

Trump revises Comey firing, Giuliani blasts 'lynching mob'

By **ASHLEY THOMAS**
Associated Press



AP Photo/Evan Vucci
President Donald Trump arrives for a bill signing ceremony for the 'Right to Try' act in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus Wednesday in Washington.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump declared today that he didn't fire FBI Director James Comey over the Russia investigation, despite previously citing that as the reason. His lawyer, meanwhile, blasted federal investigators as "a lynching mob" the Trump team will "knock the heck out of" in the end.

The president has said at least twice that Comey's firing in May 2017 was related to the FBI's investigation into whether Trump's campaign associates coordinated with Russia in an effort to sway the 2016 election. And his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, told Fox News earlier this month that Trump fired Comey because the FBI director wouldn't publicly

state that he "wasn't a target" of the Russia investigation.

Trump tweeted today: "Not that it matters but I never fired James Comey because of Russia! The Corrupt Mainstream

Media loves to keep pushing that narrative, but they know it is not true!"

Giuliani said on Fox News' "Hannity" that the investigation "never should have taken place in the first place" and claimed there were ethical issues within the Justice Department.

special counsel investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election as well as possible ties between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia. The firing is now under investigation by Mueller for possible obstruction of justice.

On Wednesday night, Giuliani said on Fox News' "Hannity" that the investigation "never should have taken place in the first place" and claimed there were ethical issues within the Justice Department.

"So, you got a group there, a lynching mob, so let them do their job and, boy, we're ready to knock the heck out of you with our report, which will be authoritative," Giuliani said. "It will be backed up. It will be backed up with law and facts. And we'll let the American people decide this."

It was not immediately clear what report Giuliani was referring to.

Trump's legal team has said that Mueller is working on a report addressing whether the president obstructed justice. The Justice Department inspector general is also preparing a report that is expected to criticize the FBI's handling of the investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

Giuliani's "lynching mob" comment drew criticism from Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, who told CNN, "That's pretty strong language." Lee said that "based on what I know now, those are not words that I would use to describe this. This is an investigation."

In announcing Comey's firing in 2017, the White House

initially cited his handling of the Clinton email investigation, seizing on the FBI director's decision to divulge details of the probe to the public during her campaign against Trump.

A few days after Comey was dismissed, Trump told NBC's Lester Holt that he was thinking of "this Russia thing" when he fired Comey.

And The New York Times reported Trump told Russian diplomats in the Oval Office in May 2017 that Comey's dismissal had removed some of the pressure he faced over the Russia investigation.

"I just fired the head of the FBI. He was crazy, a real nut job," Trump said during the May 10 meeting, according to the newspaper. "I faced great pressure because of Russia. That's taken off."

County: 'The more we know, the better we can take care of ourselves'

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"If a family is coming across a public institution for the first time, they're just not comfortable with it," he said. "Once there has been a warm introduction, then I think perception changes."

An opportunity to develop the forum came out of a chance encounter Brown had with Susan Romanski, executive director of Mercy Corps, a humanitarian aid organization. Romanski, who is bilingual, offered to give the county's first presentation.

In her time giving presentations in the Portland area, Romanski has found success in "training the trainers." She gives community leaders emergency information that they can make more culturally relevant.

"Make it more realistic. You don't always have to focus on buying a \$200 kit," Romanski said. "Talk about the subduction earthquake in Mexico City. Talk about stocking up supplies. Talk about making connections with your neighbors. Get people to talk about it in their own communities."



Photos by Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian
Minerva Moulin of Seaside takes notes during a Spanish-only presentation about the Cascadia earthquake.

'The more we know'

Making emergency information more inclusive of other languages is a task the Pacific Northwest has been poking at for years. A few years ago, Beaverton started an all-Spanish speaking group of emergency response volunteers to bridge the gap. Washington state

passed legislation last year that requires state agencies to provide emergency notices in languages other than English.

Oregon has no similar law, but began to look at bilingual communication more seriously while preparing for the 2016 Cascadia Rising emergency drill, said Cory Grogan, public

information officer for Oregon Emergency Management.

Since the drill, the state has identified Spanish speakers to serve on a statewide team that would write press releases and coordinate social media in Spanish during a disaster. But like Clatsop County, the state has had issues finding the



Emergency preparedness materials were available in Spanish at a public forum in Seaside.

right resources and strategy to bridge a cultural gap between their office and those in Oregon who speak a language other than English at home.

"I think it comes down to having programs in place that identify members in the community to get these messages out," Grogan said. "Clatsop County is one of the leaders in being innovative that way."

Sometimes it just takes someone like Minerva Moulin, a Seaside resident concerned about how informed the Hispanic community is on the coast.

"One of the most important things for our community is to be informed," Moulin said through a translator. "There's not a lot of information out in Spanish. And there's a lot of discrimination when it comes to access."

Moulin hopes to take the information she learned Wednesday and share it in more Spanish-speaking forums.

"I learned today that we need to bring people together to get information so they aren't so scared," she said. "The more we know, the better we can take care of ourselves."

Warning: First time state sent Wireless Emergency Alert

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Alerts to cellphones are called Wireless Emergency Alerts, which are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, and the state has no way of testing them, Grogan said.

Tuesday was the first time the state sent a Wireless Emergency Alert, Grogan said. He added that the FCC is planning improvements to the system.

In a video posted to Face-

book Tuesday night, Office of Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps said that the agency would conduct a forensic analysis of what happened.

"I apologize for the confusion and the anxiety this incomplete message has caused people," Phelps said. "Beginning this evening, we are conducting a forensic analysis of the steps we took to send this message and to ensure our procedures are written and practiced in a

way that will prevent confusing messages from being sent from our system in the future."

Another, separate system, called the Emergency Alert System, notifies the public via broadcast over TV and radio.

That alert to TV viewers and radio listeners in the appropriate areas went out without a hitch, officials say.

Back in January, after a hubbub over an accidental alert warning of a ballistic missile threat in Hawaii, the state of Oregon said that the

same thing couldn't happen here because the state doesn't use prewritten templates.

In Hawaii, an employee accidentally selected the wrong message from a menu of prewritten messages.

Grogan said late Wednesday that the agency has removed the default message and that it won't be able to be sent again.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Pot licenses: 'We need to focus on those who are already in the system'

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The pause comes amid buzz that the state has produced far more cannabis than its residents can consume. U.S. Attorney Billy Williams maintains that much of the excess likely gets trafficked across state lines.

But Pettinger says neither a recent audit of the state's Cannabis Tracking System — which found vulnerabilities in the system that could allow illicit marijuana to fly under the radar —

nor Williams' recent statements influenced the decision.

"We're just acknowledging that with the resources that we have, we need to focus on those who are already in the system and those who have already submitted an application into the system for us to be able to maintain the integrity of the system," Pettinger said.

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| THURSDAY EVENING | | A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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) | NBA Basketball Playoffs (L) | | | | | Jimmy Kimmel (N) | Wheel of Fortune | Jeopardy! | ABC News Nightline | | KATU News (N) | (3:55) Jimmy Kimmel |
| 3 | KOMO (4) | NBA Basketball Playoffs (L) | | | | | Jimmy Kimmel (N) | Wheel of Fortune | Jeopardy! (N) | Quantic | | KOMO 4 News (N) | (3:55) Jimmy Kimmel |
| 4 | KING (5) | NBC News (N) | KING 5 News | KING 5 News | Evening | America-Talent "Auditions 1" | Acts of all types and ages addition to win \$1 million. | World of Dance "The Qualifiers 1" | | World of Dance "The Qualifiers 1" | | KING 5 News (N) | (3:55) Tonight Show |
| 6 | KOIN (6) | KOIN Local 6 (N) | Evening News (N) | Extra | Ent. Tonight | Big Bang Theory | Young Sheldon | Mom | Life in Pieces | S.W.A.T. "Armory" | | KOIN 6 News (N) | (3:55) Colbert |
| 7 | KIRO (7) | KIRO 7 News (N) | Evening News (N) | KIRO 7 News (N) | KIRO Investigate | Big Bang Theory | Young Sheldon | Mom | Life in Pieces | S.W.A.T. "Armory" | | KIRO News (N) | (3:55) Colbert |
| 8 | KGW (8) | KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N) | Tonight Cassidy | Inside Edition | America-Talent "Auditions 1" | Acts of all types and ages addition to win \$1 million. | World of Dance "The Qualifiers 1" | | World of Dance "The Qualifiers 1" | | | KGW News (N) | (3:55) Tonight Show |
| 9 | KRCW (9) | Modern Family | Modern Family | The Goldbergs | Supernatural "The Rising Son" | Lightning "Lawanda: The Book of Hope" | News at 10 (N) | Friends | Two and a Half | Two and a Half | | News (N) | Page Six TV |
| 10 | KOPB (10) | Travels Darley | Business (N) | PBS NewsHour (N) | Oregon Art Beat | Oregon Guide | Midsomer M. (50) Midsomer M. | Fit For Murder" (35) Masterpiece | Miss Marple: A Caribbean Mystery" | | | News (N) | Page Six TV |
| 12 | KPTV (12) | 6 O'Clock News (N) | Family Feud | Family Feud | MasterChef "The Judges Do Battle" 1/2 | 9 O'Clock News (N) | Family Guy | American Dad! | News (N) | The Game | | News (N) | The Simpsons |
| 13 | KPDV (13) | Mike & Molly | Mike & Molly | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | FOX 12's News (N) | Beat Shazam "Episode One" | Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N) | Conan | Two and a Half | Two and a Half | News (N) | The Simpsons |
| 14 | KCPQ (14) | Modern Family | Modern Family | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | MasterChef "The Judges Do Battle" 1/2 | Beat Shazam "Episode One" | Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N) | Conan | Two and a Half | Two and a Half | News (N) | The Simpsons |
| 20 | TBS (20) | Family Guy | Family Guy | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | Conan | Two and a Half | Two and a Half | News (N) | The Simpsons |
| 22 | KZJO (22) | Friends | Friends | WNBA Basketball | Las Vegas Aces at Seattle Storm (L) | SportsCenter (N) | SportsCenter (N) | SportsCenter (N) | SportsCenter (N) | SportsCenter (N) | SportsCenter (N) | SportsCenter (N) | SportsCenter (N) |
| 29 | ESPN (29) | The Scripps National Spelling Bee "2018" (L) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | ESPN2 (30) | NCAA Studio | NCAA Softball Division 1 Tournament (L) | | | | NBA at the Mic (L) | | The Scripps National Spelling Bee "2018 Finals, Closing Portion" (N) | | | SportsCenter (N) | SportsCenter (N) |
| 31 | NICK (31) | The Loud House | The Loud House | Henry Danger | Henry Danger | ★★ Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (12) Vanessa Hudgens, Josh Hutcherson. | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends |
| 32 | DISN (32) | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | Bunk'd | DuckTales | Gravity Falls | To Be Announced | DrunkTales | Andi Mack 1/2 | Raven's Home | Andi Mack | Bunk'd |
| 34 | FAM (34) | ★★ The Wedding Planner (2001, Romance) Matthew McConaughey, Bridgette Wilson, Jennifer Lopez. | ★★ Maid in Manhattan (2002, Comedy) Ralph Fiennes, Tyler Garcia Posey, Jennifer Lopez. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | FMC (35) | ★★★ How to Train Your Dragon 2 (14) Kit Harington, Jay Baruchel. | (10) Wild (2014, Biography) Gabby Hoffman, Laura Dern, Reese Witherspoon. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | LIFE (36) | Killer Mom (2017, Thriller) Kirby Bliss Blanton, Richard Roy Sutton, Karen Cliche. | The Other Mother (17) Kimberley Crossman, Tyler Christopher, Annie Wersching. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | ROOT (38) | Hot Rod | MarinersPre-game | MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners | St. Sefaco Field - Seattle, Wash. (L) | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | F51 (39) | UFC Unleashed "Comrie vs. Johnson" | UFC Tonight | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | SPIKE (43) | (25) Mom | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends |
| 44 | COM (44) | (15) The Office | (50) The Office "Whistleblower" | (25) The Office | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | HIST (45) | Swamp People "Lone Hunter" | Swamp People "Lockjaw" | | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | A&E (46) | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol | Live PD: Patrol |
| 47 | TLC (47) | (5:00) Fiancé "Disruptive Behavior" (N) | My 600-lb Life "Paula's Story" | My 600-lb Life "Erica fears emotional trauma will derail her progress. (N) | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Erica Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" |
| 48 | DISC (48) | Naked and Afraid "Island of Tears" | My 600-lb Life "Paula's Story" | My 600-lb Life "Erica fears emotional trauma will derail her progress. (N) | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Erica Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" | XL All Stars "Africa Strikes First" |
| 49 | NGEO (49) | Live Free or Die "Slash and Burn" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" | Drain the Ocean "Deep Sea Mysteries" |
| 50 | TNT (50) | NCIS: New Orleans "Darkest Hour" | NCIS: New Orleans "Billy and the Kid" | ★★★ The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013, Adventure) Richard Armitage, Ian McKellan, Martin Freeman. | ★★★ A Bronx Tale (93) Robert De Niro. | | | | | | | | |
| 51 | AMC (51) | (5:00) ★★ Ocean's Thirteen (07, Comedy) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney. | NCIS "A Desperate Man" | NCIS "Life Before His Eyes" | NCIS "Chopped "Plum Luck" | | | | | | | | |
| 52 | USA (52) | NCIS "Housekeeping" | NCIS "A Desperate Man" | NCIS "Life Before His Eyes" | NCIS "Chopped "Plum Luck" | | | | | | | | |
| 53 | FOOD (53) | Beat Bobby Flay | Beat Bobby Flay | Chopped "Bangin' Backyard Cookout" | Chopped "Plum Luck" | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop |
| 55 | FX (55) | (5:00) ★★ Spectre (2015, Action) Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux, Daniel Craig. | ★★ Taken 3 (2014, Action) Famke Janssen, Maggie Grace, Liam Neeson. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 57 | CNN (57) | Anderson Cooper 360 | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon |
| 58 | FNC (58) | Hannity | The Ingraham Angle | Fox News @ Night | Jay Leno's Garage "The Motor City" | | | | | | | | |
| 61 | CNBC (61) | Shark Tank | Jay Leno's Garage "The Motor City" | Jay Leno's Garage "More Power" | Jay Leno's Garage "In Harms Way" | | | | | | | | |
| 63 | BRVA (63) | South/ Charm "Exes on the Half Shell" | South/ Charm "Kat's Got Your Tongue" | Southern Charm "What Da Fuskie" | South/ Charm "Hilton Head-Ache" (N) | (15) Imposters (N) | (15) Watch What | (15) South/ Charm | | | | | |
| 64 | TCM (64) | (5:00) Touch of Evil (58) Orson Welles. | ★★★ Witness for the Prosecution (57) Charles Laughton, Tyrone Power. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 65 | SYFY (65) | ★★★ The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997, Adventure) Julianne Moore, Pete Postlethwaite, Jeff Goldblum. | ★★ Jurassic Park III (2001, Sci-Fi) William H. Macy, Téa Leoni, Sam Neill. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 102 | RFD (102) | SF Machinery | Small Town | Rural America 'Live' | Steve Lantvit | Rural Eve. News | Market Journal | GA Farm Monitor | SF Machinery | Small Town | Time Life Library | | |