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August 18th, 201



A divided nation

Political violence 'didn't come out of nowhere' > 19



STATE: State investigating farm after guest worker dies > 18



STATE: New Washington distracted driving law takes effect > 16



SPORTS: Martinez 'grateful' as Mariners retire number 11 > 14

NATIONAL

Political violence 'didn't come out of nowhere'

(AP)

The videos that rolled across the television screen were startling: Americans beating each other with clubs and sticks on the streets of a quiet college town. White supremacists with torches; anti-fascists pushing back. An improvised flame thrower fashioned from an aerosol can. Bottles of frozen water hurled like bricks at one another's skulls.

Kevin Boyle, an American history professor at Northwestern University, watched it unfold, the feeling in his gut both horror and a sense that the racial tension bubbling for years had finally, almost inevitably, begun boiling over.

"Given our political moment, I'm not surprised that we've come to this point," he said. "I'm terribly depressed we've come to this point but I'm not surprised. It didn't come out of nowhere."

Historians and political scientists have been warning that American politics had become a pressure cooker, full of racial tension building once again to the point of a deadly clash, like the one in Charlottesville,



White nationalist demonstrators clash with counter demonstrators at the entrance to Lee Park in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Saturday, August 12, 2017.

Virginia, on Saturday that claimed three lives.

White supremacy has always lurked in America's shadow, said Boyle, whose teaching focuses on the history of racial violence and civil rights. Then, he believes, President Donald Trump was elected and emboldened their hate.

"Donald Trump gave them permission to come out into the real world," he said. "As long as they were existing in this kind of

sad little shadow world where they were just talking to each other, it was disturbing, but it's not as profoundly dangerous as when they feel they can take the public square."

Saturday's chaos erupted around what is believed to be the largest group of white nationalists to come together in a decade — more than 1,000 neo-Nazis, skinheads and Ku Klux Klan members who descended on the city of Charlottesville to "take America back" by rallying against plans to remove a Confederate statue. Hundreds came to protest against the racism. The two sides engaged in bloody brawls on the street.

The day turned deadly when a car plowed into a crowd of peaceful anti-racism protesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer. A Virginia State Police helicopter deployed in a large-scale response to the violence then crashed into the woods outside of town and both troopers on board died.

The violence had been building for months during a series of confrontations between members of the "alt-right" — a loose collection of white nationalists, racists and anti-immigration populists — and people who oppose them. It began the very day Trump put his hand on a Bible and took the oath of office. Skirmishes broke out at his inauguration between his supporters, some of them white nationalists, and those against him. More than 200 were arrested.

It was on that day that Richard Spencer, among the nation's foremost white nationalists, realized that something had fundamentally shifted in American political discourse. He was giving a media interview when someone ran toward him and punched him in the head on video.

"We're in a totally new world," he remembers thinking. "Political violence is a real thing."

Both sides agree on the general narrative of how the widening racial and ideological divide took root: Some white Americans began feeling left behind by progress. The decline of the white working class coincided with drastic cultural changes, like quickly diversifying demographics and the election of the nation's first black president.

"With the election of Barack Obama, there was so much talk about being this post-racial moment, and on some levels it was extraordinary," said Steven Hahn, a history professor at New York University. "But it didn't take long for the really vicious racism to surface. It turned out to be an instigator of an enormous amount of rage, and I think Trump both fanned it and inherited it."

Table of Contents

- 19 NATIONAL:** Political violence 'didn't come out of nowhere'
- 18 STATE:** State investigating blueberry farm after guest worker dies
- 17 FINANCIAL LITERACY:** 9 Steps to Buying a House: A Beginner's Guide
- 16 STATE:** New Washington distracted driving law takes effect
- 15 POLITICS:** Trump criticized for weighing pardon for Arpaio
- 14 SPORTS:** Martinez 'grateful' as Mariners retire number 11
- 12 INTERNATIONAL:** US military ready for North Korea



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STATE

State investigating blueberry farm after guest worker dies

SEATTLE, Washington (AP)

State officials have launched an investigation into a Sumas blueberry farm to determine if any workplace conditions caused the death

of a temporary worker who died on Sunday, August 6.

Honesto Silva Ibarra went to a Bellingham clinic complaining of headaches after picking berries at Sarbanand Farms. The 28-year-old collapsed and later died

at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

The Seattle Times reported on Wednesday, August 9 that Washington Labor and Industries spokesman Tim Church said the agency opened two separate investigations: workplace safety with health inspection and employment standards.

Church says the first investigation will determine if “this was a workplace-related death and, if so, how,” and the

second will determine if workers were getting paid on time, and if they had appropriate rest and meals.

More than 70 workers were fired after they say calling attention to unfair and abusive work conditions. Those workers protested outside the farm’s management office in Sumas on Tuesday, August 8.

Ibarra, a father of three, was on a temporary, agricultural-worker visa, H-2A, from Mexico, as were the fired workers.



Farmworkers march toward Sarbanand Farms on Tuesday, August 8, 2017, in Sumas, Washington.

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FINANCIAL LITERACY

9 Steps to Buying a House: A Beginner's Guide

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When it comes to buying a home, there is often as much anxiety as there is excitement.

Why should you consider buying a home?

When you rent a home, you are simply paying to live there. After 10, 20 or 30 years of renting, you have no actual, tangible house or apartment to show for it; the home still belongs to someone else.

But with home ownership, the amount of money you pay every month is going towards owning the property. So after you have paid off your loan, or mortgage, the home is yours to continue to live in for "free." (You will still have to pay taxes and maintenance costs for the home.) BUT you will not have to pay monthly mortgage or rent. And if you sell the home, then that money is yours! Less taxes of course.

How much house (or condominium or land) can you afford?

Start by reviewing your monthly income and expenses. Then, add in any new costs associated with owning a home – like property taxes. You may want to consider attending a first-time homebuyer class and consulting with a financial professional. Your local Washington Federal branch or city's housing authority can help you find some classes.

Compare the costs of renting versus buying.

Renting:

- Generally renters are not responsible for substantial maintenance or repair costs.

- Monthly rent is not protected from increases.

- Renters are not responsible for property taxes or property hazard insurance.

- Monthly rent does not build equity in the home or provide income tax advantages.

Owning:

- Owners are responsible for all repairs and maintenance.

- Monthly payment will be the same each month. (If you take out a fixed-rate loan.)

- Responsible for payment of property taxes and hazard insurance – these can increase over time.

- You may be eligible to save money on your taxes.

Shop for a mortgage lender.

It is a good idea to get at least three different loan quotes. A good lender will inform you how the home buying process works and thoroughly explain a variety of options. You should never feel pressured to apply for a mortgage or sign paperwork.

Apply for credit.

Every lender's requirements are different, but loan applications usually ask for a variety of financial and personal background information, like where you have lived, what you do for work, how long you have been at your job, etc.

Receive a credit approval document.

If the lender approves your application to move forward, then you will likely receive a credit approval document, which provides your maximum loan amount, terms of the loan, and the expiration date of the credit approval (usually 60 days).

Credit approval processes and requirements vary by lender, but most realtors will require that a borrower receive some type of credit approval BEFORE they shop for a home.

Select a realtor or broker.

Interview at least three realtor estate agents. Your agent should have knowledge and expertise in your neighborhood and with your profile of a homebuyer. For example, if you're a first-time buyer trying to purchase a condo, then be sure your realtor has closed those types of transactions before.

Negotiate a purchase and sale agreement for your new home.

An experienced realtor should be able to help you navigate this important step. In general, you will want to consider the purchase price (how much the house cost), the closing date (when you can move in) and earnest money (money that you pay to show your interest in the home.)

Inspect your home.

As a buyer, you want to be sure you are getting what you paid for, and sellers want to be sure they are in the clear if problems arise after the home was sold. Unless you agree to different terms, the buyer almost always pays for the home inspection of the exterior and interior of the house.

Complete the final steps from your mortgage lender.

This typically includes a deposit to cover the cost of processing your loan application, the appraisal of the property, title insurance and flood certificate.

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STATE

New Washington distracted driving law takes effect

OLYMPIA, Washington

On Sunday, July 23, 2017 Washington's Driving Under the Influence of Electronics (E-DUI) Act went into effect. Drivers can no longer hold their phones while driving, and use of hands-free devices will be restricted to a single touch.

Fatalities from distracted driving increased 32 percent from 2014 to 2015 in Washington, and 71 percent of distracted drivers engage in the most dangerous distraction, cell phone use behind the wheel. With the passage and signing of the E-DUI Act, the governor and legislature are taking action to address this rise in traffic-related deaths.

"The Traffic Safety Commission is dedicated to reducing traffic fatalities to zero by 2030," said Darrin Grondel, director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC). "We believe this law will have a profound effect on the safety of drivers and pedestrians. Putting E-DUIs

into law is an important milestone on the journey to Target Zero."

Under the new law, drivers may not use hand-held cell phones or watch videos while they are driving, stopped in traffic, or at a stop light. This includes tablets, laptops, games, or any hand-held electronic devices.



The law restricts hands-free use to a single touch. WTSC recommends starting GPS or music before driving. Drivers can hold the phone and dial it while driving when contacting emergency services.

"Distracted driving contributes to countless traffic injuries and deaths every year," says Washington State Patrol Chief

John R. Batiste. "These collisions are preventable and this new law is a positive step to keep drivers focused on the road and not on their electronic devices."

The first E-DUI ticket will cost drivers \$136. If the driver incurs a second ticket within five years, the fine increases to \$234. Unlike the current law, which exempts cell phone violations from being reported to insurance companies, all information on cell phone infractions will be available to insurance companies.

Other types of dangerous distractions are also covered by the law. Drivers can receive a \$99 ticket for driving while dangerously distracted if they engage in any activity that interferes with safe driving. This could include grooming, smoking, eating, or reading. However, enforcement of dangerously distracted is a secondary offense, meaning the driver would have to commit another traffic offense while dangerously distracted before the additional fine would apply.

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POLITICS

Trump is criticized for weighing pardon for Arpaio

PHOENIX, Arizona (AP)

President Donald Trump says he may grant a pardon to former Sheriff Joe Arpaio following his recent conviction in federal court, prompting outrage among critics who say the move would amount to an endorsement of racism.

Trump told Fox News during an interview Sunday that he was seriously considering issuing a pardon within the next few days. That was welcome news for the former Phoenix-area sheriff, who lost a re-election bid in November and who was convicted of misdemeanor contempt of court on July 31.

But it angered immigrant rights activists and others who say it amounts to support for racism on the same day that Trump disavowed white nationalists whose rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, turned violent this weekend, leaving one woman dead.

A federal judge ruled in 2013 that Arpaio's officers racially profiled Latinos. But the sheriff refused to stop his immigration patrols, eventually leading to the criminal contempt of court case that he's embroiled in. It also contributed to his failed re-election bid last year.

Arpaio said Monday that he learned of the president's comments in the morning and was glad he stood by him.

"I didn't ask for it, but if he's going to offer, I will accept, because I'm not guilty. So appreciate his interest in my matter here in Phoenix," Arpaio said.

Attorneys for the ex-sheriff filed two motions late Monday afternoon in U.S. District Court in Phoenix for a judgment of acquittal and to vacate the verdict for a new trial. The motions are not appeals.



In this January 26, 2016, photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is joined by Maricopa County (Arizona) Sheriff Joe Arpaio at a campaign event in Marshalltown, Iowa.

"We're filing these motions because there was absolutely no evidence in support of the judge's verdict, the verdict was contrary to the evidence provided in court, and the verdict is a gross miscarriage of justice," said Mark Goldman, a lawyer for Arpaio.

Trump on Sunday told Fox that Arpaio is "a great American patriot" and said he hates to see what has happened to him, according to the news report. He cited his long service in law enforcement and said many Arizona citizens respected his approach to crime.

The two have been allies for the past couple of years. Arpaio campaigned for Trump at rallies in Iowa, Nevada and Arizona, and he gave a speech at

the Republican National Convention in which he said Trump would prevent immigrants from coming into the country illegally. Trump has also invoked the

mistake: This would be an official presidential endorsement of racism," Wang said.

former sheriff in his calls for tougher immigration enforcement and has advocated for tactics that made Arpaio a national figure.

Cecilia Wang, deputy legal director for the ACLU, criticized the idea that Trump could pardon Arpaio, saying the former sheriff had violated court orders that prohibited illegal detention of Latinos.

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SPORTS

Martinez 'grateful' as Mariners retire number 11

By GREG JOHNS, MLB.com
SEATTLE, Washington

Edgar Martinez doesn't know exactly what it'll feel like the in coming days when he reports to work at Safeco Field and sees his No. 11 permanently retired on the outfield facade, but he has a pretty good idea.

For the past dozen years, every time

he's arrived at the ballpark from his home across Lake Washington in Bellevue, Wash., he's driven down Edgar Martinez Drive and turned into the parking garage across the street from the stadium. To see his name emblazoned on street signs and freeway exits in Seattle is not something the humble Puerto Rican ever expected.

"At the beginning, it felt really strange,"

Martinez said with a smile. "Now I look just to see if it's still there."

Martinez figures it'll be somewhat similar peering up to see his No. 11 hanging with Ken Griffey Jr.'s 24 as the only numbers ever retired by the Mariners, adjacent to Jackie

Robinson's 42 that has been retired by all Major League teams.

Before Saturday's game against the Angels, Martinez was honored in a 45-minute ceremony that was attended by former teammates Griffey, Jay Buhner, Dan Wilson, Jamie Moyer and Alvin Davis, as well as former coaches Lee Elia and Sam Perlozzo and his cousin, Carmelo Martinez, who was the one who convinced him to give pro baseball a try

in the first place.

Martinez thanked the people who helped him throughout a storied career that included seven All-Star appearances, five American League Silver Slugger Awards, two AL batting titles, the Roberto Clemente Award in 2004 and five Designated Hitter of the Year honors, an award since renamed the Edgar Martinez Award by former Commissioner Bud Selig.



Edgar Martinez waves as he concludes his remarks at a ceremony retiring his No. 11 before a baseball game between the Mariners and Los Angeles Angels, on Saturday, August 12, 2017, in Seattle, Washington.

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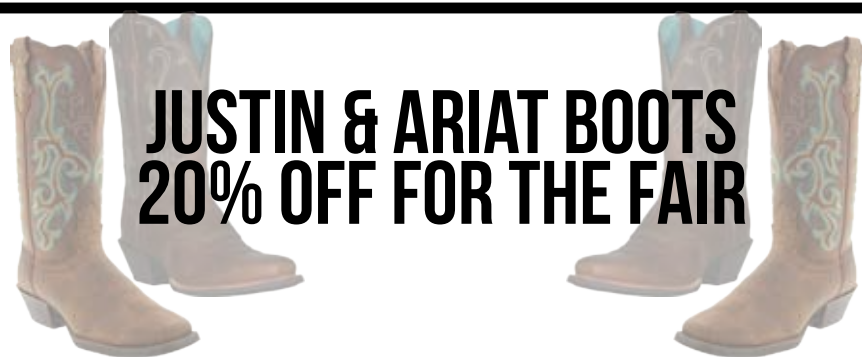


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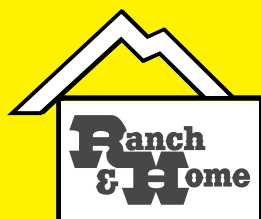
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— INTERNACIONAL — EEUU está listo frente a Norcorea

SEÚL, Corea del Sur (AP)

El principal jefe militar de Estados Unidos advirtió el lunes que aunque su país desea resolver pacíficamente la creciente tensión con Corea del Norte, también está listo para usar “absolutamente todas” sus capacidades militares en caso de una provocación.

Las declaraciones del general Joseph Dunford en una serie de reuniones con altos mandos políticos y militares de Corea del Sur parecieron un intento por aliviar el nerviosismo en el continente de Asia frente al intercambio de amenazas entre los presidentes de ambos países y mientras Corea del Norte también se ha dicho estar dispuesta a responder en caso necesario.

Dunford, jefe del Estado Mayor Conjunto de Estados Unidos, está visitando los países de Corea del Sur, Japón y China solo días después de que el presidente Donald Trump declaró que su ejército está “asegurado y cargado” y que está listo para desatar “fuego y furia” si Corea del Norte seguía amenazando a los Estados Unidos.

— INTERNATIONAL — US military ready for North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

The top U.S. military officer said Monday that the United States wants to peacefully resolve a deepening standoff with North Korea but is also ready to use the “full range” of its military capabilities in case of provocation.

The comments by Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford in a series of meetings with senior South Korean military and political officials and the local media appeared to be an attempt to ease anxiety over tit-for-tat threats between President Donald Trump and North Korea while also showing a willingness to back up Trump's warnings if need be.

Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is visiting South Korea, Japan and China after a week in which Trump declared the U.S. military “locked and loaded” and said he was ready to unleash “fire and fury” if North Korea continued to threaten the United States.