

Syria shows resilience after missile strike

DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AP) — Hundreds of Syrians gathered at landmark squares in the Syrian capital Saturday, honking their car horns, flashing victory signs and waving Syrian flags in scenes of defiance that followed unprecedented joint airstrikes by the United States, France and Britain.

A few hours earlier, before sunrise, loud explosions jolted Damascus and the sky turned orange as Syrian air defense units fired surface-to-air missiles in response to three waves of military strikes meant to punish President Bashar Assad for his alleged use of chemical weapons.

"Good souls will not be humiliated," Syria's presidency tweeted after

the airstrikes began. Immediately after the attack, hundreds of residents gathered in Damascus' landmark Omayyad square, celebrating what they said was the army's success in shooting down or derailing some of the missiles. Many waved Syrian, Russian and Iranian flags.

Some clapped their hands and danced, others drove in convoys, honking their horns in defiance.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced Friday night the three allies had launched military strikes to punish Assad for alleged chemical weapons use and to prevent him from doing it again. Trump said Washington is prepared to "sustain" pressure on Assad

until he ends what the president called a criminal pattern of killing his own people with internationally banned chemical weapons.

The Syrian government has repeatedly denied any use of banned weapons.

A fact-finding team of inspectors from the international chemical weapons watchdog was in Damascus and had been expected to head to the town of Douma on Saturday, scene of the suspected chemical weapons attack that killed more than 40 people.

Trump chastised Syria's two main allies, Russia and



TRUMP

Iran, for their roles in supporting "murderous dictators," and noted Russian President Vladimir Putin had guaranteed a 2013 international agreement for Assad to get rid of all of his chemical weapons.

He called on Moscow to change course and join the West in seeking a more responsible regime in Damascus.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the attack on Syria was a "crime" and declared the leaders of the U.S., France and the U.K. "criminals," according to Iran's state-run

IRNA news agency.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the strikes and warned of unspecified consequences.

Russia's U.S. embassy released a statement warning that the airstrikes will "not be left without consequences." It said that "all responsibility" rests with Washington, London and Paris.

The seemingly limited strikes with no apparent future strategy for how to deal with the wider civil war was a cause for celebration by Assad supporters but criticized by the Syrian opposition.

Mohammad Alouss, spokesman for the Army of Islam rebel group, called

the airstrikes a "farce" in a Twitter posting.

Nasr al-Hariri, a senior opposition leader, said Syrians need a strategy that leads to a political solution to "save it from the brutality of the Syrian regime."

A Syrian military statement said in all, 110 missiles were fired by the U.S., Britain and France and that most of them were shot down or derailed.

Russia's military said Syrian air defense units downed 71 out of 103 cruise missiles launched by the U.S. and its allies.

The decision to strike, after days of deliberations, marked Trump's second order to attack Syria.

Man gets nine months for fire at Yorozu

BY JAMES CLARK
Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A man who started a fire in a women's bathroom at Yorozu will serve nine months in jail for the crime.

Roy Anthony Haley, 47, was ordered to serve 75 percent of an 11-month, 29-day jail sentence. He avoided a more serious arson charge and was allowed to plea to reckless burning. He must also pay \$1,020 restitution for damage to the bathroom.

According to a report of the incident, Warren County Sheriff's Department deputies were summoned to Yorozu the morning of Dec. 9. The plant, located in the industrial park near Morrison, employs in excess of 1,200 people.

Deputies were told a male subject had gone into a women's restroom and started a fire. Officers were directed to Haley, who was walking away

from the plant through a nearby field.

Haley acted odd when he was confronted by deputy Matt Brown, saying "a lot of weird things had been happening" and he felt he had "been held against his will" even though he admitted he had freely walked out the door minutes before. Perhaps explaining the odd behavior, lawmen found a small straw with residue inside his pants pocket.

Haley was given a \$150 fine for possession of drug paraphernalia.

As for the fire, witnesses reported hearing a loud boom and then smelled smoke. "One witness entered the ladies' room and found Mr. Haley inside," Brown reported, noting an inspection of the bathroom revealed a plastic trash can that had been melted on top of a toilet. There was also burned paper on the floor.



HALEY

STATE ROUNDUP

MORRISTOWN (AP) — Tennesseans took to the streets a week after 97 people were detained in an immigration raid at a meat packing plant.

WBIR-TV reports more than 100 people marched Thursday in Morristown, holding pictures of those detained in the raid at the Southeastern Provision plant in Grainger County.

Thirty-two people were released, while 10 people made their first appearance in federal court Friday. The Tennessee Immigration and Refugee Rights Coalition says the 54 who remain in Immigrations and Customs Enforcement custody were taken to Louisiana.

Morristown is around 50 miles northwest of Knoxville.

CHATTANOOGA (AP) — The track team from a

Kentucky high school where a deadly shooting happened received a warm welcome at a Tennessee restaurant.

The manager at an Olive Garden in Chattanooga decided to cover the team's food bill when he found out they were from Marshall County High School. Two students were killed and many injured in a shooting at the school in January.

The Tennessee reports the restaurant's manager called his boss in Atlanta, who gave the OK to waive the cost of the meal, which totaled \$789.26.

Marshall track coach Nathan Bazzell says two of the team's athletes were injured by bullets in the shooting Jan. 23. One of the shooting victims is back competing and was on the trip to Chattanooga.

Left behind



Reduced hours at Warren County Animal Control and Adoption Center prompted someone to abandon a dog at its locked gate on Friday. The lab mix, named Jonah by staff, is approximately 1 year old and very friendly. A report has been filed about the abandoned dog with McMinnville Police Department. Anyone with information is urged to call 473-3808.

OBITUARIES

Carlton Ras Melton, 77

Carlton Ras Melton, 77, of Smithville passed away Thursday morning, April 12, at NHC HealthCare Center in Smithville.

He was born Aug. 18, 1940 to his parents, the late Richard and Ruth West Melton. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Marie Melton; three stepdaughters, Darice Cantrell, Fran Melton and Kathy Martin; two brothers, Harlon and James Melton; two sisters, Anna Belle "Ann" Young and Ella Rich.

Carlton was a member of Smithville Church of God and retired from Carrier. He is survived by wife Mainell Melton of Smithville; sons Gentry (Zarita) Melton of Bell Buckle, Keith (Rachel) Melton of Smithville, Josh Isaac Melton of Smithville; stepchildren Anita (Donald) Byrge of Sparta, Doyle (Angie) Melton of Walling, Tommy Melton of Smithville, Gina (Craig) Vaughn of Smithville; grandchildren, Preston Melton, Kelby Melton, Olivia Drennan, Dalton Vaughn, Conner Vaughn, Cynthia (Corey) Davis, Matthew (Jessica) Byrge, Steven Melton, Amanda Melton, Ricky Melton, Nick Byrge and Kaylee Byrge; great-grandchildren, Aleka (Kyle) Rice and Maylee Curtis; sister Eva (Dennis) Roller of Dowlletown; sister-in-law, Gracie Bratcher of Smithville; aunt Jo Smithson of McMinnville; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services celebrating Carlton's life were Saturday, April 14, at Smithville Church of God with Bros. Chris Moore and Graden Kirksey officiating. Interment followed at DeKalb Memorial Gardens.

DeKalb Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

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