



## INTERNATIONAL

### **Pompeo's Cairo Speech Is Met With Skepticism About Trump Policies**

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's speech at the American University in Cairo struck out at the Obama administration's policies in the Middle East. "In falsely seeing ourselves as a force for what ails the Middle East, we were timid about asserting ourselves when the times – and our partners – demanded it," Pompeo said. His harsh comments on the past administration prompted critiques of the Trump administration's strategy for the region. Among the critics was Gerald Feierstein, U.S. Ambassador to Yemen during the Obama administration. "Two years into the Trump administration, people are less interested in what they think was wrong about a speech Barack Obama made in Cairo 10 years ago and more interested in what the Trump administration is doing," Feierstein told NPR. "And on that score what they would have heard in the speech today is a lot of empty rhetoric." Pompeo asserted that President Trump had "unleashed the fury of the U.S. military not once, but twice" after Bashar Assad used chemical weapons on his people. "And he is willing to do it again." He contrasted that to Obama's decision not to make a military response after Assad used chemical weapons – even though Obama had threatened that such an action would cross a red line and would be punished. Obama said Congress should authorize any military intervention, and that didn't happen. "We condemned (Assad's) actions," Pompeo said Thursday. "But in our hesitation to wield power, we did nothing." Pompeo said the previous administration "grossly underestimated the tenacity and the viciousness of radical Islamism," which he said allowed ISIS to grow in Syria and Iraq. But Pompeo used the speech to try to counter criticism that the U.S. decision to withdraw its 2,200 troops from Syria could lead to an ISIS resurgence. "This isn't a change of mission," Pompeo said. Instead, he said, the U.S. will use diplomacy and work with allies to finish dismantling ISIS and "to expel every last Iranian boot" from Syria. That remark caught Feierstein by surprise. "He said we're going to continue to push back against Assad and that we're ready to re-engage if Assad uses chemical weapons, but clearly the administration's position now seems to be to give Assad a clear path to victory," Feierstein said. "What he's saying is ... good enough, but it doesn't seem to comport with what we're seeing on the ground."

### **Ford Cutting Jobs In Europe, Moving Away From Less Profitable Vehicles**

Ford Motor Co. is cutting jobs in Europe and backing away from less profitable models as part of a major restructuring effort, the company announced Thursday. It's the latest sign of big changes in a global auto industry. The company will stop production at a plant in Bordeaux, France, which makes automatic transmissions. Ford is also in talks with worker groups over the possibility of eliminating the production of two small minivan models currently manufactured in Germany. "The plan will result in fewer jobs — both hourly and salaried — but it is premature to speculate on how many as we have just begun discussions with our Works Council and union partners," a company spokeswoman said in a statement. The automaker employs approximately 54,000 people in Europe.



## Human Trafficking Reaches 'Horrorific' New Heights, Declares U.N. Report

Human trafficking has taken on "horrorific" dimensions, according to the 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons released this month by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The report, which looked at data from 142 countries between 2014 and 2016, points to two particularly disturbing trends, says Angela Me, chief of the research and trend team at UNODC. The first is the increasing number of girls forced into trafficking, most frequently for sexual exploitation. The other is the growing prevalence of trafficking as a tool of war. Nearly 25,000 cases of human trafficking were reported to UNODC in 2016, up from approximately 20,000 in 2014 and 17,000 in 2013. Me cautions that the increases reported by UNODC may reflect more trafficking, or, alternatively, greater reporting by authorities, or perhaps a combination of both. There are a number of other notable findings from the report. Sexual exploitation remains the most common form of human trafficking, at 59 percent of all victims, says Me. But there are many other types of exploitation. Forced labor is the second most prevalent form of trafficking, at 34 percent overall and 82 percent for men, with the greatest prevalence in southern, east and west Africa, and the countries of the Middle East. Types of forced labor run the gamut from agricultural to domestic work — as well as mining, including for gold, diamonds and minerals, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

## NATIONAL

### Nobody Is Moving Our Cheese: American Surplus Reaches Record High

While Americans consumed nearly 37 pounds per capita in 2017, it was not enough to reduce the country's 1.4 billion-pound cheese surplus, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The glut, which at 900,000 cubic yards is the largest in U.S. history, means that there is enough cheese sitting in cold storage to wrap around the U.S. Capitol. The stockpile started to build several years ago, in large part because the pace of milk production began to exceed the rates of consumption, says Andrew Novakovic, professor of agricultural economics at Cornell University. Over the past 10 years, milk production has increased by 13 percent because of high prices. But what dairy farmers failed to realize was that Americans are drinking less milk. According to data from the USDA, Americans drank just 149 pounds of milk per capita in 2017, down from 247 pounds in 1975. Suppliers turn that extra milk into cheese because it is less perishable and stays fresh for longer periods. But Americans are turning their noses up at those processed cheese slices and string cheese — varieties that are a main driver of the U.S. cheese market — in favor of more refined options, Novakovic says. Despite this shift, sales of mozzarella cheese, the single largest type of cheese produced and consumed in the U.S., remain strong, he says. "What has changed — and changed fairly noticeably and fairly recently — is people are turning away from processed cheese," Novakovic says. "It's also the case that we're seeing increased sales of kind of more exotic, specialty, European-style cheeses. Some of those are made in the U.S. A lot of them aren't."



## **Shutdown's economic damage: \$1 billion a week**

The roughly 800,000 government employees who were either furloughed or working without pay during the government shutdown have slashed consumer spending. Private-sector contractors and other workers tied to the government saw damage from lost business. Fitch Ratings warned about downgrading the government's credit rating if the shutdown persists. Estimates from President Donald Trump's chief economist peg the cost to the overall U.S. economy at about \$1.2 billion per week of the shutdown. That could be among the factors complicating the administration's aspiration of reaching sustained 3 percent growth. The shutdown already cost the U.S. government more than a billion dollars in lost productivity for 350,000 workers forced to stay home. The government will likely give back pay to furloughed workers in addition to those forced to perform their duties without pay during the partial shutdown. The Obama administration estimated that the payroll cost alone for the 16-day government shutdown in October 2013 cost \$2.5 billion, not counting lost revenue from government entities like national parks that were unable to collect fees. "We're going to be paying people for half a month of work they didn't do," said Tyler Evilsizer, research manager at the bipartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. The shutdown comes at a time when the U.S. economic outlook was already highly uncertain. Global growth is slowing, trade tensions are simmering, the effects of the Fed's steady interest rate hikes are starting to take hold, and the manufacturing and housing sectors are showing some signs of weakness.

## **Regulators To Ease Restrictions On Drones, Clearing The Way For More Commercial Uses**

Package delivery by drone is one small step closer to reality today. Federal regulators announced plans Monday to change rules to allow drone operators to fly their unmanned aerial vehicles over populated areas and at night, without having to get special permits. Many drone operators and enthusiasts complain that federal regulations haven't kept pace with the technology, arguing that prohibitions on flying drones over people and at night are out of date. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao agrees and announced that the government is, at long last, ready to lift those bans as long as operators are properly trained and the drones are equipped with anti-collision lighting. "This will help communities reap the considerable economic benefits of this growing industry and help our country remain a global technology leader," said Chao in a speech at a major transportation conference in Washington, D.C., Monday. The changes could allow for drones to be used to survey construction sites and to deliver critical medical supplies to first responders, among other uses. The use of drones by both hobbyists and for commercial purposes has been, well, soaring over the last couple of years. Chao says that by mid-December, the FAA had registered nearly 1.3 million drones nationwide and had registered more than 116,000 drone operators. Alphabet, Inc., the parent company of Google, and Amazon.com, Inc., are two of a growing number of companies working to develop prototypes and related infrastructure in hopes of making package delivery by drone a reality.



## STATE

### **Milwaukee County Looks To Grow, Process Industrial Hemp At The Domes**

Milwaukee County is considering growing and processing industrial hemp at the Mitchell Park Domes. Doing so could generate money for the Domes' aging infrastructure and the Milwaukee County park system. It would also put the County in the same category as a growing number of entities and businesses looking to explore the business of industrial hemp, which is now legal after decades of restrictions. In November 2017, the state legalized growing and processing of industrial hemp through the Industrial Hemp Pilot Research Program. The 2018 Farm Bill signed by President Donald Trump earlier this month also legalized industrial hemp at the federal level. In Wisconsin, separate licenses are necessary to grow and process industrial hemp. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection is accepting license applications for the 2019 program through the end of the year. Milwaukee County Supervisor Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, who sponsored the resolution to apply for the state licenses, said there are many options to make hemp a lucrative business. Those options include education, seed certification or research for the federal government, Ortiz-Velez said. "We're looking at all of our different options," she said. "When we come back with our feasibility and profitability reports, we expect that the parks department will come to the county board with what our viable options are. And I hope my colleagues will do what is right for Milwaukee County." Separately, Milwaukee County Parks has issued their own proposal for producing industrial hemp, hemp seeds and cannabinoid oil at the Domes. If the county were to move forward with the proposal, it would be done at the 60,000-square-foot greenhouse facility adjacent to the three domes. Growing and processing industrial hemp is one of the options the county is looking at to raise money for the parks department and the Domes. According to the county, the aging Domes are in poor condition with approximately \$30 million in deferred maintenance.

### **For Women In Rural Wisconsin, Access To Maternity Care Is Often A Long Drive Away**

When Beth Miller went into labor with her second child in February, she thought she was going to have him in her car. "No one tells you how much quicker your second baby comes," she said. "The contractions came on strong in the night, and my husband and I looked at each other like, 'We gotta go.'" Miller lives in Trego, a town of about 900 people, that's 45 minutes north of the closest hospital that delivers babies. Her son, Eli, was born 10 minutes after Miller and her husband arrived at the hospital in Barron. "It was terrifying ... I thought at multiple points that I was going to deliver my baby in my car," she said. She almost had to travel farther. If Miller had gone into labor five hours later than she did, she likely would've been sent to a hospital in Eau Claire, instead of having Melissa Weise, her midwife throughout her pregnancy, deliver her son in Barron because of a staffing shortage. Weise is the Mayo Clinic's only certified nurse midwife in Barron, and she works alongside family practitioners with training in obstetrics and OB-GYNs who rotate from outlying hospitals to help fill gaps in coverage.



## **Pepper Spray, Solitary Confinement Continue At Wisconsin Youth Prisons**

Pepper spray and solitary confinement continue to be used at Wisconsin's youth prisons, according to a new report released Monday. The report was filed as part of a class action lawsuit brought in 2017 by the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin and the Juvenile Law Center. The organizations represent a number of individuals who alleged poor living conditions and inmate abuse at the Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake youth prisons in Irma. Written by a court-appointed monitor, the report states guards at the facilities continue to use pepper spray to subdue inmates "in instances where lesser means could have been used," as well as place some inmates in solitary confinement for longer than seven days. Karen Lindell, senior attorney at the Juvenile Law Center, said the report shows some of the issues that caused her organization to bring the lawsuit still exist. "There are still grave concerns," Lindell said. "This just emphasizes to us that the state of Wisconsin has to move these kids out (of the facilities)." According to the report, staffing shortages continue to plague the facilities, creating "dangerous" conditions, in some cases. In interviews with the monitor, inmates said they have been forced to urinate and defecate in garbage cans in their rooms, due to delayed staff responses to call lights. "Some youths believe that staff purposely delay their response," the report states. It also outlines the facilities' failure to make rooms "suicide resistant," as many are dirty and contain items like large blankets and sheets, that could conceal contraband or dangerous items. Last year, the state paid nearly \$19 million to a former inmate who tried to kill herself in her cell in 2015, resulting in permanent brain injuries.

## **Wisconsin Burned More Coal In 2017 Than 2016**

New federal data shows Wisconsin used about 7% more coal in 2017 than 2016 and that the fossil fuel provided more than half of the state's energy that year. But change is already underway. Since the most recent data period, three coal-powered plants in Pleasant Prairie, Sheboygan and Green Bay have shut down. Greg Nemet, a professor of public affairs and environmental studies at the UW-Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs, estimates the first two plants burned about 10 to 15 percent of the state's coal. "Ten years ago, or even five years ago, it would have been – I would say – shocking to people that we would close down coal plants that still have many years of lifetime left in them and close them down prematurely because they're no longer economically competitive," said Nemet. "The economics no longer favor coal. The environment doesn't do very well with coal, and if we care about clean air and clean water, we have other alternatives." Utility companies in Wisconsin have turned toward natural gas. Although a fossil fuel, natural gas burns cleaner than coal, which Nemet said makes it a potentially valuable energy source while the state transitions more fully to renewable sources, such as wind and solar. Wisconsin's coal consumption has decreased by 28% since its peak in 2005, and overall emissions have dropped by a fifth, according to the federal data. Nemet said although any increase in coal consumption, such as from 2016 to 2017, is undesirable, the past decade seems more promising. "In the long term, if we're talking about shifting to a more sustainable energy



system with more renewables — but especially with less air pollution and less CO2 emissions — the trend since 2005 is in the right direction," said Nemet.

## SPORTS

### Matt LaFleur Named Head Coach Of Green Bay Packers

Matt LaFleur has been named head coach of the Green Bay Packers, the team announced Tuesday night, confirming multiple reports from a day earlier. The 39-year-old LaFleur spent this season as offensive coordinator of the Tennessee Titans, his first calling plays in the NFL. Before that, he was offensive coordinator for the Los Angeles Rams in 2017, helping direct a high-powered offense with coach Sean McVay calling plays. LaFleur said he wants to develop a good relationship with quarterback Aaron Rodgers and said he feels becoming the head coach of the Packers is "surreal." "There is just so much tradition here and I can not think of a greater place to be a head coach in ths league and, really, in all of sports. This is a dream come true for me," he said. While LaFleur has visited Green Bay before as coach for opposing teams, he said the Packers' home made an impression on him. "There is no place, in my opinion, in all of sports like game day at Lambeau Field, and the love and support the fans have here is just incredible," he said. LaFleur takes over for Mike McCarthy, who was fired during the season following a stunning home loss to Arizona on Dec. 2. Joe Philbin went 2-2 as Green Bay's interim coach. LaFleur will be charged with returning the Packers to the playoffs after the team slipped into mediocrity in McCarthy's final two seasons and the coach's relationship with quarterback Aaron Rodgers grew tenuous. "We are very excited to welcome Matt as the next head coach of the Green Bay Packers," team president Mark Murphy said in a statement. "We found a coach with the background and experience that we think will get us back to playing winning football. We're also excited about the person — he is bright with a great work ethic and a perfect fit for Green Bay and the organization."

### High School Boys Basketball

Prairie Du Chien 46, Stoughton 32  
Lake Mills 54, Sauk Prairie 43  
Verona 48, Janesville Parker 37  
North Scott (Iowa) 48, Wisconsin Dells 23  
Sun Prairie 44, Madison Memorial 29  
Madison La Follette 82, Madison West 52  
Madison East 64, Middleton 47  
Kimberly 71, Beaver Dam 67

### High School Girls Basketball

Oregon 74, Portage 49  
Monroe 81, Reedsburg 70  
Milton 68, Mount Horeb 48  
Platteville 44, Wisconsin Dells 33  
Watertown 63, Waunakee 51  
Beaver Dam 79, Stoughton 42



## WEATHER

- **Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 16. Northwest wind around 6 mph.
- **Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 34. Northwest wind 5 to 7 mph.
- **Tuesday Night:** Clear, with a low around 25. West wind around 6 mph.
- **Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 40. West wind 8 to 13 mph.
- **Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 19. Northwest wind 9 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.
- **Thursday:** A slight chance of snow after 3pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 28. Northwest wind 5 to 8 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
- **Thursday Night:** Snow likely, mainly after 3am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. Southeast wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.
- **Friday:** Rain and snow likely before 11am, then a chance of rain between 11am and 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 41. Southeast wind 6 to 8 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 60%.
- **Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. Northwest wind around 8 mph.

## COMMERCIALS

Excessive speed and careless operation are leading causes of snowmobile crashes. While a burst of speed can be thrilling, don't put yourself in danger. Keep your speed reasonable and stay in control at all times and be ready to react. At night, slow down even more to avoid over driving your headlight. Always keep right and anticipate oncoming traffic. It's simple. Slow down and come back alive. Brought to you by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations and the Federal Highway Administration. Visit [snowmobile.info](http://snowmobile.info)

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