



Washington State Fusion Center INFOCUS



WEDNESDAY – 6 SEP 2017

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Event Calendar

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Date	Event	Location/Time	Other Information
9-13 Apr 2018	LEIU/IALEIA Training Event	Marriott Hotel, 700 West Convention Way Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 750-8000	http://www.ialeia.org/2018_conference.php

Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	09/05 September passport awareness month
SOURCE	http://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/september-passport-awareness-month
GIST	<p>As the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) slowly implements the REAL ID Act of 2005, ID standards will change at airports around the country. This month, the government will expand its outreach program to spread information to travelers about the change.</p> <p><u>Effective January 22, 2018</u>, the DHS will no longer accept state-issued IDs from half the country. Travelers from “noncompliant” states will need to show an alternative form of ID, such as a passport, when boarding a plane.</p> <p>So far, there are <u>only 25 states</u> with ID standards that meet those set forward by the REAL ID Act. Residents of these 25 states can continue to fly domestically with a driver's license. The remaining states have been given extensions to comply with REAL ID. Travelers can check their individual state's compliance <u>on the DHS website</u>.</p> <p>The Department of State is issuing passport books and passport cards for travelers whose states remain noncompliant with the act.</p> <p>The <u>passport card</u> is an alternative that will allow travelers from noncompliant states to board a domestic flight — however, they won't be able to fly abroad with this documentation. Passport cards are the same size as a driver's license, cost \$55 for first time applicants, and only \$30 for anybody who already has a passport.</p> <p><u>It costs \$110</u> to apply for or renew a passport book.</p> <p>Travelers considering renewing or applying for a passport should do so well in advance of a trip. The <u>Department of State recommends</u> that travelers apply for passports from September through December, when wait times are lower.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Mexico courts China, Russia
SOURCE	https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2017-09-05/targeted-by-trump-mexico-courts-putins-russia-xis-china
GIST	<p>Faced with repeated rhetorical broadsides from the U.S. president and the possible scrapping of a decades-old trade agreement governing much of its international commerce, Mexico appears eager to bolster its relationships with key American rivals.</p> <p>Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto joined Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among other world leaders, at the site of an economic summit that wrapped up Tuesday in southeastern China. The summit coincided with the end Tuesday of a second round of trade discussions between the U.S., Mexico and Canada on retooling the North American Free Trade Agreement – a 1990s-era free trade deal that President Donald Trump has said he feels will "probably" need to be scrapped.</p> <p>Separate meetings between Pena Nieto and both Putin and Xi – leaders of two countries with which the U.S. has tense international relationships – further enhance the optics of Mexico casting a wide net to potentially offset trade losses that would come from a destroyed NAFTA, while also shoring up diplomatic ties.</p>

"Mexico wants to trade more with the world. Free trade is an essential part of their growth strategy. Of course, if NAFTA collapses, the Mexican economy could take a hit in the short term ... risking macroeconomic stability," Dany Bahar, a fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program at The Brookings Institution, said during a [podcast](#) Friday. "But in the medium to long term, Mexico has plenty of opportunities to trade with other partners."

Pena Nieto joined leaders from Egypt, Guinea, Tajikistan and Thailand in Xiamen, China, as participants in an emerging markets dialogue that occurred alongside a summit of the BRICS nations: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Officials also were expected to discuss a possible "[BRICS Plus](#)" expansion plan that would open up the bloc to more countries.

Speaking with [Chinese state media recently](#), Pena Nieto – whose country Trump has insisted will fund his promised border wall and slammed as having taken advantage of the U.S. on cross-border trade – praised the BRICS group for making "important progress" in recent years, "particularly in the area of cooperation and coordination in multilateral forums on economic and political governance."

The Mexican president, [who met with Xi on Monday](#), also said "diversifying" his country's trade portfolio is "one of the pillars of our trade policy." And he insisted his country is "committed to free trade," even as the future of its largest free trade agreement remains uncertain.

The Pena Nieto administration's recent trade pursuits outside North America – from conversations with Brazil and Argentina to Australia and New Zealand – have been viewed at least in part as a safeguarding shift as Trump pivots the U.S. toward more isolationist policies, potentially threatening Mexico's accessibility to what is currently its largest export market.

The U.S. is the largest buyer of goods exported from both Mexico and China, so turning off the spigot entirely undoubtedly would endanger both economies in the immediate future. But Mexico and China have the potential to at least partially offset one another's losses over the longer run, particularly as wages in China have climbed while those south of the U.S. border remain relatively subdued.

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HEADLINE	09/05 Israel's rapid response system
SOURCE	https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2017-09-05/israels-volunteer-medics-increasingly-copied-around-the-world
GIST	<p>JERUSALEM — While getting her hair done in her Israeli hometown of Ra'anana on a recent afternoon, volunteer medic Shiran Finder received an alert on her phone of a person who had fallen unconscious just across the street from the salon. She got up and ran across the street – her hair full of the foil papers used for applying highlights – and began treating the man.</p> <p>"It doesn't matter what I am doing or how I am dressed or how I look. That's not important to me," explains Finder, a volunteer with United Hatzalah, one of Israel's largest emergency medical services organizations. "I go to help. That's the whole idea."</p> <p>She is one of more than 5,000 volunteer medics in Israel, where nearby first-responders are routinely dispatched to emergencies ahead of ambulances, saving many lives. With the help of smartphone apps that match responders to emergencies – similar to how Uber matches drivers with passengers – these trained medics are often on the scene in less than three minutes. It takes an average of eight minutes – and sometimes much longer – for the country's largest ambulance service to arrive.</p> <p>The system, with roots in tightly knit Jewish communities and the scrappy innovation required during Israel's early decades, has expanded significantly during the past decade to all sectors of the country's diverse and often divided society, and is also increasingly being copied around the world.</p>

From large events like Hurricane Harvey in the southern U.S., where damaged infrastructure and flooding has left many dependent on the help of those in their immediate community, to everyday holdups such as traffic jams, some U.S. cities are looking for solutions in this Israeli model.

"This is a unique model and opportunity to better deliver emergency medical services," says Robert Luckritz, director of emergency medical services at Jersey City Medical Center, in Jersey City, New Jersey, which runs the area's 911 system. In 2015 the medical center opened a local branch of United Hatzalah, calling it by its English translation, United Rescue, with about 1,000 volunteer medics. "It is the Uberization of medicine."

Community responders from United Hatzalah and Israel's national emergency medical response organization, Magen David Adom, as well as a few smaller groups, have become an integral part of the country's emergency medical system.

"We invest in getting there fast," says Eli Beer, United Hatzalah's founder. "Billions of dollars are going to solve diseases like malaria and cancer, but every day, all over the world, people die waiting for ambulances."

Women started joining as well, and people from every sector of Israel's society. They no longer rely on police scanners, but get calls to their own phone number and notifications from Magen David Adom, which includes United Hatzalah's volunteers in its database.

The technology used by both groups quickly locates which medics are closest to an emergency and notifies them, meaning that people respond from work, home or elsewhere rather than a central dispatch facility. They also often use motorcycles and bicycles that can weave around traffic jams, arriving and providing care before turning the situation over to an ambulance crew.

"We rely a lot on this network," says Yonatan Yagodovsky, a spokesman for Magen David Adom, Israel's Red Cross affiliate. "This way we can reach out to the people closest to an emergency." A geographically dispersed network of volunteer medics has been part of Magen David Adom's approach since it was founded in 1930 in Tel Aviv in what was then the British Mandate of Palestine. In those early days of limited resources this was the only way to survive, Yagodovsky says.

"But now that we can utilize technology to locate and alert people, the community network has become an even more important factor," he says.

With ambulance response time a global concern, the model has recently attracted increased attention from around the world, from the United States to developing nations like India and the former Soviet Union.

In the U.S., ambulances on average take six minutes to arrive in urban settings and 13 in rural areas, according to a recently published study in the Journal of the American Medical Association. That study also noted that 25 percent of ambulance arrivals outside of cities take more than 19 minutes. In a follow-up editorial, the JAMA called for better training for citizens to reduce wait times. Reducing response time for injuries such as gunshot wounds can be potentially life-saving, the editorial stated.

Shaffi Mather, a co-founder of India's largest ambulance service, 1248, was recently inspired by United Hatzalah's model after meeting Beer at a World Economic Forum program for young global leaders. Last year Mather launched MURgency, which has a network of 1,500 trained medics around India's Punjab state. Like in Israel, they respond – often on motor bikes or on foot – from home, work or wherever they happen to be, rather than from a central dispatch center. The average response time is about eight minutes, Mather says, compared with more than an hour for an ambulance.

"Even though I run an ambulance company, I have to say that in India, people don't even bother to wait for ambulances," Mather says. "MURgency's largest role here is to provide emergency services to people who used to have no access at all." The service will soon be available in Delhi, and in Dubai, where MURgency has recently signed a contract, Mather says. Because the system simply mobilizes trained medics more

	<p>efficiently and does not require a dispatch center, it is an affordable way to improve emergency medical service.</p> <p>The model also helps build a sense of community. Back in Israel, that's part of what motivates Mohamed Saleh, a volunteer medic from Israel's Arab minority, who make up about 10 percent of United Hatzalah's team.</p> <p>"It important to save lives, it doesn't matter if you are Arab, Jewish or Christian," Saleh says. "Working together, this makes us like a family."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Coast Guard closes Columbia River
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/742326/the-latest-western-wildfires-close-roads-smoke-lingers/
GIST	<p>The U.S. Coast Guard has closed the Columbia River to all vessel traffic east of Portland, Oregon, because of wildfire activity in the Columbia River Gorge.</p> <p>The Coast Guard said Tuesday the closure affecting 20 miles of the river would be in effect overnight to protect personnel and boats from potential hazards created by falling hot ash and firefighting aircraft landing on the water.</p> <p>The section of the Columbia River was closed after the Captain of the Port deemed it unsafe for vessels to travel the river from Reed Island to the Bonneville Dam.</p> <p>The blaze that began Saturday also has closed an interstate highway and forced hundreds to leave their homes.</p> <p>The Coast Guard says some vessel traffic has been impacted and that the need for the closure will be re-evaluated Wednesday morning.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Quake swarm continues in Idaho
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/742389/earthquake-swarm-continues-to-rattle-southeastern-idaho/
GIST	<p>BOISE, Idaho (AP) — More than 100 aftershocks have rattled southeastern Idaho since a 5.3 magnitude quake hit near the town of Soda Springs late last week, and experts say they could continue for another week or so.</p> <p>The 5.3 quake hit was the second in the series, and it hit about 6 p.m. Saturday. There were no reports of injuries or damage, though officials say 17,000 people reported feeling the 5.3 quake from as far away as Salt Lake City, Utah.</p> <p>By noon on Tuesday, more than 102 additional earthquakes had been recorded in the region by the U.S. Geological Survey, all at magnitudes of 4.5 or less.</p> <p>They'll likely taper off by the end of next week, said John Bellini, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado. "They can go on for days or weeks, and they'll get smaller in size and frequency," Bellini said.</p> <p>Small magnitude earthquake swarms are common near the fault lines scattered throughout central and southeastern Idaho.</p> <p>"Do we expect a larger one? No, we don't," said Bellini, though he noted that forecasting earthquake risk can be difficult.</p>

	<p>“You don’t have earthquakes every day like in California — they’re feel-able just a few times a year in Idaho,” he said. “It’s harder to make generalizations like that in areas that don’t have as much seismicity. Idaho has had larger earthquakes in the past, but how often they repeat is not known.”</p> <p>Lee Liberty, a research professor with Boise State University’s Department of Geosciences, says Idaho experiences earthquakes of a magnitude 5 or above on average about every five years, based on news reports and other records dating back to 1872. They don’t happen like clockwork, however, Lee said.</p> <p>“This is the largest event since 1983,” Liberty said, referring to Idaho’s biggest recorded quake. “So it has been a generation, but historically we expect them more frequently than we’ve been seeing them.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 DNR bans burning in Washington
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/742571/departement-of-natural-resources-bans-burning-in-washington/
GIST	<p>OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Officials have banned all outdoor burning in Washington state on Department of Natural Resources land because of multiple wildfires and smoke.</p> <p>The ban announced Tuesday prohibits outdoor burning on state forests, state parks and forestlands under DNR fire protection.</p> <p>Anyone caught violating the burn ban can face fines.</p> <p>Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz said “Wildfire and smoke is affecting every community around the state as we see the hot, dry summer take its toll on our forests. Without any relief from this weather in the foreseeable future and with our firefighters spread across the Northwest, we can no longer allow outdoor burning anywhere in Washington.”</p> <p>Burn restrictions on federally-owned lands, such as national forests, national parks, national wildlife refuges or other areas are administered by federal agencies.</p> <p>On Monday agency firefighters responded to 21 new fires.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Harvey impact Houston drinking water
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/houston-water-filtration-plant-harvey-flooding-impact/
GIST	<p>Hurricane Harvey left hundreds of communities in southeast Texas without safe drinking water. At least 45 water systems are shut down, and 171 areas have issued boil water notices. But Houston is not on that list, despite significant flooding at one of its water plants.</p> <p>"The filters are the life blood of the plant. If you lose filtration, there's nothing you can do," said Drew Molly, the facility's assistant director.</p> <p>For the first time, Houston officials are revealing just how close they came to a potential drinking water crisis. Harvey flooded the northeast water purification plant last week. CBS News has learned the city's drinking water system was hours away from failure. The machines that kept its water filters clean were themselves under water, reports CBS News' Bianna Golodryga.</p> <p>Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said the plant shutting down would have been a huge blow to a city already in crisis.</p> <p>"You can't notify people to boil your water and tell them at the same time – but the water is safe," Turner</p>

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HEADLINE	09/05 Religious strife in Myanmar violence
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tanks-religious-strife-risks-future-myanmar-violence-49626443?
GIST	<p>Two new reports suggest that violence in western Myanmar fueled by tensions between the Buddhist ethnic Rakhine community and Rohingya Muslims both reflects and reinforces broader anti-Muslim sentiment, and could result in more violence in the country.</p> <p>The International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank, said in a report on "Buddhism and Politics in Myanmar" that the crisis triggered by Rohingya insurgent attacks on police posts and massive retaliation by the army has boosted anti-Muslim sentiment nationwide, opening the possibility of even more religious violence.</p> <p>It said Buddhist nationalists who preach against Muslims have significant popular support in the overwhelmingly Buddhist nation.</p> <p>A separate report by Burma Human Rights Network charges that Muslims throughout the country, not just the Rohingya in Rakhine state, face increasing harassment, and their stigmatization could also beget more violence.</p> <p>Hundreds were killed and more than 150,000 people displaced from their homes in 2012 when mob violence broke out between the Rakhine and Rohingya communities, driven by long-standing prejudice against the Rohingya, who are considered by many to have entered Myanmar illegally from neighboring Bangladesh, even though many families have lived in Myanmar for generations.</p> <p>In the aftermath of that violence, sporadic attacks against Muslims occurred in other parts of Myanmar, also known as Burma. Last October, Rohingya insurgents attacked police, setting off an army operation that targeted Rohingya villagers. Another attack by the insurgents last month set off even greater devastation by the army, driving more than 100,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh.</p> <p>"While dynamics at play in Rakhine are mostly driven by local fears and grievances, the current crisis has led to a broader spike in anti-Muslim sentiment, raising anew the specter of communal violence across the country that could imperil the country's transition," warned the report from the International Crisis Group.</p> <p>It said that since an army-backed but elected government took over in 2012 after decades of military rule, there has been an upsurge in "extreme Buddhist nationalism, anti-Muslim hate speech and deadly communal violence."</p> <p>The organization most associated with the anti-Muslim movement is the Association for the Protection of Race and Religion — usually referred to by its Myanmar-language acronym, Ma Ba Tha.</p>

	Some of the group's leaders "espouse extreme bigoted and anti-Muslim views, and incite or condone violence in the name of protecting race and religion," the report said.
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HEADLINE	09/05 Egypt to host war games w/US
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-host-war-games-us-year-hiatus-49628359?
GIST	<p>Egypt's military says it will host war games with U.S. troops later this month for the first time in eight years.</p> <p>Col. Tamer el-Rifai, a military spokesman, said Tuesday that the 10-day military exercises, known as "Bright Star," would begin September 10.</p> <p>The bi-annual exercises date back to 1981, but the Obama administration postponed them in 2011, following the uprising that toppled longtime President <u>Hosni Mubarak</u>, and scrapped them in 2013, after Egyptian security forces killed hundreds of protesters while breaking up a mass sit-in.</p> <p>U.S. President <u>Donald Trump</u> has praised Egypt as a key ally against terrorism, but last month the United States cut or delayed some \$300 million in military and economic aid over <u>human rights</u> concerns.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 NKorea: more 'gift packages' for US
SOURCE	http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/north-korea-says-nuclear-tests-11114786
GIST	<p>North Korea said nuclear tests are "gift packages" to the United States and that more will follow.</p> <p>Han Tae Song, the ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to the UN in Geneva, made the comment during a UN-sponsored Conference on Disarmament today.</p> <p>The warning comes two days after his country detonated its sixth and largest nuclear test.</p> <p>"The recent self-defence measures by my country, DPRK, are a gift package addressed to none other than the US," Han told the Geneva forum.</p> <p>"The US will receive more gift packages from my country as long as its relies on reckless provocations and futile attempts to put pressure on the DPRK."</p> <p><u>North Korea</u> edged closer to nuclear war on Tuesday morning as it secretly moved an intercontinental ballistic missile into a coastal position.</p> <p>Spy sources observed the secretive country moving what appeared to be an ICBM towards its west coast under the cover of darkness, South Korea's Asia Business Daily reported.</p> <p>The rocket started moving on Monday, a day after North Korea's sixth nuclear test, and was spotted moving at night to avoid surveillance, the report said.</p> <p>North Korea has launch facilities for its missile programme on its west coast.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Sammamish rejects safe injection site
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/six-cities-now-officially-oppose-supervised-injection-sites

GIST	<p>SAMMAMISH, Wash. - Half a dozen cities have now taken a stand against hosting a supervised drug injection site - the latest being Sammamish on a split vote.</p> <p>Sammamish was never high on the priority list for a drug injection site, but the council's 5-2 vote Tuesday night shows the challenges to getting this controversial public health recommendation off the ground.</p> <p>“It is such a dangerous precedent that we would be setting,” said Mary Jo Kahler, who addressed council during the public comment portion of the meeting.</p> <p>A <u>task force recommended</u> one facility should be located in Seattle, with a second elsewhere in King County.</p> <p>Sammamish now joins the cities of <u>Bellevue</u>, <u>Auburn</u>, <u>Renton</u> and <u>Federal Way</u> in imposing injection site bans. Kent approved a <u>six month moratorium</u>.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Blazes combine; create massive inferno
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/eagle-creek-fire-merges-with-indian-creek-fire-creating-20000-acre-inferno
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. — The Eagle Creek wildfire burning in the Columbia River Gorge for the fourth day was measured at 20,000 acres Tuesday and had merged with the Indian Creek fire, fire officials said.</p> <p>They determined the size of the fire by using an infrared camera from a plane.</p> <p>While evacuations were still in effect for hundreds of people, there was good news. Officials said firefighters Tuesday were successful in keeping the fire growth to a minimum.</p> <p>They also reported that even with trees burning nearby and with falling embers, they had saved the historic Multnomah Falls Lodge, built in 1925, by keeping it wet during a firestorm. Firefighters were able to protect other structures in the path of the blaze as well.</p> <p>There was also good news on the weather front. Winds that had whipped the blaze into an inferno overnight Monday slackened and were expected to remain light.</p> <p>But the fire has taken its toll. One small home was destroyed as well as four outbuildings, officials said.</p> <p>The smoke was so thick Tuesday night in the Gorge, that even the red glow from the flames couldn't pierce it, leaving those on the Washington side at North Bonneville unable to see the fire. Ash, however, continued to fall in the area.</p> <p>Damon Simmons, with the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, has worked on wildfires across the state and said he's never seen a wildfire like this one.</p> <p>“A fire to move this fast in this kind of terrain – you might see it in grasses, things like that, but to move this fast in trees is pretty unusual,” he said.</p> <p>Meaning it's been unprecedented growth. The fire traveled 13 miles in just 16 hours Monday into Tuesday. Flames leaped 30 feet in the air.</p> <p>Simmons said the fire showered embers and skipped ridges, burning into the Bull Run watershed and near Portland's main source of drinking water. Fire officials said defending the watershed will remain one of their top priorities.</p> <p>The fire also jumped the mighty Columbia River and started a 30-acre fire on Archer Mountain in the state</p>

	of Washington. <u>Several communities there remained under evacuation orders.</u>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Washington State Ferries: we're sorry
SOURCE	http://www.king5.com/news/local/washington-state-ferries-were-sorry/471357289
GIST	<p>This summer has not been a good one for the Washington State Ferries or their customers.</p> <p>Plagued by mechanical breakdowns and accidents, many routes have been impacted with boats being taken out of service.</p> <p>The Fauntleroy (West Seattle)/Vashon/Southworth route usually runs with three boats. However, due to issues on other routes, the third boat has been rerouted to other areas of Puget Sound.</p> <p>WSF responded in a letter to riders Tuesday afternoon:</p> <p>Dear Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth Passenger:</p> <p>Washington State Ferries apologizes for the service delays and disruptions you are experiencing.</p> <p>This has been an extraordinarily difficult summer for Washington State Ferries (WSF). Since Memorial Day, five of our 22 vessels have undergone extended, unplanned repairs. Currently, four of those 22 vessels are out of commission, leaving only 18 boats to operate a summer schedule requiring 19 boats to run at full capacity. One of those 18 boats (the 50-year-old Kaleetan on the Seattle/Bremerton route) is running at half-power because of a problem with one of its propulsion generators. Rather than remove the boat from service completely, WSF has decided to continue the Kaleetan's service on the route because no replacement vessel is available.</p> <p>As you can imagine, this has taken a toll on the entire ferry system, not just the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth (triangle) route. In July, the Anacortes/San Juan Islands route was on an alternate four-boat (from its normal summer five-boat) service for two weeks, and then again from five to four boats for several days in August, during some of the route's busiest travel times. The Salish, assigned to the Port Townsend/Coupeville route, experienced a soft grounding in Coupeville on August 8 and while investigating the cause, a crab pot line was found around its propulsion shaft, taking it out of service until it can be repaired in dry dock. Last week, the Hyak, assigned to the San Juan Islands, experienced a leak in one of the ship's generators, necessitating it being taken out of service.</p> <p>Only 18 vessels are currently available for service and the San Juan Islands, Mukilteo/Clinton, and Port Townsend Coupeville routes have already been run on reduced capacity this summer – the latter of which causes more traffic to divert to Edmonds and Kingston, resulting in two to three-hour waits during that route's evening commutes. Rather than put the Anacortes/San Juan Islands routes on a reduced schedule for the third time this summer, WSF made the difficult decision to reallocate its fleet so their five-boat schedule can be maintained and two-boat service could be restored on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route for two weeks during a very busy travel time. This means putting the triangle on a two-boat schedule and longer waits for passengers on your route, as the burden of a smaller fleet is spread over the entire ferry system and maintains as much service for as many people as possible. WSF operates within a network of ferry-served communities, and WSF does not always have the vessels necessary to meet demand across the entire system.</p> <p>With passenger and vehicle ridership up by 35% and 30% respectively in August over January, we know the two-boat schedule causes long lines and frustration. Several passengers have asked why boats are sailing without being full. As with the three-boat schedule, once the dock is cleared, we try to get as many passenger vehicles as possible through the tollbooths and onto the waiting vessel. However at some point, if we leave the boat at the dock and wait to fill its remaining spaces, it gets behind schedule. As the day goes on, a boat will become so late it laps itself, causing us to cancel a sailing. In other words, if we leave</p>

	<p>a boat idling waiting to fill its last 20 spaces, later in the day it leads to cancelling an entire 120-car sailing, meaning people get home even later. This is one of the constraints of having bigger vessels with more vehicle capacity on the route, a dock that is too small to hold a full boat's worth of vehicles, intricate and time-consuming loading processes for multiple destinations, and a schedule designed for the smaller vessels of the past.</p> <p>Multiple teams are working hard to repair vessels quickly, review schedules, streamline operations, and communicate with customers. Thanks to our hard working maintenance crews, these efforts are paying off and we hope to have restore the route to three boats by Friday. We thank you for your continued patience and understanding during these difficult circumstances.</p> <p>Washington State Ferries</p> <p>Before WSF apologized, upset ferry riders had taken to social media to voice their frustration...</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Spokane firefighters battle smoke conditions
SOURCE	http://www.khq.com/story/36296612/spokane-firefighters-battling-smoky-conditions-along-with-fires
GIST	<p>SPOKANE, Wash. - Everyone here in the Inland Northwest is dealing with the smoky conditions, even firefighters, who have their own set of problems.</p> <p>"Smoke from Montana, smoke from Oregon, smoke from BC... It seems to be from all directions," says Battalion Chief Bruce Moline from the Spokane Fire Department.</p> <p>Firefighters are used to smoke, just not like this. On Tuesday afternoon the Spokane Fire Department along with the Department of Natural Resources responded to a brush fire on Beacon Hill. The problem was, they couldn't find it through all the smoke. Moline says that's not the only issue they're having. He says with visibility down to less than half a mile, there could be a fire right down the street and you wouldn't even know.</p> <p>"With these kind of conditions, this is a great example, we weren't able to see any kind of a column until we were pretty much right on scene," Moline said. "That really hampers our ability to get more resources if that's the need."</p> <p>Luckily firefighters were able to quickly knock down the fire but they say with conditions how they are Tuesday, they are extremely worried about the next couple of days in what has already been a busy fire season.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 UN probe: Assad sarin gas attack
SOURCE	http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_SYRIA?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-09-06-07-15-52
GIST	<p>GENEVA (AP) -- U.N.-mandated investigators said Wednesday that Syrian President Bashar Assad's air force conducted a sarin-gas attack in the spring that killed at least 83 civilians and sparked a retaliatory U.S. strike.</p> <p>The investigators also appealed to the U.S.-led coalition to better protect civilians as it strikes at Islamic State militants in the east.</p> <p>The latest report by the Commission of Inquiry on Syria offers among the strongest evidence yet of allegations that Assad's forces conducted the April 4 attack on Khan Sheikhoun in rebel-held Idlib</p>

province. The United States quickly blamed the Syrian government and launched a punitive strike on Shayrat air base, where the report says the Sukhoi-22 plane took off.

Syrian government officials have denied responsibility, and said last month that they would allow in U.N. teams to investigate.

"We have analyzed all the other interpretations" of who might have conducted the attack, commission chairman Paulo Pinheiro said at a Geneva news conference. "It is our task to verify these allegations, and we concluded ... that this attack was perpetrated by the Syrian air force."

Wednesday's report, the 14th by the commission since it was set up by the U.N.'s Human Rights Council in 2011, covers little more than four months, from March to early July. The report is based on information retrieved from satellite images, video, photos, medical records, and over 300 interviews.

The Syrian government has denied the team access to the territory it controls.

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HEADLINE	09/05 Worry, uncertainty Cle Elum towns
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/worry-uncertainty-hang-over-lake-cle-elum-towns-facing-down-wildfire/
GIST	<p>CLE ELUM, Kittitas County — Tents on the dusty ranch stretched so far, and the smoke hung so thick, that you could hardly see from one side of camp to the other.</p> <p>Most of the tents rippled in the wind, empty. That's because many of the 700 firefighters stationed there Tuesday were out battling the Jolly Mountain Fire, which threatens more than 900 structures near Lake Cle Elum.</p> <p>The rest of the fire crews were drawn to the bustling heart of the tent city, which was hosting Gov. Jay Inslee, his entourage and a horde of news reporters.</p> <p>With wildfires burning throughout the state and dangerous weather looming, Inslee on Sunday declared a <u>statewide emergency</u>.</p> <p>And in the field Tuesday afternoon, he pledged resources and state support to fire commanders trying to quell the fire advancing toward homes alongside Lake Cle Ellum and the nearby communities of Ronald, Roslyn and Cle Elum.</p> <p>The fire Tuesday swelled to about 23,000 acres in size and approached within a few hundred feet of some homes near the lake.</p> <p>Officials this weekend went door-to-door in Roslyn telling folks to be ready to leave at any moment (a Level 2 evacuation, as officials call it), while some communities near the lake were under <u>Level 3 evacuation</u>, meaning leave immediately. Meanwhile, firefighters dug a two-mile containment line to form a barrier between the town and the advancing blaze.</p> <p>The communities are on edge now.</p> <p>Roslyn, a popular stop for campers and hikers trekking in the Teanaway Range, canceled its Sunday farmers market, its annual Coal Miner's festival and a parade. The roads needed to stay open, in case evacuation was necessary.</p> <p>For many businesses, it was the biggest weekend of the year, said Derek Gruber, a city councilman who owns a bar and restaurant in town.</p>

	<p>“In summer, you get back in the black,” he explained.</p> <p>Fire commanders have been reluctant to attack the fire’s troublesome west flank, which is burning downhill toward Lake Cle Elum.</p> <p>Incident commander Chris Schulte said the hillside is so steep that snags could roll downhill, start fires at the bottom and leave firefighters stranded between two flanks of flame.</p> <p>So far, firefighters charged with protecting structures have been able to hold the blaze at bay.</p> <p>“There’s people here to meet it, and they’re stopping it,” Schulte said. “Increase the wind speed, change the direction, and it could change the game.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Wash. AG to sue over DACA
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/washington-state-ag-ferguson-presses-his-case-on-suing-over-trumps-daca-move/
GIST	<p>Hours after the Trump administration announced the end of DACA, state Attorney General Bob Ferguson reiterated his intention to sue the president.</p> <p>“It’s immoral and it’s illegal,” Ferguson said in a statement.</p> <p>“There’s a lot of conversation going on right now amongst a handful of Democratic AGs,” he said in a call to reporters shortly afterward. For about a week, the state attorneys general have been speaking daily, he said, referring in particular to <u>Xavier Becerra</u> of California and Eric Schneiderman of New York.</p> <p>A larger group of state attorneys general might also be interested in joining a lawsuit, Ferguson said. But he said he couldn’t specify when or where he and others might file. And he declined to answer questions about the legal arguments they intend to make.</p> <p>Some have called into question the ability to fight President Donald Trump in court. Since DACA was created by executive action — President Barack Obama’s in 2012 — it can be undone by executive action, reasoned Jorge Barón, executive director of Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.</p> <p>Last week, Gov. Jay Inslee, <u>vowing to fight</u> for Dreamers, said he thought some kind of “estoppel” legal argument would apply. That’s an argument to stop the government from doing something contrary to earlier promises or advice.</p> <p>Matt Adams, legal director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, suggested that argument as well — as it might apply should the government seek to deport Dreamers or immediately cancel work permits granted through DACA.</p> <p>Federal officials said Tuesday DACA recipients can use their work permits until they expire. Those with work permits expiring before March 5 can apply to renew them.</p> <p>Officials also said Dreamers <u>won’t be actively targeted</u> for deportation, according to The New York Times. But how much protection that provides is unclear.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Mastermind NKorea missile program?
SOURCE	http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/revealed-middle-aged-rocket-scientist-11116099?service=responsive

A middle-aged rocket scientist who helped blast a satellite into space has been revealed as the mastermind behind Kim Jong-un's missile programme.

Kim Jong-sik, thought to be in his 50s, is said to have transformed North Korea's arsenal from dud rockets to nuclear-armed ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles).

The technical expert who was "plucked from obscurity" impressed leader Kim Jong-un after he helped launch a satellite into space and has risen through the ranks to become a top figure in the country's munitions industry.

Now he holds North Korea's highest honour, the Order of Kim Jong-il, in reward for developing the weapons used to threaten its neighbours in the South and the US.

And his next launch could be just hours away, with South Korean intelligence warning that a fresh ICBM is being readied for blast off.

Michael Madden, a leading authority on Pyongyang's elite who works with the 38 North watchdog, called the rocket scientist a "key figure" in the missile programme.

Mr Madden said: "He's important – pretty much the most consistent person at these missile tests and the things that are related to the defence industry.

"He is a guy that's helped them identify certain technical problems or reach certain technical benchmarks and that's a critical thing. That's how he got his current position – because he was involved in the successful launch of the Unha-3 space rocket in December 2012. They tried a space launch in April 2012 and it failed after 10 seconds – so they got rid of some people and then, in December 2012, Kim Jong-sik was one of the lead guys.

"He moved from being a sort of a mid-level guy to being one of the lead people... and that's where his career gets this big bump.

"Then about a year-and-a-half later he all of a sudden shows up as a deputy director of North Korea's munitions industry department."

In North Korea, deputy directors tend to have more power than actual directors, Mr Madden said – and though several people share the title, Kim Jong-sik is the only technical wizard.

"There are people that have the position – they have the job title – but have other responsibilities," said Mr Madden. "They don't even work in the building itself, they work elsewhere.

"Kim Jong-sik is one of five people that have that title... but he is the guy that is involved because he is an aeronautics engineer and is involved in missiles and space and rocket engines and thrust."

When Pyongyang tested its first ICBM in July, bringing the continental US within range for the first time, North Korean propaganda named Kim Jong-sik among the leader's entourage.

He was also on hand for the second ICBM test later that month, as well as last week when Kim Jong-un fired a missile that overshot the Japanese island of Hokkaido.

Yet the rocket scientist, who's believed to be in his 50s, wasn't born into the North Korean elite – he was promoted in a bid to boost the pace of missile development.

"He's one of these people that Kim Jong-un kind of plucked from obscurity and brought him into the fold," said Mr Madden.

"And that's because of his accomplishments, not due to him having been the cousin of somebody or

	<p>something like that, which happens sometimes in North Korea.</p> <p>“Kim Jong-un has been very good actually about promoting people that didn’t have the traditional patronage ties.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Why does NKorea want nuclear weapons?
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kim-jong-un-nuclear-weapons-experts-weigh-in-north-korea/
GIST	<p>SEOUL -- Days after a <u>massive underground bomb blast</u>, there are signs North Korea may be <u>preparing a new missile launch</u>.</p> <p>South Korea has responded with another show of force: This time, its Navy conducted live fire drills, vowing it could bury its northern neighbor at sea.</p> <p>But the North's weapons program continues to accelerate. Kim Jong Un has launched 18 missiles this year.</p> <p>Despite the cartoon character stereotype of Kim Jong Un, Andrei Lankov, a professor at Kookmin University in Seoul, says Kim is "not a madman."</p> <p>Lankov has followed Kim since he took over at age 27 in 2011. Kim consolidated his power by killing his uncle, and reportedly having his elder half brother assassinated at a Malaysian airport.</p> <p>"He is ruthless and homicidal exactly because he is rational," Lankov says. "It's not a job for somebody who is shy of killing people."</p> <p>Lankov says Kim wants nuclear weapons so his regime can't be overthrown by the U.S. with help from the South.</p> <p>"It's very clear what they want: It's to achieve the final victory, which means unifying Korea on their terms," says Daniel Pinkston, an expert on North Korea's weapons program. "Secondly, it means expelling the United States from the region -- and they continue to develop strategies every day to achieve those goals."</p> <p>While none of the experts we've talked to believe North Korea will launch a preemptive strike on the United States or South Korea, the bigger question is what the U.S. will do if North Korea fires another missile over Japan -- that could come as early as this weekend.</p> <p>None of the experts we've talked to thinks North Korea would make a pre-emptive strike on the U.S. or South Korea, because that would be suicidal. Instead the weapons are meant as a deterrent -- even as a war of words continues.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Western wildfires prompt health concerns
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/wildfire-smoke-causes-health-concerns/
GIST	<p>TROUTDALE, Ore. -- A <u>growing Oregon wildfire</u> covered parts of Portland's metropolitan area Tuesday with ash and prompted the shutdown of a lengthy stretch of highway through the state's scenic Columbia River Gorge.</p> <p>It was one of dozens of wildfires burning in western U.S. states that sent smoke into cities from Seattle to Denver - prompting health warnings and cancellations of outdoor activities for children by many school districts. <u>According to CBS Denver</u>, doctors say residents, especially those with lung or heart problems, should avoid the outdoors until the haze clears up.</p>

	The National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, a federal agency that coordinates wildfire-fighting, said 80 large fires were burning on 2,200 square miles in nine Western states.
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HEADLINE	09/06 China brushes off Vietnam protests
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-southchinasea-vietnam-china/china-brushes-off-vietnam-protests-over-south-china-sea-drills-idUSKCN1BH110
GIST	<p>HANOI (Reuters) - China on Wednesday dismissed Vietnamese condemnation of its military live-fire exercises in the disputed South China Sea, saying it was acting within its sovereign rights.</p> <p>China conducted the drills around the Paracel Islands, which Vietnam claims, prompting Vietnam to say it would "resolutely protect" its "legitimate rights" through peaceful means.</p> <p>Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular briefing that China had done nothing wrong.</p> <p>"We hope the relevant side can regard the drills calmly and reasonably," he said, without elaborating.</p> <p>China claims nearly all the South China Sea, through which an estimated \$3 trillion in international trade passes each year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan also have claims.</p> <p>Tension between China and neighboring Vietnam is at its highest in three years over the disputed waters.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 UN warns of Rohingya catastrophe
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya/u-n-warns-of-catastrophe-as-myanmar-rohingya-exodus-nears-150000-idUSKCN1BH0HD?il=0
GIST	<p>YANGON/SHAMLAPUR, Bangladesh (Reuters) - Nearly 150,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh in less than two weeks, officials said on Wednesday after the United Nations chief warned there is a risk of ethnic cleansing in the former Burma that could destabilize the wider region.</p> <p>Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi blamed "terrorists" for "a huge iceberg of misinformation" on the violence in Rakhine state but she made no mention of the exodus of Rohingya since violence broke out there on Aug. 25.</p> <p>She has come under increasing pressure from countries with Muslim populations, including Indonesia, where thousands led by Islamist groups held a rally in Jakarta on Wednesday, to demand that diplomatic ties with Buddhist-majority Myanmar be cut.</p> <p>In a rare letter to the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed concern that the violence in Rakhine could spiral into a "humanitarian catastrophe".</p> <p>Reuters reporters in the impoverished Cox's Bazar region of neighboring Bangladesh have witnessed boatloads of exhausted Rohingya arriving near the border village of Shamlapur.</p> <p>According to the latest estimates issued by U.N. workers operating in Cox's Bazar, arrivals in just 12 days stood at 146,000. This brought to 233,000 the total number of Rohingya who have sought refuge in Bangladesh since last October.</p> <p>The surge of refugees - many sick or wounded - has strained the resources of aid agencies and communities already helping hundreds of thousands from previous spasms of violence in Myanmar. Many</p>

	have no shelter, and aid agencies are racing to provide clean water, sanitation and food.
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HEADLINE	09/05 Plastic fibers in 83% world's tap water
SOURCE	http://time.com/4928759/plastic-fiber-tap-water-study/?xid=homepage
GIST	<p>Virtually all the world's tap water is contaminated by microscopic plastic fibers, a new study claims, raising fresh concerns about the implications of rampant plastic pollution on human and planetary health.</p> <p>Some 83% of tap water samples collected from over a dozen countries on five continents <u>tested</u> positive for microplastic, according to a study commissioned by data journalism outlet Orb. The specific rate of prevalence in different locales varied, but all tested locations — from Europe to Jakarta and Beirut — saw plastic found in over 70% of tap water samples.</p> <p>In the U.S., researchers found that 94% of all water samples — including tap water from places like Trump Tower and the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters — were contaminated by plastic. These microscopic fragments enter the water system in multiple ways, reports Orb, from synthetic fiber clothing to tire dust and <u>microbeads</u>, as well as the fragmenting of larger pieces of plastic, which for the most part is non-biodegradable.</p> <p>With about 300 million tons of plastic produced annually, the <u>worsening</u> contamination problem it brings <u>to oceans and rivers</u> has attracted <u>increasing concern</u>.</p> <p>Attention has previously focused on plastic pollution's effect on marine life, <u>seabirds</u> and the human food chain, but effects of microplastic's presence in the human body remain to be studied.</p> <p>"There are certain commons that connect us all to each other, air, water, soil, and what we have universally found time and time again is if you contaminate any of those commons, it gets in everything," Sherri Mason, an expert on plastic pollution at the State University of New York in Freedonia, told Orb.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 'Free speech week' coming to Berkeley
SOURCE	http://time.com/4924477/berkeley-yiannopoulos-antifa-free-speech-week/?xid=homepage
GIST	<p>The calm in Berkeley is unlikely to last for long. The city that is home to one of California's most prestigious universities has been the site of four messy, violent clashes between the far-left and the far-right this year, <u>the latest</u> just before Labor Day. Now, the city is bracing for an upcoming "Free Speech Week" at the University of California, Berkeley campus in late September, which will bring back the provocateur whose appearance <u>sparked the recent series of conflicts</u>.</p> <p>Firebrand Milo Yiannopoulos, along with conservative commentator Ann Coulter and more than a dozen other speakers, has been invited to campus by a student group called Berkeley Patriot to speak during a four-day event running Sept. 24-27. While a week focused on free speech might sound like a series the university itself would host, given that it is the proud home to the Free Speech Movement, the branding was done by Yiannopoulos — who vowed to return after protesters <u>forced him to cancel</u> a planned speech there in February.</p> <p>The school will be providing venues for the event but does not play the role of approving or rejecting speakers invited by students, officials say. "This isn't something we decided to permit," says UC-Berkeley spokesperson Dan Mogulof. "There is no discretion."</p> <p>On the Berkeley campus, administrators and the students who have invited the speakers are busy trying to figure out how to keep things from going haywire this time. At least once per day, they've been on a conference call with the campus police to discuss strategies for keeping people safe and making sure</p>

	the university doesn't turn into a battleground. Mogulof says the school will be coordinating with other local and regional law enforcement in advance of "Free Speech Week" as well.
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HEADLINE	09/05 Hurricane Irma makes landfall
SOURCE	http://time.com/4928414/hurricane-irma-caribbean-storm-winds-florida/?xid=homepage
GIST	<p>(ST. JOHN'S, Antigua) — The most powerful Atlantic Ocean hurricane in recorded history made its first landfall in the islands of the northeast Caribbean early Wednesday, churning along a path pointing to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba before possibly heading for Florida over the weekend.</p> <p>The eye of Hurricane Irma passed over Barbuda around 1:47 a.m., the National Weather Service said.</p> <p>Residents said over local radio that phone lines went down. Heavy rain and howling winds raked the neighboring island of Antigua, sending debris flying as people huddled in their homes or government shelters.</p> <p>Officials warned people to seek protection from Irma's "onslaught" in a statement that closed with: "May God protect us all."</p> <p>In Barbuda, the storm ripped off the roof of the island's police station forcing officers to seek refuge in the nearby fire station and at the community center that served as an official shelter. The Category 5 storm also knocked out communication between islands. Midcie Francis of the National Office of Disaster Services confirmed there was damage to several homes, but said it was too early to do tally or assess the extent of the damage.</p> <p>Foreign Affairs Minister Charles Fernandez, who has temporary oversight for Disaster Management told The Associated Press via text that the northern end of island was hit hard by the storm. He did not elaborate on the extent of damage.</p> <p>The storm had maximum sustained winds of 185 mph (295 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. Its forecast early Wednesday was for the winds to fluctuate slightly but for the storm to remain at Category 4 or 5 strength for the next day or two. The most dangerous winds, usually nearest to the eye, were forecast to pass near the northern Virgin Islands and near or just north of Puerto Rico through the day Wednesday.</p> <p>On the 108-square-mile island, people who live in low-lying areas were staying with friends and relatives on higher ground or sleeping in churches, schools and community facilities built to withstand hurricanes. None of the shelters have yet been tested by Category 5 winds, however.</p> <p>Many homes in Antigua and Barbuda are not built on concrete foundations or have poorly constructed wooden roofs that are susceptible to wind damage. Other islands in the path of the storm included the Virgin Islands and Anguilla, a small, low-lying territory of about 15,000 people.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Charlottesville VA to remove Confederate statue
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/charlottesville-city-council-vote-removal-stonewall-jackson-statue-n798821
GIST	<p>The Charlottesville, Virginia, City Council voted Tuesday night to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson from a local park after a public hearing punctuated by protests and chants of "Let her speak."</p> <p>By voice vote, the council voted after 11 p.m. ET to ask a design firm to redesign Emancipation Park,</p>

where the Jackson statue stands — effectively ordering its removal once all court cases are resolved.

The vote would also expedite the relocation of a statue of Robert E. Lee, which was at the center of white nationalist demonstrations in mid-August that led to the death of a woman after a car plowed into a group of anti-protesters.

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HEADLINE	09/06 Race is on to predict Irma's path
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-irma/predicting-irma-s-path-giving-supercomputers-challenge-n798961
GIST	<p>When it comes to hurricane prediction, the consensus is on the need for consensus among forecasters. No single computer model should be relied on. And no forecast remains static.</p> <p>So as Hurricane <u>Irma roars</u> toward the Caribbean Sea, forecasters are looking at the top weather models from Europe, the United States and Britain, collectively, to track what on Tuesday was already being described as the second-strongest storm observed in modern times.</p> <p>But even the world's best weather minds and most powerful computers can't say precisely where the Category 5 storm is headed or whether it will retain its 185 mph winds when it hits the U.S., probably sometime this weekend. One major factor that can't yet be determined: whether Irma will hit Cuba and lose power along with the energy-sustaining warmth it gained over the open ocean.</p> <p>The best hurricane forecasting systems today are global models that solve the mathematical equations about the behavior of the atmosphere all over the world, said Jeff Masters, director of meteorology at the <u>Weather Underground</u>, a research group he founded.</p> <p>Tops among half a dozen of these systems in recent years has been the <u>ECMWF</u>, the European Union's super-computing system. The European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting, known to those in the trade as the "European Model," has used very high-powered computers for more than a decade to model weather patterns around the globe.</p> <p>The models, known as four-dimensional variational data assimilations (or 4D-Var) are expensive and take longer to assemble — producing two projections a day compared to the faster modeling systems run in the United States, which produce four or more projections every 24 hours.</p> <p>The results from the private European system are available only to subscribers and are costly, but experts said they have been the most reliable in recent years.</p> <p>"The idea behind their model is to forecast for the entire globe," said Ryan Maue, a research meteorologist for <u>WeatherBELL Analytics</u>. "The theory is that, if they can get as much of the atmosphere around the globe correct as possible, then the tropical cyclones in the model will go in the right places and do the right things."</p> <p>Put another way, Maue said: "If you had to go in a casino and bet on one model, you would bet on the ECMWF, because it would be right more often than the others."</p> <p>But Maue and other experts stressed that they look at the European model along with many others in trying to predict the path and intensity of storms like Irma.</p> <p>The principal predictive tool operated in the United States is the <u>Global Forecasting System (GFS)</u>, run by the National Weather Service. Models generally have become twice as good in predicting storm tracks over the last two decades and the GFS system is particularly strong in this regard, said Masters.</p> <p>The National Hurricane Center in Miami uses both the European and America's GFS system, along with</p>

several other computer modeling systems to make its forecasts. Britain's UKMET system is known for accuracy derived, like the European system, from high-powered 4D modeling. America's HWRF (Hurricane Weather Research and Forecasting) uses real-time data, including from airplanes, to track ocean waves and, thereby, wind speeds.

Maue said HWRF did a "fantastic" job predicting the rapid intensification of Hurricane Harvey, as it prepared to make landfall last week. That remains one of the most difficult challenges for forecasters — because accurate intensity calls allow individuals, and governments, to decide when evacuations are a must.

The importance of perusing multiple models was exemplified again this week as the GFS model predicted a phenomenally low 870 millibar atmospheric pressure reading, said Masters. That would indicate winds of 200 miles per hour, or more, could be on the way.

But Masters said the European and HWRF models factor in the immediate impact of the winds in stirring up colder, sub-surface ocean water. That colder water will tend to decrease the power of the storm, increase pressures into the 920-millibar range, and reduce wind speeds. So while the GFS model might indicate "a ridiculous, totally off the scale, hurricane," Masters said, "the others models say it's likely we merely have a ridiculous hurricane."

As much as the science of hurricane prediction has improved, there is a lot left to know. Predictions made four days prior to landfall still end up being an average of about 175 miles off the mark, said Masters.

Even with all the models and improvements, experts still don't know a couple of crucial things about Irma: How will local "steering currents" fluctuate, hour by hour, to redirect the storm as it gets closer to shore? What will be the exact location, and strength, of pressure systems around the U.S. that will determine when Irma turns northward?

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HEADLINE	09/06 Myanmar leader blames 'fake news' in crisis
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/World/Asia/AS-Myanmar-Attacks/2017/09/06/id/811838/
GIST	<p>KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh (AP) — Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi is blaming fake news and a misinformation campaign for fueling a crisis that the U.N. says has now pushed more than 125,000 minority Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh.</p> <p>According to a statement, Suu Kyi told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a phone call that her government is defending "all the people" in western Rakhine state.</p> <p>She told Erdogan that his deputy prime minister was a victim of fake news when he posted photos purportedly showing dead Rohingya that were not related to the crisis. The photos on Mehmet Simsek's Twitter account had been taken down.</p> <p>She says such misinformation helps promote the interests of "terrorists," a reference to Rohingya insurgents whose attacks Aug. 25 triggered the latest military crackdown and streams of refugees.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 NKorea tensions hit Wall St.
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/Finance/StreetTalk/North-Korea-nuclear-test-ICBM-bomb/2017/09/05/id/811794/
GIST	U.S. stocks sank on Tuesday, with the S&P 500 stumbling to its biggest single-day loss in about three weeks, as investors weighed fresh tensions with North Korea.

	<p>North Korea on Sunday conducted its sixth nuclear test, which it said was of an advanced hydrogen bomb for a long-range missile, marking a dramatic escalation of the regime's stand-off with the United States and its allies.</p> <p>With U.S. markets closed on Monday for the Labor Day holiday, Tuesday marked the first regular trading since the geopolitical developments.</p> <p>"North Korea seems to be what gets the biggest reaction, at least over the last month or two," said Aaron Jett, vice president for global equity research at Bel Air Investment Advisors in Los Angeles.</p> <p>"It's basically just a risk-off day ... There is no data, no earnings, nothing really fundamental to move the market today, so it sells off when there's a scary headline again," Jett said.</p> <p>The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 234.25 points, or 1.07 percent, to 21,753.31, the S&P 500 lost 18.7 points, or 0.76 percent, to 2,457.85 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 59.76 points, or 0.93 percent, to 6,375.57.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Emergencies declared as Irma intensifies
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/Headline/US-Trump-Hurricane-Irma/2017/09/06/id/811835/
GIST	<p>President Donald Trump has declared emergencies in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as Hurricane Irma prepares for landfall.</p> <p>The declarations authorize the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief efforts in those places.</p> <p>The dangerous Category 5 storm is wielding the most powerful winds ever recorded for a storm in the Atlantic Ocean. It is on a path that could take it toward Florida over the weekend.</p> <p>Irma's size and strength put the entire state on notice Tuesday. Residents and visitors prepared to leave in anticipation of catastrophic winds and floods.</p> <p>Puerto Rico's governor is also warning that the effects of Hurricane Irma could be catastrophic and calling the storm more dangerous than Hurricane Harvey.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Irma so strong creates seismic tremors
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/hurricane-irma-seismic-earthquakes/2017/09/05/id/811828/
GIST	<p>Hurricane Irma, currently barreling through the Caribbean toward Florida as a strong Category 5 storm, is showing up on instruments used to measure earthquakes.</p> <p>"What we're seeing in the seismogram are low-pitched hums that gradually become stronger as the hurricane gets closer to the seismometer on the island of Guadeloupe," the U.K.'s University of Southampton seismologist Stephen Hicks <u>told USA Today</u>.</p> <p>The hurricane is not causing earthquakes, Hicks said, but the high winds it produces, as well as the swaying of trees, transfer energy into the ground. Waves crashing against the shore also are a contributor. Since the seismometer is near the ocean, that energy is picked up, Hicks said.</p> <p>"Earthquakes occur 10s of (miles) deep inside Earth's crust, a long way from the influence of weather events, and there is no evidence to suggest that hurricanes and storms directly cause earthquakes," he added.</p>

	<p>Strong storms often show up on seismic instruments.</p> <p>"We saw this for Hurricane Harvey on seismometers located close to Houston," Hicks said.</p> <p>As Irma gets closer to the sensors, "we will see a dramatic increase in the amplitude of the seismic recordings," he said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Putin calls for NKorea talks; not sanctions
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/moon-hopes-skorea-russia-work-norths-nukes-49645470
GIST	<p>While condemning <u>North Korea</u> over its latest nuclear test, the leaders of Russia and <u>South Korea</u> seemed far apart on the issue of stepping up sanctions against Pyongyang after a meeting Wednesday in the Russian port city of Vladivostok.</p> <p>Speaking after the meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Russian President <u>Vladimir Putin</u> called for talks with North Korea, saying sanctions are not a solution to the country's nuclear and missile development.</p> <p>Moon had been calling for Moscow to support stronger sanctions against Pyongyang, which conducted its sixth nuclear test on Sunday in what it claimed was a detonation of a thermonuclear weapon built for intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.</p> <p>"We should not give in to emotions and push Pyongyang into a corner," Putin said in a news conference after the meeting, held on the sidelines of a conference on economic development of Russia's Far East. "As never before everyone should show restraint and refrain from steps leading to escalation and tensions."</p> <p>Moon didn't provide details of his conversations with Putin. He said the leaders agreed that reducing regional tension and "quickly solving" the security challenges posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile program were critical. Ahead of his meeting with Putin, Moon said that the situation could get out of hand if North Korea's missile and nuclear tests aren't stopped.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 French Caribbean residents: stay inside
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-french-caribbean-residents-told-stay-inside-49646094
GIST	<p>French authorities have ordered inhabitants to remain confined to their house and not go out under any circumstances in the French Caribbean islands of <u>Saint Martin</u> and <u>Saint Barthelemy</u> because of Hurricane Irma.</p> <p>The French ministry of Interior has issued the highest possible alert for both islands of French overseas because they appear to be in the middle of the path of the dangerous Category 5 storm.</p> <p>Schools, public services and ports have been closed.</p> <p>Authorities recommend the population stay in the safest room of the house and get prepared for power cuts and disruption in the supply of water.</p> <p>Two other French Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique have been placed under a more moderate alert.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Group: 'assembly line' torture in Egypt
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rights-group-finds-assembly-line-torture-egypt-49644381
GIST	<p>An international rights group says Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has given a "green light" to systematic torture inside detention facilities, allowing officers to act with "almost total impunity."</p> <p>In a 63-page report released Wednesday, Human Rights Watch says el-Sissi, a U.S. ally who was warmly received at the <u>White House</u> earlier this year, is pursuing stability "at any cost," and has allowed the widespread torture of detainees despite it being outlawed by the Egyptian constitution.</p> <p>El-Sissi "has effectively given police and <u>National Security</u> officers a green light to use torture whenever they please," said Joe Stork, deputy <u>Middle East</u> director at the New York-based group. "Impunity for the systematic use of torture has left citizens with no hope for justice."</p> <p>The allegations, the group said, amount to crimes against humanity.</p> <p>Egypt's Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the report.</p> <p>Most of the detainees are alleged supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood group, which rose to power after the 2011 uprising that toppled President Hosni Mubarak but has been the target of a sweeping crackdown since the military overthrew an elected Islamist president in 2013.</p> <p>Human Rights Watch says Egypt arrested or charged some 60,000 people in the two years after Mohammed Morsi, a Brotherhood leader who became Egypt's first freely elected president, was overthrown following a divisive year in power. Hundreds have gone missing in what appear to be forced disappearances, and hundreds of others have received preliminary death sentences.</p> <p>Widespread torture in a perceived climate of impunity was one of the main grievances behind the uprising that toppled Mubarak. Stork warned that "allowing the security services to commit this heinous crime across the country invites another cycle of unrest."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Bahamas mandatory evacuation of islands
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-hurricane-irma-strengthens-category-storm-49625260?cid=clicksource_76_2_hero_headlines_headlines_hed
GIST	<p>Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Minnis says his government has ordered a mandatory evacuation of islands in the southern part of the island chain because of Hurricane Irma.</p> <p>Minnis says the Category 5 storm poses a dire threat to the islands of Mayaguana, Inagua, Crooked Island, Acklins, Long Cay and Ragged Island.</p> <p>People who live on the islands will be flown Wednesday to Nassau on the island of New Providence. Minnis says it will be the largest hurricane evacuation in the history of the Bahamas.</p> <p>People who don't evacuate will be at "great danger" from storm surge caused by what he called a "monster" hurricane. Minnis says emergency personnel may not be available to rescue them when the storm is at its height between Thursday and Friday.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Florida on edge; evacuations pending
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/florida-edge-evacuations-coming-hurricane-irma-nears-49637939?cid=clicksource_81_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed
GIST	<p>Hurricane Irma's size and strength put the entire state of Florida on notice Tuesday, and residents and visitors prepared to leave in anticipation of catastrophic winds and floods that could reach the state by this weekend.</p> <p>Throughout South Florida, officials readied evacuation orders and people raided store shelves, buying up water and other hurricane supplies. Long lines formed at gas stations and people pulled shutters out of storage and put up plywood to protect their homes and businesses.</p> <p>Irma's winds were 185 mph (297 kph) Tuesday, a strong Category 5 storm, and forecasters say it could strengthen more as it neared the eastern-most Caribbean islands, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.</p> <p>The storm had the most powerful winds ever recorded for a storm in the Atlantic Ocean and posed an immediate threat to the small islands of the northern Leewards, including <u>Antigua and Barbuda</u>, as well as the British and U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.</p> <p>The last major storm to hit Florida was 2005's Wilma, its eye cutting through the state's southern third as it packed winds of 120 mph (193 kph). Five people died.</p> <p>Florida Gov. <u>Rick Scott</u> declared a state of emergency in all 67 counties to give local governments "ample time, resources and flexibility" to prepare for the storm. President Donald Trump also approved a federal emergency declaration for the state ahead of the storm, according to the <u>Federal Emergency Management Agency</u>.</p> <p>Scott warned that although officials don't know the storm's exact path, winds are likely to be "extreme and life-threatening" and the impacts could be felt inland, away from the coast. He said Floridians need to follow any evacuation orders.</p> <p>"This storm has the potential to devastate this state, and you have to take this seriously," Scott said from the state's emergency operations center in Tallahassee, the state capital. "Remember: We can rebuild your home; we cannot rebuild your life."</p> <p>In the Florida Keys, a chain of 42 low-lying islands that includes Key West, government officials said visitors would be told to leave Wednesday and residents should be out by the next day.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Air quality 'poor' in most of state
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/air-quality-continues-to-drop-across-the-state
GIST	<p>SEATTLE -- <u>Local agencies</u> are reporting Tuesday that air quality is poor across most of Washington state due to several wildfires in the state, along with smoke carried in from <u>Oregon</u> and Montana fires.</p> <p>In Seattle, smoke from the <u>Jolly Mountain Fire</u> near Cle Elum and the <u>Norse Peak Fire</u> near Chinook Pass have made its way to Western Washington.</p> <p>Pierce, King and Snohomish counties are all currently at "moderate" air quality but are expected to drop to "unhealthy" later Tuesday, according to the <u>Washington Smoke Information</u>.</p> <p>Skagit County is currently at "unhealthy", according to Skagit County Public Health.</p> <p>According to the <u>Puget Sound Clean Air Agency</u>, shifting winds on Thursday are expected to improve the air quality.</p>

	<p>Kitsap County, which was the only county in the region with "good" air quality Tuesday morning, now has been downgraded to "moderate" Tuesday afternoon, according to the agency.</p> <p>The Cascades area is currently at an "unhealthy" air quality rating.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 JBLM soldiers to help fight wildfires
SOURCE	http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/active-duty-soldiers-from-jblm-helping-with-washington-wildfire/603587227
GIST	<p>The Department of Defense has agreed to assign 200 active-duty soldiers to help fight a wildfire in Washington state.</p> <p>Civilian firefighting commanders said Tuesday the soldiers from Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, will undergo four days of training and then be sent to a complex of 14 wildfires in the Umpqua National Forest that have burned 47 square miles (120 square kilometers).</p> <p>The soldiers will join about 1,000 firefighters already at the site.</p> <p>The National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, a federal agency that coordinates wildfire-fighting, says 80 large fires are burning on 2,200 square miles (5,700 square kilometers) in nine Western states.</p> <p>The military has already dispatched three C-130s to drop fire-retardant slurry and two RC-26 surveillance aircraft to help fight Western fires.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Oregon wildfire jumps Columbia Gorge
SOURCE	http://www.king5.com/news/local/wildfires/eagle-creek-fire-jumps-gorge-into-washington/471059814
GIST	<p>Skamania County, Wash. - Skamania County fire officials now report the Eagle Creek Fire in Oregon jumped the Columbia River Gorge into Washington and is burning in the Archer Mountain area. Units from five fire departments are responding to the blaze.</p> <p>Residences in the Smith-Cripe and Archer Mountain Road area are under a Level 3 evacuation, which means leave immediately.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Eagle Creek Fire that stranded more than 150 hikers in the Mount Hood National Forest on Saturday has grown to 4,800 acres and closed a portion of Interstate 84.</p> <p>The 1,600-acre growth of the fire on Monday led to the closure of I-84, the major east-west thoroughfare through the Columbia River Gorge, from Troutdale to Hood River. Trucks heading westbound are being detoured off the highway at The Dalles.</p> <p>Oregon Department of Transportation spokesman Don Hamilton said the freeway is closed due to poor visibility from smoke and the fire getting closer to the road. He said they will work with law enforcement to determine when to reopen the road. Hamilton expects I-84 to be closed for most of Tuesday.</p> <p>On the Washington side of the gorge, trucks are prohibited from driving eastbound from Washougal to Dallesport.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Only 3 Cat. 5 hurricanes hit US
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2017/09/05/meteorological-monsters-only-3-category-5-hurricanes-have-ever-hit-u-s/633616001/
GIST	<p>It's been 25 years since a Category 5 hurricane struck the U.S., and <u>Irma</u> could potentially become just the fourth storm of that strength to barrel into the states.</p> <p><u>Hurricane Irma</u> intensified Tuesday into a monster storm in the Atlantic, with winds of 185 mph and gusts of 218 mph. Only one Atlantic hurricane on record, Allen in 1980, contained stronger winds.</p> <p>The only Category 5 hurricanes to hit the U.S. are Andrew in 1992, Camille in 1969 and an unnamed storm in 1935.</p> <p>Irma is forecast to tear across the islands of the northern Caribbean and potentially slam into the U.S. by the weekend or early next week. However, it's expected — for now — to lose some steam, becoming a Category 4 before it nears the U.S.</p> <p>The five hurricane categories of the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale are defined solely by wind speed, and don't take storm surge, heavy rain or barometric pressure into account. Any hurricane with winds of 157 mph or greater is a Category 5.</p> <p>These monster storms cause "catastrophic damage," the National Hurricane Center said. Category 5 hurricanes destroy a high percentage of homes, often causing total roof failure and wall collapses. Fallen trees and power poles isolate residential areas. Power outages last for weeks or months. And areas can be uninhabitable for the same time frame.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 US, SKorea prepare 'military response'
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/09/05/US-Pacific-Fleet-South-Korea-army-prep-military-response-plan/9101504623562/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ls&utm_medium=3
GIST	<p>Sept. 5 (UPI) -- The commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and South Korea's defense minister said they agreed to prepare a "practical military response plan" to what Adm. Scott Swift described as Pyongyang's "self-destructive" acts, following the country's <u>sixth nuclear test</u>.</p> <p>Swift, who oversees 200 ships and submarines, 1,180 aircraft and more than 140,000 sailors, also said the U.S. Navy plans to deploy strategic assets, including a carrier strike group, to the peninsula, Yonhap reported.</p> <p>Defense Minister Song Young-moo welcomed the proposal, and requested the Pacific Fleet commander play a pivotal role for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, according to the report.</p> <p>"If there's a desire to have another carrier and there's a desire to have more ships, more submarines, we have the capability and capacity to support that direction," <u>Swift said</u>.</p> <p>The U.S. naval commander described the U.S.-South Korea alliance as "ironclad" and told reporters in Seoul that <u>North Korea's</u> provocations will not weaken bilateral ties.</p> <p>"If [Kim Jong Un] is trying to separate the alliances and the allegiances that we have in the region, it's having the opposite [effect]," Swift said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Churches sue FEMA for disaster relief
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-harvey-churches-lawsuit/texas-churches-sue-fema-for-

	disaster-relief-after-harvey-idUSKCN1BG2QV
GIST	<p>(Reuters) - The Federal Emergency Management Agency has been sued by three Texas churches severely damaged in Hurricane Harvey, over what they called its policy of refusing to provide disaster relief to houses of worship because of their religious status.</p> <p>In a complaint filed on Monday in federal court in Houston, the churches said they would like to apply for aid but it would be “futile” because FEMA’s public assistance program “categorically” excludes their claims, violating their constitutional right to freely exercise their religion.</p> <p>They said FEMA’s ban on providing relief where at least half a building’s space is used for religious purposes, a policy also enforced after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012, contradicts a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision making it easier for religious groups to get public aid.</p> <p>That June 26 decision, Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia Inc v. Comer, said U.S. states must sometimes provide such aid even if their constitutions explicitly ban such funding.</p> <p>Becket, a nonprofit that advocates for religious freedoms and represents the churches, said the same principle should apply to federal FEMA relief for Harvey victims.</p> <p>“States and the federal government are different, but the First Amendment applies the same to both,” Daniel Blomberg, a lawyer for Becket, said in a phone interview. “The principle is that governments can’t discriminate on the basis of religious status, and that is unapologetically what FEMA is doing here.”</p> <p>The three churches, he added, “need emergency repair, now.”</p> <p>The case is Harvest Family Church et al v Federal Emergency Management Agency et al, U.S, District Court, Southern District of Texas, No. 17-02662.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Mexicans cross border to aid Texas
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-harvey-mexico-aid/mexican-volunteers-cross-border-to-aid-texas-after-hurricane-harvey-idUSKCN1BG2V1
GIST	<p>HOUSTON (Reuters) - Mexico has come to the aid of the United States following Hurricane Harvey, sending Red Cross volunteers, food and supplies to a country whose president has proposed building a wall to keep the two neighbors apart.</p> <p>Mexican volunteers wearing white vests labeled “Cruz Roja Mexicana” are distributing food and lending a sympathetic ear to some of the 1,800 storm refugees at the George R. Brown Convention Center, a temporary shelter.</p> <p>A caravan of Mexican storm relief was due to be shipped north for victims of a storm that has killed some 60 people and left tens of thousands homeless since first coming ashore Aug. 25.</p> <p>“We all know that there are some agreements and disagreements between governments, but for the Mexican Red Cross and the volunteers from the Mexican Red Cross, we are more than glad to be helpful and do some stuff to help people,” said Gustavo Santillan, one of the Mexican Red Cross volunteers.</p> <p>Mexico was assembling relief for Harvey but the United States had not yet defined what help was required, a senior Mexican government official told Reuters.</p> <p>Some 25 trailers were being prepared with rice, beans, coffee and chocolate along with 300 beds, nine generators, mobile kitchens, telecommunications equipment and personnel including paramedics and doctors, Mexico’s foreign ministry said.</p>

	<p>“Mexico is ready to help those affected by Harvey,” Carlos Sada, Mexico’s deputy foreign minister for North America, told reporters in Mexico City on Tuesday. “It’s a demonstration of our neighborliness, a show of solidarity.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 County Fire: don’t wipe ash off car
SOURCE	http://www.king5.com/news/local/wildfires/why-you-should-not-wipe-the-ash-off-your-car/471004401
GIST	<p>People across the Puget Sound region woke up Tuesday to ash on their cars due to wildfires. But trying to clean it off could damage your car.</p> <p>South King County Fire said wiping the ash off could scratch the paint. If you just plan to rinse it off, the water could release chemicals that are hard on the paint. You should thoroughly wash and dry your car instead.</p> <p>Winds pushed ash across the sky from the Norse Peak Fire burning near Crystal Mountain. The National Weather Service tracked easterly winds coming out of the mountains Monday night around 40 mph.</p> <p>The Norse Peak Fire started August 11. The fire is almost 19,000 acres in size and eight percent contained, as of Tuesday morning.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Decision to end DACA sparks protests
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-decision-to-end-daca-sparks-protests/
GIST	<p>NEW YORK -- Immigration activists took to the streets Tuesday to protest the Trump administration's <u>decision to end the 2012 program</u> that deferred deportations for nearly a million young people who were brought to the U.S.</p> <p>Attorney General Jeff Sessions outlined the decision at the Justice Department, arguing that the <u>Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)</u> was an "unconstitutional" overreach of former President Obama's executive authority.</p> <p>After the decision was announced, protesters marched in cities across the country, including Denver, Phoenix, Washington and New York City.</p> <p>In Manhattan, police handcuffed more than a dozen immigration activists who blocked Fifth Avenue in front of Trump Tower. The protests grew to roughly 400 people on Tuesday. At least 34 protesters were arrested, a New York Police Department spokesperson told CBS News.</p> <p>Some activists cried as they held hands during a sit-in on the pavement. Others stood on the sidelines, chanting loudly and waving signs. They yelled "undocumented -- unafraid."</p> <p>In Denver, students walked out of several high schools to protest the decision. Students marched with signs in support of DACA and joined a larger demonstration downtown, <u>CBS Denver</u> reports.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 DACA ends for ‘dreamers’
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-the-decision-to-end-daca-affects-dreamers/
GIST	The Trump administration announced Tuesday that it's ending the 2012 program that has deferred deportations for more than 780,000 people who came to the U.S. illegally as children.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions outlined the decision at a press conference at the Justice Department, arguing that the program, created by President Obama, is unconstitutional and was an executive branch overreach.

The acting secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Elaine Duke, issued a memorandum Tuesday formally rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and phasing it out. DHS is providing a six-month window in which it will adjudicate pending requests and will give Congress a chance to pass a legislative alternative. As a result, the program will end at different times for different people, expiring on a rolling basis.

How the decision will affect DACA recipients, according to senior DHS officials:

- For any initial DACA requests and applications for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) that have been received as of Tuesday, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will adjudicate them on an individual case-by-case basis.
- USCIS will reject all initial DACA requests and associated EADs received after Tuesday.
- For any requests for renewing DACA benefits and associated applications for EADs that have been received as of Tuesday, USCIS will adjudicate them on an individual, case-by-case basis.
- For individuals whose DACA status expires between Tuesday and March 5, 2018, USCIS can still adjudicate their renewal requests, but only if they're received by Oct. 5, 2017.
- If an individual's DACA protection expires March 6, 2018 (or a date thereafter) and he or she has not already submitted a renewal application, the individual would be subject to deportation on March 6, 2018 (or a date thereafter).
- For any EADs that are lost, stolen or destroyed, USCIS will continue to process the replacement document for the remainder of duration that they're valid.

Senior DHS officials said that as part of Duke's memorandum, USCIS will close all pending applications for Advance Parole associated with the DACA program. Advance Parole is a permit that allows a non-citizen to reenter the U.S. after traveling abroad. For any previously approved Advance Parole, USCIS will honor the validity period, but if a person doesn't have a previously approved parole application and travels outside the U.S., officials said that person's departure would automatically terminate their deferred action under DACA, and Customs and Border Protection will likely not allow their reentry to the U.S.

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HEADLINE	09/05 Irma strengthens; Jose just behind it
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SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/hurricane-irma-strengthens-closes-caribbean/story?id=49608171&cid=clicksource_81_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed
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GIST	<p>Hurricane Irma has strengthened to a Category 5 storm and catastrophic damage is possible in the Florida Keys and southern Florida this weekend, as a second storm has formed behind it.</p> <p>Irma was packing 185 mph winds and gusts up to 220 mph as of before 2 p.m. ET Tuesday and is expected to continue churning with deadly hurricane-force winds and a dangerous storm surge across a wide swath of the Caribbean this week before moving toward southern Florida, according to the National Hurricane Center (NHC).</p> <p>Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Jose has formed over the open Atlantic, following closely behind Irma, the NHC said Tuesday. Jose could become a Category 2 hurricane as it brushes the most northeastern Caribbean islands at the end of the week. However, there is no threat to the U.S. or Puerto Rico at this time. The NHC warned that residents in the Leeward Islands, already expected to face Irma, "should monitor the track."</p> <p>The NHC on Tuesday called Irma the strongest hurricane in the Atlantic basin outside of the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico in NHC records.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Recovery groups brace for Irma
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/hurricane-irma-recovery-groups-brace-back-back-major/story?id=49623853&cid=clicksource_4380645_1_hero_headlines_bsq_hed
GIST	<p>Large portions of Houston and other parts of Texas remain underwater from the last deadly hurricane to hit the U.S., but federal agencies and national recovery groups are already bracing for a potentially stronger storm.</p> <p>Hurricane Harvey was a Category 4 storm when it made landfall in Texas early Aug. 25. Now, Hurricane Irma is registering as a "potentially catastrophic Category 5" storm that will approach Puerto Rico as early as Thursday and likely affect Florida in the following days, according to the <u>National Hurricane Center</u> (NHC).</p> <p>While recovery agencies are working hard to redirect their resources, the predicted path for Irma indicates that it is not likely to hit the same area as Harvey. Irma is expected to hit the Caribbean and likely head up the East Coast rather than going into the Gulf of Mexico and toward Harvey-affected parts of Louisiana and Texas.</p> <p>But that wasn't the case when two hurricanes -- Katrina and Rita -- both hit the Louisiana area in 2005. Those two storms came just over three weeks apart, and while they did not follow the exact same path, parts of the Louisiana coastline were impacted by both.</p> <p>The <u>Federal Emergency Management Agency</u> (FEMA) and the <u>Red Cross</u> have been heavily involved in the response to Hurricane Harvey, but both have reported that they are prepared for Irma as well.</p> <p>William Booher, FEMA Director of Public Affairs, said Monday that the agency "is actively preparing for Irma while the coordinated response and recovery efforts with our state and local partners in Texas and Louisiana continues."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 After rain, eviction notices for many
SOURCE	http://www.chron.com/business/real-estate/article/After-the-rain-eviction-notices-for-many-12172544.php
GIST	<p>A week after the rain stopped, the eviction notices started showing up.</p> <p>By Labor Day, managers of swamped apartment complexes across the Houston area were informing tenants that it's time to pack up their things and find another place to live.</p> <p>"These first floors units will not be livable and current conditions pose a significant danger to you," warned one sympathetically worded email to residents of a complex in Fort Bend County. "We regret that this damage has occurred, and we are taking steps as rapidly as possible to repair the damage," said another notice, tacked to the inside of a door in Bellaire.</p> <p>The notices, affecting hundreds of local renters, order the residents out within five days. They also signal a difficult new chapter in the story of Tropical Storm Harvey for people who do not own a home.</p> <p>Many management companies are refunding rent and waiving late fees. But the mass evictions like the one at Ilo's apartment complex are increasing tensions between landlords and tenants as both grapple with flooded property, late rent payments and in some cases uncertainty over when the next paycheck will arrive.</p> <p>Landlord-tenant disputes are often the first to surface after a hurricane, said Sandra Brown, disaster</p>

	<p>manager at Lone Star Legal Aid. Brown, who says she managed more than 1,000 cases after the 2016 floods in Harris County alone, is one of many volunteer lawyers manning a legal hotline set up for Harvey victims.</p> <p>"This disaster is going to daisy chain into a huge number of legal issues that are going to show up over a period of days, weeks and months," Brown said. "Right now there are going to be many landlord-tenant issues: people who don't think they should give back the security deposit for flooded properties. There will be people who will try to kick out their tenants because their brother-in-law needs some place to stay. There's going to be a severe shortage of rental space in the community."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Irma strongest Atlantic hurricane
SOURCE	http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article171291337.html
GIST	<p>Irma spun into a monster storm Tuesday morning with sustained winds topping 180 mph, becoming the strongest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded outside the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, <u>National Hurricane Center forecasters said</u> in their 11 a.m. advisory.</p> <p>As the hurricane churns closer to the U.S. coast, its path becomes more certain, with South Florida, particularly the Keys, increasingly likely to take a hit. Tropical storm force winds could arrive as early as Friday. Gov. Rick Scott has declared a state of emergency for all 67 counties and has all 7,000 members of the state's National Guard to report to duty on Friday.</p> <p>Because Irma is so large, forecasters urged caution in paying too much attention to its exact track. The storm is continuing to roll west at 14 mph, with winds expected to begin battering the Leeward Islands today. A powerful high pressure ridge is steering the storm and will likely stay in place over the next few days, forecasters said. In five days, a trough moving across the U.S. should begin weakening the western edge of the ridge, allowing the storm to slide north. Where Irma makes the turn will determine impacts to Florida.</p> <p>"If ever there was a storm to take seriously in the Keys, this is it," Monroe County Emergency Management Director Martin Senterfitt said. "The sooner people leave, the better."</p> <p>Dangerous conditions, with hurricane force winds, are expected to hit the Leeward Islands tonight and Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on Wednesday. Fierce hurricane winds extend 60 miles from Irma's center, with tropical storm force winds reaching another 160 miles.</p> <p>Hurricane watches have also been issued for portions of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the southeastern Bahamas and Turks and Caicos, with fierce winds, storm surge and heavy rain Thursday and Friday. In Puerto Rico, the governor has declared a state of emergency and is preparing to open 456 shelters that can house more than 62,000. Puerto Rico's power company also warned that Irma could cut off the island's electricity for four to six months.</p>
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Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	09/05 Panel weighs SPD usage of Twitch
SOURCE	https://www.geekwire.com/2017/seattle-police-ditched-twitch-pax-panel-offers-3-ways-department-return-stream/
GIST	<p>In the midst of the giant PAX West gaming convention in Seattle this past weekend, one panel dedicated its conversation to <i>not</i> playing games. More specifically, the discussion on Monday centered around the Seattle Police Department and its short-lived use of Twitch to stream games that were mixed with dialogue on department and community matters.</p>

“Eyes Up, Guardians. The Police *Were* on Twitch” featured a panel of Seattle journalists, including myself, and tech-minded individuals with an eye on the increasingly popular world of game streaming.

Members of SPD’s communications department, on the channel FuzzFeed206, had been [streaming weekly conversations](#) for several months while playing the popular alien-fighting game “[Destiny.](#)” The effort was aimed at increasing transparency and outreach to a community of younger people who may not necessarily interact with the police through traditional means.

Sgt. Sean Whitcomb, SPD’s public affairs director, [suspended use of the channel](#) indefinitely in June after backlash over a broadcast in which he discussed the police shooting death of Charleena Lyles, a 30-year-old pregnant mother. Whitcomb was originally slated to moderate the PAX panel, but backed out over the weekend out of respect for the Lyles family and the ongoing police investigation.

Participants in a PAX West panel discussion about the Seattle Police Department’s use of Twitch.

James Feore, assistant director of the Seattle Online Broadcasters Association, led Monday’s discussion in front of a group of about 40 PAX attendees. Feore said that SPD, which had previously discussed a range of topics, from favorite donuts to legal marijuana, ran into trouble by using the casual gaming environment to address something as serious and emotional as an officer-involved shooting.

“Certain discussions need to have a certain limit,” said Nick Hunt-Walker, a software development instructor at Code Fellows. “Twitch, while being great for playing ‘Pokemon’ and streaming other games, isn’t necessarily the place to talk about things like police brutality and shooting people.”

Ten years ago if you were to tweet about a police shooting, people would have been outraged that you were using such a frivolous method of communication as Twitter.

Freelance journalist Tobias Coughlin-Bogue, who has written about SPD’s use of Twitch for Crosscut, said he thinks maybe it was a little early for that type of discussion on Twitch.

“Ten years ago if you were to tweet about a police shooting, people would have been outraged that you were using such a frivolous method of communication as Twitter,” Coughlin-Bogue said. “Now, if you didn’t tweet, they would be up in arms ... ‘Why are the police hiding information from us?’ So, maybe it’ll be another 10 years before Twitch is seen as a place for that kid of topic.”

Panelists agreed that “Destiny” and whether Whitcomb’s avatar didn’t draw a weapon wasn’t really the issue — Whitcomb could have been playing “Minecraft” and viewers would have still been upset by the platform being used. But does that mean the police shouldn’t be streaming online at all, whether it’s on Twitch or YouTube or elsewhere? Not entirely.

The PAX panel offered up a few possible solutions about what might work going forward for Whitcomb’s team and SPD — if they returned to Twitch — as they continue to strive for transparency and unique methods of outreach:

Edit for sensitivity: Until there is a greater acceptance of Twitch and streaming/gaming platforms as a legitimate form of communication for police or any agency of a similar nature, better choices need to be made about which topics are suitable for broadcast. While the goal is to dispense information and answer questions, that objective is lost on a broader audience that doesn’t yet accept Twitch as just any other medium. SPD could stick to tutorials on how to drive in the snow or best ways to report car prowls, etc., but avoid altogether cases involving a death or excessive violence such as sexual assault.

Broaden the voices: Perhaps hearing about the police from only the police isn’t enough. Inviting other community leaders or folks of varied racial or socioeconomic backgrounds into a discussion would lend a greater balance to the effort. If the aim is to humanize police and connect with a wider range of people, then involve more “real” people.

Change the format to suit the topic: It is possible to stream on Twitch without doing so in a game format. Obviously SPD is trying to attract an audience, and young people are attracted to streams in which they watch people play video games. But plenty of viewers would tune into a talk-show style stream showing Whitcomb and his team members outside of the game, not as avatars, discussing sensitive topics in a professional setting when the subject matter called for that sort of reverence.

Citing the charged atmosphere around more serious incidences of police involvement, Hunt-Walker said there also has to be some respect paid to the many decades of history tied to some of those incidences, especially police brutality.

“It’s great if the police want to be more accessible,” Hunt-Walker said. “I fully applaud that and I fully applaud transparency. But there are certain things that have a lot of weight and need to be handled as if they have a lot of weight.”

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HEADLINE

09/06 Claim: hackers infiltrated energy firms

SOURCE

<https://www.ft.com/content/8c51cdae-9298-11e7-bdfa-eda243196c2c>

GIST

Hackers have entered the operational systems of energy companies in the US and Europe, lying in wait with the ability to switch off the power and sabotage computer networks, according to a report by cyber security company Symantec.

The group of hackers, known as Dragonfly, Energetic Bear or Berserk Bear, infiltrated energy companies by tricking employees into opening Microsoft Word documents that harvest usernames and passwords, with the number of attacks rising in recent months.

While the hackers have not caused power outages, Symantec warned that attacks by a different group that made whole regions in Ukraine go dark in 2015 and 2016 show what is possible.

Eric Chien, a technical director at Symantec, said the attackers were “potentially political motivated”, with targets concentrated in the US and Turkey. Even if they compromise a small energy company, they could put the entire power grid at risk by removing or putting too much power into the grid, he said.

“We see them active on operational machines, understanding how they work, potentially understanding how to run a sabotage campaign. There’s no evidence of them modifying or corrupting them,” he said.

“They are waiting in case there is some kind of political event, then they have the cyber offensive means.”

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the US Homeland Security department warned in July that the US energy industry had been targeted by hackers. Reports have suggested that nuclear energy plants were targeted, but Mr Chien believes these are more difficult targets because regulations require that they keep operational systems separate from administrative computer networks. Dragonfly has been linked to previous attacks on the energy industry. In 2014 the group, thought to have ties to Russia, was believed to have compromised the systems of more than 1,000 organisations in 84 countries over 18 months.

CrowdStrike, another cyber security company, says the hackers are a nationalistic Russian group that may be trying to glean knowledge about the energy industry in order to use it as a diplomatic tactic. Adam Meyers, vice-president of intelligence at CrowdStrike, said he believed the hackers were less interested in disruption than assessing the power of their threats.

“They can assess how effective a threat to disrupt the flow of energy exports to a specific country might be and what recourse or action might be taken as a result,” he said.

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HEADLINE	09/05 Interpol: dark web tools fuel crime
SOURCE	http://www.itpro.co.uk/security/29391/interpol-dark-web-hacking-tools-are-fuelling-cybercrime
GIST	<p>Hacking tools made readily available through dark web markets are making cyber crime as a service increasingly popular, according to Interpol's head of cyber strategy.</p> <p>Cyber security professionals have warned of an increasing number of malware authors and hackers who, rather than attacking victims themselves, are instead <u>acting as cyber arms dealers</u>, selling toolkits that can be used by anyone to launch cyber attacks on targets.</p> <p>Because this allows even non-technical users to mount attacks, researchers have noticed a marked rise in the number of cyber attacks being carried out, Christophe Durand told IT Pro. "Definitively, we have a proliferation of attacks thanks to the availability of tools," he said.</p> <p>"It's so easy, especially for basic attacks. It's so easy to find tools, to find RATs, to find everything you need. I'm a father - I'm sometimes afraid of what my children could do if they came across these kind of tools."</p> <p>While these tools are often sold to would-be hackers by their creators, many (<u>such as the source code behind the Mirai botnet</u>) are being given away free of charge. Durand theorised that this could be a tactic used by advanced cyber criminals to throw investigators off their scent.</p> <p>"They tend to use zero-day techniques in order to be efficient in their business, and afterwards, when they understand that maybe they were up to a point that it could be easy for us to identify them - because it's a very specific attack, usually - that's when they decide to share and to spread the techniques, even the tools, for free sometimes."</p> <p>Unfortunately, Durand also pointed out that operating on a cyber crime as a service model is something that hackers are likely to continue doing.</p> <p>"It's something that is still very promising for criminals," he said. "It's something that is quite natural for them, to be organised in different silos, in a way - money laundering, attack, social engineering and so on and so forth - because every part of this activity requires very specific skills."</p> <p>Interpol has been working with law enforcement bodies in member countries in order to tackle cyber crime. The organisation offers training for police in areas like digital forensics, emerging technologies and burgeoning cyber crime tactics.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Hidden history of cybercrime forums
SOURCE	http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-40671091
GIST	<p>The notorious dark web marketplaces Alphabay and Hansa were shut down in July following "landmark" action by police forces in the US and Europe to unmask who was running them.</p> <p>They join a long list of other forums, chat rooms and boards that appeared and were blazingly popular with the criminal underworld before they were compromised and closed. But those sites, including Dark Market, Carders Market, Shadow Crew, Carder.su, Darkode, GhostMarket and the Silk Road, have more in common than just the trajectory of their genesis and demise.</p> <p>They all follow the modus operandi of a landmark forum set up in 2001 called Carder Planet. Designed for criminals who specialised in monetising lists or "dumps" of credit card numbers, it has had an influence far beyond that select group.</p> <p>"Carder Planet created the framework for the current criminal underground," said Andrei Barysevich, now</p>

a director at security firm Recorded Future but who, at the time the site operated, was helping to monitor cyber-crime in Eastern Europe.

The site was set up online shortly after a face-to-face meeting at a restaurant in Odessa attended by some of Ukraine and Russia's top credit card thieves, said Mr Barysevich.

"Odessa was, and still is, the ground zero for cyber-crime," he said. "It is a very criminalised city and a centre of white collar crime."

Before Carder Planet was set up, anyone who wanted to make money from stealing card numbers had to be a jack of all trades, said Liam O'Murchu, a researcher at Symantec who has spent years tracking online crime forums.

Not only did they have to find ways to steal the card numbers, often involving malware or hacking, they also had to work out how to turn those numbers into cash and not get caught.

"What they decided to do was pool everyone's resources, so they did not have to be perfectly skilled in everything in order to be able to do crime," he said.

"They set up the forum where people could come together and trade skills and nobody had to be an expert in the entire chain from beginning to end," said Mr O'Murchu.

The site proved an immediate success and soon had thousands of members all busily trading with each other.

"They got so blase and so sure of themselves that they organised the first real life meet-up of Carder Planet members," said Mr Barysevich. "Forum members were invited to a resort outside Odessa where they hung out together.

"They had good food, drink and girls and had a pretty good time," he said.

It was not only the attendees who enjoyed themselves. The police did too because news about the conference, as well as pictures of attendees, were leaked to the authorities. It was the first time that many of the cyber-thieves had been photographed and the images were widely studied, he said.

Despite the attention, Carder Planet kept going and enjoyed significant success, said Dmitri Alperovitch, a veteran cyber-crime researcher, who has helped to track down and expose some of its key members.

"It was the right place at the right time," he said. "You had a lot of smart folks in Russia and Ukraine at the time and you had the proliferation of the internet in those days in the former Soviet Union and the economy was doing very, very poorly."

Given that, he said, it was not surprising that those with technical skills and nothing legitimate to do with them turned to crime.

Coupled with this was the rise of online shopping in the US, much of which was powered by people using credit cards. Unfortunately, many of the firms setting up online were better at selling than security, meaning the thieves were regularly able to steal large amounts of card numbers.

Mr Alperovitch said the board explicitly modelled itself on more traditional organised crime groups - specifically the Italian mafia.

Occasional contributors were called "soldiers" and the more someone got involved the higher up the ranks they rose. At the top, he said, were the "dons" and "capos" who ran the biggest scams and collected financial tributes from the people they set working on them.

	<p>He said it was also a board on which reputation mattered a lot - a trait seen on many other criminal forums ever since.</p> <p>Before any criminals worked together they looked for "vouches" - essentially personal recommendations from other thieves about whether someone was trustworthy or not. Without those endorsements a collaboration between say a spammer and a malware writer was unlikely to get started. Anyone with a persistently bad reputation would find that no-one would work with them.</p> <p>Carder Planet was shut down voluntarily by its creators in 2004 - largely to avoid the fate of other boards, many of which were compromised by police and used to gather intelligence about members.</p> <p>Many of its members did keep on stealing cards and some of them, notably Roman Vega (aka Boa) and Vladislav Horohorin (aka Badb), have been tracked down and arrested.</p> <p>Those arrests were a consequence of the open atmosphere on Carder Planet, said Mr Alperovitch.</p> <p>"They've realised they were quite naive about law enforcement engagement and they did not realise that law enforcement was paying very close attention," he said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Periodic table of cybercrime attacks
SOURCE	http://www.cbronline.com/news/cybersecurity/business/periodic-table-cybercrime-attacks-curing-cybersecuritys-tunnel-vision/
GIST	<p>When you think about cyber security and cybercrime, what immediately springs to mind? <u>Ransomware</u>, <u>fraud</u>, dark web, phishing, malware – all the popular headline grabbers are now firmly in both the consciousness of the public and business alike.</p> <p>However, although any recognition and raised awareness of cyber security should be welcomed, cyber security is suffering from an attack of tunnel vision. The cybercrime landscape is evolving at break-neck speed, with tactics and methods of attacks extending past the now-familiar ransomware and DDoS to multifaceted attacks that incorporate multiple attack vectors.</p> <p>As businesses face pressure from all sides, from customers, investors and regulators, how can we keep pace with the evolving cybercrime landscape?</p> <p>ThreatMetrix has a novel, but effective, way of visualising the ever complex threat landscape, having created a Periodic Table of Cybercrime Attacks. ThreatMetrix has emerged as an astute commentator on the evolving threat landscape, having launched its first cybercrime report three years ago. However, over those years a trend emerged which pushed the security company into creating their own visual representation of cybercrime, as Vanita Pandey told CBR:</p> <p>“Over the past three years, we have seen attack vectors evolve as cyber-attacks have grown in size, complexity and frequency. Simple, single-vector attacks are rapidly being replaced by complex, multi-vector, globally networked attacks that are powered by identity testing bot attacks and pitch perfect social engineering stunts.</p> <p>“For this reason, the way we present and analyse different attack vectors was being brought into sharper and sharper focus. We wanted a better way to visually make sense of attacks and to understand the intricate connectivity of different types, groups and approaches to cybercrime.”</p> <p>The periodic table format provided the digital identity company with an ideal way in which to visualise and make sense of attacks. The scientific elements were replaced with specific attacks, with said attacks grouped together in their appropriate ‘family’. With business risks represented in place of the Lanthanides and the Actinides, the table was ideal in visualising how different types of attacks sat within broader</p>

overall groups.

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HEADLINE 09/05 UK university breaches double in 2yrs

SOURCE <http://www.information-age.com/university-cyber-security-breaches-leak-military-secrets-123468364/>

GIST This morning The Times detailed how cyber security breaches at university institutions including Oxford, Warwick and University College London have doubled in the past two years to 1,152 in 2016-17, with cyber criminals targeting scientific, engineering and medical activities; including research into missiles, according to data released after a range of freedom of information requests.

To what end? Experts fear that this increased targeting of universities and the resulting access to sensitive data, like military and medical research, is being sold to foreign powers.

While successful attacks have doubled, thousands more have been thwarted, with one university receiving between 1,000 and 10,000 attempted attacks each month, according to the report in The Times.

Data from the FOI requests found that the University of Oxford had experienced 515 cases of unauthorised access to accounts last year, while UCL faced 57 cyber attacks in 2016-17.

Paul Cant, VP EMEA at BMC Software, commenting on this, says: “With the number of cyber attacks on our universities known to have nearly doubled in the past two years, and, in this case, the data that some of them harbour being of critical importance to our national security, watertight digital defences are more essential than ever.”

The targeted files range in subjects, from medical record to military designs for ‘stealth fabrics’, which are thought to help ‘disguise’ military weapons and vehicles.

Carsten Maple, head of computing and director of cyber security at Warwick University, said hackers were targeting intellectual property that had been in development for years.

“If someone can get that very quickly, that’s good for them,” Maple said. “Certainly somebody might attack a university and then provide that information to a nation state.”

Maple also said he was concerned with the lack of secure defences concerning cyber-physical attacks, which target areas like hospital heating systems.

Henry Seddon, VP EMEA, Duo Security warns that “the challenge is that phishing attacks are increasingly sophisticated – a targeted spear phishing attack can be particularly difficult to spot – but they can ultimately compromise the security of the entire network. They open the doors to hackers, with stolen credentials, to access an organisation’s system virtually undetected, posing as an authorised user. Worryingly, phishing is now the most popular way of delivering ransomware onto an organisation’s network.”

Indeed, these more sophisticated attacks are a growing trend, with the GCHQ’s National Cyber Security Centre revealing earlier this year that Britain had faced 188 high-level security attacks in three months. Ciaran Martin, director general of cyber security at GCHQ said many of these attacks “threatened national security” by trying to access foreign policy and defence secrets.

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HEADLINE 09/06 Cyberterrorists targeting first responders

SOURCE <http://wtop.com/national-security/2017/09/cyber-terrorists-targeting-first-responders/>

GIST WASHINGTON — A U.S. intelligence community collaborative warned first responders in late July about escalating efforts to target them and their missions by cyberterrorists.

The Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT), an alliance between the FBI, DHS and the National Counterterrorism Center, told first responders, “We assess with moderate confidence that cyber actors, including those who support violent extremism, are likely to continue targeting first responders on the World Wide Web including by distributing personally identifiable information (PII) for the purpose of soliciting attacks from willing sympathizers in the homeland, hacking government websites, or attacking 911 phone systems to hinder first responders’ ability to respond to crises.”

While not a new phenomenon, the practice took on greater importance after a vulnerability was discovered in D.C. shortly before the presidential inauguration in January.

In a publication called First Responder’s Toolbox, the JCAT revealed, “police in Washington, D.C., discovered multiple disruptions to their surveillance cameras as a result of ransomware infections. Hackers compromised 70 percent of the cameras across the city eight days before the Presidential Inauguration, which prevented officials from accessing the command and control center of the surveillance system.”

The FBI said the infected cameras were configured with default remote access passwords. More than 120 of the city’s 187 camera/video recorders were impacted between Jan. 11 and Jan. 15, rendering them unable to record.

Two people were eventually arrested in London, England, in connection with the incident.

Another more widespread incident took place in October 2016 — a telephony denial of service (TDOS) attack on the 911 network which affected emergency call centers in at least 12 states.

“Several centers reported they were inundated with fake phone calls. As a result, authorities were in danger of losing service to their switches, and operators had difficulty in distinguishing fake incoming calls from legitimate calls for service,” said the JCAT publication.

Authorities arrested a U.S. person for the cyberattack and charged him with three counts of felony computer tampering.

Perhaps the most serious cases occurred in March 2016, when there were two doxxing attacks in the U.S. Doxxing is the process of searching for and publishing private or identifying information about a specific person or persons on the internet, typically with malicious intent.

That month, according to the JCAT bulletin, “the pro-ISIS Caliphate Cyber Army (CCA) posted PII of 50 police officers from New Jersey. The PII included the officers’ names, home and work addresses, and phone numbers.”

Later that month, before merging with other hacking groups to form the United Cyber Caliphate (UCC), the CCA hacking group posted a “kill list” containing the PII of 36 Minnesota police officers, said the publication.

The FBI, according to JCAT, is still investigating threatening phone calls to law enforcement officials, possibly resulting from CCA postings.

The alert urges first responders to become familiar with existing and emerging tactics and technologies used by cyber actors with malicious intent, including doxxing, ransomware, phishing, spear-phishing, whaling and social engineering, among others.

In order to counter attempts to target them, the JCAT bulletin encourages first responders “to minimize their online footprints on social media accounts, by removing or securing information to limit the release of potentially sensitive information on public-facing platforms.”

They are also advised, “That information that cyber actors may glean from first responders may be used on the ‘Dark Web,’ which is unindexed ‘invisible’ sections of the internet which enable anonymous communication.”

Because Dark Web use by cyber actors may hinder awareness that a cyberattack against an entity has even occurred, first responders are encouraged to regularly perform online searches to determine what information is available about them and their families on the open internet.

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HEADLINE	09/05 DDoS attacker demands ransom from site
SOURCE	https://www.hackread.com/attacker-demands-ransom-after-series-of-ddos-attacks-on-poker-site/
GIST	<p>On the evening of September 1st, 2017, an unknown attacker conducted a series of massive <u>DDoS attacks</u> on the servers of America’s Cardroom and its Winning Poker Network (WPN) forcing its services including Online Super Series (OSS) Cub3d to go offline.</p> <p>The site confirmed the attack in a Tweet at 2:12 am revealing that “We are currently experiencing a DDOS attack, all running tournaments have been paused. Will keep you updated.”</p> <p>However, at 2:41 AM another Tweet from the company announced that due to non-stop DDoS attack it has no other option but to cancel all the ongoing tournaments. “At this moment, the tournaments department is canceling and refunding all tournaments as per our terms and conditions.”</p> <p>The next day (September 3rd) the company <u>again Tweeted</u> about another DDoS attack and canceling of all running tournaments. However, WPN CEO Phil Nagy <u>explained</u> the situation on his Twitch channel.</p> <p>According to Nagy: “We had the attacker get on chat and say I am gonna attack you in one minute and he does the attack, but I will never pay an attacker I won’t pay a ransom, I won’t do it because once you get the bully get your lunch money, he’s taking your money all the time. Once they make you a bit*h, you are a bit*h, and I don’t like the idea of being a bit*h.”</p> <p>Nagy told the attacker to “get some job,” in reply, the attacker said, “This is my job, some other site is paying me to attack you.”</p> <p>WPN is not new to the DDoS attacks as Nagy said: “Throughout the year We have suffered DDoS attacks.” He also plans to implement proper security measure to avoid damage in case they are under cyber</p>

	<p>attack in the future.</p> <p>In the end, the DDoS attacks were mitigated by the IT department on WPN. However, their websites (americascardroom.eu and americascardroom.net) were still offline.</p> <p>With each day passing, the incidents involving DDoS attacks leading to ransom demand are increasing. The most prominent incident was witnessed in November 2015 when encrypted email service <u>ProtonMail</u> <u>suffered non-stop DDoS attacks</u> after which attackers demanded ransom. ProtonMail then paid \$6000 as ransom, but the attacks continued nevertheless.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 China jails man 9mo. for selling VPNs
SOURCE	https://www.hackread.com/chinese-man-sold-vpns-gets-9-months-in-prison/
GIST	<p>In July this year, it was reported that <u>Apple had removed all major VPN apps</u> from Chinese App Store on the request of the government. Now reports are that Deng Jiewei from Guangdong province has been charged with illegally selling virtual private network (<u>VPN</u>) software – He will serve nine months in prison.</p> <p>Jiewei who worked along with a partner made 14,000 yuan (\$2,136) by selling this software. He was arrested in 2016 for selling <u>VPNs</u> in 2015 and sentenced in March 2017, but the news only hit the local news sites this week.</p> <p>In <u>China</u> selling and using a VPN is illegal as it allows people to evade online government surveillance. According to a <u>report</u> from South China Morning Post, the software Jiewei sold allowed “visit foreign websites that could not be accessed by a mainland IP address.”</p> <p>The Chinese government uses a monitoring system known as “Great Firewall of China (GFW)” which lets authorities regulate the Internet domestically, <u>block targeted foreign websites</u> and slow down cross-border internet traffic.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 MongoDB installs held to ransom again
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/mongodb-installations-held-to/
GIST	<p>Security researchers are warning MongoDB admins to secure their installations after a fresh wave of attacks targeting tens of thousands of servers with ransom-like tactics.</p> <p>Victor Gevers, chairman of security non-profit <u>GDI Foundation</u>, <u>revealed on Twitter</u> that one of the attackers – using the <u>cru3lty@safe-mail.net</u> email address – had compromised 22,000 servers.</p> <p>The attackers scan the internet for publicly accessible databases running with default settings, before deleting the data and replacing it with the following ransom note:</p> <p><i>"We have your data. Your database is backed up to our servers. If you want to restore it, then send 0.15 BTC [\$650] and text me to email, just send your IP-address and payment info. Messages without payment info will be ignored."</i></p> <p>At the time of writing, ransom payments of over BTC 24 (£84,400; \$110,100) had been received by the hackers, with victims numbering nearly 76,000, according to a <u>Google Docs</u> spreadsheet that Gevers and fellow researcher Dylan Katz are updating.</p> <p>The attacks are reminiscent of a <u>similar series</u> of ransom raids on MongoDB installations at the turn of the year, although it appears that there are fewer attackers this time but more victims.</p>

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HEADLINE	09/05 Fake Chrome font update attack
SOURCE	http://www.securityweek.com/fake-chrome-font-update-attack-distributes-backdoor
GIST	<p>A malicious campaign targeting users of the Chrome web browser on Windows systems recently started distributing a remote access Trojan, security researchers have discovered.</p> <p>First spotted in December 2016, the attack is tied to the EITest compromise chain, and has been observed distributing the Fleercivet ad fraud malware and ransomware variants such as Spora and Mole. Initially targeting only Chrome, the campaign was expanded earlier this year to target Firefox users as well.</p> <p>The attack relies on pop-ups being displayed in the Chrome browser on Windows devices, claiming that users need to install a so called HoeflerText font pack. Code injected into compromised websites would make the visited pages look unreadable, thus making the fake popup seem legitimate.</p> <p>Fingerprinting capabilities included in the injected code trigger the attack if certain criteria are met (targeted country, correct User-Agent (Chrome on Windows) and proper referer). If the social engineering scheme is successful and the user accepts to install the fake font pack, a file named Font_Chrome.exe is downloaded and executed, and their system is infected with malware.</p> <p>Starting in late August, the malware distributed via these fake Chrome font update notifications is the NetSupport Manager remote access tool (RAT). According to Palo Alto Networks' Brad Duncan, this should indicate "a potential shift in the motives of this adversary."</p> <p>"Network traffic follows two distinct paths. Victims who use Microsoft Internet Explorer as their web browser will get a fake anti-virus alert with a phone number for a tech support scam. Victims using Google Chrome as their browser will get a fake HoeflerText popup [...] that offers malware disguised as Font_Chrome.exe," Duncan explains.</p> <p>The most recent versions of Font_Chrome.exe are represented by file downloaders designed to retrieve a follow-up malware that would install NetSupport Manager. This commercially-available RAT was previously associated with a campaign from hacked Steam accounts last year.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Keylogger targets intelligence gathering
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/key-logging-malware-dubbed-ehdevel-found-intelligence-gathering/article/686419/
GIST	<p>Security researchers have found a sophisticated malware framework, EHDevel, which started with more vulnerable individuals in bid to reach ultimate objective, targeting several Pakistani individuals.</p> <p>The malware, dubbed EHDevel, has been used by attackers, thought to be nation-state hackers, to gather intelligence. According to a Reuters report, a cyber-spying campaign is currently being waged against Indian and Pakistani entities.</p> <p>The malware allows hackers to log keystrokes, identify a victim's location and steal personal data. The malware also uses a complex mix of transitions from one programming language to another, code under active development, and bugs that were not spotted during the QA process.</p> <p>In a white paper, security researchers from Bitdefender said that a year ago they came across a suspicious document called News.doc. However, unlike most potentially malicious documents that get processed in its labs, this file displayed similarities with a set of files known to have been used in separate attacks targeted at different institutions.</p>

	<p>Further investigations found that is used a malware framework that uses a handful of novel techniques for command and control identification and communications, as well as a plugin-based architecture, a design choice increasingly being adopted among threat actor groups in the past few years.</p> <p>According to Bitdefender, this current operation has an identical mode of operation.</p> <p>“Another important discovery lies in the fact that this specialised framework that has been used to gather field intelligence for years in different shapes and forms, and our threat intelligence suggests a connection with the 2013 Operation Hangover APT as well,” said researchers.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Mobile bootloaders found vulnerable
SOURCE	http://thehackernews.com/2017/09/hacking-android-bootloader-unlock.html
GIST	<p>Security researchers have discovered several severe zero-day vulnerabilities in the mobile bootloaders from at least four popular device manufacturers that could allow an attacker to gain persistent root access on the device.</p> <p>A team of nine security researchers from the University of California Santa Barbara created a special static binary tool called BootStomp that automatically detects security vulnerabilities in bootloaders.</p> <p>Since bootloaders are usually closed source and hard to reverse-engineer, performing analysis on them is difficult, especially because hardware dependencies hinder dynamic analysis.</p> <p>Therefore, the researchers created BootStomp, which "uses a novel combination of static analysis techniques and underconstrained symbolic execution to build a multi-tag taint analysis capable of identifying bootloader vulnerabilities."</p> <p>The tool helped the researchers discover six previously-unknown critical security bugs across bootloaders from HiSilicon (Huawei), Qualcomm, MediaTek, and NVIDIA, which could be exploited by attackers to unlock device bootloader, install custom malicious ROM and persistent rootkits.</p> <p>Five of the vulnerabilities have already been confirmed by their respective by the chipset vendors. Researchers also found a known bug (CVE-2014-9798) in Qualcomm's bootloaders, which was previously reported in 2014, but still present and usable.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Data breach costs vary significantly
SOURCE	https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/data-breach-costs-vary-significantly-by-organization/d/d-id/1329806?
GIST	<p>One of the biggest mistakes that security professionals make when estimating data breach costs is to assume they can use publicly reported costs from breaches at other organizations as a reasonable proxy for their own.</p> <p>In reality, data breach costs can vary substantially by organization and some of those costs may not even become apparent for several years, analyst firm Forrester Research cautioned in a report released this week. So, when building a business case for investments in data security and operational security, it is better to develop tailored breach estimates instead, Forrester said.</p> <p>"The biggest misconception is believing that using publicly reported costs from another organization's breach is a reasonable proxy for possible costs for a data breach" in your own organization, says Heidi Shey, the author of the Forrester report.</p>

	<p>What's publicly reported in other breaches is typically a subset of measurable short-term costs, such as the cost of investigation and breach notification, she says. They do not always include all other breach-related costs such as those associated with lost employee productivity, regulatory fines, lawsuits, brand damage and recovery, and additional security and audit requirements.</p> <p>Costs can also vary by the type of data that was compromised. For instance, a breach of customer data or employee data will have very different cost implications compared to breach of intellectual property.</p> <p>"When organizations think of costs, most of them are the immediate or short-term costs" that typically are incurred in the first six to nine months or so, Shey says.</p> <p>Firms can overlook some of the squishier, more difficult to measure costs, such as reputation with customers and reputation as an employer. The latter, for instance, could make it more difficult for a breached entity to hire new security staff. Organizations can also often overlook long-term costs, including lawsuits that drag on for years, regulatory investigations that require time and attention to respond to, and settlements such as those with the Federal Trade Commission that can tack on 20 years' worth of audits, Shey says.</p> <p>When developing a breach estimate, it is better to use a range that shows how different variables can affect the final outcome, rather than a specific number. "The goal," says Shey, "is to understand the factors that influence the costs and move forward the internal discussion about breach impact in a meaningful way."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 SEC: cyber crime risks 'substantial'
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-sec-enforcement/sec-chief-says-cyber-crime-risks-are-substantial-systemic-idUSKCN1BH094
GIST	<p>NEW YORK (Reuters) - Regulators must do more to help mom-and-pop investors better understand the potential risks posed by cyber crime and new technologies used to commit fraud, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton said on Tuesday.</p> <p>Clayton, who was appointed to the commission earlier this year, said cyber security would be one of the top enforcement issues during his tenure at the head of Wall Street's main regulator.</p> <p>"I am not comfortable that the American investing public understands the substantial risks that we face systemically from cyber issues," he said during a panel discussion at New York University. "I'd like to see better disclosure around that."</p> <p>One concern for the SEC relates to a rise in cases of information being stolen by hackers to gain some sort of market advantage, said Stephanie Avakian, co-director of the SEC's enforcement division, who joined Clayton on the panel along with co-Director Steven Peikin.</p> <p>Other areas of focus include ensuring financial firms take the appropriate steps to safeguard sensitive information; cyber-related disclosure failures; and the growing prevalence of "initial coin offerings (ICOs)," Avakian said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Yankees-Red Sox rivalry goes digital
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/US/baseball-apple-watch-red-sox-yankees/2017/09/05/id/811812/
GIST	<p>The Yankees-Red Sox rivalry has gone digital.</p> <p>According to the New York Times, investigators for Major League Baseball have determined the Boston</p>

	<p>Red Sox — in first place in the American League East — used an Apple Watch as part of a scheme to steal signals from opponents' catchers in games against the the second-place Yankees and other teams.</p> <p>The Yankees' general manager, Brian Cashman, filed a complaint with the commissioner's office some two weeks ago that included video the Yankees shot of the Red Sox dugout during a three-game series in Boston last month, the Times reported.</p> <p>The Yankees charged the video showed a Red Sox trainer looking at his Apple Watch in the dugout and then relaying a message to players, who may have used the intel to know what pitch was coming down the pike, the Times reported.</p> <p>MLB investigators corroborated the Yankees' claims based on video the commissioner's office uses for instant replay and broadcasts, the Times reported, citing unnamed sources.</p> <p>According to the Times, the Red Sox fessed up when confronted by the commissioner's office.</p> <p>They also filed their own complaint Tuesday against the Bronx Bombers, claiming the team uses a camera from its YES television network exclusively to steal signs during games, the Times reported.</p> <p>There was no word on what, if any, penalties would be issued, or how Commissioner Rob Manfred will proceed with the Bosox countercomplaint, the Times reported.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Europe court backs employee privacy
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/europe-rights-court-backs-employee-fired-over-private-001950807.html
GIST	<p>Strasbourg (France) (AFP) - Europe's top rights court on Tuesday restricted the ability of employers to snoop on their staff's private messages, in a landmark ruling with wide ramifications for privacy in the workplace.</p> <p>The highest body of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled in favour of a 38-year-old Romanian man who claimed his rights had been violated when he was sacked in 2007 for sending private chat messages in the office.</p> <p>Bogdan Mihai Barbulescu has fought a 10-year legal battle through Romanian and European courts, claiming his privacy was infringed when his employer accessed intimate exchanges with his fiancée and brother.</p> <p>In a first ruling in January last year, the ECHR found that the snooping was allowed because employers were justified in wanting to verify "that employees were completing their professional tasks during working hours".</p> <p>But in a review, the 17 most senior judges at the court based in Strasbourg, France, found Tuesday that Romanian courts "had not adequately protected Mr Barbulescu's right to respect for his private life and correspondence".</p> <p>In a written judgement, backed by 11 votes to six, they found that previous court rulings had "failed to strike a fair balance between the interests at stake", namely the company's right to check on employees and employees' right to privacy.</p> <p>The ruling will become law in the 47 countries that have ratified the European Convention on Human Rights, meaning some members will have to adjust their national legislation.</p>
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Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	09/05 Philippine troops team up w/Muslim rebels
SOURCE	http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/philippine-troops-back-muslim-rebels-fighting-pro-isis-group
GIST	<p>DATU SALIBO, PHILIPPINES (AFP) - The Philippine military said it has teamed up with old foes behind a long-running Muslim insurgency as it looks to eject a breakaway gang of radical militants pledging loyalty to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) group.</p> <p>As artillery shells and rockets pounded targets nearby, soldiers were seen mingling freely with several hundred Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fighters who have joined an assault on gunmen in the restive southern island Mindanao.</p> <p>The joint operation is the latest tactic by the Philippine government to try to stamp out pro-ISIS fighters, after months of battling a separate faction of militants who have besieged the city of Marawi, about 100 kilometres to the north.</p> <p>Major-General Arnel dela Vega said militant groups had taken the opportunity "to build up their forces" while government troops were engaged in the Marawi conflict.</p> <p>The alliance with MILF included "providing them with indirect fire support and even air support and other expertise," he told AFP, adding that the awkwardness of fighting alongside former long-time foes had evaporated.</p> <p>A rebellion by the 10,000-strong MILF has claimed more than 100,000 lives, by government estimates. The group signed a peace treaty in 2014 but will not disarm before the government passes a proposed law granting autonomy to the Muslim regions of the mainly Catholic nation.</p> <p>The military is feeding intelligence to the MILF in the fight against about 60 militants led by Esmael Abdulmalik alias Abu Turaifi, a former MILF guerrilla leader, according to dela Vega.</p> <p>But he said troop units would not merge with the MILF fighting groups because they had "different operational tactics and procedures" in the conflict, which began in early August on wild marshlands some 800 kilometres south of Manila.</p> <p>"By and large the result has been substantially in our favour," dela Vega said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Turkey police kill ISIS suicide bomber
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-security/turkish-police-kill-islamic-state-militant-set-to-attack-police-station-idUSKCN1BH0SC
GIST	<p>ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Turkish police shot dead an Islamic State militant who was set to carry out a suicide bomb attack on a police station in the Mediterranean city of Mersin on Wednesday, the interior ministry said.</p> <p>The assailant, wearing a vest packed with explosives, was killed outside the police station in the Yenisehir district, which security sources said is located next to the regional headquarters of Turkey's MIT national intelligence agency.</p> <p>"One member of the Daesh terrorist organization, wearing a suicide bomb vest, was captured dead in front of the Mersin Yenisehir district's ... central police station," the interior ministry said in a statement.</p>

	<p>Police officers spotted the suspect behaving suspiciously some 50 meters (55 yards) from the police station at around 8:15 a.m. (0515 GMT), the Mersin governor's office said.</p> <p>The man ignored an order to stop and continued to move toward the police station. He was shot when his hand reached for a cable hanging down from his shoulder, the governor's office said.</p> <p>Islamic State militants have previously carried out gun and bomb attacks in Turkey. Many foreign fighters have also passed through Turkey in recent years on their way to join the jihadist group in its self-proclaimed caliphate in Syria and Iraq.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Port security grant recipients
SOURCE	http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/port-security-grant-recipients-announced
GIST	<p>Late Friday, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the recipients of the \$100 million FY 2017 Port Security Grant Program, and more than 33 ports were awarded direct grants.</p> <p>The program is one of a number of measures authorized by Congress to strengthen critical infrastructure against risks associated with potential terrorist attacks. The funds are intended to improve port-wide maritime security risk management; enhance maritime domain awareness; support maritime security training and exercises and to maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities.</p> <p>The investments made must address U.S. Coast Guard and Area Maritime Security Committee identified vulnerabilities in port security and support the prevention, detection, response, or recovery from attacks involving improvised explosive devices and other non-conventional weapons.</p> <p>In the past, funds have been used to purchase rapid response boats and disaster exercises.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>Click on link to download PDF identifying port security grant recipients: http://aapa.files.cms-plus.com/PDFs/FY%2017%20Port%20Security%20Grants.pdf</p>

HEADLINE	09/05 Syria troops breach 3yr ISIS siege
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russian-troops-killed-shelling-syria-49621973?
GIST	<p>Syrian troops and allied forces reached the eastern city of Deir el-Zour on Tuesday, breaching a three-year-old Islamic State siege on parts of the contested city near the Iraqi border, the army command and a war monitoring group said.</p> <p>Lifting the siege on Deir el-Zour, parts of which have been ruled by the extremist group since January 2015, marks another victory for President Bashar Assad, whose forces have been advancing on several fronts against IS and other insurgents over the past year.</p> <p>It also puts an end to a humanitarian crisis for the estimated 70,000 people who survived on erratic air drops of food and supplies during the 32-month siege. Syrian state media said dozens of trucks carrying aid are ready to move in.</p> <p>The army command said in a statement that reaching Deir el-Zour marks "a strategic turn in the war against <u>terrorism</u>," and that the city will be used as a "launching pad to expand military operations in the region."</p> <p>Syrian state TV said troops reached the western outskirts of the city and broke the siege after IS defenses collapsed. Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for <u>Human Rights</u>, also reported that troops had breached the siege.</p>

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HEADLINE	09/06 US apologizes for 'offensive' leaflets
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-apologizes-afghanistan-leaflets-offended-muslims-49644619?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>A U.S. commander on Wednesday apologized for leaflets dropped in <u>Afghanistan</u> that were deemed offensive to <u>Islam</u>.</p> <p>The leaflets dropped Monday night, which encouraged Afghans to cooperate with security forces, included an image of a dog carrying the <u>Taliban</u> flag, said Shah Wali Shahid, the deputy governor of Parwan province. The flag has Islamic verses inscribed on it, and dogs are seen as unclean in much of the Muslim world.</p> <p>"Local people are very upset with this incident, and they want the perpetrators brought to justice," Shahid said, adding that demonstrations were expected across the province.</p> <p>Maj. Gen. James Linder apologized, acknowledging in a statement that "the design of the leaflets mistakenly contained an image highly offensive to both Muslims and the religion of Islam." He offered his "sincerest apologies for this error."</p> <p>Throughout the 16-year Afghan war, U.S. forces have struggled to convince ordinary Afghans to help them defeat the Taliban. Afghanistan is a deeply conservative country, and alleged blasphemy has sparked riots.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Spain, Morocco bust cell in terror plot
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/spain-morocco-break-alleged-active-extremists-cell-49645816?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Authorities in <u>Spain</u> say security forces there and in nearby <u>Morocco</u> have broken up an alleged extremist cell whose six members were actively training and planning to conduct violent attacks.</p> <p>Five of those detained on Wednesday are Moroccan and one is a Spaniard of Moroccan origin, Spain's Interior Ministry said.</p> <p>The alleged leader of the cell, a 39 year-old Moroccan, lived in Melilla, a Spanish enclave in northern Africa, but was arrested while visiting the neighboring country. He allegedly recruited youngsters at a reeducation center where he worked and used <u>Islamic</u> State group propaganda to train them, the ministry said in a statement.</p> <p>Violent attacks in August claimed by IS killed 16 people in and near Barcelona.</p> <p>Since mid-2015, Spain has arrested 199 people accused of links to extremism.</p>
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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	09/05 Police: teen suspect in huge wildfire
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/09/05/police-15-year-old-washington-boy-is-suspect-in-large-wildfire-east-of-portland/

GIST	<p>TROUTDALE, Ore. (AP) — Authorities say a 15-year-old boy is the suspect in the large Eagle Creek Fire burning east of Portland that was likely caused by fireworks.</p> <p>The Oregon State Police said in a statement Tuesday that the teen from Vancouver, Washington, and others may have been using fireworks on a popular trail in the Columbia River Gorge area.</p> <p>The blaze that has closed an interstate highway and forced hundreds to flee began Saturday. Authorities say the boy was interviewed in the parking lot of the trailhead.</p> <p>State police say the investigation is continuing. No arrests or formal charges have been made.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Oregon blaze comparison w/eruption
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/742848/fire-or-volcano-oregon-blaze-sparks-eruption-comparisons/
GIST	<p>TROUTDALE, Ore. (AP) — People in Oregon covered their faces with scarves to keep choking ash from wildfires from filling their lungs and wiped the soot from windshields, similar to what long-time residents said they had to do in 1980 during the volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens.</p> <p>The growing blaze east of Portland, Oregon, in the scenic Columbia River Gorge, was one of dozens of wildfires in western U.S. states that sent smoke into cities from Seattle to Denver — prompting health warnings and cancellations of outdoor activities for children by many school districts.</p> <p>The 16-square mile (41-square kilometers) fire east of Portland forced hundreds of home evacuations. And embers from the fire drifted across the Columbia River — sparking blazes in neighboring Washington state. People shielded their faces and authorities in the Northwest urged drivers to use headlights during the day to increase visibility.</p> <p>“I haven’t seen ash fall like this in the Portland metro area in my 18 years as a firefighter,” said Damon Simmons, with the fire incident management team for the Oregon State Fire Marshal.</p> <p>Joanna Fisher walked to work Tuesday at a Troutdale, Oregon, naturopathic clinic with Calla Wanser, who was wearing a red bandana around her mouth.</p> <p>“You can’t really stand outside without getting rained on” by ash, Fisher said.</p> <p>The only comparison people could come up with was the eruption of Mount St. Helens in nearby southwest Washington more than 35 years ago.</p> <p>“In 1980, we had a couple of significant ash falls here in the Portland area and this is very reminiscent of what we saw in the ash fall in those days,” said Don Hamilton, a spokesman for the Oregon Department of Transportation. “The particulate matter that shows up on the cars, it gets in your hair, it gets in your eyes, it’s all over the place like it was in those days.”</p> <p>A closure of one section of Interstate 84 because of thick smoke and falling ash was extended 30 miles (48 kilometers) east of Portland while the U.S. Coast Guard closed about 20 miles (32 kilometers) of the Columbia River in the same area.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/04 Cuba opens 5mo. of political transition
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/09/04/cuba-opens-5-month-transition-likely-to-end-castro-reign.html
GIST	HAVANA — Cuba on Monday began a five-month political transition expected to end with Raul Castro's

departure from the presidency, capping his family's near-total dominance of the political system for nearly 60 years.

Over the rest of September, Cubans will meet in small groups to nominate municipal representatives, the first in a series of votes for local, provincial and, finally, national officials.

In the second electoral stage, a commission dominated by government-linked organizations will pick all the candidates for elections to provincial assemblies and Cuba's national assembly.

The national assembly is expected to pick the president and members of the powerful Council of State by February. Castro has said he will leave the presidency by that date but he is expected to remain head of the Communist Party, giving him power that may be equal to or greater than the new president's.

Cuban officials say 12,515 block-level districts will nominate candidates for city council elections to be held Oct. 22.

An opposition coalition says it expects 170 dissidents to seek nomination in the block-level meetings that began Monday. A few opposition candidates made it to that stage previously but were defeated.

The government does not allow the participation of parties other than the ruling Communist Party and has worked to quash the election of individual opposition candidates, leading critics to call the votes an empty exercise meant to create the appearance of democratic participation.

Cuban officials say dissidents are paid by foreign governments and exile groups as part of a plan to overthrow the island's socialist system and reinstall the capitalism and U.S. dominance ended by the country's 1959 revolution.

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HEADLINE	09/05 Anti-tourist sentiment sweeps hot spots
SOURCE	https://www.cnbc.com/2017/09/05/tourists-not-welcome-popular-european-destinations.html
GIST	<p>August — or rather, Europe's peak summer vacation season — is when many head out of town in search of rest and relaxation. But locals living in tourist hot spots can end up finding the opposite, with throngs of visitors bringing overcrowding and antisocial behavior.</p> <p>CNBC takes a look at some of the places in Europe where locals think tourists have become a problem.</p> <p>Venice, Italy In July roughly 2,000 Venetians protested against tourism ruining their city, the knock-on effects of which include rising rent and pollution from cruise ships. Locals in the iconic waterborne city are leaving at a rate of 1,000 people per year, according to Carlo Beltrame, temporary spokesperson for the Gruppo 25 Aprile, the organisation behind the protest. He deemed the depopulation a "social tragedy," which also risks turning the city into "Disneyland."</p> <p>Beltrame said that locals are most concerned with property prices and rising rent, while the government was focused on tackling antisocial behavior from tourists. Recent measures put in place to tackle tourist overcrowding include a ban on new tourist accommodation in the city center and people counters at popular sites.</p> <p>Tourist numbers in Italy as a whole have been steadily rising in recent years according to the WTTC, up 3.2 percent year on year in 2016 to 52.4 million. "We wouldn't damage tourism, we would only control it," Beltrame said.</p> <p>Dubrovnik, Croatia Dubrovnik, on Croatia's Dalmatian Coast, has fallen victim to what Rochelle Turner, research director at</p>

WTTC, deemed "historic heritage cities constrained by the way they were built." The city's role as a filming location for "Game of Thrones" has also highlighted it on the tourist map.

Measures have been taken to combat visitor overcrowding, with cameras installed in January of this year to help limit tourist numbers to 8,000 in the old town, in accordance with UNESCO advice. Ana Rajcevic, a spokesperson for the city, told CNBC that the authorities were "determined not to have more than 4,000 cruise ship guests in the City at the same time."

Isle of Skye, Scotland

Meanwhile, the economic fallout of [Brexit](#) has affected tourist numbers to the U.K. A weaker [pound](#) has triggered more inbound travel from international visitors, while domestic tourists are also remaining in the country.

According to the Office for National Statistics, the May to March period in 2017 saw 10 percent more visits to the U.K. in comparison to a year previously, with holiday visits specifically rising by 21 percent.

One region which made headlines this summer due to tourist numbers is the Isle of Skye in Scotland, with newspapers reporting that police had advised visitors against visiting the island unless they had booked a room. Lochaber and Skye Police later sent out a tweet saying that they did not want to turn people away, but instead "just want(ed) people to be prepared."

San Sebastian, Spain

San Sebastian, a picturesque tourist destination in northern Spain's Basque Country, has been plagued by anti-tourism protests this summer. Organized by leftist youth group Ernai, one incident saw a tourist train stopped by demonstrators.

Tourism is worth 13 percent to San Sebastian's economy, and the city was deemed 2016's European Capital of Culture.

Eneko Goia, the city's mayor, told CNBC that the protests were "clearly motivated by political reasons," and not representative of the views of most locals. But, tourism in the city is being managed with a firmer hand.

San Sebastian will announce "much more restrictive" rules on tourist apartments in the coming weeks, which are blamed for pushing up rent prices, and have closed almost 100 illegal rentals in the past two years, Goia said.

Balearic Islands, Spain

Another region of Spain which has seen pushback against the management of tourism is the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea. Balearic Vice President and Minister for Tourism Gabriel Barcelo told CNBC via e-mail that a cap on the number of tourist beds on the islands was introduced on August 1 at approximately 623,600. This figure is set to reduce in coming years.

One of the reasons behind the cap was "the rise of privately owned rentals through platforms such as Airbnb," Barcelo said, "which is making suitably priced accommodation inaccessible to locals and seasonal workers." The Balearic Islands also implemented a new law to prohibit such platforms from renting without a licence on August 1.

According to figures from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), visitor numbers are up for Spain by 9.3 percent year on year in the first half of 2017. In 2016, 75.6 million international visitors arrived in the country, in comparison to 52.7 million in 2010.

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HEADLINE 09/05 Study: okay to be workaholic

SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/when-its-ok-to-be-a-workaholic-1504620000
GIST	<p>For those who love what they do, being a workaholic isn't all that unhealthy, new research suggests.</p> <p>Workaholism by its very name suggests detriment to one's physical and mental health, and the American psychologist Wayne Oates, who coined the term nearly 50 years ago, likened it to substance abuse. Yet research on workaholism has been inconclusive so far, in part because it is hard to distinguish the consequences of merely working long hours from actual work addiction.</p> <p>A study published in the current issue of Academy of Management Discoveries not only finds health differences among people who work long hours and those who compulsively work to excess. Researchers also found differences between workaholics who enjoyed their work and those who didn't.</p> <p>In the study, employees at an international financial-consulting firm were asked to fill out questionnaires on their work hours, relationships at home and work, as well as their sense of well-being and any stress-related complaints, such as trouble sleeping or headaches.</p> <p>They also had to score such statements as "It is hard for me to relax when I am not working on something" and "At my job, I feel strong and vigorous." Afterward, 763 employees took part in medical screenings for risk factors for more serious problems, such as heart disease and diabetes.</p> <p>Researchers found no indication that simply working long hours led to stress-related ailments or more serious risk factors, such as high blood pressure.</p> <p>And while the results showed a link between workaholism and stress-related physical complaints, only workaholics who described themselves as unengaged or feeling trapped in their work appeared at risk for more serious health disorders.</p> <p>"That's where the real surprise came up for us," said Lieke ten Brummelhuis, an assistant professor at Simon Fraser University's Beedie School of Business near Vancouver and one of the study's authors. "Engagement is the key."</p> <p>Prof. ten Brummelhuis and her co-authors speculate that job-loving workaholics appeared healthier because they tended to avail themselves of support on the job and at home when they needed it.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Claim: NKorea test site risks imploding
SOURCE	http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/2109725/north-koreas-nuclear-test-site-risk-imploding-chinese
GIST	<p>The single mountain under which North Korea most likely conducted its five most recent nuclear bomb tests, including the latest and most powerful on Sunday, could be at risk of collapsing, a Chinese scientist said.</p> <p>By measuring and analysing the shock waves caused by the blasts, and picked up by quake stations in China and neighbouring countries, researchers at the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei, Anhui province, said they were confident that they were all carried out from under the same mountain at the Punggye-ri test site.</p> <p>The team from the seismic and deep earth physics laboratory made the claim in a statement posted on their website on Monday. Its leader, geophysicist Wen Lianxing, said that based on data collected by more than 100 earthquake monitoring centres in China, the margin of error was no more than 100 metres.</p> <p>Wang Naiyan, the former chairman of the China Nuclear Society and senior researcher on China's nuclear weapons programme, said that if Wen's findings were reliable, there was a risk of a major environmental disaster.</p>

Another test might cause the whole mountain to cave in on itself, leaving only a hole from which radiation could escape and drift across the region, including China, he said.

“We call it ‘taking the roof off’. If the mountain collapses and the hole is exposed, it will let out many bad things.”

Sunday’s blast was followed by an earthquake eight minutes later, which China’s seismic authorities interpreted as a cave-in triggered by the explosion.

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HEADLINE	09/05 State to test pay-by-mile tax next year
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SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/washington-state-to-test-pay-by-the-mile-as-a-way-to-fund-highways/
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GIST	<p>Next year the Washington State Department of Transportation expects gas-tax revenues to rise by 0.9 percent. It expects its construction costs to increase by 2.6 percent. The year after, it expects gas-tax revenue to increase by 0.7 percent. It expects construction costs to increase by 2.7 percent.</p>
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Same story the year after that: Gas-tax revenue up 0.6 percent, construction costs up 3.1 percent.

In a state where the vast majority of money for highway construction and maintenance comes from the gas tax, you can see a problem developing.

Costs are rising a lot faster than revenues. And the 49.4 cents you pay to the state for each gallon of gas isn’t keeping up with the costs of the work that needs to be done.

“Inflation that we have forecasted is higher than these motor-fuel growth rates of less than 1 percent,” said Lizbeth Martin-Mahar, the Department of Transportation’s chief economist.

It’s a problem that will only get worse in the future as cars get more and more fuel-efficient and, eventually, revenues begin to actually decline. It’s also not a problem that has sneaked up on anyone. The Washington State Transportation Commission has been studying it since 2012 and is now recruiting volunteers to test a possible solution.

Beginning early next year, the state will start a pilot project in which 2,000 volunteers pay a mock tax on the number of miles they drive on Washington state roads, rather than on the amount of gas they use.

The theory behind the gas tax is simple: Those who use the roads pay for their construction and upkeep through gas taxes. It has distinct advantages: It’s very cheap to administer — less than half a percent of revenues are spent collecting the tax — and if you’re buying gas it’s almost impossible to avoid paying the tax.

But it also has drawbacks: Someone driving an electric car or hybrid puts about the same stress on the roads as someone driving an SUV, but by using less gas or no gas, pays far less toward maintaining those roads.

And, as more cars get more and more fuel-efficient — eventually even gas-free — the state will have less and less money to fix the roads. The average car in Washington currently gets 20.5 miles per gallon, according to Transportation Commission research.

“By the time we hit about 35 miles per gallon, which our forecasters say will be in about 2035, we lose about 45 percent of gas-tax revenue,” said Reema Griffith, director of the Transportation Commission. “That’s not insignificant.”

	<p>The state gas tax brought in more than \$1.6 billion last fiscal year, after accounting for refunds for things like gas used by farm equipment.</p> <p>Griffith stresses that a road-usage charge would replace the gas tax, not be in addition to it.</p> <p>Participants in the upcoming pilot study won't be paying actual money yet, but the planned rate is 2.4 cents per mile, which equates to the current gas-tax rate for a car with average gas mileage.</p> <p>They'll have a variety of options to "pay" the tax: By sending in pictures of their odometer or having it read at a Department of Licensing office, by using a smartphone app to track miles, or by plugging a mileage meter into their car.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 NKorea defectors provide rare glimpse
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/09/05/north-korea-defectors-provide-rare-glimpse-isolated-life/625916001/
GIST	<p>SEOUL — When Kim Hak Min lived in North Korea, every home prominently displayed a photo of the isolated nation's founder, Kim Il Sung, as well as his son and successor, Kim Jong Il.</p> <p>Now that he runs his own iPhone repair shop in this bustling South Korean capital, the 30-year-old defector has hung a very different portrait on the wall: Apple icon Steve Jobs.</p> <p>Hak Min was given a biography of Jobs when he escaped to South Korea in 2013, and the late Apple founder became a hero to him — not only for his business success but also for a message of individual rights that is light years away from the repressive North Korean dictatorship under Kim Il Sung's grandson, Kim Jong Un.</p> <p>“When they brainwash students in North Korea they say: ‘We can read your words, actions and thoughts,’” he said. “If you have bad thoughts about the Kim family they will know. But in the book, Jobs said: Do not let others' thoughts rule over you. Do what you want. Be yourself.”</p> <p>For Hak Min, the dream is to finish his engineering studies in Seoul and make his way to California's Silicon Valley to invent world-changing products of his own.</p> <p>He's a far cry from the images that usually make their way out of the tightly controlled nation just 40 miles away: expressionless North Koreans lockstepping in military parades and extravagantly choreographed public performances.</p> <p>In fact, many refugees who escaped to Seoul describe a North Korea that is being transformed, if very slowly, by greater access to the outside world.</p> <p>Hak Min, who grew up in Onsong, a town near the Chinese border, learned how to repair electronics in a black market economy that emerged in North Korea in the years after massive economic hardship and famine of the 1990s. It was images of the world outside of North Korea, picked up on TV signals from China and bootleg videotapes and DVDs that sparked his desire to escape.</p> <p>“I was shocked with how rich the South Koreans were,” Hak Min said. “Their culture, their language — everything intrigued me.”</p> <p>The risks of watching these shows were very real. Hak Min was caught with DVDs and sentenced to prison, where he and his friends were tortured. He eventually raised money to pay a black market broker to help him get across the border to China, and from there made his way to Thailand and eventually South Korea.</p>

As tensions rise with President Trump over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, many analysts believe information — rather than military force — can be the key to bring about change in North Korean society from the inside.

While the regime's nuclear and military threat must be taken seriously, an overly confrontational approach by Trump plays into dictator Kim's hands, said Sokeel Park, country director of Liberty in North Korea, an organization that helps rescue and resettle refugees.

"North Korea is strong on traditional security stuff," Park said. "That's what they want us to focus on, that's what they bring the attention to, and then we play right into it. Whereas they're very weak on their soft underbelly of economy, information, society, culture. For not a lot of money, we could do a lot better on various forms of interaction, engagement, and information access programs."

Kim Seung Chul, a defector who came to South Korea in 1994, also believes that information is key to changing his homeland. He founded North Korea Reform Radio in 2007, which currently broadcasts two hours a day of news, information and entertainment over shortwave frequencies. He also occasionally uses remote-controlled balloons to drop leaflets and other information into the country.

"The goal is enlightenment," he said. "We're trying to reach North Koreans who are isolated, who don't have anywhere to listen to real stories or real news, in order to trigger a spark, to give them a vision, something that will bring positive action."

Seung Chul estimates that at least 10% of North Korea's 25 million people have access to foreign media regularly. He and his colleagues also try to target higher-ranking members of the North Korean regime who travel abroad with messages and shows they hope will prove inspirational.

In the meantime, making the transition to life in South Korea can be daunting for the 30,000 North Koreans who have settled here.

Many North Koreans are told to change their accents and hide where they came from. Hak Min said he found the confidence to be himself in Steve Jobs. "Reading his biography, that's when I decided I will not hide myself again. That's when I started telling people that I'm a North Korean defector. I said I can't be like anyone else, so I'll be myself."

"We constantly ask North Korean refugees and defectors: 'What do we need to do?'" said Park of the refugee resettlement group. "They always say to put more information in. They're so consistent on that."

Such exposure to the outside world motivated Yoon Ok, 25, to flee North Korea. She grew up in another border town across the river from China.

Yoon Ok, whose full name is being withheld because of concerns her outspokenness will jeopardize the safety of family still in North Korea, recalls one particular Lunar New Year's Day. She noticed fireworks and lights blazing in China, while her town received electricity only for a few hours a night.

"I was wondering — why is that country so bright, with so many lights during the day," she said. "It's just a border crossing. Why is it so much brighter than North Korea?"

She also watched television signals from China, where she would sometimes see South Korean soap operas dubbed in Chinese. She didn't understand the language, but the images made it clear to her that South Korea was a place where she wanted to go.

"Their lifestyle was very carefree, freewheeling," she said. "If they want to do something, they can do something. if they want to travel somewhere, they travel. I could see that life is much freer than in North Korea."

She started finding her place through a kitchen job in a Seoul restaurant. She fell in love with cooking and

	<p>has begun taking classes with a goal of starting her own food truck and perhaps one day bringing it to North Korea.</p> <p>“In North Korea, we would never think of eating for pleasure,” she said. “Eating was for survival. If I have an opportunity to go back or if Korea unifies as one nation, I want to cook for the people in North Korea who couldn’t enjoy eating. I hope they can have bigger dreams of their own someday.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 E-cig tax killing vape business in Penn.
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/vaping-pennsylvania-tax-business/2017/09/05/id/811827/
GIST	<p>A nearly year-old wholesale tax on electronic cigarette products in Pennsylvania has forced a rash of small business closures, a trade magazine reported.</p> <p><u>According to the Daily Vaper</u>, the 40 percent tax implemented in October 2016 has been responsible for shuttering at least 150 stores, and is threatening the vaping industry with collapse.</p> <p>Officials in Pennsylvania argue the annual \$13 million in tax revenue is needed, but Gregory Conley, president of the American Vaping Association, contends lawmakers have "refused to take lost revenue from store closings into account in its revenue projections," the outlet reported.</p> <p>According to the Daily Vaper, the high Pennsylvania tax is pushing consumers out of state to buy. For example, the outlet reported, nicotine liquid that now costs nearly \$10 in Pennsylvania is available in New Jersey for \$4.99.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 France to arm military surveillance drones
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/france-arm-military-surveillance-drones-49626151?cid=clicksource_79_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p><u>France</u> is set to arm drones that are currently used exclusively for surveillance and intelligence, a first for the French military, the defense minister said Tuesday.</p> <p>Florence Parly said the decision will initially apply only to the six unarmed Reaper surveillance drones that France bought from the United States. Most of them, based in Africa's Sahel region, are involved in the fight against Islamic extremists.</p> <p>Parly did not specify a timeframe for when they would be armed or what kind of weapons would be deployed.</p> <p>The drones wouldn't become "killer robots," Parly said, stressing that strikes would be governed by strict national and international rules relating to the use of force.</p> <p>Arming the drones will give them "endurance, discretion, surveillance and strike capability at the right place and the right moment," she said in a speech in the southeastern city of Toulon.</p> <p>The armed drones will help France's military become "more effective" and enable it to better use its fighter jets, helicopters and other aircrafts, she added.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 France to ban oil, gas output in country
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/france-ban-oil-gas-production-2040-49645472

GIST	<p>France's government is unveiling a law to ban all production and exploration of oil and <u>natural gas</u> by 2040 on the country's mainland and overseas territories.</p> <p>The move is largely symbolic, however, as France's oil and gas production represents just 1 percent of national consumption — the rest is imported.</p> <p>Current drilling permits will not be renewed, according to the draft bill obtained by The Associated Press. The bill is to be formally presented in a Cabinet meeting later Wednesday.</p> <p>France currently has 63 oil and gas drilling on its territory.</p> <p>The government claims such a ban is a world first. It is part of a larger plan to wean the country's economy from fossil fuels, to encourage clean energy and fulfill France's commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement to curb global warming.</p> <p>The bill elaborated by Environment minister Nicolas Hulot also includes a definitive ban on all shale gas exploration and extraction.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Ash falls like snow across Seattle
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/ash-falls-across-seattle-area-from-fires-burning-in-central-washington
GIST	<p>SEATTLE -- That's not rain or snow falling from the skies around Seattle Tuesday morning --it was ash.</p> <p>As wildfires continue to rage across the Pacific Northwest, including the Jolly Mountain Fire and Norse Creek Fire burning in Central Washington, several reports came in across the Puget Sound area of light ash falling from the sky, carried into the region via moderate east winds.</p> <p>In Bellevue, ash was falling at a fast enough rate to require use of windshield wipers...</p> <p>"Last time I saw ash fall around Seattle I was 7. May 18th 1980," Art Jenkins wrote on our Facebook page, referencing the eruption of Mt. St. Helens.</p> <p>The Jolly Mountain and Norse Creek fires continue to rage across the Cascades and in Central Washington, prompting evacuations, <u>including Crystal Mountain</u>.</p> <p><u>Air Quality</u> was in the moderate range early Tuesday morning but was expected to degrade through the day.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 'Secret Hitler' game becomes a hit
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/05/business/secret-hitler-game.html
GIST	<p>I was house-sitting for my brother this summer when I saw something suspicious: a box in his living room emblazoned with the words "Secret <u>Hitler</u>."</p> <p>On his return, I confronted him. "What in God's name is that?" I asked, pointing at the box.</p> <p>"It's a board game," he said, rolling his eyes.</p> <p>More specifically, Secret Hitler is a social deduction game, one that has caught on quickly since it began to ship to players last summer. It's like Mafia, or Werewolf, or other games in which players try to identify a traitor in their midst.</p>

In this version, anywhere between five and 10 players are divided into two uneven teams: a larger team of liberals and a smaller team of fascists. (There are no antifa.) One player is chosen as Secret Hitler. The fascists, aware of their leader’s identity, work to install him by fooling the liberals, who are kept in the dark.

The makers of the game have raised close to \$1.5 million since announcing it on Kickstarter in November 2015. It briefly become the top-selling item in the toy and game category on Amazon when it launched, and it recently sold out its second print run. (The company does not publish sales data, but the money they have raised suggests that they have sold tens of thousands of copies.)

The game was conceived in early 2015 and boosted by its association with Max Temkin, 30, who is one of the creators of the provocative party game Cards Against Humanity. But Secret Hitler benefited from another, unforeseen trend: a significant surge in interest in fascism around the 2016 election, which also saw brisk sales of dystopian literary classics and a rejuvenated discussion of the movement that brought leaders like Hitler and Mussolini to power.

Secret Hitler also arrived amid a renaissance for tabletop games, which have found new purchase among adult consumers. According to Evelyn Rodriguez, a market researcher at Euromonitor International, people 18 and over have been steadily playing more board games in the last several years, with sales continuing to pick up for titles like Settlers of Catan and Enigma.

Independent games in particular have grown in popularity, Euromonitor data showed, as Kickstarter has become a hub for creators with ideas that may be too risky or too strange for traditional publishers. On the crowdfunding platform, creators can raise money while also finding an audience for idiosyncratic titles and getting feedback from potential buyers as games are still in development.

The secret ingredient in Secret Hitler’s development was a round of binge-watching. Sometime in late February or early March of 2015, one of its creators, Mike Boxleiter, 32, spent a weekend with the Steven Spielberg-produced World War II mini-series “Band of Brothers.”

Mr. Boxleiter, Mr. Temkin and a third creator, Tommy Maranges, had been obsessing over the intricacies of deception games. When Mr. Boxleiter returned to their shared office on Monday after having watched 705 minutes of Americans battling Germans, he had an idea for a new game, based on Hitler’s rise to power. The group had a playable prototype of Secret Hitler 48 hours later.

“It was a month before even Hillary announced,” Mr. Maranges, 27, said. “It truly was like, what if we made a game about the past, and not about any other time in history.”

They set up a Kickstarter campaign on Nov. 23, 2015, with a goal of raising \$54,450 to print its first run of the game, with art by Mackenzie Schubert. In 24 hours, it had raised more than twice that amount. By the time the game began shipping, in August 2016, it had attracted more than 30,000 backers, making it one of the five most widely supported tabletop games in Kickstarter’s history. (The game is not yet available overseas, but it does not include any Nazi symbols or images of Hitler, making it more likely to be accepted in countries like Germany.)

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HEADLINE	09/05 NYPD won't fingerprint arrested protesters
SOURCE	http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/DACA-Rally-Trump-Decision-End-Immigrant-Protections-New-York-New-Jersey-442737903.html
GIST	Hundreds of immigrants and advocates from across the tri-state are demonstrating at Trump Tower and in Washington, D.C., after Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced Tuesday morning that the Trump administration is ending the DACA program.

As Sessions delivered his remarks on the "winding down" of DACA, dozens of demonstrators marched to Trump Tower in Manhattan, holding signs and chanting, "undocumented -- unafraid." Some sat in the middle of the street in front of Trump Tower, anticipating arrest, and were taken into police custody for blocking traffic. By the afternoon, nearly three dozen people had been arrested in front of Trump Tower in two different rounds of sit-ins; they were being processed at the 7th Precinct stationhouse and were expected to be issued desk tickets, according to NYPD Chief of Patrol Terence Monahan.

Some of the arrested are DACA recipients; the NYPD says the protesters arrested outside Trump Tower won't have to be fingerprinted if they provide their information willingly -- no fingerprints means no arrest information transmitted to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Mayor Bill de Blasio vowed to assist DACA recipients with legal services and know-your-rights forums, and said on Twitter that his office is planning a DACA Day of Action. The Hispanic Federation says it is also hosting a "Know Your Rights" session for DACA recipients at Las Americas Conference Center at 55 Exchange Place Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	09/05 Teen fatally stabbed in West Seattle
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/742627/teen-fatally-stabbed-in-west-seattle/
GIST	SEATTLE (AP) — Police say a teenager who was stabbed in West Seattle has died. Seattle Police officials say a 15-year-old boy walked out of the woods and collapsed on a sidewalk near Sixth Avenue Southwest and Cambridge Street Tuesday morning. Police said Tuesday afternoon that the boy died from his injuries at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.
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HEADLINE	09/05 Bellevue sting is evidence of big issue
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/742474/seattle-bellevue-prostitution-response/
GIST	If you are shocked at the more than 100 men who were arrested last week during a Bellevue prostitution sting, you shouldn't be. "It's sad," Jason Pamer told <u>KIRO Radio's Dori Monson Show</u> . "It doesn't shock me. I think that if those raids and stings went on all year, we would see much larger numbers." Pamer is a filmmaker who produced " <u>Rape for Profit</u> ," documenting the Seattle area's prostitution industry. Last week's prostitution sting in Bellevue was the second dragnet in recent time that targeted johns. Police previously took down a massive, high-tech prostitution ring that operated out of a series of luxury Bellevue apartments. Pamer's documentary reveals what many in the Puget Sound region do not realize, or want to admit. "Many of us, when we think about trafficking, we think about these evil, evil men who prey on the most innocent among us," he said. "That is undoubtedly true in many cases. But they are friends of ours. They are doctors, lawyers, they are pastors, they are teachers." Pamer explains that prostitution is a problem throughout the region that can take on different forms. In Seattle, for example, it's easy to spot prostitution on the streets as many may expect. On the Eastside, however, it runs rampant at condos and upscale hotels.

	<p>Still, despite the differences, Pamer argues against the notion and that it's a profession by choice, noting that the average age a girl enters into prostitution is 13-14 years old.</p> <p>"Even if you were to see a 22-year-old, who is over the legal age, you might think she's out there to service an addiction and it's her choice," Pamer explains.</p> <p>"No. She's actually been out there, on average, 7-10 years. Being victimized over and over again; 10-12 guys a night. If you think about youth being trafficked, everybody is on the same page. Let's stop it."</p> <p>"If you gave any 13, or 14, or 15-year-old girl a choice, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' Not one of them will say, 'I want to go and service 10-12 strangers a night.' Not one of them."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/04 German court jails G20 protestor 30mo.
SOURCE	http://www.dw.com/en/hamburg-judge-hands-down-first-prison-sentence-for-g20-riots/a-40277398
GIST	<p>A district court in the northern German city of Hamburg has found a 21-year-old Dutch national guilty of breaching the peace, aggravated battery in the serious assault of an officer and resistance to arrest in connection with violent riots against the G20 summit in July.</p> <p>The man, who was not named by the court, was sentenced to two years and seven months in prison in a decision that was beyond prosecutors' recommended sentence of one year and nine months.</p> <p>The roughly 40 or so spectators gathered in the courtroom for Monday's decision expressed shock over the relatively severe sentence.</p> <p>The 21-year-old threw two bottles at a police officer on July 6 in the Hamburg neighborhood of Schanzenviertel on the evening before the summit began. He also resisted arrest by curling into a fetal position and tensing his muscles.</p> <p>It was the first decision to be handed down in trials connected to violent riots that took place before and during the July 7-8 Group of 20 (G20) summit in Hamburg.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Russian teen in school rampage
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/09/05/russian-teen-attacks-students-and-teacher-with-ax-air-gun-and-smoke-grenades-injuring-at-least-four-police-say.html
GIST	<p>A Russian high school student reportedly injured at least four people during a school rampage Tuesday in which he assaulted his teacher with an ax, shot an air gun and flung smoke grenades at fellow students, officials said.</p> <p>The student, identified only as 15-year-old "Mikhail," allegedly came to the Ivanteyevka school near Moscow armed with a kitchen ax, homemade firecrackers and an air gun, <u>RT</u> reported.</p> <p>Mikhail reportedly attacked his science and math teacher with the ax, hitting her on the head before using an air gun to shoot the teacher. At least three students were injured after leaping from windows to escape the attack, authorities said.</p> <p>"A 15-year-old student attacked an IT teacher...with a kitchen ax and hit her on the head. Then the teenager started detonating homemade firecrackers and shooting with an air gun," a Russian prosecutor told RT.</p> <p>Russian police confirmed four people were injured, including a teacher who was reportedly in serious</p>

	condition. The attacker has been arrested and taken into custody for questioning. His motive was not immediately clear.
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HEADLINE	09/05 Suspects massive poaching ring charged
SOURCE	http://www.king5.com/tech/science/environment/suspects-charged-after-violent-poaching-videos-seized/471334648
GIST	<p>Suspects involved in a massive poaching ring in southwestern Washington and north central Oregon are officially charged.</p> <p>Two of them are a father and son pair well-known in hunting circles.</p> <p>Combined, the suspects killed about 100 animals illegally, including bear, elk, deer, bobcat, and squirrel, which is considered a big game animal in Oregon. Multiple videos seized showed the suspects encouraging their dogs to tear bears apart after shooting them from tree tops.</p> <p>Officers were alerted to the poaching ring after receiving tips about dead wildlife found without their heads or other trophy body parts.</p> <p>According to WDFW, seven individuals are being charged, four of them in Superior Court and three of them in District Court. Two women were arraigned Tuesday.</p> <p>The suspects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bryan Christopher Tretiak of Morton is facing two counts of unlawful hunting of big game. - Erik Christian Martin is facing multiple counts of unlawful hunting big game, including the use of dogs, as well as charges for the waste of fish and wildlife. - Eddy Alvin Dills of Longview, is facing several counts of unlawful hunting of big game, several counts of hunting with the aid of dogs and waste of fish and wildlife. - Joseph Allen Dills of Longview is facing similar charges to his father, Eddy Dills. - William J. Haynes of Longview will also face charges of unlawful hunting of big game and use of dogs. <p>Two juveniles are also charged with associated violations.</p> <p>"This was really shocking, especially that it was going on in broad daylight right in front of us," Cpt. Jeff Wickerhsam said. "The correspondence among these individuals showed a wanton disregard for our wildlife resources and the rules meant to protect them."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Calif. deputies arrested for sadistic abuse
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/09/05/4-California-sheriffs-deputies-arrested-for-sadistic-abuse-of-prisoners/5451504664863/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=lh&utm_medium=1
GIST	<p>Sept. 5 (UPI) -- Four California sheriff's deputies were arrested last week on felony assault charges for allegedly abusing prisoners by throwing feces and urine on them.</p> <p>Alameda County deputies Justin Linn, 23, and Erik McDermott, 27, have been charged with felony assault under the color of authority, witness intimidation, and conspiracy to obstruct justice, reported the East Bay Times.</p> <p>Deputy Sarah Krause and former deputy Stephen Sarcos, who resigned during the investigation, have been charged with felony assault under the color of authority.</p> <p>According to prosecutors, the deputies told prisoners to throw bodily fluids on others, a practice known as</p>

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>"gassing."</p> <p>The deputies allegedly facilitated these attacks by telling prisoners to perform the assault and opening cell doors so the targets could be exposed to the attack, reported the <u>Guardian</u>.</p> <p>Linn and McDermott are facing extra charges for allegedly intimidating prisoners to stay quiet about the abuse. McDermott is also suspected of strangling a prisoner until he lost consciousness.</p> <p>"These four deputies directed, facilitated, enabled and committed sadistic and terrorizing acts against several men whose protection fell directly within the responsibility of their positions as correctional officers," said Alameda County district attorney Nancy O'Malley. "The conduct of these four defendants violates the law and there is no rational explanation for their actions aside from abject cruelty and a disregard for the humanity of the inmates."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Brazil: largest cash seizure in country
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-05/brazil-police-make-largest-ever-bust-of-lost-treasure-trove
GIST	<p>Brazil's federal police on Tuesday found a trove of money stashed in an apartment allegedly used by one of President Michel Temer's former cabinet members, in the largest single cash seizure in the country's history.</p> <p>A photograph provided by the police as part of its operation called "Lost Treasure" showed suitcases and cardboard boxes overflowing with 100-real and 50-real banknotes, Brazil's two largest currency denominations. By early evening, police were still counting the bills and the tally had already surpassed 33 million reais (\$10.6 million), according to the press office of the <u>federal police</u> in Brasilia.</p> <p>The police said that the apartment in Salvador, capital of the state of Bahia, was supposedly used by Geddel Vieira Lima, an ally of President Temer and formerly his top congressional liaison. Vieira Lima <u>resigned</u> last year amid allegations of influence trafficking. Vieira Lima's lawyer did not immediately respond to calls and messages seeking comment.</p> <p>Tuesday's bust comes just weeks after lawmakers voted against putting Temer on trial to face corruption allegations, which allowed his government to return attention to its economic reform agenda. If Temer hopes to succeed, he will need to navigate further tempests including a <u>second</u> criminal charge expected in coming weeks.</p> <p>Vieira Lima was <u>arrested</u> in July on suspicion he tried to obstruct investigations into the diversion of funds from a state bank, and has since been under house <u>arrest</u>. Earlier Tuesday, federal police also searched the home and questioned the head of Brazil's Olympic Committee in connection to <u>allegations</u> of bribes paid to help secure 2016 hosting rights.</p> <p>The police press office said counting will continue into the night.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 FBI: 1MDB witnesses too scared to talk
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-05/1mdb-stolen-funds-witnesses-are-scared-to-talk-fbi-says
GIST	<p>Possible witnesses to the alleged looting of billions of dollars from <u>1Malaysia Development Bhd</u> are too scared to talk to U.S. investigators because they fear retaliation, according to the <u>Federal Bureau of Investigation</u>.</p>

Some people in "certain foreign countries" already assisting the criminal probe are concerned for their safety, while others say it's too dangerous to cooperate, according to an FBI request to keep the names of its informants secret from the alleged masterminds of the 1MDB conspiracy.

Individuals who would otherwise be willing to provide information have told the government they're worried about putting "the safety and security of both themselves and their families at serious risk," the FBI said Tuesday in a federal court filing in Los Angeles.

The Justice Department last month asked a judge to put on hold a dozen-plus civil forfeiture lawsuits seeking more than \$1 billion in assets in the U.S., the U.K. and Switzerland while it's conducting a criminal investigation into funds siphoned from Malaysia's state development fund. The targeted assets were acquired by Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho, also known as Jho Low; Riza Aziz, a stepson of Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak; and Khadem al Qubaisi, the former managing director of Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Co.

The trusts holding the assets on behalf of Low, Aziz, al Qubaisi and their families are contesting the forfeiture actions and oppose the request to put the civil cases on hold. The Low trusts have asked the U.S. to supply it with the identities of witnesses, sources of evidence, and thousands of documents that are relevant to the criminal investigation, according to the FBI.

The FBI cited Malaysian news reports of local officials who have been arrested because of their purported role in investigating the 1MDB embezzlement. As recently as Aug. 30, Malaysian media reported that the driver of former Malaysian Attorney General Abdul Gani Patail was shot and wounded as a possible warning to the former prosecutor not to cooperate with the U.S., the FBI said.

Abdul Gani opened the initial 1MDB investigation, according to the FBI's filing. He was replaced as attorney general in 2015.

The U.S. investigation is part of a global effort to track how much of the \$6 billion that 1MDB raised for development projects was embezzled or involved in money laundering. Switzerland, Singapore and Luxembourg are among the countries also investigating the roles played by banks and individuals.

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HEADLINE	09/05 NYC murder rate trending lower
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/TheWire/nyc-murder-rate-low/2017/09/05/id/811806/
GIST	<p>New York City may have a record low murder rate this year, if current trends hold.</p> <p>NYPD statistics showed 179 homicides through August of this year, 22.5 percent fewer than the 231 this time last year.</p> <p>Based on the current rate, there could be as few as 268 murders by New Year's Eve. Last year, there were 335 murders in the city, just two shy of the record-low 333 in 2014, according to New York magazine.</p> <p>Shootings are also down about the same percentage, with just 517 this year compared to 652 last year, through August. Officials project that the city may end up with about 800 shootings by year's end, down from 998 last year, the Daily News reported.</p> <p>Major crimes also saw declines, down 6.2 percent over last year so far. Police credited the anti-gang efforts that have targeted street crews and repeat offenders for the lower number of shootings. The NYPD is also using precision policing techniques rather than stop and frisk in minority neighborhoods, reporting that newer techniques are more effective.</p> <p>John Jay College of Criminal Justice professor Eugene O'Donnell, a former police officer, said economic growth may be fueling the drop in crime rather than any police action, the New York Daily News reported.</p>

	<p>“I think that it’s just a cascading series of positive events that have gone lightning fast,” he said, the Daily News reported. “The city is very vibrant and very alive. ... This is just why they shouldn’t get too ahead of themselves.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 UN peacekeepers killed in Mali
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/peacekeepers-killed-mali-convoy-hits-explosives-49634125?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>The <u>United Nations</u> mission in <u>Mali</u> said two peacekeepers were killed Tuesday and two others seriously injured when a convoy hit a mine in the northern Kidal region.</p> <p>The mission said in a statement that the two injured peacekeepers were immediately evacuated after their vehicles hit the explosives about 15 kilometers (9 miles) outside Aguelhok.</p> <p>A U.N. official said the peacekeepers were Chadian. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to speak to the press on the matter.</p> <p>U.N. Secretary-General <u>Antonio Guterres</u> condemned the attack and reiterated that attacks on peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/06 Convictions in brutal Aboriginal slaying
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/men-found-guilty-brutal-slaying-aboriginal-woman-49646093?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>A jury has convicted two men in connection with the brutal slaying of an Aboriginal woman who bled to death on a remote beach following a violent <u>sexual assault</u>.</p> <p>After a five-week trial at Coffs Harbour <u>Supreme Court</u>, a jury took less than one hour on Wednesday to convict Adrian Attwater of manslaughter and aggravated sexual assault in the 2011 death of Lynette Daley. His co-defendant, Paul Maris, was found guilty of aggravated sexual assault and hindering the discovery of evidence.</p> <p>Daley's death horrified Australians and exposed the nation's deep racial divide.</p> <p>It took prosecutors more than five years to agree to try Attwater and Maris for the killing. Daley's family said prosecutors were reluctant to take the case because Lynette was Aboriginal, and her two assailants were white.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Arrest in hit-runs targeting homeless
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/arrest-made-hit-runs-targeting-homeless-1-dead-n798916
GIST	<p>Police say they have arrested a "person of interest" in connection to two hit-and-run crashes that targeted homeless people in Tulsa.</p> <p>Tulsa Police Sgt. Shane Tuell says the man was arrested Tuesday and is being interrogated by detectives about the two attacks on Monday, one of which killed a man and seriously injured a woman.</p> <p>The name of the man arrested wasn't immediately released.</p>

	<p>Tuell says police first recovered a white pickup truck in north Tulsa that detectives linked to the attacks. He says the man was arrested nearby a short time later.</p> <p>The first vehicular assault on Monday killed one man and seriously injured a woman. Authorities say both victims were sleeping on a sidewalk. A second attack later Monday injured another homeless woman who was sitting on a curb.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/05 Chicago: Labor Day shootings down
SOURCE	http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2017/09/05/labor-day-weekend-violence-shootings/
GIST	<p>CHICAGO (CBS) — Chicago Police credited a pre-holiday round-up of troublemakers and 1,300 extra officers on the streets each day with a year-to-year decline in shootings over Labor Day weekend.</p> <p>Between 11 p.m. Friday and 5 a.m. Tuesday, seven people were killed and 35 others were wounded in shootings across the city, according to Chicago Sun-Times records.</p> <p>First Deputy Supt. Kevin Navarro, leading the department while Supt. Eddie Johnson recovers from kidney transplant surgery, said Monday night that violence was down from last year. By 8 p.m. Monday, CPD officers had seized more than 100 guns.</p> <p>“That’s more than one gun an hour so far,” Navarro said during a brief press conference outside the 7th District headquarters in Englewood.</p> <p>“We still have the rest of the night to go so we know that’s a challenge, we aren’t declaring victory. One shooting, one murder, that’s too much for us.”</p> <p>Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in a statement that, according to CPD records, murders had decreased 46 percent and shootings had decreased 30 percent between 6 p.m. Friday and 11:59 p.m. Monday compared to the same period of the Labor Day weekend last year. Guglielmi said these were the lowest shootings and murder statistics during the holiday weekend since 2014.</p> <p>On Thursday and Friday, CPD officers arrested some 140 people who are “driving violence” in the city, Navarro said, citing a tactic the department has used ahead of summer holiday weekends for several years.</p>
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