

World News Roundup



A man in a wheelchair makes his way down Bourbon Street in the French Quarter on July 13, in New Orleans, as Tropical Storm Barry nears landfall. (AP)

America

**Labor secretary exits:** Adding to the lengthy list of departures from President Donald Trump's Cabinet, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta said Friday he's stepping down amid the tumult over his handling of a 2008 secret plea deal with wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein, who is accused of sexually abusing underage girls.

Trump, with Acosta at his side, said Friday he did not ask his secretary to leave and "I hate to see this happen." The president, who publicly faults the news media almost daily, said Acosta put the blame there, too.

Acosta "informed me this morning that he felt the constant drumbeat of press about a prosecution which took place under his watch more than 12 years ago was bad for the Administration, which he so strongly believes in, and he graciously tendered his resignation," Trump tweeted later in the day.

Trump said Patrick Pizzella, deputy secretary since April 2018, would succeed Acosta on an acting basis.

Pizzella served in the administrations of Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama. A coalition of civil rights, human rights, labor and other groups opposed his nomination by Trump to the department's No. 2 slot, citing Pizzella's record on labor rights. (AP)

Hawaii gov declares emergency:

Hawaii's governor on Friday declared an emergency on the island of Maui, where firefighters were battling a blaze that forced the evacuations of thousands of people and sent huge clouds of smoke billowing over nearby beaches.



Acosta

Ige

Although most of the evacuees were later allowed to return home, the blaze more than tripled in size to spread over about 9,000 acres (3,642 hectares), scorching mostly former sugarcane fields and brush.

"I am declaring our Valley Isle a disaster area for the purpose of implementing the emergency management functions as allowed by law," Governor David Ige said in a statement. (RTRS)

**Storm Barry strengthens:** Heavy rains and gusty winds knocked out power on the Gulf Coast on Saturday as a strengthening Tropical Storm Barry churned a path to shore, threatening millions and testing flood-prevention efforts implemented after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans 14 years ago.

Officials predicted Barry would make landfall as this year's first hurricane in the morning near Morgan City, west of New Orleans. The long day started after an overnight curfew with on and off rain and power outages. People used cellphones to see in the dark, and opened doors and windows to let the warm, sticky tropical air circulate. (AP)

Immigration

'Family operation'

Nationwide arrests to kick-off Sunday

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP) — The head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement said efforts to deport families with orders to leave the country will continue after an upcoming national sweep that President Donald Trump said would start Sunday.

Matthew Albence, the agency's acting director, said targets were on an "accelerated docket" of immigration court cases for predominantly Central Americans who recently arrived at the US border in unprecedented numbers. Similar operations occurred in 2016 under president Barack Obama and in 2017 under Trump.

"This family operation is nothing new," Albence told The Associated Press. "It's part of our day-to-day operations. We're trying to surge some additional resources to deal with this glut of cases that came out of the accelerated docket, but after this operation is over, these cases are still going to be viable cases that we'll be out there investigating and pursuing."

The operation will target people with final deportation orders on 10 major court dockets, including Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Miami. Albence said that doesn't mean arrests will be limited to certain areas. Authorities will go where their investigations lead, even if it's five states away from where the case is filed.

Trump said authorities were "focused on criminals as much as we can before we do anything else."

"It starts on Sunday and they're going to take people out and they're going to bring them back to their countries or they're going to take criminals out, put them in prison, or put them in prison in the countries they came from."

The operation further inflamed the political debate over immigration as Trump appeals to his base with a pledge to crack down on migrants and Democrats cast the president and his administration as inhumane for going after families.

The Obama-era family operation in 2016 resulted in about 10% of those targeted being arrested, and the 2017 effort had a lower arrest rate, Albence said. Other operations that have targeted people with criminal arrest records have yielded arrest rates of about 30%, aided by access to law enforcement databases.

"If you have an individual that's been arrested for a criminal violation, you're going to have much more of an investigative footprint," Albence said.

Targeting

Administration officials have said they are targeting about 2,000 people, which would yield about 200 arrests based on previous crackdowns. Trump has said on Twitter that his agents plan to arrest millions of immigrants in the country illegally.

It is highly unusual to announce an enforcement sting before it begins. The president postponed the effort once before after a phone call with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, but immigration officials said it was also due in part to law enforcement concerns over officer safety because details had leaked.

But they're pressing ahead with this one, even though the president and other administration officials have discussed the long-planned family operation for months.

"Nothing to be secret about," Trump said. "If the word gets out, it gets out because hundreds of people know about it."

The operation will target entire families that have been ordered removed, but some family may be separated if some members are in the country legally. Albence gave a hypothetical example of a father and child in the US illegally but a mother who isn't.

"If the mother wants to return voluntarily on her own with the family, she'll have an opportunity to do so," he said.

Families may be temporarily housed in hotels until they can be transferred to a detention center or deported. Marriott said it would not allow ICE to use its hotels for holding immigrants.

If ICE runs out of space, it may be forced to separate some family members, Albence said. The government has limited space in its family detention centers in Texas and Pennsylvania.

"If hotels or other places do not want to allow us to utilize that, it's almost forcing us into a situation where we're going to have to take one of the parents and put them in custody and separate them from the rest of their families," he said.

Meanwhile, activists ramped up efforts to prepare by circulating information about hotlines and planning public demonstrations. Vigils outside of detention centers and hundreds of other locations nationwide were set for Friday evening, to be followed by protests Saturday in Miami and Chicago.



Albence

All-new Palisade is a Bold Addition to Hyundai's Winning SUV Range



Hyundai will make a bold addition to its line-up of popular SUV models with the introduction of the all-new Palisade to Middle East and Africa markets. Longer, wider and taller than the ever-popular Santa Fe, the new mid-size Palisade rides on an all-new SUV chassis with exceptional second- and third-row roominess. It offers eight seats, along with a generous cargo area and reconfiguration flexibility.

All of this is offered as part of a superbly stylish package. The new model features exterior design and an interior finish worthy of a premium SUV, with new levels of all-road, all-weather capability, technology, safety, roominess and efficiency.

"The all-new Hyundai Palisade is the ultimate family vehicle – stylish and practical, with engineering that shows attention to the comfort and safety of every occupant," said Mike Song, Hyundai's Head of Operations for the Middle East and Africa. "It is an important addition to our range of class-leading SUVs, one step up in vehicle size compared with our existing models, offering consumers a very competitive new choice in a key segment across much of our region."

Palisade's styling conveys dignity with an understated elegance worthy of a premium SUV. From the front, a dominant cascading grille is framed by composite headlamps and a vertically connected lighting signature. A powerful, extended hood profile creates an impressive road presence, complemented by bold C-pillars and a panoramic glass side to convey spaciousness. Full volume over-fenders and body sides offer muscular detailing, and the rear emphasizes a wide and stable stance.

The interior combines a sense of relaxation and comfort, creating a serene environment for family adventures, and a spacious, comfortable ambience. Emphasis is placed on features that will be highly valued by large families, including power third-row seats that fold and unfold at the touch of a button, seven USB outlets with connections for every seating row, and 16 cup holders. The audio system includes a Driver Talk intercom function, so the driver can speak

quietly to passengers in the rear rows, and a Rear Sleep Mode that switches off the rear speakers while driver and front passenger can continue listening to the audio. For cool AC, Palisade also features an industry-first, innovative new roof vent diffuser design that offers a high degree of flexibility in directing air from the climate control to the rear passengers.

The audio and navigation display is a generous 10.25 inch touchscreen in widescreen format, coupled with a 12.3-inch fully digital TFT center instrument cluster. Two Bluetooth® devices can be connected simultaneously, infotainment systems integrate with Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay™, and there is a wireless charging pad for compatible devices.

Other innovations include a shift-by-wire push-button control to replace a traditional gear-stick, freeing up space on the center console. An available Head-Up Display (HUD) projects a virtual image onto the windshield, putting essential driving information – such as speed and navigation – in the driver's line of sight without looking away from the road.

"Hyundai continues to deploy technology to improve the driver and passenger experience," said Mike Song. "Palisade features a range of innovations that will

make driving more relaxing and less stressful, and ensure that every passenger will have a pleasant and enjoyable journey."

Occupant protection is enhanced by Palisade's very rigid structure, including underbody and side structures designed to better disperse energy in the event of a collision. Palisade has seven standard airbags: dual front, dual side, driver's knee, and roll-over-sensing side curtain airbags. In addition, a number of advanced safety technologies are fitted, including driver-assistance features as part of Hyundai SmartSense. Features available with SmartSense include:

- Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist with Pedestrian Detection
- Blind Spot Collision-Avoidance Assist
- Blind-Spot View Monitor
- Lane-Following Assist
- Rear Cross-Traffic Collision-Avoidance Assist
- Safe Exit Assist
- Rear Occupant Alert
- High Beam Assist
- Driver Attention Warning
- Smart Cruise Control with Stop-and-Go.

Palisade will be built with three different engines. The most powerful is an Atkinson-cycle 3.8-liter petrol V6, dual CVT, direct-injected engine, delivering 295 PS. It is also offered with 3.5-liter MPI V6 delivering 277 PS, and 2.2-liter diesel with 200 PS.

All models deliver power to the wheels via an eight-speed automatic transmission with a multi-plate torque converter, and Palisade offers both two-wheel drive and HTRAC® four-wheel drive configurations. Driver-selected modes instantly customize the power distribution for a range of driving styles and conditions, and there are off-road settings for Sand, Mud and Snow, as well as Downhill Brake Control for steep descents. The All-new Hyundai Palisade will be available in showrooms this summer.

