

## WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

## Trump tweets revive chatter he's preparing to fire Mueller

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is not considering firing the special counsel investigating Russian election interference, a top White House lawyer said, after a cascade of Trump tweets revived chatter that the deeply frustrated president may be preparing to get rid of the veteran prosecutor.

In a first for Trump, he jabbed directly at special counsel Robert Mueller by name in weekend tweets that both challenged the investigation's existence and suggested political bias on the part of Mueller's investigators. Trump has long been frustrated by the lengthy and intensifying probe, and insists his 2016 Republican presidential campaign did not colude with Russia to influence the election in his favor.

"The Mueller probe should never have been started in that there was no collusion and there was no crime," he said in a late Saturday tweet he ended with "WITCH HUNT!"

Likely contributing to Trump's sense of frustration, The New York Times reported last week that Mueller had subpoenaed the Trump Organization for Russia-related documents. Trump had said Mueller would cross a red line with such a step.

"Why does the Mueller team have 13 hardened Democrats, some big Crooked Hillary supporters, and Zero Republicans?" he tweeted Sunday.

Former FBI deputy director Andrew

McCabe's attorney criticized the president's weekend tweets as evidence that McCabe's firing was improper.

In a tweet Sunday, Michael Bromwich says McCabe won't be responding to Trump's "childish, defamatory, disgusting & false" tweets. But he says the tweets confirm a "corrupted" process in which McCabe was fired by Attorney General Jeff Sessions last Friday. Bromwich promises the "whole truth will come out in due course."

Over the weekend, Trump called McCabe's firing "a great day for democracy."

McCabe has been a frequent target of Trump's anger and criticism. The Associated Press reported that McCabe's memos have been provided to Mueller, who's investigating possible collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia.

## Another explosion injures 2 in Texas capital

AUSTIN, Texas — Authorities have called on the person or people behind the bombings in Austin to reach out to the police to let them know why they're setting off the explosives.

Police Chief Brian Manley said Monday that it's too soon to say whether Sunday night's bombing that injured two men could have been a response to his call for those behind the bombings to reach out.

Manley says investigators see "similarities" between Sunday night's bomb and three others this month that killed two people and injured two others. But he says Sunday's differed in that it involved a tripwire whereas the others were package bombs left on people's doorsteps.

Frederick Milanowski, the special agent in charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, says the latest bomb is "more sophisticated" because it used a tripwire.

## Kushner Cos. filed false documents on rent-regulated tenants

NEW YORK — When the Kushner Cos. bought three apartment buildings in a gentrifying neighborhood of Queens in 2015, most of the tenants were protected by special rules that prevent developers from pushing them out, raising rents and turning a tidy profit.

But that's exactly what the company then run by Jared Kushner did, and with remarkable speed. Two years later, it sold all three buildings for \$60 million, nearly 50 percent more than it paid.

Now a clue has emerged as to how President Donald Trump's son-in-law's firm was able to move so fast: The Kushner Cos. routinely filed false paperwork with the city declaring it had zero rent-regulated tenants in dozens of buildings it owned across the city when, in fact, it had hundreds.

While none of the documents during a three-year period when Kushner was CEO bore his personal signature, they provide a window into the

ethics of the business empire he ran before he went on to become one of the most trusted advisers to the president of the United States.

"It's bare-faced greed," said Aaron Carr, founder of Housing Rights Initiative, a tenants' rights watchdog that compiled the work permit application documents and shared them with The Associated Press. "The fact that the company was falsifying all these applications with the government shows a sordid attempt to avert accountability and get a rapid return on its investment."

## EU criticizes Turkey's offensive in Syrian town

BEIRUT — The European Union's top diplomat criticized Turkey on Monday over its military offensive in a northern Syrian town, calling on Ankara to ensure that fighting eases in the conflict-torn country.

The appeal came as looting was widely reported in the town captured a day earlier by Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters, according to residents and monitors. Meanwhile, Turkey's state-run news agency said 11 people — seven civilians and four Turkish-backed Syrian fighters — were killed in an explosion in a building in Afrin town center as it was being cleared of booby traps. Anadolu News agency said the bomb was reportedly left by Syrian Kurdish fighters.

## Pollack: 'There's no plan so I'm working on creating one'

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preparation, information gathering and public education. It cost Astoria \$23,500 to bring him here, and he began his work in September.

For Pollack the program is "an opportunity to see the inner workings of government." He had hoped he would be placed in Astoria. The interview had gone well and, he said, "They had a better understanding of what the program was and what could be achieved."

For the work in front of him, Astoria represents a unique challenge with "water on one side and a hill on the other." It's easy to get locked in if access along Highway 30 or across either of the two bridges — the massive Astoria Bridge over the Columbia River or the New Youngs Bay Bridge into Warrenton — is blocked.

"A lot of this is about where do you go if your main facilities are interrupted," Pollack said.

In his research, many of the cities that do this kind of planning are much larger than Astoria, with more staff and more layers of governance.

Here, Pollack said, one of the challenges beyond geography is that "you just have less staff so you have less people to respond."

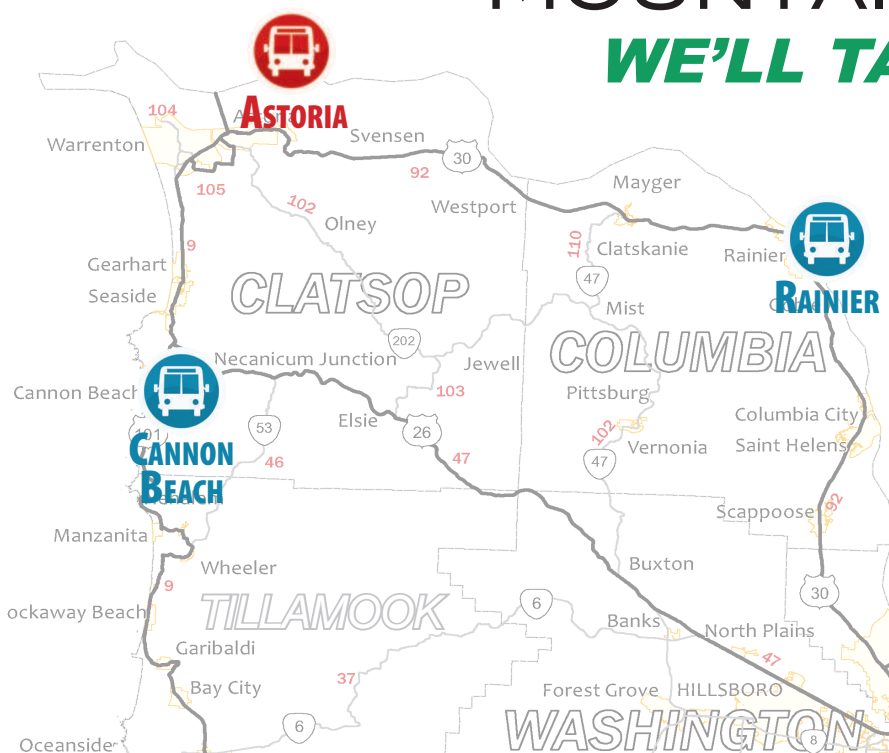
He hopes to create a living, mutable document that will help the city adapt to a variety of situations down the road.

"There's no plan so I'm working on creating one."



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