



Andrew Harnik/AP Photo
Bill Christeson holds up a sign outside the U.S. Supreme Court on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

Court rejects immunity for Trump over financial records

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rejecting President Donald Trump’s complaints that he’s being harassed, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday in favor of a New York prosecutor’s demands for the billionaire president’s tax records. But in good political news for Trump, his taxes and other financial records almost certainly will be kept out of the public eye at least until after the November election.

In a separate case, the justices kept a hold on banking and other documents about Trump, family members and his businesses that Congress has been seeking for more than a year. The court said that while Congress has significant power to demand the president’s personal information, it is not limitless.

The court turned away the broadest arguments by Trump’s lawyers and the Justice Department that the president is immune from investigation while he holds office or that a prosecutor must show a greater need than normal to obtain the tax records. But it is unclear when a lower court judge might order the Manhattan district attorney’s subpoena to be enforced.

Trump is the only president in modern times who has refused to make his tax returns public, and before he was elected he promised to release them. He didn’t embrace Thursday’s outcome as a victory even though it is likely to prevent his opponents in Congress from obtaining potentially embarrassing personal and business records ahead of Election Day.

In fact, the increasing likelihood that a grand jury will eventually get to examine the documents drove the president into a public rage. He lashed out declaring that “It’s a pure witch hunt, it’s a hoax” and calling New York, where he has lived most of his life, “a hellhole.”

The documents have the potential to reveal details on everything from possible misdeeds to the true nature of the president’s vaunted wealth — not to mention uncomfortable disclosures about how he’s spent his money and how much he’s given to charity.

The rejection of Trump’s claims of presidential immunity marked the latest instance where his broad assertion of executive power has been rejected.

Trump’s two high court appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, joined the majority in both cases along with Chief Justice John Roberts and the four liberal justices. Roberts wrote both opinions.

“Congressional subpoenas for information from the President, however, implicate special concerns regarding the separation of powers. The courts below did not take adequate account of those concerns,” Roberts wrote in the congressional case.

But Roberts also wrote that Trump was asking for too much. “The standards proposed by the President and the Solicitor General—if applied outside the context of privileged information—would risk seriously impeding Congress in carrying out its respon-

sibilities,” the chief justice wrote.

The ruling returns the congressional case to lower courts, with no clear prospect for when it might ultimately be resolved.

Promising to keep pressing the case in the lower courts, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday’s decision “is not good news for President Trump.”

“The Court has reaffirmed the Congress’s authority to conduct oversight on behalf of the American people,” Pelosi said in a statement.

The tax returns case also is headed back to a lower court. Mazars USA, Trump’s accounting firm, holds the tax returns and has indicated it would comply with a court order. Because the grand jury process is confidential, Trump’s taxes normally would not be made public.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. said his investigation, on hold while the court fight played out, will now resume.

“This is a tremendous victory for our nation’s system of justice and its founding principle that no one — not even a president — is above the law,” Vance said.

Even with his broadest arguments rejected, Jay Sekulow, Trump’s personal lawyer, said he was pleased that the “Supreme Court has temporarily blocked both Congress and New York prosecutors from obtaining the President’s financial records. We will now proceed to raise additional Constitutional and legal issues in the lower courts.”

Justice Samuel Alito, who dissented with Justice Clarence Thomas in both cases, warned that future presidents would suffer because of the decision about Trump’s taxes.

“While the decision will of course have a direct effect on President Trump, what the Court holds today will also affect all future Presidents—which is to say, it will affect the Presidency, and that is a matter of great and lasting importance to the Nation,” Alito wrote.

The case was argued by telephone in May because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The fight over the congressional subpoenas has significant implications regarding a president’s power to refuse a formal request from Congress. In a separate fight at the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., over a congressional demand for the testimony of former White House counsel Don McGahn, the administration is making broad arguments that the president’s close advisers are “absolutely immune” from having to appear.

In two earlier cases over presidential power, the Supreme Court acted unanimously in requiring Richard Nixon to turn over White House tapes to the Watergate special prosecutor and in allowing a sexual harassment lawsuit against Bill Clinton to go forward.

In those cases, three Nixon appointees and two Clinton appointees voted against the president who chose them for the high court. A fourth Nixon appointee, William Rehnquist, sat out the tapes case because he had worked closely as a Justice Department official with some of the Watergate conspirators whose upcoming trial spurred the subpoena for the Oval Office recordings.

SPORTS

Lower Columbia wins three games in two days

The Astorian

The Lower Columbia Baseball Club returned to its home away from home field this week, and scored three wins in two days at Astoria’s Ernie Aiken Field.

Lower Columbia improved to 13-2 overall for the summer season, with a 16-4 victory over Hockinson Wednesday, followed by an 8-5, 3-2 sweep against Aloha late Thursday night.

Comprised of players from schools in the lower Columbia region, the team opened the three-game home stand Wednesday by building an early lead on Hockinson, and holding the visitors scoreless in six of the seven innings. Pitchers Devin Jackson, Kaleb Edwards and Tanner Davis allowed just six hits and six walks with nine strikeouts.

Lower Columbia held a 7-0 lead through just two innings, while Jackson started and gave up just one hit to Hockinson, which also committed four errors over the first two frames.

Jackson allowed two hits and three walks with three strikeouts through three innings, before Hockinson was able to rally with four runs in the fourth.

Lower Columbia countered with seven runs in the bottom of the fourth to pull away. They finished with 12 hits, which included a double by Jackson and a triple from Luke Brown (Wahkiakum). Warrenton’s Jake Morrow and Astoria’s Dylan Rush were two of Lower Columbia’s six players who scored two or more runs.

In Game 1 of Thursday’s doubleheader against Aloha, Lower Columbia rallied from a 4-0 deficit by scoring four runs in the bottom of the fourth, when Warrenton’s Austin

Little and Naselle’s Ethan Lindstrom both reached on errors.

Tanner Davis of Kelso followed with a single to score both runners. Davis and Kelso teammate Rees Hall both came in on sacrifice flies to tie the game.

Aloha regained a 5-4 lead with a run in the top of the fifth, but Little and Lindstrom countered with back-to-back doubles in the bottom of the fifth to tie it 5-5.

Lower Columbia took the lead for good in the sixth, as Hall had a leadoff double against Aloha pitcher James Baglai. Reed Elo walked, and both scored on Brown’s one-out triple to left field.

Mitchell Bergquist (R.A. Long) followed with a double to bring in Brown for an 8-5 advantage.

Rush came on in relief and retired Aloha in order in the top of the seventh to secure the win.

Bergquist had three of the 10 hits for Lower Columbia, which had four doubles and a triple. Three Lower Columbia pitchers (Dawson Evenson, Kevin Barnett, Rush) gave up five hits and seven walks, with eight strikeouts.

Lower Columbia led from start to finish in the nightcap.

Brown led off the top of the first with a double and scored on a grounder by Morrow, and Lower Columbia built an eventual 3-0 lead through two innings.

Aloha cut the lead to 3-2 in the fifth, but failed to threaten in the sixth and seventh.

Lindstrom started on the mound and pitched six innings, allowing six hits and three walks with five strikeouts. Barnett worked the seventh and picked up the save.

Lower Columbia will play a doubleheader Sunday in Centralia, Washington.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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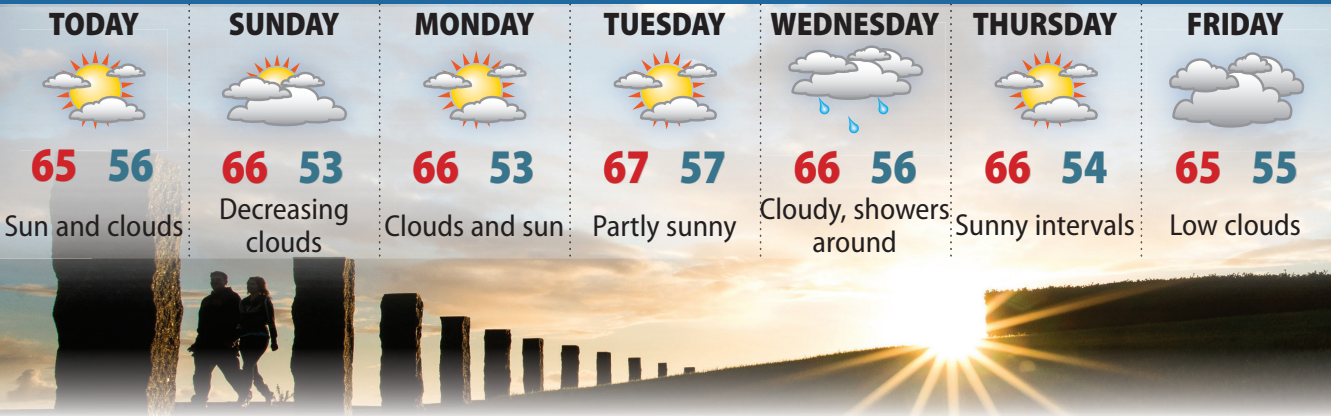
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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low 68/53
Normal high/low 67/53
Record high 91 in 1926
Record low 41 in 1938

Precipitation

Thursday Trace
Month to date 0.30"
Normal month to date 0.40"
Year to date 38.29"
Normal year to date 36.56"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: Delphinus, the dolphin, is in the east at nightfall and glides high overhead during the night.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:36 a.m.
Sunset tonight 9:06 p.m.
Moonrise today 12:28 a.m.
Moonset today 12:20 p.m.



TODAY’S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
5:53 a.m.	6.2	12:20 a.m.	2.4	
7:02 p.m.	6.8	12:23 p.m.	0.7	
Cape Disappointment	5:25 a.m.	6.1	11:48 a.m.	0.8
6:43 p.m.	6.7	none		
Hammond	5:39 a.m.	6.5	11:59 a.m.	0.8
6:48 p.m.	7.0	none		
Warrenton	5:48 a.m.	6.6	12:04 a.m.	2.5
6:57 p.m.	7.2	12:07 p.m.	0.8	
Knappa	6:30 a.m.	6.5	1:21 a.m.	2.1
7:39 p.m.	7.1	1:24 p.m.	0.6	
Depoe Bay	4:41 a.m.	6.2	11:13 a.m.	0.7
6:01 p.m.	6.9	none		

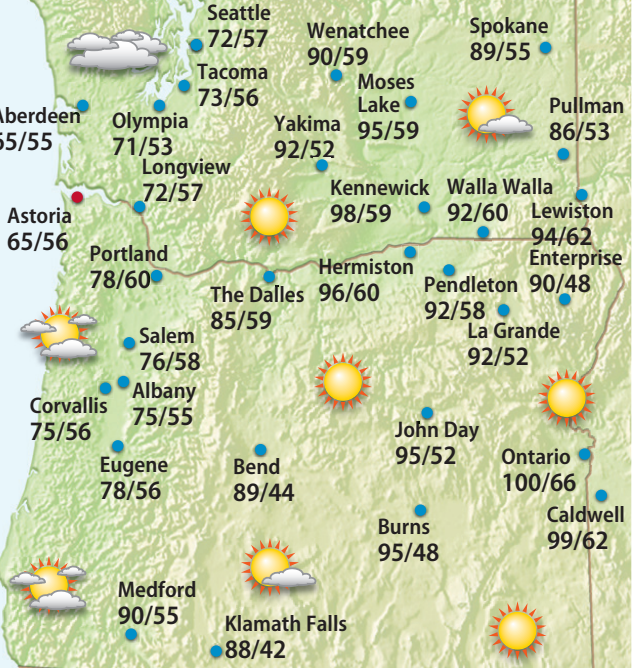
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	92/73/s	93/72/s
Boston	83/72/t	87/71/pc
Chicago	88/68/s	80/64/pc
Dallas	103/81/s	101/82/pc
Denver	92/64/s	97/64/pc
Honolulu	87/75/pc	87/74/sh
Houston	99/81/s	101/82/pc
Los Angeles	92/69/s	93/69/s
Miami	92/79/pc	93/80/t
New York City	88/75/t	90/75/t
Phoenix	115/92/s	116/91/s
San Francisco	71/52/s	74/55/s
Wash., DC	93/75/pc	94/74/s

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	98/50/s	78/44/pc	North Bend	68/57/pc	69/51/pc
Brookings	65/51/pc	71/55/s	Roseburg	80/57/s	83/56/pc
Ilwaco	64/57/pc	65/55/c	Seaside	66/56/pc	67/52/pc
Newberg	76/57/s	76/51/pc	Springfield	78/55/s	80/50/pc
Newport	62/53/pc	63/46/pc	Vancouver	76/59/pc	74/53/pc