

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

White House warns Syria's Assad against chemical attack

WASHINGTON — The White House issued a stern warning to Syrian President Bashar Assad on Monday night as it claimed "potential" evidence that Syria was preparing for another chemical weapons attack.

In an ominous statement issued with no supporting evidence or further explanation, Press Secretary Sean Spicer said the U.S. had "identified potential preparations for another chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime that would likely result in the mass murder of civilians, including innocent children."

He said the activities were similar to preparations taken before an April 2017 attack that killed dozens of men, women and children, and warned that if "Mr. Assad conducts another mass murder attack using chemical weapons, he and his military will pay a heavy price."

The White House offered no details on what prompted the warning and spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said she had no additional information Monday night.

Several State Department officials typically involved in coordinating such announcements said they were caught completely off guard by the warning, which didn't appear to be discussed in advance with other national security agencies. Typically, the State Department, the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies would all be consulted before the White House issued a declaration sure to ricochet across foreign capitals.

Ruling in travel ban leaves myriad questions unanswered

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's decision to partially reinstate President Donald Trump's temporary travel ban has left the effort to keep some foreigners out of the United States in a murky middle ground, with unanswered questions and possibly more litigation ahead.

The justices ruled Monday in an unsigned opinion they would hold a full hearing on the case in October. In the meantime, the administration can bar travelers from six majority-Muslim countries from the U.S. if they don't have a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship" with someone or some entity in the country.

It's unclear what will ultimately constitute a "bona fide relationship," though the ruling suggested that an American job, school enrollment or a close relative could meet that threshold. Equally unclear is how many foreigners will be affected from the six countries: Syria, Sudan, Iran, Yemen, Libya and Somalia.

The ruling was seen as at least a partial victory for Trump in the biggest court case of his presidency. Trump claims the temporary ban is needed to prevent terrorist attacks. Opponents reject that and argue it's a backdoor way to bar Muslims from entering the United States, as Trump promised in his campaign.

The early indications are that the administration will use the decision to take a tough line on travelers from those countries. A senior U.S. official familiar with the situation said the Trump administration has plans in place to relaunch the stalled ban and tourists will be among those kept out.

These senators will make or break the GOP's health care push

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's campaign promise to repeal and replace "Obamacare" is now in the hands of a key group of GOP senators who are opposing — or not yet supporting — legislation Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is pushing to bring to a vote this week.

These lawmakers range from moderate to conservative Republicans, and include senators who were just re-elected and a couple facing tough re-election fights. Their concerns about the legislation vary along with their ideology, from those who say it's overly punitive in ejecting people from the insurance rolls, to others who say it doesn't go far enough in dismantling former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. Satisfying one group risks alienating another.

Trump spent part of the weekend placing phone calls to a handful of these lawmakers, focusing on senators who supported his candidacy — Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky. The next several days will show whether the president's efforts pay off and if those lawmakers and the others will ultimately fall in line on legislation that would impact health care for millions of Americans, while allowing Trump and GOP leaders to boast of fulfilling a campaign promise seven years in the making.

McConnell has scant margin for error given united Democratic opposition, and can afford to lose only two Republicans from his 52-member caucus.



AP Photo/Andrew DeMillo

A 6-foot-tall privately funded Ten Commandments monument is seen on the Arkansas Capitol grounds in Little Rock today, after it was installed by workers two years after lawmakers approved a measure allowing the statue on state property.

Ten Commandments monument installed at Arkansas Capitol

Workers have installed a Ten Commandments monument outside Arkansas' Capitol, two years after lawmakers approved a measure permitting the statue on state grounds.

The 6-foot-tall monument was placed on the Capitol grounds early today. Opponents of the monument have said it amounts to an unconstitutional endorsement of religion and have threatened to sue.

Plans for Arkansas' monument sparked a push by the Satanic Temple for a competing statue of Baphomet, a goat-headed, angel-winged creature accompanied by two children smiling at it. Efforts to install that display, however, were blocked by a law enacted this year requiring legislative approval before the commission could consider a monument proposal.

Medicaid mission creep threatens GOP's 'Obamacare' repeal

WASHINGTON — Somewhere along the way, the Republican crusade to repeal "Obamacare" also turned into an effort to limit the future growth of Medicaid. That bit of mission creep is complicating prospects for the GOP, and could lead to deadlock.

The federal-state program for low-income people has long been stigmatized as substandard. But over time it has grown and changed to become a mainstay for hospitals, nursing homes, insurers, and now drug treatment centers confronting the opioid epidemic. With about 70 million enrolled, Medicaid covers more people than Medicare, from newborns to nursing home residents.

Republicans including Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Dean Heller of Nevada, and Govs. John Kasich of Ohio, Charlie Baker of Massachusetts, and Doug Ducey of Arizona have all expressed misgivings about the Senate's GOP health care bill. On Monday, the National Association of Medicaid Directors, a nonpartisan group that represents state administrators of the program, said in a statement from its board that the legislation is unworkable, and called it "a transfer of risk, responsibility, and cost...of historic proportions."

"We would see dramatic reductions in federal Medicaid funding, which would result in large budget gaps for the states," said analyst Caroline Pearson of the consulting firm Avalere Health.

A Congressional Budget Office estimate released Monday said the Senate bill's biggest impacts on spending would come from Medicaid. In 2026, the federal contribution would be \$160 billion lower than under current law, and 15 million fewer people would be covered through the program.

Democrats aim to blast Trump for favoring wealthy

WASHINGTON — Democrats are out to capitalize on what they believe is growing public sentiment that President Donald Trump, the richest man to call the White House home, is turning his back on the people who got him elected in favor of his wealthy peers. The party is hoping that pitch will pack extra oomph at a time when even some Republicans are raising concerns that the GOP health-care plan could hurt the poor.

Though stung by a series of defeats in special congressional elections, Democrats believe they can make inroads with some

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of Trump's most loyal supporters by driving home the combined potential impact of proposed tax cuts that would largely benefit the wealthy and pending health care legislation that would fail to cover tens of millions of Americans enrolled in "Obamacare."

In a polling memo circulated by the Democratic group Priorities USA, Democrats say they have seen a significant shift in the last two months in the number of people that believe the president sides with the wealthy and big corporations over average Americans. Democrats plan to turn that message into a prominent sales pitch for their candidates and surrogates, and could make it the theme of ads as well.

Guy Cecil, the group's chairman, said that for the president's first three months in office, voters who backed President Barack Obama then switched to Trump believed that the new president represented middle-class workers more than he represented the wealthy. But he said that has changed since April.

"People are taking a second look," says Cecil. "The reason that health care is so powerful is because it directly affects people's lives and there's a clear trade-off: You're giving tax cuts to the rich; you're taking health care away from everybody else."

Modi meets Trump with his usual greeting — bear hugs

NEW DELHI — President Donald Trump should have been ready as he met with India's prime minister, an unabashed hugger.

Smiling widely at a news conference Monday during a visit to Washington, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the president's outstretched arm not as an invitation for a handshake, but as a pull toward an embrace. Then he did it again in the White House Rose Garden. Then once more before leaving.

Trump appeared stiff and uncomfortable with the first hug, smiling thinly and patting Modi on the back a couple of times. But it was the same folksy, effusive greeting Modi has used with Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, and a host of foreign dignitaries and celebrities, from former French President Francois Hollande, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Hollywood's Hugh Jackman.

"Modi doesn't hug just anyone," said political scientist Sreeram Chaulia, dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs in New Delhi. "If you look at the list of people he's hugged, these are people who matter for India's interest."

Inmate details 4 prison killings: 'I did it for nothing'

COLUMBIA, S.C. — One by one, Denver Simmons recalled, he and his partner lured inmates into his cell. William Scruggs was promised cookies in exchange for doing some laundry; Jimmy Ham thought he was coming to snort some crushed pills.

Over the course of about a half-hour, four men accepted Simmons' hospitality. None of them made it out alive.

Calmly, matter-of-factly, the 35-year-old inmate told The Associated Press how he and Jacob Philip strangled and beat their blockmates to death and hid their bodies to avoid spooking the next victims. They had nothing against the men; one of them was even a friend, Simmons admitted.

Why did they do it? Convicted in the cold-blooded shootings of a mother and her teenage son, Simmons knew he would never leave prison alive. Tired of life behind bars, a failure at suicide, he hoped killing these criminals would land him on death row.

In honor of July 4th, The Daily Astorian's offices in Astoria and Seaside will be **CLOSED TUESDAY, JULY 4**. PAPER DELIVERY WILL PROCEED AS USUAL. *Have a safe holiday!* **CLASSIFIED DEADLINES:** Monday, July 3rd, 11am for Tuesday, July 4th. Monday, July 3rd, 1pm for Wednesday, July 5th. **DISPLAY AD DEADLINES:** Thursday, June 29th, 5pm for Tuesday, July 4th. Friday, June 30th, 5pm for Wednesday, July 5th. Place classified ads or subscribe 24/7 www.dailyastorian.com

THE DAILY ASTORIAN TV LISTINGS Evening listings TUESDAY

TUESDAY EVENING													JUNE 27	
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	Downward Dog	The Middle	Black-ish	Black-ish	Amer. Housewife	Fresh Off the Boat	KATU News at 11	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel	
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Downward Dog	The Middle	Black-ish	Black-ish	Amer. Housewife	Fresh Off the Boat	KOMO 4 News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel	
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	America's Got Talent "Auditions 5" (N)				World of Dance "The Duels 2" (N)	KING 5 News	(:35) Tonight Show		
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "A Bowl of Cherries"		Bull "Just Tell the Truth"		NCIS: New Orleans "Overdrive"	KOIN 6 News (N)	(:35) Colbert		
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	Evening News (N)	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "A Bowl of Cherries"		Bull "Just Tell the Truth"		NCIS: New Orleans "Overdrive"	KIRO News	(:35) Colbert		
9	KGW	(9) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	America's Got Talent "Auditions 5" (N)				World of Dance "The Duels 2" (N)	KGW News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show		
10	KRCW	(10) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Flash "Monster"		iZombie (N)		News at 10 (N)	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother	
10	KOPB	(10) Ask-Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		The Story of China "Golden Age" (N)		The Story of China "The Ming" (N)		Frontline "The Secret History of ISIS"	Nuclear Requiem			
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Lethal Weapon "Pilot"		The Mick	Brooklyn 99	10 O'Clock News (N)	News (N)	2 Broke Girls		
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)		9 O'Clock News (N)		Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	Cleveland Show	
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lethal Weapon "Pilot"		The Mick	Brooklyn 99	Q13 News at 10 (N)	Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons		
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Wrecked (N)	Conan		
22	KZJN	(22) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Friends	Friends	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	
29	ESPN	(29) NCAA Baseball Division I Tournament (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		
30	ESPN2	(30) 30 for 30 "Celtics/Lakers: Best of Enemies" Pt. 1 of 3				X Games Street League Skateboarding		E:60		Jalen & Jacoby (N)		NFL Live		
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	NickyRickyDicky	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends Pt. 1 of 2	Friends Pt. 2 of 2	
32	DISN	(32) ** Alvin and the Chipmunks ("07) David Cross, Jason Lee.				Transylvania (N)	Andi Mack	Liv and Maddie	Liv and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Hotel Transylvania	Jessie	
34	FAM	(34) Pretty Little Liars "Choose or Lose"	Pretty Little Liars "Farewell My Lovely"	Pretty Little Liars "Farewell My Lovely"		Pretty Liars "Till Death Do Us Part" The ultimate end game comes to light. (F) (N)		Pretty Little Liars (N)		Pretty Little Liars (N)		The 700 Club		
35	FMC	(35) Movie	(:40) A Walk Among the Tombstones (2014, Action) Dan Stevens, Boyd Holbrook, Liam Neeson.			*** The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (2011, Crime Story) Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer, Daniel Craig.								
36	LIFE	(36) Little Women: LA	Little Women: LA	Little Women: LA		Little Women: LA - A Little Extra		Little Women: LA Following big personalities and big drama.		To Be Announced		Little Women: LA		
38	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	Mariners Pre-game	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field -- Seattle, Wash. (L)						Post-game		MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Seattle Mariners		
39	FST	(39) Boxing Premier Champions (Pre)				MLB Whiparound (L)		Speak for Yourself				BIG3 Basketball		
43	SPKE	(43) Ink Master "Ink Live"		Ink Master "Fire and Ice"		Ink Master "Crossing the Line"		Ink Master "Unnatural Disasters"		Ink Master (N)		The Mist "Pilot"		
44	COM	(44) Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0 (N)	Jim Jefferies (N)	The Mist Show	@midnight	
45	HIST	(45) Forged in Fire "The Zweihander"		Forged in Fire "Butterfly Swords"		Forged in Fire: Cutting Deeper Enhanced episodes of "Forged in Fire." (N)						(:05) Forged in Fire "Crusader Sword"		
46	A&E	(46) Hoarders		Hoarders		Hoarders		Hoarders Overload				Born This Way "It's Complicated" (N)	(:05) To Be Announced	
47	TLC	(47) Little People, Big World		L.P. "When it Rains it Pours" (N)		Little People, Big World (N)				(:05) I Am Jazz "Bottoms Up" (SP) (N)	(:05) Little People, Big World			
48	DISC	(48) Deadliest Catch "The Russian Line"		D. Catch "Back to the Killing Season"		Deadliest Catch "Hurricane Alley" (N)		Deadly Catch "Arctic Mega Storm" (N)		Devil's Canyon (N)		Deadliest Catch "Arctic Mega Storm"		
49	NGEO	(49) Live Free or Die "Hog Wild"		Live Free "Down the Rabbit Hole"		Live Free or Die "Forever Wild"		Port Protection "Backwoods Fix"		Port Protection "Knock on Wood"		Port Protection "Lean on Me"		
50	TNT	(50) ** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies ("14, Adventure) Richard Armitage, Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman.				Animal "Forgive Us Our Trespasses" (N)		(:55) Animal King	(:55) Law & Order "Fame"	(:55) Law & Order				
51	AMT	(51) (:50) *** The Lost World: Jurassic Park ('97) Julianne Moore, Jeff Goldblum.				*** The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997, Adventure) Julianne Moore, Pete Postlethwaite, Jeff Goldblum.						Jurassic Park III (2001, Sci-Fi) Sam Neill.		
52	USA	(52) Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.				Team Ninja War. "Finals Week 2" (N)		Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped Junior "Champions: Part 3"	Chopped Junior "Champions: Part 4"	Chopped Junior "Champions: Part 4"		Chopped "Champions: Grand Finale" (N)		Chopped "Raw Deal"		Chopped "Snap Pea To It!" (N)		Chopped "Viewers' Vengeance"		
54	HGTV	(54) Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Bones "Flooded Two-Story Restored" (N)		House Hunters	House Hunters	
56	FX	(56) (:50) ** The Equalizer ('14) Chloë Grace Moretz, Denzel Washington.				*** Fast & Furious 6 (2013, Action) Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel.						Fast & Furious 6 ('13, Action) Vin Diesel.		
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Special Report (N)		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Special Report		Anderson Cooper 360		
58	CNC	(58) The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight		The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight		
61	FNBC	(61) Shark Tank		The Profit "Overtone Acoustics" (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit "Overtone Acoustics"		Paid Program	Paid Program	
63	BRVV	(63) Below "Don't Cry Over Cut Onions"		Below "Mo' Onions, Mo' Problems"		Below Deck "Flirting With Danger"		Below Deck: Mediterranean (N)		(:15) Below Deck: Mediterranean		(:15) Watch (N)	(:45) Below Deck	
64	TCM	(64) (:50) Rollerball ('75, Act) James Caan.		(:15) *** Countdown (1968, Drama) Joanna Moore, Robert Duvall, James Caan.		(:15) *** Hide in Plain Sight ('80) Robert Viharo, Danny Aiello, Jill Eikenberry.				(:15) Rabbit, Run (1970) James Caan.				
65	SYFY	(65) (:430) Seventh Son		*** Alice in Wonderland (2010, Adventure) Anne Hathaway, Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp.				Face Off "Dream House" (N)		*** Zombieland (2009, Action) Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, Woody Harrelson.				
162	RFD	(162) (:5:30) Cattlemen	Chasing-Madison	Downunder Horseman.		Chris Cox	Rural Eve. News	Ag PhD		Cattlemen to Cattlemen		Chasing-Madison	Product Showcase	