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S. Colbert		
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Great Indoors (N)	Mom (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	Pure Genius	KIRO News	(35) S. Colbert		
8	KGW	(5) (5:20) NFL Football Los Angeles Rams at Seattle Seahawks Site: CenturyLink Field -- Seattle, Wash. (L)		Modern Family	Modern Family	Jingle Ball The iHeartRadio Jingle Ball in New York City. (N)	Whose Line Is It?	KGW News at 10	Two and a Half	KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show			
9	KRCW	(3) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Jingle Ball The iHeartRadio Jingle Ball in New York City. (N)	Whose Line Is It?	KGW News at 10	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother				
10	KOPB	(10) Painting the Town	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Oregon Art Beat	Oregon Guide	Midsomer M.	(45) Midsomer Murders	(35) Vera "Changing Tides"				
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Hell's Kitchen "Let the Catfights Begin"	Rosewood "Secrets and Silent Killers"	10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	2 Broke Girls			
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	Family Guy	American Dad	Cleveland Show				
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Hell's Kitchen "Let the Catfights Begin"	Rosewood "Secrets and Silent Killers"	Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	The Simpsons			
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)				
22	KZJL	(22) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends Pt. 2 of 2	Friends	
29	ESPN	(29) H.S. Basketball (L)		SportsCenter	The day's news in the world of sports.			SportsCenter		SportsCenter				
30	ESPN2	(30) NCAA Studio		NCAA Volleyball Division I Tournament (L)		The Herbies	30 for 30 "Catholics vs. Convicts"			Jalen & Jacoby (N)	The Herbies			
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	★ Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs '09	Voices of Maile Flanagan, Eunice Cho.	Friends "The One in Barbados"		Nashville "Sneak Peek" (N)				
32	DISN	(32) Hannah Montana	Hannah Montana	Liv Maddie Cali	Liv Maddie Cali	★ ★ ★ ★ Happy Feet Two '11	Robin Williams, Elijah Wood.	(40) Frozen Lights		Jessie "Bunk'd"				
34	FAM	(34) (5:00) Arthur Christmas	James McAvoy.	★ ★ ★ The Santa Clause '94	Comedy Judge Reinhold, Wendy Crewson, Tim Allen.	The Search for Santa Paws (2010, Children)	Diedrich Bader, Reese Alexander.	The 700 Club						
35	FMC	(35) (5:55) ★ ★ Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance	Nicolas Cage.	(45) ★ ★ Knight and Day (2010, Action)	Tom Cruise, Cameron Diaz.	(05) FXM Presents	★ ★ Dragonball Evolution '09	Justin Chatwin.						
36	ROO	(36) Project Runway "A Power Trip"		Project Runway "Bold Innovation"		Runway (N)	(50) P.Runway (N)	Project Runway "Finale, Part One" 1/2 (N)		PR Fashion Startup "On Point" (N)				
38	ROOT	(38) Champions Tennis Legends				AMA Supercross -- Foxborough, Mass.				UFC UFC Fight Night				
39	FST	(39) (5:00) UFC UFC 200				Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports (N)	Speak for Yourself		Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.				
43	SPIKE	(43) (5:00) ★ ★ ★ Four Brothers '05	Mark Wahlberg.	★ ★ The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift '06	Act) Brandon Brendel, Zachery Ty Bryan, Lucas Black.	★ ★ The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift '06	Brandon Brendel, Lucas Black.							
44	COM	(44) (20) Futurama	(50) Futurama	(20) Futurama	(50) Tosh.0 "Hillary in the House"	(25) Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0		The Daily Show (N)   midnight (N)				
45	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Alone "A New Land"	Alone "First Blood" (N)	(05) Selection "Hell & High Water" (N)	(05) Alone "First Blood"					
46	A&E	(46) The First 48 "Moonie/ Dark Impulse"		The First 48 "Bloodline"		The First 48 "Killer Contact" (N)	Nightwatch "The Ties That Bind" (N)	Glengland Under. "The Devil You Know"	(05) The First 48 "Taken for a Ride"					
47	TLC	(47) Long Lost Family		My 600-lb Life "Brittani's Story"		My 600-lb Life "Amber's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Chay's Story"	Extreme Weight Loss "Rod"		My 600-lb Life "Brittani's Story"				
49	DISC	(49) (5:00) Harley and "Amazing Machine"		Harley and the Davidsons "Race to the Top"		Wild Japan "Fiery Heart"	Wild Japan "Island on the Edge"	Wild Japan "The Enchanted Deep"		NBA Basketball Chicago vs Milwaukee				
50	TNT	(50) (5:00) NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Milwaukee Bucks (L)		NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Golden State Warriors Site: The Oracle -- Oakland, Calif. (L)		★ ★ Four Christmases '08	Com) Reese Witherspoon, Robert Duvall, Vince Vaughn.	★ ★ Four Christmases '08	Com) Reese Witherspoon, Robert Duvall, Vince Vaughn.	Law & Order: SVU "Traumatic Wound"				
51	AMC	(51) (5:30) ★ ★ Monster-in-Law '05	Com) Jane Fonda, Michael Vartan, Jennifer Lopez.	★ ★ Law & Order: SVU "Catfishing Teacher"		A Madea Christmas '13	Comedy) Tyler Perry, Tika Sumpter, Chad Michael Murray.	Chopped "Betting on the Farm" (N)	Chopped "San Franchopeco"	Chopped "Betting on the Farm" (N)	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	
52	USA	(52) (5:00) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Deadly Ambition"		Law & Order: SVU "Catfishing Teacher"		Chopped "Grandma vs. Grandma"	Chopped "San Franchopeco"	Chopped "Betting on the Farm" (N)	Chopped "San Franchopeco"	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Without Missing a Beet"		Chopped "Grandma vs. Grandma"		Chopped "San Franchopeco"	Chopped "Betting on the Farm" (N)	Chopped "Betting on the Farm" (N)	Chopped "San Franchopeco"	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	
54	HGTV	(54) Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	
55	FX	(55) (5:30) ★ ★ ★ Rango (2011, Animated)	Isla Fisher, Timothy Olyphant, Johnny Depp.	Kung Fu Panda 2 (2011, Animated)		★ ★ Kung Fu Panda 2 (2011, Animated)	Angelina Jolie, Jackie Chan, Jack Black.							
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon				
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity				
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		American Greed: Scam		Greed "Union Buster/ The Fool's Gold"				
63	BRAV	(63) Million Listing "Zeppo Marx the Spot"		Listing "Nightmare on Altman Street"		Million Dollar List "Turn and Burn"		Million Dollar List "Surf vs. Turf" (N)		Top Chef (N)				
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) The Shop Around the Corner		★ ★ Christmas in Connecticut '45	Dennis Morgan, Barbara Stanwyck.	★ ★ ★ Love Finds Andy Hardy '38	Mickey Rooney.	(45) ★ ★ ★ Desk Set '57	Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn.					
65	SYFY	(65) (2:30) Final Destination 3		★ ★ I, Frankenstein (2014, Fantasy)	Aaron Eckhart, Bill Nighy, Yvonne Strahovski.	★ ★ Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008, Adventure)	Karen Allen, John Hurt, Harrison Ford.							
162	RFD	(162) SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America "Live" "AARP"		Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Market Journal	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library		

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