

Civilians leave Islamic State enclave

By SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press



AP Photo/Felipe Dana

Children ride in the back of a truck out of the last territory held by Islamic State militants.

BAGHOUZ, Syria — A convoy of trucks carrying hundreds of civilians, including men, women and children, left the last enclave held by Islamic State militants in eastern Syria today, signaling a possible end to a standoff that has lasted for more than a week.

The tiny enclave on the banks of the Euphrates River is the final scrap of territory left to the extremist group that only a few years ago controlled a vast stretch of territory across Syria and Iraq — at one point nearly from Aleppo to Baghdad — aspiring to create an enduring and expanding jihadi state. Its recapture by U.S.-backed Syrian fighters would spell the territorial defeat of IS and allow U.S. President Donald Trump to begin withdrawing American troops from northern Syria, as he has pledged to do, opening a new chapter in Syria's eight-year civil war.

Few believe, however, that ending the group's territorial rule will end the threat posed by an organization that still stages and inspires attacks through sleeper cells in both Syria and Iraq.

Some 300 IS militants — many of them foreign fighters — are believed to be holed up in the enclave in the remote village of Baghouz, along with several hundred civilians believed to be mostly their families. The presence of so many civilians intermingled with the militants in a cramped

space halted the military offensive by the U.S.-backed militia known as the Syrian Democratic Forces and led to a dayslong standoff with the militants who refuse to surrender and prevented the civilians from leaving.

It was not immediately clear what prompted the evacuation today, although food supplies and ammunition for the besieged militants have been fast diminishing.

An Associated Press team in Baghouz counted at least 18 trucks that emerged through a humanitarian corridor used in past weeks to evacuate people from the militants' last patch of territory along the river.

Women, children and men, some with checkered headscarves, or keffiyehs, could be seen through a flap opening on the flat-bed trucks. One man carried a crutch; the women were engulfed in conservative black garments covering

their faces known as niqabs.

There were reports of IS militants surrendering, but the U.S.-led coalition said those reports could not be independently verified. In a tweet, it said the SDF continue to receive civilians attempting to escape to safety and the most hardened IS fighters still remain in Baghouz.

Mustafa Bali, a spokesman for the Syrian Democratic Forces, the U.S.-backed militia spearheading the fight against IS in Syria, confirmed the trucks were carrying civilians out of the enclave.

The number of those evacuated was not clear, nor whether IS militants were also on board the trucks.

On Tuesday, Bali said a military operation aimed at ousting the extremists from the area will begin if they don't surrender, adding that such an operation would take place after separating or evacuating the civilians from the militants.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Putin sternly warns US against putting missiles in Europe

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin sternly warned the United States against deploying new missiles in Europe, saying today that Russia will retaliate by fielding new weapons that will take just as little time to reach their targets.

While the Russian leader didn't say what specific new weapons Moscow could deploy, his statement further raised the ante in tense relations with Washington.

Speaking in his state-of-the-nation address, Putin charged that the U.S. has abandoned a key arms control pact to free up its hands to build new missiles and tried to shift the blame for the move to Russia.

While issuing a tough warning to the U.S., Putin also claimed that Russia still wants friendly relations with Washington and remains open for arms control talks.

Supreme Court: Constitutional ban on high fines applies to states

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled unanimously today that the Constitution's ban on excessive fines applies to the states, an outcome that could help efforts to rein in police seizure of property from criminal suspects.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote the court's opinion in favor of Tyson Timbs, of Marion, Indiana. Police seized Timbs' \$40,000 Land Rover when they arrested him for selling about \$400 worth of heroin.

Ginsburg noted that governments employ fines "out of accord with the penal goals of retribution and deterrence" because fines are a source of revenue.

The case drew interest from liberal groups concerned about police abuses and conservative organizations opposed to excessive regulation. Timbs was represented by the libertarian public interest law firm Institute for Justice.

Border wall, bullet train: California vs. Trump escalates

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Disputes over President Donald Trump's border wall and California's bullet train are intensifying the feud between the White House and the nation's most populous state.

The Trump administration on Tuesday said it plans to cancel or claw back \$3.5 billion in federal dollars allocated to California's high-speed rail project, seizing on Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent decision to scale back plans for a San Francisco-to-Los Angeles route.

Newsom branded the move "political retribution" for the state's lawsuit against Trump's declaration of a national emergency. California led a 16-state coalition in filing the suit Monday, challenging Trump's power to declare an emergency to earn more money to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The estimated cost for a San Francisco-to-Los Angeles train has more than doubled to \$77 billion. That's about 13 times the \$5.7 billion Trump sought unsuccessfully from Congress to build the wall.

Trump chooses Rosen for deputy attorney general

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he intends to nominate Jeffrey Rosen, a longtime litigator and deputy transportation secretary, to replace Rod Rosenstein as deputy attorney general.

Rosen, 60, serves as the Transportation Department's chief operating officer and is in charge of implementing the department's safety and technological priorities. He rejoined DOT in 2017 after previously serving as general counsel from 2003 to 2006.

From 2006 until 2009, Rosen was the general counsel and a senior policy adviser at the White House Office of Management and Budget. He also worked as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

Rosenstein is expected to leave his post in mid-March. His departure had been expected since Barr was confirmed as attorney general last week.

Waterfront: 'I'm worried that we are only nibbling around the ankles of the elephant in the room'

Continued from Page A1

"I'm worried that we are only nibbling around the ankles of the elephant in the room, or more correctly the elephant in the riverfront," Rocka said before proposing a two-story height limit along the entire riverfront.

The proposal could be Astoria's version of the Beach Bill that kept the state's beaches for the public, Rocka added, "preserving for the future the city our residents repeatedly say they want while leaving the door open for things that benefit the community."

But it would preclude the kind of development — like large hotels — "that people are arguing against," he said.

Mayor Bruce Jones pointed out that the Planning Commission has already considered limiting new building height to 35 feet in the Urban Core, the final piece of the riverfront plan.

He preferred to extend a 35-foot limit into Bridge Vista, but acknowledged that a majority of the council was for a two-story limit, at least in Bridge Vista. He asked staff to proceed with that as their direction.

Jones is concerned that a two-story height limit, paired with the 30,000 square footage allowed in Bridge Vista, could result in low, sprawling buildings.

City Councilor Tom Brownson said he was also interested in Rocka's proposal, but he wanted to make sure the city looked at the possible impacts to property owners.

"I just want us to strike a balance," he said.

Rosemary Johnson, a former city planner and consultant for the city, said city staff has been in touch with property owners. City Manager

Brett Estes said he expects to hear more from property owners following the City Council's recommendation.

The room, packed with people who have opposed major development along the riverfront, in particular large projects like the Fairfield Inn and Suites, applauded Rocka. Later, several people thanked the City Council for being willing to listen and adapt.

Friends of the Astoria Waterfront also presented the city with a petition with more than 400 signatures. The petition asked the City Council to consider code

amendments to manage waterfront development and for changes to commercial zones to allow more staff and public review of certain types of projects.

The changes staff proposed for Bridge Vista included a clarification that in cases where city code and the zone's codes appeared to conflict, the more restrictive Bridge Vista codes would

apply. The city also plans to more clearly define what requirements are applied to new construction, among other tweaks.

These changes were intended as "quick fixes" to address recent confusion, Johnson said. A more comprehensive overhaul of the Bridge Vista codes — if desired — is a task for the future, she and Estes said.

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THE DAILY
ASTORIAN

TV SCHEDULE

Evening listings
WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING												A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach												FEBRUARY 20			
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 Fortune (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Schooled (N)	Modern Family (N)	Single Parents (N)	Match Game (N)		News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel														
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News at 6pm (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Schooled (N)	Modern Family (N)	Single Parents (N)	Match Game (N)		KOMO4News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel														
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	Chic.Med "We Hold These Truths" (N)	Chicago Fire "What I Saw" Pt. 1 of 2 (N)	Chicago P.D. "Good Men" Pt. 2 of 2 (N)				KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show														
5	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Survivor "It Smells Like Success" (SP) (N)	The World's Best This global talent competition features elite acts. (N)					News (N)	(35) Colbert														
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Survivor "It Smells Like Success" (SP) (N)	The World's Best This global talent competition features elite acts. (N)					KIRO News (N)	(35) Colbert														
7	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Chic.Med "We Hold These Truths" (N)	Chicago Fire "What I Saw" Pt. 1 of 2 (N)	Chicago P.D. "Good Men" Pt. 2 of 2 (N)				News (N)	(35) Tonight Show														
8	KRCV	(9) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Riverdale	All American "m.A.A.d. city"	News (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half																
9	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature "Living Volcanoes" (N)	Nova "The Next Pompeii" (N)	Secrets of Dead "The Nero Files" (N)				Two and a Half	Two and a Half														
10	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Hell "Los Toros Mexican Restaurant" (N)	The Masked Singer (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)				News (N)	Page Six TV														
11	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	8pm Prime News (N)	9pm Prime News (N)	Family Guy				American Dad!	The Game														
12	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Hell "Los Toros Mexican Restaurant" (N)	The Masked Singer (N)	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)				News (N)	The Simpsons														
13	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Miracle Workers	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal (N)	Full Frontal (N)	Conan (N)	Full Frontal														
14	KZJO	(22) Black-ish	Black-ish	Pre-match	Soccer Pre-season Seattle Sounders FC vs. Club Nacional			Q13 News at 9 (N)	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half														
15	ESPN	(29) NCAA Basketball North Carolina (Chapel Hill) at Duke (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)	SportsCenter (N)			SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)														
16	ESPN2	(30) NCAA Basketball (L)				College Basketball	UFC Flashback (N)	UFC "Cain Velasquez vs. Brock Lesnar"	UFC Top Ten	UFC Top Ten (N)	UFC Top Ten (N)	Now or Never (N)	MMA Show														
17	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	The Office	The Office	Friends	Friends														
18	DISN	(32) Coop & Cami	Coop & Cami	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Sydney to the Max	Sydney to the Max	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Sydney to the Max	Coop & Cami	Andi Mack	Raven's Home														
19	FAM	(34) *** Maleficent (2014, Adventure) Elle Fanning, Sharlto Copley, Angelina Jolie.		Fanning, Sharlto Copley, Angelina Jolie.		Grown-ish (N)	*** The Incredibles (2004, Animated) Voices of Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Craig T. Nelson.					The 700 Club															
20	FMC	(35) (5:20) Pixels (15) Adam Sandler.		(15) *** Pixels (2015, Action/Comedy) Kevin James, Josh Gad, Adam Sandler.			(10) *** Parental Guidance (12, Com) Marisa Tomei, Bette Midler, Billy Crystal.					(05) Parental Guidance Billy Crystal.															
21	LIFE	(36) Grey's A. "Dream a Little Dream of Me"		Grey's A. "Here Comes the Flood"		Project Runway "Pure Imagination" (N)	Runway "Pennies from Heaven" (N)					(05) Runway "Pennies from Heaven"															
22	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	WCC All-Access	NCAA Basketball Air Force vs. Fresno State (L)				NCAA Basketball Pittsburgh at Georgia Tech				NCAA Basketball Creighton at DePaul															
23	FS1	(39) (5:30) NCAA Basketball St. John's at Providence (L)		Fox College Hoops		NCAA Basketball Utah at Washington (L)		Fair Game	TMZ Sports (N)			NCAA Basketball Vill./Geo.															
24	SPIKE	(43) Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	*** Bruce Almighty (2003, Comedy/Drama) Morgan Freeman, Jennifer Aniston, Jim Carrey.		*** Bruce Almighty (2003, Comedy/Drama) Morgan Freeman, Jennifer Aniston, Jim Carrey.				*** Bruce Almighty (2003, Comedy/Drama) Morgan Freeman, Jennifer Aniston, Jim Carrey.															
25	COM	(44) (20) South Park "Skank Hunt"		(55) South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N) (35) Corporate															
26	HIST	(45) Forged Fire "The Two-Handed Sword"		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire: Cutting Deeper (N)	Forged in Fire (N)	(05) Knight Fight "Knights Templar" (N)				(05) Forged Fire "The Horseman's Axe"															
27	A&E	(46) Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	(05) Storage Wars (35) Storage Wars															
28	TLC	(47) My 600-lb Life "Brandon's Story"				My 600-lb Life "Maja's Story" Maja's boyfriend leaves her without support. (N)		Family by the Ton (N)				My 600-lb Life "Chay's Story"															
29	DISC	(48) Moonshiners "Breaking the Laws"		Shiners "Moonshiner's Apprentice" (N)		Moonshiners (N)		Homestead Rescue "Fury and Fire" (N)				(05) Homestead "Shock and Awe"															
30	NGEO	(49) Border Wars "Hidden Tunnel"		Locked Up Abroad "The Cocaine Trap"		Locked Up "Taking the High Road" (N)	Locked up "Indian Hash Bust" (N)	Locked up "Moms Behind Bars" (N)				Locked Up Abroad "Indian Hash Bust"															
31	TNT	(50) (5:30) *** Shooter (2007, Action) Michael Peña, Danny Glover, Mark Wahlberg.		*** Red (2010, Action) Mary-Louise Parker, John Malkovich, Bruce Willis.		Drop the Mic (N)	Joker's Wild (N)	Focus (2015, Comedy/Drama) Will Smith.				(35) *** Die Hard (1988, Action) Alan Rickman, Bruce Willis.															
32	AMC	(51) *** Rocky IV (1985, Drama) Talia Shire, Carl Weathers, Sylvester Stallone.		*** I, Robot (2004, Sci-Fi) Bridget Moynahan, Alan Tudyk, Will Smith.																							
33	USA	(52) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Transitions"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Lead"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Info Wars"		Suits "Stalking Horse" (N)				Law & Order: S.V.U. "Futility"															
34	FOOD	(53) Game "Flavortown Honors Firefighters"		Guy's Grocery Games "Rising Stars"		Guy's Grocery Games		Game "Ultimate Protein Battle" (N)				Guy's Game "Bigger Better Burgers"															
35	HGTV	(54) Buying & Selling "Million Dollar Listing"		Buying/Sell "Moving in With the Folks"		Property Bros. "Structural Opportunity"		Property Brothers (N)				Property Brothers															
36	FX	(56) (5:30) *** Jason Bourne (2016, Action) Julia Stiles, Alicia Vikander, Matt Damon.		*** The Equalizer (2014, Action) Chloë Grace Moretz, Marton Csokas, Denzel Washington.								The Purge: Anarchy (14) Frank Grillo.															
37	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360				CNN Tonight With Don Lemon															
38	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight				The Ingraham Angle															
39	CNBC	(61) Deal or No Deal "Cowboy Up" (N)		Deal or No Deal "Ice Cream Dreams"		Deal or No Deal "Small Town, Big Dreams"		Deal or No Deal "Cowboy Up"				Paid Program	Paid Program														
40	BRAV	(63) Wives NJ "Camels, Cabo and Catfights"		Housewives NJ "Heroes in Heels"		Wives NJ "Hotheads and Hookahs"		Housewives NJ "Reunion Part One" (N)				Watch What (N)	Housewives NJ 1/2														
41	TCM	(64) (5:00) The Private Life of Henry VIII		A Man for All Seasons (88) Vanessa Redgrave, John Gielgud, Charlton Heston.		(15) *** The High and the Mighty (1954, Adventure) Claire Trevor, Laraine Day, John Wayne.																					
42	SYFY	(65) (3:55) Blade (98)		*** Blade II (2002, Action) Kris Kristofferson, Norman Reedus, Wesley Snipes.		The Magicians (N)		Deadly Class "Stigmata Martyr" (N)				Futurama	Futurama														
43	RFD	(62) Dude Ranch		Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	Road to The American	Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Product Showcase															

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