



Evan Vucci/AP Photo

President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Italian President Sergio Mattarella in the Oval Office at the White House.

## Trump dismisses Syria concerns as House denounces troop withdrawal

By ROBERT BURNS  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Washing his hands of Syria, President Donald Trump declared Wednesday the U.S. has no stake in defending the Kurdish fighters who died by the thousands as America's partners against IS extremists. Hours later, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other top Democrats walked out of a meeting at the White House, accusing him of having a "meltdown," calling her a "third-rate politician" and having no plan to deal with a potentially revived Islamic State group.

Condemnation of Trump's stance on Turkey, Syria and the Kurds was quick and severe during the day, not only from Democrats but from Republicans who have been staunch supporters on virtually all issues.

The House, bitterly divided over the Trump impeachment inquiry, banded together for an overwhelming 354-60 denunciation of the U.S. troop withdrawal. Many lawmakers expressed worry that it may lead to revival of IS as well as Russian presence and influence in the area — in addition to the slaughter of many Kurds.

At the White House, Trump said the U.S. has no business in the region — and not to worry about the Kurdish fighters.

"They know how to fight," he said. "And by the way, they're no angels."

After the House condemnation vote, the congressional leaders of both parties went to the White house for a briefing, which grew contentious, with Trump and Pelosi trading jabs. The Democrats said they walked out when the meeting devolved into an infest-fest.

"What we witnessed on the part of the president was a meltdown," Pelosi told reporters, saying Trump appeared visibly "shaken up" over the House vote.

"We couldn't continue in the meeting because he was just not relating to the reality of it," she said.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer criticized Trump for not having an adequate plan to deal with IS fighters who have been held by the Kurds. He said the meeting "was not a dialogue, this was sort of a diatribe, a nasty diatribe not focused on the facts."

Republicans pushed back, saying it was Pelosi who'd been the problem.

"She storms out of another meeting, trying to make it unproductive," said House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy.

White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham called Pelosi's action "baffling but

not surprising." She said the speaker "had no intention of listening or contributing to an important meeting on national security issues."

Trump himself has stalked out of his White House meetings with congressional leaders — in May, saying he would no longer work with Democrats unless they dropped all Russia investigations, and last January during the partial government shutdown.

In public appearances Wednesday, Trump said he was fulfilling a campaign promise to bring U.S. troops home from "endless wars" in the Middle East — casting aside criticism that a sudden U.S. withdrawal from Syria betrays the Kurdish fighters, stains U.S. credibility around the world and opens an important region to Russia, which is moving in.

"We have a situation where Turkey is taking land from Syria. Syria's not happy about it. Let them work it out," Trump said.

"They have a problem at a border. It's not our border. We shouldn't be losing lives over it."

Trump said he was sending Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Ankara to urge the Turks to halt their weeklong offensive into northeastern Syria. But his remarks, first to reporters in the Oval Office and later at a news conference with his Italian counterpart, suggested he sees little at stake for America.

"Syria may have some help with Russia, and that's fine," he said. "They've got a lot of sand over there.

So, there's a lot of sand that they can play with."

"Let them fight their own wars."

More than once, Trump suggested the United States has little concern in the Middle East because it is geographically distant — a notion shared by some prior to Sept. 11, 2001, when al-Qaida militants used Afghanistan as a base from which to attack the U.S. That attack set off a series of armed conflicts, including in Iraq, that Trump considers a waste of American lives and treasure.

But Republicans, too, made their concerns clear.

The current withdrawal is the worst decision of Trump's presidency, said South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who meets often with the president and is one of his strongest and most important supporters in Congress.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said he strongly disagreed with Trump and had told the president so. But he asked, "What tools do we have" to back up that disagreement?

*'WE HAVE A SITUATION WHERE TURKEY IS TAKING LAND FROM SYRIA. SYRIA'S NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT. LET THEM WORK IT OUT. THEY HAVE A PROBLEM AT A BORDER. IT'S NOT OUR BORDER. WE SHOULDN'T BE LOSING LIVES OVER IT.'*

President Donald Trump

## OBITUARIES

### Shirley Jean Gulleff Longview, Washington May 12, 1930 — Oct. 13, 2019

Shirley Jean Gulleff was born on May 12, 1930, to Marva and Thomas Lynn in Elbridge Township, Michigan.

She married Robert I. Gulleff of Ludington, Michigan, on Sept. 28, 1948. They lived in Michigan, California, Idaho, Washington state and Oregon, and retired in the community of Westport, Oregon, until Robert's death in 2002.

Shirley worked as a resident adviser for Tongue Point Job Corps Center in the 1980s while living in Astoria, Oregon. She and Robert owned and operated the Astoria Sew Shoppe. Shirley worked as a cook for Head Start in Warrenton and Westport, Oregon, for many years until her retirement. She loved to travel and cook.

She moved to Longview, Washington, in 2002 after Robert's passing to be centrally located between her children. She lived at the Canterbury Inn, where she enjoyed playing bingo, Rummikub and cards, doing crafts, attending socials and going on shopping outings. Spending time with her children and

grandchildren is what brought her the most joy.

Shirley is preceded in death by her husband, Robert, and daughter, Betty Lynn Dodge.

She is survived by sons, Brian Gulleff, of Idaho, Bruce Gulleff, of Illinois, and Brad Gulleff, of Oregon; daughters, Barbara Reeves, of Washington, and Rebecca Tufts, of Washington; brother, Clarence Lynn, of Colorado; and sisters, Sharon Whitaker, Tina Guenthardt, Bonnie Gotwalt and Edith Smith, all of Michigan. Shirley has eight grandchildren; 14

great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Shirley will be inurned with the love of her life, Robert, at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

A family reunion-celebration of life was previously held with Shirley. There will be no other services.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Shirley's name to the American Kidney Fund at kidneyfund.org



Shirley Gulleff

## High court weighs state role in prosecuting immigrants

By MARK SHERMAN  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is trying to sort out whether states can prosecute immigrants who use fake Social Security numbers to get a job.

The justices heard arguments Wednesday in Kansas' appeal of a state court ruling that threw out three convictions after concluding the state was seeking to punish immigrants who used fake IDs to obtain jobs.

The Kansas Supreme Court ruled that the federal government has exclusive authority to determine whether an immigrant may work in the United States.

The justices seemed concerned that states shouldn't be hampered in other identity-theft prosecutions when someone might use a stolen Social Security number to get a driver's license or arrange for direct deposit of a paycheck.

The case arose from three prosecutions in Johnson County, a largely suburban area outside Kansas City where the district attorney has aggressively pursued immigrants under the Kansas identity theft and false-in-

formation statutes.

The convictions under state law could alter immigration status and lead to deportation.

The issue is whether Kansas is blocked from prosecuting those crimes because it is relying on information that is on a required federal work authorization form, the I-9. Kansas, backed by the Trump administration and 12 states, argues it can prosecute because the same information also appears on state work forms.

In 2012, the court ruled that portions of an Arizona law targeting immigrants without proper legal documents could not be enforced because federal law trumps state measures in the area of immigration. The three immigrants in the Kansas case say the high court's Arizona decision should determine the outcome in their situation.

Kansas' argument would render the Arizona decision meaningless, Justice Elena Kagan said in an exchange with Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt.

Schmidt disagreed. "We aren't targeting folks because of their status. We are enforcing our identity theft laws," he said.

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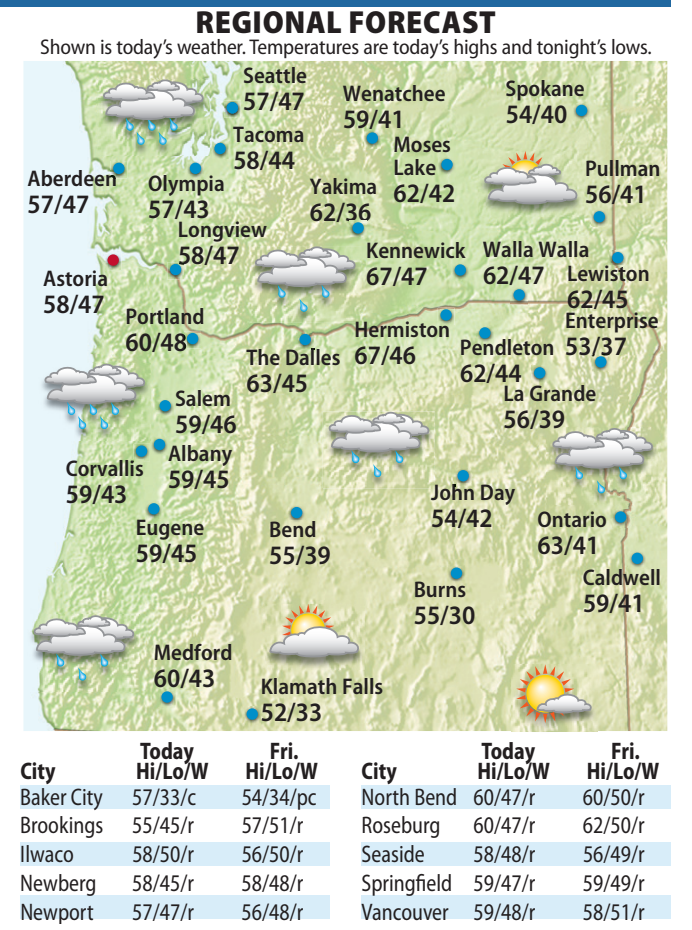
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### SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
58 / 47	57 / 47	57 / 46	57 / 50	60 / 48	60 / 44	57 / 40
Breezy with rain	Rain	Breezy with rain	Periods of rain	Rain	Rain	Showers possible

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### REGIONAL FORECAST



### ALMANAC

Astoria through Tuesday

**Temperatures**  
High/low ..... 59/42  
Normal high/low ..... 61/44  
Record high ..... 78 in 1954  
Record low ..... 32 in 1992

**Precipitation**  
Tuesday ..... 0.02"  
Month to date ..... 0.97"  
Normal month to date ..... 2.20"  
Year to date ..... 32.76"  
Normal year to date ..... 42.44"

Forecasts and graphics provided by  
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### UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight's Sky:** The Pleiades is a cluster of several hundred stars is low in the east-northeast.

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today ..... 7:35 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 6:26 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 8:50 p.m.  
Moonset today ..... 11:23 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Oct 21	Oct 27	Nov 4	Nov 12

### TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:15 a.m.	6.7	9:50 a.m.	2.2	
3:31 p.m.	8.1	10:34 p.m.	-0.2	
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>				
3:47 a.m.	6.4	9:02 a.m.	-2.3	
3:19 p.m.	7.5	9:48 p.m.	-0.5	
<b>Hammond</b>				
4:03 a.m.	6.9	9:24 a.m.	2.2	
3:27 p.m.	8.1	10:09 p.m.	-0.4	
<b>Warrenton</b>				
4:10 a.m.	7.1	9:34 a.m.	2.3	
3:26 p.m.	8.6	10:18 p.m.	-0.1	
<b>Knappa</b>				
4:52 a.m.	6.9	10:51 a.m.	1.9	
4:08 p.m.	8.4	11:35 p.m.	-0.1	
<b>Depoe Bay</b>				
3:02 a.m.	7.0	8:28 a.m.	2.8	
2:27 p.m.	8.3	9:18 p.m.	0.0	

### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	68/46/pc	72/53/pc
Boston	58/48/sh	60/46/pc
Chicago	55/38/pc	60/48/pc
Dallas	75/52/pc	79/66/s
Denver	80/46/pc	67/34/pc
Honolulu	87/76/pc	87/76/pc
Houston	73/58/pc	80/66/pc
Los Angeles	76/57/pc	79/58/pc
Miami	91/74/pc	90/78/t
New York City	59/50/c	60/46/s
Phoenix	94/66/s	87/63/s
San Francisco	69/52/s	67/54/s
Wash., DC	63/49/pc	65/46/s

(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.