

WORLD IN BRIEF



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

President Donald Trump walks off stage at the conclusion of a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington on Thursday.

The Associated Press

Remember Nixon? There's history behind Trump's press attacks

WASHINGTON — Thomas Jefferson railed against newspapers as “polluted vehicles” of falsehood and error. Richard Nixon tangled with reporters in the toxic atmosphere of Watergate, considering them the “enemy.” Bill Clinton publicly condemned “purveyors of hatred and division” on the public air waves.

Historians can point to plenty of past presidents who have sparred with the press. But they're hard-pressed to find anything that approaches the all-out attack on the media that President Donald Trump seems intent on escalating at every turn.

“There has never been a kind of holistic jihad against the news media like Trump is executing,” said Rice University historian Douglas Brinkley. “Trump is determined to beat and bloody the press whenever he finds himself in a hole, and that's unique.”

Trump, who has long had an adversarial relationship with the media, opened a 77-minute East Room news conference Thursday by saying he hoped to “get along a little bit better” with the press going forward — “if that's possible.”

“Maybe it's not, and that's OK, too,” he added.

Oregon lawmakers propose state control of public land

SALEM — More than half the land in Oregon is owned by the federal government, but Republican lawmakers there have raised the possibility of transferring it to state control.

The Statesman Journal reports that a bill sponsored by Grants Pass Republican Carl Wilson and three other lawmakers would create a task force to analyze the costs and benefits of such a move.

Wilson says he does not support selling Oregon's public land into private ownership.

During a hearing on the proposal, every public speaker offering testimony opposed the idea of state control. Conservation and sportsman's groups say Oregon couldn't afford to manage the land, while others disputed the need to fund such a task force when Oregon is facing a \$1.8 billion shortfall.

Federal judge scolds Washington state for treatment of mentally ill

SEATTLE — A federal judge has blasted the Washington state agency responsible for providing competency services to mentally ill people in jail, saying the agency doesn't appear to understand that these individuals “have constitutional rights that are being violated.”

The number of people waiting for competency evaluations or treatment in custody has increased since April 2016 instead of going down, as the court ordered back in April 2015, U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman said Thursday in a written order.

“They have been charged with criminal offenses but they have not been convicted, thus they enjoy the presumption of innocence which is a bedrock principle of our jurisprudence,” Pechman said. “They have not been found by a court to be a danger to themselves or others, unlike those under civil commitment orders.”

Yet they wait for weeks or months for competency services while the state continues to pay fines being found in contempt of her court order to fix the problem. The state has paid \$9.6 million in contempt fines so far.

“This must stop,” she said. “The defendants cannot let the sanctions pile up while pleading lack of funding.”

Finnish lawmakers reject call to revoke same-sex marriage

HELSINKI — Finnish lawmakers have rejected a petition from more than 100,000 people demanding to repeal a law allowing same-sex marriage.

The move is considered a last-minute attempt to revoke the law that made Finland the last Nordic country to allow homosexuals to wed.

In today's 120-48 vote with two abstentions and 29 absentees, Finland's Parliament rejected a public petition demanding that marriage remain “a genuinely egalitarian union between man and woman” and calling for “repealing the gender-neutral marriage law.”

In Finland, any petition with at least 50,000 signatures is automatically considered by Parliament.

Although same-sex couples have been able to live in officially registered partnerships in Finland since 2002, it wasn't until 2014 that Finland decided to approve same-sex marriage, giving couples right to share a surname and to adopt children.

Pakistani death toll in IS attack on Sufi shrine rises to 80

SEHWAN, Pakistan — Pakistani forces killed and arrested dozens of suspects in sweeping raids overnight and into today as the death toll from a massive suicide bombing by the Islamic State group at a famed Sufi shrine in the country's south the previous day rose to 80.

The terror attack — Pakistan's deadliest in years — stunned the nation and raised questions about the authorities' ability to rein in militant groups despite several military offensives targeting militant hideouts.

It also threatened to drive a deeper wedge between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Islamabad quickly lashed out at Kabul, saying the bombing was masterminded from across the border, in militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

Underscoring tensions, Pakistan fired a blistering round of artillery shells into Afghan territory and shut down the Torkham border crossing, a key commercial artery between the two neighbors.

Protest: 40 students from AHS took part

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The protest even reached into the U.S. Capitol, where a Senate coffee shop was among the eateries that were closed as employees did not show up at work.

Local support

Astoria School District Superintendent Craig Hoppes said 40 students from Astoria High School and 25 from John Jacob Astor Elementary School missed classes Thursday as part of the protest.

Other local schools did not report a spike in absences Thursday, although Norma Hernandez, a former director of the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council who works for Clatsop County Public Health, said she had spoken with families who held their kids out of school in Seaside.

In Seaside, Dooger's seafood restaurant closed in support.

“We heard a little about it earlier this week,” Doug Wiese, Dooger's owner, said. “When we realized the groundswell of restaurants across the United States closing today, we felt the need to support it.”

“We support all the undocumented workers across the United State, agriculture, hospitality, the whole gamut,” he said.

“The restaurants were closing in support of it, so we decided to join them.”

El Tapatio in Astoria posted a Facebook notice announcing their closure Thursday, saying they were “joining the fight” of their Hispanic families. Clemente's Cafe and Public House in Astoria posted on Facebook, “Clemente's will be closed tomorrow despite a busy week because Gordon and Lisa's families were immigrants to the United States. Our communities teachers, our children's friends, our firefighters, our policemen, our doctors, our nurses, our postmasters, our baristas, our waiters, and our cooks. We are all immigrants and tomorrow is ‘A day without immigrants.’”

“We believe in people before profits; compassion, humanity and dignity of all no matter where you have come from.”

Montalban and the El Azadero food truck in Astoria were also closed, as was Tacos El Catrin and Emiliano's Hair Studio in Warrenton.

Haystack Lodgings in Cannon Beach reported having no cleaning staff for the day because of the protest.

All walks of life

Organizers appealed to immigrants from all walks of life to take part, but the effects were felt most strongly in the restaurant industry, which has long been a first step up the economic ladder for newcomers to America with its many jobs for cooks, dishwashers and servers. Restaurant owners with immigrant roots of their own were among those acting in solidarity with workers.

Expensive restaurants and fast-food joints alike closed, some perhaps because they had no choice, others because of what they said was sympathy for their immigrant employees. Sushi bars, Brazilian steakhouses, Mexican eateries and Thai and Italian restaurants all turned away lunchtime customers.

“The really important dynamic to note is this is not antagonistic, employee-against-employer,” said Janet Murguia, president of the Hispanic rights group National Council of La Raza. “This is employers and workers standing together, not in conflict.”

She added: “Businesses cannot function without immigrant workers today.”

Presidential response

At a White House news conference held as the lunch-hour protests unfolded, Trump boasted of his border security measures and immigration arrests of hundreds of people in the past week, saying, “We are saving lives every single day.”

Since the end of 2007, the number of foreign-born workers employed in the U.S. has climbed by nearly 3.1 million to 25.9 million; they account for 56 percent of the increase in U.S. employment over that period, according to the Labor Department.

Roughly 12 million people are employed in the restaurant industry, and immigrants



AP Photo/Jacqueline Larna

A mail carrier passes a closed bakery Thursday in south Philadelphia's Italian Market. In an action called “A Day Without Immigrants,” immigrants across the country are expected to stay home from school and work on Thursday to show how critical they are to the U.S. economy and way of life.

make up the majority — up to 70 percent in places like New York and Chicago, according to the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, which works to improve working conditions. An estimated 1.3 million in the industry are immigrants in the U.S. illegally, the group said.

Construction industry

The construction industry, which likewise employs large numbers of immigrants, also felt the effects of Thursday's protest.

Shea Frederick, who owns a small construction company in Baltimore, showed up at 7 a.m. at a home he is renovating and found that he was all alone, with a load of drywall ready for install. He soon understood why: His crew, five immigrants, called to say they weren't coming to work. They were joining the protests.

“I had an entire day of full work,” he said. “I have inspectors lined up to inspect the place, and now they're thrown off, and you do it the day before the weekend and it pushes things off even more. It sucks, but it's understandable.”

Frederick said that while he fundamentally agrees with the action, and appreciates why his crew felt the need to participate, he feels his business is being

made to suffer as a result of the president's policies.

“It's hurting the wrong people,” he said. “A gigantic part of this state didn't vote this person in, and we're paying for his terrible decisions.”

Numbers of students

There were no immediate estimates of how many students stayed home in many cities,” he said. “A gigantic part of this state didn't vote this person in, and we're paying for his terrible decisions.”

Marcela Ardaya-Vargas, who is from Bolivia and now lives in Falls Church, Virginia, pulled her son out of school to take him to a march in Washington.

“When he asked why he wasn't going to school, I told him because today he was going to learn about immigration,” she said, adding: “Our job as citizens is to unite with our brothers and sisters.”

Carmen Solis, a Mexico-born U.S. citizen, took the day off from work as a project manager and brought her two children to a rally in Chicago.

“I feel like our community is going to be racially profiled and harassed,” she said of Trump's immigration policies. “It's very upsetting. People like to take out their anger on the immigrants, but employers are making profits off of them.”

Italian Market

On Ninth Street in South Philadelphia's Italian Market, it was so quiet in the morning that Rani Vasudeva thought it might be Monday, when many of the businesses on the normally bustling stretch are closed.

Produce stands and other stalls along “Calle Nueve” — as 9th Street is more commonly known for its abundance of Mexican-owned businesses — stood empty, leaving customers to look elsewhere for fresh meat, bread, fruits and vegetables.

In New Orleans' Mid-City neighborhood, whose Latino population swelled after the damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 created lots of jobs for construction workers, the Ideal Market was closed. The place is usually busy at midday with people lining up at the steam tables for hot lunches or picking from an array of fresh Central American vegetables and fruits.

Edward Stratton and Laura Sellers contributed to this report.



What's your point-of-view?





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