

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

US official: Trump pressed aides about Venezuela invasion

BOGOTA, Colombia — As a meeting last August in the Oval Office to discuss sanctions on Venezuela was concluding, President Donald Trump turned to his top aides and asked an unsettling question: With a fast unraveling Venezuela threatening regional security, why can't the U.S. just simply invade the troubled country?

The suggestion stunned those present at the meeting, including U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and national security adviser H.R. McMaster, both of whom have since left the administration. This account of the previously undisclosed conversation comes from a senior administration official familiar with what was said.

In an exchange that lasted around five minutes, McMaster and others took turns explaining to Trump how military action could backfire and risk losing hard-won support among Latin American governments to punish President Nicolas Maduro for taking Venezuela down the path of dictatorship, according to the official. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the discussions.

But Trump pushed back. Although he gave no indication he was about to order up military plans, he pointed to what he considered past cases of successful gunboat diplomacy in the region, according to the official, like the invasions of Panama and Grenada in the 1980s.

The idea, despite his aides' best attempts to shoot it down, would nonetheless persist in the president's head.

Warm in blankets, Thai boys smile, joke with rescuer in cave

MAE SAI, Thailand — Their skinny faces illuminated by a flashlight, the Thai soccer teammates stranded more than a week in a partly flooded cave said they were healthy on a video released today, as heavy rains forecast for later this week could complicate plans to safely extract them.

The 12 boys and their coach are seen sitting with Thai navy SEALs in the dark cave. The boys, many wrapped in foil warming blankets, take turns introducing themselves, folding their hands together in a traditional greeting and saying their names and that they are healthy.

The video lasting about a minute was recorded sometime Tuesday and was posted on the navy SEAL Facebook page this morning. The navy later released two more videos of the boys.

The boys, aged 11-16, and their 25-year-old coach disappeared after they went exploring in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in northern Chiang Rai province after a soccer game June 23. The teammates, who were trapped inside when heavy rains flooded the cave, were found by rescue divers late Monday night during a desperate search that drew assistance from experts around the globe.

Authorities said the boys, who had also been shown Tuesday in a video shot by the British diver who discovered them, were being looked after by seven members of the Thai navy SEALs, including medics, who were staying with them inside the



Jeremiah Bruckart, left, and Jared Johnston of the Queens borough of New York dance to the music before the start of the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest today in Coney Island.

cave. They were mostly in stable condition and have received high-protein drinks.

Government allowing colleges to leave race out of decisions

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration said the government would no longer encourage schools to use race as a factor in the admissions process, rescinding Obama-era guidance meant to promote diversity among students.

The shift announced Tuesday gives colleges the federal government's blessing to leave race out of admissions and enrollment decisions and underscores the contentious politics that for decades have surrounded affirmation action policies, which have repeatedly been challenged before the Supreme Court.

The Obama administration memos encouraging schools to take race into account were among 24 policy documents revoked by the Justice Department for being "unnecessary, outdated, inconsistent with existing law, or otherwise improper." Attorney General Jeff Sessions called the changes an effort to restore the "rule of law," though civil rights groups decried the move and some universities said they intended to continue their diversity efforts as before.

The action comes amid a high-profile court fight over Harvard University admissions that has attracted the government's attention, as well as Supreme Court turnover expected to produce a more critical eye toward schools' race-conscious admissions policies.

The court's most recent significant ruling on the subject bolstered colleges' use of race among many factors in the admission process. But the opinion's author, Anthony Kennedy, announced his retirement last week, giving President Donald Trump a chance to replace him with a justice who may be more reliably skeptical of admissions programs that take race and ethnicity into account.

Trump talks to more candidates for Supreme Court vacancy

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump spoke with three more potential Supreme Court

candidates on Tuesday as a key senator privately aired concerns about one of the contenders.

As Trump weighs his options, he has heard from Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., who has expressed reservations about one top potential nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, according to a person familiar with the call but not authorized to publicly disclose details of it. The activity around Kavanaugh was an early glimpse of the frenzied jockeying around the short list of candidates in the run-up to Trump's Monday announcement.

With a narrow 51-49 GOP majority in the Senate, losing any Republican senator could begin to doom a nominee. Paul's objections echo those made by outside conservative groups over Kavanaugh, who is seen as a top contender for the vacancy but who activists warn is too much of an establishment-aligned choice.

Trump has said he'll choose his nominee from a list of 25 candidates vetted by conservative groups. Top contenders include federal appeals judges Kavanaugh, Raymond Kethledge, Amul Thapar and Amy Coney Barrett — all of whom spoke with Trump on Monday.

"These are very talented people, brilliant people," Trump said Tuesday during an appearance in West Virginia. "We're going to give you a great one."

British police: 2 people critical near poisoned spy city

AMESBURY, England — British police declared a "major incident" today after two people were left in critical condition from exposure to an unknown substance a few miles from where a former Russian spy and his daughter were poisoned with a nerve agent.

The Wiltshire Police force said a man and a woman in their 40s were hospitalized after being found in Amesbury, 8 miles from Salisbury, where Sergei and Yulia Skripal were poisoned on March 4.

Police cordoned off a residential building in Amesbury and other places the two people visited before falling ill, but health officials said there was not believed to be a wider risk to the public.

The man and woman were hospitalized Saturday at Salisbury District Hospital, where Sergei and Yulia Skripal spent weeks in critical condition after being poisoned in March.

Authorities at first believed the latest victims might have taken a contaminated batch of heroin or crack cocaine.

On Independence Day, Americans celebrate their union, rue divisions

NEW YORK — Americans are marking Independence Day with parades, fireworks and, for some, a renewed sense of pride in their 242-year-old nation. For others, a sense of a United States divided weighs heavy on its quintessential holiday.

From New York to New Mexico, July Fourth events will celebrate what Americans have in common. Festivities are as elaborate as Macy's July Fourth fireworks show, as gulp-worthy as Nathan's Famous hot dog eating contest and as easygoing as backyard barbecues. But in a country roiled with debate over what it means to be an American, there are even competing televised Independence Day events in the nation's capital.

The country's longest-running live national July Fourth TV tradition — PBS' broadcast of music and fireworks from the U.S. Capitol's West Lawn — is facing new counterprogramming from the White House, which is hosting its own concert and view of the National Park Service's fireworks show. Both shows feature different "American Idol" alumni.

First lady Melania Trump said in a statement that the White House show would allow Americans to "tune in from their homes and be part of the festivities." PBS declined to comment.

In New York, the Macy's fireworks show over the East River promises 25 minutes of sparkle and "ahhhh," plus the West Point Band and entertainers including Kelly Clarkson, Ricky Martin and Keith Urban on NBC's broadcast. Earlier, competitive-eating titans will face off at Nathan's Famous July Fourth hot dog eating contest on Coney Island, televised by ESPN.

What's a retired justice to do? Former justices show the way

WASHINGTON — For more than 30 years Justice Anthony Kennedy has lived by the Supreme Court's predictable calendar: hearing new cases beginning on the first Monday in October, arguments starting at 10 a.m. and near-weekly conferences with colleagues until the court adjourns in June. Soon, he'll have no fixed schedule.

Kennedy, 81, hasn't said what he'll do with all his upcoming free time. The three most recent retirees from the court — John Paul Stevens, David Souter and Sandra Day O'Connor — each charted somewhat different paths.

In announcing last week that he is stepping down, Kennedy said he wanted to spend more time with his family. Former clerks say Kennedy, a father of three and "Papa" to nine grandchildren, is an enthusiastic grandparent, one who has attended grandkids' T-ball games and ballet performances. He spoke at the high school graduations of two of his grandchildren this year and has talked about seeing "Hamilton" with his grandchildren on Broadway.

This summer, Kennedy is teaching at the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law's program in Austria, a practice of his for decades.

THE DAILY
ASTORIAN

SCHEDULE

Evening listings
WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING

A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach

JULY 4

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 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Modern Family	Amer. Housewife	Shark Tank		KATU News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
5 KOMO	(4)	KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Modern Family	Amer. Housewife	Shark Tank		KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
5 KING	(5)	NBC News (N)	KING 5 News Special "Aviation" (N)	Evening	Macy's Fireworks	Celebrate Independence Day with a firework display. (N)				Macy's Fireworks		KING 5 News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show
6 KOIN	(6)	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Big Brother (N)		Blues Festival Fireworks Special (L)		News (N)	(3:5) Colbert
6 KIRO	(7)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	Investigate (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Big Brother (N)		Seafair Summer "July 4th" (N)				KIRO News (N)	(3:5) Colbert
8 KGW	(8)	KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Macy's Fireworks	Celebrate Independence Day with a firework display. (N)			VanFireworks (N)	Macy's Fireworks	KGW News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show
9 KRCW	(9)	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	The Howie Mandel All-Star Comedy Gala		Whose Line Is It?		News at 10 (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
10 KOPB	(10)	Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		A Capitol Fourth (N)		A Capitol Fourth				F.S. Key	
12 KPTV	(12)	6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	MasterChef "World Cup Dishes"	To Hell & Back "Bella Gianna's"			10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV
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	American Dad!	The Game	The Game
13 KCPQ	(13)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	MasterChef "World Cup Dishes"	To Hell & Back "Bella Gianna's"			Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons
20 TBS	(20)	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal	Conan	
22 KZJO	(22)	MLS Soccer Seattle Sounders FC at Colorado Rapids (L)				Post-match	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29 ESPN	(29)	(4:00) MLB Baseball Chi.W./Cin. (L)		MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Arizona Diamondbacks Site: Chase Field -- Phoenix, Ariz. (L)						SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
30 ESPN2	(30)	(5:30) Poker World Series Site: Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino -- Las Vegas, Nev. (L)						SportsCenter (N)		MLB Baseball Baltimore Orioles at Philadelphia Phillies			
31 NICK	(31)	LoudH./ Loud H.	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
32 DISN	(32)	Jessie	Jessie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	To Be Announced			(4:5) Raven's Home	(10) Gravity Falls	(3:5) Gravity Falls	Andi Mack	Stuck in Middle
34 FAM	(34)	(4:30) *** Forrest Gump ('94) Sally Field, Tom Hanks.		*** Armageddon	(1998, Adventure) Liv Tyler, Ben Affleck, Bruce Willis.							The 700 Club	
35 FMC	(35)	(5:45) *** Lone Survivor ('14, Act) Taylor Kitsch, Emile Hirsch, Mark Wahlberg.		(:05) FXM Presents	*** Zero Dark Thirty (2012, Drama) Jason Clarke, Joel Edgerton, Jessica Chastain.								(:40) FXM Presents
36 LIFE	(36)	The Single Mom's Club ('14) Wendi McLendon-Covey, Nia Long, Amy Smart.		*** Two Weeks Notice (2002, Comedy) Hugh Grant, Alicia Witt, Sandra Bullock.		(:05) *** Marley and Me (2008, Drama) Jennifer Aniston, Eric Dane, Owen Wilson.							
39 ROOT	(39)	(5:30) Xterra Pan	MarinersPre-game	MLB Baseball Los Angeles Angels at Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field -- Seattle, Wash.		Post-game	Poker Night			WPT Poker Borgata Open			
39 FS1	(39)	UFC Tonight (N)		TUF: 27 "Blood, Sweat, Tears" (N)	TUF Talk (N)	MLB Whiparound (L)		MLB's Best (N)		TUF: 27 "Blood, Sweat, Tears"		TUF Talk	UFC Tonight
43 SPIKE	(43)	*** Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade	(1989, Adventure) Sean Connery, Julian Glover, Harrison Ford.			*** Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981, Adventure) Karen Allen, Denholm Elliott, Harrison Ford.							
44 COM	(44)	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show	The Office
45 HIST	(45)	(5:00) America Story "Superpower"		Amer. Pickers "The \$90,000 Question"		American Pickers "Celebrating Independence Day"	Mike and Frank search for iconic American items. (N)					(:05) A. Pickers "Red, White and Blues"	
46 A&E	(46)	The First 48 "Dangerous Company"		OzzyandJack "Aloha, Osbournes"		OzzyandJack "Speed Demons"	OzzyandJack "Texas, Bloody Texas"			OzzyJack "Kentucky Fried Osbournes"		OzzyandJack "Spicy In-Laws"	
47 TLC	(47)	Untold Stories of the ER "Plastered!"		My 600-lb Life "Tamy Lyn's Story" (N)		The 685-lb Teen				Dr. Pimple Popper "Dr. Pimple Popper"		The 685-lb Teen	
48 DISC	(48)	American Chopper "A New Chopper"		American Chopper "Metal Health"		American Chopper "Make the Yankee Great Again" (N)				Sticker Shock (N)		Misfit "Street Fighting 70 1/2 Camaro"	
49 NGE0	(49)	Life Below Zero "To Catch a King"		Life Below Zero "The Intruder"		Life Below Zero "Heavy Load"		Life Below Zero "The Widowmaker"		Life Below Zero "Close Encounter"		Life Below Zero "Heavy Load"	
50 TNT	(50)	(5:40) Claws	(:45) Claws "Russian Navy"	(:15) *** Jaws (1975, Horror) Richard Dreyfuss, Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider.	(:55) Claws "Scream"			*** Live Free or Die Hard (2007, Action) Justin Long, Timothy Olyphant, Bruce Willis.					
51 AMC	(51)	(5:00) Jaws 3 ('83, Horror) Dennis Quaid.		(:15) *** Jaws (1975, Horror) Richard Dreyfuss, Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider.				(:15) *** Jaws 2 (1978, Horror) Lorraine Gary, Murray Hamilton, Roy Scheider.					
52 USA	(52)	NCIS "Damned If You Do"		NCIS "Alibi"		NCIS "Kill Chain"		NCIS "Double Back"		Colony "Sea Spray" (N)		Modern Family	Modern Family
53 FOOD	(53)	Game "Around the World in Three Carts"		Guy's Game "Caught in the Middle"		Game "GGG International All Stars"		Guy's Game "Culinary Idols" (N)		Game "Par for the Shoptacle Course"		Guy's Grocery Games "Yes, Chefs Can"	
54 HGTV	(54)	Beach Hunters	Beach Hunters	Beach Hunters	Beach Hunters	Property "Striking the Right Chord"		Property Bros. "Tight Transformation"		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	Property "Making Their House a Home"	
58 FX	(58)	*** Captain America: The Winter Soldier	(2014, Action) Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan, Chris Evans.			*** Captain America: The First Avenger	(2011, Action) Hugo Weaving, Hayley Atwell, Chris Evans.						Movie
57 CNN	(57)	Anthony Bourdain "Hawaii"		Anthony Bourdain "Montana"		Anthony Bourdain "Seattle"		Anthony Bourdain "Mississippi Delta"		Anthony Bourdain "Nashville"		Anthony Bourdain "The Bronx"	
58 FNC	(58)	Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
61 CNBC	(61)	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Paid Program	
63 BRAV	(63)	(:15) *** School of Rock (2003, Comedy) Joan Cusack, Mike White, Jack Black.		(:45) *** School of Rock (2003, Comedy) Joan Cusack, Mike White, Jack Black.								(:15) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of...	
64 TCM	(64)	(15) *** Yankee Doodle Dandy	(:15) *** 1776 (1972, Musical) David Ford, Howard da Silva, William Daniels.					(:15) *** Four Jills in a Jeep ('44, Mus)				Carole Landis, Martha Raye, Kay Francis.	
65 SYFY	(65)	Movie	Lake Placid: Legacy (2018, Horror) Tim Rozon, Greg Kriek, Katherine Barrell.			*** National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007, Adventure) Jon Voight, Ed Harris, Nicolas Cage.						Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare	
162 RFD	(162)	Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural News (N)	WesternSport	Cowboy TV	Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Product Showcase	

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