

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Comey: FBI probes Trump-Russia links, wiretap claims bogus

WASHINGTON — The FBI is investigating whether Donald Trump's associates coordinated with Russian officials in an effort to sway the 2016 presidential election, Director James Comey said Monday in an extraordinary public confirmation of a probe the president has refused to acknowledge, dismissed as fake news and blamed on Democrats.

In a bruising five-hour session, the FBI director also knocked down Trump's claim that his predecessor had wiretapped his New York skyscraper, an assertion that has distracted White House officials and frustrated fellow Republicans who acknowledge they've seen no evidence to support it.

The revelation of the investigation of possible collusion with Russians, and the first public confirmation of the wider probe that began last summer, came in a remarkable hearing by one branch of government examining serious allegations against another branch and the new president's election campaign.

Tight-lipped for the most part, Comey refused to offer details on the scope, targets or timeline for the FBI investigation, which could shadow the White House for months, if not years. The director would not say whether the probe has turned up evidence that Trump associates may have schemed with Russians during a campaign marked by email hacking that investigators believe was aimed at helping the Republican defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"I can promise you," the FBI director vowed, "we will follow the facts wherever they lead."

Comey for the first time put himself publicly at odds with the president by contradicting a series of recent tweets from Trump that asserted his phones had been ordered tapped by President Barack Obama during the campaign.

"With respect to the president's tweets about alleged wiretapping directed at him by the prior administration, I have no information that supports those tweets, and we have looked carefully inside the FBI," Comey said. The same was true, he added, of the Justice Department.

US, UK bar laptop carry-ons from Mideast, N. Africa flights

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and British governments, citing unspecified threats, are barring passengers on some international flights from mostly Middle Eastern and North African countries from bringing laptops, tablets, electronic games and other devices on board in carry-on bags.

Passengers flying to the United States from 10 airports in eight countries will be allowed only cellphones and smartphones in the passenger cabins, senior Trump administration officials said. Larger electronic items must be checked.

The British security rules will affect flights from six countries and will bar passengers from carrying "any phones, laptops or tablets larger than a normal sized mobile or smartphone."

The U.S. rules took effect today, and airlines will have until early Saturday morning to implement them or face being barred from flying to the United States, the officials said.

They said the decision was prompted by "evaluated intelligence" about potential threats to airplanes bound for the United States. The officials would not discuss the timing of the intelligence or if any particular terror group is thought to be planning an attack.

Trump administration officials briefed reporters on condition they not be identified publicly. That was despite President Donald Trump's repeated insistence that anonymous sources should not be trusted.

The electronics ban affects flights from international airports to the U.S. from in Amman, Jordan; Kuwait City, Kuwait; Cairo; Istanbul; Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Casablanca, Morocco; Doha, Qatar; and Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. About 50 flights a day, all on foreign carriers, will be affected. The officials said no U.S.-based airlines have nonstop flights from those cities to the United States.

The British security rules will apply to flights from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia.

High court nominee to face daylong questioning in Senate

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch faces hours of questioning from senators as frustrated Democrats are determined to press him on everything from abortion and guns to his independence from President Donald Trump.

Republicans are unanimously supporting Gorsuch, and certain to give him what cover they can as he appears before the Senate Judiciary Committee for Day 2 of his confirmation hearing



AP Photo/Susan Walsh

Supreme Court Justice nominee Neil Gorsuch is surrounded by photographers as he arrives at Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday for his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

ings today. But Democrats made clear on the first day that they were in no mood to "rubber stamp a nominee selected by extreme interest groups and nominated by a president who lost the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes," as Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont put it.

Gorsuch himself sought to emphasize his strong belief in the separation of powers in his opening statement, pledging to be independent or "hang up the robe." Seeking to take the edge off Democratic complaints that he has favored the wealthy and powerful in more than 10 years as a federal judge, the 49-year-old Coloradan said he has tried to be a "neutral and independent" judge and has ruled both for and against disabled students, prisoners and workers alleging civil rights violations.

"My decisions have never reflected a judgment about the people before me, only my best judgment about the law and facts at issue in each particular case," Gorsuch said.

The first day of the hearing was given over to opening statements, with questions saved for today, and Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, warned senators that the session could last 10 hours or more.

Bottle refund going to 10 cents in Oregon beginning April 1

SALEM — Starting on April 1, Oregonians will be able to double the money they get back for recycling their old plastic water bottles, soda cans and beer bottles at redemption sites throughout the state.

A measure which requires payment of the 10-cent refund for covered beverage containers beginning the first of the month, regardless of refund value indicated on the container, was overwhelmingly approved by the Oregon Senate on Monday and heads to Gov. Kate Brown for her signature.

The Oregon Legislature set a trigger for the deposit to increase to 10 cents if the recycling rate fell below 80 percent for two consecutive years. Last year state officials said that had happened and the increased bottle rate was set in motion.

Oregon was the first state to adopt a bottle refund bill back in 1971 as a way to encourage recycling. Ten other states have similar laws, but only Michigan currently offers a 10-cent refund.

Train deaths in Washington state return to normal numbers

TACOMA, Wash. — Figures released by Washington officials show that deaths on the state's railroad tracks returned to normal levels last year after reaching a high number in 2015.

The News Tribune reports that the Washington State Department of Transportation released numbers last week showing that 13 people were killed statewide in 2016 in train-related incidents.

That's down from 27 people killed in 2015. That year had the most train-related deaths in the state since 2011, when 29 people died.

Thirteen people were killed on the tracks in 2014 and three have died so far in 2017.

State and railroad officials say they are relieved that 2016 numbers were down from 2015 but that the ultimate goal is to have zero train-related deaths.

Thailand's coin-eating turtle dies of intestinal blockage

BANGKOK — Tourists used to toss coins at a green sea turtle that lived in a pond in eastern Thailand, wishing for luck and longevity. But swallowing the shiny tidbits turned out to be a death sentence for the reptile.

After having nearly a thousand coins removed from its stomach in a four-hour operation two weeks ago, the turtle — nicknamed "Omsin," or "Piggy Bank," — died today.

Omsin, estimated to be 25 years old, had been rescued by Thai navy personnel who saw her visibly ailing in the seaside town of Sattahip. She was then examined by a veterinarian, who found the coins inside her stomach.

The story attracted international attention, and a public clamor to ease Omsin's plight ensued. The weight of the money inside her had cracked her underside shell and threatened a fatal infection.

The cause of death was intestinal obstruction that blocked Omsin's protein intake, while toxicity from the coins damaged her immune system, said Dr. Roongroj Thanawongnuwech, dean of the veterinary school at Chulalongkorn University.

The turtle had appeared to be doing well after the operation, but a checkup Saturday revealed problems with her intestines. Doctors performed a second, 2 1/2 hour-operation, but Omsin never woke up and died this morning.

"She at least had the chance to swim freely and eat happily before she passed," said Dr. Nantarika Chansue, who led the team that removed 915 coins weighing 11 pounds from her stomach on March 6.

Martin McGuinness, Irish rebel turned politician, dies at 66

DUBLIN — Martin McGuinness, the Irish Republican Army commander who led his underground paramilitary movement toward reconciliation with Britain, died today, his Sinn Fein party announced.

Turning from rebel to peacemaker, McGuinness served as Northern Ireland's deputy first minister for a decade in a power-sharing government.

The party said he died following a short illness. McGuinness suffered from amyloidosis, a rare disease with a strain specific to Ireland's northwest. The chemotherapy required to combat the formation of organ-choking protein deposits quickly sapped him of strength and forced him to start missing government appointments.

"Throughout his life Martin showed great determination, dignity and humility and it was no different during his short illness," Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said.

Trump to Capitol in last-ditch lobbying for health care bill

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is rallying support for the Republican health care overhaul by taking his case directly to GOP lawmakers at the Capitol, two days before the House plans a climactic vote that poses an important early test for his presidency. Top House Republicans unveiled revisions to their bill in hopes of nailing down support.

At a rally Monday night in Louisville, Kentucky, Trump underscored what he called "the crucial House vote."

"This is our long-awaited chance to finally get rid of Obamacare," he said of repealing former President Barack Obama's landmark law, a GOP goal since its 2010 enactment. "We're going to do it."

Trump's closed-door meeting with House Republicans was coming as party leaders released 43 pages worth of changes to a bill whose prospects remain dicey. Their proposals were largely aimed at addressing dissent that their measure would leave many older people with higher costs.

Included was an unusual approach: language paving the way for the Senate, if it chooses, to make the bill's tax credit more generous for people age 50-64. Details in the documents released were initially unclear, but one GOP lawmaker and an aide said the plan sets aside \$85 billion over 10 years for that purpose.

Venezuela's troubles put US heating oil charity in limbo

Venezuela's economic turmoil has placed in limbo that country's participation in a free heating oil program run by a Massachusetts-based nonprofit that has helped hundreds of thousands of people, signaling that the program may be kaput.

This marks the second consecutive winter that Venezuela's Citgo Petroleum Corp. has not contributed to the "Joe-4-Oil" program, part of the nonprofit Citizens Energy created by businessman and former Democratic Massachusetts Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II.

The decision by the subsidiary of the Venezuelan national oil company coincides with plummeting oil prices and corresponding economic problems in oil-rich Venezuela.

Kennedy said hopes of a late contribution have faded with spring's arrival this week.

"While this is not good news, it certainly isn't surprising," he told The Associated Press.

THE DAILY
ASTORIAN

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
TUESDAY

TUESDAY EVENING												MARCH 21	
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		Wheel of Fortune	The Middle	Amer. Housewife	Fresh Off the Boat	Black-ish	People Icons "Gone Too Soon" (N)	KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel		
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	The Middle	Amer. Housewife	Fresh Off the Boat	Black-ish	People Icons "Gone Too Soon" (N)	KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel		
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	Wheel of Fortune	The Voice "Battles Premiere" (N)	Trial & Error (N)	Trial & Error (N)	Trial & Error (N)	Chicago Fire "Telling Her Goodbye" (N)	KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show		
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Pay to Play"	Bull "E.J."	NCIS: New Orleans "Course Correction"	KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S. Colbert			
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Pay to Play"	Bull "E.J."	NCIS: New Orleans "Course Correction"	KIRO News	(35) S. Colbert			
8	KGW	(8) (5:00) To Be Announced		Inside Edition	The Voice "Battles Premiere" (N)	Trial & Error (N)	Trial & Error (N)	Trial & Error (N)	Chicago Fire "Telling Her Goodbye" (N)	KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show		
9	KRCW	(9) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Flash "The Duet" Pt. 2 of 2 (N)	Legends "Fellowship of the Spear" (N)	KGW News at 10	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother			
10	KOPB	(10) Ask-Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour	Elizabeth at 90 A unique celebration of The Queen's 90 years.	Princes of the Palace							
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	New Girl (N)	The Mick (N)	Bones "The Day in the Life" (N)	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	Bones "The Day in the Life" (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Cleveland Show		
14	KCPQ	(14) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	New Girl (N)	The Mick (N)	Bones "The Day in the Life" (N)	Q13 News at 10	Q13 News	The Simpsons		
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Detour (N)	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)		
21	KZJQ	(21) 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	Friends	
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Minnesota Timberwolves	Site: Target Center (L)	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Baseball Tonight	Jalen & Jacoby	College GameDay	Special Olympics	NBA Basketball Chicago vs Toronto	
30	ESPN2	(30) NCAA Basketball NIT Tournament (L)		SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Baseball Tonight	Jalen & Jacoby	College GameDay	Special Olympics	NBA Basketball Chicago vs Toronto	
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	Hunter Street (N)	The Thundermans	Ride	Game Shakers	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends	
32	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Bizaardvark	K.C. Undercover	Good Luck Charlie	Stuck in Middle	Good Luck Charlie	Liv and Maddie	Liv and Maddie	Bunk'd	Jessie Pt. 2 of 3	Jessie Pt. 3 of 3	
34	FAM	(34) ★★ She's All That '99	Rachael Leigh Cook, Matthew Lillard, Freddie Prinze Jr.	The Fosters "Diamond in the Rough" (N)	SwitchBirth "Memory (The Heart)" (N)	The Twins: Happily?	"Leap of Faith"	The 700 Club					
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) The Equalizer	(14) Denzel Washington.	(45) The Equalizer	(2014, Action) Chloë Grace Moretz, Marton Csokas, Denzel Washington.	(25) ★★ Kiss of the Dragon	(01, Act) Jet Li, Bridget Fonda.						
36	LIFE	(36) Little Women: LA	"Ballroom Blitz"	Little Women: LA	"Tough Crowd"	Little Women: LA	"Things Fall Apart" (N)	Little Women: LA	"On Thin Ice" (N)	Women ATL "Bobbleheads Will Roll" (N)	Little Women: LA	"On Thin Ice"	
38	ROOT	(38) Focused	In the Spotlight	MLB Baseball Spring Training Oakland Athletics vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium -- Peoria, Ariz. (L)	WPT Poker	MLB Baseball Spring Training Oakland Athletics vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium -- Peoria, Ariz. (L)	WPT Poker	MLB Baseball Spring Training Oakland Athletics vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium -- Peoria, Ariz. (L)	WPT Poker	MLB Baseball Spring Training Oakland Athletics vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium -- Peoria, Ariz. (L)	WPT Poker	MLB Baseball Spring Training Oakland Athletics vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium -- Peoria, Ariz. (L)	
39	ROOT	(39) (5:00) UFC UFC 205		Speak for Yourself	Speak for Yourself	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.	TMZ Sports (N)	UFC 205					
43	SPiKE	(43) (5:15) ★★ Super Troopers	Kevin Heffernan.	★★★ Knocked Up	(2007, Comedy) Katherine Heigl, Leslie Mann, Seth Rogen.	Adam Carolla Builds	Knocked Up	(2007, Comedy) Seth Rogen.					
44	COM	(44) Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Detroiters (N)	The Daily Show (N) @midnight (N)		
45	HIST	(45) Counting Cars	Counting Cars	CountCars 1/2	CountCars 2/2	Counting Cars	Counting Cars	Counting Cars	Supercharged (N)	Forged in Fire "The Naginata" (N)	(05) Counting Cars	(35) Counting Cars	
46	A&E	(46) Beyond Scared Straight	Beyond Scared Straight	Beyond Scared Straight	Beyond Scared Straight	Scared "Chester County, SC: Girls"	Beyond Scared Straight	Beyond Scared Straight	Beyond Scared Straight	(05) Beyond Scared Straight			
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Big Fat Fab. "Whitney Calls in Backup"	My Big Life "Big Girl Dance Battle" (N)	Big Fat Fab. "Whitney Gets a Date" (N)	Big Fat Fab. "Whitney Gets a Date" (N)	She's In Charge "Living a Lie" (N)	(05) Big Fat Fab. "Whitney Gets a Date"				
48	DISC	(48) Moonshiners	Moonshiners	Moonshiners	Cuts "Last Call" (N)	Moonshiners (N)	Moonshiners (N)	Killing Fields "The Killer Among Us" (N)	Moonshiners				
49	NOV	(49) Ghost Ships of the Black Sea	Titanic: How It Really Sank			Drain the Great Lakes	Drain the Great Lakes	Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" (N)	Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries"				
50	TNT	(50) (5:15) ★★ G.I. Jane	(1997, Drama) Viggo Mortensen, Anne Bancroft, Demi Moore.	★★★ Law Abiding Citizen	('09, Cri) Gerard Butler, Colm Meaney, Jamie Foxx.	(15) ★★ Django Unchained	(12) Christoph Waltz, Jamie Foxx.						
51	AMC	(51) (4:00) The Shawshank Redemption	★★★ The Italian Job	(2003, Action) Charlize Theron, Donald Sutherland, Mark Wahlberg.	★★★ Ocean's Eleven	(2001, Crime Story) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.							
52	USA	(52) Chrissy Knows	Chrissy Knows	Chrissy Knows	Chrissy Knows	WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.	Chopped "Best Laid Plans" (N)	Chopped "Back in Time"					
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Burn for the Worse"	Chopped "Fake Cake, Real Stakes"	Chopped "Viewers' Vengeance"	Chopped "Rookie Blue"	Fixer "Rustic Italian Dream Home"	Fixer Upper "The Flipper Upper"	Home Town "A Town to Call Home" (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters			
54	HGTV	(54) Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Home Town "A Town to Call Home" (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters			
55	FX	(55) (4:00) White House Down	★★★ Gone Girl	(2014, Mystery) Rosamund Pike, Missi Pyle, Ben Affleck.	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Special Report "Soldier of God"	Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon					
56	CNN	(56) CNN Report "Soldier of God" (N)	Hannity	The O'Reilly Factor	Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity	The Partner "Tripwires and Trapdoors" (N)	Paid Program	Paid Program				
58	CNC	(58) Shark Tank	Partner "Tripwires and Trapdoors" (N)	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Beverly Hills "Big Buddha Brawl" (N)	Imposters (N)	WatchWhat (N)	Vanderpump Rules			
59	BRV	(59) Beverly Hills "Cake Therapy"	Beverly Hills "Sweet Georgia Jayne"	Beverly Hills Social (N)	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills "Big Buddha Brawl" (N)	Imposters (N)	WatchWhat (N)	Vanderpump Rules				
61	TRM	(61) (5:00) Double Indemnity	★★★ Detour	(1945, Crime Story) Ann Savage, Tom Neal.	★★★ Cape Fear	(1962, Thriller) Robert Mitchum, Polly Bergen, Gregory Peck.	★★★ Point Blank	(67, Susp) Lee Marvin, Angie Dickinson.					
65	SYFY	(65) Face Off "Lost Languages"	Face Off "Covert Characters"	Face Off "Odd Couples"	Face Off "Frightening Families" (N)	Cosplay Melee (N)	Face Off "Frightening Families"						
69	RFD	(69) (5:30) Cattlemen	Chasing (N)	Horseshmanship "Square Pen Control" 2/2	Chris Cox	Rural Eve. News	Ag PhD	Cattlemen to Cattlemen	Chasing-Madison	Product Showcase			