WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Besieged Islamic State militants refuse to surrender, ask for an exit

AL-OMAR OIL FIELD BASE, Syria — More than 300 Islamic State militants surrounded in a tiny area in eastern Syria are refusing to surrender to U.S.-backed forces and are trying to negotiate an exit.

The extremists are bottled up in the village of Baghouz, where they are hiding among hundreds of civilians and preventing them from leaving. The stalling tactics are likely to further delay a declaration of the end of the IS group's self-proclaimed caliphate, which the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces were hoping to make last week.

The militants are asking for a corridor to the rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib, and demand that they be allowed to leave along with the evacuated civilians.

The speck of land in Syria's remote eastern desert, near the border with Iraq, is all that remains of a self-styled caliphate that once sprawled across a third of both countries and included several major towns and cities.

Ex-FBI official: 'Crime may have been committed' by Trump

WASHINGTON — Former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe said in an interview that aired Sunday that a "crime may have been committed" when President Donald Trump fired the head of the FBI and tried to publicly undermine an investigation into his campaign's ties to Russia.

McCabe also said in the interview with "60 Minutes" that the FBI had good reason to open a counterintelligence investigation into whether Trump was in league with Russia, and therefore a possible national security threat, following the May 2017 firing of then-FBI Director James Comey.

Asked whether Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein was onboard with the obstruction and counterintelligence investigations, McCabe replied, "Absolutely."

McCabe also revealed that when Trump told Rosenstein to put in writing his concerns with Comey—a document the White House initially held up as justification for his firing — the president explicitly asked the Justice Department official to reference Russia in the memo. Rosenstein did not want to, McCabe said, and the memo that was made public upon Comey's dismissal did not mention Russia and focused instead on Comey's handling of the Hillary Clinton email server investigation.

Kaepernick, Reid settle collusion grievances with NFL

NEW YORK — With a public hearing looming and the threat of owners and league officials facing depositions, the NFL settled collusion cases brought by Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid.

The league and Kaepernick's lawyer sent out statements Friday saying that "the parties have decided to resolve the pending grievances" and that a confidentiality agreement would prevent either side from commenting further.

It remains unclear if the NFL admitted wrongdoing or how much money Reid, Kaepernick or others may have received. Considering the lost salary both players claimed and legal costs, the settlement could have climbed into the tens of millions of dollars.

Kaepernick and Reid say they were blacklisted because of protests during the national anthem at games. Kaepernick has not played in the league since 2016, while Reid missed three games last season before signing with Carolina. Kaepernick contended the owners violated their collective bargaining agreement with players by conspiring to keep him off teams.

Israeli leaders' Nazi remarks scuttle summit with Europeans

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's off-hand comment in Warsaw about Poland and the Holocaust set in motion a diplomatic crisis that today scuttled this week's summit of central European leaders in Israel.

Poland's abrupt decision to cancel its participation in the planned Visegrad conference in protest blew up the gathering, which Netanyahu has touted as a major milestone in his outreach to emerging democracies in eastern Europe and his broader goal of countering the criticism Israel typically faces in international forums.

Netanyahu told reporters that "Poles cooperated with the Nazis." The seemingly innocuous comment infuriated his Polish hosts, who reject suggestions that their country collaborated with Hitler.

Red Steagall

162 Rancher (N)

Horse Master



AP Photos/Nam Y. Huh

Diana Juarez cries at a makeshift memorial Sunday for her father, Vicente Juarez, and other victims.

Aurora shooter's permit revoked, but gun not seized

By DON BABWIN and JULIE WATSON Associated Press

AURORA, Ill. — An initial background check failed to detect a felony conviction that should have barred the man who killed five co-workers and wounded six other people at a suburban Chicago manufacturing plant from buying the gun.

Months later, a second background check of Gary Martin found his 1995 aggravated assault conviction in Mississippi involving the stabbing of an ex-girlfriend. But it prompted only a letter stating his gun permit had been revoked and ordering him to turn over his firearm to police raising questions about the state's enforcement to ensure those who lose their permits also turn over their weapons.

A vigil for the victims, including a university student on his first day as an intern and a longtime olant manager, was held Sunday outside Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, about 40 miles west of Chicago. More than 1,500 people braved snow and freezing drizzle to attend.

Martin, 45, was killed in a shootout with officers Friday, ending his



Crosses are placed for the victims of a mass shooting Sunday in Aurora, III., near Henry Pratt Co. manufacturing company where several were killed on Friday.

deadly rampage at the plant. His state gun license permit was revoked in 2014, Aurora Police Chief Kristen Ziman

But he never gave up the .40-caliber Smith & Wesson handgun he used in the attack. Investigators are still trying to determine what exactly law enforcement agencies did after that letter was sent, Ziman said.

Authorities said Saturday that Martin pulled out the gun and began shooting right after hearing he was being fired from his job of 15 years at the industrial valve manufacturer for workplace violations. The company has not given details on what they were.

Martin killed three people in the room with him and two others just outside, Ziman said. Among the dead

was a college student starting a human resources internship at the plant that day. Martin also wounded a sixth worker, who is expected to survive.

After wounding five officers, Martin hid in the back of the building, where officers found him about an hour later and killed him during an exchange of gunfire, police said. All of the wounded officers are expected to live.

Police identified the slain

workers as human resources manager Clayton Parks of Elgin; plant manager Josh Pinkard of Oswego; mold operator Russell Beyer of Yorkville; stock room attendant and fork lift operator Vicente Juarez of Oswego; and Trevor Wehner, the new intern and a Northern Illinois University student who lived in DeKalb and grew up in Sheridan.

Wehner, 21, was on the dean's list at NIU's business college and was on track to graduate in May with a degree in human resource management.

The Rev. Dan Haas told those who gathered outside Henry Pratt for Sunday's vigil that the killings left the victims' families brokenhearted and in mourning.

"All of these were relatively young people — many of them were very young people. We will never know their gifts and talents. Their lives were snuffed out way too short," he said.



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THE DAILY **ASTORIAN**

Evening listings MONDAY

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35 FMC		(5:45) ★★★★ Rio 2 ('14) Anne Hathaway							Anchorman 2: The	Legend Continues (
36 LIFE		*** While You Were Sleeping ('95) P			★★ Secretariat (20						(:05) Dirty Dancing	Patrick Swayze.
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45 HIST		Presidents at War "A Call To Valor"							The Secret History of Air Force One (:05) Pawn Stars "A Presidential Pawn"			
46 A&E									*** Walking Tall ('04) Johnny Knoxville, Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson.			
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CNN					CNN Tonight With Don Lemon Fox News @ Night Hard news and analys				Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
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